



Implementation of the principles of gender equality and inclusion in the Program for the Comprehensive Reconstruction of Regions

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The war in Ukraine is not gender neutral, which is manifested in the increase of the gender gap in Ukraine in various areas. The full-scale Russian invasion worsened the situation of women, causing them significant damage in physical, non-property (moral) and property dimensions. In connection with this, there was a need to integrate the principles of gender equality and inclusion into the programs of complex restoration of the region, the territory of the territorial community (hereinafter - TTC).

The comprehensive recovery program is a medium-term strategic document that reflects comprehensive measures for the recovery of territorial communities or individual territories within the region that suffered as a result of armed aggression against Ukraine. The creation of TTC should take into account all factors, challenges and needs that may play an important role in their development in the future, including from the perspective of gender analysis of regional development. The application of gender analysis will reveal inequality and contribute to ensuring the rights and equal opportunities of different groups of women and men by preventing and prohibiting all forms of discrimination, increasing the awareness of different population groups about their rights and opportunities to demand their observance. TTC should contribute to the implementation of human-centered approaches, social justice, rational spatial planning, ensuring a balance of resettlement and placement of jobs, sustainable mobility, inclusiveness, energy efficiency, environmental friendliness, preservation of cultural diversity and national memory, as well as meet the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine for the period up to 2030 year. Special attention is paid to reconstruction based on the principles of "leaving no one behind", "integration of protection", "reduction of inequality", "gender equality and empowerment of women", "better than it was". Gender-based recovery focuses on the needs of different groups of women and men, including by ensuring their equal participation in the reconstruction of war-affected regions and communities.

The purpose of this Analysis is to evaluate the implementation of the principles of gender equality and inclusion in the comprehensive recovery program of the region on the example of the border regions: Sumy, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, Mykolaiv.

The procedure for the development of the TTC is determined by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On approval of the Procedure for the development, holding of public discussion, approval of programs for the comprehensive restoration of the region, the territory of the territorial community (part thereof) and making changes to them". However, there is currently no single standard for regional comprehensive recovery programs, and most of the Oblast's TTC s are at the stage of creating working groups, accepting public proposals or considering them.

Instead, a large number of regions have adopted regional development strategies until 2027 and have adopted regional action plans for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 "Women, peace, security" for the period until 2025. The mentioned documents are not synchronized with each other at the regional level. According to the authors, such synchronization is necessary in the conditions of security challenges and can become a productive basis in the development of TTC. This study is designed to identify opportunities for synchronizing the existing program documents of the regions and intensifying the development of TTC.

According to the results of the study, the mechanisms of complex gender-sensitive recovery are proposed:

- management based on disaggregated data;
- key criteria;
- synchronization of program documents.

Based on the results of the analysis, four groups of criteria were identified, a checklist of issues was selected for the analysis of recovery plans, recommendations were made for the inclusion of the principles of gender equality and inclusion in regional comprehensive recovery programs, and the mechanisms and tools for the implementation of gender-oriented recovery at the level of regional comprehensive recovery plans were determined.

It was established that the algorithm for developing and approving the TTC does not provide for measures and practices aimed at ensuring gender equality and social justice, because:

At the stage of creation of the Working Group, it is envisaged to involve representatives of rural, village, city councils, executive bodies of village, village, city councils, state authorities, state and communal enterprises, institutions and organizations, other interested parties.

1 Instead, there is no condition for the involvement of experts working in the field of gender equality and human rights and public organizations representing various vulnerable groups of girls and boys, women and men. In particular, it is possible to involve a representative of the regional Coalition 1325.

It is noted that during the development of the TTC the regions are supported by taking into account of the state interests and the interests of neighboring regions, territorial communities, territories of territorial communities that are introduced to the part of the respective region. Instead, in view of the implementation of human-centered and social justice approaches, it is important to take into account the interests and needs of women and men of different age and social groups, which should be reflected in requests to the Central bodies of executive power and Local governments.

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The procedure for developing and approving the TTC involves a public discussion, but there is a risk that the format of the public discussion may be reduced to a collection of proposals (a one-sided, atomized survey). Therefore, it is worth providing for the format of " public community consultation", which concerns broader policy issues, is more public, and can be initiated by NGOs - if the authorities have not taken care of sufficient publicity.

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It is important to ensure barrier-free access to the venue and the possibility of participation of women and men belonging to vulnerable groups, and their needs and interests are reflected in the TTC based on the results of the discussion.

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The content of the TTC also does not contain gender-sensitive indicators:

- the general description of the region does not provide for the analysis of data, divided by gender, obtained from state statistical reporting and statistical observations, management reporting of local government units and regional centers, and the results of sociological studies;
- the request regarding the existence of a regional development strategy and the analysis of its relevance, degree of implementation does not include information about the availability of the Gender Profile of the region, as well as the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 "Women, peace, security" for the period until 2025;
- analysis of negative impacts (in particular, hostilities, acts of terrorism, sabotage, emergency situations) and assessment of their consequences (damages), not evaluated from the standpoint of negative impacts on the position of women, men and/or their groups;
- the analysis of the resources of the territory for the restoration of the life activity of the region is not carried out with an emphasis on social resources (socio-demographic composition of the population with an emphasis on disaggregated data by gender and other characteristics, activities of public organizations and initiative groups representing the interests of vulnerable groups of women and men, etc.);
- the substantiation of proposals to change the functional purpose of certain territories of the region (which have an impact on the interests of several territorial communities), as well as proposals to relocate industrial facilities, do not recommend taking into account personnel potential and human resources in terms of gender and age of residents.

Thus, the following gender-sensitive indicators should be an integral part of the program of comprehensive restoration of the region: data distributed by gender, a list of needs and interests of women, men and/or their groups; information on gender gaps and gender discrimination; assessment of negative impacts (in particular, hostilities, terrorist acts, sabotage, emergency situations) and their consequences (damages) on the situation of women, men and/or their groups; gender assessment of personnel potential and human resources. Also, the procedure for the development and adoption of the TTC should provide for the participation of experts working in the field of gender equality and human rights and representing various groups of girls and boys, women and men, as well as the participation of women and men who belong to vulnerable groups, with further consideration of their needs and interests.

Based on the results of the analysis, recommendations were made regarding the inclusion of the principles of gender equality and inclusion in the Regional TTC, as well as the implementation of gender-sensitive mechanisms and tools at the level of comprehensive recovery plans of the oblast.

Recommendations to Coalitions 1325 in the regions:

- 1 To evaluate packages of regional program documents for the implementation of the principles of gender equality and inclusion.
- 2 To monitor the process of work on the TTC of the regions that need to be restored, for the purpose of implementing the principles of gender equality and inclusion in them.
- 3 In the course of work, analysis and assessment, apply: management mechanisms based on disaggregated data, key criteria mechanism, program document synchronization mechanism.

Recommendations to the working groups of regional program documents and program documents of territorial communities:

- 1 TTC should be considered as one of the documents in the package of regional program documents (gender passports, development strategies until 2027, annual plans for socio-economic recovery and development, regional plans 1325, other programs public documents).

- 2 To develop the TTC in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals of Ukraine for the period until 2030, which will also contribute to the implementation of tasks within the framework of the implementation of the Association Agreement between Ukraine, on the one hand, and the European Union, the European Atomic Energy Community and their member states, on the other hand, as well as obligations regarding Euro-Atlantic integration, European Union Directives on non-discrimination and ensuring gender equality.

- 3 In the YYC, detail operational goals and/or tasks, projects to improve the situation of vulnerable groups in the full range of current types of difficult life circumstances, as well as operational goals and/or tasks, projects aimed at taking into account and developing the potential of groups of women and men, who usually are not considered "vulnerable".

4 In the TTC, base measures on data disaggregated by gender and other tangential factors, including age, place of residence, disability, etc.

5 Apply a management mechanism based on disaggregated data, a mechanism of key criteria, a mechanism for synchronizing program documents.

6 Strengthen cooperation with regional coalitions 1325.

Provide for the involvement of experts working in the field of gender equality and human rights and public organizations representing various vulnerable groups of girls and boys, women and men, in particular the representation of the regional Coalition 1325, to the Working Group for the development of the TTC.

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8 To ensure barrier-free access to the venue of the TTC discussion and the possibility of participation of women and men who belong to vulnerable groups, and their needs and interests should be reflected in the TTC based on the results of the discussion.

References:

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