

FIELD TOOL - CATEGORY I HUMANITARIAN REPAIRS V1.0

Version Information

- Version: 1.0
- Date of issue: April 2026
- Status: Endorsed technical field tool
- Applies to: Category I humanitarian repairs in war-affected housing in Ukraine

Development & Governance

This Field Tool was developed by RedR UK as a simplified operational guide, based on the SOP developed by the Ukraine Shelter Cluster Technical Working Group (TWIG), under the leadership and coordination of the Shelter Cluster Ukraine.

Ownership & Endorsement

- Technical ownership: Ukraine Shelter Cluster
- Technical oversight: Shelter Cluster in Ukraine Technical Working Group (TWIG)
- Endorsed through: Shelter Cluster Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)

Use & Scope Disclaimer

This document:

- Supports operational decision-making by humanitarian partners
- Does not replace the Shelter Cluster SOP or Ukrainian legislation
- Does not authorise structural repairs or Category 2/3 interventions
- Must be applied in coordination with local authorities and Shelter Cluster systems

Acknowledgements

Full list of contributors is available in [Annex 13 \(List of Participants\)](#) of the SOP for Category I Humanitarian Repairs: Feedback and suggestions for improvement can be shared via: vovk@unhcr.org

Citation

When referencing this tool, please cite as:

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WHAT THIS TOOL IS

This Field Tool is a concise, clickable operational guide for partners implementing **Category I Humanitarian Repairs**. Category I repairs are defined as **light and medium repairs addressing non-structural damage only**, aimed at restoring **minimum habitability and the thermal envelope** of war-damaged housing. This tool translates the Shelter Cluster SOP into a practical, field-usable guidance for assessment, decision-making, coordination, implementation, and closure.

Who Should Use It

- Field engineers
- Social workers / assessors
- Contractor supervisors
- Partner programme staff
- Hromada focal points
- Cluster coordinators

What This Tool Covers

- Targeting and eligibility
- Damage classification
- Social and technical assessment
- Scope of works under Category I
- Repair modality selection
- Costing references
- Coordination and de-duplication
- Quality control, reporting, accountability, and closure
- Accessibility requirements
- Asbestos safety
- Annexes, checklists, and decision tools

What This Toolkit Is NOT

This tool does **NOT**:

- Replace the official SOP
- Permit structural or heavy repairs (Category II or III)
- Replace Ukrainian law or DBN standards
- Override state-led compensation and repair programmes



Useful Links

- [Shelter Cluster SOP FOR CATEGORY I REPAIRS](#)
- [Shelter Cluster Website](#)
- [SIDAR Platform](#)
- [eVidnovlennia Programme](#)



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MODULE 1: TARGETING & ELIGIBILITY

1.1 Eligibility Pathways

A household may be eligible for Category I repairs if it qualifies under **at least one** of the following **SOP-defined pathways**:

- ✓ **Unmet repair needs:** The household lacks financial resources, materials, labour, or technical capacity to restore minimum habitability independently.
- ✓ **eVidnovlennia gaps:** The household applied for or received state compensation that is incomplete, delayed, insufficient, or inaccessible due to administrative or practical barriers.
- ✓ **Partial prior assistance:** Previous humanitarian assistance did not fully restore minimum habitable conditions.
- ✓ **Geographic priority (Crescent oblasts):** The dwelling is located in Shelter Cluster-defined priority areas, including Crescent oblasts and other frontline or near-frontline areas.

 [Targeting Pathway Guidance \(Shelter Cluster Ukraine ACTIVITIES HANDBOOK 2026\)](#)



1.2 Vulnerable Groups (VList)

Prioritisation must be applied when resources are limited. Priority groups include:

- Persons with disabilities or chronic illness
- Older persons (60+0)
- Women and girls at risk (including pregnant women and GBV survivors)
- Children under 3 years old
- Children at risk (unaccompanied, separated, or living near active hostilities)
- Families with three or more children (under 18, or under 23 if studying)
- Foster families
- Female-headed households
- Minority groups, including Roma and Crimean Tatars
- LGBTQ+ persons
- Stateless or undocumented persons
- Veterans and former combatants (discharged; assessed as civilians)
- IDPs with heightened vulnerability
- Households facing severe socioeconomic hardship



[Protection Cluster Guidance](#)



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MODULE 1: TARGETING & ELIGIBILITY

1.3 Basic Registration Eligibility (MANDATORY)

Before accepting an application, **all** of the following conditions must be met:

- Visible, war-related damage to the dwelling
- Commission inspection report from local authorities (where available)
- Residential status of the property, or ability to restore it to minimum habitability
- Official address compatible with SIDAR registration
- Written consent from the owner for participation and data processing

Applications that do not meet all criteria **must not proceed** to technical assessment.

1.4 Exclusion Rules

Households **are not** eligible for Category I repairs if:



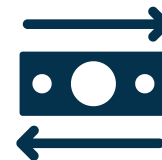
The home is
completely destroyed
(Cat 3)



The home has
structural damage,
affecting load-bearing
elements (Cat 2)



They own an
undamaged second
residence



They receive full
assistance through
eVidnovlennia



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MODULE 1: TARGETING & ELIGIBILITY

1.5 Important Caveats

- **Adaptive targeting:** vulnerability status is dynamic and must be re-verified during the project cycle.
- **Repeated damage:** housing previously repaired is eligible only if a new incident occurred and is supported by a new Commission Report.
- **Multiple properties:** households with one undamaged property are not eligible.
- **Access rule:** areas within approximately 20km of active hostilities are permissible: occupied territories are excluded.

1.6 De-Duplication Obligations

Before initiating any repair activity, partners must:

- Check **SIDAR** for ongoing or completed activities at the address
- Check **eVidnovlennia** application and compensation status
- Coordinate with the hromada to confirm no municipal or state repairs are planned
- Document the outcome of all checks in the case file



Useful Links

- [SIDAR Platform](#)



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MODULE 2: DAMAGE CLASSIFICATION

2.1 Primary Classification Logic



Category I - Non-structural Light/Medium Damage

- Damage affects non-load-bearing components only
- No structural elements are compromised
- Dwelling can be restored through light or medium repairs

ELIGIBLE



Category II - Structural Damage

- Damage affects load-bearing elements, including walls, slabs, foundations, beams, columns, or roof structures

Do not intervene; refer to appropriate actor or programme.

NOT ELIGIBLE



Category III - Destroyed

- Dwelling is unsafe, unstable, or non-functional
- Repair is not technically or economically feasible

Do not intervene; refer to state or durable solutions pathways.

NOT ELIGIBLE



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MODULE 2: DAMAGE CLASSIFICATION

2.2 Typical Category I Damage (Examples)

- Broken or missing windows & doors
- Damaged roof covering (tiles, metal sheets), with intact rafters
- Damaged gutters or drainage elements
- Minor electrical, plumbing, or heating failures
- Damaged internal finishes (plaster, tiles, flooring, ceilings)



2.3 Red Flags (Requires Referral)

Stop Category I repairs immediately if any of the following are observed:

- Structural cracks or deformations in load-bearing walls
- Sagging or unstable floors
- Damaged rafters, trusses, beams, or columns
- Foundation settlement or displacement

Such cases must be referred as Category II or III



Useful Links

- [DBN Structural Standards](#)



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MODULE 3: SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

3.1 Social Assessment Checklist

The social assessment must verify:

- ☐ *Household composition and dependency ratio*
- ☐ *Vulnerability categories*
- ☐ *Ownership, tenancy, or occupancy status*
- ☐ *Previous humanitarian or state assistance received*
- ☐ *Protection risks and referral needs*



Useful Links

- [Annex 3 Needs Assessment Tool](#)
- [Annex 4 Tools for Initial Telephone Contact with Beneficiaries](#)
- [Annex 5. Initial Safety, Eligibility and Technical Damage Assessment Form](#)
- [Washington Group Short Set](#)



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MODULE 3: TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT

3.2 Safe Entry Procedures

Before entering the dwelling, the assessor must check for:

- Unexploded remnants of war
- Gas leaks or chemical hazards
- Electrical hazards
- Visible structural instability

If any risk is identified, **stop immediately** and follow safety protocols.

[Mine/UXO Safety \(GICHD\)](#)

3.3 Technical Assessment Steps



*Confirm no
structural damage*

*Photograph
all damaged
elements*

*Assess
functionality of
MEP systems*

*Identify
priority rooms*

*Record all
required data
for SIDAR*

[Annex 7. Workflow for the Implementation of Humanitarian Housing Repairs with Contractor Involvement](#)
[Annex 8. Housing Damage Technical Assessment Tool](#)

3.4 Stop-Work Thresholds

Do not proceed with Category I repairs if:

- Structural damage is identified at any stage
- Roofing damage extends to load-bearing elements
- The dwelling is unsafe for temporary habitation



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MODULE 4: SCOPE OF WORKS & MODALITIES

4.1 Priority Rooms

Minimum rooms to restore:

- Kitchen
- Bathroom / Sanitation
- One living or sleeping room

4.2 Works Allowed Under Category I

- **Envelope & Openings:** windows; external and internal doors; roof covering (no rafters or trusses); gutters and downpipes
- **MEP Systems:** Minor electrical reinstatement; minor plumbing repairs; heating system reinstatement where technically simple
- **Interior Finishes:** Ceilings, walls, floors; minor carpentry and sealing

4.3 Works Not Allowed

- Structural wall repair
- Beams, columns, rafters, or trusses
- Foundations or slabs
- Structural roof elements (rafters, trusses, beams)



[Annex 7. Workflow for the Implementation of Humanitarian Housing Repairs with Contractor Involvement](#)

[Annex 9 – Table 1. For private houses. List of Category I Humanitarian repair works with SIDAR and “eVidnovlennia” checklist alignment](#)

[Annex 9. Table 2. For apartments in multi-apartment buildings. List of Category I Humanitarian repair works with SIDAR and “eVidnovlennia” checklist alignment](#)



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MODULE 4: SCOPE OF WORKS & MODALITIES

4.4 Repair Modality Selection

Modality	Recommended When
Contractor-led	Complex works; household lacks capacity
Conditional Cash	Stable market; household has skills and labour access
Mixed Modality	Clear split of responsibilities is feasible
Materials Provision	Rural / remote areas; standardised minor works

4.5 Costing Reference (Indicative)

Indicative average costs are based on a reference household (1-3 persons, ~36 m²). Costs scale proportionally for larger households.

Cash tranches:

- Up to USD 1,000
- USD 1,000 - 4,000
- Over USD 4,000

(Full costing methodology available in SOP Annex 10: "Methodology for Determining the Recommended Average Cost of Category I Humanitarian Repairs".



[Annex 7. Workflow for the Implementation of Humanitarian Housing Repairs with Contractor Involvement](#)
[Annex 10. Methodology for determining the recommended average cost of category I humanitarian repairs](#)



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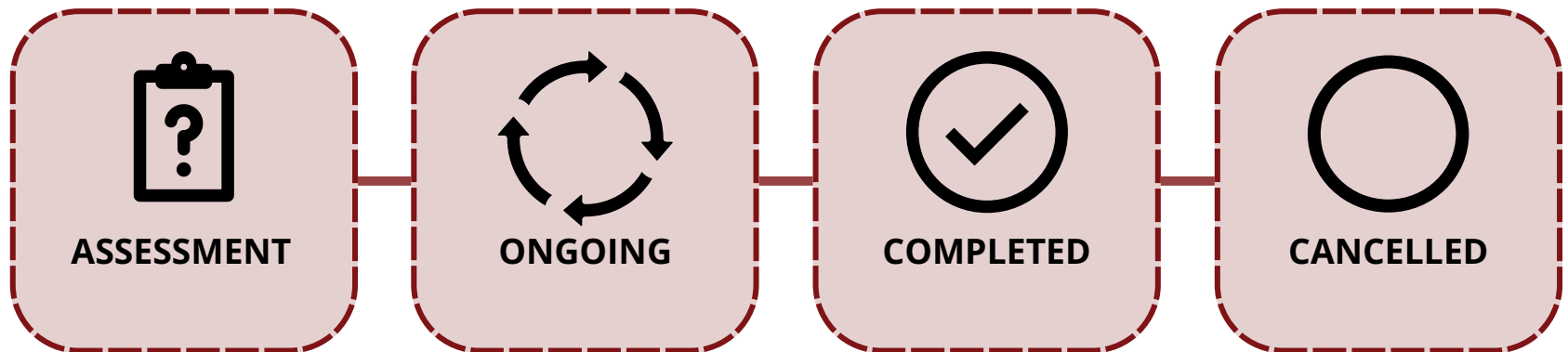
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MODULE 5: COORDINATION & HLP

5.1 SIDAR Workflow



5.2 Hromada Coordination (MANDATORY)

Partners must:

1. Obtain beneficiary lists from the hromada as the **primary source**
2. Coordinate before intervening when beneficiaries are identified elsewhere
3. Report back to the hromada on all supported households, including status and assistance type

5.3 HLP Due Diligence & Owner Consent

- Written owner consent is mandatory
- Consent must state that humanitarian repairs **may affect eligibility for state compensation**
- If the owner has applied to eVidnovlennia, assistance should be avoided unless significant access barriers exist
- Co-ownership disputes must be resolved before assistance
- After works, a list of completed works must be submitted to local authorities

[Annex 11. Scheme of interaction and coordination of humanitarian repairs category](#)



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MODULE 5: COORDINATION & HLP

5.4 HLP Due Diligence for Non-Owner Beneficiaries

Humanitarian repairs under Category I may be considered for non-owner beneficiaries (including lawful occupants, tenants, or users of housing) where access to the national compensation mechanism is impossible or subject to significant barriers.

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Prior to approving assistance, partners must assess whether the household faces legal, procedural, or practical obstacles that prevent access to the state compensation mechanism (eVidnovlennia). Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

- Loss, destruction, or absence of ownership documentation;
- Unregistered inheritance or unresolved co-ownership;
- Inability to register ownership rights in the State Register of Proprietary Rights;
- Lawful occupation of municipal, state, or service housing;
- Unauthorized extensions or discrepancies between the dwelling and technical documentation;
- Absence or unavailability of one or more owners (e.g. abroad, missing, deceased);
- Refusal, suspension, or prolonged processing of compensation claims;
- Legal or administrative encumbrances affecting the property.

REQUIRED ACTIONS

Where such barriers are identified, partners must:

- Document the identified HLP constraints in the case file;
- Inform the household of potential implications for future state compensation;
- Obtain informed, written consent prior to implementing humanitarian repairs;
- Avoid providing legal advice beyond the scope of humanitarian assistance and, where relevant, refer households to qualified legal aid providers.

Humanitarian assistance must not duplicate or replace state compensation mechanisms and must be implemented strictly after exercising all reasonable, time-evaluated options to include households in governmental support programs, and in line with the principle of 'do no harm'.

Where a household is found ineligible for Category I repairs for any reason (including HLP, damage category, or duplication), partners must follow the referral pathways set out in Annex 6.

[Annex 6. Referral Pathways and Support for Households Ineligible for Category I Repairs](#)



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MODULE 6: Quality Control, Reporting & Accountability

6.1 During-Works Monitoring

- Inspection of concealed works before covering
- Monitoring of delays, access, or market risks
- Collection of Beneficiary feedback during implementation

6.2 Final Quality Control

- Materials inspection
- Compliance with DBN standards
- Technical inspection completed (per Annex 12)

[Annex 12. Rules for the Acceptance of Metal-Plastic Hybrid Structural Elements](#)



6.3 Reporting Platforms

- **SIDAR:** for case-level status tracking and coordination
- **Activity Info:** for aggregate reporting and cluster monitoring
- **Special reports:** donors or Cluster as requested

6.4 Accountability & CFM

Beneficiaries have the right to:

- Ask questions
- Raise concerns
- Receive timely and official responses

CFM options may include hotlines, email, suggestion boxes, in-person reception, or online forms.

Accountability to the hromada must be maintained with confidentiality safeguards



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MODULE 7: ACCESSIBILITY

Minimum accessibility requirements must be applied to repaired elements where relevant:

- Reduced or eliminated thresholds.
- Door widths compliant with DBN standards.
- Accessible bathroom layouts.
- Accessibility applies only to repaired components.
- Up to 10% additional budget may be applied, subject to donor approval.
- Accessibility upgrades must not introduce structural interventions.



Useful Links

- [Barrier-Free Album](#)
- [DBN V.2.2-40:2018](#)



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MODULE 8: ASBESTOS SAFETY

8.1 Key Facts

- Approximately 75% of private homes in Ukraine use asbestos slate
- Asbestos fibres are carcinogenic

8.2 DO

- Wet materials
- Remove manually
- Use FFP3 masks and PPF
- Double-seal waste

8.3 DO NOT

- Don't dry-cut
- Don't break intentionally
- Don't use power tools

8.4 Disposal

- Hazardous waste rules apply
- Double-bag and label
- Temporary storage allowed
- Hand to licensed operators



[WHO Asbestos Fact Sheet](#)
[Ukraine Asbestos Resources](#)



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SOP ANNEXES

- [Annex 3. Needs Assessment Tool](#)
- [Annex 4. Tools for Initial Telephone Contact with Beneficiaries](#)
- [Annex 5. Initial Safety, Eligibility and Technical Damage Assessment Form](#)
- [Annex 6. Referral Pathways and Support for Households Ineligible for Category I Repairs](#)
- [Annex 7. Workflow for the Implementation of Humanitarian Housing Repairs with Contractor Involvement](#)
- [Annex 8. Housing Damage Technical Assessment Tool](#)
- [Annex 9 – Table 1. For private houses. List of Category I Humanitarian repair works with SIDAR and “eVidnovlennia” checklist alignment](#)
- [Annex 9. Table 2. For apartments in multi-apartment buildings. List of Category I Humanitarian repair works with SIDAR and “eVidnovlennia” checklist alignment](#)
- [Annex 10. Methodology for determining the recommended average cost of category I humanitarian repairs](#)
- [Annex 11. Scheme of interaction and coordination of humanitarian repairs category I](#)
- [Annex 12. Rules for the acceptance of metal-plastic hybrid structural](#)
- [Shelter Cluster SOP FOR CATEGORY I REPAIRS](#)

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS & GUIDANCE

Additional Reference Documents

- [Barrier-Free Album](#)
- [DBN Structural Standards](#)
- [DBN V.2.2-40:2018](#)
- [eVidnovlennia Programme](#)
- [Mine/UXO Safety \(GICHD\)](#)
- [Protection Cluster Guidance](#)
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