Ukrainian Crisis: Older People Vulnerabilities

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Ukraine war: the fastest growing refugee emergency since World War II


- About 90 000 Ukrainian refugees still remain in Moldova, of these – 13 500 are older people (15%)

- About 70% of refugee population consists of women-headed households, single women, adolescent girls, older women, who are at heightened risk of GBV

- In Moldova, 63% of women have been subjected to psychological, physical or sexual violence by their partners in their lifetime and one woman in ten has experienced economic abuse (NBS & UN Women Report: https://statistica.gov.md/public/files/publicatii_electronice/Violenta/Raport_violenta_fam.pdf)
The Government of Moldova has shown leadership in responding complemented and assisted by the efforts of development partners and the UN

UNFPA project of HelpAge International Moldova with focus:

Building resilience and protection copying strategies of older refugees from Ukraine with focus on prevention of violence, abuse and neglect and social participation.
Refugee’s vulnerabilities due to long-term circumstances

- Loneliness and insecurity of people leaving their homes;
- Lack of digital skills or limited access to Internet of older people refugees;
- Basic resources for living – food, hygiene products, money;
- Post war trauma, stress and mental health issues;
- Risks of domestic violence and abuse;
- Lack of social participation activities between refugees and local population.
5 Safe Spaces equipped with necessary Facilities

45 local staff recruited to support activities of which:
- 5 Local Coordinators
- 10 Social Assistants
- 30 Young Volunteers (of these 10 volunteers are Ukrainian)

Primary beneficiaries – older people
Secondary – all persons, regardless of their nationality or age that need help

Timeframe: July 2022 – Decembre 2023
Developing coping strategies for refugees

Provide quality GBV (gender based-violence) prevention and protection services, including psychosocial support, and reinforce referral pathways to Ukrainian refugees, with focus on older persons.

Strengthen the capacities of community services to prevent and respond to GBV.

Enhance strategies to empower women and girls, with a particular focus on older women, most at-risk, to prevent GBV and to change negative attitudes and beliefs that foster harmful social norms.

Build social networks and engage older people – Ukrainian refugees in intergenerational dialogue with young people, including to acquire digital skills and knowledge and reconnect with their relatives from Ukraine and abroad.
Other activities of need for refugees

Intercultural activities
Visits to cultural sites
Going to the theatre
Life-skills activities
First aid trainings
IT skills development
Daily recreational activities (watching TV, communication, playing games, reading books, etc.)
GBV Prevention Focus

Information campaigns on GBV and SSs services for locals and refugees

Individual counselling sessions

Information sessions with the doctor

Information sessions with the lawyer

Referrals to services
GBV/VAN Prevention outcomes for refugees

- 3,971 persons provided with GBV support services
- 24,207 participations
**Outcomes in numbers:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1312</td>
<td>Individual PSS</td>
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<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>Focus Group PSS</td>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Info Sessions with doctor</td>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Info Sessions with lawyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>65</td>
<td>Intercultural activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Life skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>IT Sessions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Trainings (GBV, MHPSS, IT, TP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Theatre visits</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cultural Trips</td>
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<tr>
<td>133</td>
<td>Outreach activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>Recreation activities</td>
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</tbody>
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Key Learnings

- There was little research conducted to inform the design of the projects due to the urgent need to respond fast.
- There is need for coordination of all actors working on HUM (Government, the UN) to avoid duplication.
- It is important to know to context and culture of the refugees to be able to design activities of their interest and needs (Ukrainians, Roma).
- Not all older people need support, not all of them are vulnerable (older people are not a homogeneous group) and there is need for individual approach but that requires time and money.
- The majority of older people travelled with their grown-up children assuming the role of carer that can potentially lead to VAN.
THANK YOU!