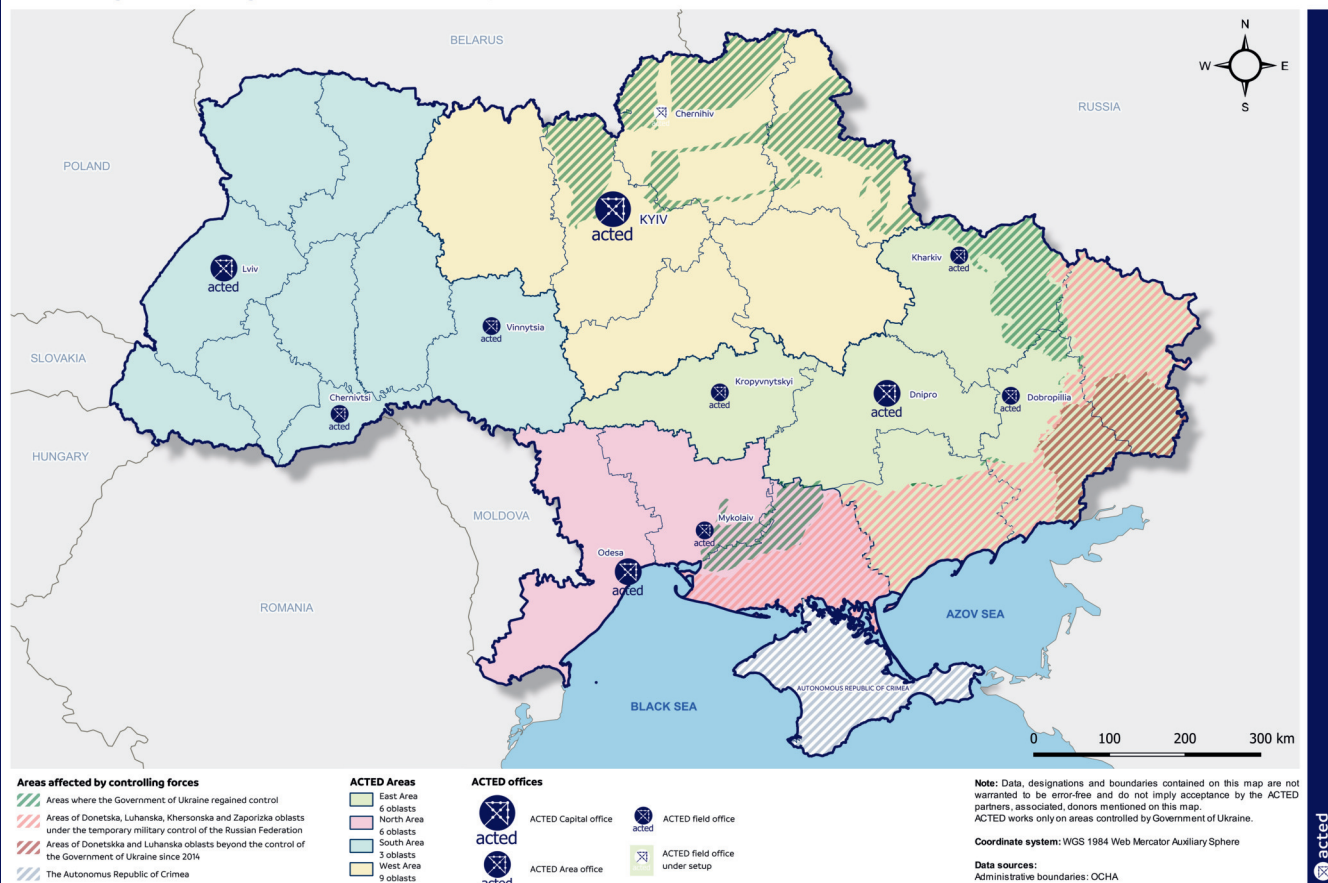




# ACTED UKRAINE

OPERATIONS UPDATE, APRIL - JULY 2023



Acted has been providing humanitarian assistance in Ukraine since 2015, responding to the emergency and longer-term needs of vulnerable, marginalized and conflict-affected populations. Initially, Acted's intervention focused on the Eastern regions of Ukraine, Donetsk and Luhansk in particular. But Russia large scale invasion on February 24, 2022 caused unprecedented internal migration and raised humanitarian needs and after the first three months of rapid response and scale up of operations, Acted transitioned its programming to provide comprehensive and multi-sector aid to three contextual profiles within Ukraine:

- Providing rapid humanitarian aid in active conflict contexts, with a focus on hard to reach areas.
- Ensuring basic needs of displaced people are met in hosting contexts.
- Supporting the recovery of recently regained areas.



Acted implements a multi-sectoral portfolio of assistance throughout all of Ukraine, with different forms of assistance tailored to different area contexts and how the war affects populations in those areas. Thematically, its assistance in Ukraine focuses most strongly on ***Cash assistance; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Shelter, Food Security and Livelihoods; Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction*** as well as ***Local Partnerships***. Acted teams are devoted to supporting vulnerable communities and working alongside them to build a better future by providing a response adapted to specific needs.







## EMERGENCY RESPONSE NOVA KAKHOVKA DAM

Following the destruction of the Kakhovka dam in southeastern Ukraine on June 6th, water from the reservoir flowed uncontrollably downstream, fully or partially flooding at least 37 settlements on both sides of the river. Affected settlements were cut off from drinking water, and faced electricity cuts and blocked roads, limiting access in or out. Acted mobilized its teams from the first day to provide aid to flood-affected persons and local authorities.

On June 6th, 2023, Acted's teams were present at the disaster to address the immediate and medium term needs of affected communities. Activities implemented include:

- The provision of emergency cash assistance for 4059 evacuees and non-displaced families with flooded houses
- The provision of drinking water and water tanks for 380 people, as well as hygiene kits, including for institutions, families, and people with special needs
- The provision of food kits and hot meals
- The provision of fuel to households
- Provision of civil protection equipment to first responders





## CASH ASSISTANCE

Acted provides Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) assistance as the default emergency response modality that provides the most dignity and flexibility to support individuals affected by the war in Ukraine in meeting their basic needs.

Given the ever-changing context in Ukraine, Acted also provides aid through an established rapid cash assistance mechanism to reach those most in need. Separate from Acted's ongoing cash assistance programming in severely affected areas, this mechanism allows Acted's cash team to respond to one-off missile strikes or shelling in more stable areas of Ukraine, and provide on-site and remote registration immediately to people directly affected by the attacks.

*"My mother and I live right on the street of the explosion. We were at home when the series of explosions happened. We hid behind two walls and covered ourselves with two blankets. They saved us from the debris. Our house, garage, and all outbuildings were damaged. The windows and half of the roof were destroyed." - said Ms. Halina at the cash assistance registration point in Dnipro.*



In general during the April - June 2023, **73,383** people affected by the conflict in **15** oblasts of Ukraine received multi-purpose cash assistance from Acted.



## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

WASH programmes are at the core of Acted's humanitarian response in Ukraine, whilst building resilience and promoting inclusive and sustainable growth at the local level. During April-June, Acted continued to work in recently liberated areas of Northern, Eastern and Southern Ukraine, repairing and replacing equipment damaged as a result of hostilities. In areas where active conflict is ongoing, Acted supported the emergency delivery of water, through water trucking and bottled water, and the distribution of hygiene items in locations where markets are not functioning. Lastly, in areas where displaced people have settled, Acted supported local authorities to mitigate the risks of infectious diseases spreading in collective centers through the distribution of institutional hygiene kits.



From April - June 2023, **7085** war affected people receive hygiene kits and items ensuring dignified, safe and inclusive living conditions.





## SHELTER

The aerial bombs and missiles have left deep wounds on the Ukrainian cities and on people's houses. Many families do not have the means to repair or reconstruct their homes after they've been damaged. With the aim to provide vulnerable people with a dignified, warm, and dry functional space, prevent unnecessary displacement and support the conditions for the return of displaced families, Acted repaired damaged or broken windows for **2676** households in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, and Mykolaiv oblasts during the April - June 2023 period, with more planned for the upcoming summer and fall months before winter sets in.

*"My life before the war was wonderful, I sang in a choir and traveled around Ukraine. My hometown of Irpin was a very comfortable city to live in. Everything changed after the war escalation. The city was heavily damaged, and my house was no exception.*

*Acted installed windows in my house and it became more comfortable to stay there and there was no light before - it was blocked by wooded boards. Now life goes on, trees are planted, people are returning. But it's still scary, because rockets are flying above Ukraine almost every day." - 69-year-old Galina from Irpin city in Kyivska oblast.*

# INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS RESPONSE

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In close cooperation with the local authorities, Acted worked on rehabilitation support to collective centers, including repair of residential units with a bathroom and a toilet, kitchen and dining room, replacement of windows or roof as well as equipping them with cooking utensils and kitchen equipment.

Acted also organized several trainings for collective center managers across the country to support and strengthen site managers that oversee collective centers (CCs). The trainings covered how to improve interaction with the residents of a collective center and interaction with local authorities, how to ensure residents' security, how to increase their participation in the life of the center, and connecting them with access to social services such as employment offices, psychological support, and legal support.

Acted is also working to facilitate the transition from humanitarian assistance for the internally displaced people (IDPs) toward longer term durable solutions in Chernivetska, Kirovogradska, Odeska, and Vinnytska oblasts - communities it's supported for the past year and a half with emergency CCCM needs. As part of this programming Acted will work alongside the government and civil society organizations (CSOs) to plan for and provide uninterrupted service provision to IDPs in and outside of collective center and foster the social and economic integration of IDPs within their host community.







## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The scale of the invasion has generated civil protection and emergency response challenges that have stretched authorities and first responders to a breaking point.

Over the past few months, Acted has worked alongside local authorities, hromada civil protection departments, State Emergency Services of Ukraine, and social institutions to deliver targeted capacity building and technical support, reinforced by donations of critical equipment and supplies.

The need to be well prepared to respond to various emergencies is more important than ever as the war continues. To help the State Emergency Service of Ukraine units respond to the crises to the best of their abilities, Acted provided **a large shipment of special equipment**, such as pneumatic frame modules (inflatable tents), firefighter protective suits, boots, gloves, helmets, fire hoses, backpacks and laptops and other materials to support their preparedness capacity.

In addition, after 24 February 2022, the need for the first aid trainings, especially for rescuers and firefighters increased significantly. Acted therefore delivered **14 trainings in the first aid** to State Emergency Services personnel, civil protection public servants and CSO representatives in Chernihiv, Odesa, Vinnitsia, and Dnipro oblasts. The rescuers learned how to distinguish between injuries and conduct a quick local and trauma examination of victims.



# FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

Since the start of the invasion, Acted and its local partners have provided hot meals to IDPs in transit, and larger boxes of food assistance. During April-July, Acted in cooperation with civil society organizations provided **18,255** displaced people and people in transit with a hot meal. Moreover, **18,586** people received food kits and food parcels.

With the aim to enhance women, girls and the most vulnerable and/or marginalized people's economic security, economic and employment opportunities, and economic empowerment in Ukraine, Acted has supported individuals with IT scholarships in partnership with **5** school partners. Since the beginning of the year, Acted supported 180 individuals, mostly women, with scholarships. This supports the students in attending classes such as motion design, programming, digital marketing, project management.

Acted provided **86 livelihood grants** in Chernivtsi and Volyn. Among supported businesses are cattle breeding, nail salons, hairdressing, poultry and egg production, food production etc.

The first **Business Advisory Center (BAC)**, run by the CSO partner Synergy, opened in Chernivtsi. The BAC will host in person trainings for 320 women and girls in need of economic development and job search support, consulting support for beneficiaries on business-related issues, financial literacy and planning, computer literacy etc. The BAC aims at being a platform for trainings, seminars, consultations, supporting women's economic empowerment in the Chernivtsi region.

In June, Acted also started the implementation of **STEM career promotion** among school children in Chernivtsi. In total, 640 students attended the first round of sessions.

In addition, Acted together with a project partner Estonian Refugee Council will distribute **125 financial grants** to people residing in the rural communities of the Chernihivska, Kharkivska, Mykolaivska, Sumska and Zaporizska oblasts. The intervention aims to support households in restoring or launching commercial and non-commercial agricultural, livestock and small-scale service ventures to meet minimum subsistence standards.

