

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



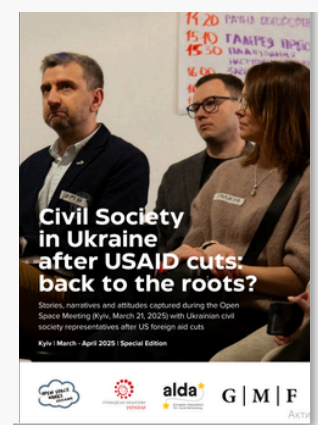
Resilience Analysis for “Dignity in Independence: Supported Living and Economic Empowerment for Displaced Older People especially women in Eastern Ukraine” Project
 commissioned by Help Age International



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:

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

WHO IS INVOLVED

<p>9</p> <p>members of Core Team</p>	<p>5+</p> <p>Additional experts and partners</p>	<p>25+</p> <p>Clients and partners</p>
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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
- **Yuliia Pushchenko,**
Communications Manager | SMM | 10+ years experience

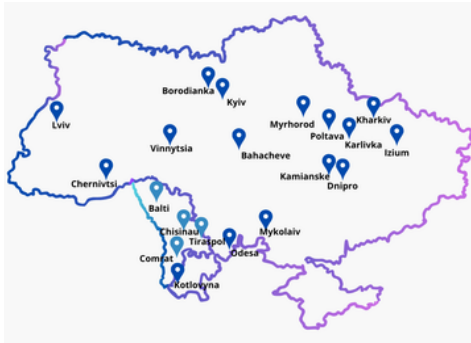
EXTERNAL EXPERTS:

- **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)

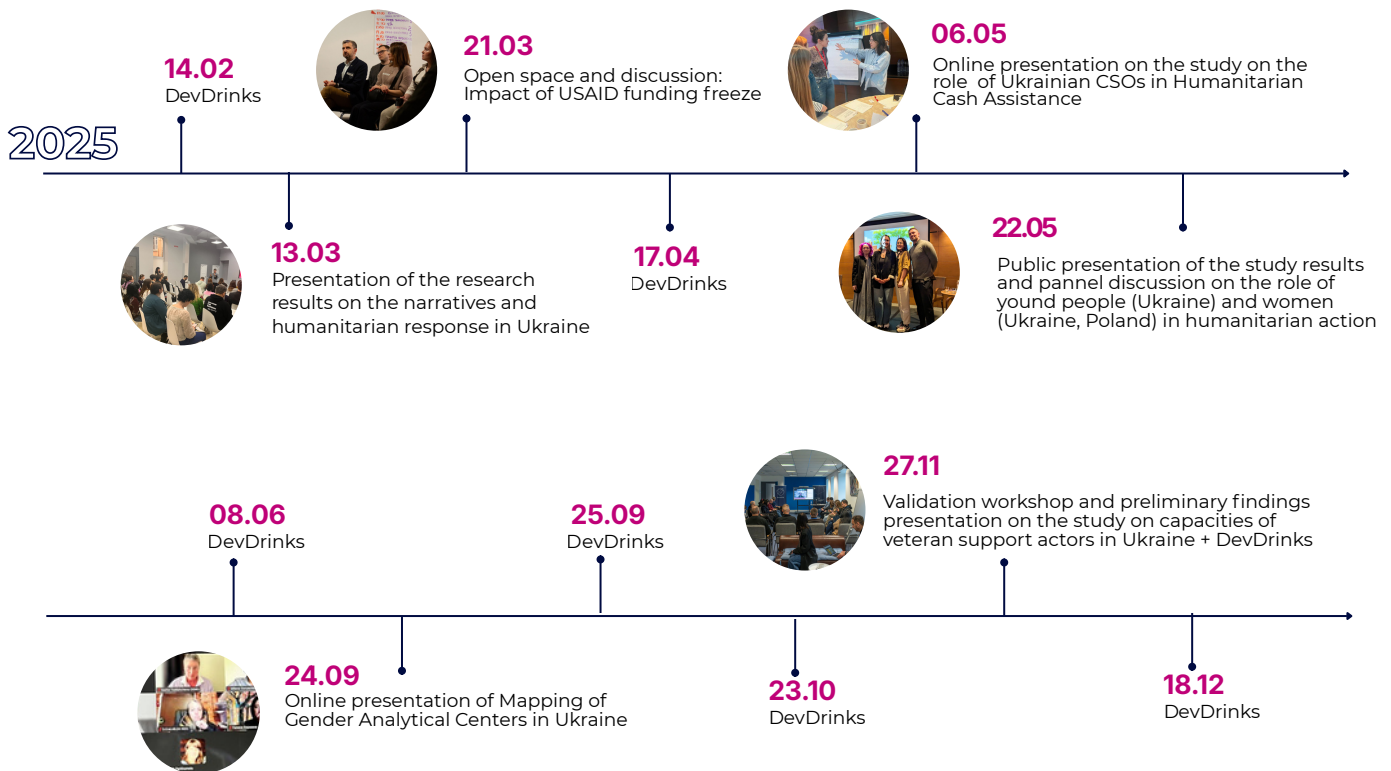


FGDs Locations and Target Groups:

- 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



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

📍 Tryokhsvyatytelska Str 3,
Kyiv, Ukraine

✉️ zaviyska@openspace.works
tymchuk@openspace.works

☎️ +38 (093) 665 50 97
+38 (067) 448 09 12

🌐 openspace.works



Website



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