

# Civil Society in Donbas, Ukraine: Organizations and Activities

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# Table of Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Introduction</b> .....   | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>Methodology</b> .....  | <b>1</b>  |
| <b>Key Findings</b> .....   | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>1. Developments in Donbas: 2014 – 2020</b> .....   | <b>3</b>  |
| 1.1. The War in Donbas .....  | 3         |
| 1.2. Mechanisms for Civil-Military Cooperation .....  | 5         |
| 1.3. Security and Defense Actors in Donbas: Legal Mandates and Areas of<br>Responsibility .....         | 7         |
| 1.4. Civil Society in Donbas .....  | 8         |
| 1.4.1. Legal Basis for Exercising Oversight of Defense and Security Actors .....                        | 9         |
| 1.5 Developments since 2014.....  | 10        |
| <b>2. Civil Society Organizations in Donbas</b> .....   | <b>11</b> |
| 2.1. Civil Society Organizations by Type of Activity .....  | 12        |
| 2.2. Civil Society Organizations by Area of Operation .....   | 20        |
| 2.3. International Donor Assistance .....   | 26        |
| 2.4. Project Highlights .....   | 28        |
| 2.5. Security Needs, Existing Challenges, Public Councils, and Interaction with Law<br>Enforcement..... | 30        |
| <b>3. Recommendations for Enhancing the Role of Civil Society in Donbas</b> .....                       | <b>33</b> |
| Conclusion .....  | 37        |



## List of acronyms

ATO – Anti-terrorist operation

CO – Charity organization

IDP – Internally displaced persons

PO – public organization

AFU – Armed Forces of Ukraine

MIU – Ministry of Interior of Ukraine

CSO – Civil Society Organizations

PA – Public Authority

LGB – Local Government Body

JFO – Joint Forces Operation

ATC – Amalgamated Territorial Community

NGO – Non-Governmental Organization

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

ITA – International Technical Assistance

## Introduction

Civil society is an integral part of any democratic society. It contributes to the effective functioning of democratic institutions; political and socio-economic stability, and to the development of inclusive public policy. Successful cooperation between state authorities and civil society is an important element for creating favorable conditions for the development of civil society. The engagement of civil society with security issues contributes to good security sector governance by creating channels of communications through which the views of diverse groups on security needs can be expressed and incorporated into government policy.<sup>1</sup> Cooperation between civil society and security actors also contributes to the professionalization of security forces, and can help ensure that security forces provide security as a public good. Civil society can help identify grievances and vulnerabilities that, if left unaddressed, may engender violence. It can also support state actors in developing long-term approaches and strategies to conflict prevention and reduction.<sup>2</sup>

This study reviews the activities of civil society organizations in the Ukrainian government-controlled territory of Donbas between the period of 2014 to 2020. It is hoped that it will enable public organizations to consolidate their activities and representatives of security sectors agencies to build mutual trust with civil society. This study is also aimed at international organizations that provide financial support for the development of civil society in Ukraine and in Donbas, in particular.

The study is composed of four chapters. The first explores developments in Donbas since 2014, and their influence on the activities of civil society organizations. The second provides details on civil society organizations active in Donbas, controlled by Ukrainian government, including their activities, areas of implementation, key donors and existing challenges. The third explores the role of civil society in overseeing the security and defence sector in Donbas and outlines the legal basis and existing mechanisms for doing so, as well as challenges to security provision and effective public oversight of the security sector. The study concludes with recommendations on how to enhance the role of civil society in Donbas.

## Methodology

The study relies on the official and secondary data, primarily from the Ministry of Justice and State Statistics Service of Ukraine. These include the official websites of the aforementioned; the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts administrations, the websites of the Department of Justice of Ukraine, as well as those of non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and the mass media.

The study was carried out in two stages. During the first, open-source information concerning civil society organizations (CSOs) active in Donbas was collected and collated. During the second stage, an analytical description of the information was performed using various methods, including analysis and synthesis, structural, descriptive, interpretive methods, as well as quantitative and statistical analysis.

In order to describe the activities of CSOs in Donbas and classify them accordingly to their place of registration, a typology was created, and CSOs classified according to the broad type of activities they implement. Based on these typologies, a Map illustrating the location of CSOs in the part of Donbas, controlled by Ukrainian government forces, was created.

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<sup>1</sup> DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance. Civil Society. SSR Backgrounder Series. Geneva: DCAF, 2019. Available from: [https://dcaf.ch/sites/default/files/publications/documents/DCAF\\_BG\\_17\\_Civil%20Society\\_0.pdf](https://dcaf.ch/sites/default/files/publications/documents/DCAF_BG_17_Civil%20Society_0.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

Various limitations and challenges were encountered during the research phase. These include the fact that many smaller CSOs active in Donbas do not have websites, or do not provide details on their activities. In light of this, the researchers opted to rely on official sources of information from state and regional authorities, acknowledging that this will not provide an exhaustive list of all CSOs active in Donbas. Based on this, the authors identified 748 CSOs in the Donetsk oblast which, according to information provided by the Department of Justice, were registered in the period between 2016 to 2019. It should be noted that the information provided by the Department of Justice does not indicate which of these are still active. Using the latest data of the Luhansk regional administration, the authors identified an additional 281 CSOs currently active in Luhansk oblast.

In order to identify the location of the said CSOs, the authors collected information on their territorial registration, and compiled a table containing the number of registered public organizations in each district of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. These were then plotted on a map in order to illustrate their geographical concentration.

## Key Findings

According to the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, as of December 2020 in the Donetsk oblast over 5,000 CSOs were registered, and in Luhansk oblast – more than 3,000.<sup>3</sup>

Despite the large number of CSOs active in Donbas, only relatively few provide open-source information on their activities. Given that the object of the study is to identify the number and activities of CSOs in Donbas, the authors chose to focus only on those for which detailed public information was available. These include:

1. 382 civil society organizations from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts; and
2. 281 civil society organizations from Luhansk oblast, which, according to the latest available data, are still active, and 748 civil society organizations from Donetsk oblast, registered between 2016 and 2019.

In addition to the aforementioned, statistical data on the number of members of civil society organizations from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts is provided, with information taken from the official records of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and the State Statistics Service of Ukraine.

Based on the collected material, a database on the activities of 382 public organizations currently active in Donbas was created, which includes:

- the official name of the organization;
- contact information (where available);
- Description of activities;
- names of projects and their components; and
- sources of financial support (where available).

In addition, a map illustrating the geographical concentration of the aforementioned CSOs was created, which includes:

- settlements in which the CSOs are active; and
- the number of such organizations in each of the settlements according to their place of official registration.

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<sup>3</sup> Реєстр громадських об'єднань // Офіційний сайт Міністерства юстиції України. Available from: <https://rgo.minjust.gov.ua> (Accessed 6.12.2020).

# Chapter 1. Developments in Donbas: 2014 – 2020

In order to analyse the development of civil society in Donbas, it is necessary to understand the context in which they operate. This context is influenced by several factors, including the War in Donbas and its effects on mechanism established to facilitate civil-military cooperation, the activities of security and defence agencies operating in Donbas, and the legal basis upon which civil society organizations (CSOs) may exercise oversight over the security actors. The following examines these further.

## 1.1. The War in Donbas

Donbas includes two oblasts: Donetsk and Luhansk, which are in eastern Ukraine and border the Russian Federation. Following the War in Donbas, beginning in April 2014, the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO)<sup>4</sup> was established in both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts; later renamed as the Joint Forces Operation (JFO)<sup>5</sup> in April 2018.

Map 1<sup>6</sup>



<sup>4</sup> ATO. Available from: <https://www.president.gov.ua/documents/1162018-24086> (Accessed 6.11.2020).  
<sup>5</sup> Операція об'єднаних сил. Available from: <https://ua.interfax.com.ua/news/general/452785.html> (Accessed 6.11.2020).  
<sup>6</sup> Military situation: map JFO – 24.07.2020 // Information analysis center. National security of Ukraine. Available from: <http://mediarnbo.org/2020/07/24/military-situation-map-jfo-24-07-2020/?lang=en> (Accessed 23.12.2020).

## Donetsk oblast

In the north, Donetsk oblast borders Luhansk oblast; in the northwest, with Kharkiv oblast; in the west, with Dnipropetrovsk oblast; and in the southwest, with Zaporizhzhia oblast. The southern part of Donetsk oblast lies along the Sea of Azov.

As of October 2019, Donetsk oblast was divided into the following administrative zones: 18 administrative districts and 28 cities of regional significance. These include 24 cities of district significance, 131 urban settlements, 9 urban amalgamated territorial communities, 4 urban settlement amalgamated territorial communities, 6 rural amalgamated territorial communities, and 1283 settlements. Within these lie 6 district councils, 20 city councils, 9 city councils of amalgamated territorial communities, 4 urban settlement councils of amalgamated territorial communities and 6 village councils of amalgamated territorial communities. In addition, there exists 8 district military and civil administrations in Donetsk oblast, and 2 in cities of regional significance.

As a result of the War in Donbas, 13 cities of regional significance, 5 districts, as well as parts of 4 districts in Donetsk oblast are no longer under government control. Until 2014, the regional capital of the Donetsk oblast was Donetsk city, which consisted of 9 districts. Since 2014, however, the city has not been controlled by government forces. As a result, since October 2014, Kramatorsk has been the de-facto capital of the oblast, and houses the Donetsk Regional State Administration.

As of 1 August, 2019, around 4'144'529 people lived in the Donetsk oblast. According to data from the same year, these consisted of 55% women (2.3 million) and 45% men (1.9 million).<sup>7</sup>

As regard demography, Ukrainians make up the largest group – 56.9%; while Russians account for 38.2%. Greeks, Belarusians, Tatars, Armenians, Jewish, Azerbaijanis, and Georgians account for the remaining 4.9%, in addition to smaller numbers of other ethnic groups.<sup>8</sup>

## Luhansk oblast

In the south-west and west, Luhansk oblast borders with Donetsk oblast, and in the north-west, with Kharkiv oblast. To the north, it borders the Belgorod oblast of the Russian Federation; Voronezh oblast to the north-east, and Rostov oblast to the east and south.

The territory of Luhansk oblast is divided into 18 districts, in which 926 settlements are located; 37 cities, including 14 cities of oblast subordination and 23 of district subordination; in addition to 109 towns and 780 settlements and villages.

Since 2014, some parts of Luhansk oblast have not been under government control. As of 2020, 12 districts within Luhansk oblast remain under the control of the Government of Ukraine, including Bilovodsky, Bilokurakinsky, Kreminsky, Markivsky, Milovsky, Novoaydarsky, Novopskovsky, Popasnyansky, Svativsky, Stanychno-Luhansky, Starobilsky, and Troitsky; as well as 15 cities, including 3 cities of regional subordination; 28 towns and 517 rural settlements.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Політична карта Донецької області// Офіційний сайт Громадянської мережи ОПОРА. Available from: [https://www.opora.ua/article/vybory/parlamentski-vybory/political\\_map19/19622-politichna-karta-donetskoyi-oblasti](https://www.opora.ua/article/vybory/parlamentski-vybory/political_map19/19622-politichna-karta-donetskoyi-oblasti) (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>8</sup> Адміністративний устрій Донецької області. Available from: <http://static.rada.gov.ua/zakon/new/NEWSAIT/ADM/zmistdon.html> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>9</sup> Луганська область. Available from: <http://static.rada.gov.ua/zakon/new/NEWSAIT/ADM/zmistlug.html> (Accessed 6.11.2020).



According to the latest national census, 58% of the population of the oblast identify as Ukrainians and 39% as Russian. The remaining is made up from Belarussian, Tatars, Armenians, Moldovans, Azerbaijanis, Jewish, Romanies, Polish, as well as smaller number of other groups.<sup>10</sup>

In addition to the above-mentioned effects on demography and territory resulting from the War, the political and security context of the region also influences the activities and development of civil society in Donbas. These factors include, but are not limited, to the:

1. Implementation of special security measures in certain areas of Ukrainian government-held territory, which impacts the abilities of civil society organizations to undertake certain activities;
2. Damage to infrastructure in conflict-affected areas of Donbas;
3. Significant inflow of internally displaced persons to Ukrainian government-held territories in Donbas, and the need to provide them with basic services.

## 1.2 Mechanisms for Civil-Military Cooperation

Following the War in Donbas, the government established Military and Civil Administrations (MCAs) in some areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. These are temporary state bodies staffed by servicemen and established in accordance with the Law of Ukraine on Civil-Military Administrations.<sup>11</sup> The Military and Civil Administration is a temporary state body established in accordance with the law of Ukraine and operating as part of the Joint Operational Headquarters of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the area of repulse of armed aggression in those settlements where local self-government authorities do not function.. They are mandated to enforce the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, uphold the rule of law, address social issues, counter sabotage, terrorism, and prevent humanitarian disasters. MCAs were originally established for three years, but now operate on an unlimited timeframe.<sup>12</sup>

The direct management of territories under the control of MCAs is carried out by their heads of respective MCA offices, and the general management by heads of regional MCAs as well as the head of Anti-terrorist centers, and the commander of the Joint Forces. In the Donetsk oblast, MCAs are housed in the cities of Toretsk, Popasna, Avdiivka, Krasnohorivka, and Volnovakha; and in the village and urban settlements of Zaytseve, Kominternove, Vodiane, Zayichenko, Shyrokyne, Berdianske, Krymske, and Pobeda. In the Luhansk oblast, MCAs are housed in the cities of Severodonetsk and Zolote; and in the village and urban settlements of Krymske, Nyzhnia Vilkhova, Verkhnia Vilkhova, Malynove, Plotyna, Pshenychne, Novotoshkivske, Zholobok, Troyitske, Novozvanivka, Katerynivka, Triokhizbenka, Kriakivka, Lobacheve, Lopaskyne, and Orikhove-Donetske.<sup>13</sup>

To foster closer contact between armed forces operating in MCAs and the local communities they serve, the Armed Forces of Ukraine established the Department for Civil and Military Cooperation (CIMIC),<sup>14</sup> similar to those found in NATO member states. In 2014, CIMIC was initially launched as a pilot project. In 2015, the implementation of the CIMIC system within

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<sup>10</sup> Адміністративний устрій Луганської області. Available from: <http://static.rada.gov.ua/zakon/new/NEWSAIT/ADM/zmistlug.html> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>11</sup> Закон України «Про військово-цивільні адміністрації» № 141-VIII, прийнятий Верховною Радою 3 лютого 2015 року. Available from: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/141-19#Text> (Accessed 12.12.2020).

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Про утворення військово-цивільних адміністрацій. Available from: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/123/2015#Text> (Accessed 12.12.2020).

<sup>14</sup> Управління цивільно-військового співробітництва (Україна). Available from: [https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Управління\\_цивільно-військового\\_співробітництва\\_\(Україна\)](https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Управління_цивільно-військового_співробітництва_(Україна)) (Accessed 12.12.2020).

the general structure of the Armed Forces of Ukraine began, and by 2016, nineteen CIMIC operational groups and three CIMIC centers in Severodonetsk, Kramatorsk and Mariupol, respectively, were established. In 2017, an image publishing center was established for information support of CIMIC,<sup>15</sup> and CIMIC now reports on its activity on its official Facebook page.<sup>16</sup>

CIMIC provides for civil-military cooperation between the Armed Forces of Ukraine and executive authorities, local governments, public associations, organizations and citizens in the areas in which military units and units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine are deployed (order of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of 02.04.2019 № 131); as well as to prevent the local population from obstructing these activities.<sup>17</sup> Its tasks include:

- 1) collecting and analyzing data on the condition of civilian settlements;
- 2) informing the population about military activities;
- 3) providing humanitarian assistance to the local population; and
- 4) coordinating infrastructure restoration and de-mining activities.<sup>18</sup>

According to the Law of Ukraine “On Democratic Civilian Control over the Military Organization and Law Enforcement Bodies of the State”, civil society may also participate in performing public oversight over armed forces and law enforcement agencies. In accordance with the said law, such oversight can be performed by civil society organizations through interaction with the deputies of representative authorities and by appealing to the Officer-in-charge of Human Rights of Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and his representative responsible for the protection of the rights of service personnel or to another state body in the manner prescribed by the legislation of Ukraine.<sup>19</sup>

As regard methods through which civil society can interact with security forces, the following mechanisms are available:

- public consultations;
- participation in public councils;
- participation in working groups;
- public inspections and monitoring;
- public hearings; and
- information requests to security agencies.

As regard the use of the mentioned mechanisms in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, open-source information indicates that public councils have been created and annual plans for the interaction of civil society with security forces developed.<sup>20</sup> In addition, security agency

<sup>15</sup> Цивільно-військове співробітництво Національної гвардії України. Available from: [https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Цивільно-військове\\_співробітництво\\_Національної\\_гвардії\\_України](https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Цивільно-військове_співробітництво_Національної_гвардії_України) (Accessed 12.12.2020)..

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/cimicUA/>.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Тичина Владислав Цивільно-військове співробітництво стало першою у ЗСУ структурою, сформованою за стандартами НАТО // АрміяInform від 09.10.2020. Available from: <https://armyinform.com.ua/2020/10/cyvilno-vijskove-spivrobotnyctvo-stalo-pershoju-u-zsu-strukturoyu-sformovanoyu-za-standartamy-nato/> (Accessed 12.12.2020).

<sup>19</sup> Про демократичний цивільний контроль над Воєнною організацією і правоохоронними органами держави: Закон України від 19.06.2003 No 975-IV // Відомості Верховної Ради України. – 2003. – No 46. – Ст. 366.

<sup>20</sup> Громадська рада // Офіційний сайт Донецької обласної державної адміністрації. [Electronic Source].

and local governmental bodies now provide contact details for citizens wishing to contact them (see Appendix 1). Despite this, since 2018, civil society organizations claim that the work of these public councils and other advisory bodies remains ineffective.<sup>21</sup> These views seemed to be supported by the results of a survey conducted by the Democratic Initiatives Foundation on the impact of civil society on the development of Ukraine. Public councils were not mentioned by the respondents. Rather, interaction with the media (71%), public associations, (63%), international advocacy (60%), public discussions on pressing social and developmental issues (58%), and the delegation of representatives of public organizations to public positions (in government, ministries, local governments etc.) (54%), were mentioned.<sup>22</sup>

At the national level, in order to ensure cooperation between the National Police and civil society, including in the areas of public safety and order, the Ministry of Internal Affairs established a Public Council, approved by the Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on September 8, 2015. N 1083<sup>23</sup>, as well as the Expert Council on Human Rights and Reform of Law Enforcement Authorities.<sup>24</sup> Despite this, the role of civilian experts, trade unions and public associations in shaping the law enforcement policy remains insufficiently realized.

### **1.3. Security and Defense Actors in Donbas: Legal Mandates and Areas of Responsibility in Donbas**

In addition to examining the influence of the War on Donbas on the development of civil society in the government-controlled territories of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, it is also necessary to review the legal basis upon which security and defense actors operate, as well as their areas of responsibility. This, as the study will later demonstrate, provides both opportunities and constraints on the ability of civil society to operate, particularly in areas in which special security procedures are in place.

According to Section IV of Article 12 of the 2018 Law of Ukraine “On the National Security of Ukraine” (last amended 17 September 2020), the security and defense sector of Ukraine consists of four interrelated components: security forces; defense forces; military-industrial complex; citizens and public associations that voluntarily take part in ensuring national security. In turn, the “structure of the security and defense sector includes: the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the State Special Transport Service, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the National Guard of Ukraine, the National Police of Ukraine, the State Border Service of Ukraine, the State Migration Service of Ukraine, the State Service Of Ukraine for Emergency Situations, the Security Service of Ukraine, the Department of the State Guard of Ukraine, the State Service for Special Communications and Information Protection of Ukraine, the Office of the National Security and Defense Council

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Available from: <https://dn.gov.ua/ua/administraciya/gromadska-rada> (Accessed 23.12.2020); Громадська рада при ОДА // Офіційний сайт Луганської обласної державної адміністрації та Луганської обласної військово-цивільної адміністрації. [Electronic Source]. Available from: [http://loga.gov.ua/oda/about/depart\\_dep\\_uvpr/gr-oda](http://loga.gov.ua/oda/about/depart_dep_uvpr/gr-oda) (Accessed 23.12.2020).

<sup>21</sup> Громадянське суспільство України: сучасні практики та виклики розвитку [Electronic Source]. Available from: [http://old2.niss.gov.ua/content/articles/files/Dopov\\_Gromadianske\\_Suspilstvo\\_druk\\_01-9151d.pdf](http://old2.niss.gov.ua/content/articles/files/Dopov_Gromadianske_Suspilstvo_druk_01-9151d.pdf) (Accessed 12.12.2020).

<sup>22</sup> Серед волонтерів найбільше молоді [Electronic Source]. Available from: <https://dif.org.ua/article/sered-volonteriv-naubilshe-molodi> (Accessed 12.12.2020).

<sup>23</sup> Про утворення Експертної ради з питань дотримання прав людини та реформування органів внутрішніх справ при Міністерстві внутрішніх справ України: Наказ Міністерства внутрішніх справ України від 10.04.2014 No 305. [Electronic Source]. Available from: <http://www.mvs.gov.ua/mvs/control/main/uk/publish/article/1163729> (Accessed 12.12.2020).

<sup>24</sup> Положення про Експертну раду з питань дотримання прав людини та реформування органів внутрішніх справ при Міністерстві внутрішніх справ України. [Electronic Source]. Available from: <http://www.mvs.gov.ua/mvs/control/main/uk/publish/article/1163778> (Accessed 12.12.2020).

of Ukraine, the intelligence agencies of Ukraine, the central executive body that ensures the formation and implementation of the state military-industrial policy”.<sup>25</sup>

In the context of the War in Donbas and in accordance with the 2018 Law of Ukraine “On the specifics of the state policy to ensure the state sovereignty of Ukraine in the temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts” (last amended 3 November 2020), it is determined that “...the General Staff shall attract and use forces and means (personnel and specialists of individual units, military units, weapons, military equipment, vehicles, communications and telecommunications, other material and technical means) of the Armed Forces, other military formations (the Security Service of Ukraine, the State Service for Special Communications and Information Protection, The National Guard of Ukraine, the State Border Guard Service, the State Guard Department, the State Special Transport Service), law enforcement agencies of special purpose, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the National Police of Ukraine, the intelligence agencies of Ukraine, the central executive authority that implements state policy in the field of state protection, as well as employees of health care institutions”.<sup>26</sup> These bodies are mandated to:

- take measures to restore Ukrainian authority in the liberated settlements of Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts;
- expose agent networks and counteract sabotage activities;
- deter enemy activity ;
- counteract the subversive activities of the enemy’s special services, and the spread of separatism.

Following the outbreak of the War in Donbas in April 2014, the then Acting President of Ukraine, Oleksandr Turchynov, established an Anti-Terrorist Operation (transformed into the Operation of Joint Forces in 2018).<sup>27</sup> In the months from June 2014 to May 2015, Ukrainian security forces re-took nearly 70% of the territories not under their control. Since then, the ATO has been transformed into the Joint Forces Operation (JFO), which since August 2019 has been led by Lieutenant General Volodymyr Kravchenko. Currently, two pre-strategic groups - “North” and “East” – operate on the territory of the JFO.<sup>28</sup> In areas immediately adjacent to the contact line, special security procedures remain in place which provide security forces with additional powers.<sup>29</sup>

## 1.4 Civil Society in Donbas

After examining the legal basis and areas of operation of Ukrainian security and defense forces in Donbas, it is necessary to explore how this influences the activities of civil society – in particular their public oversight role.

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<sup>25</sup> Закон України «Про національну безпеку України» Розділ 4, Стаття 12 (2018 г.). Access mode:[http://search.ligazakon.ua/l\\_doc2.nsf/link1/T182469.html](http://search.ligazakon.ua/l_doc2.nsf/link1/T182469.html) (Accessed 28 November 2020).

<sup>26</sup> Верховна Рада України, Закон «Про особливості державної політики із забезпечення державного суверенітету України на тимчасово окупованих територіях у Донецькій та Луганській областях», Стаття 8 (2018 р.). Available from: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2268-19#Text> (Accessed 28 November 2020).

<sup>27</sup> Війна на сході України (2020 р.). Available from: [https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Війна\\_на\\_сході\\_України#Початок\\_антитерористичної\\_операції](https://uk.wikipedia.org/wiki/Війна_на_сході_України#Початок_антитерористичної_операції) (Accessed 28 November 2020).

<sup>28</sup> Верховна Рада України, Закон «Про військово-цивільні адміністрації» (2015 р.). Available from: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/141-19#Text> (Accessed 28 November 2020).

<sup>29</sup> Верховна Рада України, Закон «Про особливості державної політики із забезпечення державного суверенітету України на тимчасово окупованих територіях у Донецькій та Луганській областях», Стаття 9 (2018 г.). Available from: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2268-19#Text> (Accessed 28 November 2020).

### 1.4.1 Legal Basis for Exercising Oversight of Defense and Security Actors

The Legislation of Ukraine provides for legal norms that involve the control and oversight over the security sector, in particular in the area of the JFO. According to Article 4 of Section III of the Law “On the National Security of Ukraine” it is determined that “the security sector falls under democratic civilian control, the system of which consists of: control, carried out by the President of Ukraine; control, carried out by Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine; control, carried out by the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine; control, which is carried out by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, executive authorities and local self-government bodies; judicial control; civil supervision”<sup>30</sup>. The powers and procedure for civilian oversight over the security sector are defined in Article 10 of the Law “On the National Security of Ukraine”, which gives broad rights to citizens to obtain necessary information concerning the activities of security agencies, in conducting relevant research, expert examinations of security sector regulations, as well as taking part in discussions on existing issues within defense sphere, including with the involvement of mass media.<sup>31</sup>

While the aforementioned provides the basis for public oversight of and interaction with the security sector, it should be noted that in areas affected by the conflict, such oversight and interaction was limited in the initial phase of the conflict. Following public statements in March 2014 declaring that “against the background of the impending Russian aggression, Ukraine does not possess enough combat-ready military units”, civil society became increasingly active.<sup>32</sup> Funded primarily by domestic businesses and private citizens, so-called ‘volunteer battalions’ began to emerge, supported by large-scale media campaigns. As a result, prominent commanders and combatants were subsequently elected as deputies of the Verkhovna Rada, including to the Committee on Defense, Security and Intelligence; became members of the advisory bodies of the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Internal Affairs responsible for reforming the defense sector, as well as members of military-state administrations in the East of Ukraine.

The consequences of these developments were multifaceted, although some suggest that the influx of civilians into military and state institutions provided them with additional expertise and imbued them with a more ‘civilian’ character. This has been argued to account for an improvement in the quality of discussions in parliament concerning defense budgets, as well as an increase in reporting and coverage of the conflict. For example, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine and other security and defense actors use all available means to provide daily coverage of hostilities in Donbas, and report on related combat losses.<sup>33</sup> Whilst the conflict has increased public confidence in and support for security forces, civil society organizations and independent media continue to provide critical appraisals of the conduct of the Joint Forces Operation, as well as related challenges and issues.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Главный правовой портал Украины. Закон України «Про національну безпеку України», стаття 4, III розділ. Available from: [http://search.ligazakon.ua/l\\_doc2.nsf/link1/T182469.html](http://search.ligazakon.ua/l_doc2.nsf/link1/T182469.html) (Accessed 28 November 2020).

<sup>31</sup> Главный правовой портал Украины. Закон України «Про національну безпеку України» стаття 10, III розділ. Available from: [http://search.ligazakon.ua/l\\_doc2.nsf/link1/T182469.html](http://search.ligazakon.ua/l_doc2.nsf/link1/T182469.html) (Accessed 28 November 2020).

<sup>32</sup> Dsnews.ua. «В марте 2014 года к войне были готовы только шесть тысяч военных, - Тенюх» (2014г.). Available from: <https://www.dsnews.ua/politics/v-marte-2014-goda-k-voyne-byli-gotovy-tolko-shest-tysyach-voennyh--07022018182500> (Accessed 28 November 2020).

<sup>33</sup> Ранкове зведення щодо ситуації в районі проведення операції Об’єднаних сил станом на 7.00 29 листопада 2020 року, (29.11.2020 р.) // Офіційний сайт Міністерства оборони України. Available from: <https://www.mil.gov.ua/news/2020/11/29/rankove-zvedennya-shhodo-situaczii-v-rajon-i-provedennya-operaczii-obednanih-sil-standom-na-7-00-29-listopada-2020-roku/> (Accessed 29 November 2020).

<sup>34</sup> Как 13 июля погибли три морпеха и можно ли было спасти раненого Ярослава Журавля? // Цензор.нет (28.07.2020 г.). Available from: [https://censor.net/ru/resonance/3210471/kak\\_13\\_izulya\\_pogibli\\_tri\\_morpaha\\_i\\_mojno\\_li\\_bylo\\_spasti\\_ranenogo\\_yaroslava\\_juravlya](https://censor.net/ru/resonance/3210471/kak_13_izulya_pogibli_tri_morpaha_i_mojno_li_bylo_spasti_ranenogo_yaroslava_juravlya) (Accessed 29 November 2020).

Civil society activists are also now involved in conflict resolution, reconciliation, and dialogue processes. This is demonstrated, for example, in the inclusion of the well-known journalists, Sergiy Garmash and Denys Kazansky, in the Trilateral Contact Group on the Settlement of the Conflict in Donbas (Minsk) in June 2020.<sup>35</sup> In addition, civil society organizations now receive state support, in part through the work of the civil-military cooperation units of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, one of whose tasks is to assist CSOs working in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.<sup>36</sup>

## 1.5. Developments Since 2014

Following the beginning of the War in Donbas, support from national and international organizations to civil society increased dramatically. As a result, their numbers grew exponentially in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, particularly in the period between 2016 and 2019. Civic hubs, cultural centers, civic platforms began to emerge, providing for interaction and exchanges of experiences between communities, as well as for communication between public activists and local residents. In addition to these, virtual platforms were established to provide communities with alternative sources of information.<sup>37</sup> Alongside these, specialized civil society organizations, focused on addressing social issues and protecting vulnerable groups, including IDPs, were formed. Public initiatives were also created to oversee reform processes and anti-corruption programmes, and to assist the armed forces.

Information provided by the State Statistics Service of Ukraine<sup>38</sup> and the Department of Justice of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts<sup>39</sup> on the number of members registered in civil society organizations in Donetsk and Luhansk from the period 2014 to 2018 reveals this trend.

**Table 1**

| The number of members registered in public organizations |         |         |         |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
|  | 2014    | 2015    | 2016    | 2017    | 2018    |
| Donetsk  | 149 174 | 321 153 | 142 722 | 321 243 | 149 715 |
| Luhansk  | 30 667  | 56 089  | 59 483  | 201 240 | 181 646 |

The figures demonstrate a sharp increase in the number of members of civil society organizations, increasing twofold from 2014 to 2017 in Donetsk, and sixfold in Luhansk oblast. However, by 2018, the numbers began to decrease, particularly in Donetsk oblast, which returned to levels seen in 2014. The reasons for this decrease remain unclear, although it may in part be due to donor fatigue among the international assistance community.

Several factors help explain the rise in members of civil society organizations between 2014 and 2017. These include:

<sup>35</sup> Офис президента пригласил в ТКГ журналистов с Донбасса // Украинская правда (09.06.2020 г.). Available from: <https://www.pravda.com.ua/rus/news/2020/06/9/7254935/> (Accessed 29 November 2020).

<sup>36</sup> Further details can be found in chapter 4.

<sup>37</sup> Грищенко Марія. Стан та умови розвитку міських НУО та ініціатив в Маріуполі, Краматорську, Слов'янську // Donbas Studies. Available from: <https://donbasstudies.org/stan-ta-umovi-rozvitku-miskih-nuo-ta-initsiativ-v-mariupoli-kramatorsku-slov-yansku/> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>38</sup> Діяльність громадських організацій в Україні// Ukrstat.org - публікація документів Державної Служби Статистики України. Available from: [https://ukrstat.org/uk/druk/publicat/kat\\_u/publpolit\\_u.htm/](https://ukrstat.org/uk/druk/publicat/kat_u/publpolit_u.htm/) (Accessed 6.11.2020);

Діяльність громадських організацій в Україні// Ukrstat.org - публікація документів Державної Служби Статистики України. Available from: [https://ukrstat.org/uk/operativ/menu/menu\\_u/susp\\_d.htm/](https://ukrstat.org/uk/operativ/menu/menu_u/susp_d.htm/) (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>39</sup> Реєстр громадських об'єднань. Available from: <https://rgo.minjust.gov.ua/> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

- The Revolution of Dignity in Ukraine (late 2013 – early 2014), which demonstrated the power of civil society to effect change, and spurred the development of civil society organizations to oversee and facilitate national and regional-level reform processes.
- The unifying effect of the War in Donbas and the occupation and annexation of Crimea by the Russian Federation, which acted to consolidate Ukrainian civil society around a shared goal. This is evidenced by the emergence of “volunteer battalions”, and specialized CSOs aiding the armed forces and local communities, including veterans and IDPs.
- The development of the National Strategy for Civil Society Development for 2016-2020, adopted by Presidential decree in 2016<sup>40</sup>, which for the first time in Ukrainian history formalized the role of civil society in the development of state policy.

## **The National Strategy for Civil Society Development for 2016 - 2020**

The National Strategy for Civil Society Development for 2016 - 2020 (herein the Strategy) was created to provide the conditions necessary for the development of civil society, including through improving public interaction with national and local authority structures, to provide additional avenues through which individual rights and freedoms can be realized, and to support public interests through various forms of participatory democracy, public engagement and self-organization.

To implement the Strategy, in November 2016, the Coordination Council for Civil Society Development was established as an advisory body to the President of Ukraine. The Coordinating Council includes representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, other state bodies, local governments, scientific institutions, as well as representatives of public organizations (64% of total council members).

With the participation of civil society organizations, an annual Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy was approved after taking into account the results of public discussions. CSOs are also empowered to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Strategy, as well as the funds allocated by the State Budget of Ukraine to it.<sup>41</sup>

Ukraine is currently in the process of developing a new National Strategy for Civil Society Development.<sup>42</sup> As of October 2020, six public consultations had already taken place, each of which with the involvement of about 100 representatives of CSOs. The consultations were organized by the Department of Information and Public Relations of the Secretariat of the Cabinet of Ministers and the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine<sup>43</sup>.

## **Chapter 2. Civil Society Organizations in Donbas**

On the basis of data collected from official websites and media about 382 CSOs currently active in Donbas, this chapter presents an overview of CSOs by type of activity. It then categorises the CSOs by place of registration and, using an expanded list of CSOs taken from

<sup>40</sup> Про сприяння розвитку громадянського суспільства в Україні//Офіційний сайт Верховної Ради України. Available from: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/ru/68/2016#n25> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>41</sup> Про затвердження плану заходів на 2020 рік щодо реалізації Національної стратегії сприяння розвитку громадянського суспільства в Україні на 2016-2020 роки//Офіційний сайт Верховної Ради України. Available from: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/839-2020-%D1%80#Text> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>42</sup> Проект Національної стратегії сприяння розвитку громадянського суспільства в Україні на 2021 – 2025 роки. Available from: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ebwVQFp-SKAIPZZK3S\\_0ATb\\_A-qrhgBi2M-1mwGAbVDA/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ebwVQFp-SKAIPZZK3S_0ATb_A-qrhgBi2M-1mwGAbVDA/edit) (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>43</sup> (Сторінка у Фейсбучі Громадянське суспільство і влада, 30 жовтня 2020 року. Available from: <https://www.facebook.com/civik.kmu.gov.ua/> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

the data provided by the Luhansk regional administration and the Department of Justice of Ukraine in Donetsk oblast, identifies the areas in which these CSOs are most concentrated.

It concludes by detailing the common means through which CSOs based in Donbas are financed, highlights key projects, and examining them.

## 2.1. Civil Society Organizations by Type of Activity

Table 2 presents an overview of the type of activities of the 382 civil society organizations identified as currently active in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. It should be noted that this classification does not claim to be exhaustive, and in certain cases the activities of CSOs may be cross-cutting. In addition, the typology of activities created reflects the areas of work publicly declared by the CSOs. In many cases, the CSOs in question may focus on one type of activity or engage in other activities not publicly declared. Finally, the list of CSOs does not include those funded and registered exclusively with the support of political parties. This is because such organizations are considered as political tools used by parties for electoral campaigning, or to further particular agendas, and thus not truly independent. Such organizations are usually the youth wings of political parties or those that provide free legal advice or financial aid under the brand of a particular political party.

**Table 2**

|     | <b>Area of Activity</b>   | <b>Number of organizations</b> |
|-----|---|--------------------------------|
| 1.  | Culture and education   | 71                             |
| 2.  | Specialized (infrastructure repair, micro-loans and economic support) | 63                             |
| 3.  | Veterans  | 39                             |
| 4.  | Youth   | 32                             |
| 5.  | Sport   | 28                             |
| 6.  | Charity   | 25                             |
| 7.  | Disabled persons and victims of the Chernobyl Disaster                | 20                             |
| 8.  | Women and gender issues   | 20                             |
| 9.  | Human rights  | 15                             |
| 10. | Voluntary associations  | 13                             |
| 11. | Journalism  | 11                             |
| 12. | Environment   | 10                             |
| 13. | Trade Unions  | 10                             |
| 14. | Anti-corruption   | 9                              |
| 15. | Religious   | 6                              |
| 16. | Medical   | 4                              |
| 17. | Animal protection   | 3                              |
| 18. | Ukrainian language  | 3                              |
|     | <b>TOTAL:</b>   | 382                            |

The below provides more details on the activities of organizations within each category, including the key organizations, their projects, and contact details.



## 1. Culture and Education (71):

Organizations within this category implement the following activities: 1) information campaigns, trainings, seminars, round tables, and conferences to present the goals, objectives and prospects of forming united territorial communities, implementing new reforms, and the voting rights of citizens, etc.; 2) provision of educational services; 3) support for the development of Ukrainian culture; 4) improving the professional level of artists based in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts; 5) developing youth talent in the area of drama and arts (i.e. painting, music, theater etc.), and; 6) the organization of concerts and other entertainment events.

The following organizations serve as illustrative examples:

- “Agentsiya osvitynikh initsiatyv” [in source language – “Агенція освітніх ініціатив”] (Starobelsk, Gogol Square, 1; (+38) 066 294 1570) was established with the support of UNDP. In 2016, it won a small grant for its development to purchase a set of technical equipment and conduct educational activities under the UNDP/RGR Project “Restoring Governance and Reconciliation in Conflict-Affected Communities of Ukraine” (funded by the Government of Sweden and the Swiss Confederation). In 2017, it won and implemented a grant “Advocacy Companies as a guarantee of strategic planning for sustainable community development” with the support of the UNDP / ROL Project “Rule of Law and Justice in Conflict-Affected Areas of Ukraine”.
- “Chmyrivsky Svitanok” [in source language – “Чмирівський Світанок”] (Starobelsk, 13 Zaporizka Street; (+38) 06461 9-73-54). This organization has cooperated with the Luhansk Regional Resource Centre of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since 2008. Since then, they have established their own Rural Community Resource Center, and contributed to the development of A Rural Development Strategy which is currently being revised with the support of the international community.
- “Fundatsiya pidtrymky osib starshoho viku “Vik shchastia” [in source language – «Фундація підтримки осіб старшого віку «Вік щастя»] (Slovyansk, 77 Vokzalna Street; (+38) 099 624 3810) organizes computer and English language courses for senior citizens.
- “Cultural and educational Foundation “Liberi Liberati” [in source language – «Культурно-освітня фундація «Лібері Лібераті»] (Kramatorsk; (+38) 099 140 50 29) implements education programmes for children and youth in the areas of culture, art, education, science, ecology, and psychological and physical development.
- “Bakhmutska Fortetsia” [in source language – “Бахмутська фортеця”](Bakhmut, 73 Nezalezhnosti Street, office 505; bahmut.in.ua; (+38) 050-3479076) provides opportunities for community participation in solving important issues, in particular regarding freedom of speech. Through the Public Media Portal Bakhmut IN.UA, the organization covers issues related to decentralization, medical reform, civic initiatives, gender equality, and events in Bakhmut city and the Bakhmut community. The organization also works to preserve cultural heritage.
- “Ahenstvo stiykoho rozvytku Luhanskoho rehionu” [in source language – Агентство стійкого розвитку Луганського регіону] (Severodonetsk, 32a – 312 Boulevard Druzhby Narodiv; (+38) 0990307540; open.lg.ua) conducts trainings on “Effective prevention and counteraction to gender-based and domestic violence through outreach work and community involvement”, organized by UN Population Fund (UNFPA) with the participation of representatives of international, non-governmental organizations and Luhansk oblast.

## 2. Specialized (Infrastructure Repair, Micro-Loans and Economic Support) (63):

CSOs within this category specialize in receiving international grants to address specific problems at the community level, in particular related to infrastructure and property damage. The high number of organizations under this category reflects the widespread damage to infrastructure and property resulting from the ongoing war. The remaining CSOs within this category provide micro-loans for local and start-up businesses, as well as provide information and economic support to internally displaced persons on how establish their own businesses.

Humanitarna Misiya “Proliska” [in source language – Гуманітарна місія «Проліска»] (Head office hotline (+38) 093 202 22 32; offices in 9 cities) implements projects to provide comprehensive to victims of the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

“Kreminska Bisnes Associatsiya” [in source language – “Кремінська бізнес-асоціація”] (city Kreminna, 15/1 Druzhby Avenue; mob: (+38) 0509291705; <https://www.facebook.com/krembizass/>) conducts trainings for business mentors based in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts within the framework of the UN program on reconstruction and peacebuilding.

“Vidrodzhennia ta rozbudova mista Kostiantynivka” [in source language – “Відродження та Розбудова міста Костянтинівка”] (city Kostiantynivka, 302 Toretska Street, <https://revival-konst.com/> (+38) 095 755 43 51) supports job and enterprise development with the aim of returning the city of Kostiantynivka to the status of an industrial city. It also restores damaged infrastructure; and supports environmental protection initiatives, including through the construction of a recycling plant.

## 3. Veterans (39):

CSOs under this category were either created by veterans of the War in Donbas, and/or provide assistance to such veterans. They operate in most cities of district and oblast significance in Donbas.

- Lysychansk ATO Veteran Union “Tryzub” [in source language – “Лисичанська спілка ветеранів АТО «Тризуб»] (Lysychansk, 161/10 Victory Avenue, tel.: (+38) 050 621 85 94) works to protect the rights of veterans of the War in Donbas, as well as families of victims to the war.
- Popasniansk District Union of ATO Members “Borotba” [in source language – Попаснянська районна спілка учасників АТО «Боротьба»] (Popasna, 6-A /52 Bakhmutska Street; tel.: (+38) 067 643 35 92) works to protect the rights and interests of veterans of the War in Donbas.
- Veteran ATO Support Centre “Poruch” [in source language – Центр підтримки ветеранів АТО “Поруч”] (Kramatorsk, 20 Mashynobudivelnykiv Boulevard, tel.: (+38) 095 320 1172) provides free social and psychological support services for veterans of the War in Donbas; their families, as well as for IDPs. The center delivers lectures and workshops, English language courses, first aid trainings, and programmes for public activists.

## 4. Youth (32):

The CSOs under this category specifically target youth, such as “Nova Druzhkivka”, which supports the Platform of Initiatives “Khalva hub”, “Vilna Khata”, “Teplytsia” in Slovyansk,

and “Druzi” (Konstantinovka), “Mariupolska Spilka Molodi”. “Poruch” [in source language – “Поруч”] focuses on the volunteer movement.<sup>44</sup>

CSOs under this category also include those established with the support of international organizations, such as the UNICEF Children’s Fund in 2017, which funded the creation of youth centers in Donetsk oblast, including:

- Youth Centre “Ya – Volnovakha” [in source language - Молодіжний центр «Я – Волноваха»] (Volnovakha, tel.: (+38) 095 5030661);
- “Slovianske sertse” [in source language – «Слов’янське серце»] (Svyatohirsk, tel.: (+38) 099012 9644);
- “Slovianskyi kulturnyi tsentr “Zadzerkallia” [in source language – «Слов’янський культурний центр «Задзеркалля»] (Sloviansk, 153-A Gorova Street, tel.: (+38) (06262) 3 52 56);
- “Dobropilsky tsentr molodi “Dobro” [in source language – «Добропільський центр молоді «Добро»] (tel. (+38) (050) 935 9835, <https://www.facebook.com/DCMDobro>, which has its branches:
- Nikolske (Nikolsky district) – tel. (+38) (098) 833 04 51;
- Mangush (Mangush district) – tel. (+38) (098) 833 04 93);
- “Vulyk” [in source language – “Вулик”] (Avdiivka, tel. (+38) (050) 106 4820, in the city of Mariupol – 4 youth centers (tel.: (+38) (068) 966 36 70; <https://www.facebook.com/msmukraine/>).

With support of the Danish Refugee Council, the following youth centers were established in 2017 in the cities and districts of Donetsk oblast:

Mariupol, Youth Center, Mariupol Vocational College № 3 – tel. (+38) (098) 379 0031;

Kramatorsk, Youth Center, Kramatorsk Vocational College №. 42 – tel. (+38) (050) 031 1203, <http://kvptku.dn.ua/m>;

Sloviansk, Youth Center, Vocational Liceum №. 56 – tel. (+38) (095) 365 2239.<sup>45</sup>

## 5. Sport (28):

CSOs under this category focus on the promotion of sports and healthy lifestyles and are often founded by athletes.

- The Ukrainian Federation “Sport zarady rozvytku” [in source language – “Спорт заради розвитку”] (Krasny Lyman, 16 Studentska Str.; (+38) 099 059 3771; [facebook.com/sportzaradirozvytku](https://www.facebook.com/sportzaradirozvytku)) aims to promote personal development, gender equality and peace and stability through the medium of sports.
- “VeloTAK” [in source language – “ВелоТАК”] (Pokrovsk, Frolova\_nm@ukr.net; (+38) 050-1819375) protects the rights and interests of cyclists.

<sup>44</sup> Політична карта Донецької області// Офіційний сайт Громадянської мережі ОПОРА. Available from: [https://www.oporua.org/article/vybory/parlamentski-vybory/political\\_map19/19622-politichna-karta-donetskoj-oblasti](https://www.oporua.org/article/vybory/parlamentski-vybory/political_map19/19622-politichna-karta-donetskoj-oblasti) (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>45</sup> Молодіжні центри. Основні принципи та засади. Методичні рекомендації Управління у справах сім’ї та молоді Донецької обласної державної адміністрації. – Краматорськ, 2017. С.36–38. Available from: [https://dodmc.dn.ua/images/stories/Biblioteka/molodizni\\_centri.pdf](https://dodmc.dn.ua/images/stories/Biblioteka/molodizni_centri.pdf) (Accessed 6.11.2020).

- Lysychansk School of Sports Dance (Lysychansk, 9 Shteygerska Street; (+38) 050 700 92 35) participates in competitions and holds all-Ukrainian sports seminars.
- “Klub rybalok Ukrainy – UA Fishing Club” [in source language – «Клуб рибалок України – Юей Фішинг Клуб»] (Kramatorsk, 29 Nadi Kurchenko Str., (+38) 099 770 8463) aims to unite amateur fishermen and sportsmen. With support of the UN Programme for Restoration and Peacebuilding, “Klub rybalok Ukrainy” organized the raft “Eco Dad can do everything”. This organization also fights against poaching through the creation of a public patrol for fish protection active in various reservoirs of Donetsk oblast.

## 6. Charity (25):

CSOs within this category provide assistance to vulnerable groups, especially IDPs and senior citizens, as well as promote the involvement of local communities in charity initiatives.

- Charity Organization “Mizhnarodnyi Blahodiynyi Fond “Ruky druziv” [in source language – «Міжнародний благодійний фонд «Руки друзів»] (Kramatorsk, 20 Nadi Kurchenko Street; (+38) 073 563 6979) works closely with UNICEF and is one of its executive partner. It works exclusively with legal entities, including hospitals, schools, kindergartens, boarding schools, and rehabilitation centers.
- Kramatorsk Local Youth Charity Foundation “Myloserdia” [in source language – Краматорський міський молодіжний благодійний фонд “Милосердя”] (Kramatorsk, 13 O. Vyshni Street; (+38) 0959157914) provides support to IDPs, large families, and the disabled.
- Severodonetsk City Organization of the Red Cross Society of Ukraine (Severodonetsk, 17 Tsentralny Avenue; (+38) 050 101 69 62) provides material, psychological, and food assistance to vulnerable groups.

## 7. Disabled Persons And Victims Of The Chernobyl Disaster (20):

CSOs within this category provide assistance and support to disabled persons as well as victims of the Chernobyl disaster.

- Public Union “Luhanska Assotsiatsiya Organizatsiy Osib z Invalidnistiu” [in source language – Луганська асоціація організацій осіб з інвалідністю] (Severodonetsk, 21 Druzhby Narodiv Street, [https://www.facebook.com/pg/luhanskLAOLI/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/luhanskLAOLI/about/?ref=page_internal)) aims to coordinate the efforts of the public and private sector in supporting vulnerable groups, including senior citizens over 80 years of age.
- “Donetsk Regional Organization of the All-Ukrainian Union “Soyuz osib z invalidnistiu Ukrainy” [in source language – “Донецька обласна організація “ВО Союз осіб з інвалідністю України”] (Kramatorsk, 14 Shkilna Street, <https://dooi.at.ua/> (+38) 066 997 7090) organizes rallies for young disabled people living in Donetsk oblast.
- Veterany Chernobylia smt Bilokurakune [in source language – Ветерани Чорнобиля смт Білокуракине] (Bilokurakune urban settlement, 4 Shevchenka Square; (+38) 066 531 99 10) cooperates with public authorities to remember the victims of the Chernobyl disaster.

## 8. Women and Gender Issues (20):

These CSOs work to further gender inequality, tackle gender-based violence and advocate for gender-responsive state policies.

- Mariupol Women Association “Berehynia” [in source language – ГО Маріупольська асоціація жінок “Берегиня”] (Mariupol, 60 Arkhitekтора Nilsena Street, office 123; <http://donbasforpeople.org/> (+38) 095 340 0692) together with the German human rights organization AMIKA announced a competition of mini-grants in September 2020 for project ideas to promote self-organization and strengthen the role of women and girls.
- “Zhinocha Rada Donbasu” [in source language – “Жіноча рада Донбасу”] (Volnovakha, 42 Ukrainian Street; +38 (050) 663 01 32) holds the annual forum “The role of women in the area of operation of the Joint Forces”, which brings together women involved in different activities under the Joint Forces Operation.
- Zhinocha Pravozakhysna Hrupa [in source language – «Жіноча правозахисна група»] (Lysychansk, 127/56 Peremohy Avenue.; (+38) 050 0275941) works to protect the interests and rights of women.

## 9. Human Rights (15):

CSOs under this category provide legal assistance, education, and counselling to residents, and IDPs and economic migrants from territories not under the control of the government of Ukraine.

- “Suspilna sluzhba pravovoyi dopomohy” [in source language – “Суспільна служба правової допомоги”] (Novoaydar, 2 Nezalezhnosti; (+38) 099 064 96 54, [pela-lug@ukr.net](mailto:pela-lug@ukr.net)) provides legal assistance to local residents.
- “Vybir” [in source language – “Вибір”] (Severodonetsk, 37-A Donetska Street, (+38) 095-180-71-04, [kadievka@ukr.net](mailto:kadievka@ukr.net), [vybir.lg.ua](http://vybir.lg.ua)) disseminates information about rights and freedoms; analyzes public opinion, and conducts polls.
- Pravova Opora [in source language – Правова Опора], Rubizhne (Rubizhne, 12 Vyzvolyteliv Street; (+38) 095 432 52 46) provides social support for mothers, as well as for women and children who have suffered domestic abuse.

## 10. Voluntary Associations (13):

CSOs under this category provide different forms of assistance to service personnel of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, injured soldiers and the families of victims of the War in Donbas. They also provide assistance to IDPs from territories not under the control of the government. In contrast to organizations falling under category 3 (Veterans) and category 6 (charity), these organizations are staffed with volunteers, and/or often target support to paramilitary units fighting in the War in Donbas for the Ukrainian territory.

- “Bakhmut Ukrainsky” [in source language – «Бахмут Український»] (Bakhmut, 6 Torhova Street, room 309, <https://bahmutukr.org/> +38 (099) 683-41-31) provide assistance to paramilitary units of Ukraine through producing camouflage nets and masks, caring for sick and injured volunteers in military and local hospitals, providing assistance to displaced children, as well as organizing cultural events in Bakhmut.
- “Nebayduzhi sertsia Kramatorska” [in source language – “Небайдужі серця Краматорська”] (Kramatorsk, 9 Magnitogorska Street) produces camouflage nets to assist Ukrainian soldiers in active combat.
- “Hromadianskyi korpus” [in source language – “Громадянський корпус”] in Luhansk oblast (Severodonetsk, 12 Khimikiv Avenue, (+38) 050 692 05 02) works to harmonize relations between government and business.

## 11. Journalism (11):

CSOs in this category bring together journalists and support their professional development.

- “Luhanskyi press-club” [in source language – “Луганський прес-клуб”] (Severodonetsk, 23b – 2 Budivelnykiv Highway, Crystal Shopping Center, 2nd floor, (+38) 0509629086, press-club.sd.ua) unites media representatives, takes care of holding or participation of journalists in press conferences, presentations, round tables. The closest is the cooperation of the press club with human rights public organizations.
- “Mediaprostir Ukraina” [in source language – “Медіапростір Україна”] in Luhansk oblast (Severodonetsk, 23 Budivelnykiv Highway, +38 (068) 8661238, vergun.tv, <http://mediaprostir-ua.org/>) promotes trainings to improve the professional level of journalists, press secretaries, their legal education.
- Natsionalna spilka zhurnalistiv Ukrainy v Luhanskii oblasti [Національна спілка журналістів України в Луганській області] (Severodonetsk, 46/2 Tsentralny Avenue; (+38) 099 047 57 92) promotes the development of journalism, develops proposals for state programmes, legislative acts aimed at developing and improving the infosphere of Ukraine.

## 12. Environment (10):

CSOs organizations under this category work protect the environment and address ecological issues in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast.

- Ecological Club “Aidar” [in source language – Екологічний клуб «Айдар»] (Starobilsk, 23 Chernyshevskogo street, 066 2507393) advocates for environmental protection.
- Eco Junk [in source language – Еко Junk] (Mariupol, <https://www.facebook.com/Eco-Junkmrpl>) promotes separate garbage collection for the residents of Mariupol, and conducts raising awareness activities on the importance separate garbage collection.
- “ECO HURT” [in source language – ЕКО ГУРТ] (Mariupol, 158 Granitna street, apartment 26) promotes separate garbage collection, and began work in this area with the pilot project “Clogging Tanks”, as a result of which around 100 residential buildings in Mariupol now separate garbage for collection.

## 13. Trade Unions (10).

CSOs under this category were mostly established during the Soviet Union. As a rule, these organizations are not always operational, but rather collect funds accumulated from monthly automatic deductions of voluntary contributions of employees, and provide support to employees in different sectors of the economy.

- Luhanska Oblasna orhanisatsiia profspilky pratsivnykiv okhorony zdorovja Ukrainy [in source language – Луганська обласна організація профспілки працівників охорони здоров'я України](Severodonetsk, 2b Yehorova Street, [lugsdprof@gmail.com](mailto:lugsdprof@gmail.com), (+38) 050 523 19 74) protects the interests and rights of healthcare workers.
- Soyuz robotodavtsiv ahropromyslovoho kompleksu Troyitskoho rayonu Luhanskoï oblasti [in source language – Союз роботодавців агропромислового комплексу Троїцького району Луганської області] (Troitske urban settlement, 49 Likhachova Street; (+38) 0645621180) protects the interests and rights of agro-industrial workers.

#### 14. Anti-Corruption (9):

CSOs within this category are often staffed with former civil servants, and advocate for the reduction of corruption and the local and regional level, often through increasing transparency and public oversight of the conduct of public officials.

- “Tochka dostupu” [in source language – “Точка доступу”] (Kramatorsk, 28 Mashynobudivnykiv Boulevard, +38050 368 60 74, <https://www.dostupoint.org.ua/our-history>) works to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of government activities at various levels. For example, following the implementation of the “Certification” project with local authorities, independent experts now evaluate the work of local deputies and provide recommendations for corrective measures. In total, the organization has developed and implemented more than 60 projects aiming to improve openness and transparency of the government and prevent corruption risks.
- Antykoruptsiyno-liustratsiina kolehiia Novoaydara [in source language – Антикоруptionно-люстраційна колегія Новоайдара] (Novoaydar urban settlement, 6 Soniachna Street; (+38) 050 7811679 promotes the right to self-government, the rule of law, and public participation in the law-making process.

#### 15. Religious (6):

While the CSOs within this category are often established by religious centers, it only includes those organizations who provide community assistance and social services, rather than promote particular religious belief and value systems.

- “Karitas Mariupol” [in source language – «Карітас Маріуполь»](Mariupol, Bannyi Lane, 4, +38 (050) 480 73 38, <https://mcaritas.org/contacts/>) provides social assistance and support to vulnerable groups, regardless of nationality or religion.

#### 16. Medical (4):

CSOs under this category provide specialize care for patients, or advocate for the protection of the rights of patients.

- “Dia-Svit” [in source language – “Діа-Світ”] (Severodonetsk, Kurchatova, 29, (+38)0502180799, <https://www.facebook.com/GO.Dia.World/>) provides assistance to children and adults with diabetes.
- “Kreminske rayonne” tovarystvo Chervonoho Khresta [in source language – Кременське районне товариство Червоного Хреста] (Kreminna, 1a Pobedy Street; (+38) 050 143 85 23) works to prevent and alleviate human suffering resulting from armed conflicts, natural disasters and accidents.

#### 17. Animal (3):

CSOs within this category provide care for animals, including bees, and works to prevent animal cruelty.

- The Charitable Foundation “Druh” [in source language – Благодійний фонд «Друг» ] (Kramatorsk, 2 Arkhipa Kuindzhi Street) has established Suspilstvo Zakhystu Tvaryn [in source language – Суспільство Захисту Тварин] works to involve local authorities in issues related to animal protection and cruelty. i
- “Luhanska Oblasna Spilka Pasichnykiv” [in source language – Громадська спілка “Луганська обласна спілка пасічників”] (Severodonetsk, 13 Gvardiyskyi Avenue,

510; (+38) 0507623629) works to preserve bees, as well as to create favorable conditions for the development of the beekeeping industry in Ukraine.

## 18. Ukrainian Language (3):

CSOs within this category promote the cultural integration of the eastern regions of Ukraine. For various historical reasons, and because of the ongoing War in Donbas, state and non-state structures have increased their support for projects focusing on Ukrainian literature, language, culture, and tradition. These efforts gained renewed pace after the adoption in 2019 of the Law of Ukraine “On ensuring the functioning of the Ukrainian language as the state language”<sup>46</sup> and the introduction of a new version of “Ukrainian orthography”<sup>47</sup>.

- “Ukrainskyi svit” [in source language – «Український світ» ] implements the project “Free Ukrainian Languages Courses” for residents in Donbas, as well as promotes Ukrainian language and culture through educational activities and literature. Since its launch, 1’795 students have graduated from the course, with language courses currently available in 16 cities in Ukraine, including in Donetsk (Druzhkivka, Kostiantynivka, Kramatorsk, Mariupol, Slovyansk) and Luhansk (Severodonetsk). In addition, the 2015 project Book Forum on Wheels provided residents in the east of Ukraine with access to Ukrainian literature and the opportunity to communication with Ukrainian writers.<sup>48</sup>
- “Svoie Ridne Bakhmut” [in source language – “Своє Рідне Бахмут”] (Bakhmut, 11 Vasyl Pershyna Street; (+38) 0956896218) provides a conversation club for the study of the Ukrainian language.
- “Novopskovske rayonne tovarystvo” Ukrayinskoho kozatstva “Aidarska Sotnia” [in source language – Новопсковське районне товариство Українського козацтва «Айдарська сотня»] (Novopskov urban settlement, 1/2 Zakarpatska Street, (+38) 068 279 30 20) promotes the Ukrainian Cossack culture, and the protection of the Ukrainian language and culture.

## 2.2. Civil Society Organizations by Area of Operation

After grouping the CSOs currently active in Donbas according to their type of activity, this section will now proceed to identify their area of operation in terms of their place of registration. This is an important consideration as it may influence the number of specialists available to CSOs, their funding mechanisms, as well the logistics necessary to perform tasks.

CSOs will be grouped according to the following three criteria:

1. Local: CSOs based in Donetsk or Luhansk oblast;
2. National, with projects in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts: CSOs based in other regions of Ukraine, but which implement projects in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts;

<sup>46</sup> Офіційний сайт Верховної Ради України. Available from: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2704-19#Text> (Accessed 3.11.2020).

<sup>47</sup> Питання українського правопису // Офіційний сайт Верховної Ради України. Available from: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/437-2019-%D0%BF#Text> (Accessed 10.11.2020); Український правопис (2019) //Офіційний сайт Міністерства освіти і науки України. Available from: <https://mon.gov.ua/ua/osvita/zagalna-serednya-osvita/navchalni-programi/ukrayinskij-pravopis-2019> (Accessed 10.11.2020).

<sup>48</sup> Безкоштовні курси української мови. Available from: [https://web.archive.org/web/20160331063149/http://movaua.org.ua/?page\\_id=16](https://web.archive.org/web/20160331063149/http://movaua.org.ua/?page_id=16) (Accessed 3.11.2020).



3. National, with regional branches in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts: CSOs registered outside of Donetsk and Luhansk oblast, but which have branches in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

### Locally-based Civil Society Organizations

Local-level CSOs are often best placed to address community-level issues. Since 2014 however, CSOs based in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have gone through a radical transformation, witnessed in the following three trends:

1. the decline of the volunteer movement;
2. specialization and narrowing of organizations;
3. refocusing of activities to modern and emerging challenges.

Available information demonstrates that these CSOs are concentrated in the city centers of Kramatorsk, Mariupol, Slovyansk and Severodonetsk, primarily due to their developed infrastructure. Many of these CSOs provide assistance to IDPs, veterans and victims of the War in Donbas, as well as implement anti-corruption initiatives and monitoring programmes with the aim of increasing transparency in local governance.<sup>49</sup>

The following organizations serve as illustrative examples:

- PO “Agentsiia Demokratychnoho Rozvytku Donbasu” [in source language – “Агенція демократичного розвитку Донбасу”], (Slovyansk, 47 University Street, (+38) (093) 507-76-95) <https://www.facebook.com/ngoddda>;
- PO “Hromadska Platforma” [in source language – “Громадська платформа”] (Severodonetsk, 7 Kurchatova Street, (+38) (093) 455-30-70);
- PO “Pravozakhysnyi Rukh Donbasu” [in source language – “Правозахисний Рух Донбасу”] (Severodonetsk, 9A Vilesova Street, apt.10; (+38) 0509449441;
- <https://www.facebook.com/hrm.donbas/>);
- PO “Liha zhinok-vybortsviv” [in source language – “Ліга жінок-виборців”] (Kramatorsk, 12 Uralska Street, <https://www.facebook.com/lwv.ngo/>);
- PO “Tsentr Yevropeyskyh initsiatyv Luhanshchyny” [in source language – “Центр Європейських ініціатив Луганщини” ] (Severodonetsk, 7 Kurchatova Street, (+38) 066 269 8365, <https://www.facebook.com/centerlugansk/>);
- PO “Ahenstvo stiykoho rozvytku Luhanskoho rehionu” [in source language – “Агентство стійкого розвитку Луганського регіону”] (Luhansk, 7A Maria Raskova Street (office 414), (+38)(0642) 49-39-79, <http://www.open.lg.ua/novyny> ; <https://www.facebook.com/open.lg.ua/>).
- PO “Sylni hromady” [in source language – “Сильні громади”]
- (<https://www.facebook.com/gromady.dn.ua/>);
- PO “Tochka dostupu” [in local language – «Точка доступу»] (Kramatorsk, 28 Mashynobudivelnykiv Boulevard., +38050 368 60 74.

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<sup>49</sup> Грищенко Марія. Стан та умови розвитку міських НУО та ініціатив в Маріуполі, Краматорську, Слов'янську // Donbas Studies. Available from: <https://donbasstudies.org/stan-ta-umovi-rozvytku-miskih-nuo-ta-initsiativ-v-mariupoli-kramatorsku-slov-yansku/> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

## Nationally-based Civil Society Organizations, with Project in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts

CSOs within this category are registered in either Kyiv, Dnipro or Kharkiv, but operate in several cities in Donbas. These organizations bring with them various advantages, including experience in implementing large-scale projects, larger material, and technical bases, and are known to national and international donors. They include:

- “Vostok-SOS” [in source language – “Восток-SOS”] (office in Kyiv, 19 Pecherskyi Uzviz, +38 066 617 14 58, with a regional office in Severodonetsk, 49a Fedorenko Street, +38 095 397 98 48) provides humanitarian assistance to residents and institutions adjacent to the conflict-zone; legal and socio-psychological assistance to victims of the conflict; and documents human rights violations in those territories not under the control of Ukrainian government forces.
- PO “VOP Kombatant” [in source language – «ВОП Комбатант»] (Dnipro, 35 Schmidta Street, up.combatant@gmail.com, (+38) (096) 791-53-07) provides trainings for veterans, family members of those missing or killed during the conflict, as well as volunteers. The training is provided under the project “Step into the future”. It takes participants from Luhansk oblast (settlements close to the cities of Lysychansk and Severodonetsk), Donetsk oblast (settlements close to the city of Mariupol), and Dnipropetrovsk oblast. The project aims to assist participants in resolving family-related issues, as well as to improve their financial situation by increasing their competitiveness in the labor market. The project is implemented within the framework of the Programme of United Nations Organization for the Restoration and Peacebuilding and is funded by the Kingdom of the Netherlands.<sup>50</sup>
- Charity Organization “Lvivska Osvitnia Fundatsiya” [in source language – “Львівська Освітня Фундація”] (Lviv, 17 Svetsitskoho street, (+38) (032) 238 15 77) operates in cities of Donetsk oblast under the project “Decent Ukraine for worthy people”. Since 2014, it has established youth centers and platforms where participants can learn languages, read literature, discuss with local residents and engage in arts and crafts. They have centers in the following locations:
  - “Vilna Khata” [in source language – “Вільна хата”] (Kramatorsk) - tel. +38 (063) 5042800, <https://www.facebook.com/vilha.ua/>
  - “Teplytsia” [in source language – “Теплиця”] (Slovyansk) - tel. +38 (066) 500 50 20, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/teplytsya/>
  - “Lesia Hub” [in source language – “Леся Хаб”] (Druzhkivka) - tel. +38 (099) 607 62 90, <https://www.facebook.com/lesyahub/>
  - “Druzi” [in source language – “Друзі”] (Kostiantynivka) - tel. +38 (095) 698 56 55, <http://druzispace.com.ua/>
  - “Altanka” [in source language – “Альтанка”] (Lyman) - tel. +38 (066) 241 40 84, <https://www.facebook.com/altanka.lyman/><sup>51</sup>
- PO “Liha ofitseriv” [in source language – “Ліра офіцерів”], registered in Kyiv (Kyiv, 4b Sikorskoho Street, +380 397-79-90) provides psychological support to those affected by the War in Donbas. It also conducts courses for the retraining and adaptation of

<sup>50</sup> Сайт ГО “Всеукраїнське Об’єднання Патріотів” Комбатант”. Available from: <http://kombatant.org.ua/> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>51</sup> Простори змін на Донеччині: моделюємо українське”. Available from: [https://zn.ua/ukr/SOCIUM/prostori-zmin-na-donechchini-251640\\_.html](https://zn.ua/ukr/SOCIUM/prostori-zmin-na-donechchini-251640_.html) (Accessed 6.11.2020).

service personnel who leave the Armed Forces of Ukraine and live in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. In the schools of Luhansk oblast, representatives of the organization conducted an educational project on mine safety for young children.<sup>52</sup> This organization is one of the few that has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, providing it with the opportunity to carry out projects on the territories adjacent to the conflict zone.

### **Nationally-based Civil Society Organizations, with Regional Branches in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts**

CSOs within this category are registered outside of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts but have regional branches in the cities of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, or implement activities there on a regular basis. They include:

- Novoaidar district branch of the PO “Vseukrainske obyednannia uchashnykiv boiuvykh diy ta volonteriv Luhanskoï oblasti” [in source language – “Всеукраїнське об’єднання учасників бойових дій та волонтерів Луганської області”] (Novoaidar urban settlement, 28 Tsentralna Street; +38 050 7811679) provides legal, social and psychological assistance to veterans. The same activity is carried out by the branch of this organization in the city of Svatove (Svatove, 49 Vesela Street; + 38-095 108 5575).
- Svativka District Association of the All-Ukrainian Society “Prosvita” named after T.H. Shevchenko [in source language – Сватівське районне об’єднання Всеукраїнського Товариства «Просвіта» ім. Т.Г. Шевченка] (Svatove, Maidan Nezalezhnosti, 1; +38 095 100 66 63) holds poetry festivals and concerts for servicemen.
- “Obyednannia druuzhyn i materiv biytsiv – uchashnykiv ATO” (Bakhmut tel. +38 095-882-99-83; <http://familyato.org/ua/diialnist/kursy-navchannia-profi.html>) provides social support for the mothers of those missing or killed in action, using the principle of “equal to equal” under which bereaved mothers provide support to those who has recently lost children during the war. The organization also advocates for women’s rights and takes measures to increase their participation in social and legal processes.
- CO “Caritas Kramatorsk” [in source language – “Карітас Краматорськ”] is one of the ten branches of CO “Caritas Ukraine” [in source language – “Caritas Україна”] is a charitable organization which operates in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Since 2015 “Caritas Kramatorsk” has provided assistance to about 77,000 people in Donetsk oblast in the amount of over UAH 100 million. Currently, the charity has 86 full-time employees and more than 130 volunteers who have graduated from the “Volunteer School” from “Caritas Kramatorsk”<sup>53</sup>.
- “Vseukrainska pravozakhysna orhanisatsiia “Yurydychna Sotnia” [in source language – “Всеукраїнська правозахисна організація “Юридична Сотня”], while not located in Donbas, provides legal assistance via a dedicated hotline: 0800 308 100 (<https://legal100.org.ua/kontakti/>), contact phone +380506948452), and cooperates with over 200 lawyers.

### **Locally-based Civil Society Organisations by Geographic Concentration**

After categorizing CSOs by area of registration, this section will now identify the geographical concentration of CSOs currently active and based in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

<sup>52</sup> Офіційний сайт ГО «Ліра офіцерів». Available from: <http://leagueofficers.com.ua/> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>53</sup> Благодійна організація «Caritas Краматорськ». Available from: <https://acmc.com.ua/blagodijna-organizacziya-caritas-kramatorsk/> (Accessed 6.11.2020 року).

In contrast to the proceeding section, this section will rely on an expanded dataset of CSOs – namely, 281 civil society organizations from Luhansk oblast, which, according to the latest available data, are still active, and 748 civil society organizations from Donetsk oblast, registered between 2016 and 2019. This expanded dataset takes into account the fact that many of the CSOs active in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts do not have their own website, or otherwise do not publicly disclose the nature of their activities. Therefore, the original dataset of 382 CSOs (identified as currently active in Donbas due to the presence of an official website or through media coverage) – may not be exhaustive. The expanded dataset attempts to account for this by using official data from Luhansk regional administration and the Department of Justice of Ukraine in Donetsk oblast. As regard the former, data was taken from the 2019 directory published by the Luhansk regional administration on active CSOs.<sup>54</sup> This directory builds on the objectives outlined in the “Civil Society Development Program for 2017 – 2020”, which was approved in the Luhansk oblast in 2017, and indicates the key areas that CSOs should focus on in the oblast.<sup>55</sup> In the case of the latter, the Donetsk Regional Administration does not provide figures on the number of registered CSOs currently active. Therefore, data was taken from the Department of Justice in Donetsk oblast, namely four lists of newly established public organizations that were registered in Donetsk oblast in the period of 2016 to 2019.<sup>56</sup> It should however be noted that these lists do not include information on the type of activities undertaken by the registered CSOs. As with Luhansk oblast, a civil development strategy was also approved in Donetsk oblast in 2017, and guides the activities and focus of CSOs.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> Довідник громадських організацій. 2019 // Луганська обласна державна адміністрація. Обласна військово-цивільна адміністрація. Офіційний сайт. Available from: [http://loga.gov.ua/sites/default/files/buklet\\_oda\\_24\\_07\\_2019.pdf](http://loga.gov.ua/sites/default/files/buklet_oda_24_07_2019.pdf) (Accessed 13.12.2020).

<sup>55</sup> Сприяння розвитку громадянського суспільства на Луганщині – пріоритетна сфера діяльності облдержадміністрації. 23 лютого 2017 року // Луганська обласна державна адміністрація. Обласна військово-цивільна адміністрація. Офіційний сайт. Available from: [http://loga.gov.ua/oda/press/news/spriyannya\\_rozvitku\\_gromadyanskogo\\_suspilstva\\_na\\_luganshchini\\_prioretetna\\_sfera](http://loga.gov.ua/oda/press/news/spriyannya_rozvitku_gromadyanskogo_suspilstva_na_luganshchini_prioretetna_sfera) (Accessed 13.12.2020).

<sup>56</sup> Перелік громадських об'єднань, зареєстрованих Головним територіальне управління юстиції у Донецькій області у 2016 році; Перелік громадських об'єднань, зареєстрованих Головним територіальне управління юстиції у Донецькій області у 2017 році; Перелік громадських об'єднань, зареєстрованих Головним територіальне управління юстиції у Донецькій області у 2018 році; Перелік громадських об'єднань, зареєстрованих Головним територіальне управління юстиції у Донецькій області у 2019 році // Головне територіальне управління юстиції у Донецькій області. Управління державної реєстрації. Офіційний сайт. Available from: <http://ddr.justice-dn.gov.ua/index.php/napryamok-diynalnosti/viddil-derzhavnoji-reestratsiji-drukovanikh-zasobiv-masovoji-informatsiji-ta-gromadskikh-formuvan/metodichni-rekomendatsiji/1465-spiski> (Accessed 13.12.2020).

<sup>57</sup> Регіональні цільові програми. // Донецька обласна державна адміністрація. Офіційний сайт. Available from: <https://dn.gov.ua/ua/ekonomika/programi-rozvitku-regionu/regionalni-cilovi-programi> (Accessed 13.12.2020).

**Table 3**

| Oblast         | Years |      |      |      | Total number |
|----------------|-------|------|------|------|--------------|
|                | 2016  | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |              |
| Donetsk oblast | 140   | 227  | 223  | 158  | 748          |
| Luhansk oblast |       |      |      | 281  | 281          |

**Table 4****Luhansk oblast**

| Locality                            | Number | Locality                       | Number |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------|--------|
| Severodonetsk city                  | 74     | Shchastya city                 | 7      |
| Lysychansk city                     | 30     | Popasna city                   | 6      |
| Troyitske urban settlement          | 21     | Milove urban settlement        | 6      |
| Starobilsk city                     | 21     | Bilovodskiyi district          | 6      |
| Kreminna city                       | 20     | Bilovodsk urban settlement     | 5      |
| Rubizhne city                       | 10     | Bilokurakayne urban settlement | 5      |
| Novopskov urban settlement          | 10     | Popasnianskiy district         | 5      |
| Troyitskiy district                 | 10     | Zolote city                    | 3      |
| Svatove city                        | 9      | Novoaidarskiy district         | 3      |
| Markivka urban settlement           | 8      | Novopskovskiy district         | 3      |
| Novoaydar urban settlement          | 7      | Starobilskiy district          | 2      |
| Stanytsia Luhanska urban settlement | 7      | Severodonetskiy district       | 1      |

**Table 5****Donetsk oblast**

| Locality             | Number | Locality                      | Number |
|----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|--------|
| Mariupol city        | 187    | Toretsk city                  | 13     |
| Kramatorsk city      | 126    | Myrnohrad city                | 12     |
| Slovyansk city       | 85     | Volnovakha city               | 11     |
| Pokrovsk city        | 51     | Vuhledar city                 | 11     |
| Kostiantynivka city  | 30     | Velykonovosilkivskiy district | 9      |
| Bakhmut city         | 29     | Selydove city                 | 9      |
| Druzhkivka city      | 23     | Nikolskiy district            | 9      |
| Dobropillia city     | 22     | Marjinskiy district           | 8      |
| Volnovakha district  | 16     | Kurakhovo city                | 7      |
| Mangushskiy district | 15     | Oleksandrivskiy district      | 6      |
| Avdiivka city        | 14     | Kostiantynivskiy district     | 5      |
| Bakhmut district     | 14     | Lymanskiy district            | 4      |
| Novohrodivka city    | 14     | Pokrovskiy district           | 3      |
| Lyman city           | 13     | Dobropilskiy district         | 2      |

Through using this expanded dataset, it is then possible to plot the concentration of CSOs in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts on a map, which can be found in Appendix 2.

Using the expanded dataset obtained from the Department of Justice in Donetsk oblast, and the Luhansk regional administration, table 3 indicates the number of registered CSOs active in Donbas, while table 4 and 5 indicate the locality (district) in which they were registered, in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, respectively.

### 2.3. International Donor Assistance

After detailing the location of CSOs in Donbas, this section will explore the mechanisms through which they are funded. In general, such organizations receive funding from one or more of the following sources:

1. foreign financing (international funds, organizations, etc.);
2. financing from the state and local budgets;
3. voluntary donations from citizens of Ukraine.

Historically, many of the CSOs in Donbas received funding from international organizations and donors, in particular the United Nations Development Project (UNDP), UN Women, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine.<sup>58</sup> The conditions generally attached to such funding force CSOs to innovate in the management and delivery of their projects. As shown in Table 6, however, in recent years, funding streams have diversified, with many more international organizations and governments funding CSO activities in Donbas, as well more resources allocated from state and local budgets.

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<sup>58</sup> Український жіночий фонд. Available from: [https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2a-hUKEwj3qKesprXtAhWCIYsKHfjUATUQFjAEegQIEBAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.uwf.org.ua%2F-files%2FEOPAC\\_research\\_IDP\\_2017.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3TwSrGNbnUJTGSY9akByHj](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2a-hUKEwj3qKesprXtAhWCIYsKHfjUATUQFjAEegQIEBAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.uwf.org.ua%2F-files%2FEOPAC_research_IDP_2017.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3TwSrGNbnUJTGSY9akByHj) (Accessed 6.11.2020).

**Table 6**

| <b>Common sources of finance for CSOs in Donbas in the period 2014 – 2020</b>  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Foreign Financing</b>   | <b>Ukrainian Financing</b>   |
| <p>United Nations Development Program in Ukraine (UNDP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UN Women,</li> <li>- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF),</li> <li>- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;</li> </ul> <p>US Embassy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- United States Agency for International Development (USAID),</li> <li>- Democracy Promotion Fund;</li> </ul> <p>NATO Office in Ukraine;</p> <p>Representation of the European Union in Ukraine;</p> <p>Government of Switzerland;</p> <p>Government of Japan;</p> <p>Government of Canada;</p> <p>The Government of the Kingdom of Norway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC);</li> </ul> <p>International Charitable Organization “Red Cross”;</p> <p>International Renaissance Foundation;</p> <p>East Europe Foundation;</p> <p>Embassy of the Netherlands (MATRA);</p> <p>Embassy of Sweden (Sida);</p> <p>British Council;</p> <p>Danish Refugee Council;</p> <p>Danish Demining Group / DRC – DDG;</p> <p>Czech humanitarian organization “Man in Need”;</p> <p>Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany;</p> <p>Doctors without borders</p> | <p>Ministry of Veterans Affairs;</p> <p>Ministry of Social Policy;</p> <p>Caritas Ukraine;</p> <p>ICF Ukrainian Women’s Fund (Stabilization Support Services);</p> <p>Charitable organization “Lvivska osvithnia Fundatsiia” [in source language – «Львівська освітня фундація»];</p> <p>Federations of Ukraine for Sports;</p> <p>Association of Ukrainian Cities;</p> <p>as well as charitable contributions of citizens of Ukraine.</p> |

The below provides some examples of the various projects implemented in Donbas through international financing.

1. The United Nations Peacebuilding and Reconstruction Programme (UNPRP). With the support of the European Union, the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Government of Japan, UNPRP provides micro-loans to small business based in Luhansk or Donetsk oblasts to establish, rebuild or expand their activities. The total amount distributed during 2019 – 2020 under this project was USD 5.24 million.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>59</sup> ООН оголошує конкурс бізнес-грантів на сході України. Available from: <https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/uk/home/recovery-and-peacebuilding/grant-opportunities-UN-RPP/UN-RPP-grant-to-suppoort-MSME-in-eastern-Ukraine.html> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

2. In addition to UNPRP, UNDP has supported more than 80 businesses in Donetsk oblast in amounts exceeding UAH 10.5 million, creating about 270 jobs.<sup>60</sup> The total contribution of the Government of Japan to the implementation of UNDP projects in 2014-2016 amounted to almost USD 19 million, with initiatives for the economic and social reconstruction of Donbas implemented within the framework of the commitments made by Japan during the 2014 UN General Assembly to provide assistance to eastern Ukraine.<sup>61</sup>
3. Governance and Civil Society programme implemented with EU assistance in 2018 comprised of thirteen projects worth a combined EUR 53.2 million. Competitions were held to select civil society projects to fund, leading to 19 out of 179 applications being financed, as well as a host of conferences and trainings for CSOs.
4. Restoration of Donbas and support for internally displaced persons (IDP) programme also implemented with EU assistance comprised of six projects totalling EUR 38.8 million. These included the laying of 28,000 meters of pipelines, the installation of 47 wells, and information campaigns under which three eco-camps and five trainings were provided for young people on sustainability, and monthly newsletters “Hromadskyi poyas Donbasu” disseminated. Ten public initiatives were also selected and funded, and the East Ukrainian Forum of Public Initiatives was held. Under the Programme, damaged housing was also required, and humanitarian aid provided to residents.

The majority of programmes financed through international grants are implemented in larger cities, such as Mariupol, Slovyansk, Kramatorsk and Bakhmut. Far fewer projects financed by international donors are implemented in smaller cities and rural areas, in part because of their geographical remoteness, damaged infrastructure and limited communication channels. As a result, the provision of services and support to communities remains uneven.

In addition to international grants, CSOs can receive funds through several other sources, including state and local budgets, social entrepreneurship, contracts to deliver social goods, and charitable activities, including the collection of membership fees and funds from private foundations.

## 2.4. Project Highlights

A significant number of CSOs projects that receive national and international financial support work to develop civil society and establish democratic mechanisms for participatory governance.

The following projects serve as illustrative examples:

- “Strategic Planning for Civil Society Organizations”. Within the framework of the UN Restoration and Peacebuilding Programme financed by the governments of Denmark, Switzerland and Sweden, trainings are held for CSOs of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Educational activities are implemented by the Union of Public Initiatives of Ukraine.
- “Effective Governance and Involvement of Citizens in Eastern Ukraine”. Also delivered within the framework of the UN Restoration and Peacebuilding Programme, in 2020, two conferences entitled “Life on the Border of Peace: From Public Initiatives to Public

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<sup>60</sup> Більше 80 бізнесів на Донеччині отримали підтримку від ПРООН на подальший розвиток. Available from: <https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/uk/home/presscenter/articles/2016/12/09/over-80-small-businesses-get-undp-support-to-grow-in-donetsk-region.html> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>61</sup> Посол Японії відвідав Донбас Available from: <https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/uk/home/presscenter/articles/2016/08/31/--.html> (Accessed 6.11.2020).



Safety of Communities” were held in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. During these, the challenges and needs of CSOs, and well as the general community, were discussed, and solutions to urgent problems developed.<sup>62</sup> These include topics such as public safety and community safety initiatives.<sup>63</sup>

- “Safe Community”. Again, delivered within the framework of the UN Restoration and Peacebuilding Programme, the project has resulted in the development of implementation of ten mini-projects. These include an initiative to conduct a citywide fundraising campaign “Invest in Druzhkivka education” for the creation of facilities at local stations for children and youth, the mini-project “Healthy Community”, within which a specialized room for the diagnosis, treatment of illnesses and diseases suffered by women, including COVID-19, were created.<sup>64</sup>
- “Public Belt of Donbas”. With financial support from the EU and implemented by the CSO Zakhidnoukrainskyi resursnyi tsentr [in source language – Західноукраїнський ресурсний центр реалізував проект], the project provided a platform for civil society specialists to share experiences on projects and challenges faced while working in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. The project also sought to establish a Coalition of Local Non-Governmental Organizations in Donbas, under which the following organizations joined:
  - Tsentr spilnoho rozvytku “Diyeva hromada” [in source language – Центр спільного розвитку «Дієва громада»](Starobilsk);
  - Asotsiatsiia “Vidrodzhennia i rozvytok” [in source language – Асоціація «Відродження та розвиток»] (Bakmut);
  - “Ahenstvo pidtrymky mistsevykh initsiatyv” [in source language – «Агентство підтримки місцевих ініціатив»] (Mariupol);
  - “Nova Druzhkivka” [in source language - «Нова Дружківка»] (Druzhkivka);
  - “Tochka dostupu” [in source language – «Точка доступу»](Kramatorsk);
  - “Nasha hromada” [in source language – «Наша громада»] (Kreminna); and
  - Kryzovyi media-tsentr “Slverskyi Donetsk” [in source language – Кризовий медіа-центр «Сіверський Донець»] (Severodonetsk).
- “Support for Local Government Development in Ukraine”. Implemented in 2017 by the Eastern Europe Foundation, small grants were provided to the following CSOs in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts:
  - “Skhidno-Ukrainske Patriotychnе obyednannia” [in source language – “Східно-Українське патріотичне об’єднання”] (Kramatorsk, 6 Druzhby Street, +38 099 040 60 86 artem.vivdich@gmail.com);

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<sup>62</sup> Стратегічне планування для НГО Донеччини та Луганщини: цінності, місія, напрямки діяльності. Available from: <http://ngonetwork.org.ua/strategichne-planuvannya-dlya-ngo-donechchyny-ta-luganshyny-tsinnosti-misiya-napryamky-diyalnosti/> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>63</sup> Запрошуємо активістів з Луганської та Донецької областей на міні-конференції у форматі Open Space Можливості // Новини. Спілки. Україна. Available from: <http://ngonetwork.org.ua/zaprosuyemo-aktyvistiv-z-luganskoyi-ta-donetskoyi-oblastej-na-mini-konferentsiyi-u-formati-open-space/> (Accessed 6.11.2020 року).

<sup>64</sup> Дружківська громада: громадська безпека у фокусі. Available from: <https://www.prostir.ua/?news=druzhkivska-hromada-hromadska-bezpeka-u-fokusi> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

- “Dobropillya Youth Center “DOBRO” [in source language – Добропільський центр молоді “ДОБРО”](Dobropillya, 18 Zaliznychna Street; +38 050 858 70 97, vikazubkova1971@gmail.com, www.dobro.at.ua);
  - Donetsk Regional Organization of the All-Ukrainian Public Organization “Komitet vybortsiv Ukrainy” [in source language – «Комітет виборців України»] (Kyiv, Khmelnytska St., 10, building 3, +38 050 368 60 74, doo.cvu@gmail.com, www.cvu.dn.ua).
  - Luhanske rehionalne viddilennia Asotsiatsii mist Ukrainy [in source language – Луганське регіональне відділення Асоціації міст України] (Severodonetsk, 22 Egorova Street, office 302, +38 050 281 45 68, Boyko.amu@gmail.com, www.auc.lg.ua);
  - “Agentsiia regionalnoho rozvytku Skhidnoho Donbasu” [in source language – «Агенція регіонального розвитку Східного Донбасу»] (Severodonetsk, 30/1 Gvardiyskyi Avenue, +38 050 933 15 39, larysabychkova@gmail.com, arr-eastdonbass@i.ua, http://arr-eastdonbass.org /); and
  - “Hromadska initsiatyva Luhanshchyny” [in source language – «Громадська ініціатива Луганщини»] (Severodonetsk, 47/111 Gvardiysky Avenue, +38 050 622 33 30, lekotan@ukr.net).
- The East Europe Foundation provided funds (UAH 235,090) in 2018 to implement measures create appropriate legal conditions and ensure public participation in the process of forming the local budget and monitoring it to improve the budget policy of Novoydar village council.<sup>65</sup> The project was implemented by the local CSO “Hromadska initsiatyva Luhanshchyny” [in source language – “Громадська ініціатива Луганщини”] and “Luhanska oblasna orhanisatsiia “Solidarnist” [in source language – Луганська обласна організація Солідарність»]. In addition, the East Europe Foundation and the Regional Organization Solidarity provided funds (UAH 227,230) for communities in Lysychansk and Rubizhne to develop opportunities for citizens to engage in budget processes by developing, discussing and advocating for enhanced budgetary regulations.<sup>66</sup>
  - “From Participation to Action” was implemented by the local CSO “Nova Druzhkivka” [in source language – «Нова Дружківка»] in 2019 with financial support of the European Endowment for Democracy (EED).<sup>67</sup>

## 2.5. Security Needs, Existing Challenges, Public Councils, and Interaction with Law Enforcement

After outlining the types of financial support provided to CSOs operating in Donbas, and highlighting key projects funded by international donors, this section will detail the common security challenges and needs of local communities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, as well as the challenges faced by CSOs working in Donbas.

<sup>65</sup> Каталог громадських ініціатив. Available from: <https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjqtTzrrTtAhWvtYsKHSXUCTo4FBAWMAN-6BAgLEAI&url=http%3A%2F%2Ffeef.org.ua%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2016%2F12%2FKatalog-gromadskyh-initsiatyv.pdf&usq=AOvVaw3dGXLiOnZFtLM-zjg1AV22> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>66</sup> Публічні бюджети від А до Я: інформування, активізація та залучення громадянського суспільства. Available from: <https://eef.org.ua/program-project/publiczni-byudzhety-vid-a-do-ya-informuvannya-aktyvizatsiya-ta-zaluchennya-gromadyanskogo-suspilstva/> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>67</sup> Створюємо місто для життя разом! У Дружківці стартував унікальний проєкт. Available from: <https://druisp.gov.ua/novini/2570-stvoryuemo-misto-dlya-zhittya-razom-u-druzhkivtsi-startuvav-unikalnij-proekt> (Accessed 6.11.2020 року).

As one of the most important means through which civil society and local authorities and security actors can interact, this section concludes by examining the challenges faced by Public Councils, as well as more general challenges concerning interaction between local law enforcement bodies and CSOs.

## Security Needs

According to the “Review of public safety and civil protection in the settlements of Yalta village council of Donetsk region”, conducted by “Independent Researching Group” in 2020, the following security challenges were identified by residents. These challenges shape the activities of CSOs, as well as in some cases their ability to effectively implement projects. They include:

- The feeling of insecurity in public places and private premises;
- Thefts, unemployment and precarious financial situations;
- Limited number of police officers in local communities, as well as outdated equipment and facilities;
- Lack of investment in local infrastructure, including street lighting, CCTV cameras, roads, water supply, sewage systems and electricity;
- Inter-communal tensions; and
- Fraud and abuse of power by authorities.
- Lack of investment in and effectiveness of the State Emergency Service

The same survey indicated that local residents felt most protection against threats to their fundamental rights and freedom, and hunger. Of interest, respondents noted that in general they were unaware of mechanisms through which the local community could cooperate with law enforcement bodies.<sup>68</sup>

## Existing Challenges

Challenges faced by CSOs working in Donbas generally concern limited human and material resources. However, political differences between CSOs and local authorities can also complicate cooperation between the two, tensions between different community groups, in particular those representing the interests of ethnic minorities, can thwart collaboration.

Other challenges to the work of CSOs include:

- Lack of knowledge on and resources for the official registration of CSOs; Competition for grants, owing primarily to cases in which CSOs located outside of Donbas register themselves in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in order to improve the chances of their proposals being funded, but subsequently implement them in other regions of Ukraine;
- The instrumentalization of CSOs, particularly those founded by or targeting youth, by political interest groups;
- appropriation of the achievements of CSOs by state authorities.<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> Огляд громадської безпеки та цивільного захисту в населених пунктах Ялтинської селищної ради. 2020. С.25-26. [Electronic Source]. Available from: [https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjZtvj72sntAhWIIYsKHa7XDL0QFjAAegQIAhAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ua.undp.org%2Fcontent%2Fdam%2Fukraine%2Fdocs%2FDonbas%2FRPP%2Fsecurity-report-Yalta-Donetsk-Oblast.pdf&usq=AOvVaw1JoenfTg4\\_o7wdPEbPVGz8](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjZtvj72sntAhWIIYsKHa7XDL0QFjAAegQIAhAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ua.undp.org%2Fcontent%2Fdam%2Fukraine%2Fdocs%2FDonbas%2FRPP%2Fsecurity-report-Yalta-Donetsk-Oblast.pdf&usq=AOvVaw1JoenfTg4_o7wdPEbPVGz8) (Accessed 12.12.2020).

<sup>69</sup> Донбас очима молодіжних активістів. Available from:

## Public Councils and Interaction with Law Enforcement bodies

- Limited professional and technical expertise of members of Public Councils, undermining their credibility and ability to operate effectively;
- Inadequate financial, logistical and organizational support for public councils;
- The absence of any mechanisms through which the recommendations or decisions of the Public Councils can be enforced, often leading to them being disregarded by state authorities;
- Restrictions on the ability of Public Councils to access the information necessary for them to perform their functions;
- Limited knowledge on and awareness of Public Councils on the part of state authorities, hindering their ability to cooperate together;
- Insufficient public relations specialists in state bodies responsible for interaction with the Public Councils; and
- low transparency of Public Councils' activity<sup>70</sup>.

The ability of security actors to meet the security needs of local residents relies on the existence and adequate functioning of mechanisms through which two can cooperate. In addition to challenges faced by Public Councils in facilitating such interaction, several other issues were identified in a 2020 study conducted under the auspices of the UN Restoration and Peacebuilding Programme. The study interviewed local residents and police officers in 16 cities and amalgamated territorial communities in Luhansk oblast. The former identified the following issues:

- Lack of information on current and planned police activities (34.6%);
- Lack of information about the needs of the police (30.8%);
- Lack of initiative on the part of the police (15.4%);
- Lack of understanding of community security issues by the police (5.8%);
- Lack of interest in cooperation with the police (3.8%).

The latter – police officers – identified the following issues:

- High workload, resulting in limited time for engagement with local communities (75%);
- lack of sufficient information about CSOs and the purposes of their existence (33.3%);
- Lack of initiative on the part of CSOs (33.3%);
- Lack of understanding of CSOs of the difficulties faced by police services (33.3%);
- Lack of specific proposals from CSOs on resolving security problems (25%)<sup>71</sup>.

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[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEw-jwz\\_q6p7TtAhVr\\_SoKHejND4g4HhAWMA6BAGJEAI&url=https%3A%2F%2Fspa.ukma.edu.ua%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2020%2F06%2Fweb-Donbas\\_Youth\\_Activists.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1MJ9E9LL5glqthY-5oOokr5](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEw-jwz_q6p7TtAhVr_SoKHejND4g4HhAWMA6BAGJEAI&url=https%3A%2F%2Fspa.ukma.edu.ua%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2020%2F06%2Fweb-Donbas_Youth_Activists.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1MJ9E9LL5glqthY-5oOokr5) (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>70</sup> Громадська рада: особливості її діяльності в секторі безпеки і оборони України. [Electronic Source]. Available from: <http://www.dy.nayka.com.ua/?op=1&z=673> (Accessed 12.12.2020).

<sup>71</sup> Аналітичний звіт про поточну ситуацію з діалогом, взаємодією та співпрацею поліції та організацій громадянського суспільства в Луганській області [Electronic Source]. Available from: <https://www.ua.undp.org/content/ukraine/uk/home/library/recovery-and-peacebuilding/analytical-report-police-Luhansk-Oblast.html> (Accessed 12.12.2020).

## Chapter 3: Recommendations for Enhancing the Role of Civil Society in Donbas

Based on the findings of the previous chapter, the following outlines a number of recommendations for state authorities on how they might enhance the role of civil society in Donbas, particularly as regard interaction between CSOs, security forces and local authorities.

- 1. *Improving conditions for interaction between CSOs:*** CSOs operating in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts suffer from weak coordination, particularly those focusing on humanitarian issues and interaction with security forces. In general, many such CSOs work in isolation from one another, meaning that they are unable to leverage the resources, contacts and knowledge of other CSOs working on similar issues. As a result, authorities – in particular civil-military cooperation units within the Armed Forces of Ukraine - might consider enhancing coordination between CSOs working in the area of responsibility of the Joint Forces Operation. In doing so, unnecessary duplication would be avoided, and CSOs could combine resources and expertise to tap into additional international donor assistance.
- 2. *Enhancing the involvement of CSOs in facilitating relations between civil society and state authorities:*** recognizing the significant efforts made by military command to establish direct lines of communication with the population of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, Ukrainian authorities might consider involving CSOs more actively in this process. This could entail identifying those specialized in facilitating dialogue with local communities, and in particular, who deliver educational activities. State authorities could consider providing additional funds to such organizations, as well as additional resources.
- 3. *Enhancing the role of CSOs in restoring contacts between residents separated by the line of contact:*** considering the mandate and area of operation of the Joint Forces Operation, they remain limited in their ability to facilitate communication and contact between residents and families separated by the line of contact. In addition, organs of internal affairs and the border service exclusively direct their efforts to improving administrative procedures for civilians crossing the demarcation line, and as such are also limited in their ability to facilitate contact between separate communities. In this regard, the Ukrainian authorities and international community should consider the possibility of supporting projects aimed at restoring and improving communication between people along the demarcation line. One such approach could include support to CSOs in implementing art projects, and invite, wherever possible, residents of the territories not under Ukrainian government control, as well as internally displaced persons, to participate in them.
- 4. *Broadening media coverage of CSOs operating in Donbas:*** while state authorities have implemented an effective system for the admission of national and foreign journalists into the conflict zone in Donbas in order to report on the hostilities, there remains little media coverage of the activities of CSOs in Donbas. State authorities should consider expanding the scope of media coverage to include the activities of CSOs working on humanitarian and security issues in the area of the Joint Forces Operation.
- 5. *Providing easy access to and detailed information on the work of CSOs:*** in order to avoid project duplication between CSOs and ensure that synergies can be found between different CSOs working on similar issues, state authorities should invest further

in digital registries that capture the work of CSOs in an easy and accessible manner. Currently, information provided by the Department of Justice and the Department of Standardization is too general, or too dispersed to be of use. An improved registry should provide detailed information on CSOs, including:

- the number of full-time employees and volunteers;
- annual budget and sources of funding;
- existing needs; and
- types of services delivered .

Such a registry would also expose CSOs to more international donors, and could be complemented by the publication of an annual directory containing a summary of such information.

## Conclusion

The study sought to provide a comprehensive review of the activities undertaken by civil society organizations in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. To do so, it first examined key developments in Donbas since 2014, and how these have influenced the development of CSOs. Such developments included the War in Donbas; mechanisms established for civil-military relations in Donbas; the legal mandates and areas of operation of security forces in Donbas, as well as the legal basis upon which CSOs may exercise public oversight over the conduct of security forces in the Joint Operations Area. The influence of these factors on the development of CSO in Donbas was summarized in Chapter 1, in which the authors argued that a dramatic increase in national and international funding for CSOs led to dramatic rise in their numbers after 2014. The enhanced visibility of -and financial resources available to CSOs operating Donbas also allowed them to begin specializing in particular areas, such as humanitarian assistance and anti-corruption initiatives. The authors also note how CSOs also benefited from the adoption of the National Strategy for the Development of Civil Society from 2016 – 2020, and how civil-military relations were strengthened through the establish of the Department for Civil and Military Cooperation (CIMIC) within the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

After summarizing the factors influencing the development of CSOs operating in Donbas, the study detailed the numbers of CSOs operating in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts according to type of activity and area of operation. It demonstrated that in the period 2014 – 2017, CSOs increased twofold in Donetsk, and sixfold in Luhansk oblasts. During that the period, the most common type of activities implemented these CSOs related to 1) culture and education; 2) infrastructure repairs, the provision of micro loans and economic support; and 3) support for veterans.

The study concluded by exploring the challenges faced by CSOs operating in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, the common security challenges faced by local communities, as well as issues related to Public Councils and interaction between civil society and local law enforcement bodies. Based on these, the study proposed four recommendations for consideration by state authorities. These included 1) improving interaction between CSOs; 2) enhancing the involvement of CSOs in facilitating civil-state relations; 3) enhancing the role of CSOs in facilitating contact between communities separated by the line of conflict; and 4) broadening media coverage to include the work of CSOs in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

To this end, it should be noted that state and local authorities have made unparalleled efforts to support the development of civil society since the outbreak of hostilities in 2014. As a result, mechanisms now exist through which civil society can cooperate with authorities

and expose the former to best practices in several areas. Despite this, civil society is still plagued by a lack of effective coordination, leading to the duplication of efforts and an inability to convey to the public the importance of its work. In addition, sufficient attention is not always placed on the possible instrumentalization of CSOs by opposing political forces, in particular by international donors. For these reasons, renewed focus should be placed on understanding the political economy in which such CSOs operate.

Finally, and despite the huge advances made by CSOs in Donbas in recent years, their achievements should not be taken for granted. To this end, several bills recently registered by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine threaten to undermine their progress.<sup>72</sup> These include: 1) the prohibition of persons who have worked or been members of CSOs financed from abroad for a period of 5 years or more from entering the civil service, potentially riding the later of badly needed expertise;<sup>73</sup> 2) the obligation for CSOs in receipt of foreign funding to submit additional reports, some of which force the disclosure of personal data and may dissuade CSOs to tap into international assistance funding;<sup>74</sup> 3) the subjection of heads of CSOs in receipt of foreign funding to annual polygraph tests;<sup>75</sup> and, 4) the prohibition of persons connected with CSOs in receipt of foreign funding from becoming members of the supervisory boards of state banks and enterprises.<sup>76</sup> In addition to these, restrictions related to COVID-19 continue to hamper the work of CSOs, with attacks on journalists, activists, and members of CSOs continuing, often without proper investigation on the part of state authorities.<sup>77</sup>

Thus, while acknowledging the many efforts made by state authorities to develop and consolidate the successes of CSOs operating in Donbas, every effort should be made to ensure that the legal and procedural basis upon which they operate continues to provide them with the opportunity to contribute to development and good governance.

Sincerely, the team of experts of the public organization “League of officers”:

Chairman of the public organization “League of Officers”, Candidate of Military Sciences, expert Volodymyr Lukichov

Deputy Chairman of the public organization “League of Officers”, expert Tymofiy Nikitiuk  
Ph.D., Associate Professor, expert Liudmyla Kravchenko

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<sup>72</sup> Мін'юст розкритикував законопроект Дубінського про «іноземних агентів». Available from: <https://rpr.org.ua/news/min-iust-rozkrytykuvav-zakonoproiekt-dubins-koho-pro-inozemnykh-ahentiv/> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>73</sup> Проект Закону про внесення змін до деяких законодавчих актів України (щодо прозорості діяльності громадських об'єднань з іноземною підтримкою). Номер 3564, дата реєстрації від 29.05.2020. Available from: [http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4\\_1?pf3511=68977](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=68977) (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>74</sup> Проект Закону про внесення змін до Закону України “Про очищення влади” (щодо недопущення зовнішнього впливу на інтереси держави) Номер 3326, дата реєстрації від 13.04.2020. Available from: [http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4\\_1?pf3511=68576](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=68576) (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>75</sup> Проект Закону про внесення змін до деяких законів України щодо заборони фінансування органів влади та їх посадових (службових) осіб з-за кордону та заборони найвищим посадовим особам держави мати громадянство (підданство) іноземної держави (Номер 3572, дата реєстрації від 02.06.2020). Available from: [http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4\\_1?id=&pf3511=68997](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?id=&pf3511=68997)(Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>76</sup> Проект Закону про внесення змін до деяких законодавчих актів щодо забезпечення рівних прав та можливостей громадян із представництва у наглядових радах та органах правління державних унітарних підприємств, господарських товариств та державних банків та справедливого формування і ефективної діяльності таких наглядових рад із врахуванням національних інтересів України. Номер 3193-1 дата реєстрації від 17.03.2020. Available from: [http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4\\_1?pf3511=68407](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=68407) (Accessed 6.11.2020).

<sup>77</sup> Барометр свободи слова за серпень 2020 року. 7.09.2020. Available from: <https://imi.org.ua/monitorings/barometr-svobody-slova-za-serpen-2020-roku-i34866> (Accessed 6.11.2020).

## Appendix 1.

### Communication Methods and Means with Law Enforcement Agencies <sup>78</sup>

#### Luhansk oblast

| Name of structure  | Phone numbers<br>E-mail for communication  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Luhansk Regional State Administration</b><br/><b>(military and civil administration)</b></p> <p>Address: 93405, Severodonetsk, 59 Tsentralnyi avenue ,</p> <p>Citizens' Appeals Department<br/>Regional State Administration Hotline<br/>Government hotline</p>  | <p>Reception<br/>(0645) 70-50-85 info@loga.gov.ua</p> <p>(06452) 2-31-52<br/>0 800-505-107<br/>1545 letter@loga.gov.ua</p>   |
| <p><b>Joint Centre for Civil and Military Cooperation</b></p> <p>93400, Severodonetsk, 12 Tsentralnyi Avenue</p>   | <p>+380 (6452) 4-44-00<br/>cimic_centre_a@ukr.net</p>  |
| <p><b>National Police of Luhansk Oblast</b></p> <p>Address: 1 Vilesova street, Luhansk oblast, Severodonetsk, 93400,<br/>Hotline<br/>Call centre:<br/>Phone of the documentation provision department:</p>   | <p>0-800-50-02-02 <a href="https://lg.npu.gov.ua/">https://lg.npu.gov.ua/</a><br/>(0645) 705 188 secr@lg.npu.gov<br/>(0645) 705 190 cos@lg.npu.gov</p>                     |
| <p><b>Security Service of Ukraine in Luhansk oblast</b></p> <p>93400, Severodonetsk, 6 Pyvovarova street,<br/>Hotline<br/>Support line<br/>Fax</p>   | <p>0 800 501 482 usbu_lug@ssu.gov.ua<br/>(064) 526-81-10<br/>(064) 524-42-81</p>   |
| <p><b>JFO Headquarters</b></p> <p>Luhansk zonal department of Military Law Enforcement Service (Severodonetsk)<br/>Military commandant's offices of Luhansk zonal department of the Military Law Enforcement Service:<br/>Duty man of military commandant's office of town Novoaydar<br/>city Popasna<br/>city Shchastia</p> | <p>(06452) 4 80 33<br/>zapytmou@mil.gov.ua<br/>(073) 482-5995 sever_vsp@ukr.net<br/>69-31-058 (098)-219-1628<br/>62-55-466 (073)-465-6929<br/>62-49-362 (068)-568-2199</p> |

<sup>78</sup> Гарячі телефонні лінії Call – центрів в органах військового управління Збройних Сил України. Available from: <https://skole-rda.gov.ua/garyachi-telefonni-linii-saii-%E2%80%93-centriv-v-organah-vijskovogo-upravlinnya-zbrojnih-sil-ukraini-10-31-20-11-01-2020/> (Accessed 6.11.2020).



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>State Service of Ukraine for Emergencies in Luhansk oblast</b><br>93400, Severodonetsk, 29 B.Lishchyny street<br>Chief of the shift<br>Helpline (on anti-corruption issues) | +38 (0645) 70-51-24<br>112@lg.dsns.gov.ua<br><br>+38 (0645) 70-51-26<br>+38 (0645) 70-51-34 press@lg.dsns.gov.ua |
| <b>Lysychansk frontier detachment</b><br>58 Peremohy Avenue, Lysychansk, Luhansk oblast, 93120   | +380661106350 lisichansk_zagin@dpsu.gov.ua   |

## Donetsk Oblast

| <b>Name of structure</b>   | <b>Phone numbers</b><br><b>E-mail for communication</b>  |
|--|--|
| <b>Donetsk</b><br><b>Regional State Administration</b><br><b>(military and civil administration)</b><br>84306, Donetsk oblast, Kramatorsk, 6 Oleksiy Tykhoho street,<br>Office<br>Detectors (Protected channel)<br>Hotline<br>Government hotline<br>Donetsk Regional State Administration hotline on COVID-19 issues | Reception (06264) 6-03-30<br>For communication with legal persons:<br>donoda@dn.gov.ua<br>For communication with individual citizens: citi-<br>zen@dn.gov.ua<br>(06264) 2-04-55<br>(06264) 6-03-70<br>0-800-507-506<br>+380 (6264) 6-02-80<br>1545; 0 800 408 911<br>Request for public information:<br>public@dn.gov.ua |
| <b>Joint Center for Civil and Military Cooperation</b><br>84313, Kramatorsk, 10B Oleksy Tykhoho Street   | +380956827520  |
| <b>Joint Center for Civil and Military Cooperation</b><br>87515, Mariupol, 17/25 Kharlampiyivska street  | +380 (629) 472-472.<br>cimic_centre@i.ua   |
| <b>Donetsk Regional Police</b><br>86 Nakhimova Avenue, Mariupol, Donetsk oblast, 87517.<br><b>Call-centre (round the clock):</b><br>Hotline  | For communication with citizens:<br>gupolice@dn.npu.gov.ua<br>Press Service: press@dn.npu.gov.ua<br>(0629) 47 48 22<br>0-800-505-102   |
| <b>Security Service of Ukraine in Donetsk oblast</b>   | (0629) 52-31-82, usbu_don@ssu.gov.ua<br>(0629) 52-53-94; 0 800 501 482 callcenter@<br>ssu.gov.ua   |
| <b>State Service of Ukraine for Emergencies in Donetsk oblast</b><br>87547, Mariupol, 175 Mytropolytska street<br>Chief of the shift<br>Helpline   | gu@dn.dsns.gov.ua<br><br>+38 (0629) 56-94-04<br>+38 (093) 323-28-68  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>JFO Headquarters</b><br>Donetsk zonal department of Military Law Enforcement Service<br>Bakhmut | (+380445276363)<br>+38 (050-618-19-57 zapytmou@mil.gov.ua<br>+38 (093)-004-17-07) |
| <b>Donetsk frontier detachment</b><br>87521 Donetsk oblast, Mariupol, 150-A Haharina Street        | (0629)51-31-74 mariupol_zagin@pvu.gov.ua  |

## All-Ukrainian Structures

| Name of structures   | Phone numbers<br>E-mail for communication   |
|--|---|
| <b>Government hotline</b> for calls from abroad (payment at the rates of the relevant operator)  | (044) 284-19-15 0 800 500 335<br>Web-site of the Governmental contact Centre:<br>www.ukc.gov.ua   |
| <b>Hotlines of the Department of Civil and Military Cooperation of the Armed Forces of Ukraine:</b><br>03113, Kyiv, 113, 55/2 Victory Avenue   | (044) 454-74-03<br>cimic_2dept@i.ua   |
| <b>National Hotline</b> for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking and Gender Discrimination<br><br>National children's hotline<br><br>Security Service of Ukraine hotline<br>hotline of the <b>Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine:</b><br><br>Headquarters of the <b>Military Law Enforcement Service (Kyiv)</b><br><br>Hotline for entrepreneurs<br>Hotline for Education issues for Residents of the Temporarily Occupied Territories<br>Hot line of the State Customs Service of Ukraine<br>Hotline for counseling people with disabilities<br>Department for Work with Citizens and Access to Public Information of the Department for Informational and Organizational Work and Control of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine | tel.: 0 800 500 335<br>or 386 (from the cell phone)<br>tel. 0 800 500 225<br>or 772 (from the cell phone)<br><br>0 800 501 482<br>1536<br><br>+38(044) 527 63 63, +38(044) 454-73-03, +38(044) 253-04-71, +38(044) 253-47-73, +38(044) 253-89-31, +38(044) 253-11-56<br><br>1648<br>0 800 504 425<br><br>1548<br>1539<br>+38(044) 253-04-71,<br>+38(044) 253-47-73,<br>+38(044) 253-89-31 |

## Appendix 2.

### Map of the Development of Public Organizations in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts

(based on the registered activity of public organizations after 2014)



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Governance

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