FINAL REPORT

RAPID RESPONSE

Grantee / applicant organisation	Danish Support Group Ukraine (DSGU)		
Contact person, name	Mette Laudal	E-mail	*ml@dsgu.org*
Implementing Partner	Ukraine Demining Association		
DERF Reference number	23-4925-DERF-RR		

Title of Intervention	Explosive Ordnance Risk Education in Mykolaiv & Identification of Most Important Mine Action Needs in Mykolaiv Oblast
Name of Call	23-011-SP Deterioration of humanitarian crisis in Ukraine
Country of Intervention	Ukraine
Location(s) of Intervention	Mykolaiv Oblast
Period of Intervention	15-09-2023 to 15-02-2024 (extended to 31-03-2024)
Total *Budget* of Intervention	DKK 981.642

Dronningmølle
Place and Date

Person responsible (Signature)

ml@dsgu.org
E-mail

METTE LAUDAL FÆRCH
Person responsible (Name in capital letters)

1. Overall performance (CHS 1, 2, 4 & 7) suggested length 3,5 - 4 pages

1.1 Write max. 10 lines about the overall purpose of the intervention, and whether the intervention achieved its expected short-term impacts.

The purpose of the intervention was to perform Explosive Ordnance Risk Education and where required undertake Non-Technical Survey in and around areas of Mykolaiv Oblast that were considered contaminated with either Landmines and/or Unexploded Ordnance.

The project undertook 2 activities:

Activity 1 – Explosive Ordnance Risk Education:

Activity 2 – Non-Technical Survey

The aims of the project were met and exceeded which was an excellent outcome.

a) Timeframe of the Intervention

How many days after submission of a fund disbursement request was funding made available to your organisation?	4
How many days after the applicant organisation's receipt of funds were you able to start implementation?	The intervention was started as soon as the funds were received as the first phase of the intervention was planning and production of educational materials.
How many days after the applicant organisation's receipt of funds were target groups in receipt of assistance?	The first phase of the intervention was production of educational materials and training of the trainers that were to deliver the intervention. We started delivering EORE training and sending out the NTS team 30 days after receipt of the funds.
What internal or external factors negatively affected the speed of implementation?	As we had already implemented other projects with our implementing partner in Ukraine, we had a high degree of trust. So, we were able to start the implementation even though we struggled with the transfer of the money for around 20 days due to changes in the Ukrainian banking system.
Additional comments:	None.

b) Planned and Actual direct target population

PLANNED TARGET POPULATION (INDIVIDUALS) (from intervention application/proposal)			
Age Group	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
	# of persons	# of persons	# of persons
< 5	0	0	0
6-14	500	500	1000
15-24	500	1000	1500
25-49	1200	3000	4200
50-64	1300	2000	3300
> 65	0	0	0
Total	3500	6500	**10000**

ACTUAL TARGET POPULATION (INDIVIDUALS)			
Age Group	**Male**	**Female**	**Total**
	# of persons	# of persons	# of persons
< 5	0	0	0
6-14	4012	3990	8002
15-24	927	1935	2862
25-49	98	1952	2050
50-64	115	566	681
> 65	0	0	0
Total	5152	8443	**13595**

1.2 Describe the intervention's effect on the direct target population and the needs of particularly vulnerable groups (e.g. women, men, boys, girls, people with disabilities, elderly, ethnic minorities).

Following the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant dam breach, displaced mines and UXOs became a growing concern, especially in Mykolaiv Oblast. Explosive ordnance now poses significant risks to returning residents, with children, the elderly, and those with disabilities at higher risk.

Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) is vital for Mykolaiv Oblast's safety. EORE, in line with IMAS 12.10 standards set by the UN, educates locals on UXO identification and safety. DSGU and UDA consistently follow IMAS standards, available at IMAS library.

In Mykolaivska and Khersonska oblasts, 93% of agricultural producers focus solely on crop production. UXOs contaminate these lands, endangering farmers daily. Clearing farmland of UXOs is essential, as untrained farmers risk accidents.

For Mykolaivka Oblast's agricultural situation, Non-Technical Surveys (NTS) teams are crucial. They liaise with local communities to identify UXO areas, reporting to national and local authorities. The primary goal is to inform local authorities for efficient clearance. Like EORE, NTS follows UN's IMAS standards, specifically IMAS 08.10, with DSGU and UDA adhering to them always.

By delivering Explosive Ordnance Risk Education and Non-Technical Survey, we affected the population by informing them of the risks and what to do should a hazard be suspected. We also through Non-technical Survey were able to confirm where such hazards existed, releasing the remaining land as hazard free.

The majority of the beneficiaries reached in the local population, consist mainly of women, children, the elderly, and the disabled, given that most men left for conscription.

1.3 Write about the results and outcomes achieved.

The Kharkovka dam exploded on June 6th, 2023. As waters receded, it unveiled the extent of damage to infrastructure and areas previously known for UXO and mine contamination. Now, with most areas

accessible, immediate interventions are vital to prevent UXO and mine-related accidents in places like backyards, playgrounds, and fields.

The majority of the local population, mainly women, children, the elderly, and the disabled—given that most men left for conscription—urgently need Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE). Those men who returned did so with disabilities from combat.

Mykolaiv Oblast's farmers face risks from UXO-contaminated lands, leading to frequent accidents. With EORE already in place in Mykolaiv, aiding farmers in identifying and reporting threats becomes timely and efficient.

Activity 1: Explosive Ordnance Risk Education

DSGU offered humanitarian mine action (HMA) through Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) targeting women, children, the elderly, and the disabled. EORE raises awareness about explosive ordnance (EO) dangers, promoting safety in affected communities. The intent is to cultivate a safer environment, lessening the hindrance from EO. EORE, a cornerstone of mine action, integrates with activities like survey (NTS) but can also stand alone. Adhering to humanitarian principles, it's crucial for Ukraine's current situation, especially in Kherson and Mykolaiv regions, subject to access and troop movements. The plan includes two EORE mobile teams, each with an operator and a driver/operator, overseen by an EORE Manager. Activities align with local authorities and directly target vulnerable groups. Only certified organizations should conduct EORE, emphasizing the "Do No Harm" approach. This initiative educates about UXOs and mines in communal areas, schools, and through flyers. Aiming to impact 9000 individuals in Mykolaiv Oblast, it promotes the "don't touch" approach, safeguarding communities and enabling risk management in contaminated zones.

There was a total of 346 Explosive Ordnance Risk Education sessions completed with a total of 9,948 beneficiaries.

Activity 2: Non-Technical Survey

To assist the dire needs of clearance of farmland DSGU did, through its implementing partner, establish one Rapid Reaction non-technical survey team which is proposed to assist the farmers in locating and reporting the location of mines and UXO’s to the proper authorities. A non-technical survey (NTS) is a crucial step in the process of landmine and explosive remnants of war (ERW) clearance and humanitarian demining efforts. It is a systematic and comprehensive assessment of a given area to determine potential hazards, contamination, and risks associated with explosive remnants. The primary goal of a non-technical survey is to gather information about the presence, extent, and types of explosive hazards within a particular area, while also taking into account social, economic, and cultural factors that might affect the clearance process. The result is confirmed hazardous areas.

One (1) NTS team consisted of three specialists. At the request of representatives of agrarian business or some local authorities, the NTS team will survey the territory or buildings. The intervention began with contacting the farmers in the Khersonska and Mykolaiv Oblasts to identify the most urgent needs and surpass to a structured assistance. The team located and mapped dangerous items lying in the ground, fields, roads, back gardens etc. Upon the dialogue with the farmers and their family information will be given to be a lifesaving mechanism as a don’t touch approach to these items will prevent an explosion with harming or deadly output. NTS has a strong focus on data collection gathering information about UXO

contaminated areas and data management submitting their data and finds to the state system IMSMA (Mine Action information Management System) where the data undergoes a validation process by the National Mine Action Authority.

A total of 22 Non-technical Surveys were completed reaching a total of 3,647 beneficiaries.

2. Changes & amendments (CHS 7) suggested length max. 0,5 page

2.1 Briefly explain any changes to the intervention from the original plan and explain why you needed to make them. Include also reflections about your actions taken on good advice(s) given in the recommendation note upon approval of your intervention.

There were changes to the project, the main one being a no cost extension. This was due to a minor budget error and currency exchange rates. Therefore, we were able to continue the project for 1.5 months and reach a further 936 beneficiaries with NTS intervention.

3. Environment (CHS 3) suggested length max. 0,5 page

a) Choose which of the following three descriptions best characterised your intervention (tick only one box)

MARK		DESCRIPTION		EXPLANATION
☐	→	**The intervention included environmentally harmful components without incorporating mitigation measures to reduce anticipated impact**	→	The intervention duly identified and considered the environmental impact of its collective activities as harmful without being able to apply substantiated remedial action (e.g. sourcing, procurement, supply chains, logistics, transport, waste and service delivery).
☐	→	**The intervention included environmentally harmful components and incorporated some mitigation measures to reduce anticipated impact**	→	The intervention duly identified and considered the environmental impact of its collective activities as harmful and applied some substantiated remedial action (e.g. sourcing, procurement, supply chains, logistics, transport, waste and service delivery).
XFejl! Bogmærke er ikke defineret.	→	**The intervention included environmentally harmful components and incorporated significant mitigation and environmental enhancement measures to reduce anticipated impact**	→	The intervention duly identified and considered the environmental impact of its collective activities as harmful and included significant substantiated remedial action as well as environmental enhancement components (e.g. sourcing, procurement, supply chains, logistics, transport, waste and service delivery).

3.1 Briefly reflect on your Environment Marker self-assessment (planned & actual). Describe how environmental or climate issues were addressed. Were environmental considerations attainable and measurable and how did you address challenges encountered?

DSGU, in collaboration with its partner, has prioritized minimizing environmental impact. The strategy includes local procurement to reduce CO2 emissions, transporting only specialized equipment and experts. All waste is meticulously sorted for recycling, with stringent measures in place to prevent oil spills and ensure the safe disposal of hazardous substances. Existing sewage systems are utilized for wastewater and human waste management. In war-affected areas, DSGU strives to minimize its environmental footprint, adapting to the available city infrastructure.

Focusing on Mykolaiv, the implementation of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions locally, conducted by EORE teams already deployed by DSGU's implementing partner, has further reduced

carbon emissions. However, comprehensive monitoring of total carbon emissions has not been feasible due to the current priorities in Ukraine.

Additionally, the implementing partner's staff are accommodated in facilities with access to existing sewage systems, allowing for effective waste sorting and recycling, thereby minimizing environmental impact.

The Non-Technical Survey (NTS) teams have been diligent in identifying unexploded mines and munitions. Each discovered item is recorded in both the national and UN systems. Through the national system, the National Police's local disposal teams are able to locate and safely destroy unexploded ordnance, preventing long-term soil and groundwater contamination.

4. Participation & accountability (CHS 4 & 5) suggested length max 1 page

4.1 How were people affected by the crisis (including vulnerable and marginalised groups) involved and consulted in the design and implementation of the intervention?

By selecting an implementing partner with extensive insight and knowledge of the intervention area, and who is also part of the population affected by the crisis, DSGU has ensured comprehensive involvement in both the design and implementation phases. The implementing partner, UDA, actively participated in the design phase in close collaboration with DSGU. This collaboration leveraged UDA's deep understanding of the situation in Mykolaiv, particularly the challenges posed by relocated mines and ammunition following the flooding from the Kharkovka Dam in June 2023.

4.2 Which feedback and complaints mechanisms were in place for affected populations to report cases of mismanagement, misconduct and/or sexual exploitation or abuse? How did you deal with complaints received?

DSGU has established a whistleblower mechanism to ensure transparency and accountability. Additionally, the implementing partner, UDA, provides several feedback and complaint mechanisms:

- UDA's Facebook: [facebook.com/Ukrainiansappers](https://www.facebook.com/Ukrainiansappers/)
- Corporate Email: info@uda.org.ua
- Website: [uda.org.ua](https://www.uda.org.ua/)
- Hotline: +380 0-800-330-360

During the implementation of the project, neither DSGU nor UDA received any complaints. This may be attributed to the nature of the intervention, which involved conducting Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions and documenting the locations of unexploded mines and munitions.

a) Complaints in numbers

No. of complaints received:	**0**
No. of complaints responded to:	**0**
No of complaints still pending:	**0**

4.3 What did affected persons think about the assistance provided?

Information about the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) sessions and the Non-Technical Survey (NTS) teams has been disseminated to the local population through various channels, including social media, newspapers, and posters placed in commonly frequented areas within the city. Additionally, posters have been distributed by hand and shared among community members. By utilizing a diverse array of informational platforms, both digital and physical, we have aimed to ensure maximum accessibility. The significant number of first-hand beneficiaries indicates our success in reaching as many people as possible.

It is also important to note that first-hand beneficiaries often transmit the knowledge they acquire to their families, including elders, children, and siblings. This cascading effect further amplifies the reach and impact of our educational efforts.

5. Risk management (CHS 3, 8 & 9) suggested length 0,5 page

5.1 How did your identified risks affect your target group? Which actions did you take to avoid or minimize risks? Did your risk management tools work as planned?

Before implementing the intervention, we identified two key risks: working with people or organizations marked by corruption, and trainers not being competent enough to deliver vital training.
By integrating a rigorous risk management framework and meticulously evaluating local suppliers, we ensured that our EORE intervention in Mykolaiv Oblast was both effective and secure. DSGU and UDA conducted thorough training of trainers before the EORE sessions started, ensuring they were up to date on all relevant information about the designated area and that their teaching skills were engaging for the beneficiaries.
This approach was crucial and beneficial for all participants in the EORE sessions. Our proactive measures minimized the risks of delivering lower-quality EORE sessions, engaging with corrupt suppliers, and ultimately contributed to a safer and more informed community about the risk of unexploded mines and ammunition.

6. Sustainability & learning (CHS 3, 7 & 8) suggested length 1 page

6.1 Write about the strategy for closing the intervention and the expected after-effects of the intervention. Focus on the sustainability of the intervention, or whether and how results or benefits will continue after it ends.

The primary aim of the intervention was to instill in beneficiaries the knowledge of how to respond if they encounter an object that is, or might be, an explosive remnant of war. Additionally, the intervention sought to ensure that this knowledge was robust enough for beneficiaries to share it with their families and friends, thereby extending its reach. The high number of beneficiaries who attended the EORE sessions and interacted with the NTS teams demonstrated a strong motivation to learn how to act in the presence of explosive objects.

The implementing partner actively promotes EORE learnings on their webpage, and desktop games are available for children to either learn or reinforce this critical information. Moreover, DSGU has initiated the

development of an EORE app focused on gamification, designed for children aged 5 to 10. This app enables children to repeatedly engage with the content, effectively embedding the knowledge in their minds through play.

6.2 Briefly describe activities strengthening local partner and/or local actor capacities, as relevant.

The local implementing partner is highly proficient in delivering these services to local communities, eliminating the need for additional capacity building. However, DSGU conducted a monitoring and evaluation (MEAL) of the intervention in December 2023 to ensure effectiveness and provide feedback. DSGU dispatched an EORE expert, Noe Falk, to Mykolaiv to carry out this assessment.

6.3 What are the key lessons learned and how will these be applied in future interventions?

Due to time constraints in meeting the application deadline for the intervention, DSGU made a few budgeting errors. This has been a learning experience for the organization. Additionally, the preselected age groups set by DERF proved challenging to delineate among the target populations, an issue that will need to be reassessed in future projects if DERF funding is received again. Despite these challenges, the implementation proceeded smoothly, with a project manager from DSGU maintaining a firm focus on the process through weekly dialogues and meetings.

As outlined in section 6.1, we view the intervention as highly sustainable. A key lesson learned during its implementation was the need for more diverse learning platforms for the crucial EORE training, which is essential for ensuring people's safety. Consequently, DSGU has initiated the development of a gamified app for children. Future projects might similarly focus on creating specialized learning tools for the elderly and people with disabilities. DSGU is actively seeking additional funding to expand EORE efforts throughout Ukraine.

7. Cost effectiveness (CHS 2 & 9) suggested length 0,5 page

7.1 In which ways did you try to improve the cost-effectiveness of the intervention? And did you spend money in a way that benefitted different groups of recipients equally and fairly?

During the implementation of the intervention, our implementing partner maintained a strong focus on cost efficiency and reduction wherever possible. Aside from a minor budgeting error, this approach enabled us to execute a no-cost extension for the project, extending the intervention period by 1.5 months. As a result, we significantly exceeded our target for the number of first-hand beneficiaries.

8. Coordination (CHS 6) suggested length 0,5 page

8.1 Describe how you coordinated with the government, other relevant organisations, and the broader humanitarian system, including the cluster system and alignment to other relevant UN-led appeals/coordinated responses (where applicable).

DSGU through UDA had a close collaboration with the National Mine Action Authority and Regional Mine Action Centres holding meetings with them weekly. In addition, the cooperative also met bi-weekly with UNDP which includes all UN agencies and other Mine Action Agencies including State Emergency Services Ukraine.

Locally, there were regular meetings held with authorities such as Mykolaiv Military-Civil Administration, local Hromadas, and State Emergency Services (SES) in Mykolaiv oblast.

8.2 Describe synergies, maybe with CSP or other interventions, and visibility in Denmark.

Synergies with other interventions quickly emerged as we recognized the critical importance of disseminating knowledge to the Ukrainian population. Delivering EORE locally is essential to minimize the harm caused by explosive remnants of war. However, through this intervention, DSGU conceived the idea of developing an app targeted at children aged 5 to 10. This age group is particularly vulnerable as they begin to explore local areas such as playgrounds, parks, fields, and abandoned houses. Parents, who often juggle multiple responsibilities, including maintaining employment, housekeeping, and food preparation, may not always be able to supervise their children closely, especially in towns with suboptimal school systems and limited daycare options.

The app which DSGU has collected donor money to from various fonds will educate children through engaging games about the dangers of playing with or touching potentially explosive remnants of war, helping to keep them safe in environments heavily contaminated with bombs, mines, and unexploded munitions. By partnering with a Ukrainian development company and collaborating with our implementing partner UDA, who will share a project manager for this vital project, we ensure that all collected funds support Ukraine. Additionally, UDA’s extensive knowledge about EORE delivery will be integral to the app's development.

The app will be available nationwide, allowing all Ukrainian children within the selected age group to benefit from it. Upon completion, the app will be donated to our implementing partner, who will ensure its availability on the App Store and Google Play. They will also handle necessary maintenance and promote the app through social media and advertisements during their local EORE sessions. This comprehensive approach ensures the app’s accessibility and sustainability, maximizing its impact on child safety across Ukraine.

After working on finding the right programming partner and developing the right storyline / game plot since December 2023, programming of the app began 14 days ago, and we are eager to see the outcome. This initiative not only contributes to child safety but also strengthens our overall intervention strategy.

Throughout the intervention, we have regularly released updates on social media, ensuring that DERF is mentioned as the donor of the funds to enhance visibility in Denmark for this vital project. Additionally, articles have been published on our website, including an extensive piece detailing our MEAL visit to Mykolaiv. This approach not only keeps stakeholders informed but also highlights the critical support provided by DERF.