

3P CONSORTIUM

Newsletter, 3rd edition

The second quarter of 2020 has shown how primordial are preparedness, mitigation, and prevention in the eastern Ukrainian context. Indeed, alongside dealing with the COVID-19 emergency response and ensuring protective national recommendations are effectively implemented, raions close to the Contact Line still have to deal with increased fighting tensions, threatening environment, and human settlements in this historically industrial area. Furthermore, the quarantine put in place in Ukraine following this unpredictable pandemic has shown that insufficient preparedness and preventive actions exacerbates the negative socio-economic impact for the society. Thus, ACTED has been committed to continuing to closely collaborate with local authorities, to support raions' most urgent planning priorities, backed up by the research and analysis work done by IMPACT Initiatives within the 3P Consortium.

In Popasna district, ACTED has been engaged in the development of two plans to address long term identified risks. The first one, "Analysis of Pervomaiskugol Coal Mining Enterprise And Its Environmental and Socio-Economic impacts", aims to reduce the damages of the different mines within the settlements, some being still actively producing. For this, ACTED received support from an external technical consultant with extensive knowledge of the context and risks associated with eastern Ukraine. The document has been discussed and adapted after several bilateral working groups with the local authorities and is now under review of the Department of Ecology at Luhansk Oblast. Similarly, assessment and mitigation plans are being developed for the Toretskugol coal mining enterprise.

Another example of building planning capacities of local authorities takes place currently in Yasinovata raion, where ACTED is developing a plan in case of breach of a Tailing Management Facility from the Avdeevka Coke Plant, which has been assessed as highly vulnerable considering its size and its proximity from the Contact Line. Indeed, the extent of damages in the case of sludge rupture could be extremely severe, and the district recognized the need for preparedness measures to support their response capacity. This plan is at its final stage with district and regional administrations and will be completed during the coming quarter including through a table-top simulation.



RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, ACTED is engaged with local authorities to support the planning capacities and response at the raion level. For example, following discussion with Popasna raion, ACTED is developing COVID-19 preparedness and response plan, aiming to organize protocols to prevent further contamination, mobilize resources (financial, technical & equipment), and support decision making by clarifying tasks and duties of the different departments.

SUPPORT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Despite restrictive measures in connection with adaptive quarantine, Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) continues to provide information concerning simple safety rules that reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection. 247 sets of information materials (posters, booklets, leaflets) on COVID-19 prevention were distributed in the 3P Consortium's areas of intervention. [link](#)

Family and emergency response planning has continued through the development of an online survey platform in Kobo Toolbox and Google Class. So far, 73 family emergency response plans have been developed, involving high school students. Thanks to these FEPs, families are now better prepared to adopt basic safety behaviours in times of emergencies.

The work of URCS Field Team in the areas of First Aid, Psychological First Aid and CBRN/E (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives) Threat Prevention also continued. Information booklets on First Aid (400 pcs.), Psychological First Aid (1200 pcs.), CBRN/E threat prevention (9000 pcs.) were distributed to local communities of Kodema, Novoluhanske, Vidrozhennya and Svitlodarsk villages, Bakhmut raion, Donetsk oblast. The urban village of Novhorodske of Toretsk civil-military administration received a first aid kit.



In the context of COVID-19, 2 previously prepared emergency response plans were revised and supplemented in the village Kodema, Bakhmut raion and in Novhorodske - Toretsk civil-military administration to integrate COVID-19 as a component of risk.

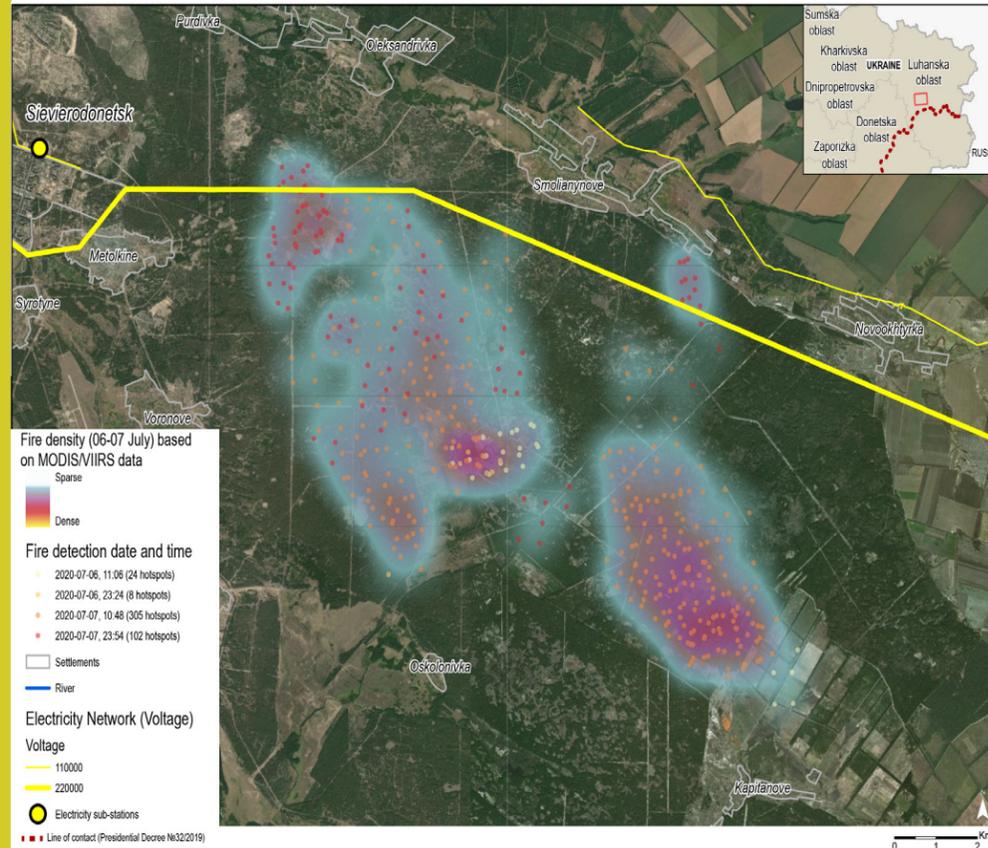
To increase the potential for emergency preparedness of rural administrations in the villages of Kodema and Novoluhanskoe, URCS provided 2 kits aimed at reducing of the risk of emergencies in communities and 2 kits aimed at reducing of the risk of emergencies in schools.



AREA-BASED RISK ASSESMENT (ABRA)

IMPACT Initiatives developed the second ABRA for the Toretsk city council. The ABRA analyses geospatial data on hazard exposure and community vulnerability to assess both natural and anthropogenic risks for each settlement in the area.

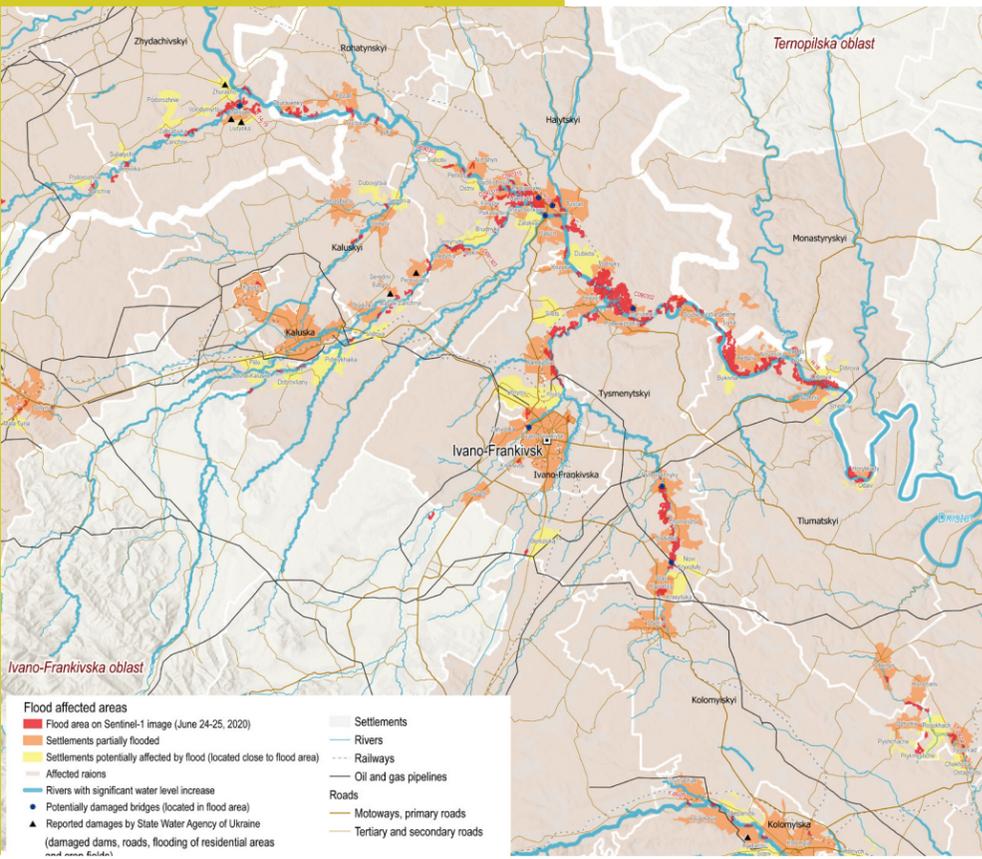
It is expected to be used by the communities and local authorities as a background for risk management plan development that will address the local communities' vulnerability and needs to respond effectively to the hazards. It was conducted at the sub-regional level and relied on both locally available data, global datasets, and satellite imagery. Most of these datasets are open access and constantly updated and may be used to reproduce the analysis for other areas or time frames. This ABRA also serves as a demonstration tool for natural hazard, anthropogenic, and environmental risks at a local settlement level.



RAPID ASSESSMENTS DURING DISASTERS

IMPACT continues to work on enhancing the local capacities to respond effectively to disaster events. Using satellite remote sensing data IMPACT provided flood susceptibility and inundated area mapping utilizing hydrological forecasting and meteorological monitoring systems at the end of June 2020 in western Ukraine that was shared with UN OCHA, URCS and SESU.

In response to wildfire which started on July 6, 2020 in Novoidarsky raion of Luhansk oblast, the rapid visualization of active fire data, developed by IMPACT, using satellite Fire Information for Resource Management System (FIRMS), was used by Luhansk State Emergency Service of Ukraine department to detect and monitor fire spread in the affected areas. In addition, a post fire analysis was conducted using European Space Agency satellite imagery from Sentinel-2 to identify and calculate the total burned area, which stretched over 5,600 hectares.



ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS ON RISKS

Despite all quarantine restrictions introduced in March, Right to Protection (R2P) has continued to engage stakeholders for further discussions on risks. To make such discussions deeper and productive, R2P has joined forces with technical consultants who are experts in risks inherent specifically to Donbas. Following up on the consultancies, R2P arranged a meeting with the Department for Environmental Safety of MinEcoEnergo. A discussion was focused on the improvement of the risk monitoring framework and the necessary steps in this regard.

Within the context of cooperation with the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU), R2P contributed to the review of Draft Regulations on Monitoring of Emergencies. As a result, suggestions to make the Regulations better adapted to the principles of the Sendai Framework Program have been submitted to SESU. To proceed with discussions on this issue with SESU staff in the summer 2020.

At the same time, R2P keeps a close watch on ongoing decentralization reform and its impact on governance in the field of DRR, especially at local, raion, and regional levels. Thus, in May R2P conducted a set of online meetings with amalgamated communities in the Donetsk region.



Based on the result of these meetings and identified problems, R2P is working on legal solutions for the improvement of early warning systems at the local level.

Since April 2020, the R2P field team conducted 8 working meetings with representatives of local authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. A broad variety of stakeholders participated in those discussions including representatives of civil protection departments, healthcare workers, State Fire and Rescue units of SESU, and representatives of amalgamated communities.

Complex topics such as the key issues related to the public information systems, emergency response planning to counteract the spread of COVID-19, the work of public services and local authorities during quarantine and the need to protect community livelihoods were discussed. Those consultations are very valuable for the understanding of the real level of preparedness for medical emergencies.

