

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

CARE Ukraine Crisis Update

Nearly half a million reached

From February to June, CARE and its 56 implementing partners have reached more than 466,000 people across Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Georgia, and Germany with protection and psychosocial support, cash assistance, food, water, sanitation and hygiene assistance, health services, support for accommodation, and education.

During this time, CARE and partners have reached:

- 236,000 people with food and nutrition support
- 65,000 people with health services
- 54,000 people with support for accommodation
- 49,000 people with water, sanitation, and hygiene assistance
- 47,000 people with psychosocial support, education, and cash assistance
- 21,000 people with gender-based violence prevention and protection services
- 1,500 children and youth with school starter kits in Germany



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Volunteers risk their lives to bring aid to people in need

Maria, an NGO project manager in Lviv, Ukraine, takes part in a CARE-supported, student-led initiative to deliver boxes of humanitarian aid to people in the areas of Ukraine more heavily hit by fighting. The 16 students risk their lives to deliver food, clean drinking water, medicine, hygiene products, and other daily necessities to people in need.

“We plan so that we never have an empty car,” explains Bohdan, 25, a Lviv law student. On their way to the areas with active fighting, the students bring boxes of necessities. On their way back, they bring families, pets, and important documents people left behind when they were forced to flee in a hurry.

“The most important thing is not to panic.”



Driving into danger

The first volunteers drove to Kyiv to evacuate the first two families on Feb. 27. They now drive into danger, to towns in Kharkiv, Kherson, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Mykolaiv, and Odesa.

It is more difficult for men to leave Ukraine because of the war, but Maria is allowed to cross the border to Poland, where she collects humanitarian aid and brings it back to Lviv. There, Bohdan divides it up into boxes and brings them to people who are completely cut off from supplies.

“We learn from each trip, explains Bohdan. “First, we didn’t even bring a spare tire. We didn’t have any experience with this. Now we are better prepared.”

On one trip from Lviv to Kyiv, the students had one car destroyed. To avoid a detour, they had taken a more dangerous route. The drivers survived — barely

“We are all one community now.”

Every minute matters

Even though it is dangerous and often terrifying, Bohdan never says no to a trip. “I cannot stay away. I see people living in metro stations, I hear what the displaced tell us about the war. It is my responsibility to help and to get them out of there,” he says.

But there are also moments of hope that give Bohdan strength to continue.

“The people really appreciate our help. They are now waiting for us. Sometimes someone makes me a sandwich late at night when we arrive. I can see that what we are doing is important.”

The volunteers have been working continuously for six months now. But Maria and Bohdan will continue for as long as they can. “We get a lot of support. An official at the Polish border helped me cross at one time, even though I had the wrong documents,” Maria reflects.

‘Every day on the road I was scared the baby would come’

Alone in a dark room. Air alarms and explosions outside. This was the situation when 36-year-old Tatiana Yevhenivina gave birth to her ninth child. Along with roughly 80,000 other women who gave birth in Ukraine in the first three months since the conflict began, Tatiana was not able to receive maternal health care or deliver her baby safe from fighting.

“I didn’t want to leave, but we were very afraid. There was a lot of fighting and shooting around us,” reflects Tatiana about the day her family decided to flee from their home in northeast Ukraine, even though Tatiana was nine months pregnant. While covering the 88 miles to Kyiv, they needed to check with volunteers if the route was safe enough and where ten people could sleep during curfew.

“Every day on the road I was scared that the baby would come. We had some medicine and some clean sheets with us, and although my husband is not a doctor or a midwife, he was ready to support me,” says Tatiana.

They found a hospital in a small town outside Kyiv. All the patients had already left, but a small team of doctors and nurses were still there. At 8 p.m., Tatiana gave birth to her ninth daughter.

“A safe birth is not something to be taken for granted anywhere,” notes Siobhán Foran, CARE’s regional Gender in Emergencies Coordinator. “But in Ukraine, pregnant women often don’t even know whether they will receive any care at all, nor whether the places they planned to deliver will be safe from fighting.”





Psychological support for families

The family now lives in northwest Ukraine in a small house with Tatiana's mother, who recently suffered a heart attack and is bedridden.

Internally displaced families and those people seeking refuge in neighboring countries not only need medical help, but also psychosocial support, which CARE is now providing. According to the World Health Organization, one in five people are affected by mental health disorders in post-conflict settings. If left without treatment and adequate support, people from Ukraine face long-lasting effects that could harm themselves, their families, and communities.

Recently, Tatiana and her family went on a kayaking tour organized by one of CARE's partners. "It was amazing. The kids had fun and were distracted for the first time," says Tatiana. "We also received a food box for each child, and they were drawing pictures together."

Note:

Longer versions of this issue's stories may be found at [CARE News](#)

BY THE NUMBERS

12,660,508

refugees fleeing Ukraine since Feb. 24¹
(Up 19.17% from Aug. 9 update)

7 million

internally displaced²
(Up 11.11% from July 23 update)

Neighboring countries receiving refugee influx:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Poland: 6.11M ¹ | 4. Romania: 1.17K ¹ |
| 2. Russian Federation: 2.59M ³ | 5. Slovakia: 778K ¹ |
| 3. Hungary: 1.38M ¹ | 6. Moldova: 607K ¹ |
| 7. Belarus: 17K ¹ | |

8,421

civilians injured⁴
(Up 30.24% from Aug. 10 update)

531

healthcare facilities damaged
or destroyed⁵ (Up 19.33% from Aug. 10 update)

2,461

education facilities damaged
or destroyed⁶ (Up 6.31% from July 27 update)

SOURCES

¹UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), Sept. 13, 2022;
²International Organization for Migration (IOM), Aug. 23; ³UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), Sept. 12; ⁴UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), Sept. 5; ⁵UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), Sept. 14;
⁶World Health Organization (WHO), Sept. 9; ⁷Multiple Sources, Sept. 12

