

DECEMBER 19, 2022

CARE Ukraine Crisis Update

Nearly one million reached as needs deepen

From February to November, CARE and its 56 implementing partners have reached more than 960,000 people across Ukraine, Georgia, Germany, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia, with protection and psychosocial support, cash assistance, food, water, sanitation and hygiene assistance, health services, support for accommodation, and education.

The response of CARE and its partners to the humanitarian crisis is more important than ever as winter's onset deepens the level of need. Attacks and damage to homes and infrastructure have left millions at risk of deadly temperatures that can drop below -4°F.

In November, Ukraine saw this season's first snow, just days after new attacks on energy infrastructure caused widespread blackouts and disruption of heating and water supplies. Attacks have damaged or destroyed more than half of Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Consequently, people in all regions of the country face power outages, which is also affecting civilians' access to water and heating, as the pumping system needs electricity to operate.

During this time, CARE and partners have reached:

605,000

people with food, nutrition, and food security
and livelihood support

214,000

people with water, sanitation, and
hygiene assistance

125,000

people with health services

105,000

people with psychosocial support, education,
and cash assistance

45,000

people with gender-based violence prevention
and protection services

43,000

people with shelter

7,200

people with school starter kits

Ukrainian refugee teachers in Poland roll into second academic year

In early spring, as Ukrainian refugees began to settle in neighboring Poland, new students turned up in great numbers at Polish schools, overwhelming teachers and administrators. Seven million Ukrainian refugees crossed the border into Poland since the war began, and some 90 percent were women and children.

In response, CARE and partner PCPM created a program that hires Ukrainian refugee teachers – providing employment, supporting Ukrainian children, and coming alongside beleaguered Polish schools.

“I am very happy I have this opportunity to work,” says Tamara Levadna, a Ukrainian teacher.

“If you ask, ‘Is this program really necessary?’ the answer is simple; it really is,” says Monika Zakrewska, a school principal in Kielce, Poland. “It is necessary for

everyone. It is very useful for children from Ukraine who had to leave their homes and their friends. They are in a foreign country and they need help adapting to this new situation.”

The program has hired nearly 1,000 teachers and support staff. CARE has assisted more than 175,000 refugees in Poland, providing cash assistance, accommodation, and language courses.

“Polish school is very cool,” says Zhenia, a student from Kyiv, Ukraine. “Polish students help me all the time and teachers are so kind, too.”

“They always help. If you have trouble in a subject, they support you.”



“We have nothing left.” Hanna and Danylo’s story

By Sarah Easter/CARE Germany

“We worked hard to have a good life and a good retirement. We had a beautiful house, a dog, a cat, and a car. Now we have nothing left,” reflects Hanna, 68, sitting next to her husband Danylo.

The couple’s journey from their former home in Mariupol to Rivne, in western Ukraine, was a 2.5-month odyssey, taking them first eastward to Moscow, then back to Ukraine via the Baltic states. The couple stayed in Mariupol as long as possible, until, on April 2, they were given just 10 minutes to leave, carrying only two small bags packed in haste.

“All the bridges out of Mariupol were already destroyed, so there was only one way to go: East towards Russia,” explains Hanna. “There were so many people on the road. So many cars and people walking.” Her husband nods while she speaks, clutching the crutch he needs for walking. Hanna holds a cup of coffee in one hand, letting it grow cold as she forgets to drink it.

The Moscow stay was rocky. Hanna contracted COVID and spent three weeks separated from Danylo, recovering in a local hospital. Meanwhile, there was no way for them to get any information about their son in Kyiv, or their grandson who has autism. After being discharged the couple spent two straight days on a bus to the Baltics to get to a safer part of Ukraine.

Upon arrival they learned that 90% of Mariupol, including their home, was destroyed. They reached

their son in Kyiv, who asked them to stay in his 13th floor home. “He and our grandson are in a different apartment now,” Hanna says. “Two missiles went directly through his old apartment and destroyed it.” Instead, the couple settled in Rivne, further from the fighting and closer to the Polish border. CARE and its partners support internally displaced

“We are too afraid to go higher than to the first floor, because there won’t be enough time to go the basement when the air alarm goes off.”

people like Hanna and Danylo with psychosocial support, information on job opportunities, rights, and aid as well as legal counseling and training. Hanna and Danylo’s meetings with their lawyer take place at a bus stop because they are too afraid for their safety to invite people to their new home. The lawyer helps by finding out their needs, giving them information on their rights and where to receive humanitarian aid such as food, hygiene packages, and cash assistance. The lawyer also helped them find a cheaper apartment.

Hanna and Danylo miss Mariupol, known for its humid, warm-summer climate. “Every time I see grapes in the shop, I start crying,” says Hanna. But they are happy that they survived, that they are in their home country, and that they have each other.



BY THE NUMBERS

16,331,091

refugees fleeing Ukraine since Feb. 24¹
(Up 8.1% from Nov. 8 update)

11 million

internally displaced²
(Up 68.2% from Oct. 27 update)

Neighboring countries receiving refugee influx:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Poland: 8.19M ¹ | 4. Romania: 1.66M ⁴ |
| 2. Russian Federation: 2.85M ³ | 5. Slovakia: 1M ¹ |
| 3. Hungary: 1.89M ¹ | 6. Moldova: 721K ¹ |
| 7. Belarus: 17K ⁵ | |

10,607

civilians injured⁶
(Up 6.37% from Nov. 13 update)

715

healthcare facilities damaged
or destroyed⁷ (Up 7.84% from Oct. 10 update)

2,528

education facilities damaged
or destroyed⁸ (No new reporting since Sept.)

SOURCES

¹UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), Dec. 13, 2022; ²International Organization for Migration (IOM), Nov. 25; ³UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), Oct. 3; ⁴UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), Dec. 11; ⁵UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), Dec. 6; ⁶UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), Dec. 15; ⁷World Health Organization (WHO), Nov. 28; ⁸Multiple Sources, Sept. 21

