

Executive Summary

The Triple Nexus in Humanitarian Response, Development and Peacebuilding for More Effective Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Ukraine

1. Introduction	2
2. Methodological Framework.....	3
3. The Triple Nexus: Concept, International Framework and Relevance for Ukraine	4
4. Humanitarian Response in Ukraine	5
5. Sustainable Development and Community Resilience	7
6. Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion	9
7. Conclusions.....	11
8. Recommendations.....	12
Overall Message for International Human Rights Actors	14

This report provides a first analytical overview of how the Triple Nexus approach – the connection between humanitarian response, sustainable development and peacebuilding – can be applied in Ukraine in the context of Russia’s ongoing armed aggression and the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. It examines how existing Ukrainian laws, policies, institutions, local practices and civil society initiatives already contain important elements of the Triple Nexus, while also identifying the gaps that prevent these elements from working as one coherent system.

The core finding of the report is clear: Ukraine does not lack separate policies, institutions or initiatives in the areas of humanitarian response, social services, support for internally displaced persons (IDPs), veterans’ policy, prevention of domestic and sex-based violence, anti-trafficking, oblast and local development, barrier-free access, environmental security, local self-government, transitional justice and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The main problem is that these areas often work in parallel. They are not yet sufficiently connected through shared needs assessments, common indicators, coordinated financing, joint planning, meaningful participation of women, and stable partnership with civil society.

The Ukrainian context makes the Triple Nexus especially relevant. In many countries, humanitarian response, development and peacebuilding are often treated as stages: first emergency assistance, then development, and later peacebuilding. Ukraine cannot follow such a sequence. The same hromada may simultaneously respond to missile attacks, receive IDPs, support military families and families of the fallen, organize social services, integrate men veterans and women veterans, rebuild infrastructure, respond to domestic and sex-based violence¹, work with children and youth,

¹ As per the Ukrainian legislation.

address the consequences of occupation, and prevent social tension. For Ukraine, the Triple Nexus is therefore not an abstract international concept; it can serve as a practical framework for coordinating daily work at the national, oblast and local/hromada levels.

The report also argues that the WPS agenda can serve as one of the most practical entry points for the Triple Nexus in Ukraine. The WPS agenda is better known among Ukrainian women's organizations, local authorities and national institutions than the term "Triple Nexus" itself. Existing WPS mechanisms – including national, oblast and local action plans, 1325 coalitions, coordination councils and cross-sectoral discussions – already create infrastructure through which humanitarian response, recovery, protection, women's participation and local peacebuilding can be brought together. The mapping conducted for this study confirms that many local organizations and institutions are already working in a Triple Nexus logic, even if they do not use this terminology.

A central cross-cutting theme of the report is **care work**. Before the full-scale invasion, humanitarian support, social services and everyday community assistance in Ukraine already relied heavily on women's labor, especially at the local level. Social workers, psychologists, employees of municipal services, educators, health workers, volunteers and women in families carried much of the burden of care and support. This work was often low-paid, socially undervalued and politically invisible. The war has sharply increased the need for care, social support, psychological assistance, rehabilitation and accompaniment, while the social sector's workforce and financial resources remain limited. If this care work remains invisible, underpaid or unpaid, community resilience will continue to depend on the exhaustion of women.

1. Introduction

The introduction places the report in the context of Russia's full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine and the challenges that Ukraine has faced since 2014. The war has caused mass displacement, destruction of housing and critical infrastructure, growing demand for social, medical, psychological, legal and rehabilitation support, and new challenges for social cohesion, women's participation, recovery and sustainable peace.

The report explains that the Triple Nexus approach allows humanitarian response, sustainable development and peacebuilding to be understood not as separate fields of work, but as interconnected components of community resilience. For Ukraine, this approach is practical. It helps show how emergency assistance can become a pathway to sustainable services, how development policies must take the consequences of war into account, and how peacebuilding must be grounded in women's participation, trust in institutions, access to services, justice and social cohesion.

The introduction also highlights the role of women's paid, low-paid and unpaid labor in humanitarian, social and care work. The report challenges the stereotype that women are "naturally" responsible for caring for families, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, survivors and communities. It argues that this stereotype has contributed to the chronic under-prioritization of social and care services in policy and budgeting. The war has exposed this structural problem more sharply: needs have grown, but many hromadas still rely heavily on civil society and volunteer initiatives to fill gaps in public services.

The introduction also summarizes the two main components of the study. First, it includes desk research on laws, policies and institutional frameworks. Second, it includes mapping and

consultations with organizations and institutions involved in implementing the WPS agenda and related humanitarian, development and peacebuilding work. The research shows that the term “Triple Nexus” remains relatively unfamiliar, especially at the local level. However, once explained, the idea of connecting humanitarian response, development and peacebuilding was positively received by most participants. Many organizations already combine humanitarian aid with psychosocial support, retraining, employment support, self-employment, educational initiatives, trauma-informed work, community cohesion, IDP integration and support to military families.

The introduction therefore identifies a key problem: the issue is not the absence of Triple Nexus practices in Ukraine, but the lack of their conceptualization, methodological development and systematic inclusion in policy and programming frameworks.

2. Methodological Framework

The methodology section explains that the study combines a desk review with empirical mapping of organizations and institutions involved in WPS-related work and broader humanitarian, development and peacebuilding practices.

The empirical component included 22 in-depth semi-structured key informant interviews with representatives of civil society, women’s organizations, local women peacebuilders, local self-government bodies, relocated hromadas, national institutions and relevant state authorities. Thirteen interviews were conducted in Zaporizka oblast, while nine were conducted in other parts of Ukraine, including Kyivska, Chernivetska and Khersonska oblasts. The interview structure covered four main areas: awareness of the Triple Nexus; practical work in humanitarian, development and peacebuilding spheres; understanding and implementation of the WPS agenda; and participation in coordination mechanisms and cross-sectoral cooperation.

The study also included three focus group discussions: one offline discussion in Zaporizhzhia and two online discussions in Kirovohradska and Vinnytska oblasts. These discussions brought together representatives of local authorities, CSOs and hromadas and helped test how actors collectively understand coordination challenges, community development, IDP integration, support for men veterans and women veterans, and local WPS implementation.

In cooperation with the National Social Service of Ukraine, the study also included a nationwide mapping survey of organizations and institutions involved in implementing the WPS agenda. A total of 645 respondents from all oblasts of Ukraine and the city of Kyiv participated. The data from this component will be published separately.

The desk research component examines international documents, Ukrainian legislation, state strategies, national action plans, state target programs, bylaws, methodological recommendations and documents related to social services, humanitarian response, recovery, environmental security, prevention of sex-based violence, anti-trafficking, veterans’ policy, local self-government and transitional justice. The purpose is to analyze whether these documents create conditions for coordinated work between humanitarian response, sustainable development and peacebuilding.

The analysis is carried out at three levels: national, oblast and local. At the national level, the report examines laws, state strategies, plans, programs and coordination mechanisms. At the oblast level, it looks at the role of oblast and Kyiv city military administrations, oblast programs and plans. At the local level, it analyzes the role of hromadas, local self-government bodies, local social services, CSOs and volunteer initiatives that directly work with different population groups.

The methodology's cross-cutting principle is the analysis of how the war affects different groups of women and men, girls and boys, taking into account age, health status, disability, place of residence, displacement, occupation, captivity, loss of relatives, military service, veteran status, vulnerability and residence in frontline, deoccupied, rural or remote hromadas. The methodology also treats care work as a structural issue that shapes the effectiveness of humanitarian response, social resilience, recovery and peacebuilding.

The report acknowledges an important limitation: it relies primarily on open documents, legal frameworks and available policy materials. The lack of complete, unified and disaggregated data on needs, service access, service quality, financing and the actual participation of civil society limits the ability to measure real impact at the community level. This is why the report also identifies what data, indicators and coordination mechanisms are needed for future research and policy planning.

3. The Triple Nexus: Concept, International Framework and Relevance for Ukraine

Section 3 introduces the Triple Nexus as an approach that connects humanitarian response, sustainable development and peacebuilding into one framework for action. The purpose of this approach is to improve coherence between these fields and to reduce the long-term vulnerability of people and communities. Humanitarian response should not only address immediate needs; development should not only create economic and social opportunities; and peacebuilding should not only address the aftermath of conflict. These three areas must reinforce each other.

The section traces the international development of the Triple Nexus framework. It refers to the UN Secretary-General's 1992 report "An Agenda for Peace," which linked preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peacekeeping and post-conflict peacebuilding. This early framework emphasized that peace cannot be reduced to the absence of fighting; it requires work on the causes of conflict, institutions, trust, human security and the ability of societies to prevent renewed violence.

The section also discusses the "New Way of Working," strengthened after the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, which called on humanitarian and development actors, national and local authorities, international organizations and civil society to work around collective outcomes rather than in parallel systems. This approach is particularly relevant for protracted crises, where short-term humanitarian aid cannot replace long-term solutions and development policies cannot ignore insecurity, destruction, displacement and vulnerability.

The OECD DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus is also presented as a key international framework. It stresses the need for coherence between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding efforts, joint analysis of risks, needs, vulnerabilities and root causes, and cooperation among actors according to their mandates and comparative advantages.

The section links the Triple Nexus to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In countries affected by war or prolonged crisis, development cannot be separated from humanitarian needs and the security context. Poverty reduction, equality, access to education, health care, water, energy, decent work, safe communities, climate and environmental resilience, justice and effective institutions all require peace and security.

The report places special emphasis on the WPS agenda. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 highlights women's role in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, decision-making, protection from violence, and addressing the needs of women and girls in armed conflict. The

Triple Nexus cannot be gender-neutral. It must account for the different effects of war, displacement, loss of income, infrastructure destruction, violence, care burdens and access to services on women and men, girls and boys.

For Ukraine, the Triple Nexus has immediate practical relevance. Ukraine is simultaneously resisting ongoing armed aggression, providing humanitarian response, maintaining state and local institutions, implementing EU-related reforms, planning recovery and implementing the WPS agenda. These processes do not follow each other; they happen at the same time, often within the same hromadas.

The section also develops the gender dimension of the Triple Nexus. It shows that humanitarian response, social services and daily support in Ukraine have long depended on women's labor. The full-scale war has increased the number of people who need social accompaniment, psychological support, rehabilitation, care and long-term assistance, including IDPs, persons with disabilities, wounded persons, men veterans and women veterans, families of the fallen and missing, and people who survived occupation, captivity, torture or conflict-related sexual violence. At the same time, the social sector remains under-resourced and understaffed. Some men veterans, including men with disabilities resulting from the war, are gradually entering the social sector, especially to work with veteran communities. This is an important new development, but it does not change the overall picture: social and care work remains predominantly female, low-paid and institutionally fragile.

4. Humanitarian Response in Ukraine

Section 4 analyzes humanitarian response as one of the three components of the Triple Nexus. In the Ukrainian context, humanitarian response includes not only emergency assistance, but also the transition to long-term support, social resilience, community recovery and peacebuilding.

The section uses Ukrainian legislation on humanitarian aid and social services to show that humanitarian response involves state authorities, local self-government bodies and humanitarian organizations working to protect life and health, evacuate people, provide humanitarian assistance and social services, prevent and address emergencies, overcome the consequences of armed aggression, restore life-support systems and support affected people.

The report explains that humanitarian response operates at several levels. At the national level, the state sets the legal framework, standards, procedures and coordination mechanisms. At the oblast level, oblast and Kyiv city military administrations implement state decisions while accounting for local conditions. At the local level, local self-government bodies, social services, municipal institutions, CSOs and volunteer groups identify needs, manage cases, organize assistance and connect people with services.

The section identifies the main target groups of humanitarian response. These include people in difficult life circumstances, people affected by war, occupation, shelling, sexual violence, deprivation of liberty, forced displacement, deportation, internal displacement, loss of housing, injury, disability, captivity, death or disappearance of relatives. The National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 until 2030 also identifies a wide range of groups whose needs must be considered in security, response, recovery and peacebuilding. These include IDPs, residents of deoccupied, temporarily occupied and frontline territories, people who suffered material losses, injuries, disability, captivity, deportation, torture or conflict-related sexual violence, servicewomen and servicemen, men veterans and women veterans, their families, families of the fallen and

missing, persons with disabilities, older persons, people with limited mobility, single parents, national minorities and Indigenous peoples.

The report emphasizes that social services are the institutional foundation of humanitarian response. Social services help prevent difficult life circumstances, overcome them or reduce their negative consequences. In the Triple Nexus, they provide the pathway from crisis response to long-term support, reintegration, dignity, reduced vulnerability and community resilience.

The section describes the Ukrainian social service system, including material aid, cash and humanitarian support, temporary shelter, social accompaniment, psychological, legal, rehabilitation and information assistance, and peer support spaces. It also highlights specialized services for survivors of domestic violence, sex-based violence, trafficking and violence against children, including national hotlines, mobile teams, shelters, day centers, crisis rooms and other support services. These services are important because they combine crisis response, protection, psychosocial support, referral and long-term recovery.

The section also reviews local social service actors: centers of social services, territorial centers of social services, centers for social service provision, youth centers, specialized support services, Survivor Relief Centers, Mental Health Centers, IDP integration hubs, resilience centers, “invincibility centers” and military hubs. These actors form the local infrastructure through which humanitarian assistance either becomes long-term support or remains fragmented emergency relief.

Civil society and volunteer initiatives are presented as essential actors in humanitarian response. Ukrainian CSOs, women’s organizations, charitable foundations and volunteer groups have played a major role since 2014 and especially since the full-scale invasion. They often know local needs, barriers to services and informal support routes better than state institutions. They provide legal, psychological, social, material and other support; conduct trainings; monitor services; advocate for policy change; and work with WPS action plans. Their work is also part of care work and often involves high emotional pressure, unstable funding and burnout risks.

The section also explains social contracting as a mechanism through which local authorities can purchase social services from non-state providers, including CSOs and private entrepreneurs. This mechanism can connect state responsibility, local budgeting, civil society capacity and real community needs. Yet in practice, social contracting remains underused in many hromadas.

Coordination is identified as a major condition for effective humanitarian response. Without coordination, assistance is duplicated, some groups remain outside support, resources are used inefficiently, and local services and CSOs become overburdened. Coordination exists through ministries, military administrations, local self-government, interagency councils, working groups and humanitarian coordination mechanisms. The report stresses that women’s organizations, organizations working with survivors of violence, IDPs, persons with disabilities, men veterans and women veterans, families of the fallen, children and youth should be represented in these mechanisms.

The section also discusses international organizations and the humanitarian cluster system. International organizations provide funding, expertise, material support and coordination, but their work should be connected to localization. Ukrainian local, women’s, human rights, veteran, youth and community-based organizations should participate not only in project implementation,

but also in planning, decision-making, needs assessment and monitoring. International support should strengthen, not replace, local capacity.

The final part of Section 4 concludes that Ukraine already has a significant legal, institutional and practical basis for humanitarian response. The main challenge is coherence. Humanitarian aid must lead to sustainable social services; social services must account for trauma, displacement, disability, housing loss, violence, care burdens and the different needs of women and men; and assistance must be connected to participation, trust in institutions, justice, reintegration and conflict prevention.

5. Sustainable Development and Community Resilience

Section 5 analyzes sustainable development as the second component of the Triple Nexus. In Ukraine, sustainable development must mean more than economic recovery or infrastructure reconstruction. It must include dignified living conditions, access to services, social infrastructure, environmental security, equal participation of women and men in decision-making, and resilience to the consequences of war, including for future generations.

The report presents sustainable development through three interconnected dimensions: a fair and safe society where human rights and equal opportunities are respected; conditions for full and dignified life for different population groups; and a healthy environment with responsible use of natural resources. These dimensions show that community resilience depends not only on physical reconstruction, but also on services, women's participation, economic opportunities, social cohesion, safety, care and trust in institutions.

The section reviews sectoral policies that form the basis for sustainable development. It highlights Ukrainian legislation and policies on domestic violence, sex-based violence, equality between women and men, anti-trafficking, election quotas, equal opportunities in military service, equal care rights for mothers and fathers, discriminatory advertising, and legal and social protection for persons affected by conflict-related sexual violence. These instruments are important because they create practical grounds for women's participation, access to services, protection from discrimination, redistribution of care work and support for survivors of wartime violence.

The report also reviews Ukraine's institutional mechanism for equality between women and men. This includes the role of the Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, the Commission on Coordination of Interaction of Executive Authorities on Equal Rights and Opportunities for Women and Men, the Government High Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy, interagency mechanisms on conflict-related sexual violence, and gender advisers or responsible units in central and local state authorities. These mechanisms can support the integration of equality between women and men into humanitarian response, recovery, sustainable development, peacebuilding, monitoring and budgeting.

The section then examines community resilience in state strategies and programs. These include the State Strategy for Regional Development, the National Strategy for a Barrier-Free Space, the National Economic Strategy, the Human Development Strategy, the Biarritz Partnership Action Plan, and anti-trafficking policy. These documents are important because they shape whether hromadas will have social infrastructure, accessible environments, economic opportunities, support for vulnerable groups and the ability to address the care burden carried mostly by women.

The report pays special attention to new and expanded target groups created by the war. These include men veterans and women veterans, persons with disabilities caused by the war, IDPs,

military families, families of the fallen and missing, survivors of occupation, captivity, torture, sexual violence, loss of housing, work, income and social ties. Sustainable development must include long-term support, rehabilitation, social integration and participation for these groups, not only economic recovery.

Veterans' policy is treated as an important bridge between social support, development and peacebuilding. Support for men veterans and women veterans must include family support, employment, rehabilitation, psychological support, social services, community integration and care infrastructure. The report emphasizes that wives, mothers, daughters and sisters often provide daily care for wounded veterans and veterans with disabilities. If this care work remains invisible, hromadas face hidden social costs that are not reflected in budgets, employment programs or social service planning.

The section also examines rural development and women's economic participation. Strategies on agriculture and rural territories include support for farmers, including wives of veterans and Defenders of Ukraine, and retraining opportunities for rural women. The report stresses that rural development must include not only agricultural production, but also childcare, care services, day centers, mobile social services, transportation, psychological support and opportunities for women to combine paid work, civic participation and family responsibilities.

The National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 is presented as a key framework for sustainable development and community resilience. The NAP 1325 is not only a security or "women's" document; it can function as a practical tool for community resilience. Local self-government bodies are included in the NAP as co-implementers of specific measures by consent. This means that implementation at the hromada level depends on local readiness, capacity, and resources. At the same time, hromadas are the first to respond to security challenges, violence, IDP integration, and support to military families and families of the fallen. Their voluntary and properly supported inclusion in the NAP 1325 is therefore critical.

Environmental security is another central part of sustainable development. War-related damage to water, land, air, food systems, energy infrastructure, housing, medical and social services has direct effects on community resilience. The report argues that environmental security must be analyzed not only institutionally, but also through its different impacts on women and men. For example, destroyed water supply, contaminated water or lack of safe transport affects women who care for children, older persons, persons with disabilities or sick relatives. Mined fields and damaged agricultural infrastructure affect rural women, farming families, employment and food security. Damage to medical, educational and social infrastructure increases unpaid care work in families and hromadas.

The section concludes that Ukraine has a broad normative and strategic basis for sustainable development and community resilience. However, sectoral policies often remain weakly connected. Hromadas may have many programs but lack a single picture of needs, resources, responsible actors, indicators, financing and links between humanitarian response, development and peacebuilding. Effective sustainable development requires disaggregated data, unified monitoring methods, analysis of the impact of policies on different groups of women and men, integration of environmental security into the WPS agenda, sustainable financing of social and care services, and systematic engagement of civil society and women's organizations.

6. Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion

Section 6 analyzes peacebuilding as the third component of the Triple Nexus. In Ukraine, peacebuilding cannot be postponed until the end of the war. It is already taking place through support to community resilience, prevention of internal conflicts, integration of IDPs, reintegration of men veterans and women veterans, support to families of the fallen and missing, women's participation, social cohesion, local self-government, work with the consequences of occupation, documentation of war crimes, transitional justice and trust-building.

The report defines peacebuilding in the Ukrainian context as the creation of a shared vision of a safe, just and cohesive society where the needs of different population groups are taken into account, conflict escalation and recurrence are prevented, communities are supported in recovery, women and men participate in decision-making, and war-affected groups have access to assistance, justice, rehabilitation, compensation and social recognition.

The section first discusses local self-government and public participation. Hromadas are the level where peacebuilding becomes concrete. They receive IDPs, organize humanitarian aid, support military families, respond to shelling, address housing loss, unemployment, violence, social tension, psychological exhaustion and the need to rebuild trust. Local participation mechanisms – public hearings, consultations, advisory bodies, discussions of strategies and budgets – are necessary to ensure that humanitarian assistance, development and peacebuilding are planned with communities, not merely for them.

Women's participation is essential in local planning. The report emphasizes the need to include IDP women, women veterans, wives of veterans, widows, mothers and daughters of fallen Defenders, women with disabilities, rural women, women from deoccupied and frontline territories, representatives of women's and human rights organizations, service providers, volunteers, educators, women entrepreneurs, health workers and social workers. Without their participation, hromadas may fail to see needs related to care, social services, safe transport, accessible infrastructure, support for children and families, psychological assistance and protection from violence.

The section also reviews associations of local self-government bodies and inter-municipal coordination, including the Association of Ukrainian Cities, the Association of Small Cities of Ukraine and the Association of Frontline Cities and Communities. Such platforms can help hromadas share experience, advocate for their needs and develop common approaches to humanitarian response, recovery and peacebuilding. However, the report stresses that inter-municipal coordination should include not only officials, but also civil society, women's organizations, organizations of men veterans and women veterans, youth initiatives, organizations of persons with disabilities, social sector representatives and people directly affected by the war.

The report identifies the prevention of internal conflicts and resolution of social tension as an important component of peacebuilding. War, mass displacement, losses, trauma, infrastructure destruction, Russian disinformation and resource scarcity increase risks of social tension. These risks may arise between host communities and IDPs, veterans and civilians, people who survived occupation and those who did not, central and local authorities, different regions and different social groups. State and local policies must address these tensions in a rights-based, non-discriminatory and trauma-informed manner.

The section analyzes state guarantees for war-affected groups, including IDPs, veterans, residents of temporarily occupied territories and families of missing persons. Such guarantees are important not only for social protection, but also for social cohesion. If support is inaccessible, fragmented, unfair or humiliating, it can deepen mistrust and isolation. If support is clear, dignified and connected to long-term integration, it strengthens trust in the state, local authorities and communities.

IDP integration and veteran reintegration are seen as core elements of social cohesion. IDP integration involves housing, education, health care, social services, employment, children's integration, family support, access to administrative services and relations between local residents and IDPs. Veteran reintegration concerns not only the individual veteran, but also families, the local labor market, health care, psychological support, education, business, local safety and relations between military and civilian populations. If these processes are not supported systematically, risks of isolation, family conflict, community tension and loss of human potential increase.

The report also examines the religious dimension of social cohesion. Questions of freedom of conscience and religion, national security, the influence of the aggressor state, disinformation and trust in hromadas intersect during war. The report uses this example to show that social cohesion requires legal, non-discriminatory and safe mechanisms for addressing sensitive issues.

Consultative and advisory bodies, public councils, youth councils and 1325 coalitions are presented as important participation mechanisms. 1325 coalitions are particularly relevant for local peacebuilding because they connect national WPS policy with community needs, monitor NAP 1325 implementation, promote women's participation, support war- and violence-affected people, and strengthen cooperation between civil society, local authorities, social services, police and international partners.

The section also addresses transitional justice. For Ukraine, transitional justice must address the consequences of Russia's armed aggression, occupation, war crimes, deportations, torture, conflict-related sexual violence, deprivation of liberty, enforced disappearances, destruction of communities, housing loss, forced passportization, collaboration and survival under occupation. The report stresses that transitional justice must distinguish between perpetrators, persons acting under coercion, and people who accepted certain occupation-imposed conditions in order to survive, obtain food, medicine, documents or protect children and older relatives. Accountability is necessary, but collective stigmatization of people from occupied territories must be avoided.

The section concludes that Ukraine has important preconditions for peacebuilding and social cohesion, including legal frameworks, participation mechanisms, local associations, emerging transitional justice discussions, NAP 1325 implementation and strong civil society. The gaps include insufficient practical application of equality between women and men in planning and recovery, formal or limited participation of women, persistent stereotypes about women as "natural" caregivers, underuse of civil society's potential, weak rules of cooperation between authorities and CSOs, and insufficient mechanisms for financing, social contracting, data access and protection of CSO independence.

7. Conclusions

Section 7 brings together the key findings of the report. The main conclusion is that all three components of the Triple Nexus are already present in Ukraine's policies, local self-government, civil society work and international support. The challenge is whether they are connected.

The Ukrainian context requires a comprehensive approach. Humanitarian response, sustainable development and peacebuilding cannot be sequenced. The same hromada may simultaneously manage emergency response, IDP integration, veterans' support, social services, infrastructure recovery, violence response and social cohesion. The Triple Nexus must therefore become a practical coordination tool for the everyday work of the state, hromadas and civil society.

Ukraine has a developed normative base, but cross-sectoral coordination remains weak. Social services, IDP support, veterans' policy, violence prevention, regional development, environmental security, women's participation and recovery are often not connected through one system of needs, resources, responsibilities, financing and monitoring.

Humanitarian response must transition into sustainable social and care services. Evacuation, humanitarian aid, crisis counseling, temporary accommodation, response to violence and support for survivors of shelling or occupation must lead to long-term social, medical, psychological, legal, rehabilitation and care services. Otherwise, the system remains trapped in emergency response without reducing vulnerability.

Sustainable development must account for war, inequality and different hromada needs. Temporarily occupied territories, active hostilities zones, deoccupied hromadas, frontline hromadas, hromadas hosting large numbers of IDPs, rural and remote hromadas, large cities and relatively safer regions all have different risks, resources and capacities. Recovery cannot be reduced to infrastructure or economic indicators. It must include access to services, safe environments, women's participation, support for vulnerable groups, trust, environmental security, trauma-informed work and long-term social cohesion.

Peacebuilding must continue during the war. It already occurs through support to hromadas, IDP integration, veteran reintegration, work with families of the fallen and missing, support to children and youth, prevention of violence, women's participation, local self-government, documentation of war crimes, transitional justice and prevention of stigmatization of people who survived occupation.

Women's participation is a condition for quality humanitarian response, development and peacebuilding. Women must not be treated only as recipients of assistance or providers of care, social, volunteer and support work. They must be engaged in meaningful participation in planning humanitarian response, local development, recovery, security, environmental policy, veterans' policy, transitional justice and peacebuilding.

Data, coordination and partnership with civil society are critical. The report stresses the need for high-quality, up-to-date and disaggregated data by sex, age, disability, place of residence, displacement, vulnerability, veteran status, experience of occupation, captivity, housing loss, violence or loss of relatives. Without such data, policies cannot identify unmet needs or evaluate actual impact.

Civil society is one of the main practical carriers of the Triple Nexus in Ukraine. CSOs often provide humanitarian assistance, organize social services, support survivors, collect needs data, advocate,

assist reintegration, work with trust and social cohesion. The weak point is not civil society itself, but the stability of mechanisms for its participation, support and influence on decision-making.

Environmental security must be integrated into the WPS agenda. War-related environmental damage has direct and differentiated impacts on women, men, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, rural hromadas, frontline territories and people who perform care work. Environmental policy that does not account for these differences cannot be a full part of the Triple Nexus.

8. Recommendations

The recommendations section proposes a roadmap for implementing the Triple Nexus in Ukraine. The roadmap should help move from parallel policies to systemic coordination.

First, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine should adopt a national framework or interagency roadmap for implementing the Triple Nexus. This framework should define responsible central executive authorities, interagency coordination mechanisms, a protocol for response to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), a unified system for collecting and safely sharing data on domestic violence, sex-based violence, CRSV, trafficking and cyberviolence, the role of oblast and Kyiv city military administrations, the role of local self-government bodies, procedures for involving civil society and women's organizations, links with NAP 1325 and recovery, regional development, veterans' policy, social services, environmental security and transitional justice, and indicators focused on outcomes rather than activities.

Second, central executive authorities should review existing strategies, programs and action plans in areas related to humanitarian response, social protection, health, education, veterans' policy, regional development, economic recovery, environmental security, violence prevention, anti-trafficking, IDP support and transitional justice. This review should identify overlaps, gaps and missing mechanisms that prevent transition from short-term assistance to long-term support. Authorities should use existing tools for integrating equality between women and men into policy, including anti-discrimination and gender-legal review, impact assessment, gender-responsive budgeting, gender audit and strategic planning methodologies.

Third, authorities responsible for social policy should treat social and care services as a core pillar of the Triple Nexus. This includes strengthening centers of social services, centers for social service provision, territorial social service centers, mobile services, specialized services for survivors of violence, Survivor Relief Centers, services for persons with disabilities, services for older persons, support for families of the fallen and missing, support for families of men veterans and women veterans, and respite services for caregivers. Priority actions should include better budgeting, service audits, analysis of why social contracting is underused, practical guidance for hromadas, methodological recommendations for trauma-informed social services, research on care burdens, revision of compensation approaches for informal care, and regular supervision and burnout prevention for social, psychological, medical, rehabilitation and CSO workers.

Fourth, authorities responsible for recovery and regional development should integrate the Triple Nexus into hromada recovery plans. Recovery should not be limited to buildings, roads, housing and engineering infrastructure. It must include social infrastructure, service access, barrier-free environments, safe transport, environmental risks, childcare, the needs of IDPs, men veterans and women veterans, families of the fallen and missing, persons with disabilities, women's and children's safety, and civil society participation in planning and monitoring.

Fifth, authorities responsible for veterans' policy should connect support for men veterans and women veterans with support for families and hromadas. Veterans' policy should not be limited to status, benefits or separate services. It should include long-term rehabilitation, employment, professional adaptation, psychological support, work with families, support for children of veterans, social accompaniment and community-level work. Special attention should be paid to women who provide daily care for wounded veterans or veterans with disabilities.

Sixth, authorities responsible for environmental policy should integrate environmental security into the WPS agenda and the Triple Nexus. Environmental security must be understood as a matter of human security, health, housing, land, food, water, transport, social services and care work. Environmental recovery should include women's participation and analysis of different impacts on women and men, especially in rural, frontline, deoccupied and heavily damaged hromadas.

Seventh, oblast and Kyiv city military administrations should establish regional mechanisms for implementing the Triple Nexus. These should connect humanitarian coordination, social services, WPS action plans, recovery planning, veterans' policy, violence prevention, environmental security, IDP support and civil society participation. Oblast-level mechanisms should map services, identify gaps, assess the most vulnerable hromadas and support coordination between military administrations, local self-government, CSOs and international partners.

Eighth, local self-government bodies should integrate the Triple Nexus into local programs and budgets. Hromadas should assess population needs, map services and gaps, create referral pathways, strengthen social and care services, develop social contracting, involve women and CSOs in recovery planning, support IDPs and veterans' families, develop local WPS mechanisms, create safe and accessible information channels, and monitor service quality and accessibility.

Ninth, civil society should be recognized as a structural part of peacebuilding, not merely as a project implementer. CSOs should participate in needs assessment, feedback between communities and authorities, service monitoring, local and oblast program development, alternative reporting, advocacy for financing social and care services, survivor support, work with IDPs, veterans and families of the fallen and missing, local peacebuilding and prevention of stigmatization of people who survived occupation. The state and donors should recognize CSOs as equal partners in planning, budgeting, coordination and monitoring.

Tenth, international organizations and donors should support localization of the Triple Nexus. Support should move beyond short project cycles and isolated humanitarian or development projects. Donors should provide direct, flexible and long-term financing to Ukrainian local organizations, cover administrative costs, salaries, supervision, safety and burnout prevention, support women's organizations, social contracting, data collection, local coordination mechanisms, pilot Triple Nexus models in hromadas and exchanges between hromadas. Ukrainian organizations should be involved not only in implementation, but also in setting priorities, designing programs, monitoring and evaluation.

Eleventh, all roadmap actors should establish a strong system of data collection, monitoring and evaluation. Data should be disaggregated by sex, age, disability, place of residence, displacement, veteran status, experience of occupation, captivity, housing loss, violence and loss of relatives. The State Statistics Service of Ukraine should play a central role. Monitoring should assess not only whether an activity was completed, but whether services reached those who needed them, whether vulnerability decreased, whether access improved, whether women participated in

decision-making, whether care burdens decreased, whether community capacity improved, whether social tension was reduced, and whether measures contributed to trust, justice and peacebuilding.

Finally, the report proposes practical first steps for launching the roadmap. At the **national** level, Ukraine should adopt the Triple Nexus framework, identify responsible actors, create an interagency coordination mechanism, connect the roadmap to NAP 1325 and key recovery policies, and develop monitoring indicators. At the **oblast** level, authorities should map needs, services and gaps, identify the most vulnerable hromadas, strengthen coordination and integrate the Triple Nexus into oblast 1325 action plans. At the **local** level, hromadas should assess population needs, create referral pathways, strengthen social and care services, involve women and CSOs in recovery planning, develop social contracting and monitor the accessibility and quality of services.

Overall Message for International Human Rights Actors

For international human rights organizations, donors and partners, the key message of this report is that Ukraine already has many elements of the Triple Nexus in practice. Local women's organizations, CSOs, volunteer groups, social service providers, local authorities and national institutions are already connecting emergency support, social services, recovery, participation, justice and community resilience. However, these efforts require stronger political recognition, more stable financing, better coordination, clearer methods, meaningful localization and better data.

The report shows that a human rights-based Triple Nexus in Ukraine must be feminist, locally grounded and care-sensitive. It must recognize women not only as survivors, beneficiaries or caregivers, but as decision-makers, experts, community leaders, peacebuilders and rights defenders. It must recognize care work as essential infrastructure for resilience, not as an invisible private burden. It must ensure that humanitarian assistance leads to sustainable services, that recovery includes social justice and participation, and that peacebuilding begins now, even while the war continues.

The Triple Nexus can become a practical framework for Ukraine's recovery and long-term peace only if it is built on human rights, equality between women and men, participation of affected communities, strong civil society, reliable data, environmental security, adequate financing of social infrastructure, and clear responsibility of the state and local self-government. Under these conditions, it can help Ukraine reduce vulnerability, strengthen hromadas, support women, rebuild trust and move toward a just and sustainable peace.