

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

PoMOCna KAWA #11



SUPPORT FOR EXCLUDED GROUPS

15 ORGANIZATIONS ATTENDED THE MEETING (Fundacja Dajemy Dzieciom Siłę / We Give Strength to Children Foundation, Centrum Praw Kobiet / Women's Rights Center, Stowarzyszenie Mudita / Mudita Association, Fundacja im. Leny Grochowskiej / Lena Grochowska Foundation, Fundacja Dar Losu / Gift of Fate Foundation, Stowarzyszenie Profilaktyki Zdrowotnej Jeden Świat / One World Health Prevention Association, Fundacja CultureLab / CultureLab Foundation and others)

Excluded groups

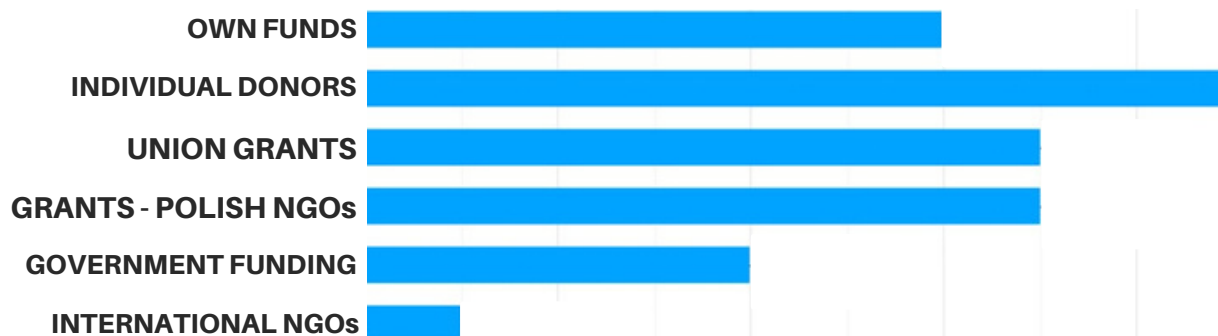
Among the refugees from Ukraine, we meet people from minority groups who are identified in every community as excluded or at risk of exclusion. These include :

- THE DISABLED
- CHRONICALLY ILL PEOPLE
- PERSONS IN MENTAL CRISIS
- ELDERLY PERSONS
- UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN OR THOSE IN FOSTER CARE
- CHILDREN FROM DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES
- PREGNANT AND POSTPARTUM WOMEN
- WOMEN EXPERIENCING VIOLENCE
- HOMELESS

Who supports NGOs?

Activists present at the meeting filled out a questionnaire. NGOs working with people belonging to excluded groups base their activities on funding from individual donors. This is the basis of operations of the vast majority of foundations. In second place, as a source of funds, are grants from EU funds and large Polish NGOs.

SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR AID ORGANIZATIONS



Map Help qualitative study of 13.12.2022 conducted on a group of 11 NGOs working with excluded groups

Information dissemination

A fairly common problem for organizations working on behalf of refugees is getting information to those in need of help. Excluded people face difficulties caused by illness, age or the fortuitous situation in which they find themselves. They often need specialized assistance, and it is important that the right messages reach them at the right time. There are a number of ways to notify people belonging to excluded groups about the possibilities of obtaining support.

These are:

- INFORMATION IN THE MAPUJPOMOC.PL PORTAL
- INFORMATION IN SOCIAL MEDIA
- WEBSITE
- RECOMMENDATION BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
- RECOMMENDATION AT RECEPTION AND INFORMATION POINTS
- LEAFLETS, POSTERS, ADS ON THE INTERNET
- CONTACT WHEN ASSISTING IN OTHER WAYS
- INFORMATION IN LOCAL OFFICES
- RECOMMENDATION BY THERAPISTS
- RECOMMENDATION BY HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS
- WORD OF MOUTH

Assistance offered

Some of the organizations work on behalf of groups excluded by statute, and some meet their representatives when providing assistance to a wide range of refugees. They offer different types of support, tailored to the profile of their activities. This can include psychological or legal care. In many cases it is specialized medical assistance, support from a caregiver or respite assistant. Sometimes translation of documents or disability certification is needed.

The organizations would like to cooperate with representatives of local authorities, with whom they could consult on such topics as how to quickly find a specialist and get their help. Unfortunately, the Polish health care system and laws are not adapted to the unusual needs of excluded people.

The most common problems of organizations

Working for vulnerable refugees brings many difficulties and challenges. The most common problems are :

- LACK OF SPECIALISTS (DOCTORS, THERAPISTS, PSYCHOLOGISTS)
- LACK OF FUNDS TO PAY EMPLOYED AND EXTERNAL SPECIALISTS
- LACK OF VOLUNTEERS
- POORLY FUNCTIONING LEGAL AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
- LACK OF SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND INSTITUTIONS
- PROBLEMS WITH GETTING INFORMATION TO THOSE IN NEED
- LACK OF TRUST ON THE PART OF THE EXCLUDED
- LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO PAY FOR ADEQUATE PREMISES
- LEGAL PROBLEMS
- LANGUAGE PROBLEMS

Working with excluded groups and good contacts

The organizations that spoke with us at the PoMOC coffee told us about their work on behalf of excluded groups. Each of them has a different profile of activity and supports different types of people in need of special care.

We Give Strength to Children Foundation Fundacja Dajemy Dzieciom Siłę

Supports children from dysfunctional families and children who are unaccompanied or in foster care. The Foundation runs a helpline for children from Ukraine, where Ukrainian-speaking psychologists are waiting. It also runs Children's Aid Centers in Warsaw, Starogard Szczeciński and Gdańsk. Psychologists employed there assist children and their families, mainly mothers, in solving many problems. Legal assistance is also offered. In Gdansk there is a group for Ukrainian children. The foundation plans to create more mixed groups integrating Ukrainian and Polish children. We Give Strength to Children Foundation is involved in working groups of humanitarian organizations, e.g. Child Protection Group / Safe Guarding. This work deals with children left unattended and in foster care. We provide a link to the FDDS educational platform where you can find psychological guidance and advice and even educational courses for adults and children : <https://edukacja.fdds.pl/rd/login/index.php>

CHALLENGES - Reaching Ukrainian children with information about the helpline.

Mudita Foundation

Provides support for people with disabilities, their families and caregivers. It offers informational, psychological and legal assistance. It operates reception points in Warsaw and Krakow, where refugees from Ukraine with disabilities can stay for a period of 30 days. The foundation's activists face a wide variety of problems. One of the main challenges is that people with disabilities are viewed through the prism of their illness and are treated by society as if they are "different," yet they have the same emotional needs as the rest of us. They want to live with a sense of acceptance in their own community and adapt in a new environment. However, there are not many integration activities or courses and trainings they can participate in. Access to National Health Service specialists and a lack of funds to pay for private visits is also a big problem. The Mudita Foundation helps people with disabilities and their families find places where they will get support. Its staff and volunteers emphasize that they often use the mapujpomoc.pl portal.

CHALLENGES - health care regulations that do not take into account the needs of refugees with disabilities / lack of professionally translated psychological tests for people with intellectual disabilities

ATTENTION! *Mudita Foundation is looking for new premises in Warsaw and Krakow to run reception desks adapted for people with disabilities.*

Lena Grochowska Foundation

operates long-term residence homes in several Polish cities for refugees from Ukraine. There they are provided with psychological assistance and support in vocational activation. Those running the residential facilities encounter dysfunctional families. They are sometimes forced to take legal action and provide psychological support to the youngest victims of this difficult situation, namely children.

CHALLENGES - ambiguous legislation, lack of lawyer support

Health Prevention Association - One World Stowarzyszenie Profilaktyki Zdrowotnej Jeden Świat

provides assistance to people infected with HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases by conducting support groups, psycho-educational classes, mediating contacts with health care and crisis intervention. In addition, the Association works against discriminatory and stigmatizing treatment of patients. To refugees from Ukraine, the Association offers anonymous and free HIV testing, and runs a prevention campaign and support program for people living with HIV and their relatives. Since there are many refugee women among the infected, assistance for pregnant and postpartum women is also offered, including psychological and legal assistance.

CHALLENGES - reaching people with refugee experience with professional information / difficulties with support from health facilities / lack of an interpreter with knowledge of the law.

Center for Women's Rights Warsaw / Centrum Praw Kobiet Warszawa

runs an intervention point for women. Ukrainian women experiencing relationship or family violence can get help from a lawyer and support from a psychologist. Many of the refugee women have problems with Social Security payments or insurance, which they lose due to their travels to Ukraine, where they visit their relatives. Some women are forced to work illegally.

CHALLENGES - Difficulties in reaching refugee women with information about their offerings

GIFT OF LOSU Foundation / Fundacja DAR LOSU

is a group of Belarusian activists who were forced to emigrate from the country for political reasons. They have much understanding of the problems of refugees from Ukraine. The foundation has been operating as a registered organization for the past 2 months at the Humanitarian Aid Center at St. Alexander's Church in Warsaw. Previously, since the very outbreak of war in Ukraine, its members, as a small group of volunteers, have been able to provide assistance in the form of providing clothing and footwear, hygiene products and food to more than 20,000 people. At the moment, Gift of Fate is taking care of Ukrainian pensioners. These are people who are unable to get information about medical assistance or material support, as it is mainly posted on the Internet. They do not speak Polish or English. They mostly live in refugee centers, where there are no facilities for the elderly. Many have chronic illnesses or disabilities. The elderly are confused and unable to find their way in a foreign reality. The Gift of Fate Foundation runs a special club for them where, over tea, they can talk about their problems and be directed to appropriate help if they need it.

CHALLENGES - lack of funds to pay for the work of certified translators

CONTACT:

If you need a contact for a specific organization, email us at mapujpomoc@culturelab.pl. We also encourage you to join our closed group for members of organizations, NGOs and volunteers on Facebook, where we share knowledge and oversized resources, seek inspiration, and let you know about grants: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mapujpomoc>