Demand to Vaccination among Refugees from Ukraine in Poland - What We Know
**What we know from the research available**

Most women are confident in the quality of Polish health care, half know and plan vaccination for their children, more than a half think it is easy to access vaccination in Poland. Those who plan to come back to Ukraine in the next three months less often plan to get vaccination for children in Poland.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Somewhat disagree</th>
<th>Somewhat agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am confident of the good quality of vaccines and health care services in Poland</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I plan to seek out routine vaccination services for my child in the coming month in Poland</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I know how to access vaccination services for my child in Poland</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How easy is it to access vaccination in Poland?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulty Level</th>
<th>Very difficult</th>
<th>Somewhat difficult</th>
<th>Somewhat easy</th>
<th>Very easy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plan to seek out routine vaccination services for children in the coming month in Poland</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Plan to seek out routine vaccination services for children in the coming month in Poland:**

Plan to come back to Ukraine in the next three months – **34%**
What we know from the research available

- **51% of interviewed mothers** from Ukraine do not have the good understanding on how to access vaccination in Poland.**

- **38% of interviewed mothers** find it difficult to access vaccination services in Poland.**

- During focus groups discussions, **barriers to vaccinate** their children that were mentioned most often by the mothers were lack of knowledge on how to get access to a primary care physician and free vaccinations, or general anxiety about vaccination; for pediatricians the one of the main concern is the **language barrier** and lack of awareness on UA/PL vacc calendars.*

*Based on research done by IMC (Monika May-Maciejewska (M.D.) done in October 2022; Group: pediatricians and mothers from Ukraine in Poland of children below 18 y.o. Methodology: focus groups with mothers and Telephone interviews with pediatricians.

**Based on “Barriers and Demands to Essential services among refugees” research done in December 2022. Group: 250 respondents. Methodology: CAWI; Please note: There is a need for a cross analysis to isolate only mothers of children 1-5 y.o.
What we know from the research available

During the Interviews* with mothers who have not vaccinate their children during their stay in Poland, several reasons were mentioned, that prevented them from getting their children vaccinated:

- No such demand in a school / kinder garden
- Psychological reason for those who want to return - delay until they will be back home in Ukraine “I take our stay here as temporary. We really want to go back”
- Drastic changes in life made them forget about the needs to vaccinate their children

Mother who took part in the interviews* expressed credibility and trust in health workers, BUT the system differs very much from Ukrainian one and services are expensive if they go to the private clinic.

Other barriers expressed by interviewed mothers* while using the health services in Poland were:

- In order to get to the doctor a patient needs to wait a few days (even to the family doctor). And the expectations for a consultancy of a specialist can take weeks or even months.
- There is no specialists in a small town
- It is impossible to visit a doctor on weekend

*Based “Barriers and Demands to Essential services among refugees” qualitative research (IDIs) done in January, February 2023 on Ukrainian refugee mothers of kids aged 0-16 y.o. living in Poland 18 IDIs were conducted during the qual part of the study.
What we know from the research available

What we hear online from refugees on vaccination needs*

• Parents are interested in finding institutions in Poland where it is possible to get children vaccinations.

• Ukrainians in Poland have difficulties in obtaining or confirming vaccinations previously received in Ukraine.

• To get the child vaccinated parents are asked to provide the officially translated vaccination card into Polish, which is a barrier for a lot of people from Ukraine.

*Digital insight reports by LOOQME - Narratives of refugees from Ukraine (January 2023)
Sample of 20,000+ public posts from Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Telegram and various forums.
Psychological Insights on Vaccination

Difficult Journey to Vaccination

- Endowment: Highlight the (long-term) cost of Inaction
- Distance: Identify the movable middle, Find the Zone of Acceptance, Look for similar feelings
- Uncertainty: Reduce Uncertainty, Use trusted sources, Give simple facts, data and stories
- Corroborating Evidence: Use social reference (similar, multiple, diverse)

Use REDUCE as a Checklist in the messaging

Modified from UNICEF Journey to Health, EMBR Network Meeting 2019
Overcoming barriers

Am I aware?

- Recommendations:
  - Awareness campaign
  - Reminders (online and offline)

Do I need to?

- Recommendations:
  - Informing about the impact of delay
  - Message testing (Yale experiment)

Should I trust it?

- Recommendations:
  - High trust – seize the opportunity. Inform the mothers about benefits of vaccinating in PL

How to access?

- Recommendations:
  - Further research among health workers
  - Informative campaign on how to access services

What to prepare?

- Recommendations:
  - Support in translations/Overcome language barrier

How is the service?

- Recommendations:
  - Health workers research
  - Ukrainian speaking h. workers/translators

Would I recommend it to fellow mother?

- Recommendations:
  - Need for further research
  - Understanding the impact of referral in this context

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Available materials

Outdoor campaign, printed and video materials
Vaccination visuals

UNICEF Spilno website with recommendations and answers
https://spilnoinpl.org/batkam/zdorovia?subcategory=vaktsynatsiia#
What we have done so far

• Quantitative research conducted: Barriers and Demands to Essential services among refugees” research done in December 2022. Group: 250 respondents. Methodology: CAWI; Please note: There is a need for a cross analysis to isolate only mothers of children 1-5 y.o.

• Qualitative research conducted: “Barriers and Demands to Essential services among refugees” qualitative research (IDIs) done in January; February 2023 on Ukrainian refugee mothers of kids aged 0-16 y.o. living in Poland 18 IDIs were conducted during the qual part of the study.

• Research done by IMC (Monika May-Maciejewska (M.D.) done in October 2022; Group: pediatricians and mothers from Ukraine in Poland of children below 18 y.o. Methodology: focus groups with mothers and Telephone interviews with pediatricians)

• Experimental research to test interventions jointly with Yale University

• More than 1.5 million Ukrainian caregivers across Poland were reached through targeted interventions in pharmacies, social media, outdoor and public transport on vaccine confidence.

• As part of partnership with the Institute of Mother and Child (Ministry of Health) more than 1,500 health workers were reached through conferences and webinars on addressing vaccine hesitancy.
Implications and recommendations

• Scale up findings of the identified barriers and pre tested interventions among refugees

• Conduct further research among Health Workers to understand the barriers for providing vaccination to Ukrainian communities

• Strengthen capacities of health workers to provide counseling to Ukrainian refugees through series of

• Assist mothers in translation or obtaining vaccination records and accessing the services through online UA help desk