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RETHINKING THE STRUCTURE OF THE SYSTEM OF ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC SECURITY OF UNITED TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES IN THE CONDITIONS OF WAR

The article considers the economic and ecological problems which united territorial communities face in Ukraine during wartime – specifically, these are communities located close to the frontline. Systems method is applied as the core paradigm in research. The methodological basis of the study is a set of principles of systematicity, a dialectical approach, a combination of the general, the specific and the individual. It is noted, in particular, that unlike European countries, intersectoral cooperation in territorial communities of Ukraine is mostly based on an informal basis, is carried out periodically and arises as needed, when this or that problem has become critical or one of the parties (usually local self-government bodies) does not can solve it independently. Territorial methods acknowledge the frequently intricate processes of economic, ecological, and social transformation in a particular geographic area while offering a framework for study and operations involving numerous sectors and stakeholders. At the same time, viewpoints and methodologies that prioritize territories in development have resurfaced as significant in global discourse and policy concerning the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The study highlights some good practices on how to manage the total communities' environment during the warfare. In particular, the experience of Syrian communities affected by war is analyzed, as well as Shabwa in Yemen. Bearing in mind evident common features with the situation on close to frontline territorial communities in Ukraine, refracting this experience on the Ukrainian 'plane' seems highly expedient. Evidently, communities must share best lessons to remain in a sustainable peace, restore the war-damaged environment, and enhance sustainable economic development, and the very essence of united territorial communities give good potential for it.

Keywords: united territorial communities; local communities; wartime; security; sustainable development.

Introduction

Local self-government in Ukraine has proven its viability under martial law. In most regions, the united territorial communities have preserved their functionality and manageability, the ability to carry out effective management at the local level in cooperation with the state authorities in the person of military administrations and their leaders. Several years of operation in conditions of fiscal decentralization and the experience of remote forms of work during the coronavirus pandemic helped rear united communities to quickly adapt to life in war conditions. Over the course of a few months, the rear communities proved to be able to restore economic indicators to the levels observed at the beginning of the full-scale Russian aggression. This made it possible to ensure the stability of the rear, in particular with regard to the placement of internally displaced persons and the relocation of enterprises. However, communities in the regions near the front line are experiencing significant difficulties – in addition to economic problems, significant environmental problems, disruption of natural landscapes, destruction of resources, threats to biodiversity, etc. have arisen due to the conduct of hostilities. In particular, volume losses from soil disturbance are depicted on Fig. 1 below.

In the current conditions, it is necessary to rethink the structure of the system of ecological and economic security

of the united local communities in the conditions of war, with the aim to ensure the stability and recovery potential of local communities.



Fig. 1. Volume losses from soil disturbance, in mln USD [13]

Analysis of recent research and publications. It is becoming commonplace in international discourse and policy to execute the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to prioritize perspectives and practices that place territories at the core of development. The need to localize sustainable development, enhance the efficacy of sectoral methods, bet-

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ter manage the numerous and complex issues that communities worldwide are currently confronting, and take action for inclusive and equitable development are a few of the factors contributing to the renewed attention. However, the question of how we interpret territorial approaches and what they achieve is crucial. By recording best practices, outlining advantages, pointing out lessons learned, and making suggestions for future territorial approach implementation, scholars should work to support the validity of territorial methods [1; 11; 17; 19]. This question and task are primarily intended for policy makers, program managers, and practitioners who are searching for successful territorial approach examples and the strategies that led to such successes. It is noteworthy that the case studies were conducted prior to the global coronavirus pandemic, also known as COVID-19.

However, there is still much to learn about the geographic of the pandemic's effects and reactions, and COVID-19 will immediately benefit from the report's lessons and suggestions. In particular, a number of partner organizations have worked to examine the conceptual and empirical foundations of territorial perspectives, strategies, policies, and programs through the development of The Stocktaking for Territorial Approaches by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. A vast array of place-based, multi-sector, participatory development strategies are included in territorial approaches. These diverse approaches employ different entrance points that stimulate cooperative action and place differing emphasis on government versus non-governmental procedures, social sustainability versus environmental sustainability, and locally-led versus nationally-mobilized initiatives. Territorial methods acknowledge the frequently intricate processes of economic, ecological, and social transformation in a particular geographic area while offering a framework for study and operations involving numerous sectors and stakeholders. In order to localize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets in the 2030 Agenda and other global agendas, territorial methods provide a useful model. They encourage cross-sectoral cooperation, participation, coordinated efforts, and policy coherence, all of which contribute to increased development effectiveness.

It is interesting to note that politicians and scientists frequently use the words ecological security and environmental security interchangeably [3]. While ecological security refers to the establishment of a situation where a community's physical surroundings supply for all of its needs without depleting natural resources, environmental security is essentially the threat that environmental deterioration poses to political stability. Ecological security is therefore ingrained in the idea of sustainable development.

The issues of security all the more so are aggravated in wartime.

Njambi [15] asserts that establishing community peace and security requires financial commitments, institutional involvement, political commitments, and individual and community involvement. It is a fundamental tenet that any community wants to discover methods for fostering an atmosphere in which cooperating is more appealing, safe, and tranquil. Therefore, divided communities can be helped to achieve this goal with guidance and support. Community-based peace interventions frequently aim to improve the community's connections, governance, and service provi-

on. One of the main aims of human development is community security, which is a prerequisite for other goals. Non State Actors (NSAs) may start community-based partnerships by using alternative models of collaboration. The foundation of a successful partnership is a thorough participatory approach that empowers the community to take the initiative in finding solutions, creating new ones, re-establishing their security and peace, and ending the vicious cycle of insecurity. Communities develop toward a sustainable state of peace and security when they are dedicated to the partnership processes.

The expectations, needs, and abilities that are prevalent in the community as well as the social, political, and economic conditions at the local and national levels define the components of community partnerships. The goal of the partnership method is to comprehend how various social organizations and the spectrum of community groups interact to influence and mobilize peace and security.

While it is true that wars have a detrimental impact on the environment as a whole, Meaza et al. [14] correctly point out that in order to maintain a lasting peace, repair the harm caused by conflict, and promote sustainable economic growth, communities need to share their finest lessons.

Research methods and information base. The methodological basis of the study is a set of principles of systematicity, a dialectical approach, a combination of the general, the particular and the individual, historical and comparative methods of analysis, and the structural-functional method. Analysis, generalization, and systematization were used in the study of literature, opinion articles, monographs and reports.

Research results and their discussion

The Kakhovka dam and hydroelectric station was destroyed on June 6, 2023. The incident has brought attention to the vast environmental damage that has been done since the start of the conflict in Ukraine. The nation's ecosystems have been seriously harmed by Russia's aggressive war, and massive reconstruction is desperately needed, but it must be done sustainably. In the areas surrounding the reservoir, the unchecked loss of water has had disastrous effects on the ecology and the local population. In addition to having an impact on the environment, the dam's collapse has shaken Ukraine's economic base since it puts agriculture in jeopardy in the lush, partially Russian-occupied Chernozem districts. A steel mill in Kryvyj Rih was shut down by the Ukrainian steel giant ArcelorMittal following the dam's rupture, illustrating how other industries that depend on cooling water are also impacted. Mines were washed away by the tidal wave and are now dispersed over unidentified areas of the estuary region, presenting a serious and persistent hazard. Long-term tourism to the region's river and coastal areas may be more challenging as a result [18].

Zaiats et al. [20] stress on the necessity of intersectoral cooperation in territorial communities in Ukraine. At the same time, the authors rightly point out that, unlike European countries, intersectoral cooperation in the territorial communities of Ukraine is mostly based on an informal basis, is carried out periodically and arises as needed, when a particular problem has become critical or one of the parties (usually these bodies local self-government) cannot solve it independently. However, they claim that "although the war and the situation of uncertainty and danger created by it, of

course, somewhat leveled the real social achievements of decentralization, but in the difficult conditions of the war period, the subjectivity of intersectoral cooperation in communities, to which religious organizations, educators, volunteers, charities organizations began to join, expanded" [21]. That is, they do not see intersectoral cooperation in the context of sustainable development or even just synergy.

In this context, it is expedient to look at the world experience.

Yemen's five years of conflict have made it harder for local authorities to carry out their responsibilities for the country's social, cultural, and economic advancement as well as to manage their finances and deliver essential services like electricity, water, sanitation, healthcare, and education. An account of the difficulties local officials in the southern Yemeni Shabwa governorate experience during war is provided by Omar Bahamid [1]. In addition to making suggestions for solutions, he gives an outline of the administrative, financial, and security issues that need to be addressed. These issues include weak rule of law enforcement, tribal resentment, unethical employment practices, and declining financial resources.

During the conflict, Shabwa's local authorities have had to deal with a number of issues including security, money, administration, and oil production. Shabwa is home to a number of political, military, and security groups, including the internationally recognized Yemeni government and the political parties that support it, as well as a number of southern organizations including the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and the Hirak movement. Local administrations' capacity to offer services has been hampered by conflicts between various groups, particularly between the Yemeni government and troops affiliated with the STC. The Yemeni army, military police, General Security Forces, Special Security Forces, Shabwa Elite Forces, and the Southern Resistance are among the military and security forces that are active in Shabwa. These entities are generally not coordinated and they clash frequently. Shabwa is a tribal area, and since long before the conflict, tribal disputes and grudges have interfered with the governorate's ability to provide services. Local initiatives have occasionally been postponed by tribal conflicts for more than ten years, frequently as a result of land disputes. For instance, tribes close to Al-Rawdah city blocked a sanitation project that would have treated wastewater for use as irrigation in agriculture because they didn't like where the drains would be installed. As a result, raw sewage is still an issue throughout the city. Local services have also been hampered by tribal strife.

During the conflict, Shabwa's oil production has dropped, from about 15.84 million barrels in 2014 to less than 4.35 million barrels in 2019. Before the conflict, Shabwa oil supplied 29 % of Yemen's total oil production; by 2019, that percentage had plummeted to 21 %. Block 2S Ak Aqlah and Block 4 are the only two oil blocks in Shabwa that are currently in use. In 2018, the governorate's twenty percent share of oil profits was reduced due to a decline in oil production. Furthermore, this revenue has not been regularly deposited by the government [1].

In addition to lost oil money, some oil companies' work stoppage in Shabwa has resulted in the loss of revenue meant for sustainable development that the oil-producing governorates received from the oil industry. Each oil business

and the government establish agreements that specify the amount of this contribution, which is based on the company's potential and size. For instance, OMV, an Austrian oil and gas corporation, gave Shabwa US\$400,000 for sustainable development in 2020; however, because of the COVID-19 pandemic and plunging oil prices, this amount was lowered to US\$200,000. Before the crisis, OMV gave 20 educational grants to Shabwa students and gave between US\$500,000 and US\$600,000 a year to sustainable development in Shabwa. Similarly, during the conflict, other oil corporations' contributions to Shabwa's sustainable development have decreased [1].

Although it was mandated by the National Dialogue Conference, oil corporations were supposed to hire 50 % of their workforce locally, but this hasn't happened. The proportion of local hiring in Shabwa that fluctuates between 20 and 30 percent for various oil companies does not match the demand for jobs in the area. Conflicts between local communities and oil firms have arisen as a result of a lack of local jobs, putting further strain on local government.

Shabwa, meantime, does not get a portion of the money made by the Balhaf LNG station. The facility's sustainable development income was beneficial to local authorities prior to the war, but it ceased when it closed in 2014. In addition, the conflict has presented other financial difficulties for municipal government, chief among them being a scarcity of funds.

Shabwa's local authorities deal with a variety of administrative difficulties, some of which are national problems that existed before the conflict. This is an important lesson for Ukraine, as that country also deals with a similar issue in its territorial towns. One of the governorate's main challenges is corrupt hiring practices. Partisan allegiances have influenced local authority appointments since 2011; during the conflict, this has gotten worse. Political factors have influenced employment in local government, frequently leading to high management posts, more so than official hiring procedures for public service. Political ties are occasionally used in the hiring process for management and leadership positions in local government, above and above a candidate's qualifications or the standards for advancement in the public sector. Political parties in Shabwa have made it a point to ensure that their followers are appointed to the highest posts within the governorate. When there is subpar performance or duty neglect, there is a lack of responsibility, and most people risk losing their jobs. The custom of inheriting public office is one of the other difficulties. In the meantime, certain Shabwa government offices have an excessive number of employees who are paid but never work, and who were given jobs for political reasons rather than a personnel shortage. Many of the procedures outlined in the Local Authorities Law and other employment-related legislation were broken during the war. For instance, the law requires the prime minister to designate candidates to specific administrative positions, but this legal structure is no longer faithfully adhered to. The war has caused several district-level executive offices to cease operations, and the central government has neither a budget nor a development plan for the governorate. Executive offices ought to be in charge of identifying local need and creating plans, however during the war, a number of projects were carried out directly by the governor's office without being presented to elected local council members. Furthermore, the Local Aut-

horities Law's income collection requirements have not been met by local authorities. As a result, local councils that have been unable to carry out their duties have been marginalized.

With this in mind, the following recommendations were offered by Bahamid [1] to address the challenges outlined above and to boost the capacity of local authorities in Shabwa:

1. It is important to resolve tribal disputes to prevent them from impairing the governorate's ability to provide services.
- In criminal instances, the general security forces ought to expeditiously enforce the law.
- To settle conflicts and personal grudges, the governorate should establish a reconciliation committee.
2. Local and federal governments should work together to establish the conditions required for oil corporations to restart operations in order to increase oil revenue.
- Oil firms ought to hire more local workers.
- Oil corporations ought to fulfill their financial obligations in order to support Shabwa's sustainable development.
- In order to better coordinate with local authorities, oil corporations ought to establish local offices in Shabwa.
3. The private sector should be encouraged by local government to contribute to Shabwa's growth. Projects that make use of the raw materials found in Shabwa, such as fish canneries or initiatives in the textile or agricultural sectors, ought to be launched.
4. The Central Organization for Control and Auditing, the anti-corruption agency, and the public funds prosecutor's office should all play a more active role in improving financial monitoring.

When examining the humanitarian issue in Syrian war-affected local communities, Khoury and Scott [12] make some crucial findings. Specifically, they assert that foreign aid workers depend on local players to provide assistance, but they do not localize by giving local actors control over the response. Additionally, they state that an interpretive examination of the Syria War shows that the remarkable humanitarian participation of Syrians was not accompanied by changes in power. International aid can also "go local" by utilizing local actors' labor, risk tolerance, access, and knowledge while upholding their subordination.

Research already in existence indicates that local involvement can enhance humanitarian results for impacted communities. Research on the advantages of utilizing local knowledge or "indigenous technical knowledge" has focused on building on discoveries from the "participatory turn" or "partnership era" [4; 10]. Creating more effective, adaptive, global responses is projected to depend heavily on meaningful local participation, accountability, and leadership in war and post-conflict settings where conditions can change rapidly [2; 9]. The opposite of these conclusions is also supported by research, which shows that international reaction is less successful when it ignores local networks, methods, and expertise [16]. Notwithstanding the potential benefits of localization, academics have found organizational obstacles that stand in the way of accomplishing localization and, more precisely, transferring power to regional or national actors. The accountability to beneficiaries, who are arguably the major stakeholders in a successful humanitarian response, might be weakened by the presence of multiple layers and types of stakeholders between donors and affected communities [7; 8].

Syrians were first excluded from international events during the crisis, but as time went on, they were given responsibilities and opportunity to participate in processes and coordination meetings. However, local actors did not make up local seats as leaders. Throughout this period, institutional mechanisms have proven inadequate for developing local leadership and handing over authority to local players. Humanitarian catastrophes are characterized by urgency and quickness, yet localization through these methods is not happening quickly.

Thus, in fact, although it is not directly stated in both above-mentioned papers, stable security of territorial communities is possible only within ESG paradigm, however, with additional dimension – economic. The process of community engagement in ESG is complex and involves both individual and organizational participation as well as collaboration within the community. It is a method that aims to build robust, cohesive, and resilient community structures through a variety of activities and conversations. But the economic dimension is no less important, thus the framework for community should be EESG (economic, ecology, social, governance).

It is true that EESG has a significant impact on communities. This has the ability to improve social cohesion and build a more resilient and sustainable ecosystem, even during times of war (see Fig. 2 below).

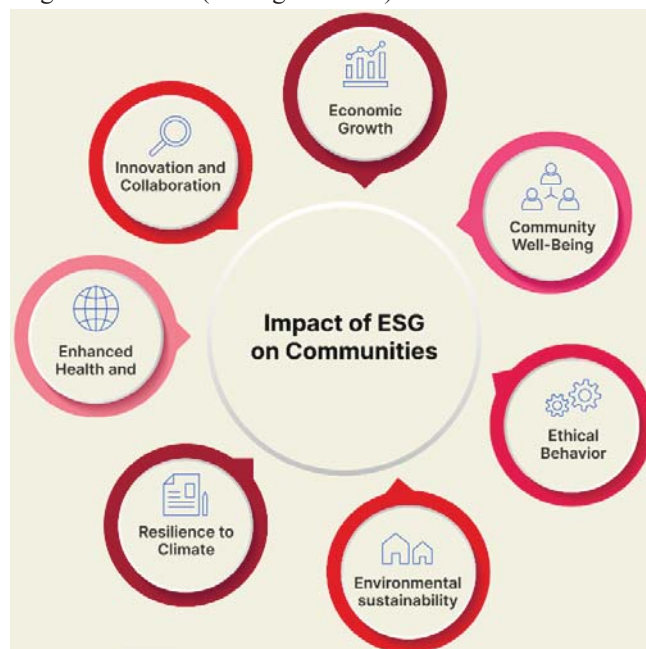


Fig. 2. The impact of EESG on communities

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The fundamental goal of community participation is to establish connections. It involves organizations interacting with, learning from, and listening to individuals of the community. This approach acknowledges that each member of the community has a distinct perspective and something valuable to offer, and it aims to utilize these different points of view to promote a more welcoming and equal atmosphere.

The dynamic nature of community interaction is one of its main features. Feedback and ideas are continuously sha-

red in a two-way dialogue, instead of a static, one-way flow of information. Decision-making that is more responsive and effective is made possible by this dialogue, which fosters a deeper awareness of the needs and goals of the community. Moreover, fostering mutual respect and a sense of shared duty is the goal of community participation. It entails actively including the community in the decision-making process rather than merely advising them on decisions that impact them. By fostering a sense of empowerment and responsibility among community members, this collaborative method produces more significant and long-lasting results. Maintaining constant communication is another prerequisite for effective community involvement. Instead than being restricted to sporadic meetings or discussions, it entails an ongoing process of engagement and reengagement. This could involve holding frequent community forums, seminars, polls, or group projects, all of which are intended to maintain an open and lively discourse. Inclusion is a crucial component of community participation. It aims to involve every community member, especially the frequently excluded or underrepresented ones. Ensuring that the engagement process is inclusive and relevant for all may entail reaching out to people from diverse age groups, ethnic communities, socioeconomic backgrounds, or abilities.

Conclusions and prospects for further research. One of the priority strategic tasks aimed at ensuring sustainable development of territories is the transition from the standard model of development of united territorial communities to a spatial one. A distinctive feature of the ongoing socio-economic processes in united territorial communities is precisely their interweaving into territorial specifics. In the context of the economic and environmental consequences of the war for local communities in different regions of Ukraine, this is especially important. The study highlights some good practices on how to manage the total communities' environment during the warfare. Evidently, communities must share best lessons to remain in a sustainable peace, restore the war-damaged environment, and enhance sustainable economic development, and the very essence of united territorial communities give good potential for it.

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ПЕРЕОСМИСЛЕННЯ СТРУКТУРИ СИСТЕМИ ЕКОЛОГО-ЕКОНОМІЧНОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ ОТГ В УМОВАХ ВІЙНИ

Вступ. Місцева автономія в Україні довела, що може зберегтися в умовах воєнного стану. У більшості регіонів єдина місцева влада залишається функціональною та керованою та зберігає здатність до ефективного управління на місцевому рівні у співпраці з державними органами влади у вигляді військових адміністрацій та їх керівників. Кілька років роботи в умовах посилення фіскальної децентралізації та досвід дистанційної роботи під час пандемії коронавірусу сприяли здатності об'єднаної громади швидко адаптуватися до життя в умовах війни. За кілька місяців громади у тилу змогли повернути економічні показники до рівня, який був на початку повномасштабного вторгнення агресора. Це дало змогу забезпечити стабільність у тилу, особливо щодо розміщення внутрішньо переміщених осіб та переміщення бізнесу. Однак громади в регіонах біля лінії фронту відчувають істотні труднощі – окрім економічних проблем, через ведення бойових дій виникли значні екологічні проблеми, порушення природних ландшафтів, знищення ресурсів, загроза біорізноманіттю та ін.

Актуальність дослідження. В умовах, що склалися, необхідним є переосмислення структури системи еколого-економічної безпеки об'єднаних територіальних громад, для забезпечення стабільності та відновлювального потенціалу місцевих громад. Необхідним є дослідження досвіду громад інших країн, перед якими постали проблеми еколого-економічної безпеки громад під час війни.

Методи. Методологічною основою дослідження є сукупність принципів системності, діалектичного підходу, поєднання загального, особливого та одиничного, історичний та порівняльний методи аналізу, структурно-функціональний метод, аналіз, узагальнення, систематизація застосовувалися щодо літератури, авторських статей, монографій і звітів.

Результати. Однією з пріоритетних стратегічних завдань, спрямованих на забезпечення сталого розвитку територій, є перехід від стандартної моделі розвитку об'єднаних територіальних громад до просторової. Ефективне залучення громади також потребує відданості безперервній взаємодії. Це не обмежується випадковими консультаціями чи зустрічами, але передбачає постійний процес залучення та повторного залучення. Це може включати регулярні форуми спільноти, семінари, опитування або спільні проекти, кожен з яких спрямований на підтримку відкритого та активного діалогу. Окрім того, вкрай потрібне впровадження у структуру еколого-економічної безпеки ОТГ парадигми EESG (economic, ecology, social, governance) (економіка, екологія, соціальна функція, управління).

Ключові слова: об'єднані територіальні громади; місцеві громади; військовий час; безпека; сталий розвиток.