

How do Ukraine's rescuers and police officers work? EU and UNDP unveil interactive online exhibition

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The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ukraine, in partnership with the European Union, has launched an interactive online exhibition entitled 'Moments Before'. It offers an in-depth look into the work of Ukraine's emergency responders and police officers amid Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine.

The exhibition features contributions from units of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SES) and the National Police of Ukraine (NPU) in Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, and Mykolaiv.

Through a series of documentary photographs and personal testimonies, the exhibition immerses viewers in the daily realities of emergency response teams. It goes beyond their immediate duties — clearing the aftermath of

attacks, evacuating civilians, demining territories, maintaining public order, and working with canine units — to reveal the human side of their work.

The project delves into what rescuers and police officers experience in their most critical moments, how they manage psychological and physical pressure, what their mission means to them, and what keeps them going despite the immense challenges.

“Rescuers and police officers put their lives on the line every day, and we are used to seeing them in action,” said Stefan Schleuning, the Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Ukraine. *“But behind this, there is a world of emotions, pressure, and fatigue — things that statistics and numbers cannot capture. This project allows us to see their work not just as a duty but through a deeply human perspective.”*

The exhibition was developed as part of the flagship EU-UNDP partnership ‘EU4Recovery – Empowering Communities in Ukraine’, in collaboration with the SES and NPU. The project was implemented by the Vandog Agency.