# Group exercise: INTRODUCTION TO CEA

#### Participant handout

#### Queueing at the Ukraine-Polish border scenario

Around 175 IDPs, including children and the elderly, are waiting to cross the Ukraine-Poland border one day in March 2022. They are waiting to cross to the Polish side. According to those who have been "lucky" enough to get to Poland, the border crossing takes eight hours. Small groups of a few people are allowed to cross in order to complete the paperwork.

After three hours at the border in cold weather, people are allowed to enter the neutral zone. There is very little space in this zone for people who have also brought a lot of suitcases. As the zone is designed to accommodate about 100 people at a time, it is very crowded. A woman with four small children talks quietly to the border guard to find out what she can do to get a better place.

But the queue to cross the border is not moving. The border guard informs the citizens that the queue will start moving in 10 minutes, but there is no movement for about two hours. During this time, several more groups of people were allowed into the neutral zone. Eventually, the queue starts moving, but some people start complaining of hypothermia, and everyone becomes upset. One of the people trying to cross the border, an elderly man, shouts at the border guard and threatens to hit him. The border guard shouts back and stops the queue from moving to the Polish side.

*Internally displaced persons cross the border at the Krakovets-Korchova crossing point on 26 February 2022. photo: getty imagesA group of people walking down a street

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**Questions for group discussion – answers on a flip chart**

# What caused the situation?

# How it could have been prevented?

# What are the similarities between this situation and Red Cross Red Crescent work in communities?