**Terms of Reference for contracting**

**An expert to carry out a need assessment on the needs and access to services of older refugees from Ukraine located on the territory of Moldova**

**Organization:** HelpAge Moldova

**Who can apply:**  Researcher - working from home

**Domain:** Social sector, refugees rights etc.

**Type of contract:** provision of services

**Location:** Remote contract/working from home

**Deadline for submitting the file:** April 15, 2024, 17:00

**Task performance period:** 10 days (estimated submission day: 20 May 2024)

1. **The organization**

HelpAge Moldova is part of the global network of HelpAge organizations, with a presence in 85 countries around the world, working with and for older people. The organization has been implementing programmes in Moldova since 2005, which are carried out through collaboration with local NGOs and the creation of volunteer groups of all ages, particularly older people. From onset of the crisis in February 2022, HelpAge has supported the refugee population across the whole Moldova covering different humanitarian sectors such as Protection, Health and Food distribution.

1. **Background**

On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation invaded Ukraine triggering an unprecedented humanitarian crisis and forcibly displaced people within Ukraine also moving millions out to the neighbouring countries. About 8 million Ukrainians had been internally displaced and more than 8.2 million had fled the country by April 2023, creating Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II. The Republic of Moldova is one of the main refugee-hosting countries and a transit country for those moving onward to developed Europe. The latest Interagency operational update(OHCHR, 2023) indicates perennial needs of older people is food, NFIs, cash, shelter but also health, including mental health and wider protection needs. While there are assessments on the Ukraine crisis that look into the situation and needs of children, families, youth, younger adults, there are few to none studies that look specifically in the needs of those 60 and over. Conducting an assessment specifically targeting the needs of older people is thus quite important for understanding the needs and challenges of this group of refugees through the different time-period of the crisis and using the data for better targeting of the existing donor support and planning the future interventions. In addition, the assessment would also explore the extent to which these needs are being met and prioritized by local and international organizations responding to the humanitarian crisis. Ukraine has been described as “having the oldest humanitarian crisis in the world”. The estimates from various reports give a proportion of older people that travelled to Moldova fleeing the war, from 15% to 22%. Older refugees face disproportionate barriers in accessing essential humanitarian support due to poverty and limited accessibility to assistance and services. Understanding the current level of support and commitment assigned to older refugees by humanitarian actors is important to ensure that adequate resources are directed towards addressing the needs of older refugees.

1. **Scope of the consultancy**

The main objective of the consultancy is to review existing data and literature on the situation and needs of older people two years after the war. The consultant will gather existing needs assessment data and produce a report encompassing this information and other data collected by HelpAge staff. The assessment will also explore the extent to which the needs of older refugees are being met and prioritized by local and international organisations responding to the humanitarian crisis.

In particular the assessment will try to:

* Identify level of knowledge of the rights of older people refugees in Moldova
* identify the specific challenges, needs and barriers faced by older refugees to access the various support and services (social and medical) available for refugees in Moldova
* gain insights into the intentions and aspirations of older people regarding their integration and inclusion into local communities in Moldova.
* promote active participation and engagement of older refugees in shaping the response to their needs and priorities.
* understand the quantity and quality of the humanitarian response towards older people of the different humanitarian actors.
* The assessment should provide information that is evidence-based, credible and useful, enabling the incorporation of lessons learned into the future decision-making processes of HelpAge and all the organisations involved in the humanitarian response.

1. **Methodology**

The Consultant will carry out the following activities:

* Desk reviews of all relevant documents (reports and plans) and assessment of the humanitarian situation in Moldova with a focus on older refugees. These include but are not limited to MSNA database, Participatory Assessment 2024 and 2023 and other analyses developed in the framework of the Humanitarian response in Moldova. The desk review will be done prior to any field visit, focus group discussion, or individual interviews. Preliminary discussions with the project staff from HelpAge will take place during the desk review phase.
* Participation in the definition of the questionnaires for the FGs and the interviews with stakeholders and NGOs representatives.
* Analyse demographic trends, living conditions, access to social services and healthcare, food security, livelihood, protection needs as reported of older people from the aforementioned resources and interviews and FGDs carried out by HelpAge staff. Utilize statistical methods to identify patterns, correlations, and gaps in services for older refugees.
* Analyse the humanitarian organizational policies and strategies for addressing the needs of older refugees through a self-assessment questionnaire carried out by HelpAge staff for NGOs/humanitarian responders.
* Analyse the in-depth interviews conducted by HelpAge staff with Stakeholders such as RAC managers, MSLA representative, Family doctor, CREPOR, National Health insurance to understand the needs and most frequently requests of older refugees and their response.

1. **Schedule**

This assignment is expected to begin by 20 April and is expected to be accomplished on 20 May 2024.

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|  | **Suggested Schedule** |
| Review and analysis of the existing data obtained from the MSNA Participation Assessment | To be filled by researcher |
| Development of an Inception Report based on MSNA and PA:  Analysis report highlighting key findings, trends, and recommendations derived from the existing data | To be filled by researcher |
| Drafting of the Final report and presentation summarizing key findings, insights and recommendations | To be filled by expert |
| Finalization of the Report, considering HelpAge comments on its quality and accuracy | To be filled by expert |

The consultant will be expected to meet weekly with HelpAge management staff to provide updates on the evaluation timeframe. This can be done either online or in person.

The assignment is expected to take 10 working days.

1. **Deliverables**

The following deliverables will be provided to HelpAge representative in Moldova. All deliverables will be submitted in electronic version, Word/Windows compatible format and in English:

* Inception Report on MSNA and PA
* Draft Final Evaluation Report

For all deliverables, the expert is expected to underline factual statements using evidence, and to comment on any deviation.

1. **Expertise required**

The consultant/agency should meet the following criteria:

* A developed understanding of at least one areas of technical expertise identified by HelpAge for development and humanitarian programming (health and nutrition; livelihoods and food security; protection and inclusion);
* Strong knowledge and/or demonstrated experience in designing and conducting similar analyses/assessments in insecure contexts is required;
* Strong knowledge of ageing and the issues and rights of older people or people with disability international and/or national standards;
* Substantial experience in evaluation humanitarian programmes or development programme with focus on older people and ageing with demonstrable competence in monitoring of outcomes and impact;

1. **Application**

Interested experts will submit the file containing:

- CV or profile of the expert.

- The financial offer, containing detailed expenditure lines and the cost per unit, including the indication of the total cost. The financial offer will be expressed in Dollars, with all taxes included.

The application files can be submitted in electronic format to the address: officehelpage@gmail.com with the title "Application for CDP assessment”.

HelpAge Moldova reserves the right to reject the preselection of candidates who submit an incomplete file.

The application for consultancy will be evaluated by a committee formed internally by HelpAge Moldova that will take into consideration the previous experience of the experts in the area of analysis, the education background, financial offer and other relevant criteria.

Candidates may be contacted during the selection period regarding file clarifications, if necessary. The selection contest is expected to be held within one week of the announced application deadline. Only the selected winning candidate will be notified.

Contact person: Cristina Putuntica, Humanitarian Program Manager, HelpAge International, 022 225098, cristina.putuntica@helpage.org