

DRC Ukraine – HUMANITARIAN ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

November 2011

1) Brief Description of the project

The DRC programme in Ukraine aims to strengthen the capacity of the governments and civil society of Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova to protect the most vulnerable asylum seeking and refugee children. The immediate objectives are for asylum seeking and refugee children to have improved access to a protective system which upholds international standards; for civil society to have increased its capacity to continue development of existing programmes for social assistance and serve children's needs; for recent models of care for asylum seeking children in Ukraine to be further developed, systematized, and maintained; and for society to be further sensitized to the needs of asylum seeking and refugee children, who are aware of their rights and obligations within society.

The project, "Legal and Social Protection of Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children in Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova," within the framework of the European Commission's thematic programme on asylum and migration, develops Ukrainian, Belarusian and Moldovan authorities' procedural practices in accordance with international standards fosters more operational links between Ukrainian, Belarusian and Moldovan authorities and civil society organizations establishes institutions to concretize improvements with the relevant stakeholders insofar as possible, and carries out sensitization and media campaigns to make society aware of the problems faced by asylum seeking and refugee youth. It is guided by a Steering Committee, which is comprised of all government, UN, and NGO partners and beneficiary representatives.

A separate project consists of two components. The first builds child-specific country of origin information for the purpose of the refugee status determination of principal asylum seeking applicants who are minors. The second initiates Refugee Youth Councils, which provide interaction with programme beneficiaries and gives them opportunities to connect with their peers and achieve better local integration.

The programme centers itself on DRC experience in rights-based protection of vulnerable persons within displaced populations, while being based on concrete needs identified by DRC and its partners on the ground.

2) DRC Objectives, Partners and Stakeholders in the Area of Operation

The goal of the programme in Ukraine is to improve asylum procedures and protection offered to asylum seekers and to refugees in Ukraine in accordance with international standards, with a special focus on asylum seeking and refugee children. The specific objectives are to enable the Ukrainian authorities to apply fair, equal and informed asylum decisions; to build the capacity of civil society actors to complement asylum processing and the provision of protection; to assure a holistic and functional reception mechanism for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers; and to foster better civil society – authority dialogue and co-operation.

The project covers all of Ukraine, although most activities are centered through implementing partners located in five key regions: Kyiv, Vinnitsa, Zakarpattya, Odessa, and Kharkiv. Counterparts from Belarus and Moldova are brought to Ukraine to participate in all conferences, trainings, seminars, etc., so that knowledge obtained can be transferred to their countries.

Stakeholders & Partners

- Ukrainian State Migration Service
- Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine
- Department of Child Protection of Ukraine
- Ministry of the Interior of Ukraine
- Ministry of Justice of Ukraine
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Ukraine

- State Border Guard Service
- Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights
- UNHCR Regional Representation for Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova
- UNICEF Representation for Ukraine
- Ukrainian Red Cross Society
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), Ukraine
- Rokada NGO, Ukraine
- Vinnitsa Human Rights Group, Ukraine
- NEEKA NGO, Ukraine
- Faith Hope Love Social Movement, Ukraine
- Social Service of Assistance NGO, Ukraine
- Evrika NGO, Belarus
- Belarusian Red Cross Society
- Belarusian Movement of Medical Workers
- AVE Copiii NGO, Moldova
- Refugee Youth Councils
- Asylum seeking and refugee children in Ukraine
- The parents and guardians of asylum seeking and refugee children in Ukraine
- 10 additional NGO-recipients of small grants for micro-projects with refugee children

3) DRC Ukraine Staff

The project is managed by one international staff member. The project team also consists of eight national staff for two projects. Eighteen national staff are also engaged through implementing partners; however they do not have DRC employment contracts.

The main project duration is February 2011 through January 2013; the project concerning COI and RYC is November 2010 through December 2011.

4) Declaration of DRC's NGO-status, impartiality, financing and governance

Local and International Standards and Codes

DRC is a duly registered non-governmental international NGO working in Ukraine. It is important to note that DRC is not registered as an NGO per se, but as a project of technical assistance as per Ukrainian law. The DRC project has been issued registration and accreditation certification by the Government of Ukraine (Ministry of Economy).

DRC further observes international standards in programming and implementation. DRC adheres fully to the principles laid down by ICRC in the Code of Conduct. DRC is ensuring that the interventions live up to the principles and provisions of international humanitarian law, international human rights law, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, as well as to those Sphere standards relevant to its activities.

5) Beneficiary Participation

The participation of beneficiaries in this DRC project is a key component, and remains the cornerstone of DRC's work.

Regarding government beneficiaries, DRC Ukraine has especially strong and highly consultative relationships with the government asylum and children's authorities and asylum-related NGOs in particular. All stakeholders and partners are members of the project Steering Committee.

Regarding asylum seeking and refugee children, their participation is secured through Refugee Youth Councils, through which they meet with DRC staff and voice their opinions. Refugee Youth Council representatives are also members of the Steering Committee.

Complaints Mechanism

The Complaints Mechanism is posted in all relevant languages at all implementing partners and within the DRC office for viewing by beneficiaries. The Complaints Mechanism clearly states that it is an applicable tool both for minor complaints (e.g., assistance, programme services) and major complaints (e.g., misconduct by DRC or partner staff). Implementing partner staff are similarly welcome to make formal complaints, as per DRC operating procedures.

6) List of Projects, Objectives, Beneficiaries, Relevant Authorities, Funding and Implementing Partners

Project title: Legal and Social Protection of Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova		
Location of the action	lead manager or partner	Relevant authorities
Throughout Ukraine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRC (lead manager) • UNHCR (partner) • Ukrainian State Migration Service (partner) 	Primary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ukrainian State Migration Service • Ukrainian Department for Child Protection Additional authorities, to a lesser extent.
Donors to the action (name)¹	Dates (from dd/mm/yyyy to dd/mm/yyyy)	Beneficiaries
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Commission • DRC own funds • UNHCR • Ukrainian Red Cross Society • Rokada NGO • Vinnitsa Human Rights Group • NEEKA NGO • Faith Hope Love Social Movement • Social Service of Assistance NGO 	01/02/2011 to 31/01/2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asylum seeking and refugee children in Ukraine • Ukrainian State Migration Service and the Department for Child Protection • 6 Ukrainian NGO partners, 3 Belarusian NGO partners, 1 Moldova NGO partner
Object and results of the action		
<p>The overall objective of the action is to strengthen the capacity of the governments and civil society of Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova to protect the most vulnerable asylum seeking and refugee children. The results are estimated as follows :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Further development and implementation of specific procedures secure the rights of children to asylum and social welfare in Ukraine. ▪ Systems and procedures that uphold the rights of children to asylum and social welfare in Belarus and Moldova are developed and implemented. ▪ Individual cases for asylum seeking and refugee children receive qualified attention from state and non-state agencies. ▪ Asylum seeking and refugee children in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus benefit from specialized psychological and social support. ▪ Vulnerable asylum seeking children receive temporary care in Ukraine. ▪ Local populations increase tolerance and knowledge of refugee children. 		

Project title: COI Unit and Refugee Youth Council Development		
Location of the action	lead manager or partner	Relevant authorities
Throughout Ukraine	DRC (lead manager), Ukrainian State Migration Service (partner)	• Ukrainian State Migration Service
Donors to the action (name)²	Dates (from dd/mm/yyyy to dd/mm/yyyy)	Beneficiaries
DRC own funds	01/11/2010 to 31/12/2011	• Asylum seeking and refugee children in Ukraine • Ukrainian State Migration Service
Object and results of the action		
The overall objective of the action is to strengthen legal and social assistance to asylum seeking and refugee children in Ukraine. This is done in a first part by involving them directly in the implementation and development of the on-going EC project, and to encourage them to implement their own activities and bolster their local integration. The second part is to develop the understanding of Ukrainian asylum authorities as to child-specific country of origin information and reasons why children might suffer persecution in their countries of origin. This is done by maintaining a specialized unit within the asylum authorities.		

7) Accountability Improvement Plan for 2012

- Improve knowledge and practical application of the HAP amongst DRC staff and its implementing partners through formalization of a common mechanism and wider dissemination.
 - Continue to strengthen and systematize the participatory approach throughout the programme, vis-à-vis beneficiaries, partners, and other relevant stakeholders.
 - Improve and broaden the dissemination of information amongst partners and beneficiaries.
 - Translate Ukraine HAF into Russian for further dissemination.
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