



Supporting Moldovan communities in hosting Ukrainian refugees

Background

Except for the economic challenges, Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has also led to a deterioration of the regional security, mass displacement of refugees to Moldova and the disruption of public service provision. Affecting predominantly the health, social and education sectors, which capacities were insufficient even before the arrival of refugees. In this context, Moldova continuously requires significant support for the modernisation and capacity development in the mentioned sectors, particularly at the rural level, where the accessibility and quality of basic services are limited, especially for vulnerable groups of population, which the refugees pertain to. This situation can be remediated by direct support aimed to strengthen the systems which are suffering from deficient financing and working means. The project is part of BMZ's resilience strengthening programme for Moldova in the context of the impact of the war in Ukraine.

Project Objective

The project aims to improve the accessibility, quality and usability of selected health, social and education services equally provided to Ukrainian refugees and host communities in Stefan Voda, Causeni and Ungheni districts of the Republic of Moldova.

Project Approach

The project supports the government to improve local public services by approaching the difficulties encountered by districts and communities in provision of health, social and education services to local population and settled refugees. In addressing the needs of the mentioned sectors, the project creates conditions for resilient, long-term development and hence, quality of life in the rural areas.

Following the specific needs and unforeseen circumstances caused by the arrival of the refugees in the target communities, the project builds upon the efforts of

Government and other development partners acting within the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, and focussing on following outputs:

Project name	“Supporting Moldovan communities in hosting Ukrainian refugees” (HOST Project)
Commissioned by	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)
Budget	EUR 4,400,000.00
Political partner	State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova.
Beneficiaries	Local public administrations. Health, social and education institutions. Refugees and host communities, particularly vulnerable groups of the population.

Output 1. Creation of basic conditions for social inclusion and peaceful coexistence in a conflict-sensitive context, focused on improving the refugees' social network and supporting their integration into communities.

In this context, joint cultural, recreational, and other activities with participation of settled refugees are planned in cooperation with local administrations, schools and youth centres. The Output also underlays a range of measures to support the service capacities of educational institutions.

Output 2. Improvement of healthcare service provision and integration of Mental Health and Psycho-social Support (MHPSS) in the refugee context in the health, social and education systems.

The implemented measures are aimed to initiate (MH)PSS service provision at local level and to strengthen the

psycho-emotional health and psychosocial well-being of refugees, women, and adolescents, as well as that of the hosting communities. A focused capacity development in PSS is aimed to enable the public service providers' resilience to faced adversities of communication in a conflict-sensitive context, as well as to prevent and counteract conflicts, bullying and violence between the Ukrainian refugees and hosting communities.

Additionally, considerable contribution is foreseen for the improvement of quality and efficiency of health services by modernizing the technical means and anchoring new multi-disciplinary mobile homecare services at the outset.

Output 3. Improvement of the accessibility, usability and quality of social services for socially vulnerable groups of the population in the rural communities.

Based on a participatory analysis of barriers and needs, and identification of potential improvement measures, this Output underlays a range of measures aimed to modernize the endowment of selected public institutions, as well as to improve their infrastructure. The establishment of a Day Care Centre for the provision of multi-disciplinary socio-medical services to people with special care needs is also envisaged under this Output.

Selected results

During the first year of progress, the measures were implemented in a manner to achieve a harmonized cross-sectoral impact and geared to contribute to the improvement of the baseline situation.

- A variety of events with conflict-sensitive orientation contributing to peaceful coexistence among refugees and hosting communities have helped cca.500 displaced people, predominantly children from 25 communities, to improve their friendship network, supporting their integration into communities.
- The concept and practice in “Psycho-Social Support (PSS) in refugee context” was introduced as novelty in Moldova. A relevant Guide with ‘easy to apply’ instruments in the area of psychology and mental health has been developed to be used by school psychologists, social workers, and facilitators.
- Multidisciplinary socio-medical services and mobile homecare were introduced to improve local service capacity in primary and preventive care. Cca. 1800 target beneficiaries, out of which 502 refugees, benefitted from regular services provided by 3 established mobile teams.
- The efficiency and service capacity of 28 health, social and education institutions in the target districts have been improved by benefitting from a wide range of modern medical, IT and other equipment, as well as transport means.

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