

## Prepared for any emergency

Modern technology and training are improving Ukrainian emergency management services in the long term – and saving lives in times of war



### The challenge: disaster management stretched to its limits

Since Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine began, the country's civil infrastructure has been repeatedly attacked. The State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) has to manage complex damage scenarios and protect the population. The risks to emergency responders have also increased.

SESU must be prepared for various disaster scenarios, including damage to dams at hydroelectric plants, chemical and nuclear accidents or power outages. Improved methods and greater specialisation are needed. Training in psychosocial care is also crucial for staff working with trauma victims.

Municipal emergency services are rudimentary. Pre-war approaches are on hold, leading to longer response times and overworked teams. Responsibilities are unclear, and there are no standardised procedures for the state and municipalities.

There are also too few female responders at SESU. As more men are recruited for military service, Ukraine's disaster management services will depend on female staff.

<b>Project title:</b>	Strengthening State and Municipal Emergency Services in Ukraine (SEMUK)
<b>Commissioned by:</b>	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Implemented by:</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
<b>Lead executing agency:</b>	State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU), selected municipalities
<b>Project area:</b>	Ukraine
<b>Overall term:</b>	2023–2026
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However, working conditions, such as protective clothing and sanitary facilities, often do not meet women's needs.

All in all, the challenges facing Ukraine's emergency management system are enormous. National and municipal institutions are overstretched and unable to provide the population with essential services.

### Our solution: develop skills, strengthen emergency management services

The project Strengthening State and Municipal Emergency Services in Ukraine (SEMUK) helps disaster management institutions at national and municipal level to respond more effectively to emergencies, rebuild destroyed infrastructure and expand their structures in the long term. The project is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

One focus of our work is to improve the technical and specialist skills of the responders. Through training, workshops and delegation missions we give them the skills they need to work with modern equipment. This increases the efficiency and safety of their missions.

In addition, we advise disaster management institutions on expanding the scope of their operations. This also includes increasing efficiency in the event of emergencies, such as dam breaks, chemical and nuclear accidents, power outages and the release of toxic substances.



Intensive training courses enable responders to react quickly and safely in emergencies.

To strengthen municipal emergency management services, we are working closely with three pilot municipalities in the administrative districts Zhytomyr, Poltava and Chernihiv, where new municipal units are being established. We support them by providing buildings, vehicles, equipment and training. The objective is to cut response times and to improve coordination with SESU.

A key aspect of our work is to improve the working conditions for female responders and to integrate them more closely into operational tasks. We promote structural changes by creating new work areas in the fields of robotics and initial psychosocial care, establishing new training courses and study programmes, organising motivational campaigns and providing gender-specific protective clothing.

We are pioneering in the development of new approaches to coping with the repercussions of war. The experience our Ukrainian partners have been gathering in the last two years is invaluable for disaster management structures in Germany and the EU.



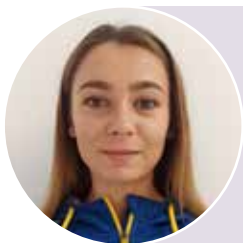
*Strong women: Disaster management relies on female responders. Working conditions for women need to improve.*



*Modern technology: the new equipment not only improves the protection of the population but also makes jobs safer for the responders.*

## Our results: stronger civil protection for a resilient society

- New approaches, methods and equipment are strengthening emergency management services in Ukraine. This in turn increases the effectiveness of emergency response missions, even under difficult war conditions.
- Urgently needed equipment such as turntable ladders, hydraulic rescue platforms and mobile systems for unmanned rescue missions as well as intensive training courses enable emergency responders to react quickly, efficiently and safely. These measures not only improve civil protection but also reduce the risks to helpers in war zones.
- New concepts for work areas specifically for women and specially designed protective clothing – which we have developed together with the partner – improve working conditions for women and strengthen their operational roles. This is especially important in times of war.
- Overall, improved civil protection provides greater security for the civilian population and boosts welfare – an important step in making Ukrainian society more resilient and ready to face the challenges ahead.



### *‘Saving more lives’*

**Inna Alfimova**, female firefighter at the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU)

*‘The training course motivated me to use the new equipment in my work. With robotics we can work more quickly and efficiently and save more lives. I’m going to share my knowledge and show my colleagues how to apply it.’*

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

**Registered offices:** Bonn and Eschborn, Germany

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**Last updated:** Kyiv, November 2024

**Design:** Volodymyr Denysyuk

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**Text:** Jörn Leonhardt – Text und PR

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