

WHO WE ARE

International Medical Corps is a global, humanitarian, nonprofit organization dedicated to saving lives and relieving suffering through health care training relief and development programs. Established in 1984 by volunteer doctors and nurses, International Medical Corps is a private, voluntary, non-political, non-sectarian organization. International Medical Corps is an experienced leader in responding to mental health and psychosocial needs in low resource and conflict affected settings and has experience strengthening mental health systems, and informing national policies in the longer-term development context. IMC Ukraine has been implementing JSI/USAID and OFDA funded projects focused on mental health and psychosocial support since 2015.. Our programming has focused on translating, contextualizing and disseminating best practice guidelines and building the capacity of local partners.

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND GOALS

It is estimated that globally, that one in four people will experience a mental health problem during their lifetime. Untreated mental health problems do not only affect individuals and their ability to function, earn an income and raise children, but affect whole families and communities. Mental health is part the overall health care system reform in Ukraine and plans to improve mental health care include the integration of mental health care in primary health care, which would make such care more accessible. **International Medical Corps is planning to carry out a mental health needs assessment in three pilot oblasts (L'viv, Poltava, and Zaporizhzhia),** with the goal of generating policy and operational guidance to strengthen integration of mental health into primary health care and community based service platforms. The assessment will focus on the most common mental disorders (anxiety, depression, distress and alcohol abuse) and includes the following:



- **A desk top review** of on Ukraine national policies and plans, journal publications, assessments and reports on mental health
- **A mapping** of available mental health services and capacities including health facilities and community mental health service platforms
- **An assessment of community demand for services, help seeking, coping and barriers to mental health care** in target oblasts, utilizing community discussions and key informant interviews
- **Engagement of various key stakeholders** at the national and regional levels as well as global level experts from WHO and the World Bank to discuss needs, opportunities and recommendations
- **Dissemination of a comprehensive assessment report** outlining key policy recommendations for strengthening and expanding community based mental health care in Ukraine, to be completed in August 2017.

PROJECT CONTACT

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