

Ukraine Energy Support Fund

1H 2024 REPORT

Reporting Period: **01.01.2024 – 30.06.2024**

Executive Summary

In the first half of 2024 (the Reporting Period), contributions amounting to a total of EUR 103,703,459.74 have been transferred by six donors to the Special Purpose Account, adding up to a total of EUR 450,711,655.05 by altogether 21 donors since the establishment of the Ukraine Energy Support Fund (the UESF or the Fund) in 2022.

Furthermore, a second tranche of Australia's contribution and of the European Union's contribution was to be transferred in the second half of 2024 and further contributions to the Fund were pledged by Austria, the Federal Foreign Office on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and the European Union.

The Reporting Period saw the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine approve 90 support requests from Ukrainian energy companies at an estimated value of approx. EUR 270 million, a significant increase exceeding the number and value approved and submitted in 2023 in total. These support requests originated from a total of 44 different Ukrainian counterparties from the country's energy sector. The sectors most frequently requesting support were electricity distribution and combined heat and power generation.

Avtor Lowbours

The value of items contracted in the Reporting Period amounts to EUR 60.0 million, bringing the total contracted value to EUR 189.0 million. Of this amount, EUR 124.2 million have already been disbursed, with another EUR 64.7 million set aside for future disbursements once the relevant payment milestones are reached.

The support in the amount of EUR 60.0 million was contracted through 171 purchase agreements in the Reporting Period, a substantial rise equalling the number of purchase agreements concluded in the last full year of operations. These agreements benefited 25 different Ukrainian counterparties mostly active in electricity distribution and in combined heat and power generation. The majority of the procured equipment consisted of varied equipment/devices (34%), special purpose vehicles (23%) and transformers (19%).

At the end of the Reporting Period, 63% of the items contracted (equalling EUR 119.7 million) had already been delivered, with further 21% to be delivered in the second half of 2024.

Overall, the first half year report of the Ukraine Energy Support Fund demonstrates the continued efficient support to the Ukrainian energy sector amidst ongoing and ever-increasing attacks.

Artur Lorkowski

Director

Marie-Therese Richter-Kuhnert

Lead of the Ukraine & Moldova Fiduciary Task Force

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Introduction

This semi-annual report outlines the operational and financial performance of the Fund for the first six months of 2024 (the Reporting Period).

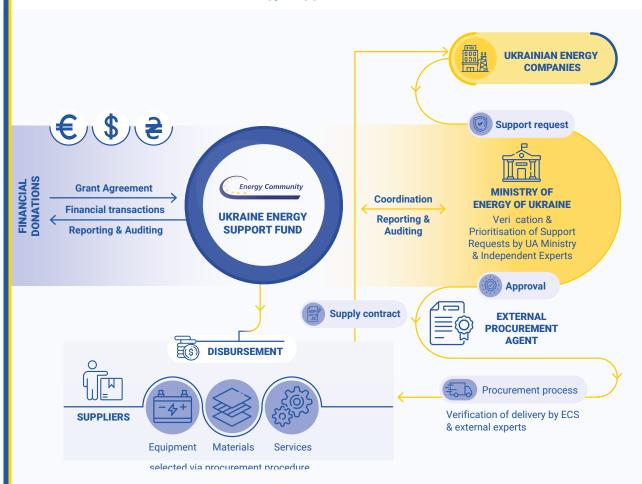
The Ukraine Energy Support Fund was inaugurated in April 2022 with the support of the European Commission and the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine. This initiative aims to mitigate the impact of Russian attacks on Ukraine's vital energy infrastructure. It provides a mechanism for governments, international financial institutions, international organizations, and corporate donors to offer financial aid for the repair and operational continuity of the Ukrainian energy sector.

Funds contributed are allocated towards addressing the critical needs of Ukrainian energy companies. This includes the procurement of equipment, spare parts, and other technical

resources, alongside fuels and services essential for the restoration of infrastructure and the sustained provision of power and heating across Ukraine.

The management of the Fund is entrusted to the Energy Community Secretariat, the independent executive body of the Energy Community, headquartered in Vienna, Austria. The EU4Energy project provides funding for additional staff for the Secretariat to discharge of its obligations as fiduciary in a professional manner. The USAID-funded Energy Security Project contributes to the Fund operations by providing the procurement agent services of Tetra Tech.

FIGURE 1
Process flows of the Ukraine Energy Support Fund



Significant changes since the last Report

Since the last report covering the first full year of operations of the Fund, notable progress has been achieved.

The dynamic progress throughout 2023 and the persistent demand for support from the Ukrainian energy sector have been key in encouraging both new and existing donors to augment their contributions significantly, leading to a significant increase in funds transferred to the special purpose account by the Reporting Period. Due to the most recent wave of attacks targeting to a large extent generation infrastructure, a noteworthy trend with these new and additional contributions has been the availability of such funds also for support to fossil fuel fired power plants. This support has to be seen in the context of emergency repairs following severe damages caused to Ukraine's thermal power plants in particular.

While the Fund is currently prioritizing procurements urgently needed for preparations for the upcoming winter, the Fund's mission to support Ukraine in its green transition is pursued at the same time with the implementation of decentralised

renewables projects for social infrastructure and exploring further cooperation with International Renewable Energy Association (IRENA).

In spring 2024, the first audit of the Fund was finalised and the report and Management Letter shared with all stakeholders. The Secretariat and Tetra Tech immediately addressed the recommendations by the auditors which will be reviewed and reflected in the next audit. In this framework, the Secretariat also finetuned its internal control and documentation process and allocated additional human resources for that purpose.

Donor coordination and alignment have been prioritized in the Reporting Period, with a donor meeting conducted in June 2024 at the fringes of the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Berlin. This meeting focused on implementation progress, future challenges and needs of the Ukrainian energy sector. It received positive feedback from all participants. Continuous bilateral communications with donors were maintained throughout the Reporting Period.



Status of Contributions

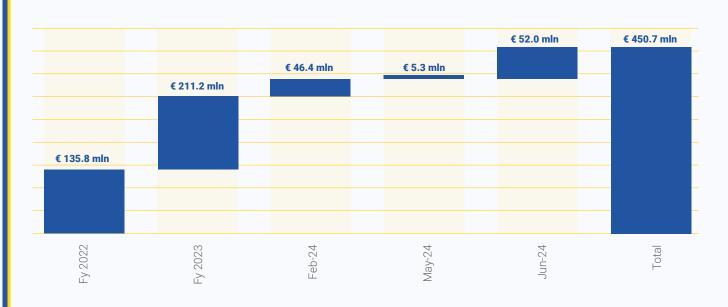
During the Reporting Period, the Fund received grants totalling EUR 103,703,459.74 from six donors:

- European Union (EUR 46.4 mln);
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark (EUR 5.3 mln);
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia (EUR 0.4 mln);
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland (EUR 0.7 mln);
- Commonwealth of Australia, represented by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (EUR 6.2 mln);
- Sweden, represented by Sida (EUR 44.7 mln).

These contributions were deposited on the special purpose account, bringing the total funds received to EUR 450,711,655.05 from an overall 21 donors since the Fund's inception in 2022. Including interest earned and after deducting banking fees, the total amount in the Fund stood at EUR 453,126,092.54 by the end of June 2024.

Furthermore, a second tranche of Australia's contribution and of the European Union's contribution was to be transferred in the second half of 2024 and further contributions to the Fund were pledged by Austria, the Federal Foreign Office on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and the European Union.

FIGURE 2Accumulation of Grants since the establishment of the Fund, EUR mln



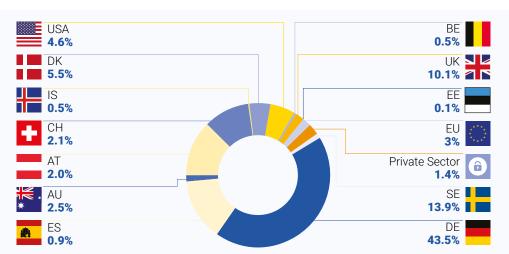
While five of the donors contributing to the Fund in the Reporting Period had already previously contributed to the Fund, with

Australia as new donor, the Fund could significantly extend its geographic scope in terms of donors.

TABLE 1Overview of pledges and contributions to the Fund as of 30.06.2024, in EUR

| Donor | Pledged | Credited to the Special Purpose Account |
|---|-------------|---|
| National donors | 497,285,582 | 443,573,655 |
| Germany (through FFO and KfW) | 219,600,000 | 218,000,000 |
| Sweden (through Sida) | 69,951,229 | 69,951,229 |
| European Union (through European Commission) | 63,000,000 | 51,400,000 |
| United Kingdom (through FCDO) | 51,074,779 | 27,452,825 |
| USA (through USAID) | 22,984,279 | 22,984,279 |
| Denmark (through Danish Energy Agency) | 27,537,958 | 16,857,985 |
| Switzerland (through State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)) | 10,536,288 | 10,536,288 |
| Austria (through BMK) | 10,000,000 | 10,000,000 |
| Australia (through Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) | 12,420,000 | 6,210,000 |
| Spain (through Ministry of Environment and Parliament of Rioja) | 4,506,000 | 4,506,000 |
| Iceland (through Ministry for Foreign Affairs) | 2,725,049 | 2,725,049 |
| Belgium (Ministry of Energy) | 2,500,000 | 2,500,000 |
| Estonia (through Ministry of Foreign Affairs) | 450,000 | 450,000 |
| Private donors | 7,138,000 | 7,138,000 |
| Energy Regulators Regional Association (ERRA) | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| REKK Limited Liability Company | 3,000 | 3,000 |
| LeasePlan Corporation N.V. | 50,000 | 50,000 |
| Windpark Krammer B.V. | 60,000 | 60,000 |
| Confidential: private company | 7,000,000 | 7,000,000 |
| TOTAL | 504,423,582 | 450,711,655 |

FIGURE 3Share of contribution by donor in total contributions credited to the Fund, in %



Status of Implementation

a. Support Requests

During the Reporting Period, the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine approved and submitted 90 support requests (12 have been cancelled at a later stage) at an estimated value of approx. EUR 270 mln for reservation of funds and procurement through the Fund, a significant increase exceeding the number and value approved and submitted in 2023 in total. These support requests originated from a total of 38 different Ukrainian counterparties from the country's energy sector.

In terms of numbers, the majority of Ukrainian counterparties that requested and receive support through the Fund since 2022 are primarily involved in electricity distribution (31%) and combined heat and power generation (25%), followed by electricity transmission (16%) and gas distribution (12%). In terms of value of the items requested, companies active in combined heat and power generation and electricity distribution are the ones supported predominantly (35% and 31% respectively).

FIGURE 4

Activity of Ukrainian Counterparties supported through the Fund since 2022, in % on the basis of their number

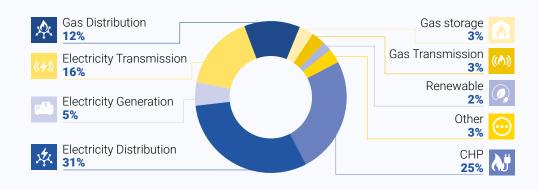
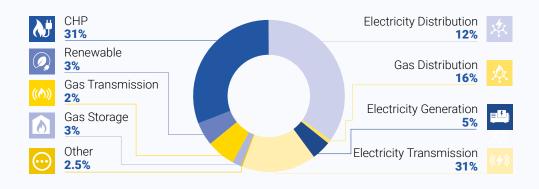




FIGURE 5

Activity of Ukrainian Counterparties supported through the Fund since 2022, in % on the basis of the value of the items requested



b. Purchase Agreements

During the Reporting Period, the Fund contracted items totalling EUR 60.0 million in value, bringing the cumulative value of contracts to EUR 189.0 million. Of this amount, a total of EUR 124.2 million have been disbursed, with the remaining EUR 64.7 million earmarked for future disbursements upon reaching the payment milestones specified in the respective purchase agreements.

The procurement activities have led to the finalization of 171 purchase agreements in the Reporting Period, a substantial

rise equalling the number of purchase agreements concluded in the last full year of operations.

The purchase agreements finalized during the Reporting Period benefited 25 different Ukrainian counterparties across various sectors. The majority of these operate in electricity distribution (37%) and in combined heat and power generation (33%), in terms of numbers of companies. Taking into account the value of the items requested, the companies benefitting most are active in combined heat and power generation (42.0%), electricity distribution (38.7%),

FIGURE 6

Activity of Ukrainian Counterparties benefitting from purchase agreements concluded in the Reporting Period, in % on the basis of the number of benefitting Ukrainian counterparties

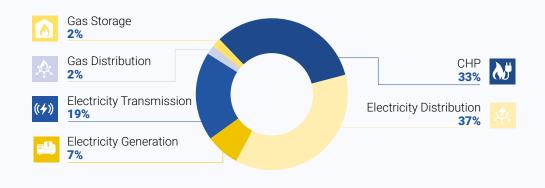
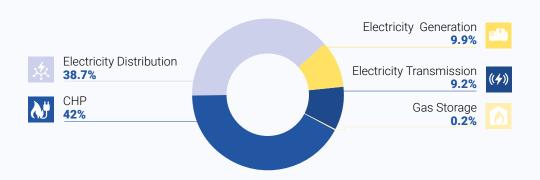


FIGURE 7

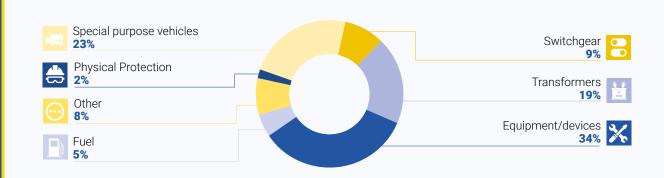
Activity of Ukrainian Counterparties benefitting from purchase agreements concluded in the Reporting Period, in % on the basis of the value of the items procured



The purchase agreements concluded in the Reporting Period concerned mostly varied equipment/devices (34%), special purpose vehicles (23%) and transformers (19%).

FIGURE 8

Categories of items contracted under the Fund in the Reporting Period, in % on the basis of value



Detailed information on the transactions funded by the contributions from respective donors to the Fund, along with relevant statistics, can be found in the monthly reports provided continuously to all donors.

c. Deliveries

At the end of the Reporting Period, 63% of the items contracted (equalling EUR 119.7 million) had already been delivered, with further 21% to be delivered in the second half of 2024.

FIGURE 9
Delivery Outlook items procured under the Fund, as of 30.06.2024





Processes and Lessons Learned

This section gives an overview of topics relevant for the implementation of the Fund, outlining experiences and lessons learned.

a. Utilisation of Contributions

At the end of the Reporting Period, 72% of the total amount of funds of EUR 408 million have been matched with items requested by Ukrainian Counterparties through Support Requests. While the Secretariat notes that the actual costs generally surpass the preliminary estimations and hence further funds will be needed to cover the costs of the items requested, due to the large scale destruction caused by the wave of attacks on the energy infrastructure started in spring 2024, the remaining funds are expected not to be sufficient to cover further Support Requests reflecting the recently caused damages. It follows that further contributions are needed to address the most urgent needs to repair and maintain the energy infrastructure.

Following a visit to Ukraine, the Secretariat has been tasked to make the Fund's resources available to primarily support measures for mitigating the effects of the damages caused in the upcoming winter. This includes closer monitoring of the market's availabilities in order to ensure swift implementation and utilisation of equipment.

b. Stakeholder relations

The Fund's implementation is anchored in a robust and productive collaboration among the donors, the Energy Community Secretariat (acting as fiduciary and manager of the Fund), the USAID-funded Energy Security Project (implemented by Tetra Tech as the procurement agency), and the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine. This cooperation has continually strengthened since the Fund's inception in spring 2022, reflecting a collective commitment to its success.

Since the Fund has been established and the initial operational phase, which included setting up necessary processes and documents, the cooperation with the Ministry of Energy worked very efficiently. The collaboration extends to interactions with Ukrainian energy companies. Through the EU-funded grant project - EU4Energy, the Secretariat has been able to finance two positions placed within the Ministry of Energy, dedicated to managing Fund-related issues.

Regular weekly coordination calls between the Secretariat, the Ministry of Energy and Tetra Tech are pivotal for maintaining open and effective communication. These calls are crucial for identifying challenges quickly, facilitating decision-making processes, and ensuring a mutual understanding of ongoing actions and priorities. Such direct and frequent interactions are key to the Fund's effective implementation and the alignment of collective efforts toward shared goals.

The Secretariat places a high priority on maintaining strong relationships with donors, given its role as the fiduciary manager. It ensures full transparency and accountability by linking individual donors' contributions to specific support requests and purchase agreements and provides comprehensive monthly reports to donors, along with ad-hoc reports as needed. The Secretariat also hosts donor visits to strengthen relationships and enhance direct communication. During the Reporting Period, representatives from several donors visited the Secretariat to discuss ongoing questions and future developments.

To foster dialogue and align donor perspectives on common issues, the Secretariat organized a second donor coordination meeting in June 2024. The meeting saw full attendance from all donors, either in person or virtually, and facilitated discussions on all aspects of the Fund's implementation. Outcomes and future actions were shared with all donors following the meeting, with the next coordination meeting scheduled for the end of 2024 to keep all stakeholders well-informed.

Additionally, the Secretariat collaborates closely with Tetra Tech in the procurement stage and has initiated a partnership with the National Energy and Utilities Regulatory Commission for tracking and verification of items procured and delivered through the Fund.

c. Procurement Procedures

The results of the procurement procedures carried out in the reporting period are well reflected in the numbers outlined above.

The procurement process is based on a close collaboration between Ukrainian energy companies and the procurement agency, Tetra Tech, across several stages: defining technical specifications, evaluating submitted bids, and executing contracts.

Furthermore, the template for the requests for quotations (RfQ) and the draft purchase agreement were refined to minimize the need for subsequent amendments. Tetra Tech, along with the Secretariat and the Ministry of Energy, also provide template Support Requests and set and communicated strict deadlines to Ukrainian energy companies for submitting required information and collaboration.

To enhance transparency and efficiency, Tetra Tech, in collaboration with the Secretariat, uses a procurement tracker that provides detailed information on each stage of the procurement process for every requested item. Tetra Tech ensures that this tracker is updated daily, making it an important tool for monitoring procurement activities and identifying any potential delays or issues early on. The Secretariat works closely with Tetra Tech to resolve any challenges promptly and maintain the speed of the procurement process.

In this context, the hand-over process from Tetra Tech after finalisation of the procurement process to the Secretariat as fiduciary for contract management and payments was streamlined and expanded to cover more extensive information and documentation to be reviewed by the Secretariat in the framework of its compliance checks.

The approval of a substantial number of support requests in the Reporting Period required Tetra Tech to manage a significant workload in processing information and preparing for tender procedures. Due to enhancements to streamline operations, Tetra Tech has managed to meet the intended ideal timeline of two months from receipt of a request to contract signature.

d. Contract Management

During the reporting period, several challenges emerged regarding supply contracts, including failure to deliver items as per the purchase agreements and proposals to substitute goods as well as amendments to the payment schedule. The Secretariat actively followed up on each case with the involved parties.

With the Secretariat expanding its team, it has finetuned its internal control and documentation process, further strengthening the compliance checks done upon contract execution and before each payment.

e. Verification and Tracking

The Fund's verification and tracking system plays a crucial role in ensuring the efficient and accountable execution of its activities. This system is designed to provide assurance that each procured item is utilized exclusively for its designated purposes, as identified by the support request and the contractual terms. The procedures for collaboration with Tetra Tech and the National Commission for State Regulation of Energy and Public Utilities (NEURC) have been formalized and disseminated to donors.

Tracking encompasses the process of verifying and documenting the physical delivery and acceptance of items and services by Ukrainian counterparties, as per the terms of the purchase agreement. The Secretariat relies on a dedicated

team in Ukraine tasked with overseeing and confirming the delivery of items. Taking into account the recommendations of the auditors, the four-eyes principle is also applied to this part of the process. This verification is primarily conducted through remote assessment, based on comprehensive documentation including delivery notes, acceptance acts, and photographic evidence. This ensures that the delivered items match the contractual specifications and are officially received by the Ukrainian counterparties. Should any discrepancies arise, the representative is authorized to perform on-site inspections.

During the Reporting Period, the Secretariat verified the delivery and formal acceptance of items procured under 142 purchase agreements. No irregularities were observed. The Secretariat verified one delivery on the ground (Kyiv region), having been able to access the locations without security risks and encountering full cooperation by Ukrainian energy company subject to the on-site verification.

At the second stage, verification seeks a confirmation that Ukrainian counterparties are using the delivered items continuously and as intended, according to the initial support request and the purchase agreement.

The verification process is carried out by a combination of external experts, NEURC, and the Secretariat itself. Donors and the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine are also entitled to conduct their own independent monitoring and verification activities, with the Secretariat providing assistance within its capacity and access to information.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding between Tetra Tech, the Secretariat, and the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine, Tetra Tech is tasked with conducting ex-post verifications on a representative sample of 15% of the contracts, ideally within three months post-delivery. Currently, Tetra Tech utilizes the expertise of two specialists based in Ukraine for this purpose. If consistent discrepancies are detected, the sample size may be adjusted following consultation with the Secretariat.

In this Reporting Period, Tetra Tech conducted verifications of items provided to Khmelnytskoblenergo. This Ukrainian Counterparty was chosen based on safety concerns; it is one of the regions where the team received security clearance to travel and where the Fund has provided considerable support. A total of 14 contracts were verified on the ground, containing a total of 2,128 item pieces, 1,300 meters of cable and 52,253 tons of wire. For the on-site verification, the team checked the physical condition of commodities, asset count, storage condition, utilization, purpose of use, tracking systems, and sustainability for 12 contracts; equipment under two further contracts was not possible due to security concerns, but the team examined documents from the recipient's accounts. The findings were subsequently shared with the Secretariat and the relevant donors. The findings did not reveal any irregularities.

Additionally, the Secretariat has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with NEURC, which will incorporate an annual review of all items delivered through the Fund into its inspection plan, documenting and reporting the usage of these items to

the Secretariat. In the Reporting Period, NEURC inspected items delivered under 21 purchase agreements delivered to eight Ukrainian energy companies; no irregularities were observed.

The Secretariat itself also carries out verification within six months following the delivery, primarily through remote methods, with the option of on-site checks in cases of insufficient or ambiguous information or for high-value items. This ensures that the procured items are being used appropriately and continuously by the Ukrainian counterparties.

Finally, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (as a donor to the Ukraine Energy Support Fund) tasked a third-party auditor to conduct in-person visits and remote monitoring of the items procured under the Fund and financed through the FCDO's contribution. The Secretariat provided full support in organizing the visit of the representatives to the respective energy companies (Ukrenergo and Mykolaiv CHP). Furthermore, Denmark engaged external consultants to review the support granted to Ukraine through the Fund. The reports on the results of the verification have not yet been finalised.

f. Other Relevant Topics

As regards the application of VAT and customs duties on items purchased via the Fund, the previously granted tax exemptions for critical items aiding the restoration and continuous functionality of Ukraine's energy infrastructure lapsed in early summer 2023. In this situation, VAT and customs duties can be financed from the Fund as associated costs of the procurement.

However, the Secretariat together with the Ministry of Energy of Ukraine and the Energy Committee of the Ukrainian Parliament (Verkhovna Rada) prepared the ground to legislate customs duty and import VAT exemptions for items procured under the Fund which were adopted in the third quarter of 2024.

By the end of 2023, an independent auditor – Deloitte – was engaged to review all operations associated with the Fund comprehensively. The report and Management Letter was shared in spring 2024 with all contributing donors. The audit scrutinized the financial statements and examined all related processes within the Ministry of Energy, the Secretariat, and Tetra Tech. It addresses the Fund's overall performance and specifically examines the implementation of contributions from the United Kingdom, KfW, Sida, and the European Union. The Secretariat and Tetra Tech followed up and immediately addressed the recommendations by the auditors which will be reviewed and reflected in the next audit.

In June 2024, the Secretariat launched a tender to solicit proposals to provide Project Management and Supervisory Services for the implementation of distributed renewable energy projects funded through the Fund. These services and projects will be financed through grants to the Fund earmarked specifically for the implementation of decentralised renewable energy projects on social infrastructure, in particular rooftop solar systems with battery storage for hospitals. The Project Manager was selected and a contract concluded in the third quarter of 2024; the first tenders for sub-contractors to physically implement these projects have been launched in autumn 2024.



Communication

The Secretariat's communication efforts aim at promoting transparency and accountability while increasing awareness and engagement among various stakeholders.

In terms of raising awareness among donors (existing and future) about current needs in Ukraine, the Secretariat actively cooperates with the Ministry of Energy to attract new contributions to the Fund. In addition, the Secretariat, uses its public platforms and the media to raise awareness about the situation in Ukraine, publish updates on the situation in the country and call for more donations.

The Fund's communication approach including promotional material uses modern awareness-raising methods. The Fund's visibility is enhanced through visually engaging data visualization techniques and user-friendly infographics, facilitating better audience understanding and engagement. Monthly highlights encompass major donors, types of items procured, and supported industries.

An expanded social media presence, with Fund-related posts three times per week, ensures consistent connection, updates, and engagement. The Secretariat implements monitoring tools for comprehensive performance reports to further communication objectives.

Participation in industry events to promote donations to the Fund is also important to engage with potential donors and sponsors through targeted outreach and other activities aimed at raising awareness and support for the Fund.

Regular news updates cover donations, donor activities, reporting, delivery stories, visits, and ad hoc subjects, with a focus on highlighting donors and their contributions. In the Reporting Period, the Secretariat published 36 news items, 34 posts on LinkedIn and 36 on X (former Twitter). With the growing presence of the Fund's stakeholders and the rising popularity of LinkedIn, which allows for longer, more comprehensive posts, the Secretariat has prioritized promoting the Fund on this platform. Communication focuses on reporting about deliveries and the impact of the items procured on the operation of the energy infrastructure and the supply of energy to the Ukrainian population.

The Secretariat actively cooperates with the communications team of USAID and TetraTech as well as the Ministry of Energy. Due attention is paid to the sensitivity of any information shared publicly and its potential impact during wartime.





Action Plan Until the End of 2024

While the Secretariat and Tetra Tech are working intesily at procuring the items requested, the Secretariat at the same time actively cooperates with the Ministry of Energy and potential future donors in terms of collecting further contributions to the Fund, aimed at repairing damages caused by the latest wave of attacks on the energy infrastructure and in particular to address the challenges posed by the upcoming winter.

The Secretariat is actively engaging with the Ministry of Energy and potential donors to secure additional resources for the Fund. The Secretariat reaches out to existing donors as well as to potential new donors including the private sector. While the majority of funds currently come from the public sector, the Fund is open to private donors and is flexible to accommodate their earmarking preferences. Thus, the Fund can serve as a mechanism for a company wishing to support Ukraine in its struggle to keep the lights on.

The Secretariat will organise a donor consultation meeting in order for donors to stay informed about the progress of the implementation of the Fund and provide input on any changes that may need to be made.

For decentralized renewable energy projects, the Ministry of Energy is working with the Ministry of Health to identify beneficiary hospitals. After conclusion of the tender for a Project Manager to implement these projects, the Project Manager has started its work in autumn 2024 and will issue first tenders for sub-contractors to physically implement the projects.

The Secretariat has signed a Letter of Intent with International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) aimed at exploring opportunities to cooperate in supporting the development and expansion of renewable energy projects in Ukraine. Discussions shall be finalised in 2024 in order to be able to offer to donors a mechanism to effectively support the green transition of Ukraine.

As regards the application of import VAT and customs duties exemption, the Secretariat works closely with the Ministry of Energy to operationalise the exemptions adopted and amend existing purchase agreements accordingly.

Due to the expiration of the USAID financed Energy Security Project, Tetra Tech as implementer of this project will terminate its activities as procurement agent under the Fund in the beginning of 2025. The Secretariat has therefore launched in autumn 2024 a tender for a new procurement agent, which will be financed through USAID's contribution to the Fund exclusively and hence remain at no cost for other donors, and is working on a hand-over process to avoid any disruptions in the operations.

As distinctive feature of the Fund, the Secretariat's management services are not covered through any contribution to the Fund. While in 2023, the Fund's management costs are fully covered by the EU (through EU4Energy), the regular budget of the Energy Community for 2024-2025 provides for the necessary human resources for the management of the Fund. Hence, additional human resources are currently being integrated into the daily operations of the Fund's team in order to further professionalise the service provided to the donors and the Ministry of Energy.



UKRAINE ENERGY SUPPORT FUND

Energy Community Secretariat Am Hof 4, 1010 Vienna, Austria

+ 431 535 2222

- ✓ UkraineSupportFund@energy-community.org
- www.energy-community.org
- https://twitter.com/ener_community
- in https://www.linkedin.com/company/energy-community

