

Q - What is the benefit for the UNDP to support Ukrainian village?

A - One of the mandates of UNDP is to assist countries across the world in reducing poverty and make the living condition of the people better. Ukraine is also facing poverty problem and living condition of the people has declined due to poor delivery of basic public services, which occur often due to broken or inefficient communal infrastructures. Poverty level in many Ukrainian villages is critical, and there are crucial social problems to be solved. Therefore, UNDP in Ukraine assists the Government, local authorities and local communities in addressing these problems. It does so through development projects such as the CBA Project. It does fulfill its obligations as per the instructions and resources provided by its governing body. Its resources are used as a grant without room for direct or indirect return. Therefore, it does not seek any benefit or profit from its clients or target beneficiaries.

Q - Why the people should trust the Project and make financial contribution? Who will collect the resources? Who is responsible for spending it?

A – Approach of the CBA Project to work in partnership with local communities, local authorities and other stakeholders is founded on such elements as transparency, accountability and partnership. Partnership is based on mutual trust. The Project trusts on good judgement of its local partners to select local priorities to be implemented through cost sharing. The Project contributes its share for the implementation of the community projects as is done by other partners, including the beneficiary communities. It is the beneficiary community which is responsible to collect and spend the money accumulated from various sources. For this purpose, the community members form a legal organisation, open bank account and maintain a transparent accounting system. CBA Project transfers its share into account of the community organisation and expects that the community organisation uses the resources based on UNDP financial rules. The Project provides necessary training to the community organisation so that it is able to accomplish the task with high degree of transparently and accountability. In this whole process, the Project trusts its local partners and in lieu expects to be trusted.

Q – What should be the legal form of the community organisation?

A – A community organisation can be registered under any of the available legal provision in the country. It is up to the decision of the community members. Each legal form has its own strengths and weaknesses. The best legal form is the one which allows the organisation to receive grant from the Project and other sources; allows to use this money under decision of the community members; allows the community organisation to transfer the property to concerned authority or retain on its own inventory; allows the organisation to raise users' fee from its beneficiary members and maintain the system created/rehabilitated under Project's support.

Q – Can one community make more than 1 project proposal?

A – Yes, but the CBA's share is 10 000 \$ maximum for one project. This amount cannot be increased even if the community brings forth more than one proposal.

Q – Does the 5% share of the community include cost of project design estimates?

A – Yes.

Q – Is the cost sharing uniformly applicable to all level of local authorities i.e. should the local budget give 45% of micro-project drawing 20% from oblast budget, 20% from rayon and 5% from village/ town council, for example?

A - No, it's not uniform. The proportion of cost sharing may differ depending on the availability of the budget with the particular level of authority for the purpose of the micro project identified by the community. It may also differ based on the mutual agreement/understanding among the partners.

Q - Some micro-projects are specific, for example, school bus purchase and maintenance. How will it come to the book of the entity of community organization? Is it acceptable in this case to transfer the transport facility to the book of the budget organization, e.g. rayon education department, which will maintain and repair it?

A - Yes, it's possible to transfer a transport facility to the book of a budget organization, but the legal framework is to be provided by local and rayon authorities. What is essential that the benefiting community must take charge of maintaining the system.

Q - In case of inflation or rise in price what is the way out for the project?

A - After the micro-project budget is approved and financing agreement is signed, additional financing from the Project is not impossible. To minimize the problems due to inflation, it is recommended to (a) incorporate such risks during the stage of proposal preparation/project planning; (b) avoid delay of implementation.

Q - If the community covers several priority areas of the Project is there more chance to succeed?

A – Even if the community might be facing several development challenges, it should not try to address all of them at the same time through community projects. It will be difficult as the people will get tired of making financial and non-financial contributions for all of them. Moreover, each project will demand various administrative/financial precisions and may create conflict. Therefore, it is advisable to undertake priorities one by one even if there is a chance to succeed.

Q - Is the number of participants of community organisation regulated?

A – In principle, self-organization process should cover not less than 80% of households located on the territory in question. This territory may be a village or a group of villages in vicinity; houses along a street or apartments in a multi-storied building and so on. From the perspective of viability participation of only a few households is not appropriate. Similarly, a large number of household participation is not appropriate from the perspective of mutual interaction and consensus based decision-making. Therefore, a community organisation with 40-80 members is considered appropriate. If there are more people willing, it's recommended to set up more organizations and unite them into an association. Similarly, a smaller communities located in the vicinity could join together to form a bigger organisation.

Q - Will other communities/village councils have the opportunity to participate in CBA Project?

A – In the present scenario, we work with only five village/town councils in rayon. In case there is high degree of success from the present partnership and if additional funding is available from the donors then it might be possible to add more village/city councils in future.