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Title: A novel interagency sexual health initiative for Ukrainian refugees in Public Health South West, Ireland.

Background: Since 2022, approximately 11,000 Ukrainian Refugees have arrived in Cork & Kerry. There is a higher burden of some infectious diseases within this population. In the absence of a national systematic infectious diseases screening programme, a partnership was developed between DPH South West and the Sexual Health Centre Cork (SHCC), to expand their existing DASH (Drugs Alcohol & Sexual Health) outreach initiative to Ukrainian refugees.

Goal: To support this vulnerable population through the delivery of an equitable, accessible mobile sexual health outreach service.

Methods: From July to December 2022, a mobile sexual health team, from the DPH South West and the SHCC delivered brief health interventions and opt-in HIV testing to Ukrainian refugees in congregate settings. Visits were promoted via community networks supported by HSE Social Inclusion. Promotion was facilitated via WhatsApp and Telegram messaging. Information leaflets were translated into Ukrainian and Russian. These were circulated digitally and in paper format. Sexual health products including condoms, lubricant, and period products were distributed, and pregnancy tests were provided.

Results: Twelve outreach visits were carried out in congregate settings across Cork/Kerry. 2,200 sexual health information leaflets were distributed to refugees in English, Ukrainian, and Russian. Overall 4,614 condom packs and 1,682 period product packs were provided. 149 opt-in rapid HIV tests were performed.

Conclusion: This initiative has helped to empower people to make healthier decisions regarding their sexual health. It provides an effective model for flexible, adaptive STI/HIV prevention within marginalized communities, and may represent a model for future outreach work.