Humanitarian needs of older women and men in government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, Ukraine

Needs Assessment Analysis Sept-Oct 2019

About the project

HelpAge currently runs a project titled “ACCESS III: Provision of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected populations in Eastern Ukraine” within the Consortium of INGOs funded by European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). With this project, HelpAge aims to significantly improve access to humanitarian assistance and protection for older women and men, including those with disabilities that were affected by the conflict in Eastern Ukraine.

Methodology

The needs assessment exercise was conducted in the 20 settlements in Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts during Sept-Oct 2019 by HelpAge volunteers. Structured beneficiary interviews were conducted using a multidimensional Vulnerability Assessment Form (VAF). The survey covered 1,862 older people, measuring their needs across income, protection, health, etc.

- 50.3% of older people were residents of Luhansk oblast, 49.7% were from Donetsk oblast
- 76.3% of total OP were older women
- 9.12% of the total number of older women and men interviewed had a registered disability. Although 69.7% of respondents had at least 1 significant or several functional impairments according to Washington Group Questionaire (only 11.5% of which had their disability status registered).
- 11.3% were internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The analysis was prepared by Victoriia Panchenko and Anton Zubenko and co-authored by Akbar Nazriev, Country Director of HelpAge International Ukraine

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Key findings

**LIVELIHOODS**

- 99.5% of older women and men rely on a pension as their main source of income.
- For 87.25% of them pension is the only source of income.
- Older people spend the majority of their income on medicines (58.86%) and food (21.86%)
- 6.5% of older people are in debt, including arrears on utilities

**PROTECTION**

- 75.7% of older people are experiencing various conflict-related psychosocial issues
- 36.3% of older people report that they are living alone (87% women)
- 31.8% of IDPs are not registered as IDPs officially and do not receive any additional support from authorities
- 2.3% of older people (86% women) reported experiencing at least one type of violence and abuse

**HEALTH**

- 95.75% of people interviewed (76.8% women) have at least one chronic disease
- 45.2% of older people have limited mobility and partly in need of the help of others (78% women), 12.2% of OP are immobile

**SHELTER / NFIs**

- 83.2% of older people (76.2% women) report that they require NFI support
- 52.9% of older people (including 78.5% women) reported that they are in need of assistive devices
  (Toilet chairs - 47%; Canes - 41.6%; Walking frames - 18.5%; Crutches - 5.3%)

**WASH**

- 81.3% of older people (including 76.2% women) require basic hygiene items (99.5%) and diapers for adults (39.1%)
- 24.8% of older people (74.5% women) reported they have limited (73.4%) or no (26.6%) access to safe drinking water
- 18% have difficulties with access to sanitation (of which 48.4% have limited access, 26.3% - rare access, 25.3% - no access at all)

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

- 57% of older people (77% women) stated that they had to decrease their food intake during last 6 month
- 14.3% of older women and men indicate a lack of access to places of food purchasing

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