



## Improving Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for Conflict Affected Populations in Eastern Ukraine through Increased Capacity for Psychosocial Support Activities and Services Aligned with IASC Guidelines among National actors, Organizations and Agencies

### WHO WE ARE

*International Medical Corps (IMC) is a global, humanitarian, nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives and relieving suffering through health care training relief and development programs. Established in 1984 by volunteer doctors and nurses, International Medical Corps is a private, voluntary, non-political, non-sectarian organization. International Medical Corps is an experienced leader in responding to mental health and psychosocial needs in low resource and conflict affected settings and has experience strengthening mental health systems, and informing national policies in the longer-term development context. IMC Ukraine has been implementing JSI/USAID and OFDA funded projects focused on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) since 2015.*

### PROJECT BACKGROUND AND GOALS

Through the project “Improving MHPSS for Conflict Affected Populations in Eastern Ukraine through Increased Capacity for Psychosocial Support Activities and Services Aligned with IASC Guidelines among National actors, Organizations and Agencies” (2015-2017), which is supported by USAID and John Snow International, International Medical Corps seeks to achieve the following:

#### **Objective 1: Strengthen the provision of mental health and psychosocial support in Ukraine in line with international principles such as the IASC Guidelines for MHPSS in Emergencies.**

IMC takes a lead role by facilitating a Task Force comprised of government ministries, educational institutions, NGO and INGO representatives to operationalize and contextualize global best practices outlined in the the IASC Guidelines for MHPSS in Emergencies to Ukraine. To help coordinate MHPSS in Ukraine, IMC also leads the MHPSS sub cluster coordination group. IMC is also translating and disseminating best practice guidelines and the following publications which are available:

- IASC Guidelines for MHPSS in Emergency Settings (Russian and Ukrainian)
- IASC Guidelines for MHPSS in Emergency Settings Checklist (Russian and Ukrainian)
- Advocacy Package: IASC Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings (Ukrainian)
- IASC Who is Where, When, doing What (4Ws) in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support: Manual with Activity Codes (Ukrainian)
- IASC Recommendations for Conducting Ethical Mental Health and Psychosocial Research in Emergency Settings (Ukrainian)
- IASC Referral Guidance Note for MHPSS (Ukrainian)

The following publications will be available:

- WHO, WTF and WVI Psychological First Aid Manual (Ukrainian)



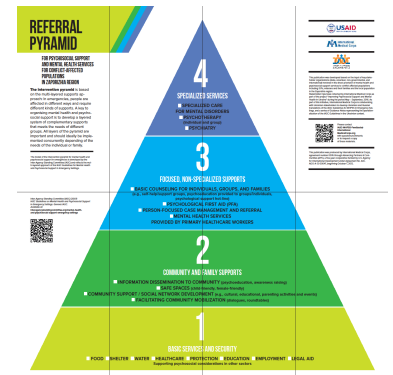
**Objective 2: Strengthen the capacity of relevant local organizations to apply IASC Guidelines through capacity building and training.** IMC is building the capacity of 5 local partner organisations to facilitate appropriate psychosocial support activities for affected communities in line with the IASC Guidelines. Partners include:

- A local media organisation to create radio programmes designed to reduce stigma and negative preconceptions around mental health in the country.
- A local university to train social workers and volunteers in ways to enhance psychological resilience as part of their education and practice.
- Three community based organizations who provide community based psychosocial support to conflict affected populations including war veterans and their family members, internally displaced persons and host communities.



**Objective 3: Strengthen capacity to link psychosocial support to evidence-based mental health services for conflict-affected populations in at least one city in Eastern Ukraine.**

- In line with the IASC Referral Guidance Note for MHPSS and the IASC 4Ws (Who is doing What, Where and until When) Activity Codes, IMC completed and disseminated a service mapping in Zaporozhia and continues to support coordination meetings to further strengthen referral pathways.
- IMC is also mapping services and strengthening referral pathways in Kramatorsk, Bahkmut and Durshivka.



**Upcoming Events:**

**IASC Training of Trainers:** The IASC ToT is targeted towards persons involved in MHPSS service design and delivery in Ukraine. The IASC ToT will equip and support Ukrainian Focal Points in their role to know the IASC Guidelines, advocate for use of the IASC Guidelines, help disseminate the IASC Guidelines and institutionalize the IASC Guidelines in their own organizations and agencies.

**National Conference:** The National Conference planned for June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 in Kiev seeks to share results of using the IASC MHPSS Guidelines in Ukraine, disseminate finalized materials, and support an agenda for continued development of integrated MHPSS system in Ukraine.

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