Rapid Needs Assessment - Iasi, Romania

This rapid needs assessment was conducted by the Ukraine Crisis Response MEAL team to better understand the immediate needs of displaced persons from Ukraine in Iasi, a city in eastern Romania near the border with Moldova. World Vision used a contextualized basic rapid assessment tool (BRAT) to reach a total of 93 families using convenience sampling at two refugee shelters - Egros and Life Sciences University. In addition to the quantitative data, the team conducted four small group discussions with families staying in refugee centres to gain an in-depth understanding of the challenges refugees are facing, their priority needs, and their intentions for the next few weeks and months. This information will be critical to inform World Vision's response within Romania. Some of the preliminary findings are included below.

Methodology

- 93 families surveyed, covering 243 individuals
- 4 small group discussions
- Self-enumeration on tablets
- Surveys in Ukrainian & Russian

Demographics

- 77% female respondents
- 22% male respondents
- Avg family size = 3
- 34% children

Age Distribution

- 10% 18-24 years
- 13% 25-29 years
- 18% 30-34 years
- 16% 35-39 years
- 9% 40-44 years
- 8% 45-49 years
- 6% 50-54 years
- 3% 55-59 years
- 6% 60+ years

Border Points

- Siret: 19%
- Sculeni: 44%
- Albita: 16%
- Isaccea: 8%
- Other: 13%

Intentions

- 61% of families left at least one family member behind, including 46% who left behind an adult man (18-59 years old)
- 59% only plan to stay in Romania for a few days (less than 1 week)
- 43% are planning to stay with family or friends in other countries

Information Gaps

- 29% of respondents are missing information about available services
- 20% of respondents are missing information about how to register for asylum
- 17% of respondents are missing information about their legal rights
- 14% of respondents are missing information about health care
**Protection risks since leaving home**

- Armed violence (gun fire, shelling, etc)
- Home invasion (armed or forced entry)
- Intimidation abuse
- Physical assault
- Health risks (epidemics, household poison, etc)
- Community conflicts
- Discrimination
- Environmental risk (toxic, spill, landslides, etc.)
- Safety hazards (open well, debris, rusty nails, etc.)
- Sexual assault
- Abduction, kidnapping
- Other threats

**Biggest stressors:**
- Lack of income: 60%
- Uncertainty of what to do next: 40%
- Limited communication with people left behind: 24%

**Priority needs in the next 1-2 weeks:**
1. Affordable shelter
2. Transportation
3. Information about available services
4. Mobile phone credit/data

**Priority needs in the next 1-2 months:**
1. Finding work
2. Affordable shelter
3. Access to education
4. Medical care

**Children’s specific priority needs:**
1. Reunification with family
2. Access to school or educational activities
3. Food

Only 42% of respondents said their children have access to age-appropriate educational or recreational activities.

**Ability to meet basic needs**

- **Hygiene items:**
  - Fully: 65%
  - Partially: 20%
  - Not at all: 15%

- **Food:**
  - Fully: 72%
  - Partially: 18%
  - Not at all: 10%

- **Water:**
  - Fully: 67%
  - Partially: 17%
  - Not at all: 6%

- **Clothes & Footwear:**
  - Fully: 43%
  - Partially: 30%
  - Not at all: 27%

**Money matters**

- Average 2 phones per household
- 18% use mobile banking apps on their phones and 44% of households have a mobile money account
- 47% have a bank account, of which 75% have been able to access their account since leaving home
- 92% are able to find everything or most things they need in the markets nearby
- 31% think the prices of everyday goods in Iasi are higher than back home
- 48% would prefer to receive cash payments, 38% prefer ATM cards, and 20% prefer mobile money

**Communication channels**

- 82% of respondents’ preferred channel of communication is face-to-face with charity or aid workers
- 71% of respondents’ preferred way to submit general feedback or complaints is face-to-face with charity or aid workers
- 84% of respondents’ preferred way to submit sensitive feedback or complaints is face-to-face with charity or aid workers