



European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development

EBRD – IOSH Roundtable
A collective and coordinated OSH emergency preparedness and response
to support Global OSH challenges

London, 23rd February 2023

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)
Five Bank Street, London, United Kingdom E14 4BG

Briefing note

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is collaborating with the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), the longstanding Chartered body and largest membership organisation for health and safety professionals. The intention is to mobilise selected key stakeholders to discuss a collective and coordinated approach to emergency preparedness and response to support global Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) challenges in conflict and post-conflict environments with a focus on the war in Ukraine. The day aims to formulate an efficient global multi-stakeholder mechanism on rapid early intervention on priority OSH needs in future global emergencies.

The roundtable discussion is organised against the pressing background of the war in Ukraine, which continues to result in significant challenges and serious threats to the health and safety of the Ukrainian people as they try to rebuild critical infrastructure and their workplaces:

Displacement

The Ukraine war has caused one of the largest human displacement crises in the world today. Millions of refugees have fled into neighbouring countries, and many more have been displaced inside the country. According to the UNHCR – the UN Refugee Agency, “there are 17.7 million people in Ukraine in urgent need of protection and assistance, including 6.2 million who are internally displaced. Housing conditions for millions of people have become increasingly perilous since the start of the international armed conflict. Displacement, property damage, sudden loss of livelihoods and disruption to supply and access to gas and fuel have left many families living in conditions ill-suited for winter. The situation has further deteriorated in October, as essential civilian and energy infrastructure, residential buildings, public transport, water supply and power networks have been damaged, leaving hundreds of towns and villages across the country without power and access to heating. With the harsh weather, early interventions for winterization are more critical now to ensure warm, safe, and dignified living conditions for affected people, especially those displaced by the conflict or living in conflict-affected areas. As of 24 October 2022, the international armed conflict in Ukraine has forced over 7.7 million refugees to flee abroad.” In its [Revised Supplementary Appeal for the Ukraine Situation](#), from October 2022, the UNHCR calls on the international community and donors to provide sustained and increased support for the response to internal displacement and the Ukraine Flash Appeal, and other critical efforts to protect the human rights of all civilians who remain in Ukraine.

Key Infrastructure

Ukraine has suffered and continues to suffer sustained damage to its critical civilian infrastructure, including utilities and energy facilities, water networks, transport systems, health care facilities and other key infrastructure.

Unexploded Ordnance

There has been a long-standing problem related to unexploded ordnance in Ukraine for many years. There are remnants from the First and Second World Wars, the conflict in 2014, and ongoing war. There is need for greater focus on the safety messages and education on the identification and safe behaviour around unexploded ordnances.



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Asbestos

During its time under the Former Soviet Union rule, Ukraine was a major producer of asbestos, and used high volumes of asbestos-containing materials in various buildings and structures. Although Ukraine has recently introduced laws that prohibits the use of all types of asbestos and products containing asbestos, the negative consequences of decades of its utilisation are now witnessed in high volumes of asbestos contamination prevalent throughout buildings damaged and destroyed during the war.

Rebuilding economy

Negative economic impacts of war in Ukraine have been felt across the world. In the country itself, businesses face the challenge not only to survive, but also to think about how to develop and scale up activities in the future. Many workers will be forced to work in jobs in which they have limited training and experience, exposing them to risks, and appropriate OSH education will be key in preventing injury and ill-health at work.

The aim of the roundtable is to engage the participants to share ideas towards a formulation of a more coordinated and efficient rapid OSH response mechanism to capacity building, in case of future emergencies, with a particular focus on Ukraine.



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Proposed agenda

**A collective and coordinated OSH emergency preparedness and response
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Morning session

- 09:00 – 09:30 Registration, informal networking, coffee**
- 09:30 – 10:00 Welcome and introduction to the RoundTable**
- Opening remarks by Annemarie Straathof, Vice President Risk and Compliance and Chief Risk Officer
 - Chaired by EBRD, TBC
 - Co-Chaired by IOSH, Vanessa Harwood-Whitcher, Chief Executive
- 10:00 – 11:00 Keynote presentations: Situation on the ground in Ukraine. Assessment of immediate and long-term OSH needs.**
- Ukrainian Ministry of Economy, Directorate of Labour and Employment, speaker TBC
 - Ukrainian Ministry of Health, Directorate of Public Health and Prevention, speaker TBC
 - Ms. Olga Bogdanova, TechIOSH, Chairperson of the Board at ESOSH (the European Society of Occupational Safety & Health), Ukraine
 - Mr. Jaco Cilliers, Resident Representative a.i. of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ukraine, TBC
- 11:00 – 11:45 Discussion: Tour de table (moderated by EBRD/IOSH)**
- 11:45 – 12:00 Morning session summary (EBRD/IOSH)**
- 12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break**

Afternoon session

- 13:00 – 13:50 Introduction to the afternoon session: Creating a collective model response for a joint multilateral approach to rapid post-conflict and disaster Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) capacity building.**
- Chaired by IOSH, Vanessa Harwood-Whitcher, Chief Executive
 - Co-chaired by EBRD, Debbie Cousins, Head of Environment and Sustainability Department Operations
- Presentations by key international organisations
- 13:50 – 14:30 Discussion: Tour de table (moderated by EBRD/IOSH)**
- 14:30 – 15:00 Coffee break**
- 15:00 – 16:00 Discussion: Tour de table (resumed)**
- 16:00 – 16:30 Afternoon session summary and closing remarks. (EBRD/IOSH)**