

Advancing resilience and sustainability in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

GCCED Fragile States Portfolio 2026

Ukraine — Climate Resilience in Reconstruction

Snapshot: Population ~37 million | GDP per capita ~US\$5,000 | Fragility context: War-affected reconstruction | Region: Europe

Integrated Context

Ukraine's environmental landscape has been significantly reshaped by the ongoing war, with widespread damage across industrial zones, agricultural land, and critical infrastructure. The destruction of energy facilities, water systems, and industrial sites has introduced new environmental risks, including soil contamination, water pollution, and long-term ecosystem degradation. These impacts are not only immediate but are likely to persist, affecting public health, agricultural productivity, and environmental stability for years to come.

At the same time, the scale of reconstruction required presents a rare opportunity to rethink how infrastructure, energy systems, and urban development are rebuilt. Rather than restoring systems to their previous state, there is growing recognition of the need to embed climate resilience and sustainability into recovery efforts. This includes investing in modern, energy-efficient infrastructure, expanding renewable energy capacity, and integrating environmental safeguards into reconstruction planning.

Ukraine's agricultural sector—central to both national and global food systems—also faces challenges related to land degradation, contamination, and disrupted production systems. Ensuring the recovery of this sector will require careful environmental assessment, soil rehabilitation, and climate-adapted farming practices.

In this context, reconstruction is not only about rebuilding physical assets, but also about strengthening systems that can withstand future shocks—whether climatic, environmental, or geopolitical.

Key Climate and Environmental Challenges

- War-related environmental contamination and ecosystem damage
- Destruction of water, energy, and industrial infrastructure
- Soil degradation and risks to agricultural productivity
- Industrial pollution and hazardous material exposure

GCCED Engagement Priorities

- Developing green and climate-resilient reconstruction frameworks
- Supporting large-scale environmental remediation and cleanup
- Accelerating renewable energy transition and energy diversification
- Promoting resilient infrastructure and sustainable urban planning

Strategic Note

Ukraine's reconstruction represents a critical window to align recovery with long-term climate resilience. Integrating environmental sustainability into rebuilding efforts—across energy, infrastructure, and agriculture—will be essential to reducing future risks and supporting a more resilient and competitive economy.

SDG Alignment: 7 • 9 • 11 • 13 • 16