

INTERIM REPORT
on the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding
between the FPU and NEXUS ER, AUSER ER, CGIL
CUPE94F22000080002 - 100% RER

Project: “Solidarnist: Emergency and Solidarity with the Ukrainian Population”

Implementing partner: Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine

Reporting period: 13 July – 15 September 2022

Main Outputs:

- ***215 internally displaced persons received free accommodation, meals and psychosocial support during 14 days at two trade union facilities***

Main Outcome: trade union shelters in Volyn and Kharkiv regions were able to meet the needs of internally displaced persons staying there

Background

On 11 July 2022 Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the NEXUS ER, AUSER ER and CGIL to implement the project “Solidarnist: Emergency and Solidarity with the Ukrainian Population”. The project is aimed to support internally displaced persons staying in trade union facilities turned into shelters for IDPs.

In August 2022, military activities continued in the East and South of Ukraine. Luhansk and Kherson oblasts were almost completely occupied, while Kharkiv, Donetsk, Zaporizhia, and Mykolaiv regions were partially occupied. Russian army was slowly advancing. Such large cities as Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and numerous smaller towns and settlements in these regions were shelled by Russian troops every day. Military attacks led to numerous casualties among the civil population, including children, destruction of residential houses, medical facilities, schools and kindergartens, infrastructure, enterprises and jobs in these regions. Besides, the danger of long-range missile attacks was very high throughout Ukraine: air-raid alarms were sounding 2-3 times per day. It is estimated that more than 14 million Ukrainians were forced to leave their homes due to constant bombing of their communities or occupation. Half of them crossed the border seeking the refuge in the EU, however half of them remained in Ukraine and needed temporary shelter in relatively safer areas.

Map of military activities in Ukraine as of 12 August 2022



Red area – temporary occupied territories

Blue circles - air and missile alerts

Red circles – bombing and shelling by Russians

In order to provide shelter to internally displaced persons, the FPU opened the doors of 14 sanatoriums of PrJSC Ukrprofozdorovnytsia, 8 tourist establishments of the system of PrJSC Ukrproftur, as well as dormitories of educational trade union centres and other facilities belonging to its affiliates. They receive families of servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, trade union members, internally displaced persons who had lost their homes, including pensioners, women with children and the disabled. Every day more than 6,000 IDPs stay there and totally, since the beginning of the war, over 100 thousand IDPs have passed through the FPU owned and managed facilities. Unfortunately, their number is not decreasing as the intensive hostilities are going on.

The FPU has set up the Humanitarian Board chaired by the FPU President to monitor the situation in different trade union facilities and make decisions how to use the funds received from international partners taking into account needs and priorities at the particular time. The Memorandum of Understanding between the FPU and NEXUS ER, AUSER ER and CGIL was noted and approved by the FPU Humanitarian Board on 5 August.

As provided in the MoU, the FPU assigned its two employees to perform the tasks of operators for coordination with institutions and psycho-social assistance as follows:

- to facilitate the implementation of foreseen activities of assistance to IDPs;
- to ensure continuous communication and coordination with the main partner - Nexus Emilia Romagna;
- to maintain permanent contacts with the facilities involved in the project concerning all issues of project implementation;
- to facilitate the provision of psycho-social services to IDPs in these facilities;

- to assist these facilities in establishing and maintaining contacts with local offices of the State Employment Service, health and social services in order to ensure the provision of appropriate services to IDPs in these facilities;
- to collect information on IDPs needs;
- to prepare interim and final reports on the activities.

As envisaged by the MoU and approved by the FPU Humanitarian Board, on 10 August 2022, the FPU concluded contracts (attached) with the boarding house “Shatski Ozera” in Volyn region and sanatorium “Berezivski Mineralni Vody” in Kharkiv region regarding the provision of services to IDPs.

Description of Activities

SHATSKI OZERA

The boarding house “Shatski Ozera” of the PrJSC “Volynturyst” is located in a pine forest on the shore of the picturesque lake Svitiiaz lake, which is the deepest lake in Ukraine, with the surface area of 27,5 sq.km and the maximum depth over 58 meters. The Svitiiaz lake belongs to groups of Shatsk's lakes, which are located in Polissya (Volyn region) in the utmost north-western corner of Ukraine, close to the borders with Poland and Belarus. The lake is part of Shatsky National Natural Park.

The boarding house “Shatski Ozera” has the capacities to receive 286 people simultaneously. Its location in relatively safe area, closeness to EU borders makes it a good place for sheltering internally displaced people. Clean air, picturesque landscapes, good living conditions contribute to their rehabilitation.

On 10 August 2022 the FPU concluded a contract with the PrJSC “Volynturyst” regarding provision of services to IDPs in the boarding house “Shatski Ozera” under the “Solidarnist: Emergency and Solidarity with the Ukrainian Population” project.

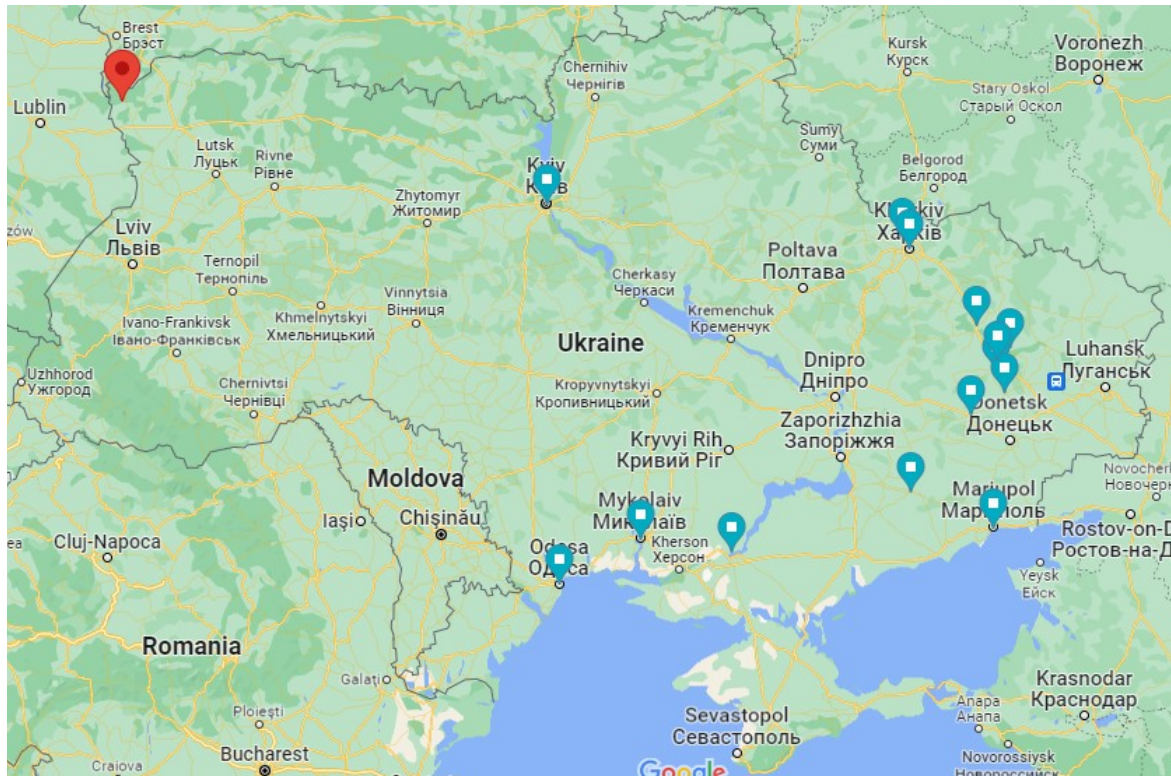
Implementing this contract, the boarding house provided services to 38 IDPs during the period from 11.08.2022 to 25.08.2022, and to 42 IDPS from 12.08.2022 to 26.08.2022.

These 70 IDPs during two weeks (14 days) received completely free accommodation and three hot meals per day.

Most of the direct beneficiaries represented various vulnerable groups of IDPs: there where 43 women and 27 men, including 24 children aged 3 to 16 years, 2 teenagers aged 16 to 18 years, and 12 persons over 60. The oldest IDP was 77 years old.

IDPs came from the temporary occupied territories or close to the front areas that are under permanent shelling: Donetsk region (28 persons from Pokrovsk, Sloviansk, Kramatorsk, Kostiantynivka, Lyman, Mariupol), Odesa region (5 persons), Mykolaiv region (5 persons), Kyiv (3 persons), Kharkiv region (16 persons from Kharkiv, Dergachi, Izium), Zaporizhia region (6 persons, Pology), Kherson region (2 persons, Beryslav), Lugansk region (5 persons, Pervomaisk)

Map of places where IDPs came from (in blue) and location of the boarding house “Shatski Ozera” (in red)



Staying in trade unions shelters includes accommodation, meals and other services that IDPs are receiving.

Talks with IDPs revealed that they had been living in stress, feeling anxiety and fear for their own life and for the lives of their relatives. They were not feeling themselves safe. All this may negatively affect their health, both physical and mental. Many IDPs had psychological traumas, some suffered from panic attack, had sleep disorders. This may affect every aspect of their life including work performance, thinking, weight and the development of diabetes and heart diseases, chronic diseases.

IDPs' require permanent services of psychological rehabilitation and assistance in dealing with psychological traumas, panic attacks, crisis psychological conditions. There is also a need for social adaptation of IDPs in new environment.

To address these issues some leisure and rehabilitation activities for IDPs were organised in the boarding house. IDPs could freely use children's amusements, catamarans, kayaks. Many of them used the opportunity to go to the beach and swim in the lake. Staying in the trade union boarding house was a period of real relaxation for them.

Local trade union leader, chair of the Federation of Trade Unions of Volyn region Ivanna Dubynka-Filozof met with the IDPs and informed them about the trade union, about humanitarian activities they are implementing now to help people suffered from the war.

Together with the Shatsk District Employment Centre, a training was held for children on the choice of future profession in the form of a game, parents were given information on the vacancies on the labour market in the district and the region suitable for IDPs.

A board was set up in the reception hall to inform IDPs about the contacts and services provided through the Shatsk Centre for Administrative Services and the Shatsk District Employment Centre. Employees of the boarding house provided advice how to apply for the financial support from the Ukrainian state and from UN funds.

Stories heard during the conversations with IDPs:

The Kovalev family told:

“We are both pensioners, 70 and 69 years old. We lived in the village Tsyркuny in Kharkiv region, it was two and a half months under occupation and now it remains the hot spot, as the front is only in five kilometres. On 24 February tanks were already driving through our village, and then the “kadyrovtsy” came. We lived under occupation for a month. And then through Belgorod, Moscow, Kaliningrad, Poland, I together with my wife Ludmyla came to Western Ukraine on 7 April. Belarus did not let us go to Poland, although my brother lives in Brest, so had to choose the route through Russia.

My daughter Kateryna with her children and daughter-in-law with her son were in Kharkiv at that time, living on the outskirts of the city (Saltivka district), which was shelled almost every day. My son-in-law was born here, in Volyn region, so they advised us to come here. We do not know whether our house in Tsyркuny survived the shelling. So we are very glad to stay in the boarding house.”

“I am very touched by the way our neighbors treat us, how well we are received here, in the boarding house - Ludmyla says with tears in her eyes. - The main thing is that we do not feel like strangers here, although we were afraid that we do not know Ukrainian well.”

Displaced person Kateryna Garanenko from the village of Kachkarivka, Kherson region, came here with two small children - a son and a daughter. Her village was occupied already at the beginning of March, so a month later, when she had the opportunity to evacuate together with her friends, she packed her things, took children and left the occupied territory. Kateryna stayed in the dormitory of the teachers' college in Lutsk, but had no doubts moving to Shatski ozera, because good conditions here, clean air, forest, water – are the best way for her and her children to recover from the stress and to improve psychoemotional conditions. She is very satisfied with the living conditions and food, and is sure that her children will benefit from staying in the boarding house.

Two workers of the Polohy Chemical Plant - Albina Mineroshnychenko and Lidia Dvorska - managed to leave the town of Polohy in Zaporizhzhya region that was occupied on 7 March. They arrived to Volyn region the next day, on 8 March, and when their husbands were not allowed to go to Poland (*able bodied men aged 18-60 are prohibited to leave*

Ukraine under martial law), they decided to stay here. Albina hopes that the plant will not be damaged and dreams of returning home and returning to her work, because its products, various antiseptics, detergents, are well known all over Ukraine and are supplied even to remote Volyn region.

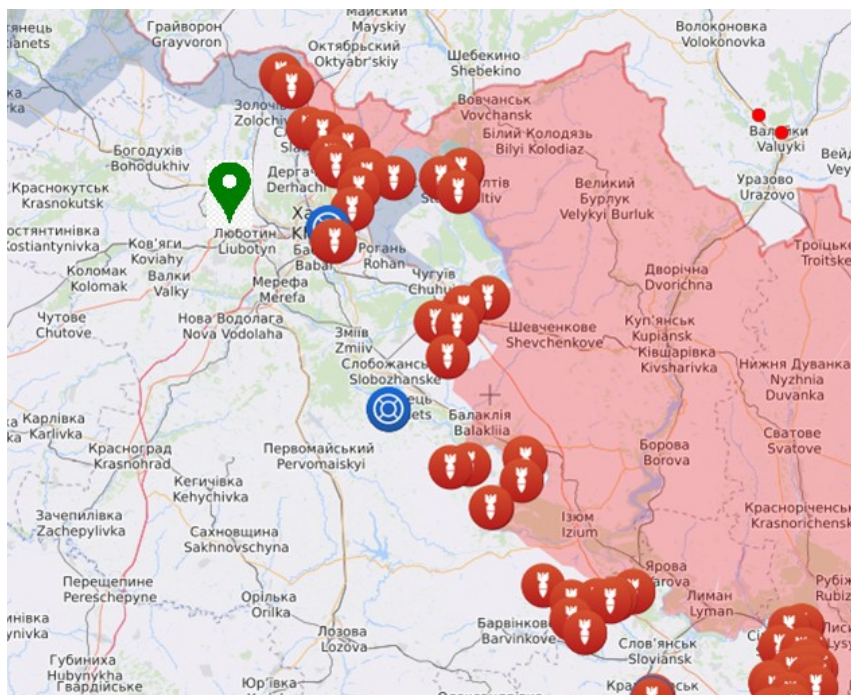
“We have long had a dream to come to western Ukraine to spend our holidays here, to see what is interesting here. We were lucky to escape from the city when it was shelled just a day before it was occupied. Fleeing from the war we arrived to Volyn region. Here we heard for the first time about the Shatsk’s lakes, and we are really enjoying staying here, especially the forest, the lake. Yesterday we travelled in a pedal boat, relaxing on the beach, we are going to visit the rope course. These activities do help us forget for a while about atrocities of the war”

BEREZIVSKI MINERALNI VODY

Clinical sanatorium “Kurort Berezivski Mineralni Vody” was founded in 1862 and is a modern balneological Ukrainian health resort. The main therapeutic factor of the resort is the natural source of mineral water “Berezivske”. The total area of the sanatorium territory is 62.3 hectares.

Sanatorium “Berezivski Mineralny Vody” is located in a picturesque area not far from Kharkiv. There are 8 buildings with the maximum capacity of 590 beds. The sanatorium has a library, a cinema hall for 500 seats, a shop, and a post office.

Map of military activities in Kharkiv region as of 12 August 2022



Red area – temporary occupied territories

Blue circles - air and missile alerts

Red circles – bombing and shelling by russians

Green mark – location of the sanatorium

In August the front line was just 30 km away from the sanatorium. Regional authorities and volunteers were evacuating people from occupied territories and settlements on the frontline to this sanatorium, that's why it has been overcrowded since the end of February.

In the reporting period August 10-25, 2022, the load of the sanatorium was 90%: evacuated elderly people, people with disabilities (61 people) and parents with children (40 children) mainly from the combat zone of Kharkiv region, namely: villages Ruska Lozova, Cherkaska Lozova, Nova Vodolaha, Slatyno, Prudyanka, towns Zolochiv, Vovchansk, Dergachi, Raisin, Chuhuiv, Kharkiv and others. There were also some IDPs from Luhansk region and Zaporizhzhya region. This category of people lost their homes and found themselves homeless, most of them lived in basements and cellars for some time hiding from bombs, they were evacuated to the sanatorium without clothes and personal hygienic items. Among the elderly people, there are 29 bedridden patients and 16 people in need of constant care, who need anti-decubitus mattresses or rubber circles, and special toilets. For people with diabetes, insulin and hypoglycemic drugs are constantly needed.

During this period, there were 524 displaced persons sheltering in the sanatorium from the armed aggression of the Russian Federation.

Breakdown of the IDPs by age:

- 65 years and older - 197 persons;
- from 18 to 65 years - 283 persons;
- children - 40 persons, 6 of them are under 2 years old.

There were 297 women and 226 men.

Under the Contract concluded with the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine on 10 August 2022, 145 internally displaced persons were supported during 14 days from 10.08.2022 to 23.08.2022. Accommodation services in the amount of UAH 485,170.00 were provided, it made up 2030 bed-days at the rate of UAH 239.00 per person per day. Meals in the amount of UAH 395,850.00 were provided, which also made up 2030 person-days at the rate of UAH 195.00 per person per day (three hot meals, foodstuff was mainly provided by volunteer organisations that allowed to include in the cost of meals only utilities and labour costs).

Implementing the contract sanatorium "Berezivski Mineralni Vody" provided psychological assistance to IDPs and tried to create comfortable conditions for children and adults in order to help them gradually recover from the stress they had experienced. A professional psychologist is employed by the sanatorium who is constantly available for IDPs, conducts psychological interviews and provides individual psychological assistance.

Some problems were created by the outbreak of COVID in the end of July - beginning of August. 30 persons were tested positive, they were isolated and treated by doctors. Mask regime was introduced and all the mass events cancelled until August 15.

After the end of the quarantine management of the sanatorium organised some social activities like amateur concerts (one per week) and screening of movies and cartoons for children (every second-third day, depending on the weather). Music and art classes for children were organised by skilled IDPs.

Management closely worked with volunteers and local authorities to organise different stress-minimising activities. Due to this cooperation during summer several performances and concerts for adults and children were organised, namely, by actors of Kharkiv Theatre for Children, Kharkiv Puppet Theatre and Kharkiv Academic Theatre of Musical Comedy. On 18 August in cooperation with local commune Independence Day Concert was organised with participation of vocal group “Kvitka”.

Tourist Information Point was opened in the sanatorium and organises visits of IDPs to local museum.

In cooperation with local authorities the sanatorium organised a desk for registration of IDP status and application for state assistance. Staff of the sanatorium provided relative advice to IDPs.

Benefitting from the state program of IDPs employment, the sanatorium is offering jobs for IDPs. During the reporting period 5 IDPs were hired by the sanatorium under this program to provide different services to their peers, other IDPs.

For further implementation of the project the sanatorium needs medicines and hygiene products especially for people who need permanent care. PCR and antigen COVID tests are also needed. In addition, the sanatorium needs warm clothes for adults and children, as winter is approaching, and baby food.

Stories of IDPs:

In May, volunteers evacuated Efrosinia Aksenova to the sanatorium from the village of Ruska Lozova. She is 96, a disabled veteran of the Second World War. She was evacuated from the cellar in a bathrobe with a passport in her pocket, with a severe mental condition and pain in the hip and an open wound on the leg. A fracture of the femoral neck was diagnosed in the sanatorium, and the medical staff of the sanatorium treated Efrosinia for four months. In early August, Efrosinia began to sit on the bed, and then to get up. She does not know what happened to her house and whether she will ever return home.

Olga Sostina, born on 27.04.1986, worked and lived in the city of Dergachi, Kharkiv district together with her mother Sostina L. She has got two sisters living separately with their families.

“On 24 February 2022, at 05:06 AM, I, like everyone else, woke up from the explosions that sounded in my city and we realized that the war begun. It was a full-scale invasion of Russia into Ukraine. There were problems with mobile communication, it was impossible to reach colleagues and relatives. Nothing was clear. On the same day, we decided to keep

together so we packed our things and moved to my older sister, as it was dangerous to stay at home. The city was shelled by the enemy every day, and a part of the Dergachiv community was occupied.

On 03.04.2022, a blast wave and debris from an enemy shell damaged the house in which we lived, and the whole family was forced to flee to a safer place, to Poltava region. We stayed there in a private house until 22.05.2022, but then we had to find another place to live. It was a problem to find a place for a big family because displaced people fleeing from war were arriving in large numbers. Failing to find a new shelter, we returned home. The first night at home the city was shelled, and a shell hit the shop near our house. It was impossible to stay there. I contacted volunteers and they took us to the sanatorium "BerMinVody".

Here my family finally found a shelter. Here we receive free accommodation, meals, medical care and medicines, here we spend our free time and work.

Since June 2022, on a volunteer basis, I began to assist the director of the sanatorium as a secretary. In July 2022, I was officially hired and now I work here and help to address issues related to the stay of IDPs in the sanatorium."