

A Study “Ukrainian refugees in receiving countries: barriers, coping strategies and community engagement to enable effective access to HIV and TB care”

September 20, 2022

TERMS OF REFERENCE

For a Consultant to conduct a Data Collection for a Study on provision of HIV and TB care to Ukrainian refugees in receiving countries.

We are looking for a **Specialist with experience in qualitative researches in the field of public health and the rights of communities and key populations.**

ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS

Regional Expert Group on Migration and Health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia was established by civil society activists and researchers to develop an expert position that would help improve the quality of life of international migrants in the countries of the region. The aim of the group is to provide expertise to ensure continuous access of mobile populations to health services along the entire route from countries of origin to countries of destination in the EECA region.

The goals of the Regional Expert Group on Migration and Health are the following:

- To conduct research to assess the health situation of migrants and access to healthcare services;
- To present research results to the public and discuss evidence-based arguments with decision-makers, representatives of civil society, the academic community, and international organizations;
- To initiate and support expert dialogue to foster cross-border cooperation between sending and receiving countries of migration, as well as creation of bilateral and multilateral agreements in the area of mobile populations health;
- To create a common information space for cross-border cooperation.

REG, registered in Georgia, is a public non-profit association consisting of individual expert members, an Advisory Council, country representatives, as well as an Executive Committee that coordinates the activities of the REG. For details, pls. follow <http://migrationhealth.group/en/>

RESEARCH RATIONALE

The neighboring countries have received 8,7 million Ukrainian refugees, most of whom are women and children. Over 3,8 million refugees registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe (UNHCR July 10, 2022).

Key populations among refugees such as substitution therapy clients, sex workers, men who have sex with men, trans people, people living with HIV or affected by tuberculosis (TB), in particular, pregnant women are particularly in need of a prompt support and assistance in accessing life-saving services that cannot be deferred. The humanitarian aid system of the receiving countries, including healthcare, had to be swiftly reprogrammed to provide emergency assistance, without having much enough time to analyze the situation.

HIV. Before the Russian invasion started in February 2022, there were an estimated 260 000 people living with HIV in Ukraine, 57% of whom were on antiretroviral therapy (UPHC 2021). An estimated

31,000+ people Ukrainian refugees with HIV have been able to access high quality healthcare in EU countries (WHOa 2022). Although EU countries were prompt to include Ukrainian nationals into national health coverage, barriers related to stigma, language barrier, long routes and subsequent relocations remain (Agadjanian & Zotova, 2019; Kuran et al. 2020). Russia is one of the few countries in the world to keep an HIV residence ban for foreign nationals were international migrants and refugees living with HIV are particularly vulnerable. They have to look informal strategies to access treatment using transnational networks and informal actors (Kashnitsky 2020; Meylakh 2017).

TB. Ukraine has the fourth-highest TB incidence in the WHO European Region (TB notification rate was 40.1 per 100 thousand in 2020 which is on average 10 times the rate in Central and West Europe and the fifth-highest number of confirmed cases of extensively drug-resistant TB in the world (WHO, 2022). Since the Russian invasion on Feb 24, Ukraine's health-care system has come under increasing pressure amid relentless bombardment of cities and targeting of hospitals and health-care workers by Russian forces. The war in Ukraine could contribute to worsening an already serious tuberculosis epidemics in the country and overall, in Europe.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The proposed project aims are *to explore* specific barriers Ukrainian refugees living with HIV and affected by TB face in receiving countries and the coping strategies they have to use to access care, and *to asses* community engagement to enable effective access to HIV and TB care.

It is planned to use social determinants of health (WHO 2008), as a framework that analyzes circumstances shaped by the distribution of power and resources at global, national, and local levels, including migration as a social determinant of health by itself (Castaneda et al 2015).

EXPECTED TASKS

- To participate in an interviewer training for detailed understanding of the context and aims of the Study
- To organize and hold 9 semi-structured interviews in Lithuania on provided by a Client guide with:
 - Ukrainian refugees living with HIV (at least three females) – 4 interviews
 - Ukrainian refugees affected by TB – 2 interviews
 - Experts (doctor, legal specialist, 2 community/NGO specialist –3interviews

The list of possible interviewees will be provided by a Client.

- To prepare audio records of the interviews possible for transcription to be used as a key data for the Study

METHODS OF THE STUDY AND PRELIMINARY DISCRITION OF THE STUDY SAMPLE

Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with 45 Ukrainian refugees and 15 service providers in 6 receiving countries - France, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Moldova, Georgia and in Ukraine who will be recruited using a combination of purposive and snowball sampling techniques (Dahlgren et al., 2004). 70 interviews in total.

The choice of countries is prompted by geographic distribution: Germany and France (West Europe), Poland and Lithuania (Central Europe), Moldova and Georgia (Eastern Europe) as well as by the scale of refugee flows.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- A record of 9 semi-structured interviews held in Lithuania with Ukrainian refugees living with HIV, TB and Experts (doctor, legal specialist, community/NGO specialist)

PROPOSED TIMEFRAME

September 2022 – Training for the interviews for detailed understanding of the context, aims of the Study and introduction of the Guide

September – October 2022 – Field work

October, 31 - hand over records of all 11 held interviews to a Client

LANGUAGE OF THE INTERVIEWS: Ukrainian and/or Russian for interview with refugees and Russian/Country language for interviews with service providers.

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

All information and data collected in the course of the study should not be transferred to third parties or used in other studies or reviews until the publication of this report. After the publication, the use of data is possible only with a link to the report of the Regional Expert Group on Migrant Health in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) and TB People Ukraine.

TERMS OF PAYMENT

Payment of the total amount of the contract is made in one or two payments as agreed with the Contractor.

EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR TENDER PARTICIPANTS

Knowledge of qualitative data collection and analysis methods (40%)

Experience of interacting with vulnerable groups as well as access to national organizations working with refugees in the field of public health (40%)

Service cost (20%)

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Individuals, legal entities, self-employed who have the right to engage in relevant activities and are registered as single tax payers, can take part in the competition, by submitting tender proposals.

If you have question or concerns, or to clarify if you are eligible to apply please consult via e-mail abrosimova@gmail.com, before sending the full proposal.

The deadline for submission of the proposals is **September 20, 2022, 18:00** Kyiv time.

Please, submit a proposal by e-mail to Zinaida Abrosimova abrosimova@gmail.com (please, indicate in the topic of the email which position you are applying for).

The proposal should include:

- Description of the experience of the consultant/organization corresponding to the fulfillment of the terms of reference;
- CV;
- Price offer and the budget for the assignment, the cost of one day of the consultant's work (based on 8 working hours per day), an indication of the number of days to complete the tasks required for the implementation of the Study.