

Ukraine Emergency Appeal – Report December 2022

SITUATION SUMMARY

As of 17 August, there are more than 6.6 million refugees present across Europe. Over 3.8 million refugees from Ukraine have registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe. More than 11 million refugee movements have been recorded out of Ukraine while, at the same time, authorities have reported almost 4.8 million movements back into the country since the beginning of the war.

Six months since the escalation of the war in Ukraine, shelling and missile attacks continue, causing destruction, civilian injuries and deaths. Hostilities have destroyed critical infrastructure, leaving millions overall without access to basic lifelines such as health services, water, electricity and gas supplies. As of 15 August, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded 13,212 civilian casualties in Ukraine – 5,514 killed (including 356 children) and 7,698 injured (including 574 children).

Amid the ongoing hostilities, the Ukrainian Parliament extended martial law on 15 August for another three months until 21 November. Meanwhile, thousands more people are evacuating Donetsk Oblast, and scores of damaged buildings require repair with winter approaching. Safety concerns are also growing over the military activity around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

Responding to the winterisation needs in Ukraine (based on the recently published Winterization Plan) is the key priority of giving help. During winter months it is compulsory to provide safe, and warm accommodation for people. Due to the war, public utilities have been damaged significantly. It is essential that people have access to electricity and gas. Furthermore, the repair of heating and water infrastructure, sealing the gaps, and fixing the roofs are planned as well. For internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees, multipurpose cash assistance and cash for protection activities have already started.

Hungary:

The ongoing housing and economic crisis has been seriously impacting the quantity of distributed donations (i.e. food, hygiene kits.) Donor fatigue and the exhaustion of financial support for NGOs and smaller host communities and institutions from all over the country can be experienced everywhere, forcing these to approach bigger aid organisations for the continuation of support and assistance. Public approach towards refugees is starting to turn negative as the economic crisis is escalating. The need for comprehensive support and assistance for refugees has been ever growing. The need for winterisation has been voiced by more and more organisations.

Poland:

Over 5.43 million refugees, which is 48% of total displacement from Ukraine, have fled to Poland so far, through eight border crossings. As of now, Poland has registered 1.27 million refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes, followed by Germany which has registered over 670,000 and Czech Republic 412,000 refugees.

Romania:

Out of the 84,000 Ukrainian refugees who reside in Romania, 28% want to remain in the country for a longer, undetermined period according to "Ukrainian Refugees in Romania" study conducted by EWL Migration Platform and the Centre for Eastern European Studies at Warsaw University. These people are currently facing the following challenges: trying to socially integrate, but finding it hard due to the language barrier, and lack of income (some only live with money received from NGOs.) The government support that is offered to people hosting refugees – 50 lei (approx. AUD\$15.80) per day per refugee for accommodation and 20 lei (approx. AUD\$6.30) per day per refugee for food – is often being taken advantage of by the hosts to the detriment of the refugees. This means some refugees receive accommodation, but no food or WASH (water, sanitation and health) items. Other current challenges are school integration for Ukrainian kids and offering jobs to adults (most of them are professionals back in Ukraine). Finally, as winter approaches, the ACT Alliance are expecting expenditures to rise, and want to support partners with funds to continue their refugee-related activities.

Funding by GMP Members:

In total, \$121,547.60 has been given to the Ukraine Emergency Appeal. Thank you for your generosity. After administration costs, \$115,470.11 has been sent to the ACT Alliance.

These contributed to \$1,452,082.15 CHF (Swiss franc) contributed through the ACT Alliance Appeal.

RESPONSE

AIDRom:

- Provided social and legal counselling for approximately 800 people in just two weeks.
- Offers psychological support and therapy for people affected by the war in Ukraine. Approx. 23 people benefited from psychological counselling in two weeks.
- Offered social vouchers for food items for approx. 200 families.
- Offered social vouchers for hygiene for approx. 200 families.
- Offered social vouchers for the purchase of medicines for approx. 150 people.
- Approximately 150 refugees participated in cultural and recreational activities.
- Six people were employed.
- 56 refugees were counselled regarding accessing the labour market.
- Approx. 250 refugees participated in information sessions on the prevention of human trafficking.
- AIDRom volunteers organised Romanian language courses for Ukrainian refugees. Approx. 45 people participated in the courses.

Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA):

- HIA has reached 135,216 people so far, providing emergency access to basic humanitarian aid, protection activities and other life-saving services both in Ukraine and in Hungary.

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- HIA has already transported 1,064 tons of aid to Ukraine since the beginning of the war.
- In Hungary, HIA helped more than 5,000 refugees in the last two weeks.
- In Zakarpattia, the in-kind support assistance to 20 shelters lying in 11 hromadas in two regions (Uzhhorod and Mukachevo) was continued. In this period, HIA reached 625 people with 3.2 metric tons of food aid.
- In Lviv Oblast, 11 more FSG contracts were signed and 10 new ones are in progress. MPCA (multi-purpose cash assistance) and C4P (Comprehensive Care, Community and Culture Program) assistance were finished in Sambir Rayon and in Lviv Oblast. More than 1,500 people for MPCA and more than 500 people for cash for protection were registered.
- In Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast HIA's local implementing partner purchased food products for IDPs living in Nadvirna. Several psychological group sessions were held for adults and children. In total 85 people received psychological support services. Three proposed facilities that are subject to repair and further long-term residence of IDPs were selected. The full cost of repair works is UAH (Ukrainian hryvnia) 6,600,000.00 (approximately AUD \$319,524.56).
- In Cherkasy and Poltava Oblasts, during the last two weeks distribution of assistance, psychosocial and legal services, and capacity building of the organisation took place. 223 IDPs received psychosocial support, and 255 beneficiaries received legal assistance. The NGO "League" received a humanitarian cargo for IDPs. It includes food products along with personal, children's and women's hygiene items.
- In Hungary, HIA gave accommodation for 1,951 refugees in hotels or in community shelters, and 865 refugees from the 1,951 received warm meals during the last two weeks. In BOK Sports Arena, the provision of humanitarian aid has continued. 901 people received low-threshold assistance services.
- The HIA Refugee Support and Integration Centre in Budapest (UMTK) helped a total of 450 refugees. In-kind support was given for 350 people (170 food, 150 hygiene, 30 mums with babies), PSS (Psychological Support Services) for 161 people (including 12 children) and for C4P, 79 petitions were reviewed. Information services were given for 240 people, and for 137 people assistance service about the available job and education opportunities and life coaching. In addition, social programs were organised for 39 children.
- In the countryside and large towns (Miskolc, Sopron, Kaposvár, Debrecen and Szendrő), HIA reached 664 refugees by the following activities: in-kind assistance, PSS, social programs, information service, labour market counselling, and language education.
- Additionally, HIA has organised summer camps for refugee children in Budapest and the countryside (Szombathely, Aggtelek, Debrecen). A total of 169 kids and 21 accompanying adults participated in them. Acting and drama programs, occupational development, and catch-up activities were organised for the kids.
- Thus far, these efforts have reached 135,216 people since the beginning of the crisis, providing emergency access to basic food and non-food items, information, shelter, WASH and health support, protection and links to transportation services.

Swiss Church Aid (HEKS):



Distribution of food items for IDPs in Ukraine. Photo Courtesy of ACT Alliance.

Hungary

- Cash distribution continued in Hungary mainly involving refugees residing in the countryside with 507 beneficiaries in the past four weeks.
- Hungarian Reformed Church Aid (HRCA) and its implementing partner, Kalunba, have involved 140 refugees in their complex integration program so far.
- HRCA and Kalunba have already rented 20 flats and one block of apartments to house refugees.
- HRCA Refugee Ministry staff continues to operate the main email account dedicated to Ukraine Response of HRCA. This also complements the counselling and information provision activities.
- HRCA and Kalunba have been trying to respond to ever increasing medical and ad hoc needs of refugees approaching HRCA and Kalunba at random.
- The community-based intervention/support (SCLR) program supporting communities hosting refugees has rolled out in Transcarpathia in Ukraine.
- 35 host communities are being supported. SCLR in Hungary is rolling out involving approximately 20 host communities.
- Education-specific and needs-related assessment was conducted among refugees.
- Approximately 900 refugees were involved in employment-related interviews and counselling at Kalunba.
- Processing the most urgent and vulnerable cases by project staff was underway; possible institutional referral mechanisms are being developed for such cases.
- Regular community events have been organised involving mainly refugee children.
- Medical and psychosocial expert staff have been recruited and hired to facilitate processing and referring medical cases.

Romania

- Food Distribution: In the past two weeks, 37 tons were distributed to Transcarpathia Ukraine through our partner, Diakonia Satu Mare. In total, more than 4,200 IDPs were reached.
- Cash Distribution: 152 people received cash support in the past two weeks through our partner Open Fields Foundation (136 through bank transfer and 16 through cash).
- Counselling: 16 vulnerable people received counselling for post-traumatic stress and for potential jobs.
- Medical Consultations: 27 people received medical consultations in Cluj-Napoca.
- Fuel for family reunification: Nine families were helped with fuel vouchers to reunite.

Ukraine

- Food Security: Provided single meals from community kitchens, three-day 'on-the-go' meal kits and one-month dry food baskets to beneficiaries affected by the conflict, including vulnerable groups, collective shelter residents and IDPs in Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Odesa, Mykolayiv, and Kharkiv regions.
- Multipurpose Cash Assistance: Provided cash transfer assistance to beneficiaries affected by the conflict in Zaporizhzhia, and Mykolayiv regions.
- WASH: Provided on-the-go hygiene kits and individual hygiene kits for collective centres to beneficiaries affected by the conflict in Kherson, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia regions.
- Subgrants: Supported six registered Ukrainian NGOs to continue providing vital services to beneficiaries affected by the conflict in Zaporizhzhia, Mykolayiv, Kharkiv, and Odesa regions, as well as in Kyiv.

Lutheran World Federation (LWF):

General

- The work on the budget reallocation of the PEACE project has started. Planned deadline to finalise it is at the end of August.
- LWF component of the ACT appeal is covered at approximately 130%. Revision to reflect additional/increase activities and to include an additional ACT member in the appeal is planned towards the end of September 2022.

Ukraine

- LWF is still about to set up the operation; discussions are ongoing with Finn Church Aid, (member of the ACT Alliance, conducting their activities in Ukraine but outside the appeal) for a shared office together with HIA in Kyiv.
- Recruitment process of Finance Manager, Program Coordinator and Team Leader (TL) is ongoing.
- Bhoj Khanal prepares for a three-month assignment as acting TL in Poland. Planned start, towards the end of August.
- Collaboration with two municipalities (Ichnya and Bobrovytsa) is formalised. Project proposals on school rehabilitation to be finalised this week.

Poland

- Position of the TL was readvertised. Closing date 16 August.
- Induction of the new Finance Manager, Bartłomiej Wegrzyniak, in Geneva headquarters.

- Phase Two of the protection assessments by the seconded protection staff from Corus is ongoing.
- 50,421 of which 35,276 women, 15,199 men and 1,898 People with Disability were reached with multipurpose cash assistance.
- Procurement process is ongoing with a derogation requested for the procurement of food and NFI (non-food items) for Gdansk Foundation, Cieszyn, Sim Rzecz Jasna and Krakow.
- Santander training on the use of the Blik system to start the payment for beneficiaries enrolled under the LWF caseload.
- Exit strategy for the shift from MPCA centres to community centres finalised.
- Workshop with LWF psychologists and social workers conducted to gather experiences, challenges and to inform Phase Two.
- Revision of the RRP recalibration and winterisation process finalised.
- A project application has been submitted to the Department for Theology, Mission and Justice (DTMJ, sister LWF department) regarding a music festival with Ukrainian performers, with the purpose of sharing Ukrainian culture, integrating refugees into the local community, and collecting money at the concerts for refugees in need. This project is under review and a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) under preparation.

Slovakia

- Funds for the “Facilities-Utilities” project were transferred by DTMJ.
- DTMJ has received 10 new project proposals from the Synod of the Lutheran Church in Slovakia (ECACS, also a sister department of LWF), concerning kindergarten classes, basic kitchen equipment, central warehouse, and hiring coordinators to assist refugees in matters such as transportation, job research, translation, medical care, permanent accommodation, assisting disabled people etc. These projects are under review.

CASE STUDY: The Litvinov Family

6 June 2022 was an important day for the Litvinov family. There were smiles, tears, and even a cake. This was the day that the Litvinovs were moving out of the refugee shelter in the offices of ACT member AIDRom in Bucharest, Romania, and into a flat for the six of them.

Sergiy, a 37-year-old dentist from near Kharkiv, his wife Iulia, a family doctor, their three children ranging from eight down to two years old, and Sergiy’s mother, Ludmilla, fled from their home on 5 March as the war in Ukraine raged around them. They hid in their basement while the situation continued to deteriorate.

“Russian soldiers were shooting people, food was getting more and more expensive and hard to find, everyone was afraid,” Sergiy recalled. On 5 March, the family began a two-day drive to the border with Moldova. A further twelve hours saw them across the border, and they headed through Moldova and into Romania.



The Litvinov family (Sergiy, Iulia, their three children, and Sergiy's mother) fled Ukraine for Romania, and are now recognised as refugees. They hope their medical qualifications will be recognised in future so they can open practices again in their new home. On 6 June 2022 they took possession of a new flat for their family, leaving their temporary home in the offices of ACT member AIDRom's HQ in Bucharest. AIDRom has supported the family with food, shelter, language classes, legal support and more.

Photos courtesy of ACT Alliance.

“The Romanian authorities were very helpful,” Sergiy reported. Even more helpful were the staff from AIDRom, who have worked with the Litvinov family with everything from food and shelter to legal assistance, cultural activities, and Romanian lessons.

The Litvinovs applied for refugee status in Romania and were living in rooms that AIDRom maintains in its headquarters for families seeking asylum in the country from March until 6 June.

They have now achieved refugee status. Sergiy is working as a dental mechanic but wants to be able to practice as a dentist again.

“We do not want to go back to Ukraine, we want to stay in Romania,” he said. “We want our qualifications to be recognised so we can work here.”

Already, their children feel very welcomed, chasing each other in the AIDRom offices, playing with their Iulia, demanding to be picked up by Sergiy, and calling for “Babushka”, their grandmother.

“The children feel ok,” Sergiy confirmed. “They can play here. They play football, they do drawings. There is a school next door, and they play with children from there.”

As the Litvinovs move from the AIDRom housing to a new flat provided by another refugee resettlement agency, they presented the AIDRom staff with a cake to say thank you for the support they received. There were tears and hugs, smiles, and assurances that AIDRom staff would still be in touch, and still support the family.

And AIDRom will continue to be there for the Litvinovs and for thousands of others displaced by the war, as they have for many other families. Over ten years they have engaged in refugee work

in Romania, living their diakonal, servant mandate; supporting the most vulnerable people with dignity and respect.

For the Litvinovs, 6 June is a day they will not forget, a day made possible by their own tenacity and work, and by the support received from AIDRom.

Further information can be made available on request by contacting GMP on Freecall 1800 467 222.

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