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RESTORATION AND SUPPORT OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE ZAKARPATTIA REGION

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*THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT
THE SOCIALLY SIGNIFICANT PROJECT
"RESTORATION AND SUPPORT OF INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE ZAKARPATTIA
REGION", DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED BY ME
PERSONALLY.*



- The military aggression against Ukraine has had dire consequences, such as massive human rights violations; threats to civilian lives, livelihoods and infrastructure; and has caused food shortages and displacement of residents of the war-torn areas not only within the country but also to other countries around the world. According to the UNHCR, 6.98 million refugees fled Ukraine to neighbouring countries as a result of the military offensive. The UNHCR estimates the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine as a result of the war unleashed by Russia at approximately 8 million. In addition, the organisation estimates that nearly 13 million more people are stranded in the affected areas or unable to leave due to increased security risks, the destruction of bridges and roads, and a lack of resources or information on where to move, find safety and shelter.



- Since 24.02.2022, more than 500 thousand people have arrived in Zakarpattia region. To date 05.05.2023, since the beginning of Russia's invasion, more than 300,000 IDPs have lived in Zakarpattia (data from the Children's Service of the Zakarpattia Regional State Administration), including more than 36,000 children. This is without taking into account people who have settled in the private sector and have not registered. Volunteer aid centres have been set up across the region, some of which provide temporary accommodation, food and basic necessities. The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) looking for a relatively safe place for themselves and their families is growing every day. Thus, to date, 25.11.2022, the number of IDPs in Zakarpattia (according to unofficial data) has reached 350,000, and more than 156,000 IDPs have been officially registered, including 54,000 children (according to statistical data from the Zakarpattia Oblast Police). Many of the IDPs have lost their homes, jobs, contact with their families, and plans for their lives, and are experiencing severe stress and frustration. As such, IDPs have a growing need not only for basic needs, but also for psychosocial and psycho-emotional support and recovery (slide 2).



- Therefore, it is necessary to respond quickly to the increase in the number of IDPs and provide them not only the basic necessary assistance, but also psychological assistance. In this regard, the project **"Restoration and Support of Internally Displaced Persons"** was developed and implemented in the Zakarpattia region.
- The project is focused on restoring the psychological safety of people (comfort zone) who found themselves in a difficult life situation due to Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine and were forced to leave their homes and seek safety in the Zakarpattia region.
- During the project, children and adults were provided with psychosocial and psycho-emotional assistance through Psychological First Aid classes on the topics of "Forming/Restoring Stress Resistance" and "Conflictology" by a team of qualified volunteer.



- Also, measures were taken to reduce emotional stress and restore the psychological state of internally displaced persons who are forced to stay in Zakarpattia region, including excursions, according to a previously developed route map in accordance with the locations of IDPs in Zakarpattia region, and parallel preventive work by a police guide on legal awareness of children and their parents regarding road safety and tolerance towards others. Children of police officers and SES employees, including those from among the displaced, also took part in the excursions to establish communication and increase the trust of displaced children in children from the host community, as well as in the defenders of Ukraine.
- Training sessions were held on the following topics: "Children's rights", "How to avoid becoming a victim of fraud", "How to avoid becoming a victim of human trafficking", "Cybersecurity", "Road safety", "My actions abroad", etc. in the form of video stories and presentations. At the end of the planned events, children and their parents watched cartoons in the open air to reduce emotional stress and restore their psychological state .



- During the implementation of the Project, such processes as adaptation, acceptance, perception, desire to hear and be heard by all community residents, local and IDPs, were launched. Successful communication between local and IDP police officers set a good example for all categories of citizens in the Project area, regardless of their social, financial or any other status. At the end of the Project implementation, requests for classes on "Forming/Restoring Stress Resilience" and "Conflictology" began to be received from the public, mainly in educational institutions, which indicates the relevance of the activities and the demand for specialists involved in the Project.

