**RAPID RESPONSE - INTERVENTION application form**

**Applying organisation**: International Aid Services Denmark

**Title of the intervention**: *Relief to refugees and vulnerable people in Bolgrad, Ukraine*

## The humanitarian intervention (describe within max. 5 pages)

* 1. **The context:**
1. Considering the description of the context submitted by the implementing partner (attached to this application), how have you ensured that the proposed intervention is appropriate and relevant (CHS 1) for the affected population and vulnerable groups?
2. Describe how the proposed intervention is effective and timely (CHS 2) in relation to the described context.

The situation in Ukraine is evolving constantly. Hence the situation is constantly monitored and the intervention is adapted to meet the most urgent need. IAS’ partner Charity Fund “Gift” have implemented relief to the most vulnerable groups through funds collected in Denmark for the last 15 years and intensified this intervention since the war begun on 24th February. The partner is well connected with the local government and the people in the area. The relevance of the intervention is evaluated through meetings with the affected population, the local authorities and other relevant stakeholders. The growing number of women, children, elderly, disabled people, and others coming as refugees through Bolgrad and Izmail are being assessed in collaboration and coordination with the Mayor of Bolgrad, Dimintov Sergey and the local city social department administration. A set of criteria for support is guiding the selection of beneficiaries and the implementation. Our partners’ team are visiting IDPs, shelters, homes and institutions daily with relief items and NFIs bought in local stores and farms. Up to now it has been financed by IAS Danish hinterland and private donations. IAS has daily meetings on WhatsApp with the coordinator to assess, monitor, advice and ensure that the assistance is appropriate to the context and meets the most urgent need at the right time among the most vulnerable people. Beneficiaries are assisted with food, hygienic and sanitation kits, medicine, baby food, infant formula, and nappies, clothes, torches (flash lights), batteries for electronic devices, vouchers for air time, etc.

**1.2 Content of the intervention:**

a) Describe in a few sentences the overall change your intervention will bring to the people affected by the crisis. What do you expect the short-term impact to be after completion of your intervention?

The intervention is life-saving for people fleeing from war in Ukraine and vulnerable people living in the area of Bolgrad. The people affected have lost most of their belongings and some are not able to get their daily needs met, hence the intervention will result in better nutrition, strengthen health and immune defence systems, reduce sickness through provision of sanitation kits, food and water for the most vulnerable, and give them capacity to either stay as IDPs or continue their journey to the border to transit into Europe. The short term impact is saving lives, give some dignity, and provide NFIs to survive weeks or months until they are brought to safety or the safety situation in Ukraine has improved and stabilized.

b) Describe the intervention’s activities, the results these will have and what the outcome of these will be.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Objectives | Activities | Expected Results | Indicators |
| 1. Provision of shelter, food, and medicine for 700 refugees passing through some internal and others to Europe | 1.1. Provides and gives out food, hot meals, vouchers to supermarkets, sleeping bags and bring comfort and help to the refugees. Protection secured through churches open doors for refugees | * Reduced suffering. Provide shelter and basic needs
* Security and protection provided
 | a. Daily count numbers of refugees who receive shelter and protectionb. Number of people having reduced level of hunger. |
| 2.Provision of food supply and medicine for 54 vulnerable families – in total 216 people.  | 2.1. Provide 3 months of supplementary food assistance such as rice, wheat flour, milk, oil, and sugar for 54 families2.2. Provide medicine for 54 families | * Reduced hunger, starvation and, malnutrition of most vulnerable families
* Provide better health for the families
 | a. Number of families who got support of flour, rice and oil, milk, and sugarb. Reduction in the level of sickness and malnutrition. |
| 3. Provision of food and medication for 120 vulnerable elderly people | 3.1 Bringing food packages3.2 Providing precooked meals medication and hygiene products.  | * Reduce malnutrition and starvation
* Reduce sickness by improving medicine and sanitation
 | a. Reports from social department that show deduce of sickness and improving healthb. Reduced number of SOS calls to the social department |
| 4. Provision of food, medicine, and hygiene products for orphanage for 35 disabled children | 4.1 Bringing food packages and hygiene products4.2 Providing medication | * Reduce malnutrition and starvation
* Reduce sickness by improving health
 | a. Number of disabled children with improved nutrition and hygieneb. Number of reported health issues |

c) How will you measure the achievement of results and outcomes?

See the results frame above with indicators. These will be measured and documented by the social authorities and our partner’s team though frequent visits and data records.

IAS will monitor the intervention by virtual meetings, pictures, reports and a monitoring visit.

d) Considering the mode(s) of assistance your intervention includes (Cash Based Assistance, Voucher Based Assistance, Goods, Services), why are you choosing one mode instead of another, or why do you combine the modes as you do?

IAS’ partner will provide goods and services as well as vouchers to supermarkets. Goods and services are getting more and more difficult to buy in Bolgrad and other towns. The reason is that farmers around are producing less and less food, milk, meat, etc. The security situation is risky for people to go out and do their own shopping and many live in underground shelters or are hiding in houses. Hence it is not easy nor safe for the affected people to use CBA. Another aspect is also that elderly, disabled, and mothers with small children are at great risk if they move out on the streets in search for goods in stores and supermarkets. The project team will however, provide vouchers to local supermarkets for 350 refugees daily. IAS will provide financial contribution from its own private donations to top up the budget.

A team of volunteers are visiting the people and are delivering the goods and services under the supervision of the partner coordinator

IAS partner is considering importing food from Romania due to the lack of food in Ukraine. Up to now the goods have been packed and distributed from churches with supervision from church leaders, and from the Municipal Office with the assistance and supervision of the Mayor and their officers, and a good system is already set up for distribution of goods.

e) Briefly describe how you intend to start your activities within 7 days of receiving the first transfer of funds from the DERF.

The intervention has already started with own private donations, which is being transferred to the Partners account, and the partner is already active, collaboration and coordination is happening. The DERF project will therefore start as soon as funds are available.

f) How do you ensure that resources are managed and used in an effective, efficient and ethical manner (CHS 9)? How does your intervention consider the priorities mentioned in the DERF Call?

According to our organizational standards and CHS 9, IAS and its partner will ensure that resources are managed and used properly, effectively, efficiently and ethically through the resource management principles used. As church based organisation we are specifically supervising that goods and services are delivered with impartiality to all targeted beneficiaries and refugees regardless of faith and creed.

The intervention prioritizes number 1,2,3,5 in the DERF call.

To handle the resources and fairly distribute food items and NFIs, strong attention will be given to warehouse monitoring and supervision during unloading and distribution, coupled with post-distribution monitoring to ensure proper management. IAS and its partner in Bolgrad has strong financial system in place to ensure procurement is conducted in accordance with financial policies and that there is zero tolerance to corruption or fraud. At the end of project, an external audit will be conducted to ensure the project has followed the financial and procurement procedures.

**1.3 The target group:**

a) Describe the **direct target group** of the planned intervention, including their characteristics and needs. Justify how you have selected this particular target group among those affected by the crisis (i.e., which inclusion criteria did you use?). Specify also how many people will benefit from each of your main activities.

The proposed humanitarian intervention is designed to address the needs of four particularly vulnerable target groups who have become malnourished and are in dire need for immediate help due to the security situation in Ukraine. The selection of beneficiaries is done by the local municipal administration and social department and our partner.

b) Quantify your planned target group by gender and age group in the table below.

|  |
| --- |
| **PLANNED TARGET POPULATION (INDIVIDUALS)** |
| **Age Group** | **Male** | **Female** | **Total** |
| Number of persons | Number of persons | Number of persons |
| < 5 | 70 | 75 | 145 |
| 6-14 | 75 | 80 | 155 |
| 15-24 | 50 | 121 | 171 |
| 25-49 | 10 | 140 | 150 |
| 50-64 | 30 | 140 | 170 |
| > 65 | 78 | 202 | 280 |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Total** | 313 | 758 | **1071** |

c) Describe who and how many of your direct target group are **particularly vulnerable people**. How have the vulnerable groups been identified and selected (inclusion criteria), and how does the intervention address their particular needs? Also describe how the intervention addresses protection needs of particularly vulnerable groups, as relevant.

All in the target group above are vulnerable people. Some of the vulnerable people have been identified by the local social department such as elderly people and vulnerable families that are registered by the authorities. Disabled people are part of this selection as well as other vulnerable people. Others (refugees) will be determined by the local authorities and by our partner. We are following the protection rules given from the local social workers and there is a close relationship and communication build up during the last 15 years we have worked in this area.

Please write your selection criteria that you use or plan to use.

What protection for example for sexual abuse of women and girls do you plan? Are there other protection plans for example security?

The criteria for selecting recipients are: refugees and IDPs with the following status: needy and dysfunctional families, disabled children, lactating mothers, young adolescents, women, and elderly people. These groups are vulnerable due to their specific health situation and inability to migrate to unaffected places in response to the fragile situation.

We are working in close relationship with the local authorities and under their umbrella to prevent any form of sexual abuse of women and girls. In locations where IDPs and refugees stay, there will be gender segregation to lower the risk of sexual abuse

## The implementing partner (describe within max. 1,5 pages)

**2.1 Capacity, experience and expertise:**

a) What is the capacity, experience, and expertise of the implementing partner(s) (CHS 8)? Describe also the organisational and financial capacities.

Charity Fund "Gift" has been a partner to IAS through API-AID in Aarhus, Denmark since 2007. Distribution of aid has been to hospitals, children’s homes, different institutions, poor people (after a list from the social department) and other vulnerable families.

Charity Fund "Gift" have also worked with charity projects for Easter and Christmas, women’s day, Mother’s Day, Thanksgiving Day and social worker day in different ways. They have also distributed medicine and food. This has always been in cooperation with the social department. Charity Fund "Gift" will use this expertise and network with stakeholders in this intervention.

The funding of Charity Fund "Gift" has been receiving financial support from Denmark coming from different channels and in kind contributions. They have also raised support from local churches in Bolgrad and Izmail. Charity Fund "Gift" has a good financial reputation with the local authorities and their hinterland and have always delivered transparent and reliable reports to donors in Denmark. Charity Fund "Gift" has an accountant who report to the coordinator and the auditor.

b) How does the organisational set-up ensure access to the people at-risk, including particularly vulnerable people?

Charity Fund "Gift" has worked with social services for poor and needy people for more than 15 years in this geographical area. All the deliveries for vulnerable families, disabled children, and elderly people will be assisted by a social worker they know. Help to families will be given out from local volunteers. Refugees are gathered in local places authorized by the authorities and Charity Fund "Gift" has access to these areas with permits from local authorities and security personnel. The people in Charity Fund "Gift" are very well equipped to the task as they have already worked with the vulnerable people they now are approaching. They know the culture and how to operate with the different nationalities and backgrounds.

**2.2 The partnership:**

a) Kindly explain whether you have entered into partnership agreement(s), the main features of such agreement(s) and whether the agreement(s) were developed with the local partner.

IAS partnership with API-AID / Citykirken in Aarhus and evangelical churches in Korsør is governed by IAS statutes and the partnership has existed since 2001. API-AID secondhand shop and the evangelical churches in Korsør have supported the partner in Ukraine and has been working with them for 15 years and have made several audits during the years and never found any discrepancy. There has been physical visits to Ukraine and inspections to the aid work every year. The partnership between Charity Fund "Gift" and IAS churches have been on a relation basis and has been proven by many years of collaboration.

b) Describe the contributions, roles and areas of responsibilities of all partners (including the Danish CSO) within this intervention.

IAS is the applicant and recipient of the funds from DERF. IAS has obligations to manage and administer the funds and to report back to DERF. IAS is experienced with DERF through other DERF projects in the last 5 years.

API-AID and evangelical churches in Korsør are part of IAS hinterland and are members of IAS. They also do local fundraising and support with direct communication with Charity Fund "Gift" and advising IAS on day to day basis.

Charity Fund "Gift" is organized with a paid Coordinator, two personal assistants and one accountant; one volunteer security person is accompanying the distribution. Two persons are volunteering to procure food and other necessities. 4 persons are volunteers and are cooking warm meals daily.

The Social department staffs in Izmail and Bolgrad are helping distributing food etc. with 12 social workers, 2 leaders and 2 assistant leaders.

Local churches are helping with 40 volunteers to distribute the aid.

## Local strengthening (describe within max. 1 page)

**3.1 How does the intervention strengthen local capacities and avoid negative effects (CHS 3)?**

Charity Fund "Gift" has worked closely with the local authorities to avoid any misunderstanding and conflict. Because of several years of cooperation with the authorities they have a close relationship with them by working towards the same goals of helping the most vulnerable in the society. Do No harm principles are applied through awareness of the conflict, the dynamics and the target group’s needs. IAS complaints mechanism and whistleblower system will be made public to the community and recipients/ target group as well as the staff and the leaders and authorities and will be encouraged in case of any harmful behavior.

The intervention will strengthen the capacity of the social work department and Charity Fund “Gift” to provide health care and nutrition to the most vulnerable people in our area.

**3.2 Describe strategies for informing and involving local actors (incl. affected people) in the intervention (CHS 4)**

The Charity Fund “Gift” will provide information to affected communities and people about IAS and Charity Fund “Gift”, the principles it adheres to, how it expects its staff to behave, the programmes it is implementing and what they intend to deliver. Information sharing and communication will be made in languages, formats and media that are easily understood, respectful and culturally appropriate for different members of the community, especially vulnerable and marginalised groups. Participatory development principles will be followed increase ownership, transparency, and equity and empowerment through greater involvement of the poor, women, and other disadvantaged groups from initiation to completion of the project. The communities and people affected by the crisis are encouraged to provide feedback and complaints on their level of satisfaction with the quality and effectiveness of the assistance received, paying particular attention to the gender, age and diversity of those giving feedback. To this end, IAS complaints response mechanism will be rolled out within the target communities at the start of the intervention.

**3.3 Environment marker (only for monitoring purposes)**

a) Choose which of the following three descriptions best characterises your intervention (tick only one box)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| MARK |  | DESCRIPTION |  | EXPLANATION |
|[ ]  → | **The intervention includes environmentally harmful components without incorporating mitigation measures to reduce anticipated impact** | → | The intervention duly identifies and considers the environmental impact of its collective activities as harmful without being able to apply substantiated remedial action (e.g., sourcing, procurement, supply chains, logistics, transport, waste, and service delivery).  |
|[x]  → | **The intervention includes environmentally harmful components and incorporates some mitigation measures to reduce anticipated impact**  | → | The intervention duly identifies and considers the environmental impact of its collective activities as harmful and applies some substantiated remedial action (e.g., sourcing, procurement, supply chains, logistics, transport, waste, and service delivery). |
|[ ]  → | **The intervention includes environmentally harmful components and incorporates significant mitigation and environmental enhancement measures to reduce anticipated impact**  | → | The intervention duly identifies and considers the environmental impact of its collective activities as harmful and includes significant substantiated remedial action as well as environmental enhancement components (e.g., sourcing, procurement, supply chains, logistics, transport, waste, and service delivery). |

b) Briefly explain your answer.

The intervention will provide awareness to the beneficiaries to properly dispose the electronic waste, and plastic items to mitigate the environmental risk of the waste materials to the environment. Some packaging materials can also be re-usable for time being for keeping dry food, construct shelter and water storage.

## 4. Risk Management & MEAL (describe within max. 1,5 page)

**4.1 Describe the intervention’s risk management approach and which systems and mitigation measures are applied.** Describe how the chosen risk management approaches are appropriate in the specific context?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Risk** | **Mitigation Strategy** | **Responsible** |
| **1** | Potential outbreak of war in Bolgrad and the area | Work with the local authorities, churches, other stakeholders and find shelter | Staff and local security bodies |
| **2** | Conflict among recipients | Mediation team consisting on Mayors office, church leaders and partner organisation | Partner organisation |
| **3** | The risk of spread of Covid-19 pandemic | Protect the spread of Covid-19 according to the instruction given by health sector | Partner office and concerned bodies |
| **4** | Sexual exploitation and harassment (PSHEA) | Protect women and girls from abusers jointly with local administration and community leaders to come up the best solutions. Inform the community from the start of the project about non-tolerance policy. Use IAS complaints mechanism effectively. | Program coordinator and IAS  |
| **5** | Delays due to escalation of war and other security threats | Take immediate action to adjust the implementation, protect the staff, protect the goods against looting  | Program coordinator and field staff |
| **6** | Fraud and corruption among people who want to exploit the situation | Daily monitoringTransferring money in small amountsInternal financial control and checks | Financial staff in Denmark and Bolgrad (Partner and Social Ministry Office) |

**4.2 Describe the implementing partner(s) approach to monitoring, feedback and accountability systems (CHS 5), including the contextual complaint mechanisms.**

Charity Fund “Gift” and IAS employs a participatory monitoring approach involving beneficiaries, partners and stakeholders. The monitoring process by the coordinator and assistants will be done in the daily distributions and focus on timeliness, quality, and quantity of the intervention against the results and indicators, and it will focus on assessing the constant change in the situation in Ukraine in order to deliver relevant and timely assistance. A key strategy of this is the collection of age, gender, disability, and vulnerability disaggregated information during the identification of beneficiaries and the distribution of food and NFIs that will allow for accurate quantification of the different target sub-groups. To ensure each stakeholder fulfils his/her accountability responsibility, the partner will inform the community of their rights and entitlements in the project. They will also be notified with the available complaint mechanisms they can use to provide their concern, feedback, and complaints. A complaints contact person will be assigned and notified to the community and other stakeholders to receive and address the complaints of the community. Complaints will be handled by a committee consisting of the partner and one appointed external person from social department. Complaints on management level will involve IAS and will be handled by the board. Related with discharging its accountability responsibility, the partner will also submit monthly progress reports and a final report in a timely manner to IAS who will keep the donor informed of any change and need for adjustment.

**4.3 Describe how learning and reflection will be applied in terms of improving future humanitarian interventions (CHS 7)?**

To make the project effective and efficient, IAS and the partner will apply a monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning practice through internal contact with the partner, progress reports, and by evaluating the project at the end to learn from experiences and improve future interventions. The situation in Ukraine is unique and although IAS has undertaken several emergency projects over the past years IAS may need to engage in such interventions in fragile situations in the future. Lessons learned and best practices will therefore be recorded and shared across the staff and board.

## 5. Coordination (describe within max. 1 page)

**5.1 Describe how the intervention complements the humanitarian and/or development efforts of the national and local authorities, as well as those of other stakeholders (CHS 6)**

The situation in Ukraine is very difficult and the national and local authorities are monitoring them constantly. IAS partner has been working in Ukraine for 15 years and is in close contact with the Municipal office through the Mayor and his staff and social department and all the planned activities have been discussed with their appointed officers. The Social department has made available 12 social workers, 2 leaders and 2 assistants to assist our partner in the intervention. The two entities work closely together with security personnel assigned by the local authorities and with other stakeholders that are there, such as the churches in the area, who have also mobilized 40 volunteers to help. All this is complimentary to the local and national governments initiatives.

**5.2 Describe how the implementing partner(s) participate in relevant coordination mechanisms (CHS 6)** How do implementing partner(s) ensure that the particularly vulnerable groups do not experience gaps and overlaps in the humanitarian assistance provided to them?

As the situation evolves, coordination will be done with the Bolgrad Mayors office who is on close connection with the national and regional offices with regard to the development of the security situation and refugee situation. Coordination takes place on daily and weekly basis and on virtual media as needed.

The social department of Bolgrad will coordinate the social services to the elderly, the vulnerable families and the disabled children in the childrens home.

Charity Fund “Gift” will take part in other coordination mechanisms as they are established, either physically or through Zoom or other virtual media.