

Effective emergency preparedness and response

State and municipal forces in Eastern Ukraine are able to better respond to emergencies and disasters

The challenge: Inadequate protection

The Ukrainian State Emergency Service (DSNS) is responsible for protecting a population of 42 million people and providing supplies and services in the event of an emergency. However, with only 40,000 rescuers, the centrally organised service is severely overstretched and challenged. Rescue workers were often unable to respond efficiently to emergencies, resulting in a high number of casualties. In addition, rescue workers themselves were at greater risk when responding to emergencies due to a lack of adequate protective equipment, such as helmets, safety shoes and breathing apparatus. The training content for municipal and state emergency services was not coordinated.

The Ukrainian government has therefore introduced new municipal emergency management structures, including local fire brigades, volunteer fire brigades and security centres as part of its decentralisation reforms. This is particularly important in Eastern Ukraine, where the situation has been particularly difficult due to the ongoing acts of war.



Project title:	Strengthening of state and municipal emergency management in Eastern Ukraine
Commissioned by:	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implemented by:	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Lead executing agency:	State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU / DSNS)
National partners:	State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU / DSNS), Local municipal authorities in Donetsk
Project region:	Ukrainian controlled areas of Donetsk region, City of Kyiv
Overall term:	01/2020 – 12/2021
Contact:	Christian Poschmann / christian.poschmann@giz.de

Our approach: Preparing communities for emergencies

Ukraine's emergency management system has great potential: rescue workers are motivated and can work under considerable pressure. On behalf of the German Federal Government, GIZ is harnessing this potential to support the DSNS. Together, these two partners are creating an efficient training system for firefighters that meets the needs of both the DSNS and communities. This is achieved by standardising the training of municipal and state personnel and ensuring that responsibilities and cooperation between DSNS units and municipal services are clearly regulated, coordinated and aligned. This improves the efficiency of joint rescue operations.



Better prepared for emergencies

In addition to updating and piloting training standards in cooperation with DSNS units and local fire brigades, the project aims to attract new personnel to municipal units. Campaigns in Donetsk aim to raise public awareness to prevent fires and accidents in households and encourage people to volunteer for the emergency services.

Together, these measures will enable the sustainable provision of emergency services in government-controlled areas of the Donetsk region and reduce the possibility of a structural overload. Ukraine will thus be supported in mitigating the consequences of the conflict in the East. The German implementation partners for the project are the Federal Agency for Technical Relief (THW) and the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance (BBK).



Efficient rescue operations through standardised training

Our results: Significantly fewer casualties

Earlier cooperation between the DSNS and GIZ from 2015-2019 resulted in more than 5,000 rescue workers receiving personal protective clothing. Almost 150 DSNS units in 120 municipalities benefitted from the new emergency equipment. As a result, rescue workers are now able to work more safely and effectively. Since 2015, the average number of casualties from fires has fallen by around 30 percent per year.

Through the current project, DSNS has officially adopted the jointly-developed training model for future training courses in Donetsk. This is a major achievement and lays the foundation for sustainable systemic change in the emergency management training system. Furthermore, the project ensured that information on Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threat was included in the basic training, which will allow for more effective decontamination and infection prevention.

The project has also equipped the DSNS Mobile Rescue Centre with modern protective suits, gloves, boots, and helmets to ease the work of rescue personnel. During the Covid-19 pandemic, protective suits, masks and disinfection equipment were procured for the DSNS.



Well trained and equipped firefighters and rescuers



Yashchenko Eduard: “Passing on knowledge and skills to volunteers and personnel”

As Captain of the civil protection service and Deputy Head of the DSNS Rescue Unit in the Donetsk region, Yashchenko Eduard participated in an online training for DSNS instructors, organised by GIZ. “The online training was interesting and comprehensive”, said Yashchenko.

“It is great that, during the Covid-19 pandemic, we can learn and access knowledge online. We covered new topics that are essential for professional development. Because of the training, we can take the knowledge and skills we learned and pass these on to volunteers and new personnel.”

Published by the:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices: Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

GIZ Ukraine
Strengthening of state and municipal emergency management in Eastern Ukraine
5 Pankivska st., 2nd floor
01033, Kyiv, Ukraine
T +38 044 581 85 35
F +38 044 581 85 35
I www.giz.de/ukraine

Last updated: Kyiv, 04/2021

Design: Olesya Litvinova

Photo credits: page 1: © GIZ/Pavlo Parkhomenko, © GIZ/Serhii Polunin;
page 2: © GIZ/Dirk Ostermeier, © DSNS/Eduard Yaschenko

Text: Steffi Noelting

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

On behalf of the
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)