



**Peace
Corps**
UKRAINE

2023



ANNUAL REPORT



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www.peacecorps.gov/ukraine



SPA-SUPPORTED TRAINING ACTIVITIES



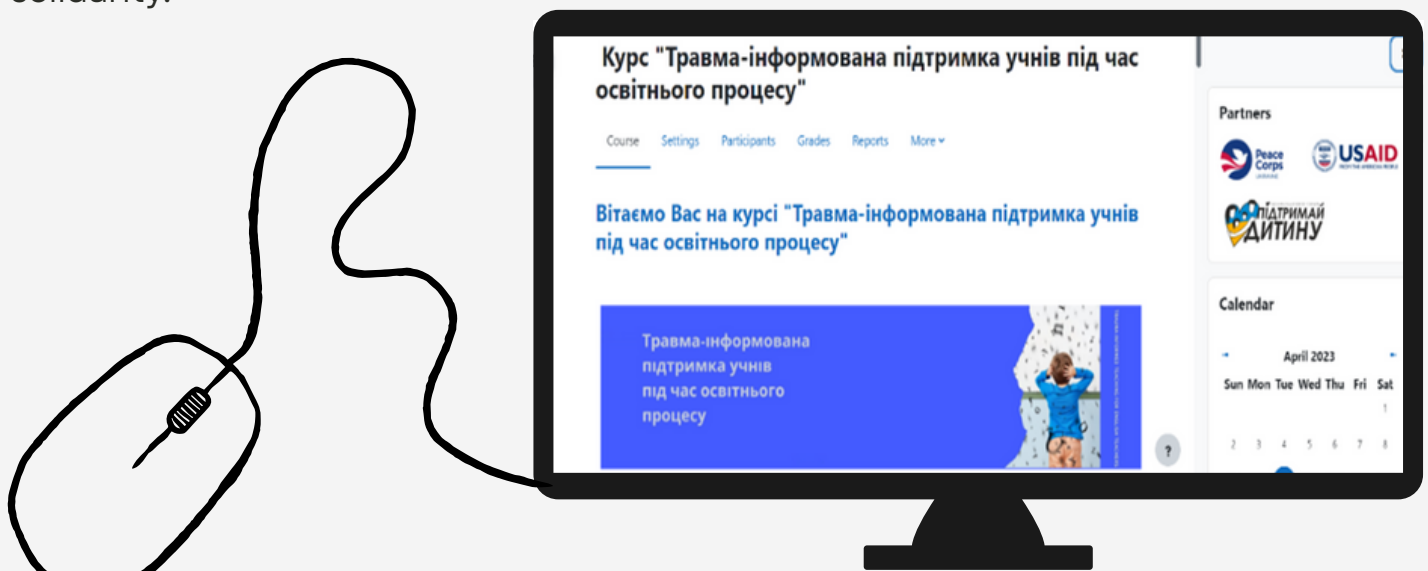
In FY 23, Peace Corps Ukraine's Small Projects Assistance (SPA) Program remained active **to meet the urgent needs of the Ukrainian people.**

The program continued to invest in our partners' development, continuing efforts to build capacity in the areas of Community and Organizational Development, Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) and Youth Development.

We ran the program under challenging conditions of the ongoing war and without PCVs in the country. Due to the resilience of both our Ukrainian counterparts and Peace Corps Ukraine staff, as well as tremendous support from Peace Corps and USAID, the SPA Program continued to address the country's current pressing needs with the help of SPA technical assistance staff-led activities.

In the absence of Volunteers, we utilized available resources and opportunities like technology, Virtual Service Pilot Participants' donated time and experience, the expertise of professional Ukrainian trainers located all-over the world, staff networks and the motivation of our supportive former Volunteers to make our trainings productive and interactive - all to promote peace, friendship and Ukraine's development.

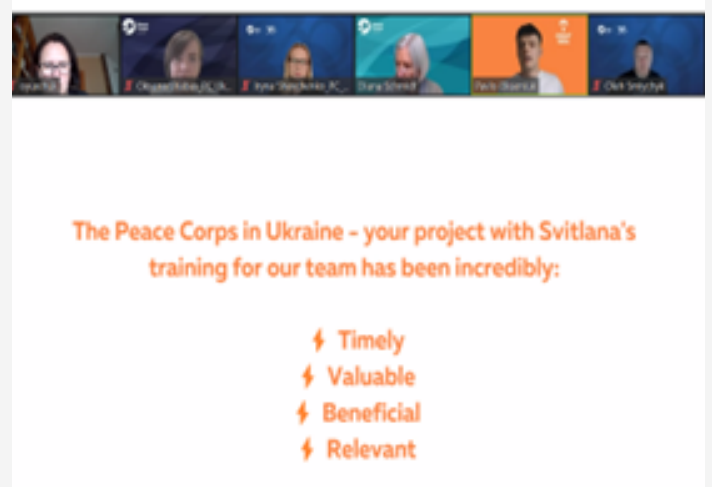
Repeatedly, Peace Corps Ukraine staff have heard from partners across Ukraine that our continued presence and operation in Ukraine is a source of hope and a powerful sign of solidarity.



Educational establishments and youth centers remain instrumental in addressing the needs of children in smaller cities and regional towns and villages during the war.

During FY23, Peace Corps Ukraine **continued supporting and addressing the burning needs**, expressed by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine.

SPA supported **three technical assistance staff-led activities** focused on technical capacity building for Teaching English as Foreign Language and Youth Development sectors' objectives for more than **130 educators, youth workers and stakeholders, as well as promoted and strengthened the civic participation of women with the focus on 14 activities.**

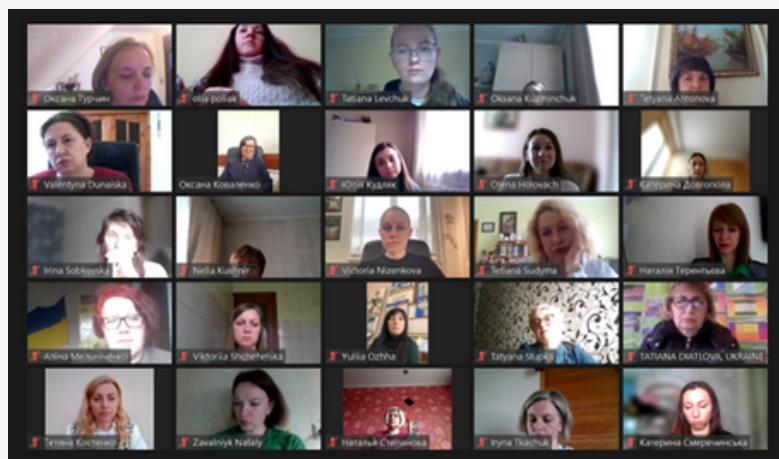
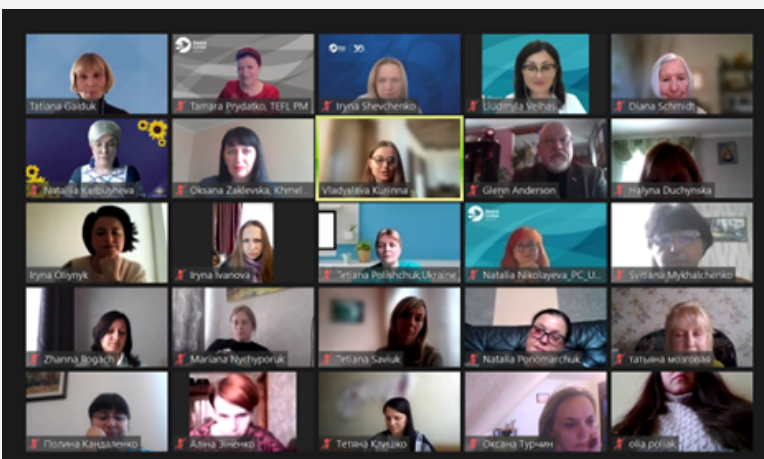


These activities included providing psychological support to teachers, parents, and students to mitigate trauma caused by war, managing non-violent communication strategies, emotional reactions, peacefully resolving conflicts, communicating with empathy, and de-escalating tensions during complications and challenges of the war, strengthening the capacity of the non-governmental organizations to encourage youth activism and volunteerism.



“TRAUMA INFORMED TEACHING FOR ENGLISH TEACHERS IN WAR TIME”

In April, 90 Ukrainian educators successfully participated in a virtual course called “Trauma Informed Teaching for English Teachers in War Time,” facilitated by Peace Corps Ukraine and a team of psychology experts. This training was developed in collaboration with the NGO “Save a Child” at the request of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, and it was supported by USAID.



The course equipped teachers with knowledge about stress, trauma responses, and ways to create safe educational environments during times of war. Through the course, participants gained confidence, valuable skills, and a passion to create comforting spaces for their students. They are now prepared to share their knowledge with fellow educators, helping children become more resilient in the face of adversity.

DARIEN BOOK AID

Darien Book Aid has been supporting Peace Corps Ukraine sites for years. This great support continues now during our most difficult times. In 2023 Darien Book Aid supported **11 Ukrainian schools** by sending to them much needed English language resources. **More than 2,100 students and 90 teachers** will benefit from reading these books, not only increasing their English language skills but also broadening the horizons of their knowledge.



Teachers and students from Peace Corps partner schools were joyfully surprised and felt grateful for amazing presents from the USA – fiction books from USA @Friends of Darien Book Aid Plan thanks to Peace Corps support. Stories, fairytales, comics, atlases, encyclopedia, fantasy series and more. These books are true treasures for students, which will help them to improve their English reading!

NON-VIOLENT COMMUNICATION FOR YOUTH WORKERS AND TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

On July 2-8, 2023 Peace Corps Ukraine Youth Development and TEFL PMs offered an in-person training in Lviv for 32 participants (16 Youth workers and 16 teachers of English) in **Non-Violent Communication (NVC)**. The training enforced service providers' capacity to support youth in wartime. The training equipped participants with the tools needed to foster positive relationships with students, teach young people to resolve conflicts peacefully, and create a safe and inclusive learning environment.



As a result of the training,

32

teachers and youth workers increased knowledge and skills in using compassionate NVC techniques

32

teachers and youth workers improved ability to build positive relationships, resolve conflicts, and create a safe and inclusive learning environment

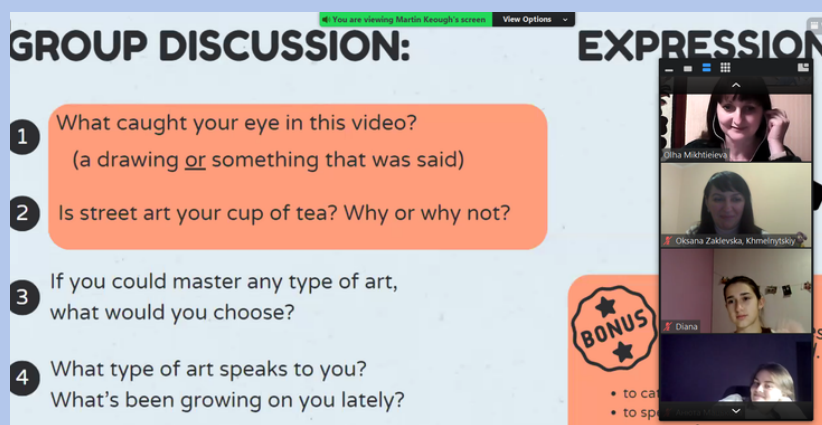
29

training workshops were replicated by teachers and youth workers in their communities (1-2 hrs intro into NVC methodology, using the game)

The training activity supported two PC Ukraine Projects:
Youth Development (YD) and
Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL).



More than **150 Ukrainian teachers** and **about 500 students** from different oblasts of Ukraine improved their communication skills and socio-cultural awareness participating in the weekly professional development and English conversational clubs during challenging wartime in Ukraine. The Virtual Service Pilot Program offers school and university teachers and students such a unique opportunity.



32 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers joined the Virtual Service Pilot Program through Peace Corps Ukraine “Teaching English as a Foreign Language Program.”

VSP program participants are finding creative ways to bring a positive change into Ukrainian teachers and students’ lives. The results include improved communication skills thanks to close cooperation with native speakers, practical application of IT technologies in the virtual classroom, experience exchange and psychological support of the program participants. Teachers and students appreciate their inspiring work together, they love to learn about American life and culture from their American teachers and share Ukraine with them.

24 VSPPs donated their time to support 21 Youth Development projects in Ukraine. VSPPs engaged with local schools, Youth Centers, Youth NGOs, libraries and the Ukrainian State Center of Out-of-School Education.

Through this initiative:

233 of youth have strengthened their life skills, resilience, communication skills, goal setting and intercultural awareness.

327 of youth have increased their knowledge of civic education, community engagement skills, leadership, volunteerism, including project design and management.

36 of youth have enhanced their employability skills.

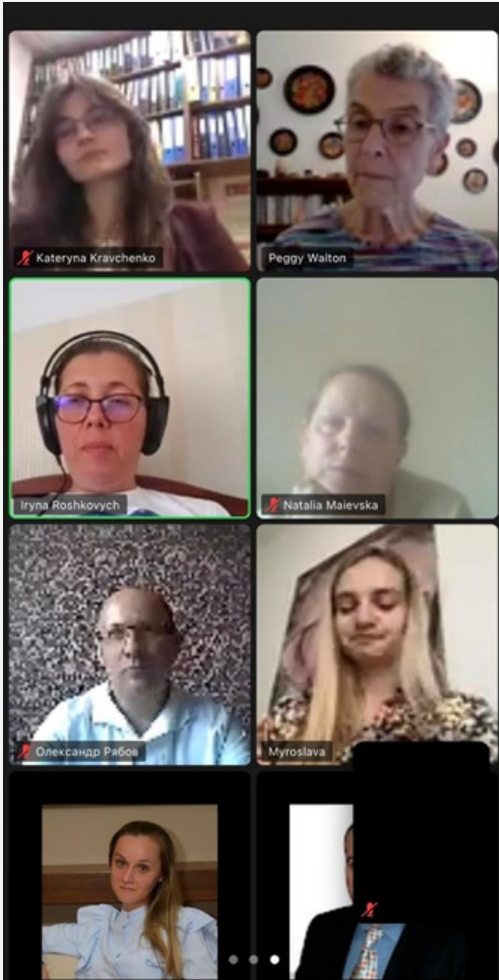
586 of your improved their conversational English skills.

105 service providers have increased their skills to effectively implement positive youth development program activities.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP STRATEGIES FOR PSYCHOLOGISTS

Virtual Service Pilot Participant Peggy Walton in conjunction with a Ukrainian psychologist Kateryna Kravchenko successfully facilitated an online course on Bereavement Support Group Strategies for 15 Ukrainian psychologists in June-July 2024.

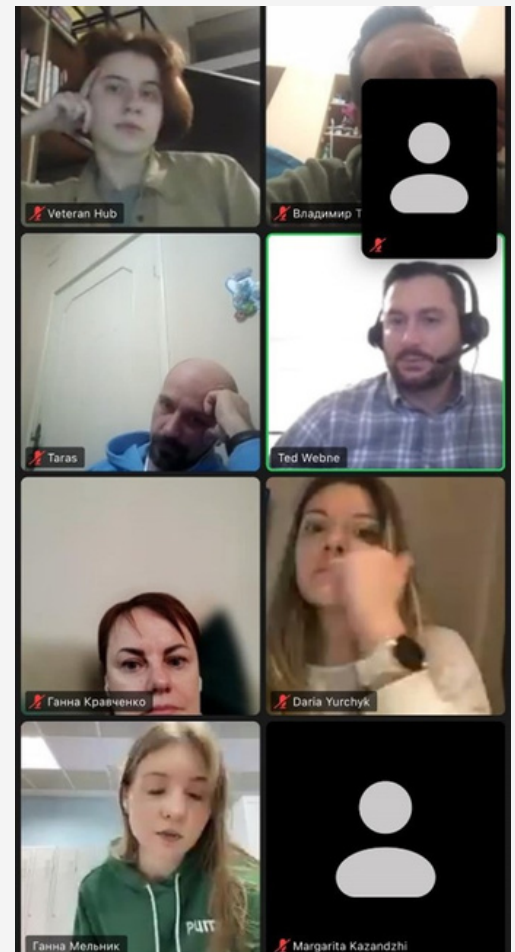
The course aimed to support psychologists as they meet the health care needs of Ukrainians who require psychological assistance, including crisis intervention and support, increased awareness about mental health issues, providing medical support and reducing stigma to ask for psychological help in circumstances of war.



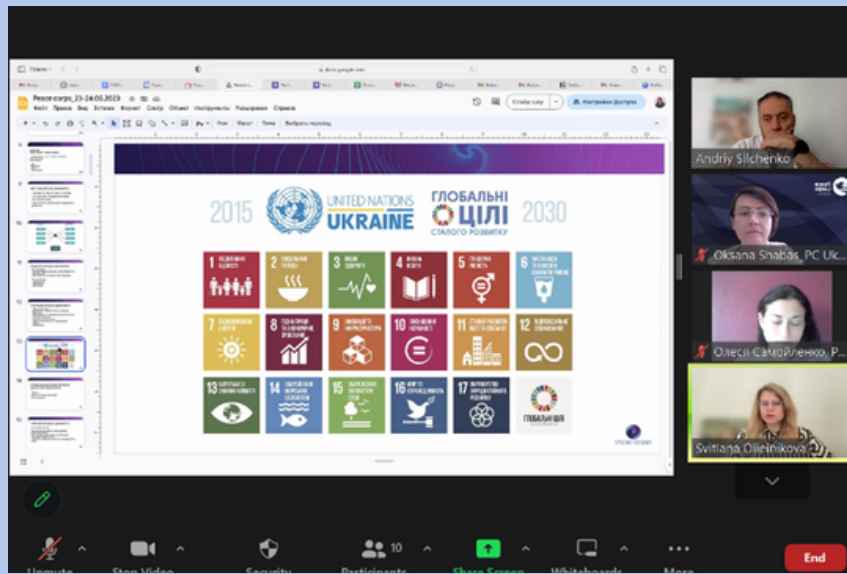
ENGLISH CLUB FOR WAR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

VSPP Ted Webne facilitated weekly sessions for approximately 15 Ukrainians affiliated with the NGO Veteran Hub. What began as a three-month virtual engagement in November of 2022 has turned into a 1.5 year long virtual service (and is still going).

Not only does the English Club provide an opportunity for Ukrainian veterans and their family members to improve their conversational English, but also creates a much-needed distraction from the harsh reality of war.



GRANT-WRITING TRAINING FOR YOUTH NGOS



On May 23-24, 2023, 3 youth NGOs, who participated in the Virtual Service Pilot Program received a 2-day training on effective grant writing and donor relationships. Youth NGOs leaders received knowledge, skills, and confidence to help them secure grants and make a significant impact in their respective fields. 2 NGOs have been offered 15 hours of consultations with the trainer to master their grant proposals and reconvened in September 2023 to share their insights and projects.

After individual consultations, guided by the trainers, the following results were achieved:



2 NGOs successfully registered at SAM.gov and received an active NCAGE Code at the online portal for international entities (a code needed for organizations wishing to secure funding from foreign governments).



NGO Great Idea submitted a grant application for the creation of a 2nd Youth Center for youth aged 25-35 and secured funding in the amount of 1,000,000 UAH from the Western NIS Enterprise Fund.

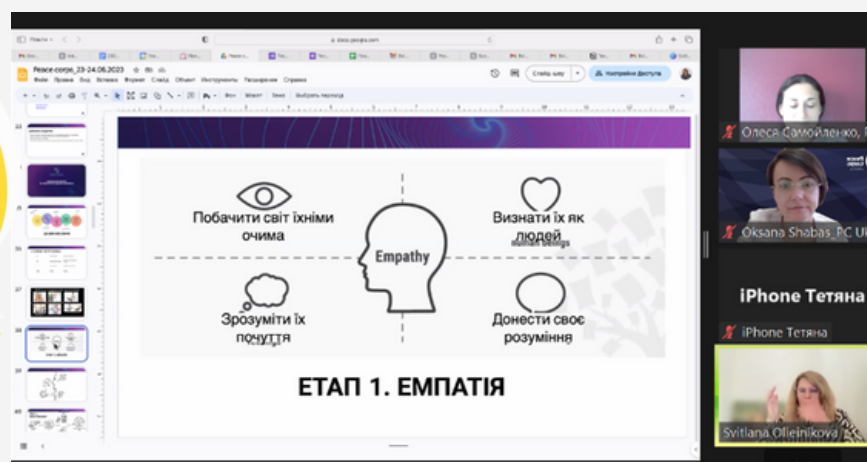


In total, 5 grant application forms were written.

Organizations reported that in addition to the technical skills of formulating grant proposals, budgets, and M&E, they gained skills in crisis management and gained additional confidence to step outside of their comfort zones.

One organization stated:

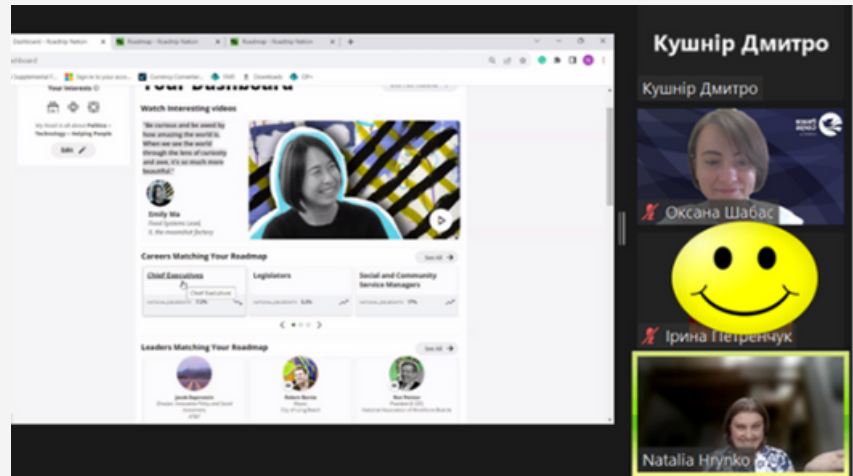
*We changed the way we think.
Now we aim high and go for it.*



YOUTH CAREER DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

During Sept. 18-20, 2023, 52 students (grades 9-11) from three schools participated in a 3-day virtual 2-hour long workshops on Career Development led by VSPPs.

During sessions, students learned about educational opportunities in the US, how to write motivation statements and a resume and discussed the importance of soft skills, such as leadership skills for their careers.



Students took the Holland test to identify which careers may fit their talents. Youth also learned about careers that may be eliminated due to the development of Artificial intelligence, discussed post-war development of Ukraine, and what careers may be in demand (activity supported by American Councils for International Education/Education USA).

VIRTUAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP & CIVICS PROGRAM EXCHANGE

In 2023 there have been 3 online virtual exchange meetings conducted between youth workers from Ohio and Florida and Ukrainian colleagues from the Ukrainian State Center for Out of School Education.

Participants learned about leadership and student governance programs in the US and agreed to co-plan the virtual exchange between youth leaders in Ukraine and Toledo, Ohio in 2024.

On December 21, 2023, 30 youth workers and 5 Peace Corps staff member participated in the training “Lesson on Volunteerism” facilitated by the Ukrainian Volunteer Service (UVS). Participants learned about the Project “Lesson on Volunteerism” as an instrument to train youth in developing empathy and a sense of responsibility to make changes in the community. Participants learned about examples of successful implementation of the project, its components, and different ways to facilitate the training in the local communities.

TRAINING “LESSON ON VOLUNTEERISM”



“EMPOWERED: EQUIPPING EXTRA-CURRICULAR EDUCATORS FOR YOUTH SUCCESS”

1 In spring 2023, PC Ukraine conducted a **needs assessment** to learn about the needs of youth workers and extracurricular educators. It was identified that 600+ youth workers of extracurricular educational establishments have a strong need for new approaches to conducting extracurricular activities during wartime, focused on community service, Project Design and Management and youth participation. Youth workers also sought new approaches to lead extracurricular activities in the hybrid environment.



2 In October-December 2023, Youth Development project team created and conducted a course: “EmpowerED: Equipping Extra-Curricular Educators for Youth Success.” The course was offered virtually to 61 youth workers and extracurricular educators representing all oblasts of Ukraine. It consisted of 7 online 2.5 hrs. long sessions. Participants gained knowledge and skills in designing the community service projects focused on youth engagement. Special emphasis was placed on employing an empathy-guided approach in project design, particularly during wartime. As a result of the training, 9 project prototypes have been created, each encompassing elements such as needs assessment, idea description, goal, SMART objectives, action plan, MRE plan, list of resources, and risks. Each group created project posters for social media and practiced pitching project ideas.

Trainings were requested by the Ministry of Education and Science (Department of extracurricular education) and supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

I believe that when I retire in the faraway future, this particular training program will be a lasting memory. It truly touched my heart!

It has been an intensive experience and absolutely worthwhile!

It was a creative, high-quality, and interactive training program.

It's been a great investment in my personal and professional development.

CIVIL SOCIETY AND UKRAINIAN RESILIENCE SERIES




CIVIL SOCIETY & UKRAINIAN RESILIENCE
FRIDAY, SEPT. 22, 2023
10-11AM EST
 IN PERSON IN D.C. & KYIV & ZOOM WEBINAR
[RSVP HERE FOR MEETING DETAILS](#)




**A DISCUSSION WITH
 AMBASSADOR JOHN E. HERBST**

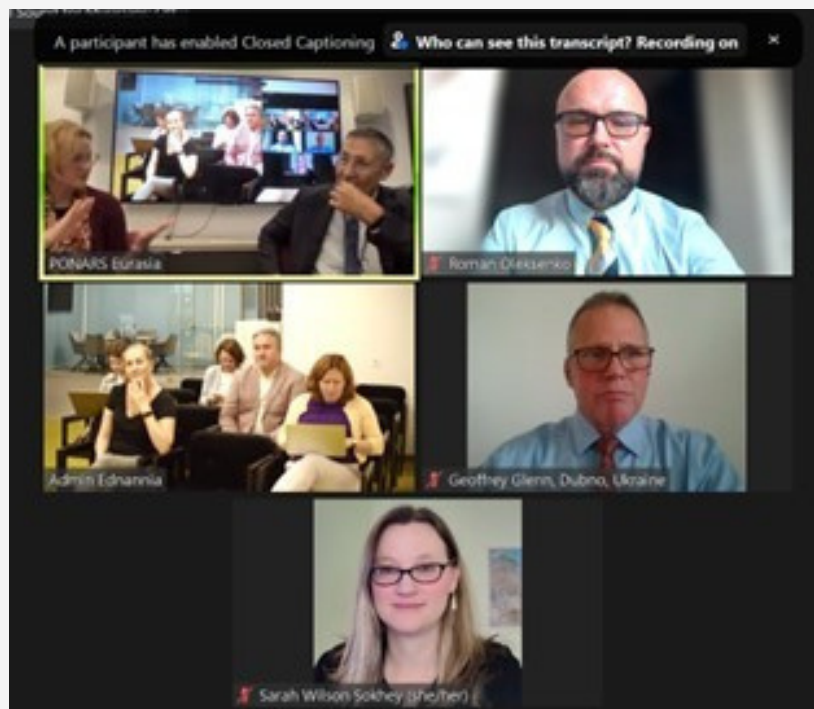
Launch event for weekly speaker series sponsored by

PONARS Eurasia	ISAR Ednannia
The George Washington University	Civil Society Organization
Washington, D.C.	Kyiv, Ukraine

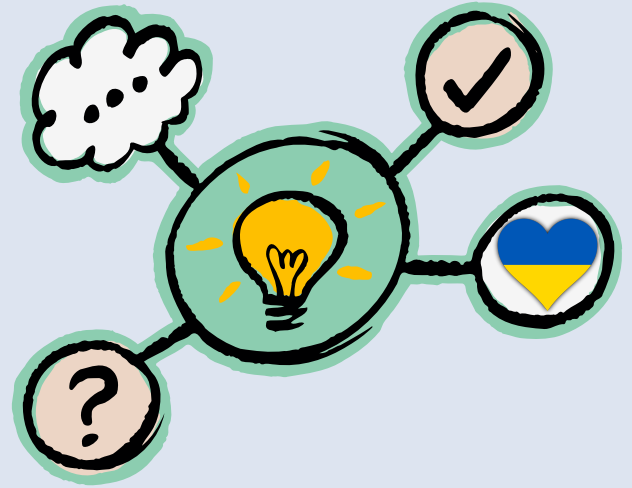
The Community Development PM, in conjunction with VSPP Geoffrey Glenn, supporting ISAR Ednannia NGO's fundraising capacity, and Sarah Sokhey Wilson of University of Colorado Boulder conducted a seven-part, hybrid panel series to explore the emergence and development of Ukrainian civil society organizations (CSOs) and their role in the recovery and reconstruction of Ukraine. The series took place every Friday between September 22 and November 3, 2023. The events were hosted by the PONARS organization in Washington, D.C. Ukrainian CSOs have been instrumental in addressing the needs of smaller cities and regional towns and villages. In many cases, the community organizations have even assumed a quasi-governmental role to implement projects or deliver services typically meant to be provided by regional governments.

This topic is especially vital now. Amidst many discussions about Ukraine, much less attention has been paid to the essential role of Ukrainian CSOs in responding to community needs and adapting to wartime conditions. Even less is being discussed about the evolution of small-scale, international non-profits and individual fundraising campaigns specifically created to funnel supplies and financial resources to Ukrainian CSOs.

The series addressed this urgently important but overlooked issue: how civil society and aid can and will be best used to rebuild and promote resilience and rebuilding during and after Russia's war against Ukraine. Each of the 7 events featured several individuals working with and in Ukrainian CSOs, or who are knowledgeable about this work. The first session featured former Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst. All series have been uploaded to YouTube. The next step the group is working on is to produce a textbook based on the series. The second season of the CSO series is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2024.



The Community Development PM conducted training sessions on effective intercultural communication and resource development for groups of Ukrainian Chaplains who requested this training in order to be more effective in soliciting international support.



Other staff-led activities organized and co-facilitated by the Community Development PM include first aid training sessions for middle- and high-school students, online presentations and Q&A sessions on Ukraine for American university professors and students, to name a few.

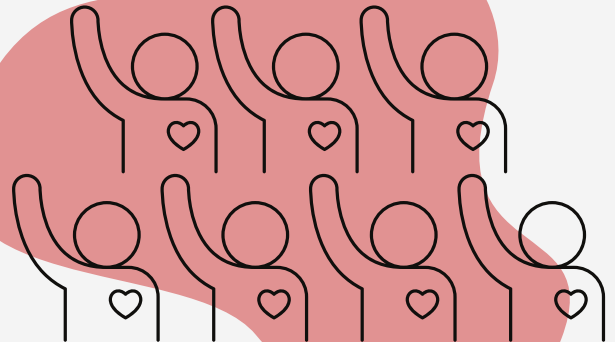


UKRAINE

PEPFAR (PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY PLAN FOR AID RELIEF)

606

children and their families were supported via case-management phone calls, to keep the children adherent to ART-therapy and linked to treatment.



40

weekly supervision groups were conducted for social workers and psychologists on case management, stress relief techniques, providing socio-emotional support to people and families affected by HIV.



51

participants from 18 HIV-service NGOs trained on child protection policy and youth friendly services "Child Save-Guarding Policy," together with PACT Ukraine, "Community Action for HIV Control."



16

middle and top managers from 8 HIV-service NGOs received organizational development consultations and supervisory meetings.



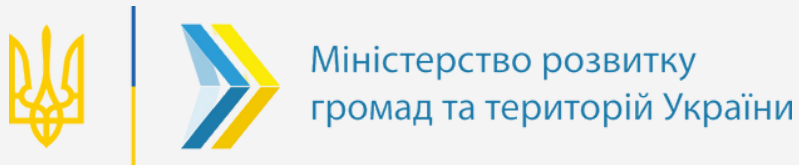
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VALUED PARTNERS



**Ministry of Education and
Science of Ukraine**



**Ministry of Youth and
Sports of Ukraine**



**Ministry for Communities
and Territories
Development of Ukraine**



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Special Olympics
Ukraine



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OPEN YOUR CAMERA AND SCAN A CODE BELOW TO
FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS!



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