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CARE Ukraine Crisis Update

Walking in their shoes: Depeche Mode raises funds for refugees

Dave Gahan and Martin Gore, members of pioneering musical group Depeche Mode, recently partnered with CARE to raise funds. The centerpiece of this effort was an August 2 concert in Warsaw, Poland, part of the band's 2023-2024 *Memento Mori* tour.

In partnership with CARE Poland, Depeche Mode auctioned a VIP package to meet the band, attend the Warsaw concert, and receive a Depeche Mode merch bundle. Proceeds from the auction are supporting CARE Poland's efforts to support Ukrainian refugees.

Throughout the tour, proceeds from guest ticketing donations are being donated to CARE to support its work around the world, particularly with refugees, a notable concern for Gore, a longtime CARE donor.

"As someone who has witnessed firsthand the incredible impact that CARE has on refugees worldwide, I am truly inspired by their work. I invite you to join me and the band in supporting CARE's work and in making a difference," Gore said.



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“I’ve never experienced fear on any mission”

A humanitarian worker’s story

By Halyna Bilak, CARE Germany

When the Ukraine conflict broke out in 2022, Irina Ozhehova and her family had already been actively volunteering and helping people for nearly a decade, since the control of Crimea and Donbas changed hands.

Passionate about social work, Irina understood firsthand the significance of risking one’s life to save others, and she possessed the ability to build robust teams and devise solutions during crises. Recently, she joined CARE Ukraine as a Rapid Response Officer, which enabled her to engage in large-scale projects and extend assistance to even more people.

“Comparing 2014 to the present,” says Irina, “despite similar challenges, the nature of the work

was distinct. Back then, we had almost no international support and the war was something distant and alien even for Ukrainians.”

“Now, fortunately, we have international support and the capacity to provide comprehensive assistance and support to the survivors. This is what drew me to an international organization.”

War and fear

When it came to the question of whether to leave Dnipro, in Eastern Ukraine, or stay and help others evacuate, Irina did not hesitate for a second.

“Assisting people isn’t an extraordinary feat,” Irina says, “it’s a way of life.”

“I’ve never experienced fear on any mission,” she says. “Occasionally, we faced gunfire and bombardment. Yet, fear emerged later – when you return home and contemplate the potential outcomes, the consequences it might have carried. That’s when fear sets in. In such situations, reflexive actions take over.”

Irina believes that adaptation to a state of war has already happened, but there’s much left to learn. “Ukrainians still need to develop [a] social protection system, medical support for veterans, as well as mechanisms for their adaptation and employment. This is a path we’re yet to tread.”



Faces of the rescued

Over the years of volunteering, Irina has helped hundreds of people. Now, she often regrets she did not start chronicling those events from the beginning. There were so many people’s stories that they have intertwined and mixed in her mind.

“I remember only faces and stories,” she says. “I remember a young woman we rescued from Sievierodonetsk. She was holding a child and a bag with children’s things in one hand, and a sewing machine in the other, which later helped her earn a small living. I remember a family that ran out of the basement of a completely

destroyed house to meet us with only documents and a kitten in their arms.”

After they arrived in Dnipro, Irina looked for shelter for some people, sent some to the hospital for rehabilitation, while others decided to move on and take an evacuation train to the West and abroad. Irina is proud that everyone she evacuated made it out alive and can continue to build their lives.

War’s lessons

“This war has one small advantage, no matter how scary it may sound,” Irina says. “The war made it possible to see the true qualities of people, to understand who is

filled with what.” She recalls that her keen sense of justice has always distinguished her from others. But now, more than ever, it has become a litmus test for her work.

Now Irina feels that she is in her place. Together with CARE, she can plan large-scale projects aimed not only at evacuating people but also at providing long-term support to survivors: financial, psychological, and legal. Individuals like Irina exemplify that volunteering and humanitarian aid are not just professions, but also states of mind.

A longer version of this story is available at [CARE News](#).



CARE partners with Polish Migration Forum to support prenatal care

This year, CARE has come alongside the Polish Migration Forum (PMF) to help refugee women get the best maternity care in their native language. This includes expert advice as well as classes taken during pregnancy.

“Thanks to the partnership with CARE, we were able to grow over 500 percent, [and] hire lots of psychologists, legal advisors, and case workers,” said Karolina Czerwinska, Head of Programs for PMF, who added that these new hires were also Ukrainian refugees.

Anfisa Yakovina, a psychologist and midwife trainer, is one of the Ukrainians PMF employs. “I’m a young mother, and I totally understand how it’s hard to adapt in a new country, to cope with all the stress which basically migrant life is,” she told MTV EMA, which honored her with the 2022 Generation Change Award for her crucial work in the humanitarian crisis and support for refugees in Poland.

BY THE NUMBERS

5,832,400

refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe.¹

27,109,545

border crossings from Ukraine since Feb. 24.²

5.1M

internally displaced³

4.8M

refugees returning to Ukraine⁴

Neighboring countries receiving refugee influx*:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Poland: 14.89M ² | 5. Slovakia: 1.68M ⁶ |
| 2. Hungary: 3.44M ² | 6. Moldova: 905K ⁶ |
| 3. Romania: 3.34M ² | 7. Belarus: 17K ⁷ |
| 4. Russian Federation: 2.85M ⁵ | |

*Total border crossings

9,511

civilians killed⁸

17,206

civilians injured⁸

SOURCES

1. UN High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR), Sept. 6, 2023
2. UNHCR, Sept. 3, 2023
3. International Organization for Migration (IOM), May 25, 2023
4. IOM, May 23, 2023
5. UNHCR, Dec. 31, 2022
6. UNHCR, Aug. 27, 2023
7. UNHCR, Aug. 1, 2023
8. UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), Sept. 4, 2023

