

Help Localisation Facility (HLF) launched in Ukraine: new opportunities for local humanitarian initiatives

The **German Federal Foreign Office** and the international humanitarian organisation **Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe** are announcing the official Open call for registration to the **Help Localisation Facility (HLF)** in Ukraine, which will start on June 10, 2025. This global programme coordinated by Help and funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, aims to transform the humanitarian system and make local organisation key actors in the humanitarian response in Ukraine.

■ The main objectives of the HLF:

- ▶ Forming equal partnerships with civil society to overcome the imbalance between international and local organisations;
- ▶ Increasing the participation of local initiatives that represent the interests of communities and have a real impact on decision-making;
- ▶ Providing flexible, demand-driven financing with minimal bureaucratic barriers.

The programme aims to support projects implemented directly by Ukrainian organisations. This will help accelerate the localisation of humanitarian aid and increase the capacity of national partners. Localisation is at the heart of both the German government's strategy and Help's humanitarian assistance strategy.

■ Funding and participation

Within the pilot phase of the programme, which will last until December 2026, HLF plans to provide financial support in three formats, ranging in duration and volume, with the long-term grant of 12 months and up to 800,000 euros.

Organisations wishing to participate must meet the minimum criteria set by the programme, and their activities must be based on humanitarian principles, namely humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.

■ Transparent and fair selection process

The HLF application process involves the following steps:

1. Registration and due diligence
2. Pre-selection and dialogue with the HLF team
3. Submitting a full project proposal
4. Final decision on grant awards

All applications for funding will be reviewed anonymously to ensure:

- ▶ impartial evaluation;
- ▶ equality of opportunity for new and little-known organisations;
- ▶ building trust in decision-making.
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The Help Localisation Facility is not just about grants. It is a paradigm shift in the humanitarian sector. It is an investment in people, communities and local leadership.

■ **“German support for Ukrainian communities: registration for funding humanitarian projects has started”**

On Tuesday, 10 June, at 10.00, a press conference on the funding programme for charities and NGOs in Ukraine supported by the German Foreign Office was held at the press centre of the Interfax-Ukraine news agency (8/5-A Reitarska St.).

"The HLF Programme is more than just funding. It is an investment in trust, in capacity, in local leadership. We work together with civil society, for it and through it," said Oleksandr Novikov, Director of Help - Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe in Ukraine.

"Our priority was to create a mechanism that allows for flexible, direct and minimal bureaucracy to fund Ukrainian humanitarian initiatives. We have deliberately moved away from excessive restrictions and established categories to support exactly what communities really need. I am very pleased that large donors, in particular the German government, are showing more confidence in local organisations," said Hanna Medvedeva, Advisor on civil society engagement at People in Need and member of the HLF Steering Committee.

"In our sector, it is important to learn and adopt best practices. This allows us to support and create projects and programmes with the highest efficiency of use of resources for concrete and visible results. It enables civil society to influence decision-making. I appreciate the fact that the programme has implemented the principles of feedback and organisational capacity development," said Daria Rybalchenko, Director of the National Network for the Development of Local Philanthropy.

More information about the HLF Programme, eligibility criteria and application process can be found on the official website: [Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe in Ukraine](#)

Pictures from the press conference

2025-06(June)-10 Press Conference HLF Kyiv by Olha Hurenko

■ **We also invite you to an online session of the Help Localisation Facility (HLF) Programme**

In response to the high interest in the HLF Programme and numerous inquiries from potential participants, we are organising an online information session.

The purpose of the session is to provide clarification on the conditions of participation, the application process and other organisational issues, as well as to create a space for open dialogue with the programme team.

Available dates:

- ▶ 12 June (Thursday)
- ▶ 13 June (Friday)

Format: online session in Microsoft Teams

Participation is by prior registration.

To participate in one of the sessions, please fill in the short registration form under the following [link](#)