Research Terms of Reference

Humanitarian Action through Volunteers, Enablers and Networks, phase III UKR2503
Ukraine

May 2025 Version 1



1. Executive Summary

Country of	Ukrai	kraine						
intervention								
Type of Emergency		Natural disaster	Χ	X Conflict				
Type of Crisis		Sudden onset		Slow onse	t	X	Protracted	
Mandating Body/	Forei	gn, Commonwealth and Devel	opm	ent Office (I	CDO)			
Agency								
Project Code	IMPA	CT code – 64BAG, ACTED co	de -	64FOX				
Overall Research	01/04	/2025 – 31/03/2026						
Timeframe								
Research Timeframe		1. Pilot/training: 29-30/05/2025 7. Joint analysis workshops with community members						
		2. Start collecting data: 02/06/2025 and local authorities: 18- 29/08/2025						
		ata collected: 27/06/2025 8. Data analysed: 01/09-28/11/2025						
		ta analysed: 07/07/2025			•		tion: 04/01/2026	
		ta sent for validation: 21/07/20	25		utputs publish			
	6. Pre	Preliminary presentations: n/a			inal presentati	on: 01	/03/2026	
Number of	X	Single assessment (one cycle)						
assessments								
					,			
Humanitarian	Miles	stone		Dea	dline			
milestones	X	Donor plan/strategy (FCD)	O)	31/0	31/03/2026			
		Inter-cluster plan/strategy						
		Cluster plan/strategy		/-				
	X	NGO platform plan/strategy (ACTED)		On-(On-going On-going			
	X	Other (Specify): Local self-government Regional State Administratio Regional Councils Governm structures		and I	3/2026			
Audience Type &		ence type			Dissemination			
Dissemination	X Stra	ategic				t Mail	ing (RCC; ACTED; PIN; LDN	
	X Programmatic			FCD	,			
	X On	X Operational		X CI	X Cluster Mailing (FSLC, LTWG)			
		her, Specify]		X Pr FCD		findir	ngs (RCC; ACTED; PIN; LDN	
					ebsite Dissen ource Centre)		on (Relief Web & REACH	

	X For this project, IMPACT does not provide standard analytical output. Data and datasets inform the development of official local recovery documents, with support on ad-hoc requests regarding data relevant to sectorial analysis and its methodological framework. Additional analytical products, such as the White Paper and briefs based on the results of joint analytical sessions with consortium partners, will be made publicly available.						
Detailed dissemination plan required	□ Yes X No						
General Objective	Provide a comprehensive and structured evidence base to better inform the development of Local						
•	Recovery Plan/ Local Development Strategy for each hromada (please see examples <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>)						
Specific Objective(s)	 To assess official local data and identify key gaps in socio-economic, demographic data and broad community profile including infrastructure and services. To capture and report the views, perspectives, needs and priorities of community members, local authorities and other type of local stakeholders in both a structured and spatially representable way. Provide recommendations based on analysis of existing and collected data and key challenges to inform local recovery plans/local development strategies and support local resilience. 						
Research Questions	1. What are the demographic and social characteristics of the hromada?						
	1.2 What population groups are present in the hromada, and what is their socio-economic status? 1.3 Are there vulnerable groups in the hromada, and what are their main needs? 2. What is the state of infrastructure and services in the hromada? 2.1 What is the condition of housing and communal infrastructure, and how has it changed.						
	 2.1 What is the condition of housing and communal infrastructure, and how has it changed after escalation of the conflict in 2022? 2.2 What is the current level of access to social services (healthcare, education, administrative care, cultural, youth, sports)? 2.3 What is the current level of access to basic services (water supply, sewage, heating, gas, 						
	solid waste management)? 2.4. What are the main gaps and barriers in accessing basic and social services? 3. What is the economic profile of the hromada and its potential for development?						
	3.1 What were the economic drivers pre the war and how have local economic activities been impacted by the conflict?3.2 Which sectors of the economy are dominant and what vulnerabilities and barriers faced						
	local businesses that have emerged or been exacerbated as a result of the war? 3.3 How have gender dynamics and economic structural changes resulting from the war						
	impacted the equilibrium between labour supply and demand in the market?						
	3.4 What are the main growth points and new economic opportunities available in the hromada?						
	4. What are the general strengths and weaknesses of the hromada?						
	 4.1 What internal strengths (resources, capacities, assets) can support development and recovery? 4.2 What internal weaknesses or gaps hinder the achievement of development goals? 4.3 How do external factors influence opportunities and threats for the hromada? 						

		 5. What are the key needs, tasks, and priority actions for hromada recovery and development? 5.1 What are the most urgent recovery needs of infrastructure, economy, and population? 5.2 What tasks should be addressed in the short, medium, and long term to support recovery by local authorities, the government and other stakeholders? 5.3 What are the priority actions to be implemented to achieve strategic recovery and development goals? 6. What is the long-term vision for the development of the hromada? 6.1 What unique features of the hromada (location, natural resources, population, transport, services, heritage, infrastructure, local government, civil society, etc.) can shape this vision? 6.2 How do different stakeholder groups perceive the future of the hromada and their role in it? 						
Geographic Coverage		ivska, Mykhailo-Lukashivska a ada (Berestyn) in Kharkivska			nska	a hromadas in Za	ooriz	ka oblast, Krasnohradska
Secondary data		United Nations in Ukraine Tran			mev	vork Sentember	2022	-December 2024
sources		P: UNDP and Early Recovery,					2022	- December 2024
Sources	Intern	ational Labour Organisation:	ILO	Transi	tiona	al Cooperation St	rated	y for Ukraine 2024-2025, March
	2024.							,
			ıs Su	staina	ble [Development Coo	oera	tion Framework, 2025-2029, May
	2024.							
	USAII	D: Impact of War: Frontline Co	<u>omm</u>	unities	and	Resilience, Febr	uary	2024.
		Cabinet of the Ministers of Ukraine: Resolution dated 18 July 2023, № 731 'On approval of procedures for the restoration and development of regions and territorial communities'.						
		of Ukraine 'On the principles o						ıarv 2015 № 156-VIII
								raine: Order dated 22 December
								Actions are (were) Conducted or
	Temp	orarily Occupied by the Russi	ian F	edera	tion'.			
Population(s)		IDPs in collective sites				IDPs in informa		
	Х	IDPs in host communities				IDPs [Other, Sp	ecify]
		Refugees in camp				Refugees in info	rma	l sites
		Refugees in host communit	ies			Refugees [Other, Specify]		
	Χ	Host communities			X	Local residents	3	
Stratification		Geographical #:		Grou	.# qu			[Other Specify] #:
		4 hromadas in 2 oblasts				nmunity		Population size per strata is
		Population size per strata				sidents		known?
		is known?		Pop				□ Yes □ No
		X Yes □ No			-	known? No X N/A		
Data collection tool(s)	Χ	Structured (Quantitative)			X	Semi-structured	(Qu	alitative)
						•	,	
	Sampling method				Data collection method			
Structured data	X Purposive				X Key informant interviews: 13 (starostas in 3			
collection tool # 1	□ Probability / Simple random			hromadas) 6 starostas in Krasnohradska hromada				
	□ Probability / Stratified simple random						dska nromada ykashivska hromada	
		 □ Probability / Cluster sampling □ Probability / Stratified cluster sampling 		a		tarostas in Matviiv		•
	☐ [Other, Specify]		ਤ 				nenska hromada (there are no	
						rosta districts in h		
						Group discussions	(Ta	rget #):
								arget #):
						ndividual interviev		
					□ Direct observations: (Target #): □ [Other, Specify] (Target #):			

Semi-structured data	X Pur	urposive			□ Key informant interview (Target #):			
collection tool # 2	□ Pro □ Pro □ Pro □ Pro □ Pro	obability / Simple random obability / Stratified simple random obability / Cluster sampling obability / Stratified cluster sampling other, Specify]		X Focus group discussion (Target 4 Focus group discussion per hromada, 16 FGDs in total): 1 FGD with the local community 6-8 participants from the hromada center, 1 FGD with the local community 6-8 participants from the hromada periphery, 1 FGD with the local CSOs representatives 6-8 participants, 1 FGD with the local business representatives 6-8 participants, per hromada □ Household interview (Target #): □ Individual interview (Target #): □ Direct observations (Target #):				
Target level of	-				-			
precision if								
probability sampling	v	IMPACT				LINILIOD		
Data management platform(s)	X	IMPACT				UNHCR		
piationii(5)		[Other, Specify]						
Expected output		Situation overview:		Don	ort #:		Х	Profile #: 4
type(s)		Situation overview		·			^	
		Factsheet:	X	Pre	senta	ition: 1		Stand-alone reference maps:
		Interactive dashboard #:		□ Webmap #:			Map #:	
	X	[Other, Specify] #: Datasets (dataset of existing secondary data; KIIs dataset of starostas (local administrators); FGDs datasets						
Access	X	Public (Profiles and presentations available on REACH resource centre and other humanitarian platforms, although a more tailored version of the presentation for partners use may be required.)						
		Restricted (bilateral dissemination only upon agreed dissemination list, no publication on REACH or other platforms)						
Visibility		REACH						
		r: FCDO						
		dination Framework: N/A						
	Partn	Partners: ACTED / RCC						

2. Rationale

2.1. Background

The full-scale invasion of Ukraine has caused unprecedented humanitarian, economic, and infrastructural devastation. As of December 2024, over 3.6 million people remained internally displaced ¹, while by April 2025, 6.9 million Ukrainian refugees were living abroad.² The World Bank estimates total direct damage to buildings and infrastructure at approximately US\$176 billion.³ Beyond the visible destruction, early projections warn that, should the war persist in the medium to long term, up to

¹ International Organization for Migration (IOM), Jan 17 2025. DTM Ukraine — Returns Report — General Population Survey Round 19 (January 2025). IOM, Ukraine. <u>Ukraine — Returns Report — General Population Survey Round 19 (January 2025) | Displacement Tracking Matrix</u>

²UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation – Collation of Statistics Provided by Authorities, April 2025. <u>Situation Ukraine Refugee Situation</u>

³ Anne Himmelfarb. *Ukraine - Fourth Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA4) : February 2022 - December 2024 (English)*. Washington, D.C. : World Bank Group. http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/099022025114040022

90% of Ukraine's population could face poverty and extreme economic vulnerability, potentially erasing nearly two decades of the country's socioeconomic progress.⁴

In the context of protracted conflict and growing regional disparities in recovery trajectories, there is an urgent need for evidence-based and locally driven planning processes across Ukrainian hromadas. Considering the full-scale invasion and its significant consequences, many local strategic development plans must be revised or entirely updated. This process requires a reliable evidence base to help communities assess their current state, redefine their priorities, and plan for recovery and long-term development in a coordinated and informed manner.

Under Phase III of the HAVEN project, together with rest of the early recovery focused organisations in the Consortium, IMPACT, Acted and RCC will support 4 newly selected hromadas in Zaporizka and Kharkivska oblasts with developing Local Recovery Plans (LRPs) and/or Local Development Strategies (LDSs) depending on the needs of each hromada and its context. The aim is for these outputs to align with official recovery and development planning processes. The LRPs focus on medium term recovery addressing damage caused by the war, including inter alia rebuilding infrastructure, supporting local business activity, and the provision of social services for conflict affected populations, including a specific list of recovery projects. The LDS on the other hand focuses on longer term development in the hromada and developing longer term strategies beyond recovery. Experiences from HAVEN II and other initiatives have demonstrated the need to increase hromadas' use of data- based evidence and participatory mechanisms to develop long-term strategic documents that will be responsive to the specific needs and context of their hromadas, to establish a solid foundation for local resilience and sustainable recovery. By combining data-driven insights with participatory methodologies, this activity seeks to empower hromada authorities to develop recovery plans that are technically sound, reflective of community needs and aspirations as well as will be fully consistent with the development and recovery strategies of the state and regional levels, which will be updated in the first half of 2025.

The activity is structured around three key phases:

Phase 1: Hromada screening and stakeholder mapping. Drawing from lessons learned under HAVEN II and similar programming, hromada authorities' level of buy-in and capacity to engage are critical success factors for this activity. Reflecting this, IMPACT will conduct a screening process to select hromadas in target areas based on capacity, need, and local authority buy-in. The assessment process will include consultations with consortium partners and other key stakeholders and a stakeholder mapping exercise, which will identify main local actors and civil society entities involved or interested in local development and recovery. This will ensure that the recovery planning processes include different perspectives, promote collaboration, and identify potential partners who can contribute to or benefit from the project.

Phase 2: Data Review. Following the selection of target hromadas, IMPACT will collaborate with local and oblast-level authorities, and CSOs, to gather, structure, and review official data, as well as identify key data gaps. Consultations with key stakeholders, including community representatives, will be conducted to understand the unique needs and visions for each hromada. This phase of work is designed to build trust and strengthen relationships and will ensure the ability to tailor support packages to the specific contexts and priorities of each hromada.

Phase 3: Tailored Support for the Recovery Plan Development. IMPACT will support the development of LRPs and/or LDSs for 4 pilot hromadas selected during the Phase 1 selection process. This activity will involve guiding the entire planning process and providing tailored support to ensure the plans are data-driven, participatory, and aligned with the specific needs of each hromada.

2.2 Intended Impact

The result of this entire research cycle will be a specific document for the community - the Local Development Strategy. This is a comprehensive document that has a minimum legislatively defined structure, and contains a broad sectoral analysis based on official statistics from the communities, which will be analyze, systematize and supplement by IMPACT team as well as supportive from existing primary data. Final version of this document will be officially approved at the local council meetings and accepted as the basic document for community development until 2030.

In particular, the evidence and analysis produced will be operationalized by local authorities in several concrete ways:

⁴ United Nations in Ukraine Transitional Framework. September 2022-December 2024, https://ukraine.un.org/sites/default/files/2024-04/UNUkraine_2022_2024_TransitionalFramework_Updated_EN.pdf

- Incorporation into official planning documents (LRPs/LDSs), serving as the technical foundation for setting local priorities;
- Integration into budget planning and prioritization processes, to guide the allocation of local and external resources;
- Use in funding proposals to national government mechanisms and international donors, ensuring plans are investment-ready and aligned with state and oblast-level strategies;
- Support for intersectoral coordination and implementation tracking, enabling more coherent and accountable local governance.

Additionally, through regular open data requests to local authorities and joint analysis sessions following the development of planning documents, IMPACT will additionally seek to strengthen the capacity of local authorities and public service providers in gathering and using geo-spatial and statistical data.

The creation of LRPs and/or LDS will enable hromadas to access mechanisms for co-financing investment projects, supported by the government and/or international institutions and comply with state and regional development strategies. These plans will also enable HAVEN III consortium partners working in these areas to better target and adapt their own activities in line with the priorities identified. By integrating CSOs into decision-making processes and ensuring transparency, the plans will reflect the collective vision of all stakeholders. IMPACT will work with hromada authorities and key civil society stakeholder to facilitate a sustained participatory process. This will involve establishing mechanisms for developing and reviewing LRPs/LDSs; targeted training and sustained capacity support to strengthen local capacity for data-driven decision-making; targeted data collection and analysis to address data gaps identified in the planning process; and stakeholder engagement through workshops, events, and participatory feedback processes involving local communities themselves.

As a complementary, but more focused for public humanitarian dissemination, IMPACT team plan to make output a White Paper, which will contain information about lessons learned, the methodology been used, and general experience with this type of document and the experience of using ABA assessments in official community documents.

Acted and RCC will continue supporting grassroots recovery initiatives in liberated areas and selected hromadas of Kharkivska and Zaporizka regions through a mini-grant programme. Mini-grants will be distributed in two phases: the first phase will target projects addressing the general needs of the community (e.g. rehabilitating destroyed local infrastructure like playgrounds, bus stops, library, etc) while the second will fund projects aligned with the Local Recovery Plans (LRPs) developed within the hromadas under support from IMPACT (e.g. primary healthcare points, recreational or housing infrastructures, water provision and treatment equipment, local administrative offices, recreational zones, etc). This granular support towards small-scale initiatives on a highly localised level is essential for the effective recovery of communities.

3. Methodology

3.1. Methodology overview

The assessment will use a mixed approach including both quantitative and qualitative methods for collecting and analysing data. The chosen approach will make it possible to assess the current socio-economic situation of the selected hromadas, as well as to explore the underlying causes of the specific processes.

The assessment for each hromada will be implemented in two phases to prioritize the collection of secondary data and spatial information necessary for local recovery and development planning. This process will also include efforts such as open data request, gather and verify data due meetings with hromadas` officials, experts and representatives of organizations providing social services and utilities.

Phase 1: Secondary data collection via open data request to hromadas `representatives to inform local recovery/strategic planning.

During this phase, a structured data request will be shared with local authorities to collect available administrative data, spatial information, and existing planning documentation. Where needed, online consultations with relevant stakeholders will be conducted to verify, clarify, and contextualize missing or inconsistent data.

Key sectors and data types to be collected include:

- Demographics and IDPs (population structure, IDP numbers and needs, demographic trends and projections)
- **Economy** (main sectors, employment, key enterprises, agricultural activity, war impact on economy, recovery potential)

- Environment and Land Use (water sources/quality, green zones, biodiversity, pollution sources, environmental monitoring, war-related damage, local tensions)
- Housing and Basic Infrastructure (housing types, war-damaged buildings, reconstruction needs, utility availability/condition, waste management, urban planning docs)
- **Education** (institution types, ownership, shelters, operational status, teaching modality, student numbers, transport, building condition, staffing, war damages)
- Healthcare (facility types, ownership, shelters, operational status, staffing, pharmacies, facility condition, war impacts, recovery efforts)
- Social and Administrative Services (access to social protection, administrative service centers, mobile units, service coverage and gaps, staffing and capacity)
- Public Spaces and Sports Infrastructure (inventory of public/sport spaces, use/accessibility, condition, safety, infrastructure gaps, development priorities, ongoing/planned projects)
- Culture, Youth, Heritage and Tourism (cultural facilities, events/festivals, crafts/heritage, tourist attractions, war damage to assets, tourism actors, promotion mechanisms)
- War-related Damage (damage to buildings, infrastructure, environment, cultural assets; ongoing reconstruction efforts)

The result of this phase will be a multi-sectoral situational overview for each hromada, forming the evidence base for **Phase 2.**

Phase 2: Primary data collection (KIIs, FGDs) to validate and deepen preliminary findings based on the secondary and/or spatial data gathered in Phase 1.

- 1. Quantitative component will involve key informant interviews with heads of hromadas (starostas). The survey will be designed to gather information on the demographic situation, movement intention of the hromadas' residents, the state of provision of basic services, and the condition of critical infrastructure. The survey will primarily consist of close-ended questions based on the research questions to gather quantitative data on the above topics.
- **2. Qualitative component** will complement the quantitative survey and include focus group discussions. The qualitative component aims to gain a deeper understanding of the underlying causes of the explored processes in the target areas. Focus group discussions (FGDs) will be conducted using purposive sampling across each target hromada. Four FGDs will be held per hromada, with each group composed of 6–8 participants. The discussions will target:
 - local residents from the hromada center
 - local residents from the hromada periphery
 - o representatives of local civil society organizations (CSOs), volunteer groups and activists.
 - representatives of the local business community

Sampling will be purposive, with snowball sampling employed to achieve the target number of respondents. However, snowball sampling for FGDs will be conducted in a manner that ensures participants which have related characteristics are not placed in the same group. Efforts will be made to ensure reaching about 50/50 male/female ration within FGDs if possible, as well as represented various age and vulnerable groups. These participant groups were selected to ensure that the perspectives of different segments of the community are adequately represented. Including both central and peripheral residents helps identify potential geographic disparities in needs and service provision. CSO representatives offer insight into community engagement and social challenges, while business representatives provide a view on local economic activity, recovery barriers, and employment opportunities. Efforts will be made to ensure that business representatives are appropriate to the dominant sectors of the economy in each specific hromada. This diversity of viewpoints is key to understanding the complex dynamics of post-conflict recovery.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) will be conducted in person, while Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) will be conducted either face-to-face or by phone, depending on logistical capacity and the security situation. Interviews and focus group discussions will be conducted by REACH field teams with the support of the senior assessment officer. Data collection is planned for June 2025. The findings will be shared with partner organizations involved in the transition process in frontline and de-occupied areas, it also will be shared back to target hromadas authorities – to feed the recovery/strategic plans development.

Phase 3. Joint analysis workshops: After preparing the collected data and conducting analysis sessions, IMPACT will facilitate a validation and visioning workshop with local stakeholders in each hromada. This workshop aims to triangulate findings from the secondary data review, geospatial analysis, and primary data collection. It is also an important step in validating and refining preliminary findings to ensure they accurately reflect the local context. In addition to validating the evidence base, the workshop will include strategic planning activities such as SWOT analysis (identification of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats), visioning exercises, and prioritization of key recovery and development needs. The SWOT analysis will follow a participatory approach, where stakeholders will work in facilitated groups to assess internal factors (strengths and weaknesses) across key sectors, as well as external factors (opportunities and threats) linked to broader socioeconomic, environmental, and security dynamics. The exercise will help to build consensus around realistic goals and inform recovery priorities that are grounded in the community's capacities and risks. The validated findings and strategic insights are planned to shape the key takeaways and recommendations for the recovery planning documentation.

3.2. Key definitions

Early Recovery is both an approach to humanitarian response which, through enhanced coordination, focuses on strengthening resilience, re-building or strengthening capacity, and contributing to solving rather than exacerbating long standing problems which have contributed to a crisis; and, a set of specific programmatic actions to help people to move from dependence on humanitarian relief towards development.

Resilience refers to both the process and the outcome of successfully adapting to difficult or challenging life experiences. It is often used to refer to the economic resilience of individual households or businesses and their ability to cope with or recover from a shock and to adapt to changing economic circumstances in the wider economy. There are two key components to the concept of economic resilience. The first is the ability of households, businesses or the economy to withstand or absorb an economic shock. The second is a more dynamic component, which relates to the ability of households, businesses or the economy more broadly to adapt to changing circumstances and strengthen their ability to respond to potential future shocks.

The reconstruction of regions and territories impacted by the conflict in Ukraine is a set of priority organisational, financial and other measures aimed at accelerating the restoration of critical infrastructure, social infrastructure, housing and public facilities to a state that will allow the return of internally displaced persons and refugees to the region, and the creation of favourable conditions for the activities of all business entities.⁵

Internally displaced person – a citizen of Ukraine, a foreigner or a stateless person staying on the territory of Ukraine on legal grounds and being entitled to permanent residence in the territory of Ukraine, who was forced to leave or abandon his/her residence place as a result of or in order to avoid the negative impact of armed conflict, temporary occupation, situations of generalized violence, mass violations of human rights and disasters of natural or human-made origin.⁶

Civil society organization - is a voluntary and organised association of citizens (regardless of official legalisation) that is created to pursue common interests (cultural, economic, age, regional, religious, professional, social, political, etc.).

Local authorities - for the purposes of this study, local authorities include representatives of the departments of economic development, social protection, and land maintenance at the local level (at the level of a specific municipality).

Local actor - local authorities and organisation, group or institution, with a permanent presence in the hromadas, which aims to respond to the crisis-related needs of the population (or a group therein).

Starosta district - a territorial unit in Ukraine that is defined by a village, settlement or city council to represent the interests of residents of one or more settlements (except for the administrative center of the community). This district is headed by a starosta, who is elected by the residents of this district and is responsible for their needs.

Vulnerability - the conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards.⁷

⁵ Law of Ukraine 'On the principles of state regional policy'. URL: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/156-19#Text

⁶ Law of Ukraine 'On Ensuring the Rights and Freedoms of Internally Displaced Persons'. URL: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1706-18#Text

⁷ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). 2017. *The Sendai Framework Terminology on Disaster Risk Reduction*. "Vulnerability". Accessed 12 May 2025. https://www.undrr.org/terminology/vulnerability.

3.3. Population of Interest

In terms of **population of interest**, this assessment on the one hand is concentrated on the local authorities, in particular, heads of starostats, senior staff of social departments, and public service providers as the most knowledgeable informants who have relevant and up-to-date information on the socio-economic situation in the hromada, access to employment, basic services, as well as the most common obstacles faced by hromada residents in accessing them. On the other hand, the assessment will seek to understand the perspectives of the problems and challenges in hromadas' development from its residents, namely representatives of local businesses, local CSOs and various population groups.

The geographical focus is on frontline and de-occupied areas in the Zaporizka (Matviivska, Mykhailo-Lukashivska and Stepnenska hromadas) and Kharkivska (Krasnohradska hromada) oblasts as defined by the FCDO Humanitarian Funding Proposal. The selection of the four specific hromadas for this assessment was guided by a comprehensive multi-step methodology. This process began with a security screening to ensure safe access and operations in frontline and recently de-occupied areas, using data on presense zones, recent incidents, and territorial control. Next, an assessment of planning needs was conducted to identify hromadas lacking updated strategic or recovery documents and not previously covered by similar international programmes. Finally, the process included preliminary interviews with local authorities and in-person team visits to confirm the feasibility of engagement and the hromadas' willingness to participate in a collaborative planning process.

3.4. Primary Data Collection

Qualitative and quantitative tools will be designed to identify the current socio-economic situation in the selected hromadas, existing problems and challenges, as well as prospects for stabilisation and improvement.

Data collection will be conducted by the Assessment Officers and supported by the Field Officers and enumerators, all supervised by the Assessment Team Leader in coordination with the Field Operations Manager. Prior to collecting data Assessment, Field Officers and enumerators will receive a training on qualitative data collection, as well as the specific tools used in this assessment. A pilot data collection of the qualitative components will follow the training. The data collection tools may be adjusted based on the insights from the pilot.

For both quantitative and qualitative components, the use of face-to-face data collection is favourable. However, given the security situation in the selected hromadas at the time of data collection, video call interviews (via various digital platforms, including social media applications) and focus group discussions will be arranged. Qualitative data collection will be audio-recorded (dependent on respondents' consent), and the interviewers (Assessment and Field Officers, enumerators) will take notes during data collection. Enumerators and Field Officers will transcribe these notes, using recordings to consolidate them, as soon as possible after the discussions. The transcripts will be translated automatically, with translation verified and edited by the Assessment Officers.

A summary of findings will be written and included in the data saturation grid. Qualitative data analysis will be performed according to the Data Analysis Plan (see section 6). All data cleaning and analysis will be reviewed by the IMPACT HQ Research Department.

Tools

Quantitative component

Structured interviews, facilitated by the ODK Collect phone app and Kobo forms, will be used for the quantitative survey. Respondents will be selected purposively from the senior staff of each starostat of the target areas to ensure the receipt of reliable statistical information on the topics concerned. Joint training sessions will be held for enumerators by Field Officers (FOs), Senior Data Officer (SDO) and Senior Assessment Officer (SAO)/Assessment Officer (AO); testing and piloting the tools for quantitative data collection will be conducted as part of the training process.

Qualitative component

The semi-structured tools for focus group discussions (FGDs) will be arranged in a Microsoft Word format. FGDs will be conducted by field teams of two people, consisting of a moderator and a note-taker. Moderators will be selected from among field staff with prior experience in qualitative data collection, particularly field officers and team leaders. To complement the

quantitative component and gain a deeper understanding of the dynamics in the target hromadas, IMPACT will conduct FGDs with diverse community groups. Four FGDs will be held per hromada, targeting:

- local residents from the hromada center
- local residents from the hromada periphery
- representatives of local civil society organizations (CSOs)
- representatives of the local business community

These groups were purposively selected to ensure a broad representation of community perspectives.

Table 1. Tools composition

Sub-research question	Quantitative component	Qualitative component – FGD tool
1.1 What is the overall demographic composition of the population, including age, gender, and displacement status?	Starosta questionnaire	
1.2 What population groups are present in the hromada, and what is their socio-economic status?	Starosta questionnaire	Local residents; CSO representatives
1.3 Are there vulnerable groups in the hromada, and what are their main needs?	Starosta questionnaire	CSO representatives; Local residents
2.1 What is the condition of housing and communal infrastructure, and how has it changed after escalation of the conflict in 2022?	Starosta questionnaire	
2.2 What is the current level of access to social services (healthcare, education, administrative, care, cultural, youth, sports)?	Starosta questionnaire	Local residents; CSO representatives
2.3 What is the current level of access to basic services (water supply, sewage, heating, gas, solid waste management)?	Starosta questionnaire	Local residents
2.4 What are the main gaps and barriers in accessing basic and social services?	Starosta questionnaire	Local residents; CSO representatives
3.1 What were the economic drivers before the crisis?		Business representatives
3.2 How have local economic activities been impacted by the conflict?		Business representatives
3.3 What are the top (up to 10) industries located within the hromada?		Business representatives
3.4 What are the strategic trade and commerce links within and beyond the hromada, including access to markets?		Business representatives
3.5 What new economic potentials have emerged as a result of the conflict?		Business representatives
4.1 What internal strengths (resources, capacities, assets) can support development and recovery?	Starosta questionnaire	All groups (residents, CSOs, businesses)
4.2 What internal weaknesses or gaps hinder the achievement of development goals?	Starosta questionnaire	All groups (residents, CSOs, businesses)
4.3 How do external factors influence opportunities and threats for the hromada?	Starosta questionnaire	All groups (residents, CSOs, businesses)
5.1 What are the most urgent recovery needs of infrastructure, economy, and population?	Starosta questionnaire	All groups (residents, CSOs, businesses)
5.2 What tasks should be addressed in the short, medium, and long term to support recovery?	Starosta questionnaire	All groups (residents, CSOs, businesses)

5.3 What are the priority actions to be implemented to achieve strategic recovery and development goals?	Starosta questionnaire	All groups (residents, CSOs, businesses)
6.1 What unique features of the hromada (location, natural resources, population, transport, services, heritage, infrastructure, local government, civil society, etc.) can shape this vision?	Starosta questionnaire	All groups (residents, CSOs, businesses)
6.2 How do different stakeholder groups perceive the future of the hromada and their role in it?	Starosta questionnaire	All groups (residents, CSOs, businesses)

IMPACT team will adopt the following risk mitigation measures:

- Enumerators and drivers will be trained specifically on mine awareness, and any respondents to interview that is not accessible by a paved road frequently used by residents will be removed from the sample.
- A monitoring of the security situation in each area will be conducted by IMPACT team leader, ACTED security
 officers for the East and ACTED security team. In the event of an increase in security incidents in the area, data
 collection can be stopped.
- Security briefings of field enumerators and drivers will be conducted before data collection start and will be repeated
 as necessary. PPE will be provided to enumerators and drivers.
- As communities which included in this research cycle have not been occupied/de-occupied and no direct hostilities
 have taken place on their territories but their territories were directly affected by the shelling, a separate training
 component for enumerators that focus on to detect/respond to distress or discomfort, especially in areas with recent
 conflict exposure no provision. Training for enumerators in this line of work will take place as part of the general
 organizational internal training of the field team.
- Local authorities will be fully informed on the data collection activities prior.

Monitoring

The assessment team will brief the field team on the data collection methodology ten days in advance of the start of data collection. TLs and enumerators will be trained on the tools a few days in advance of data collection and a pilot will be conducted to test the tools. Tools will be adjusted based on feedback from the field team. Tools will contain sections allowing TLs and enumerators to record empirical observations not captured by the questions, as well as comments on the ability/willingness of key informants to respond to specific questions. Incoming data from structured interviews will be monitored by a database officer (DBO) to ensure the completeness and consistency of submissions. A tracker will be developed to check submissions recorded automatically by Kobo against submissions reported by the field team. Incoming semi-structured in-depth interview data will be monitored by a senior assessment officer (SAO) to ensure the completeness of submissions. The TL will be required to submit the completed data collection tool (notes) to the SAO as a Word document within 48 hours of the interview, along with a debrief form. Also, with the consent of the informant, it is envisaged to conduct an audio recording of the in-depth interview to monitor the correctness of filling out notes by the TL. The debrief form should be used to indicate any changes and additions that were made to notes following the interview based on recordings. A data saturation grid will be completed by the assessment team in real time in case data saturation is reached before the end of data collection, though such a scenario is unlikely given the specific activities of actors.

3.5. Sampling Plan

According to the specified sampling criteria, IMPACT aims to interview heads of the starostats in the selected hromadas with a total number of 12 interviews.

To contextualise the findings from the secondary data collection and key informant interviews, IMPACT will organise 16 focus group discussions - 4 FGDs in each of the selected areas.

Table 2. Data collection methods and samples

Type of Data	Interview Type	Respondent Type	Target Hromada	Sample Size
Quantitative			Matviivska hromada, Zaporizka oblast	3

		TOTAL (qualitative):		16
		Representatives of local CSOs	Matviivska, Mykhailo-Lukashivska, and Stepnenska hromada, Zaporizka oblast; Krasnohradska hromada, Kharkivska oblast	4 (1 per location)
Qualitative	Focus group discussion	Representatives of local businesses	Matviivska, Mykhailo-Lukashivska, and Stepnenska hromada, Zaporizka oblast; Krasnohradska hromada, Kharkivska oblast	4 (1 per location)
		Hromadas' residents (periphery)	Matviivska, Mykhailo-Lukashivska, and Stepnenska hromada, Zaporizka oblast; Krasnohradska hromada, Kharkivska oblast	4 (1 per location)
		Hromadas' residents (center)	Matviivska, Mykhailo-Lukashivska, and Stepnenska hromada, Zaporizka oblast; Krasnohradska hromada, Kharkivska oblast	4 (1 per location)
		Total (quantitative):		13
			Krasnohradska hromada, Kharkivska oblast	6
	Key Informant Interview	Head of starostats (starostas)	Stepnenska hromada, Zaporizka oblast	0 (no starosta districts in the hromada)
			Mykhailo-Lukashivska hromada, Zaporizka oblast	4

3.6. Data Processing & Analysis

The assessment follows a phased and integrated mixed-methods approach. Phase 1 involves the collection of sectoral and spatial data directly from hromadas via structured requests, complemented by additional outreach to close information gaps at the starostat level. Phase 2 triangulates and deepens these findings through primary data collection (KIIs and FGDs), capturing diverse stakeholder perspectives. Phase 3 consists of facilitated joint analysis and validation workshops with local actors to further triangulate all data sources, refine findings, and translate them into actionable priorities for recovery planning. Throughout, qualitative and quantitative data are analysed together to ensure a cohesive evidence base. Quantitative trends are interpreted alongside qualitative insights, while inconsistencies are explored through iterative team discussions and stakeholder engagement.

Data processing and analysis of structured and semi-structured interviews will be performed in line with IMPACT's Minimum Standards Checklist of Semi-Structured Data Processing and Analysis, IMPACT Data Cleaning Minimum Standards Checklist. KII data captured through the Kobo tool will be securely stored in the cloud, with access permissions managed by IMPACT HQ. The DBO will have access to this data to conduct real-time monitoring. During cleaning, the DBO will record all changes and deletions in a cleaning log and deletion log, respectively. An R script will then be used to record value changes by comparing the raw dataset with the clean dataset, and the resulting value change log will be compared with the logs completed by the DBO to ensure consistency.

Quantitative data will be analysed by means of Microsoft Excel pivot tables, with the possibility of automation by means of R. Due to the small number of surveys, the analysis will be limited to descriptive statistics. Analysis will focus on absolute numbers and specific responses from key informants. Data will be analysed at the hromada level to better inform the development of local recovery plans/ local development strategies. Comparison of hromadas within the same or different oblasts is possible upon additional request.

When collecting qualitative data, focus group discussions can be recorded with the consent of the participants. Where recording is not possible, note-takers will endeavor to take notes verbatim in the source language. The digital transcription of the notes will take place immediately after the discussions.

All data analysis will adhere to <u>IMPACT Minimum Standards Checklist for Semi-Structured (Qualitative) Data Processing and Analysis as well as IMPACT's Qualitative Data Processing and Analysis Guidelines.</u>

3.7. Limitations

The research is indicative and cannot be assumed to be representative of all hromadas in Zaporizka and Kharkivska oblasts, so further conclusions should be made with caution. In addition, despite the emphasis in the introduction on anonymity and aggregation of results, as local and regional authorities are surveyed, social desirability bias may still be present in the results.

The absence of Stepnenska representatives in the sampling approach for starostas, may cause gaps in the collected data but will not have a critical impact on capturing information from all hromadas in a balanced fashion. Since all data on the community's settlements (similar to the starosta survey) will be collected through the online consultations with representatives of the local authorities of the Stepnenska community. The absence of a survey in the Stepnenska community using the Kobo tool is due to in order to unify the tools and maintain a logical approach to sampling, the tool for interviewing starostas will not be used in Stepnenska community, as they do not have starosta.

Another limitation that would be worth mentioning is that the research approach assumes starostas hold reliable data on demographics, services, and vulnerability. It may miss informal settlements, recent returnees, etc. The research teams will try to fill in these gaps as accurately as possible by analyzing secondary data and supplementing the data obtained during the focus group discussions.

Серед інших обмежень варто також відмітити закриті реєстри із даними, до яких не мають доступу навіть представники місцевої влади (як приклад державний реєстр ВПО), що впливає на загальний аналіз профілю громади.

4. Key ethical considerations and related risks

The proposed research design meets/does not meet the following criteria:

The proposed research design	Yes/ No	Details if no (including mitigation)
Has been coordinated with relevant stakeholders to avoid unnecessary duplication of data collection efforts?	Yes	
Respects respondents, their rights and dignity (specifically by: seeking informed consent, designing the length of survey/ discussion while being considerate of participants' time, and ensuring accurate reporting of information provided)?	Yes	
Does not expose data collectors to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	No	If necessary, on the request of the ACTED Security Department, IMPACT will conduct surveys and FGDs in shelters.
		Movement by the Field Teams will conform to ACTED in-country security protocols. If necessary, enumerators will be provided with PPE and security briefings.
Does not expose respondents / their communities to any risks as a direct result of participation in data collection?	No	If necessary, on the request of the ACTED Security Department, IMPACT will conduct surveys and FGDs in shelters.
		Movement by the Field Teams will conform to ACTED in-country security protocols. If necessary, enumerators will be provided with PPE and security briefings.
Does not involve collecting information on specific topics which may be stressful and/ or re-traumatising for research participants (both respondents and data collectors)?	No	Respondents will be reminded at the beginning of the interview that their participation is voluntary, and that they can withdraw their consent at any time Data collection will be conducted by Ukrainian staff who are able to effectively communicate with respondents about voluntary consent to participate, and who can recognise if respondents become uncomfortable.

Does not involve data collection with minors i.e. anyone less than	Yes	
18 years old?		
Does not involve data collection with other vulnerable groups e.g. persons with disabilities, victims/ survivors of protection incidents, etc.?	Yes	
Follows IMPACT SOPs for management of personally identifiable information ?	Yes	
Does not involve collecting personally identifiable information of participants e.g. name, age, gender, contact details, clan affiliation	No	All personally identifiable information (age, sex, phone number) will be deleted directly after the data cleaning.

5. Roles and responsibilities

Table 3. Description of roles and responsibilities

Task Description	Responsible	Accountable	Consulted	Informed
Research design	Assessment Officer (AO); Senior Assessment Officer (SAO)	Research Manager (RM)	Deputy Country Coordinator (DCC); Impact HQ Research Design and Data Unit	ACTED; RCC
Supervising data collection	REACH Senior Field Officer	REACH Field Operation Manager	AO; SAO.	ACTED; RCC
Data processing (checking, cleaning)	Senior Data Officer; REACH Field Officers.	RM; AO	DCC; IMPACT HQ Research Design and Data unit	ACTED; RCC
Data analysis	Senior Data Officer; Assessment Officer; Senior Assessment Officer	RM	DCC; IMPACT HQ Research Design and Data unit	ACTED; RCC
Output production	AO	RM	DCC; IMPACT HQ Research Reporting Unit	ACTED; RCC
Dissemination	SAO	RM DCC	IMPACT HQ Research Reporting and Communication Units	ACTED; RCC
Monitoring & Evaluation	RM	Country Coordinator	IMPACT HQ Research department	ACTED; RCC
Lessons learned	RM	Country Coordinator	All REACH staff involved	ACTED; RCC; Impact HQ

Responsible: the person(s) who executes the task

Accountable: the person who validates the completion of the task and is accountable for the final output or milestone

Consulted: the person(s) who must be consulted when the task is implemented **Informed:** the person(s) who need to be informed when the task is completed

6. Data Analysis Plan

Available upon request.

1. Data Management Plan

Administrative Data			_				
Research Cycle name		Humanitarian Action through Volunteers, Enablers and Networks, phase III					
Project Code		64FOX					
Donor		FCDO					
Project partners		ACTED, RCC					
Research Contacts		Nadiia MIKHNO nadiia.mikhno@reach-initiative.org					
Nescarcii Contacts		Zemfira MAMEDOVA, zemfira.mamedova@reach-initiative.org					
Data Managament Dian							
Data Management Plan D Version		Date: 12/05/2025	V	ersion: V 1			
Related Policies				_			
Documentation and Meta	adata		-				
What	X	Data analysis plan	X	Data Cleaning Log, including:			
documentation and	^	Data analysis plan	^	X Deletion Log			
metadata will				X Value Change Log			
accompany the		0-1-1-1-					
data?		Codebook		Data Dictionary			
Select all that apply		Metadata based on HDX		[Other, Specify]			
		Standards					
Ethics and Legal Compl							
Which ethical and	Х	Consent of participants to participat	e 🗆	Consent of participants to share			
legal measures will			personal information with other				
be taken?	taken?			agencies			
		No collection of personally identifia	ble X	Gender, child protection and other			
		data will take place		protection issues are taken into account			
	Χ	All participants reached age of majo	rity	[Other, Specify]			
Who will own the copyright and Intellectual Property Rights for the data that is collected?		PACT					
Storage and Backup							
Where will data be	Χ	IMPACT/REACH Kobo Server		Other Kobo Server: UNHCR Kobo			
stored and backed				Server			
up during the research?	Χ	IMPACT Global Physical / Clo Server	oud 🗆	Country/Internal Server			
		On devices held by REACH staff		Physical location [specify]			
	_			injeredi resdatori [opeony]			
		[Other, Specify]	<u> </u>				
Which data access	Which data access X Password protection on		Х	Data access is limited to REACH			
and security		devices/servers		staff: Senior GIS Officer, Senior			
measures have				Data Officer, Assessment Officers,			
been taken?				Research Manager			
		Form and data encryption on		Partners signed an MoU if			
	-	data collection server		accessing raw data			
		[Other, Specify]		1 3			
Kaha Assasa Dighta		[[[[]]]]					
A(0)000 A(ddess Ruomis							
Kobo Access Rights		D		A (h 1			
Kobo Access		Person		Account Name			
		tlana BOZHENKO, Senior	hozhenk				
Kobo Access	Da	tlana BOZHENKO, Senior ta Officer	bozhenk nadijami	0			
Kobo Access	Da ¹	tlana BOZHENKO, Senior	bozhenk nadiiami schmicki	o khno			

View and Edit Form		Brett SCHMICKING, Research Manager Svitlana BOZHENKO, Senior Data Officer Nadiia MIKHNO, Senior Assessment Officer				boz	henko				
						nadiiamikhno					
View Form and Submit Data	Enumerator Account				enumukr						
Download Data			Svitlana BOZHENKO, Senior Data Officer			bozhenko					
Raw Data Access	Rights										
Raw Data Acce	ess	Reason				Person					
Accountable		For Data cleaning and analysis				Svitlana BOZHENKO, Senior Data Officer					
Access			For analysis (written report and maps)			Zemfira MAMEDOVA, Assessment Officer Nadiia MIKHNO, Senior Assessment Officer Brett SHCMICKING					
Preservation					.,						
Where will data be stored for long		Х	IMPACT / REACH Global Cloud / Physical Server					OCHA HDX			
term preservation?)		REACH Country Server					UNHCR Kobo Server			
Data Sharing			l								
Will the data be shared publically?		Х	Yes					No, only with mandating agency / body			
Will all data be shared?			Yes				Х	No, only anonymized/ cleaned/ consolidated data will be shared			
			No, [Other, Specify]								
Where will you share the data?		X	REACH Resource Centre					OCHA HDX			
			Humanitarian Response					[Other, Specify]			
Data protection r	isk ass	essm	nent								
Have you complete	ed the	Х							No, no information that potentially		
Indicators Risk Assessment table below?								allows the identification of individuals is to be collected.			
Risk indicator		Type ificat	of ion risk	Disclosure implications		Ве	enefits		Class	Required mitigation	
KI phone number	Direc	t con	tact	Loss of privacy			up for leaning		B1	Delete directly after cleaning	
Sex	Identi KI	Identification of KI		Loss of privacy	tt tt ir	To determine he specifics of he key of he hey of he he hey of he		of ofile	B2	Delete after analysis	
Age	Identification of KI		on of	Loss of privacy	tl tl ir	gender To determine he specifics he key nformant pro depending or age		of ofile	B2	Delete after analysis	

Responsibilities	
Data collection	Vitalii BUDNIK, Senior Field Officer, vitalii.budnik@reach-initiative.org
	Yuliia YUR, Field Officer, yuliia.yur@reach-initiative.org
Data cleaning	Svitlana BOZHENKO, Senior Data Officer, svitlana.bozhenko@reach-initiative.org
Data analysis	Svitlana BOZHENKO, Senior Data Officer, svitlana.bozhenko@reach-initiative.org
	Zemfira MAMEDOVA, Assessment Officer, zemfira.mamedova@reach-initiative.org
	Nadiia MIKHNO, Senior Assessment Officer, nadiia.mikhno@reach-initiative.org
Data sharing/uploading	Zemfira MAMEDOVA, Assessment Officer, zemfira.mamedova@reach-initiative.org

8. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

o. Monitoring & Evaluation Plan								
IMPACT Objective	External M&E Indicator	Internal M&E Indicator	Focal point	Tool	Will the indicator be tracked?			
Humanitarian stakeholders are accessing IMPACT products	Number of humanitarian organisations accessing IMPACT services/product s Number of individuals accessing IMPACT services/product s	# of downloads of x product from Resource Centre	Country request to HQ		X Yes			
		# of downloads of x product from Relief Web	Country request to HQ	User_log	X Yes			
		# of downloads of x product from Country level platforms	Country team		X Yes			
		# of page clicks on x product from the REACH Global newsletter	Country request to HQ		□ Yes			
		# of visits to x webmap/x dashboard	Country request to HQ		□ Yes			
IMPACT activities contribute to better program implementation and coordination of the humanitarian response	Number of humanitarian organisations utilising IMPACT services/product s	# references in HPC documents (HNO, SRP, Flash appeals, Cluster/sector strategies)		Reference _log				
		# references in single agency documents	Country team					
	Humanitarian actors use IMPACT	Perceived relevance of IMPACT country-programs		Usage_Fe edback				
Humanitarian stakeholders are using IMPACT products	evidence/produc ts as a basis for decision-making, aid planning and delivery Number of humanitarian documents (HNO, HRP, cluster/agency strategic plans, etc.) directly informed by	Perceived usefulness and influence of IMPACT outputs			The results of			
		Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs			will contribute to the			
		The perceived capacity of IMPACT staff	Country team	<i>and</i> Usage_Su				
		Perceived quality of outputs/programs Recommendations to strengthen IMPACT programs		rvey template				

	IMPACT products				
Humanitarian	Number and/or percentage of humanitarian organisations	# of organisations providing resources (i.e.staff, vehicles, meeting space, budget, etc.) for activity implementation			
stakeholders are engaged in	directly contributing to	# of organisations/clusters inputting in research design and joint analysis	Country team	Engagem ent_log	□ Yes
IMPACT programs throughout the research cycle	IMPACT programs (providing resources, participating in presentations, etc.)	# of organisations/clusters attending briefings on findings			X Yes X Yes