

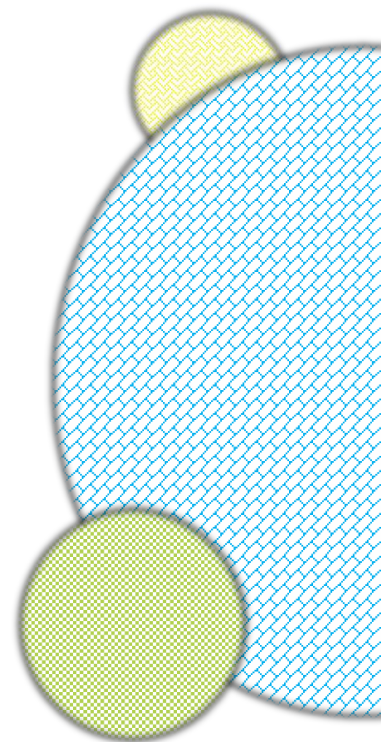
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# Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme 2018-2023 (SICAP)

LDC Annual Progress Report 2023  
LOT – Kerry North East &  
West  
Kerry  
(19-1)



**Social Inclusion &  
Community Activation  
Programme**





Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Arna chomhchistiú ag  
an Aontas Eorpach

Co-funded by the  
European Union



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme 2021-2027

## Purpose of the 2023 Annual Progress Report

*The purpose of the 2023 Annual Progress Report is to capture the role that SICAP played in responding to the needs of SICAP target groups during the year. In doing so, this report will capture beneficiaries' needs in your Lot in 2023, the approaches used by the programme to respond to these needs, alongside challenges faced and lessons learned during the year. As this is the final year of SICAP 2018-2023, where appropriate, please include examples that illustrate the long-term, developmental approaches taken to support target groups as well as the cross-programme, integrated approach utilised.*

*There is a dedicated section within this year's Annual Progress Report where you can outline the details of the supports that you have provided to the Ukrainian arrivals and/or people seeking International Protection in your Lot.*

*There is a dedicated section to allow you to describe your work in responding to your chosen Lot priority groups within the National Programme Priorities.*

*Space is also provided for you to reflect on the supports provided by DRCD and/or Pobal in 2023.*

**Report size guide: 8-11 pages, excluding Annex 1. A page number guide is provided for each question. This can be adapted slightly to suit your reporting needs.**

***Two-three photographs can be included (optional), with the understanding that relevant permissions have been received and captions describing the photographs are provided. We would strongly encourage you to include photos and/or links to short videos if possible.***

1. Please describe the needs of SICAP beneficiaries in 2023 and, where applicable, your responses to these needs. (3-5 pages)

Guidance: Please consider individuals, LCGs, SEs, children and families, non-caseload individuals, and complete the below table. **Please do not include details on Ukrainians/International Protection applicants in this section** as there is a dedicated Ukrainian section within this report. The following questions may be useful to reflect on:

- What types of supports did beneficiaries require during the year? What did these supports look like? Please consider **individuals, LCGs, SEs, children and families, and non-caseload individuals**, when providing your answer.
- Please bear in mind the programme’s horizontal principles (i.e., promoting an equality framework, applying community development approaches, and developing collaborative approaches) when providing your answer.

INDIVIDUAL BENEFICIARIES		
Beneficiary type	Identified needs in 2023	LDC Responses to needs
<b>New Communities -Migrants /IPA/Refugees (excluding Ukrainians)</b>	<p>IPA and Migrant employment related needs:→</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of CVs</li> <li>- Lack of Irish labour market recognised qualification</li> <li>- Language barriers</li> <li>- Transport and financial barriers restricting access to mainstream supports</li> </ul> <p>Vulnerable Women and children in international protection process:→</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Language barriers</li> <li>- Lack of knowledge of the support mainstream services for victims of rape and domestic violence</li> </ul> <p>Language Barriers:→</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited number of mainstream and voluntary based English classes</li> </ul> <p>Children’s Activities in International protection accommodation service:→</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of afterschool homework supports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liaised with Internal services KLAES and SEMI (AMIF) projects to support migrants</li> <li>- Delivered safe pass training for migrants with B1 English level and provided English classes related to Safe Pass before the delivery of the training. Training was delivered in Tralee town centre to mitigate lack of transport</li> <li>- SICAP sourced external funding (St Stephen green trust) and initiated a <u>befriending project</u> aimed to support vulnerable women and families in international protection process. A volunteer coordinator was hired and 10 befrienders recruited and trained. The project has 4 streams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o One to one befriending</li> <li>o One to one English classes</li> <li>o Children activities</li> <li>o Personal development and supports toward employment</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Failte Isteach English classes were delivered in 6 towns and online</li> <li>- SICAP development worker sourced external funding (Adult Literacy for Life funding) to deliver pre-childcare English for migrants with childcare background who don’t have the English requirement to enter level 5 Childcare course. NEWKD hired a volunteer coordinator through this funding</li> <li>- SICAP development worker sourced funding (Kerry County Childcare Committee) to hire stay and play coordinator. One</li> </ul>

<p><b>Unemployed/Underemployed Low Income/Individuals on state supported schemes</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lack of activities for non-school age children</li> </ul> <p>Integration and anti-Racism: →</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Limited availability of intercultural activities</li> <li>- Limited opportunities of integration through sports</li> </ul> <p>Advocacy and information service: →</p> <p>Through a series of consultations and meetings with Supported Employment Scheme Supervisors there emerged a need for training this target group to support evidence to employers that participants are enthusiastic, coachable, adaptable, and eager to fulfil job expectations.</p> <p>→Key areas for training were identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Manual Handling</li> <li>- GDPR Regulation Training</li> <li>- CV &amp; Interview Preparation Workshops</li> <li>- RSS Information event</li> </ul>	<p>session per week is delivered in Johnson Marina International protection accommodation centre for children under 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SICAP sourced funding through the Ukrainian recognition fund to purchase equipment to host intercultural events and activities for migrant women including, speakers, drums and sewing machines</li> <li>- SICAP sourced funding to hire a sports integration hub coordinator to work primarily with IPA integration through sports. Walking groups and Yoga classes were delivered</li> <li>- SICAP co-funded a local Kerry United against Racism group with local people and invited representatives from TIRC.</li> <li>- NEWKD delivered a Halloween event in the wetlands and used the opportunity to introduce NEWKD projects and supports to parents in Johnson Marina</li> <li>- SICAP development worker sourced funding (HSE) to purchase sport equipment and develop a welcome leaflet for NEW IPA</li> <li>- SICAP funded TIRC English classes, Drop-in Service, Parent and Toddler, international friends' group and advocacy</li> </ul> <p><b>Manual Handling Training</b></p> <p>SICAP funded manual handling training for unemployed individuals or individuals currently on supported employment schemes e.g., TUS, CE, RSS. The cohort availing of this training are mainly low skill long-term unemployed and underemployed. This training provides a pathway to employment through short achievable training. Manual handling is a mandatory course that must be undertaken by all staff every 3 years. The aim of the course is to provide skills and knowledge to be</p>
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	<p>Supervisors of the Rural Social Scheme requested an information event to highlight advances in farming and address areas of concern for their participants. →</p>	<p>proficient in manual handling operations and in doing so, to minimise the risk of injury.</p> <p><b>GDPR Regulation Training</b>  Although this training is not mandatory it has been highlighted by potential employers as very important for all prospective employees in particular those who have been away from the workforce and are not familiar with the implications of GDPR breaches. This training was rolled out in 2023 and will be part of a suite of training NEWKD will offer going forward, the training was well-subscribed and well-received.</p> <p><b>CV &amp; Interview Preparation Workshop</b>  As there are no longer Jobs Clubs in the area there has been an increasing demand amongst employment support specialists, scheme supervisors and the general public for this type of Workshop. In this fast-paced every ever-changing world of technology how employers engage has evolved this type of training is essential in keeping job seekers and the long-term unemployed current in their job-seeking endeavours. This will also be amongst the suite of training on offer from NEWKD going forward.</p> <p><b>Farmers Information Event</b>  The Rural Social Scheme was established to address the issues surrounding isolation, mental health and poverty of small farmers in Ireland. Though hard to engage in training this cohort traditionally attend targeted workshops and information events. Based on this research NEWKD organised a Farmers information event. Research indicated the areas of interest and speakers provided advice and information on the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Security around the Farm</li> <li>- Outline of the Department of Agriculture Website</li> <li>- Schemes that are available Fodder Support Scheme BEEP SCEP and others</li> <li>- Digital Information- emails - banking</li> <li>- Pesticide application and usage</li> <li>- Succession Planning</li> </ul>
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## Unemployed

Setting up an enterprise is a feasible option for some people who are unemployed. There are challenges and particular support needs. →

### **Issues identified for building a sustainable**

#### **Enterprise:**

- Cost of Living -hence lack of their own investment capital to contribute
- Little grant aid to assist small start ups
- Sustainability
- Staff retention
- Accessing information

## Farmers Information Event:



### **Enterprise:**

With the assistance of mentoring and guidance of SICAP enterprise officers NEWKD works with people who are moving from unemployment towards self-employment and developing new businesses in the area and also provide supports for existing clients

### **For new set ups:**

Throughout 2023 NEWKD provided the following supports for new start-ups:

- Under SICAP NEWKD is an initial 'First Stop Shop' – where SICAP clients can receive advice on the steps involved in setting up a business.
- NEWKD worked closely and in collaboration with DESP where a robust referral process is in place of clients who were in receipt of a payment, and wished to transfer to self-employment.
- SICAP Clients were supported through advice, guidance and mentoring. Each client referred to SICAP was assisted in the

preparation of a business plan completion of BTWEA/STEA application forms. We also supported SICAP clients with applications for capital funding, offered access to Start Your Own Business training workshops and supported capacity building along through ongoing support.

- This year, enterprise creation is thriving and SICAP has supported 119 people under action 15. Clients were supported into self-employment through the BTWEA/STEA programme.

**Existing clients:** SICAP officers offered a continued line of support to clients once they are set up

- Regular contact was maintained with all enterprise clients to support and assist them
- Enterprise Officers worked closely and in collaboration with DEASP to support individual client cases through the crisis whether it was extending BTWEA payments, accessing PUP payment etc.
- 12 months check in with people who were set up with support of BTWEA/STEA

**Training Calendar for 2023:**

In 2023, a suite of training was organised to assist people interesting in exploring the viability of self-employment & new existing business owners. Training was blended, both in person and online. NEWKD worked in collaboration with DESP, and other agencies such as LES to identify and target workshop positively, especially targeting potential new business set ups.

- One Day Start Your Own Business February 2023
- How to advertise on Facebook & Instagram – March 2023
- Costing & Pricing your Product or Service – March 2023
- One Day Start Your Own Business April 2023
- How to create Marketing Videos for your Website or social media May 2023
- One Day Start Your Own Business September 2023





**NEWKD** 

**Enterprise Workshops 2023**

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**One Day Start Your Own Business**  
 Aras an Phobail, 27th February - 10 am to 4.30 pm

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**How to advertise on Instagram & Facebook**  
 ONLINE, 13th March - 1.30 to 4.30 pm

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**Costing & Pricing your Product or Service**  
 Aras an Phobail, 15th March - 9.30 am to 1.00 pm

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**One Day Start Your Own Business**  
 Aras an Phobail, 20th April - 10 am to 4.30 pm

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**How to Create Marketing Videos for your Website & Social Media**  
 ONLINE, 10th May - 9.30 am to 12.30 pm

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**Goal Setting, Psychometric Profiling & Personal Success**  
 Aras an Phobail, 17th May, 10 am to 1.30 pm

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To register email [elainekennedy@newkd.ie](mailto:elainekennedy@newkd.ie)  
 Courses are Free - eligibility criteria may apply

NEWKD is a registered charity (No. 12548) and a company limited by guarantee (No. 12548) under the Companies Act 2006. It is a member of the National Enterprise Board (NEB) and the National Enterprise Development Agency (NEDA). NEWKD is a member of the National Enterprise Development Agency (NEDA) and the National Enterprise Board (NEB). NEWKD is a member of the National Enterprise Development Agency (NEDA) and the National Enterprise Board (NEB).

- How to create Christmas Marketing videos using Canva – October 2023
- One Day Start Your Own Business November 2023
- Instagram for Marketing – November 2023

**Mentoring Clinic:**

Clinics in Basic Bookkeeping for new Small Business were held where clients were offered an opportunity to meet one to one with a professional accountant. Each client was given the tools and advice to ensure that each of their new enterprise was given the best opportunity to set up and thrive with best practice and procedures in place. DESP were consulted on each of these clinics, and were given the opportunity to refer clients. In 2023, SICAP facilitated 6 clinics, were 24 clients attended.

**Kerry Month of Enterprise 2023:**

KMOE takes place across the entire month of March and gives established businesses and budding entrepreneurs an opportunity to network and discover the assistance available to them in growing and sustaining a business in Kerry. Building a strong economy depends on creating places that can foster enterprise and innovation and attract investment and talent. Kerry Month of Enterprise is a collaborative initiative between a wide range of support agencies. For KMOE, NEWKD facilitated a number of workshops.

<p><b>Young Unemployed people</b></p>	<p><b>Needs Identified:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gaps in services and a growing complexity of needs</li> <li>- Lack of meaningful work experience.</li> <li>- Lack of work experience options, jobs advertised looking for a least one-year experience</li> <li>- Lack of local/accessible training – distance adds mental barrier to accessing training after gap/bad experience→</li> </ul> <p>Transport → requirement for a car in most areas and the prohibitive cost of purchasing a car, tax and insurance. Cost/need for support to study for the theory test / long waiting list for driving test or theory test from young people to get on the road.</p> <p>Lack of Practical skills and life skills to remain in third level education.</p>	<p><b>Youth Employment Initiative Service</b></p> <p>Provides employment /educational information/supports to young people from disadvantaged areas. Young people supported through one-to-one support, access to training courses, provision of supports to young people enabling them to reduce the barriers that they fac., Barriers to progression are highlighted and addressed e.g., childcare access provided, /eliminated transport costs, provided or courses provided locally to remove barrier Support with uniforms, support with admission fees.</p> <p><b>Supports provided 2023</b></p> <p>Get Started – Beauty Taster Courses</p> <p>The Beauty industry is a rapidly growing sector that offers a wide range of job opportunities for young people. Workshops took place in Tralee and Listowel which consisted of three nights of hands-on learning for the participants. Followed by one-to-one follow ups. The aims of the course was to provide opportunity to learn skills and find out more about training and working in beauty industry. Support young people to attend and enjoy session Signposted/information on progression routes and exploring career options/opportunities</p> <p><b>"Get Started on the Road "</b>– Young people were supported to taking first steps to get on the road through one-to-one/group sessions, providing laptops, study space/support, disc and books to learn for their theory test, setting smart goals. Support provided in booking the test – funding /IT provided, three driving lessons locally were funded for each participant.</p> <p><b>"Get started in Hospitality"</b> Bar and Restaurant Skills – (demand driven model &amp; collaborative and integrated approach), collaboration with Munster Technological University and Rural Food Skillnet and other SICAP workers to give young people opportunity to gain skills needed to gain employment in bar restaurant sector where is there is huge opportunity for employment. Working with local employers to gain work experience and employment opportunities. Three - day training for young people from different SICAP target groups. Topics and skills covered: restaurant service skills, mixology, barista skills demos, food safety and food wastage module. Participants also</p>
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gained HACCP level 1 certification and were informed of LLL progression routes available this was delivered as an integrated group with young IPA clients/asylum seekers and Ukrainian refugees – alongside a group which provided Ukrainian interpreter. Transport was funded for clients and ran during school times for parents wanting to attend, eliminating need for childcare.

**Basic Training Safe Pass & Manual Handling**

Certified trainings provided:

- Manual Handling training x2- – 20 clients participated in manual handling training and successfully completed
- PHECC CFR training -7clients successfully completed PHECC CFR training
- Small grants and fees support:
- Safe Pass Courses –Provided funding and support to 13 people to get certified in safe pass in order to apply for jobs in the construction area. all successfully completed and received certification

**HACCP training** – supported 1 client to do online HACCP training – provided funding and laptop through NEWKD laptop scheme.

**Fitness training** – supported client to do fitness instructor training and they successfully completed

Supported YP with Funding for life coaching sessions.

Personal development and reflection are part of all the workshops provided and the “My Journey Travelled tool “is utilised when appropriate.



<p><b>Lone Parents</b></p>	<p>men together and introduce them to other issues →</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lone parents experiencing isolation, mental wellness challenges and financial challenges.</li> <li>- Identified childcare needs within group and issues with parenting for children experiencing anxiety and behavioural issues.</li> <li>- Barriers group is facing e.g., financial constraints, travel issues, education barriers.</li> </ul>	<p>by the men's shed. The North Kerry Men's shed network met as planned quarterly. All sheds successfully applied for funding under the national IMSA supported hardship fund. Two countywide network meetings took place facilitated by the IMSA.</p> <p><b>Independent Parent's Group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SICAP support and independent parents' group</li> <li>- Identified a core group to work with Kerry ETB to design a peer support training programme.</li> <li>- Ongoing support and addition of participants to group, meetups and arrangements over Christmas period.</li> <li>- Developed a hub as a weekly drop in to commence January 2024 in Tralee.</li> </ul>
<p><b>People with Disabilities</b></p>	<p>Many people with Disabilities have reduced social and work opportunities and this can have a negative impact on mental health and well-being. There are many resource issues impacting on people with disabilities such as a shortage of personal assistants, respite services and specialist services. →</p>	<p>Kerry Social Farming continues to grow the number of host farmers and participants. Building on previous year's success we have now developed links with Inspire Kerry, Acquired Brain Injury and Resilience in order to widen the scope of the project. The main challenge to the work is, in spite of the continued growth, there has been no increase in the core funding from the Department of Agriculture. The service and the Kerry Social Farming working group which manages the project is already committed to reviewing the work early next year. The North Kerry host farm network met as planned during the year and is the main source of solidarity, information gathering and socialising for the volunteer farmers. SICAP provides development and some funding support</p>

<p><b>Disadvantaged Communities</b></p>	<p>There are a number of areas which are deprived in the Lot area. The needs of these areas range from issues around anti-social behaviour and drug related issues to educational disadvantage and physical environment deficits →</p>	<p>SICAP supports Disadvantaged Communities-Support named communities and estates to develop estate management committees and community plans.</p> <p>Ballyduff – Benmore Estate – Difficulty making progress on the main issues of anti-social behaviour and lack of engagement with the Local Policing forum with did not meet in 2023. The small committee continues to exist and a lot of environmental efforts continue. The estate has been cleaned, green areas weeded and replanted. The laneway linking the estate to the village has also seen improvements. Meetings continue with Gardai and elected counsellors.</p> <p>Shanakill – Negotiations are at an advanced stage to locate a private childcare provider in the centre. The Kerry Traveller Health CDP lead peer education team are now based in the centre and the Phoenix women’s centre will relocate there in early 2024. The centre will also host (if numbers dictate) a dedicated homework support / study group for Traveller and other students identified as at risk of early school leaving. There are also new, enthusiastic board members as part of a planned shake up.</p> <p>Listowel – Feale Drive – A new committee is in place and an increasing number of groups are now using the community house, albeit on an irregular basis. The decision to relocate the Listowel Men’s Shed to a more suitable premises will provide the opportunity to drive on with the development of the house as a community facility.</p> <p>Marian Pk, Moyderwell and Ragoonane – Led by Transition Kerry and supported by SICAP the three community gardens / allotments on these estates have been fully reopened.</p>
<p><b>Travellers</b></p>	<p>The Travelling community have levels of educational progression which are massively inferior to the average and arguably not sustainable in the long term if we are serious about eliminating social exclusion for the Travelling Community. There are a variety of</p>	<p>Traveller Supports-Support Traveller students to stay in school and complete 2<sup>nd</sup> level education. Provide tailor made products to enable this to happen.</p> <p>KITE – NEWKD continues to Chair this interagency strategic working group which meets quarterly. SICAP worker supported a series of</p>

	<p>reason for this and a focussed and in-depth response is required. →</p>	<p>bilateral meeting with all of the members – Kerry Traveller Health CDP, TESS EWO's, HSCL's, Kerry ETB, KDYS. SKDP, MTU and LINK we are now agreed on priorities and an action plan in support of the multiannual strategic plan. The funding by MTU and NEWKD to find, train and then employ Traveller women as Peer Education Support workers has been perhaps the single biggest positive development of the past 5 years. This has directly led to the establishment of a dedicated operational task group leading the work on supporting students and their families across the educational spectrum. As a result of the real needs of the community peer support workers attended all school open nights to support parents and students through the enrolment processes.</p> <p>Star Pupil – The operational side of the KITE work. Another mixed year in this challenging work. The predevelopment, career guidance and work experience elements of the work continue to flourish. The main impediment to real success continues to be the unacceptably high number of school leavers pre-Leaving Cert and the knock-on effect of this on employment, training and further and higher education attainment. The significant development of the employment of Peer Education Workers from the community is intended to be a catalyst for change in this area.</p> <p>SICAP funding and input into this work is central to the continuing and evolving actions and strategies with this target group.</p>
<p><b>People with Substance Abuse Issues</b></p>	<p>People with Substance misuse issues may have a wide range of needs which require support in order for them to get their lives back on track and fully reengage with their families and communities. Key needs here include getting into daily routines which involve positive activities such as, education, social networking, personal development and employment. The TEAM project run by NEWKD and funded by DEASP provides many of these supports. →</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SICAP worker provided extra personal development supports through the STEPS programme</li> <li>- SICAP funding support/ grant for travel to and from courses for participants.</li> <li>- SICAP supported additional courses during the summer when classes weren't available.</li> <li>- Courses Provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Personal Development Course.</li> <li>– STEPS Course.</li> <li>– SICAP supported Wellbeing workshop</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Extra wellbeing course to further continue personal wellbeing and development.</li></ul> <p>NEWKD /SICAP conducted exploratory work on a model called CONNECT RECOVERY, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Provision of test meeting to showcase Connect Recovery meeting.</li><li>- Identify participants who wish to train as facilitators of Connect Recovery programme.</li><li>- Preliminary meeting with Drugs task force re developing boxing programme via recovery.</li></ul>
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Local Community Groups		
Beneficiary type	Identified needs in 2023	LDC Responses to needs
<b>Groups Supporting Children &amp; Adults with Disabilities</b>	<p>Needs expressed by groups whom NEWKD are supporting working with PWD →</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People not understanding Disability within their own community- Provide linkage with local community increase awareness in the community</li> <li>- Gaps in services / Lack of funding</li> <li>- Lack of opportunities and local activities for PWD</li> <li>- Lack of Safe Spaces to hold activities &amp; social supports for people with disabilities.</li> </ul> <p>Supported needed locally to help develop these groups along the continuum and to support the target group.</p>	<p><b>Oilean Beo Disability Group Castleisland</b> - By supporting this group, we can help to raise awareness about the challenges that people with disabilities face and work towards creating a more accessible and accommodating environment for everyone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Wellbeing support- Supported Oilean Beo participants with Music therapy sessions</li> <li>– Disability Sports sessions – Providing this service to the participates provides a sense of community and belonging for them, they get to use local facilities and meet with local tutors within their own community.</li> </ul> <p><b>Time For Me – Careers Group</b> Carers group applied for funding of €1800 from the HSE for information morning.</p> <p><b>Castleisland Kerry Mental Health Association</b> – Castleisland branch School Art project with the local secondary schools – local artist painted the Second chance local charity shop front with the ideas from the YP.</p>
<b>Groups Supporting Mental Health and Well-Being</b>	The need to promote mental Health and Well Being amongst young people.	<b>Castleisland Kerry Mental Health Association</b> – Castleisland branch School Art project with the local secondary schools – local artist painted the Second chance local charity shop front with the ideas from the YP.
<b>Groups Supporting Diversity</b>	Lack of representation for certain groups and insufficient diversity can impact on issues such as prejudice and discrimination and social inclusion.	Developed an initiative with <b>Listowel Writers Week</b> to enhance diversity within the festival. SICAP will support festival contributions from the Ukrainian, LGBTQ and Traveller communities.
<b>Groups supporting community planning -North Kerry/West Limerick Smart Villages Projects</b>	Analyses shows that North Kerry has a number of socio-economic problems such as outmigration, transport and lack of local employment.	Completed the overall Smart Villages plan for North Kerry and individual village plans. The project will look at innovative ways to tackle contemporary challenges for rural communities.
<b>Groups Supporting Community Health</b>	There is often long ambulance wait times for cardiac arrest/stroke calls exasperated with never ending traffic/roadwork issues in town. Spearheaded by members who received initial	<b>Supported Listowel Community First responders-</b> SICAP supported the group with meeting venue and address for group correspondence admin support, set up Garda vetting, support with new volunteers.

	CFR training in NEWKD Listowel though SICAP. Speed and early assessment and intervention can save local lives, so the local group provides important role in the community	Base for supplies, storage of information/ files, supported the very well attended Restart a heart day in Listowel – public information and basic CPR training and skills demos.
<b>Groups supporting Disadvantaged Youth and Travellers</b>	Traveller & disadvantaged youth integration.	Boxing club –supported application for section 39 funding. Supported application to Kerry Travellers Project for funding as a high percentage of the group are from travelling community.
<b>Groups supporting a Just Transition</b>	Supporting increased bio-diversity and climate awareness in disadvantaged and working-class areas is important for a just transition and positive for community connectivity →	Developed and delivered a biodiversity plan for each allotment and provide the required training and supports to achieve this in Marian Pk, Moyderwell and Rahoonane – Led by Transition Kerry and supported by SICAP the three community gardens / allotments on these estates have been fully reopened. Local committees are now established in the three areas and a dedicated network established to manage and grow the initiative. Scheme staff from NEWKD are now employed in the gardens to support the local voluntary efforts. Training, funded through Kerry ETB and others, has been delivered onsite on all three sites with a very definite strategy of encouraging and delivering organic, quality, sustainable produce. Men’s sheds have built new and rebuilt damaged or older beds and built and supplied owl, bee, bird and bat boxes as well as picnic benches. SICAP has funded the purchase of a wide variety of tools, seeds, plants and related items as well as the sourcing and delivery of an industrial scale.
<b>Supporting Social Enterprises</b>	Key issues outlined by Social Enterprises which are challenges to successful operations include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cost of overheads (food, electricity, diesel, heating &amp; gas).</li> <li>- Rising Costs &amp; Cost of living crisis</li> <li>- Increase in minimum wage and funding not sufficient to cover increasing cost year on year.</li> <li>- Staff Recruitment. Employment in social enterprise is not attractive to employees due to losing social welfare benefits.</li> </ul>	SICAP supports were individual to the SE to assist capacity building and ability to continue service provision in the area through mentoring, guidance, board participation and capital grant assistance. Alongside this, SICAP supports are more cohesive approach to supporting social enterprise through training, workshops and networking.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staff Retention -the following are ones that we directly impacted on</li> <li>- Staff Skill set – Social Enterprise need to invest heavily in training staff to provide quality service provision.</li> <li>- Customer service</li> <li>- Marketing Service</li> <li>- Product development &amp; scaling up</li> <li>- Technical support re H&amp;S and sales equipment etc→</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to grant support in an ongoing challenge for social enterprises in order to invest tin their business →</li> </ul>	<p><b>Training:</b>  <i>Enterprise Workshops</i> - All social enterprises and their staff had access to suite of workshops organised under action 15 enterprise which included social media marketing and basic accounting. This year, a number of social enterprises availed of the social media workshops.  <i>CSP staff training:</i> As day-to-day operational costs have risen for social enterprises; it is difficult for these groups to allocate money towards training and upskilling of staff. To assist this SICAP funding 3 courses of manual handling in Listowel, Castleisland and Tralee. This training was offered to the CSP network, and 7 groups availed of the training up to 45 CSP staff.  The Coffee Pod: this is a new social enterprise which provides training and work experience to asylum seekers and migrants. The coffee pod is a horse box which sells tea and coffee, outside Tralee International Resource centre. This year SICAP supported social media training for 20 participants of the project.</p> <p><b>Grant Assistance:</b>  Capital Grant assistance is vital resource to grow and sustain the services of social enterprises in the community. With rising costs and growing needs in the area, generated income is often needed to ensure the day to day operate of the service, leaving little reserves for capital investments.  <i>Listowel Community Centre</i> – Listowel Community Centre has been active as a social enterprise in the community for over 20 years. In 2023, there was a fire in the centre which was devastated to the enterprise and its ability to generate income. NEWKD assisted the centre with a social enterprise grant to purchase new equipment, which will replace what was damaged in the fire and in turn allow the centre to reopen and resume operations.  <i>Tralee Men’s Shed</i> - This is a thriving group in Tralee which provides interaction, engagement and learning of isolated men in the community. The Tralee Men’s Shed has evolved over time into a sustainable and viable social enterprise through the sale of goods such as bird boxes, benches and garden furniture. Tralee Men’s Shed produce a high-quality product which can be sold throughout the county, generating an</p>
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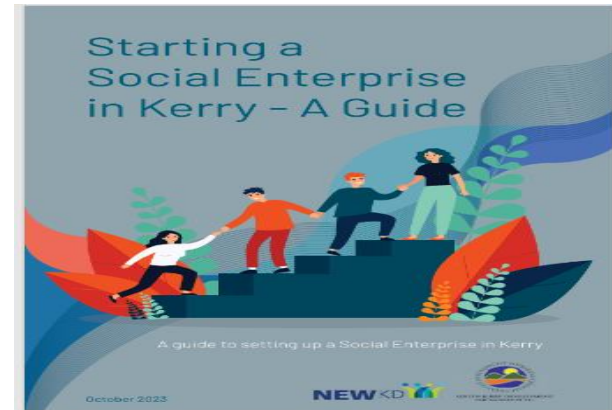
		<p>income to sustain the service. However, the Tralee Men's Shed were using equipment which is old, and either broken or unsafe. SICAP supported the purchase of a Top Saw, Band Saw and Chain Saw which will greatly enhance both the training of the men and the products that are produced for sale.</p> <p><i>Revamp Kingdom Furniture –</i></p> <p>Revamp is a not for profit employing people from the travelling community. Their main objectives are to supply and upcycle quality products at competitive prices whilst providing the customers with excellent levels of service and support. They also help reduce the amount of large household waste being disposed of in landfill and provide a recycling alternative.</p> <p>SICAP supported the social in 2 areas:</p> <p>The purchase of SUM UP machine which allowed for contact payments and in turn better governance and cash handling procedures.</p> <p>The purchase of CRICUT machine &amp; bundle - A Cricut machine is a small electronic device that can cut and draw shapes on paper and other materials like vinyl and fabric. It's essentially a new-age paper guillotine, but with features such as the ability to make your own designs on the machine itself, custom designs and enhance crafts for upcycling furniture. The use of this new piece of equipment will upskill a workforce in new area with new skills. In turn this will enhance social enterprise which will lead to creation of quality products and further increase generated income</p> <p>Foodshare Kerry - Foodshare Kerry is a social enterprise and registered charity set up by NEWKD and St Vincent De Paul in an effort to bridge the gap between food waste and food poverty. Foodshare Kerry currently acts as Kerry's largest foodbank, providing both food from the ESF+ and surplus food from local businesses and suppliers to over 30 community partners based throughout the County, from homeless services, to family resource centres to social services.</p> <p>The SICAP grant supported the purchase and installation of desktop computer for staff use within the FSK office. This will be used for Payroll, accounting and ensure general governance.</p>
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## A Guide to Setting up a Social Enterprise

This was a collaboration project with NEWKD and South Kerry Development Project in which a toolkit was designed. Over the years, SKDP & NEWKD have been proactively working with Social Enterprises in the county, and through the with the development of both Social Enterprise Strategies. This toolkit is a collaboration of both Local Development Companies to provide a solid resource to groups who wish to start on their journey to building a viable and sustainable social enterprise in the county. The booklet is a 55-page toolkit, which contains information and resources, local links, templates and worksheets which will assist the setting up of a new social enterprise and what to consider and understand in the process.



<p><b>Supporting Children and Families</b></p>	<p>Supporting parents of children suspected of having a learning difficulty such as ADHD, dyslexia, dyscalculia or a learning disability. There is a serious access issue for children and young people around many of these services.</p> <p>Supporting parents of children suffering from anxiety.</p> <p>Supporting care providers of children affected by Epilepsy.</p>	<p><b>Funding of Educational Psychological Assessments</b>  Due to the increasing demand to fund individual Educational Psychological Assessments from the schools in the NEWKD area a referral system has been devised to ensure we are capturing individuals from the SICAP target group. Working in collaboration with the Community Home School Liaison team has also ensured the support is directed to those most at risk of slipping through the educationally disadvantaged net. To further support and maximise the funding for these assessments NEWKD has contracted one experienced Psychologist to carry out all the assessments ensuring the service is streamlined consistent, increased efficiency, cost savings, and improved service quality.</p> <p>Through consultation with stakeholders and engaging with parents the need to provide information and support to parents with children suffering from anxiety and the implications of same was highlighted as an emerging training requirement. Having explored the training options on offer NEWKD worked with a Clinical Psychologist with over 20 years' experience in the field to provide "Parenting children with anxiety workshops" and each parent was offered a follow-up one-to-one clinic to discuss their particular child and their challenges – this proved a very effective method of delivery.</p> <p>Epilepsy Ireland provides training in Epilepsy Awareness and the administration of Buccal Midazolam to healthcare professionals, teachers, and SNAs. These professions often involve the care of a person or child with epilepsy, and those caring for a person with epilepsy must have a clear understanding of the condition and what to do in the event of an emergency. NEWKD funded this training for a school when a parent of a newly diagnosed child requested funding as there were no trained members of staff in the school. This lack of trained personnel would have had a significant impact on the school attendance of this student. Any other students affected by epilepsy in the school will also benefit from having trained caregivers available to them.</p>
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<p><b>Non-caseload individuals</b></p>	<p>Digital skills for disadvantaged young people. →</p> <p>Mental health and well-being issues for young people including anxiety.</p>	<p><b>NEWKD Techspace Hub</b> – Integrated approach on service delivery, educational program for disadvantaged young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Targeted amount of young people is supported with weekly activities, YP from Housing Estates in Castleisland and surrounding areas.</li> <li>– Training opportunities are provided for Volunteers</li> <li>– Workshops Supported by CSP support Worker and Ukraine CE worker</li> <li>– Work placement Opportunities were provided through the hub.</li> <li>– Held 3D pen workshop with steam Wizz</li> <li>– Clay Workshops with local pottery artist.</li> </ul> <p><b>“Time to Take a Breath”</b> - Young People - attended wellness workshop – life coaching delivered locally in Castleisland to YP – addressing the anxiety and worry YP are experiencing. The aim of the Workshops was to provide young people with particular tools around addressing their anxiety and fears.</p> <p><b>Sliabh Luachra Boxing Club-</b> Supported over 70 YP with mental Health Workshops and had a number of young people from traveller community supported through the YEI service from linkages made with the club. The aim of the workshop was to support the young people with their every day-to-day life and inform them of the services locally to them if they ever needed help. NEWKD held 21 workshops in Tralee, Tarbert, Ballybunion, Listowel, Banna, Dingle and online within the <b>Kerry Mental Health and Wellbeing Fest</b></p>
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## 2. Please provide an overview of SICAP supports provided to the Ukrainian arrivals/International Protection Applicants in your Lot. (1-2 pages)

Guidance: What types of supports did Ukrainians/International Protection Applicants require during the year? What did these supports look like? What challenges or barriers have you experienced? What has helped you overcome these barriers/challenges?

### **Types of supports required by Ukrainian /International Protection Applicants**

#### **1. The Language Barrier**

Different groups of Ukrainians had language barriers (low or zero level of English), which prevented effective employment, schooling, admission to universities and colleges.

#### **What challenges or obstacles did you face?**

Lack of English language, geographical separation of communities in different corners of the Lot Area making delivery of language support challenging.

#### **Supports Provided:**

- A number of conversational English classes were provided in Tralee, Dingle, Ballybunion, Listowel and Tarbert. We delivered Online classes as well. SICAP worked with 81 volunteers through the Failte Isteach project and delivered more than 1200 books to students. Through the Adult literacy fund we hired a volunteer coordinator and delivered pre-childcare English classes.
- Intensive English classes were provided to particular groups, namely *leaving certificate students* looking to attain the level of English required for third level and further education and *medical professionals* who needed to raise their level of English in order to eventually be able to practise in Ireland. The approach involved an individual approach to teaching different groups, clear targeting and setting goals. Online and offline English classes for adults were organized in different parts of the NEWKD area. Intensive courses (online and offline) of the English language were organized for young future students, which made it possible to raise the level of the language from A1-A2 to B2 and allowed 15 students to apply to MTU and Kerry College. The targeting of English language courses for the professional group – medical workers is still in progress.

#### **What helped you overcome these barriers/problems?**

Lack of English is such a big issue and we recognised that in order to optimise our resources and impact the best approach was to pick certain cohorts and work intensively with them using a comprehensive approach. The coordination of so many English language volunteers is challenging.

## 2. Education

### **What types of support did Ukrainians/applicants for international protection need during the year?**

Many Ukrainians has difficulty in navigating the educational system and in particular the application systems for third level and further education. There was also a lack of clarity regarding the grant aid for third level for Ukrainian Students. Primary and secondary - Challenges for children settling into some schools, language challenges in the West Kerry Gaeltacht.

### **What did these supports look like?**

Working in collaboration with MTU & Kerry College of further education SICAP support worker organised information session in MTU covering all requirements for educational advancement. Support workers also worked with schools in order to improve relationships and information flows.

### **What challenges or obstacles did you face?**

Difficulty in navigating the educational system combined with changing rules and messaging, parents understanding the requirements of the schools/education system.

### **What helped you overcome these barriers/problems?**

Collaborative approaches with key stakeholder's, MTU, Kerry College, secondary schools.

## 3. Employment supports

### ***What types of support did Ukrainians/applicants for international protection need during the year?***

**Job seeking supports** which help them to understand the processes and requirements in Ireland.

**Enterprise supports** for those interested in setting up their own business.

**Employment skills training** for basic employment skills requirements.

**Qualifications** -Supports in understanding how their qualifications are applicable in Ireland.

### **What did these supports look like?**

Job seeking Workshops were delivered covering how to create CV, use of LinkedIn, the important of networking in Ireland for job seeking.

A workshop was held with in collaboration with the Open-Door Network in MTU attended by 150 people (see picture below) covering how to open business in Ireland. The surprising number shows how many Ukrainians in Ireland either were previously self-employed or have an entrepreneurial outlook.



SICAP TEAM AT MTU

### **Employment related skill-based training included -**

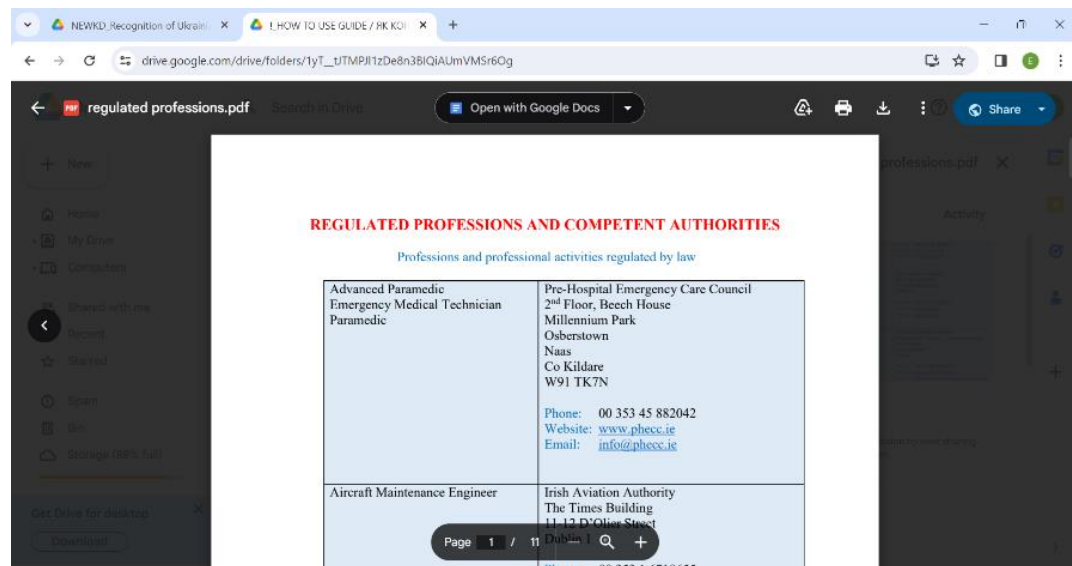
- Manual Handling and HACCAP training
- Hospitality training
- Individual work with Ukrainians to create CV (10 people in Dingle)

To overcome the remote geographical location of Ukrainians and the language Barrier NEWKD delivered Manual Handling and HACCO 1 and 2 online in Ukrainian Language to 60 participants.

**Work on Professional Recognition** - SICAP support workers developed an online guide to professional recognition across a range of professions. This guide has been distributed nationally and have been accessed over 8,000 times and shared nationally with other LDCs.

To access this document, click on the link below which will allow you to download a document detailing the regulated professions and competent authorities.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bwoaMesa7Cm-IX7kowbyF8N6T5C3cJCr?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bwoaMesa7Cm-IX7kowbyF8N6T5C3cJCr?usp=drive_link)



### Jobs Fair:

In April 2023, NEWKD hosted a jobs fair in the Rose Hotel in Tralee. The event was coordinated by the SICAP programme at NEWKD, in conjunction with Tralee Chamber Alliance and the Department of Social Protection. The need to deliver a local Jobs Fair was reinforced by the Pathways to Employment group, an interagency group formulated to provide a coordinated response to the Ukrainian crisis.

This event was free and open to the public on a drop-in basis, but primarily targeted the Ukrainian community providing a link and access to jobs in the area. The aim was to provide a relaxed atmosphere where people can meet face to face with employers, make direct contact and remove some of the barriers.

The Jobs Fair was well attended with over 1200 people participating in the event. The response from employers was fantastic. Over 40 employers and services were present on the day advertising over 400 jobs and their feedback was really positive. Along with this NEWKD featured a Jobs wall advertising a further 200 jobs available in the area. Employers were offering employment across a range of sectors including technology, office admin, accounts, hospitality,

food production and tourism. A separate space was available where employers were able to speak one to one with people and interview people on site if needed. Alongside this, Department of Social Protection had a separate room where they recruited specifically for Community Employment Scheme positions in the area.

To support the Ukrainian Community, in conjunction with Kerry Local Link 3 buses were facilitated to bring Ukrainians from the hinterlands to the event. A number of Ukrainian translators were on site on the day, alongside NEWKD Ukrainian Case Workers to support Ukrainians make vital links with employers on the area.



***What challenges or obstacles did you face?***

There are significant barriers to employment for Ukrainians including childcare and transport which are exasperated by the fact that many families in Ukraine are single parent families in an Irish context.

Trauma, language barriers and lack of clarity and/or actual recognition of Ukrainian qualifications.

***What helped you overcome these barriers/problems?***

Focusing on what we could most effect and working in collaboration e.g.: with MTU and Kerry College.

#### 4. Social and culture integrations

##### What types of support did Ukrainians/applicants for international protection need during the year?

It was important for Ukrainians to integrate into the community, to mix with each other.

##### What did these supports look like?

*identification of cultural needs of the community, full organization and financing of projects, delivery of projects for all groups of Ukrainians living in Kerry and the local community. Deep knowledge of Ukrainian culture, creation of agreements on the provision of Ukrainian content by its authors (books, films), as well as clear interaction with the Ukrainian community and grouping around cultural projects of talented performers, singers, musicians, etc*

- SICAP organised a wide range of cultural and intercultural events during 2023.

Intercultural event was held to mark **Independence Day** of Ukraine August 24, 2023 Tralee, Siamsa Tire 300 attended and the event and involved over 2 hours of entertainment provided by Ukrainians on a voluntary basis. Partner agencies were also invited.

- Presentation of the book "**All you know about Ireland is true, but.**" by the Ukrainian author Maksym Besplov, Tralee, Killarney August 30-31, 2023

- Photo exhibition **Light of Azovstal**, November 2023, Tralee, Siamsa Tire

- A screening of historical the Ukrainian film "**Shchedryk (Carol of the Bells)**". Tralee, Dingle – December 2023 -NEWKD also organised the attendance of the films main actor Yana Korlova to attend and she did a questions and answers session after the movie hosted by SICAP support worker.



SICAP support 2 singers to partake in **Phil Coulter's 'Steal Away'** recorded by Ireland's Ukrainian choir - they attended practice and recording sessions and a concert in Dublin.

Documentary "Welcome to Ireland" - the Ukrainian refugee experience in Kerry from both the Irish and Ukrainian perspective was produced and will be shown in 2024 on Ukrainian and hopefully Irish TV. This is a Joint project of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and NEWKD.

**Dance and Yoga classes** were delivered to Ukrainians in a number of locations across the area in collaboration with Kerry County Council Dancer in Residence in Ballybunion and Tralee. All these events were attended by both Ukrainians and Irish people.

### **What challenges or obstacles did you face?**

Lack of places for holding cultural events in various corners of Kerry. (for example, there is no cinema in Dingle, or the only concert venue in Tralee)

What helped you overcome these barriers/problems?

Flexible approach to the organization of cultural events, search for different locations (library, church, theatre, etc.)

NEWKD Hired three Stay and Play Coordinators who deliver 9 sessions of stay and play in Tralee, Banna, Tarbert and Ballybunion. Also, NEWKD sourced funding to deliver 6 Intercultural activities.

### **Advocacy:**

#### **What types of support did Ukrainians/applicants for international protection need during the year?**

A range of supports to help them in dealing with public services and accessing their rights and entitlements.

These included translation support to medical patient's receiving critical medical care, people renewing passports, support moving from accommodation centres to offer a home schemes or other accommodation.

#### **What did these supports look like?**

The provision of supports by development workers on an individual basis receiving calls on a wide variety of topics and providing information and referral. As a result of the demand on development workers and the need to develop efficient information dissemination NEWKD are developing an informational website for Ukrainians.

### **What challenges or obstacles did you face?**

The demand on development workers time can be overwhelming if not managed and there is a challenge to reduce the everyday queries in order to concentrate more on development work which is what we transitioned to in 2023.

### **What helped you overcome these barriers/problems?**

Disseminating information through avenues such as Telegram, holding clinics, referring to and linking with other agencies and for the future developing an information portal.

### **Mental Health**

Living through trauma, relocation, congregated settings and language barriers refugees' mental health and wellbeing was greatly affected.

### **What types of support did Ukrainians/applicants for international protection need during the year?**

- Social activities and intercultural activities
- Activities to encourage older people inclusion and health
- wellbeing and anti-anxiety training in schools
- supports toward volunteering and being active

### **What did these supports look like?**

- Art Therapy sessions were delivered in schools and in accommodation centres
- Kerry mental health and wellbeing fest activities were advertised to Ukrainians and three events were carried out in accommodation centres
- relax kids programme was delivered in schools and in the Ukrainian school
- online wellbeing sessions were delivered
- stay and play sessions were delivered in 4 towns
- healthy bones sessions were delivered in Ballybunion for older people
- Work done in one-to-one basis with the HSE social inclusion psychology service

### **What challenges or obstacles did you face?**

- Some cultural barriers are there when it comes to understanding the importance of trauma and wellbeing.
- Language barriers
- Ukrainians feel they need



## What helped you overcome these barriers/problems?

- providing interpreters
- focusing on more activity-based interventions rather than mental health interventions
- engaging with the community

### 3. Please provide a brief update on your progress with your Lot Priority groups which you selected in 2021 as part of the mid-programme review. (1 page)

*Guidance: Please tell us the agreed priority groups that you are working with and describe the challenges and the successes that you have with this work in 2023.*

#### **LPTG1 People Living in Disadvantaged Areas:**

Ballyduff – Benmore Estate – Limited progress on the main issues of anti-social behaviour and lack of engagement as the Local Policing forum with did not meet in 2023. The small committee continues to exist and a lot of environmental efforts continue. The estate has been cleaned, green areas weeded and replanted. The laneway linking the estate to the village has also seen improvements. Meetings continue with Gardai and elected counsellors.

Shanakill – A lot of progress within the centre and the estate. Negotiations are at an advanced stage to locate a private childcare provider in the centre. The Kerry Traveller Health CDP lead peer education team are now based in the centre and the Phoenix women’s centre will relocate there in early 2024. The centre will also host (if numbers dictate) a dedicated homework support / study group for Traveller and other students identified as at risk of early school leaving. There are also new, enthusiastic board members as part of a planned shake up

Listowel – Feale Drive – A new committee is in place and an increasing number of groups are now using the community house, albeit on an irregular basis. The decision, long overdue, to relocate the Listowel Men’s Shed to a more suitable premises will provide the opportunity to drive on with the development of the house as a community facility.

Marian Pk, Moyderwell and Ragoonane – Led by Transition Kerry and supported by SICAP the three community gardens / allotments on these estates have been fully reopened.

#### **LTPG 2 Refugees:**

Tralee international resource centre was the main service that support refugees and international protection applicants. Their services were limited due to their capacity. NEWKD approached TIRC and provided support through funding TIRC drop-in centre, English classes, parent and toddler and restarted the international friends group.

After discussions with TIRC and identifying gaps in the service that can't be met by TRIC, NEWKD sourced funding and started to deliver front line work that includes delivering after school homework club in Johnson Marina, English classes for vulnerable women, one to one befriending, music classes, art classes and employment related training. Stay and Play sessions are delivered in Johnson Marina as well.

NEWKD sourced funding to support sport integration and hired a sport integration hub coordinator. Yoga classes and walking groups were set up. The work done on integration is linked to the work done on Ukrainian community integration through a team formed by NEWKD that works specifically on integration.

### **LTPG 3 Heads of One Parent Families**

#### **HEADS OF FAMILIES / INDEPENDENT PARENT'S GROUP:**

- Identified childcare needs within group and barriers group is facing e.g., financial constraints, travel issues, education barriers.
- Meeting with Kerry ETB to research and develop peer mentoring support training.
- Recognised that within the Independent Parents group there was too many factors (such as time, childcare, financial) that prevent time to participate in training and we need people who have exited this phase for training – for example – parents who have older children and more free time available.
- Ongoing support and addition of participants to group, meetups and arrangements over Christmas period.
- Identified large proportion of parents experiencing different issues with their children and therefore we held a morning with a Play Therapist to address their needs resulting in two separate workshops which focused on assisting parents in being able to help their children with worries and anxieties.
- Following up from the Play Therapy – recognised the need for additional ongoing support/ training and intend to facilitate workshops in the New Year to assist the parents in addressing the needs of their children.
- From Jan 24 setup monthly support meetings for Heads of families
- Identified a need for a weekly drop in for heads of families parenting alone
- This will be rolled out in Shanakill FRC from Jan 24

4. Please outline the challenges faced and lessons learned in relation to the overall delivery of SICAP during 2023. Were you able to overcome any of the challenges? If so, please describe. (half a page - 1 page)

### **Challenges faced & Lessons Learned**

Kerry has the largest number of Ukrainians in the Country and there are ongoing challenges here as regards resources and also the emergence of a certain amount of public negativity

As regards resources, early in the year NEWKD / SICAP now has a full complement of support workers and is delivering an excellent support service to Ukrainians in Kerry

5. Please describe an approach or project that worked well in 2023 that you think would be useful to share with other SICAP implementers. (half a page)

*Guidance: Please do not use the same project or approach that you used for your 2023 case study. This should be a different project.*

### **SICAP Supported Ukrainian School:**

#### **Background:**

Ukrainian refugees forced to leave their homes with their children leaving their schools or younger children who didn't start school yet. Ukrainians living in congregated settings and attending Irish schools while many choose to study Ukrainian school online.

Children either are missing the experience of studying in a Ukrainian speaking class since they left their country or never had Ukrainian school experience were missing out on a lot of opportunities to learn more about their culture and their language and more importantly the school experience.

#### **Needs assessment:**

The geographic distribution of Ukrainians in the NEWKD area and the language used at home (Russian or Ukrainian) in addition to the lack of available teachers made it difficult to have such experience on a low scale level.

#### **Work Plan:**

NEWKD worked with parents and volunteers and recruited teachers to deliver Ukrainian language, Ukrainian culture, Art, dance, sport and some English and Math classes on Saturdays in Ragoonane community centre. In the same time a Stay and Play and English for parents' class was delivered.

#### **Challenges:**

Limited number of qualified teachers who can teach Ukrainian language

Transport issues for families coming to Tralee from as far as Ballylongford, Ballyferriter and other remote locations in Kerry

Premises limitations, NEWKD couldn't use the full capacity of Ragoonane centre and this compromised the delivery of the service

**Outcomes:**

A total of 79 students attended the school. The school became a place for Ukrainian children who live in remote areas and have limited exposure to Ukrainian language to practice their language and have new friends. NEWKD is exploring expanding the school to Ballybunion

6. Please reflect on the programme supports that DRCD and/or Pobal provided to LDCs in 2023. Were they helpful? Would you recommend any changes in approach or content? (quarter of a page)

*Guidance: Please consider the SICAP thematic workshops, guidance provided etc.*

The lack of technical assistance funding to develop the Tender meant that staff had to develop a tender while also covering the existing work with the same resources.

The new programme looks progressive and it is important that administration and programme reporting requirements support rather than hinder the efficacy of its implementation

The environment within which SICAP is working is dynamic and therefore opportunities for ongoing learning are important and are not a prominent feature of the programme and its implementers. Pobal could provide an important role here which could be supported by LDCs

7. Please provide any more comments or information that you think DRCD/Pobal should be aware of around SICAP (quarter of a page)

Ensuring on going clarity on meaning and realisation of core programme values and horizontal principles

SICAP has a number of USPs and fundamental to these is the understanding that SICAP is a community development programme and as such is not exclusively about service delivery but about supporting progressive change for excluded groups and this may involve supporting groups or initiatives which critique the status quo, supporting policy initiatives, and developing reflective and longer terms pieces of work, all of which should be acknowledged and facilitated by the programme.

The greater emphasise around equality and human rights in the new programme is welcome. This provides a broader and more robust framework within which social inclusion can be delivered and it is important that LDCs sign up to E&HR principles and practises in a real way.

Collaboration :

The Priority groups designation has limited value given the vast array of target groups and the needs to address many of them in the tender i.e.: if an LDC could put 80% of their resources into priority groups over the course of a number of years then it may be useful but that is not realistic given the community and programme requirements

## Annex 1 – Updates to the IRIS database

Please confirm that you have completed the following end-of-year requirements:

✓	A narrative for each of the 2023 Actions has been input in the <b>Update on Progress</b> field under the End of Year report section of the action record. The <i>Action Progress Report</i> can be generated to view the updates for each action. Please note that for Lots which contain offshore Island communities, but are not Island specific Lots, LDCs are required to provide details of work carried out with Islands in their action narrative.
✓	2023 financial and beneficiary data input is complete.
✓	2023 data quality issues identified on system dashboards and views have been rectified.
✓	Potential duplicate records have been reviewed and deactivated if appropriate.
✓	2023 data follow-up has been carried out, as appropriate (e.g., LLL activity outcomes, still in employment/self-employment).
✓	ESF exit data has been recorded for ALL Individuals supported to date.
✓	ESF 6 month follow-up has been recorded for Individuals who exited SICAP up to end May 2023.
✓	LDC contact information and staff member listing are up-to-date.
✓	2023 End of Year Financial and Monitoring report (including the signed costs charged report, Lot Summary Report and goal outcome reports) has been uploaded to IRIS.

## 2023 Conference on Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls

### *Introduction*

As part of the **United Nation's 16 Days of Activism** against gender based violence, NEWKD with The Kerry Women's Centre held a conference in the Rose Hotel on the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – on eliminating violence against women and girls.

The conference was packed to capacity over 100 in attendance comprised by a diverse range of women and men from different age groups, cultural backgrounds and community organisations. It was very clear from the knowledge, expertise and history of the work and support undertaken by the speakers at this conference that it is **now time for deeper analysis and action** on what is being done and *what needs to be* done within the communities themselves and the support given to the communities, to safeguard and prevent violence against women and girls.

### *Speakers*

To open the conference *Rita O'Sullivan* from the Kerry Women's Centre welcomed *Pauline Russell*, a Health and Wellbeing Practitioner who led the group in a meditation. Pauline highlighted a characteristic of women, that we are intrinsically connected. When we see another women hurt, we feel their pain, when we see joy, we celebrate it with them. It is our nature to nurture and such is the nature of the support services that are available to those who seek them.

*Marian Relihan* spoke about uniting in the activation to end violence. She highlighted the need to change the culture in our society, of the acceptance of violence. She spoke about the language that is used within our society and the fact that it is tolerated - *when it shouldn't be*. A questionnaire on *How we understand violence* was given to the tables and it was very clear from the answers that everyone was in agreement. Derogatory words, shouting and threatening physical abuse against women is violence. Feeling safe when out alone and fear for their daughter's safety? Unanimously agreed that no they do not feel safe, and yes they fear for their daughter's safety. The understanding of coercive control and pornography were equally understood as violence and abuse. How the law deals with violence towards women – all agreed it was too lenient and not substantial.

The members in the conference had a chance to speak for a moment about their views on this questionnaire and it was highlighted and that the use of derogatory statements towards women is still very active in our society and that they had major concerns being out and about on their own, mostly at night however during the day time was also a concern for their children.

*Niamh Corkery* from Garda Service Victim's Unit, Castleisland, went through each of the orders and procedures that are in place following domestic abuse or violence. She spoke about coercive control and how this is now a new area for the Garda and about a new law that has come into place which covers leave in the workplace for domestic violence – Work Life Balance Act 2023. A question from the members of the conference asked – why in the case of domestic violence, was it always the woman who had to leave the home? ***This question highlights an issue that needs attention.*** The women who leave the home due to domestic violence, may lose their entitlements to housing, their place on housing lists and could lead to homelessness. These are factors - that giving attention to this particular issue could prevent.

*Catherine Casey* Manager at ADAPT Kerry Women's Refuge and Support Services - spoke about the fact that domestic violence was a gender-based issue and not a 50/50 issue. She said that in their service they could have up to twenty women in one given day all presenting with different domestic violence or abuse. She said that there needs to be a

