

Communities helping communities

German municipalities are supporting their Ukrainian partner towns and cities in protecting the population and in their reconstruction efforts.



Challenge: municipalities are stretched to their limits

In February 2022, Russia began a large-scale invasion of Ukraine that has severed links to essential supply facilities for large parts of the country, especially the city centres. The war of aggression also triggered the largest movement of refugees within Europe since the Second World War. The United Nations estimates that around five million people – approximately 14 per cent of the total population – has fled from eastern to western Ukraine. The number of people wounded in the war and in need of both medical and psychological care is also growing.

The municipalities hosting the refugees are stretched to their limits – much of their basic infrastructure has been destroyed or damaged, or is now overwhelmed. People have insufficient access to municipal facilities and appropriate health care services, meaning that civil protection standards can no longer be maintained.

Project title:	Improving civil protection and reconstruction in municipal partnerships with Ukraine
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Our solution: harness the potential of German towns and cities

The project, Improving Civil Protection and Reconstruction in Municipal Partnerships with Ukraine, uses the potential of German municipalities to provide long-term support to Ukrainian towns, cities and municipalities. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and is being implemented by GIZ. The cooperation partners are Engagement Global's Service Agency, Communities in One World, as well as the associations of German cities, of German counties, and of German towns and municipalities.

For civil protection and reconstruction in Ukraine, it is essential that relief supplies, such as care materials for rehabilitation and solar lighting, are delivered quickly and directly to the relevant towns, cities and municipalities. At the heart of our project is therefore a procurement campaign to supply Ukrainian municipalities with urgently needed materials and equipment.



In a modular approach, the German municipalities can choose what equipment they deliver to Ukraine, in consultation with their partner municipalities. Ten different packages of materials and equipment – each worth EUR 60,000 – are available, for instance, to support youth, care patients or people with restricted mobility, or to supply renewable energy.

We procure the relief supplies and pass them on to the German municipalities. These in turn take care of the onward transportation to Ukraine and arrange for the local handover. We have adapted some of the procurement packages in the course of the project to address the changing needs of the municipalities and dynamic market conditions. Steps are taken to ensure the goods can be used sustainably after the end of the war.

A survey of the Ukrainian municipalities and a needs assessment by the United Nations were used to determine the contents of the procurement packages. The German-Ukrainian Partnership Conference in November 2023 and reports on experiences from the project were also key to identifying needs.



Urgently needed goods: the relief shipment from Bocholt arrives in the Ukrainian city of Verkhniodniprovs'k

Our results: 110 municipalities deliver 900 tonnes of materials and equipment

- 110 German municipalities and their Ukrainian partner municipalities have participated in the project. The partnership between the Ukrainian and German municipalities is strengthened for the long term by their close cooperation, which will enable exchanges and mutual support even after the end of the war.
- 240 shipments of materials and equipment have brought over 900 tonnes of relief supplies to Ukrainian municipalities.



The German partner towns and cities take care of the shipment to Ukraine and organise the handover on site



‘Rewarding cooperation’

Irmgard Starmann, coordinator of municipal development policy in the Mayor’s Office in the town of Lingen (Ems). Its partner city of Lanivtsi chose a package of municipal vehicles, containing two waste compactor vehicles.

‘Participating in the project and the cooperation with our Ukrainian partner city of Lanivtsi has been extremely rewarding. Thanks to the small amount of work involved and our positive experience of working together, we were able to focus on discussions with our partners and the organisation. I’m also glad of the chance to share experiences with representatives of German municipalities and GIZ on a regular basis.’

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