



# ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

2025





**Open Space Works Ukraine (OSWU)** is a women-led social enterprise – ethically driven and purpose-oriented – that combines research and participatory facilitation.

We operate with a clear social mission to advance inclusive and community-driven approaches in humanitarian and development practice and derive resources into scaling to strengthen local leadership and knowledge generation in Eastern Europe.



## OUR WORK DOMAINS



**Humanitarian response  
localization**



**Peacebuilding / Civil Society /  
Conflict Transformation**



**Disability Inclusion /  
Civil Society / Protection**



**Gender Equality /  
Civil Society**



**Veteran Integration/  
Support Ecosystem**



**Humanitarian Development  
Peace Nexus**

# IN 2025 WE IMPLEMENTED:

## 8 THEMATIC RESEARCHES

**In Service of Those Who Serve: Understanding the Capacities of Veteran Support Actors in Ukraine**  
 commissioned by Pro Peace



**State of the Humanitarian System (SOHS), country report on Ukraine and Poland** (final product to be published in Autumn 2026)  
 commissioned by ALNAP, in partnership with Migration Consortium,



**Mapping Gender Analytical Centers in Ukraine**  
 commissioned by Ukrainian Women’s Fund



**Empowering Youth in Humanitarian Action in Ukraine research**  
 commissioned by Humanitarian Leadership Academy



**The Role of Ukrainian Women-led Organisations in Humanitarian Action in Ukraine and Poland in 2022-2024**  
 commissioned by Humanitarian Leadership Academy



**No more excuses: Prioritising local leadership in cash assistance in Ukraine**  
 commissioned by STAAR facility implemented by DAI Global UK Ltd and funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office



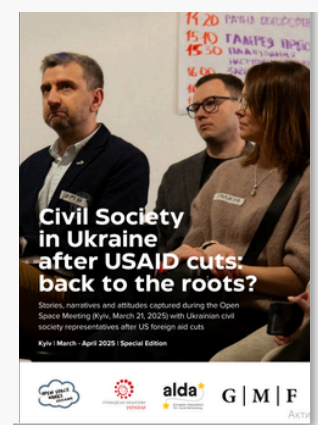
**Resilience Analysis for “Dignity in Independence: Supported Living and Economic Empowerment for Displaced Older People especially women in Eastern Ukraine” Project**  
 commissioned by Help Age International



**The impact of the suspension of USAID funding on Ukrainian CSOs**  
 implemented together with the CSO network “Civic Initiatives of Ukraine”



**Mapping of the Civil Society Organizations Ecosystem in Ukraine**  
 commissioned by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Group.



## 3 EVALUATIONS

### Evaluation of International Resilience Foundation Resilience Lab programme

commissioned by International Resilience Foundation



### Mid-Term Evaluation of the project on Lifesaving WASH, MHPSS and Winterization assistance to vulnerable households and war/flood-affected communities in southern Oblasts and institutional strengthening of Ukrainian humanitarian first responders

commissioned by AWO



### External Evaluation of Empower Ukraine Programme

commissioned by European Disability Forum (EDF)



## CAPACITY AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

December 2025 **Thinkshop on Digital Transformation in Higher Education**  
Ukrainian Catholic University



May 2025 **Localization strategy development workshop**  
Save the Children International in Ukraine



March 2025 **Research Workshop "Amplifying Community Voices: Reflection and Lessons from Research on the Perception of Humanitarian Assistance in Ukraine"** Ground Truth Solutions



January 2025 **MEAL ToT for humanitarian practitioners**  
in partnership with Humanitarian Leadership Academy



## STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE & ADVOCACY ACTION

**The human cost of the U.S. aid cuts** policy brief together with Ground Truth Solutions

**Humanitarian Observatory for Central and Eastern Europe newsletters contributions** - evidence-based updates, analysis, and research on humanitarian issues, focusing on localization, governance, and regional crises such as those in Central/Eastern Europe

**DevDrinks** - monthly, informal networking events for professionals in the humanitarian, development, and, in some contexts, technology sectors

**Behind the Aid Podcasts** (2 seasons, 13 series)- explores the resilience of Ukrainian civil society and the realities of humanitarian work, highlighting the shift from rapid response to systemic change.



## AT THE END OF 2025 WE CONTINUE WORKING ON 3 PROJECTS:

### Thematic Researches

- Conflict and Context Analysis for Ukraine and Moldova | commissioned by GiZ Civil Peace Service

### Evaluations

- Call to Action Field Implementation 2023-2025 | commissioned by CAFI
- Impact Evaluation of the Activities of the Government Commissioner for Gender Policy and the Office of the Government Commissioner on Advancing Gender Equality in Ukraine (2018-2025) | commissioned by Ukrainian Women's Fund



## IN 2025 WE PRESENTED OUR WORK IN VARIOUS

## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS AND HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <p>February<br/>📍 London</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SHIFT Research Launch Event   Local Organisations and Alternative Humanitarians</b><br/>Organized by Humanitarian Leadership Academy<br/>Presented topic: Women and youth in humanitarian action</li> </ul>  |
| <p>March<br/>📍 online</p>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ukraine, 3 years after invasion: how those who react work together</b><br/>Organized by KUNO - a network of humanitarian professionals in the Netherlands<br/>Presented topic: Localization in humanitarian action</li> </ul>  |
| <p>March<br/>📍 Geneva</p>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Localising Social Protection in Crisis Response: The Case for Empowering Local Actors</b><br/>Organized by STAAR during Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW)<br/>Presented topics: prioritizing local leadership in cash assistance in Ukraine</li> </ul> |
| <p>March<br/>📍 Geneva</p>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>The impact of narratives on humanitarian action, principles and partnerships</u></b><br/>Organized by ODI HPG during HNPW</li> </ul>  |
| <p>June<br/>📍 Brussels</p>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brussels Forum 2025</b><br/>Organized by German Marshall Fund<br/>Presented topics: Ukrainian CSOs after USAID funding cuts</li> </ul>   |
| <p>June<br/>📍 online</p>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CAFI network organizations meeting</b><br/>Presented topic: Women-led organizations in humanitarian action</li> </ul>  |
| <p>July<br/>📍 online</p>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Youth engagement into humanitarian action in Ukraine</b><br/>Organized by Education Cluster</li> </ul>   |
| <p>September<br/>📍 Warsaw</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Meeting of the Humanitarian Observatory for Central and Eastern Europe in Warsaw (HOCEE)</b><br/>Presented topic: future of humanitarian justice in Central and Eastern Europe</li> </ul>  |
| <p>October<br/>📍 online</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group meetings (Ukraine)</b><br/>Presented topic: Mapping of Gender Analytical Centers in Ukraine</li> </ul>   |
| <p>October<br/>📍 online</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Humanitarian Research Hub</b><br/>Organized by Alliance UA SCO<br/>Presented topic: Accountability in humanitarian research</li> </ul>   |

# WHO IS INVOLVED

9

members  
of Core Team

5+

Additional experts  
and partners

25+

Clients and  
partners

## CORE TEAM:

- ▶ **Maryana Zaviyska**  
CEO/BD, Methodology & Quality Control Senior Expert | 15+ years experience
- ▶ **Sasha Tselishcheva**  
Evaluation Lead | 15+ years experience
- ▶ **Nataliia Harasivka**  
Research Lead | 5+ years experience
- ▶ **Taras Tymchuk**  
CFO/CMO | 20+ years experience
- ▶ **Oleksandr Latushkin**  
Event Manager | 15+ years experience
- ▶ **Svitlana Zuieva**  
Community Engagement Specialist, Interviewer | 10+ years experience
- ▶ **Oleh Ovcharenko**  
Data Collection Expert, Facilitator | 20+ years experience
- ▶ **Oleksandr Latushkin**  
Event Manager | 15+ years experience
- ▶ **Yuliia Pushchenko,**  
Communications Manager | SMM | 10+ years experience

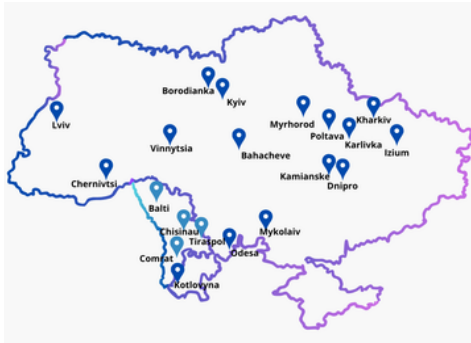
## EXTERNAL EXPERTS:

- ▶ **Daria Mandziuc**  
Development, Peacebuilding & Humanitarian Aid Expert | 20+ years experience
- ▶ **Anna Lukinova**  
Evaluation & Research Specialist | 15+ years experience
- ▶ **Tetiana Danyliv**  
Organizational Development and Evaluation Expert | 15+ years experience
- ▶ **Natalia Chermoshentseva**  
GEDSI expert | 15+ years of experience
- ▶ **Olha Kuno**  
PhD in Economics, Evaluation & Research Expert | 10+ years experience
- ▶ **Olha Zhukova**  
Gender Policy expert, CSO Organizational Development Expert | 30+ years experience

# CLIENTS & PARTNERS



# IN 2025 OUR TEAM CONDUCTED 31 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS (FGDS) AND 273 KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS (KIIS)



### FGDs Locations and Target Groups:

- veterans and their family members
- internally displaced persons (IDPs)
- families of fallen soldiers
- representatives of national and ethnic minorities
- teachers
- youth and teenagers
- communities in liberated/frontline proximate areas
- older people
- people with disabilities
- refugees from Ukraine
- civil society leaders
- female leaders in communities, civil society and private sector



## OSWU ORGANIZED 13 PUBLIC EVENTS

2025

- 14.02** DevDrinks
- 13.03** Presentation of the research results on the narratives and humanitarian response in Ukraine
- 21.03** Open space and discussion: Impact of USAID funding freeze
- 17.04** DevDrinks
- 06.05** Online presentation on the study on the role of Ukrainian CSOs in Humanitarian Cash Assistance
- 22.05** Public presentation of the study results and pannel discussion on the role of young people (Ukraine) and women (Ukraine, Poland) in humanitarian action
- 08.06** DevDrinks
- 25.09** DevDrinks
- 27.11** Validation workshop and preliminary findings presentation on the study on capacities of veteran support actors in Ukraine + DevDrinks
- 24.09** Online presentation of Mapping of Gender Analytical Centers in Ukraine
- 23.10** DevDrinks
- 18.12** DevDrinks

# CITATIONS & MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

Our research products in external publications

actionaid

**From the Ground Up: Ukraine's Civil Society in Recovery – A Political Economy Analysis**  
Cited: *Mapping of the Civil Society Organizations Ecosystem in Ukraine*



**Why Local Matters: Making Social Protection Work Better in Crises**  
Cited: *Local Leadership in Humanitarian Cash Assistance*

German-Ukrainian Bureau

**From Support to Survival: Ukraine's Civil Society After the USAID Withdrawal**  
Cited: *The Impact of the Suspension of USAID Funding on Ukrainian CSOs*



**One year on: The implications of US foreign aid cuts on humanitarian, development and government-led programmes**  
Cited: *Civil Society in Ukraine after USAID cuts: back to the roots?*

VISEGRAD INSIGHT

**USAID Freeze Puts Key Ukrainian Reforms and Humanitarian Efforts at Risk**  
Cited: *The Impact of the Suspension of USAID Funding on Ukrainian CSOs*



**Lives at the Intersections: How identity shapes risk of harm and access to aid in EWIPA contexts**  
Cited: *The Role of Ukrainian WLOs in Humanitarian Action in Ukraine and Poland*

IZA Journal of Migration

**Negotiating Temporariness Through Action, Re-action and Non-action: Ukrainian Women Under TPD in Germany**  
Cited: *The Role of Ukrainian WLOs in Humanitarian Action in Ukraine and Poland*

ZMIŃA

**Most civil society organizations are seeking alternative sources of funding**  
Cited: *The Impact of the Suspension of USAID Funding on Ukrainian CSOs*



**Study on the Impact of the Suspension of USAID Funding on Ukrainian Civil Society Organizations**  
Cited: *The Impact of the Suspension of USAID Funding on Ukrainian CSOs*

MEKA

**Support for Veterans in Ukraine: New Specialists to Support Defenders**



**School is the greatest platform for discussing volunteering; how to prevent youth participation from becoming a formality**



## OUR CONTACTS

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