

RESULTS SUMMARY

CIVIL SOCIETY HELPS UKRAINIAN VULNERABLE PEOPLE TO OVERCOME CRISIS

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PROJECT

<i>Title:</i>	Acute Humanitarian Assistance for Affected Populations in Ukraine
<i>Partner:</i>	BlueBird, SICH, Forpost
<i>Country:</i>	Ukraine
<i>Period:</i>	March 2022 – July 2023

CHANGE

Local partners in Ukraine quickly pivoted to provide life-saving, multi-purpose cash, scaling up mental-health and psychosocial support, and offering legal assistance to persons affected by the escalation of war in Ukraine. As long-term partners to Dignity, the local partners strengthened their capacity to provide humanitarian aid in the face of acute emergencies, adhering also to Core Humanitarian Standards and Humanitarian Principles. This included also strengthened networks and participation in coordination mechanisms.

CONTEXT

The Russian escalation of war on 24 February 2022, which mainly targeted Kyiv and eight other regions of the country, resulted in internal displacement of more than 100,000 people as of 1 March 2022 to safer areas. At the same time, many people stayed in the conflict affected areas and did not want to move. These people were deprived of access to basic services and were not able to meet their basic needs. In these severe conditions, acute humanitarian assistance was of the utmost importance.

CONTRIBUTION

The local partners in Ukraine received training on the selection of beneficiaries, which enabled them to develop the protocols for selection of beneficiaries, create conditions for safe cash transfers, and monitor the transfers, as well as guidance on Core Humanitarian Standards. The partners have been introduced and linked to the necessary humanitarian coordination mechanisms such as the health cluster, which includes the MHPSS, the protection cluster, and the cash-assistance working group working in Ukraine.

IMAGES



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ACTIVITIES

The main activities were life-saving support such as cash assistance, medicine and NFI distributions, referral to specialized services, MHPSS, legal assistance, and various online and in-person capacity building activities for the local partners. Amongst other things, SICH organized the delivery of drinking water to Toretsk in the Donetsk region where people did not have prior access. Moreover, hygiene items were sent to the most affected locations in Zaporizhzhia region. The local partners also managed to deliver medicine to Berdiansk, which is occupied by Russian armed forces. Much of this was thanks to the partners' strong networks and relations with local self-government bodies, civil military cooperation, polyclinics, hospitals, shelters, volunteers, and other non-governmental organizations.

LESSONS

Three important lessons can be drawn from this response: First, during the response, the partners implemented new SOPs to prevent overcrowding at the distribution sites due to the possibility of airstrikes. Instead, people were allocated specific times to show up, which they were informed about in advance using phone. Secondly, shifting from protracted to acute emergencies is straining for local partners' staff, and more attention needs to be given to preventing burnout and ensuring their mental health. Finally, the project adopted a coach-like approach to much of the capacity building, which rather than formal workshops happened through regularly scheduled calls where partners discussed and provided sparring on how to follow and implement Core Humanitarian Standards properly. This in turn allowed the partners greater flexibility in responding on the ground.

EVIDENCE

3,127 people (F: 85%) received multi-purpose cash assistance; 4,764 people (F: 71%) received aid in accordance to their needs (medicine, hygiene kits, food assistance, and non-food items); 2,767 children (F: 55%) received aid in accordance to their needs (medicine, food assistance, and non-food items); 917 children (F: 61%) with protection needs identified and assisted (CPiE); mental health and psycho-social consultations incl. psychological first aid for crisis affected people were provided to 3,641 people (F: 80%); and legal consultations were provided to 1,560 people (F: 75%) for legal assistance for retrieval of personal documents.

DOMAINS

Development strategy priorities:

Insert strategy priority

Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability

+

Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights

-

Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support rights

+

Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights

-

Changes in participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability

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Changes in local leadership of development and humanitarian work

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