



United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Number:	1535-E	Board Session Number:	
Type of Project:	Emergency	Year of Implementation:	2023
Country of project implementation:	Georgia		
Region of project implementation:	Eastern Europe Group		
City/ies or town/s of project implementation:	Tbilisi		
Should the project remain confidential?			No

PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

1. How many beneficiaries does your organization plan to assist during the implementation period?

- a. Estimated number of project beneficiaries to be assisted with the UNVFVT grant (as indicated on the application) 300
- b. Total number of victims effectively assisted 432

2. Sub-totals by age and sex (only for beneficiaries to be assisted with the UNVFVT grant)

Sex	Age group					
	Estimated number of beneficiaries to be assisted (as indicated on the application)	Number of victims effectively assisted	Estimated number of beneficiaries to be assisted (as indicated on the application)	Number of victims effectively assisted	Estimated number of beneficiaries to be assisted (as indicated on the application)	Number of victims effectively assisted
	0-18		19+		Sub-totals by sex	
Male	0	0	100	300	250	300

Female	0	0	0	132	50	132
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sub-totals by age	0	0	100	432	300	432

3. Sub-totals by country of origin (only for beneficiaries to be assisted with the UNVFVT grant)

Region	Country	Estimated number of beneficiaries to be assisted (as indicated on the application)	Number of victims effectively assisted
Eastern Europe Group	Ukraine	300	432

4. Sub-total by target group (only of beneficiaries with UNVFVT funding)

a. Context of torture:

Number of victims effectively assisted
armed conflict
places of deprivation of liberty

b. Types of torture:

Number of victims effectively assisted
deprivation of food and/or medical care
enforced disappearance
excessive use of force by State actors
inhuman detention conditions
physical violence
psychological violence

c. Particular target groups:

Number of victims effectively assisted
Ex-detainees
Minorities (ethnicity, religion, language)
People on the move (asylum seekers, refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons)
Persons with disabilities

5. Regarding the context of torture, the types of torture and the target groups, was there a significant difference between what you had foreseen in your application and the victims effectively assisted?

The beneficiaries of the project, as we expected, were all tortured without exception, but not all identify themselves as victims of torture. At the same time, the overwhelming majority stated the fact of their forcible transfer from Ukraine to Russia, inhuman conditions of detention, beatings, insults from the Russian authorities and collaborators, claimed murders during illegal transfer from Ukraine to Russia, lack of access not only to medical care, but also to food, warmth, the ability to cope with physiological needs the body. Humiliations and insults on the basis of Ukrainian citizenship were subjected to all without exception. In the course of our work, we identified another group of beneficiaries who were not initially intended as beneficiaries of the project: at the moment, a huge number of Ukrainians are being held in Russian migration prisons, who are often not former prisoners, but who have been ordered to be expelled from Russia by Russian courts.

General comments

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ra_a6faP5_hWR5wS-QcABOILDDc1Kxzg/edit#gid=803945870

RESULTS ACHIEVED**1. Describe the main results achieved through this project. Include specific quantitative and qualitative information.**

By the end of September 2023, 432 unique beneficiaries had received UnMode services. The beneficiary is a Ukrainian citizen who has been imprisoned in a Russian prison, tortured and/or his relative. Uniqueness - receiving a direct UnMode service at least once. Comprehensive social and legal support - obtaining a set of UnMode services for a long time. Of the services provided, UnMode will remain unchanged by September 2023: - legal advice; - filing appeals to judicial authorities, departments, international institutions for the protection of human rights; - psychological support; - keeping in touch with relatives; - informing about helping initiatives and social and medical rights in the host countries; - redirects to other NGOs and state aid agencies; - ensuring access to urgent medical care; - assistance in employment, in obtaining certain social statuses. From the beginning of 2023 until September 2023, UnMode additionally provided the following types of services to beneficiaries: - transportation/transfer; - payment of expenses for air and railway tickets; - provision of housing; - provision of clothing; - provision of over-the-counter medicines; - ensuring access to prescription drugs; - provision of food; - providing communication. 123 beneficiaries remain on the comprehensive social and legal support of UnMode by the end of September 2023. Beneficiaries on escorting: - in Russian prisons: 27 people - in Ukraine: 26 people. Of these, 6 are housed in social dormitories, 20 people live at home with their families, 12 people have received social statuses and receive support from the state, 8 are employed and provide for themselves. - in Georgia: 52 people. Of these, 28 have received humanitarian status in Georgia, 13 are awaiting confirmation of identity from the Ukrainian Embassy in Georgia in order to return to Ukraine, 11 people intend to leave Georgia in the near future. 44 people are employed, self-supporting. During the project: - - 74 individual applicants to the Herenal Prosecutor's Office of Ukraine on the fact of illegal forced transfer from Ukrainian

prisons to Russia and recognition as a victim; - 58 applicants to the UN; - 27 individual administrative claims; - 11 appeals to the ECHR.

2. Describe any unforeseen challenges faced during project implementation and steps taken to overcome them.

The actual project activity started in December 2020. Until April 1, 2023 (the legal basis of the project), about 15 thousand USD was spent. The number of beneficiaries increased dramatically and simultaneously in April - May 2023, 36 people turned out to be accompanied by us at the same time (i.e. the number of full-time beneficiaries increased 3 times at once). At the same time, the duration of their stay in Georgia increased (by an average of 8 times). Renting a safe space immediately went beyond all possible limits. From April to July we rented two houses at the same time, hostels. From July to September - hostels, hotels, apartments. The costs of intra-country movement of beneficiaries, transfers, taxis, etc. have sharply increased. It has become very difficult to organize logistics to ensure safe residence and movement of beneficiaries in Georgia. At the end of August, 52 people were escorted to Georgia, of whom UnMode no longer provides direct humanitarian assistance to anyone. The average length of stay in Georgia in the period from April 1 to September 1 was 51 days. During the activity, it became obvious that the division of resources (humanitarian direct assistance) equally among all beneficiaries is not equally fair for everyone. Some of the beneficiaries receive the support of their families and loved ones, once they are free, they can immediately find a job, they have a sought-after specialty and an appropriate state of health. Some of the beneficiaries do not have a family, relatives, at home, have a serious health condition and, in some cases, do not have the simplest socialization skills.

3. Share key achievements and success stories related to project implementation. Share links to publicly available materials where relevant.

Attention of the media, state bodies, international experts, beneficiaries. Thanks to the media (at the I link you can find a document with a list of links to publications in the media about the problems we are working on, among others), the problem began to be solved at the top and attract us, which is good (at the II link you can find a report from a representative of UnMode in Ukraine on participation in a meeting of the Coordination Headquarters of the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine on the issue of the return of Ukrainian citizens to their homeland).

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1az5hOn8zIvHDINRGk9a7SxQjsjkXlgjz/view?usp=drivesdk>

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L4H1zvyqp1S-qXJLH4fyhh5ZmDDjsi92hcNnFovT1dM/edit?usp=drivesdk> The main successes: instead of the planned 300 people who received services under the project in 1 year, we were able to provide services to 467 beneficiaries in six months. Of these, 101 people were released from Russian prisons and taken to Georgia. Half returned to Ukraine, reunited with their families. 44 people have been re-socialized in Georgia and gained independence. Stable ties have emerged not only with partner NGOs, but also with UN structures and state institutions. We learned about the problem we were working on at the highest level. We have identified a lot of regulatory gaps that restrict access to medical and social rights both in Georgia and in Ukraine and share this with NGOs that are engaged in country and international advocacy

4. Indicate if, in the course of the implementation, your organization, its staff members or any of its beneficiaries suffered intimidation, harassment or retaliation (a) due to their involvement in the project; (b) for any other reason.

The financial inability to provide direct humanitarian assistance to all beneficiaries and the long wait for documents to return to Ukraine led to the discontent of beneficiaries in Georgia, began to create direct threats to the information, reputational and physical security of the UnMode team, the Embassy of Ukraine in Georgia, volunteers from other helping initiatives. A long stay in Georgia in an incomprehensible status led to conflicts among themselves and with the local population. Two administrative and one criminal case, two trials. We were often called to the police and the

courts to give evidence on the beneficiaries. All this led to the attention of the Georgian security services, which began to actively persuade us to cooperate. We are required to provide full information about the beneficiaries, including personal information, copies of personal documents, etc.). All these requests are informal and do not allow us to resort to judicial protection. At the same time, we are aware of the plans of the state structures of Ukraine and Georgia and understand the high risks that the information required by the Georgian Security Service may be used without respect for human rights in relation to our beneficiaries.

General comments

During the implementation of the project and since the sharp increase in the number of beneficiaries, the rules/conditions for the provision of UnMode services have changed. The terms of UnMode services were always familiarized with each of the beneficiaries before signing the contract of social and legal support. Responsibility for non-compliance with the conditions is reflected in the contract. The living conditions in the residential premises provided by UnMode were also familiarized with e

TYPE OF ASSISTANCE

1. Describe the assistance that your organization provides to beneficiaries. Specify which activities would be covered by the UNVFT grant, and if any services would be provided through referrals.

a. Medical

Our organization did not provide direct medical services. We redirected and accompanied beneficiaries to medical institutions to receive medical care. During the work on the project, we have identified serious barriers to access to free HIV and TB treatment in Georgia. Georgian Government Decree all Ukrainian citizens who arrived in Georgia after May 1, 2023 are deprived of access to free medical services (except emergency care), including access to life-saving therapy. We could not get the Georgian authorities to change the legislation, but we were able to provide our beneficiaries living with HIV with ART therapy at the expense of partner organizations in Ukraine and Moldova

Indicate if the assistance provided is a new activity under the project or ongoing

Ongoing

Percentage of activities foreseen under this type of assistance

15%

b. Psychological

There were few requests for psychological assistance, in all cases we redirected beneficiaries to volunteer initiatives of psychological support for Ukrainians. We understand that, in fact, all our beneficiaries need the help of a psychologist after experiencing torture. But firstly: without a direct request from the beneficiary himself, we cannot offer such services, and secondly: in order for psychological support to be effective, it is necessary to create additional conditions under which basic human needs (safety, food, shelter, access to medicine) are closed. Our efforts were aimed at this

Indicate if the assistance provided is a new activity under the project or ongoing

New Activity

Percentage of activities foreseen under this type of assistance

5%

c. Social

In each case, we provided the beneficiaries with vehicles and/or paid for transportation costs. In Georgia, we met all the beneficiaries in our car at the border with Russia, through which they were expelled and immediately escorted to the shelter of the organization. We also provided all the movements of beneficiaries inside Georgia with our own transport. We purchased air tickets for all beneficiaries who wanted to return to Ukraine and bus tickets to get home inside Ukraine. We provided all beneficiaries in Georgia with free housing in the shelter of the organization. When the number of beneficiaries exceeded the number allowed for living, we rented another house for the permanent residence of the beneficiaries. For some beneficiaries, in order to prevent diseases and/or conflict situations, we rented a separate hostel. For most of the beneficiaries, we purchased underwear, seasonal clothing and shoes. They provided communication with relatives, food, hygiene products, household su

Indicate if the assistance provided is a new activity under the project or ongoing

New Activity

Percentage of activities foreseen under this type of assistance

40%

d. Legal

74 individual applicants to the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine on the fact of illegal forced transfer from Ukrainian prisons to Russia and recognition as a victim; - 58 applicants to the UN; - 27 individual administrative claims; - 11 appeals to the ECHR. Legal consulting services were provided to 370 people

Indicate if the assistance provided is a new activity under the project or ongoing

Ongoing

Percentage of activities foreseen under this type of assistance

30%

e. Financial

f. Humanitarian

We sent transfers (food, household and hygiene supplies) to beneficiaries held in Russian prisons and not connected with relatives in Ukraine, paid for communication costs, and handed over the simplest over-the-counter medicines. We provided accommodation and meals to the beneficiaries who returned to Ukraine, if necessary, and then redirected

them to helping organizations inside Ukraine. In Georgia, the beneficiaries were fully accompanied and maintained by the organization until the moment of departure or until they gained the strength to live independently (socialization in Georgia, employment, etc.)

Indicate if the assistance provided is a new activity under the project or ongoing

New Activity

Percentage of activities foreseen under this type of assistance

10%

g. Other, please explain

STAFF REQUIRED ONLY FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Post / Position in the Project	Responsibilities / Duties in the position
Executive Director/ Project manager	Communication with partners and donors, monitoring and evaluation of the project, general quality control of the work of all project employees and the implementation of Project activities, responsibility for the final reporting on the project, interaction with state fiscal and banking structures
Legal Coordinator	Coordination of all human rights and legal activities within the framework of the project, development of TOR and organization of work of country representatives, professional lawyers and human rights defenders, development of tools for monitoring cases of torture, questionnaires, questionnaires, maintaining databases, preparation of analytical reports, etc.
Financial Manager	Responsibility for the effective spending of budget funds, organization of financial and operational document flow, control of compliance with financial and tax legislation by the organization in the countries of presence, control of compliance with financial procedures of the organization and the donor, coordination of the activities and reporting of the accountant, preparation of financial statements for the project.
communications manager	Coverage of project activities on social networks, on the organization's website, preparation of all video and text multilingual content on behalf of the organization within the project, tracking and analysis of publications in the media on the project, interaction with the media if necessary
"equal" human rights defender in Ukraine	Coordination of the activities of lawyers, volunteers, psychologists in the country; ensuring effective communication between beneficiaries and assisting specialists/initiatives in the country; Individual legal support of the beneficiary in case of request; interaction with

	state institutions in the country on the project issues; search and maintenance of direct contact with relatives of beneficiaries in Ukraine
"equal" human rights defender in russia	Coordination of the activities of lawyers, volunteers, psychologists in the country; ensuring effective communication between beneficiaries and assisting specialists/initiatives in the country; Individual legal support of the beneficiary in case of request; interaction with state institutions in the country on the issues of the project; search and maintenance of direct contact with beneficiaries in prisons in Russia Analysis of cases for strategic signs; preparation of appeals/complaints/statem
International lawyers	Analysis of cases for strategic signs; preparation of appeals/complaints/statements to international institutions for the protection of human rights; advising human rights defenders and country lawyers on request.
Country lawyers	Drafting and sending appeals /complaints/ statements on behalf of the beneficiary, in case it is impossible to do it by the beneficiary on their own, consulting on the problems of the project, taking into account country legislation, in particularly difficult cases, departure to the place of residence of the beneficiary (to a correctional institution
Consultant on the initial appeal	Initial reception of requests received through the website and by phone of the project, consulting on issues of assistance available within the framework of the project, redirecting the request to the appropriate specialist
psychologist	psychological support and counseling in case of redirection of the beneficiary from equal consultants or from the initial request

General comments

All activities related to media coverage of the activities were covered by co-financing. There were no expenses for psychological assistance, so in all cases of the need for psychological assistance to beneficiaries, we redirected them to volunteer free services. The expenses for the services of international lawyers were not carried out at the expense of the project, because we received the support of international lawyers in partnership with the EPLN (European Prison Litigation Network). Lyu