

Day 1. Introduction, on-site get-together and site preparation

The twenty workshop participants, the HOPE HOME • НАДІЯ team, and Ukrainian and German experts introduced themselves and familiarised themselves with the workshop programme, objectives, and planned activities. The introductory meeting provided an opportunity for participants to get acquainted with one another and prepare for the collaborative work planned throughout the workshop.

Together with the local community, the team discussed the location of the future pavilion, taking into account the needs and wishes of local residents, as previously discussed during the summer workshop.

Practical work began with clearing the site and preparing the ground for the installation of the gabion foundation system. Participants worked together to prepare the designated area for the next stages of the project.



Day 2. Introductory lecture on clay/earth construction and start of the clay workshop



Work continued on preparing the site for the installation of the gabion foundation system. Participants aligned the corners and marked straight lines to ensure the accurate positioning of the structure.

Ukrainian expert Mykhailo Shevchenko delivered an introductory lecture on clay as a natural building material, explaining its properties and potential applications. Following the theoretical introduction, participants began the practical part of the clay workshop.

They conducted field tests to assess the properties of clay, carried out the Karazas test, and prepared formwork for producing adobe blocks. These activities allowed participants to examine the characteristics of the excavated clay and gain initial hands-on experience with earth-based materials.



Day 3. Continuation of the clay workshop, working with excavated clay



Participants continued experimenting with excavated clay and exploring its potential applications through practical work. Activities included producing adobe blocks and pressing material samples to examine the behaviour and properties of the material.

The workshop also included experiments with hemp shives as a natural material for insulation, introduced by Ukrainian expert Illia Svetashov. Participants had the opportunity to handle the material directly and explore its characteristics through practical activities.

Under the guidance of the Ukrainian and German experts, participants continued developing their understanding of earth-based materials and their possible uses in the pavilion. For many participants, working with these materials provided an opportunity to gain practical experience through experimentation and direct engagement with the materials.



Day 4. Gabion workshop



Participants continued working on the gabion foundation system. They aligned the gabion structures, secured the metal mesh, and began filling the cages with construction waste and other suitable materials.

The construction debris used for the gabions had been sorted in advance by UN staff according to hazard categories, ensuring that only safe material was reused. To collect additional material for the gabions, participants gathered stones and construction debris remaining in the community following its de-occupation. The collected materials were sorted and prepared for reuse within the foundation system.

Through this practical work, participants explored how locally available materials could be incorporated into the pavilion project, making use of existing resources rather than relying exclusively on newly sourced materials.



Day 5. Timber construction workshop, including carving wooden nails/pegs



Participants continued preparing the timber elements for the pavilion under the guidance of German expert Moritz Henes. They cut the timber according to the technical drawings, measured the required dimensions, and prepared the components for assembly.

Particular attention was given to producing wooden dowels as an alternative to conventional metal connectors. Participants cut timber boards into smaller pieces and shaped them into a rounded cross-section suitable for joining the structural elements.

In the evening, the team reached an important milestone: the first timber arch was assembled using wooden dowels and lifted into position through the collective effort of the workshop participants and experts. This practical stage allowed participants to apply the woodworking techniques they had practised and begin assembling the pavilion’s timber structure.

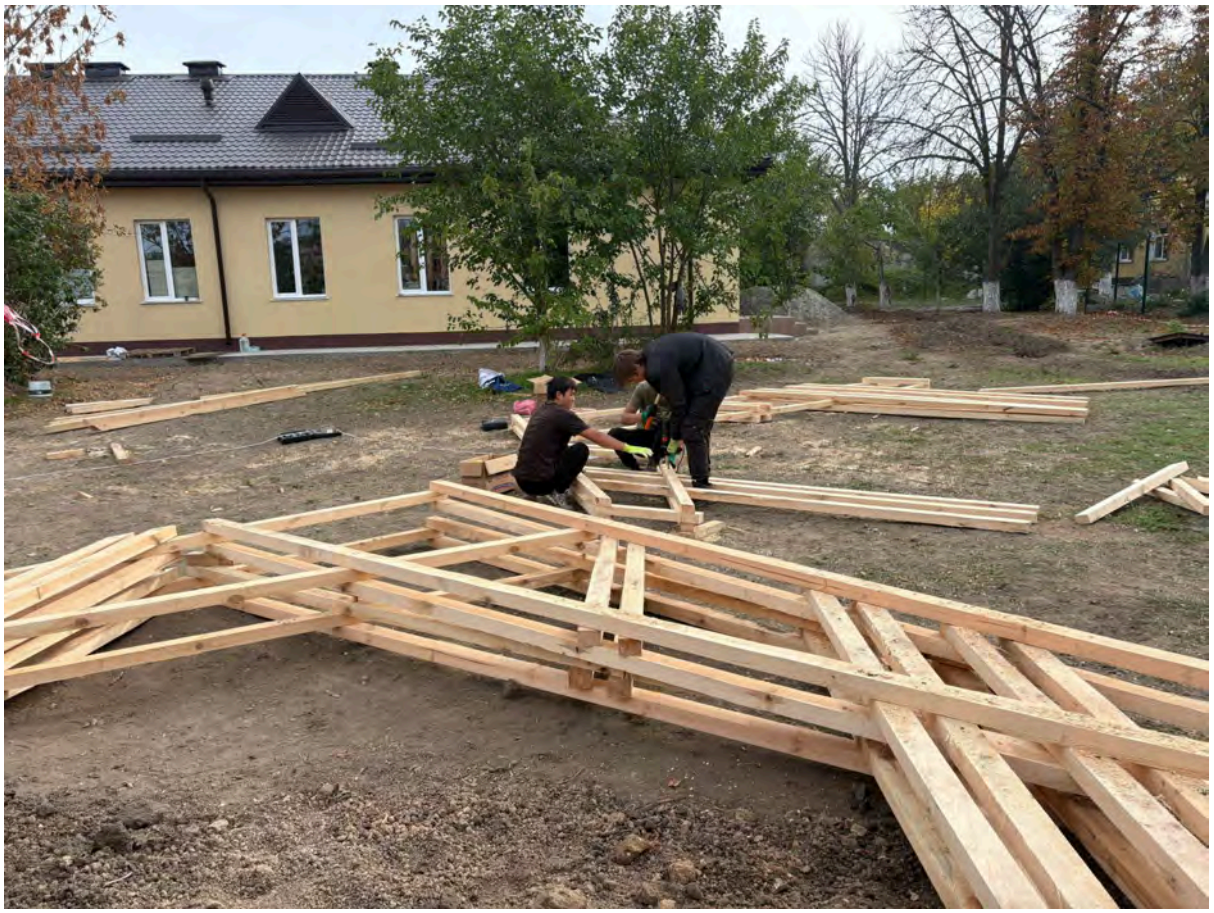


Day 6. Advanced timber workshop

Participants continued processing and assembling the timber elements for the pavilion, working according to the technical drawings and under the guidance of German expert Moritz.

They cut the structural components to the required dimensions and joined them using wooden dowels. Through this work, participants continued practising timber processing and assembly techniques, paying attention to the accurate positioning and connection of the individual elements.

The assembly work also progressed to raising the timber arches and securing them to the previously installed anchor rods. By the end of the day, four arches had been installed, marking significant progress in assembling the pavilion’s timber frame.





Day 7. Raising the individual timber frames, teamwork involving all participants



Participants continued raising and assembling the pavilion’s timber frames, progressing towards completing the overall structure.

An important stage involved connecting the arches horizontally and installing wall ties to improve the rigidity and stability of the frame. Participants worked according to the technical drawings and coordinated their efforts to position and connect the individual timber elements.

Through this collaborative process, they applied the skills developed during the previous timber workshops, including accurate timber processing, the use of wooden dowels, and the assembly of structural components. By the end of the day, approximately half of the timber structure had been installed.

Day 8. Continued timber construction



Participants continued assembling the pavilion’s timber frame, installing the remaining arches and connecting them with horizontal beams.

The work focused on bringing the individual structural elements together and ensuring that the arches were properly connected to form a complete timber framework. Participants coordinated their efforts to position the components and complete the assembly according to the technical drawings.

By the end of the day, all arches and horizontal connections had been installed, and the pavilion’s main timber frame was fully assembled.





Day 9. Installation of straw-clay wall elements



Under the guidance of German expert Adrian Nagel, participants began working with straw and clay to create wall elements for the pavilion.

The practical session introduced participants to the process of combining these natural materials and applying them in wall construction. Participants worked with the materials under expert guidance, gaining hands-on experience in preparing and installing straw-clay wall elements.
The activity focused on the practical application of natural materials and their integration into the pavilion’s design.



Day 10. Working with hemp-based insulation materials and erecting a temporary roof covering (the film/foil covering commonly used for greenhouses) until the next workshop on thatch/reed



On the final day, participants continued working with hemp-based materials, preparing insulation material and compacting it within a timber frame to create wall elements.

The completed wall elements were used to create a small shelter for the dog living on the grounds of the local school. This practical activity allowed participants to apply the techniques explored during the workshop and work with hemp-based materials in a small-scale structure.

Participants also installed a temporary roof covering over the pavilion to protect the timber structure from weather conditions until the next workshop, which will focus on thatch and reed roofing. The temporary covering provided interim protection while leaving the planned roofing work for a later stage.



