

Ukraine Claims It Needs \$750 Billion More to 'Build Back Better'

Kiev economics school assessment is funded by USAID.

By Jordan Schachtel

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In-depth Report: **UKRAINE REPORT**

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A new US-funded report out of Kiev assesses \$108.3 billion in economic damages for Ukraine, but requests a 7x replenishment of \$750 billion so that the country can "Build Back Better."

The Kyiv School of Economics has <u>released a new assessment</u> claiming that Ukraine will need hundreds of billions of dollars to "Build Back Better" from its war against Russia.

As of August 1, 2022, the new update from the Ukrainian institution assesses \$108.3 billion in economic damages from the war, roughly the equivalent of the country's gross domestic product in 2020.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has caused \$108.3 billion in damage to the country's infrastructure, according to a study from Kyiv School of Economics released the same day Ukraine's defense ministry estimated the war has left 3.5 million people homeless. https://t.co/c7mV6cD4Sx pic.twitter.com/ugeeHC9SoZ

— Forbes (@Forbes) <u>August 3, 2022</u>

But as you'll see in a moment, those damages are rookie numbers. In this era of money printing madness, Ukraine has much more ambitious plans than simply replacing damaged infrastructure. These "expert" economists are about to send the tab soaring.

The study says Ukraine will need a bare minimum of \$185 billion, almost twice the amount in damages, in order to repair the nation, citing what they refer to as the "Build Back Better

principle." The slogan was popularized by The World Economic Forum, and is used by governments to refer to their plans to impose digital tyranny and accomplish ESG-compliant objectives.

Ukraine is seeking the "modernization of assets that have not suffered damage and destruction," the report adds That request will mark up the economic aid request to the tune of \$750 billion dollars.



UAH 5.4 trillion. Recovery needs have increased by \$19.9 billion compared to the last estimates due to the growth in the number of destroyed and damaged objects. 40% of this amount is needed to rebuild the housing stock — \$75.3 billion. Another \$42.3 billion is needed to recover Ukraine's infrastructure. \$18.3 billion and \$17.5 billion — needs to restore the agro-industrial complex and land resources and industry and enterprises, accordingly.

The total amount of recovery needs takes into account only the reconstruction of destroyed objects according to the Build Back Better principle, taking into account modernization, and the additional need for liquidity for the restoration of enterprises. At the same time, this assessment does not take into account the general needs for the recovery of the economy, as well as additional needs for the modernization of assets that have not suffered damage and destruction. According to the Government's estimates, taking into account these categories, the total need for financing the recovery and modernization of the economy is \$750 billion.

Notably, **President Volodomyr Zelensky'**s office has <u>previously cited the exact \$750</u> billion number, but claimed it was the total cost of losses.

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"Now we are working on a long-term plan for the recovery of Ukraine. It defines the list of national reconstruction programs. We have incorporated the Build Back Better principle into this plan," Zelensky's deputy said last month.



At the end of the report, we find that the robust damages assessment is not an independent effort. In fact, it is funded by the U.S. taxpayer, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The "assessment" is just the latest document that advances the continuing global campaign to solicit funds for the rebuilding, reconstruction, and "modernization" of Ukraine, despite the fact that the war is ongoing. There has been a concerted effort in the D.C. lobbying and military contracting space to score massive funds for the "reconstruction" effort.



"There is danger in Western complacency, and allied states must not squander this moment..." @DomCruzBus @ForeignAffairs

Build Ukraine Back Better I Foreign Affairs



Build Ukraine Back Better

Reconstruction is an opportunity for democratic renewal.

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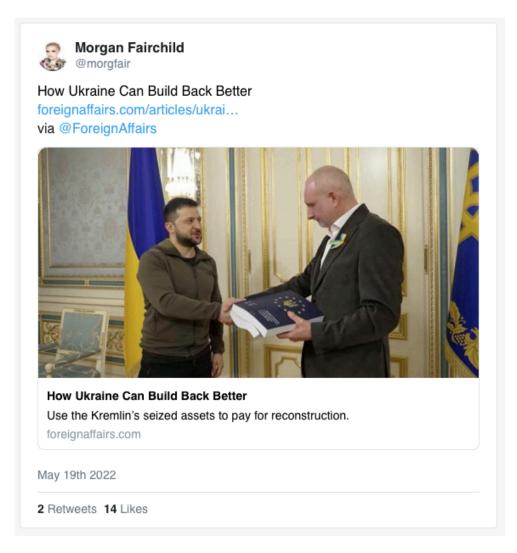
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Meanwhile in D.C., Congress is beginning to whip the votes for a new funding round for Ukraine, yet very few lawmakers having any idea where the first \$40 billion ended up.



NEW: Months after Congress passed an appropriations bill for Ukraine, talks are starting around a new round of funding.

But Republicans first want a fuller accounting of the initial \$40 billion. And language in the last bill caused some disagreements

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Language in the last appropriations bill for Ukraine has caused confusion about how Congress can track the funds. Some are concerned it could dampen congressional support for Kyiv.

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The Biden Administration continues to send regular military assistance to Ukraine, depleting U.S. stockpiles in the process, and it hasn't helped the country turn the tide of the war. On Monday, the White House authorized an <u>additional \$550 million</u> in weaponry for Kiev.

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