



Ukraine Refugee Crisis

emergency appeal

Ukraine Refugee Crisis Report

A report on FAIR's response to the refugee crisis
February 24 to September 30, 2022

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR):

“the longer the war continues, the medium- to longer-term needs that conflict-affected people, IDPs (internally displaced people), and returnees will face to rebuild their lives will similarly rise and require sustained support from the humanitarian and broader international community.”

The scale of human suffering caused by the war in Ukraine is difficult for us in Canada to fathom. On September 30, FAIR learned that some of the church partners with whom we work to get aid to those in need in Ukraine were part of a humanitarian convoy that was attacked by missiles thought to be fired by the Russian military. While we are thankful that our partners were uninjured in the attack, reports from Amnesty International indicate that 25 people were killed. Bringing humanitarian aid to communities in need is hazardous work.



In September, a pastor and his family miraculously survived when their house was struck and destroyed by a missile in the city of Lysychansk (in Ukraine's Donbas region). At the time of the missile strike, he and his family were across the street. A short time later, pastor Vasily and his wife, Vita, who had been sorting through the rubble from their destroyed home, took a break in a nearby temporary hut. While they were having tea, they suddenly felt the need to get up and move away from their position in the shelter.

Within moments a large, heavy, loose cement block came crashing down on where they had been seated, crushing the structure. God's protection of this family in such a short timeframe is evidence of His care and love for them in the midst of significant trial.

Throughout the war, FAIR's response in caring for refugees has adapted depending on the needs and situations. During the first few months of the war, as millions of people from Ukraine flooded into Poland, FAIR partnered with two local church congregations located very close to the Poland-Ukraine border to support and care for refugees. These congregations transformed their church buildings into emergency shelters to care for as many refugee families as possible. Exhausted mothers and children were able to find rest and help for the journey.

By May, the flow of refugees slowed down significantly providing FAIR the opportunity to assist its church partners in Poland in providing ongoing support to refugee families as they settled into local communities. This included housing assistance and food supplies along with helping support children's summer camps that were attended by the children of many refugee families.

As summer began and the war began to shift mainly to the Eastern side of Ukraine, our team in Poland began receiving many requests from Ukrainian churches who needed humanitarian aid. This diverse network of churches was caring for many people who had been cut off from the main aid that was coming into the country. It was beautiful to see how God's Church was caring for the vulnerable. At first, FAIR was able to send van-loads of supplies to churches, but the need continued to grow. Eventually, FAIR established a partnership with Operation Mobilization to send two semi-trucks of food to a warehouse in Ukraine where our church partners could access what they needed each week. Through this grassroots network of support, thousands of people have received the aid that they needed to prepare for the fall and winter.

Photos:

(top): Ukrainian community coming to pick up food parcels for their families
(bottom left): Ukrainian church hosting community food parcel pick up
(bottom right): Pastor Sylvester from Poland helping deliver food



Quick Facts

- Number of Ukrainian churches to which FAIR is sending food aid: 175
- Number of Polish churches and ministries FAIR is partnering with to provide ongoing support for refugees living in Poland: 7
- Number of Ukrainian children and parents from refugee families who participated in Polish summer camps : 195
- As of September 30th:
 - FAIR had spent \$530,000 on food supplies in Ukraine.
 - FAIR had spent \$560,000 on refugee care in Poland.
 - FAIR had received: \$1,680,000 in donations.
- As of September 26th, approximately 1,409,139 refugees were living in Poland. It is estimated that 86% of these refugees are female. ([according to this UNHCR Report](#)).

Based in Poland, Fellowship International missionaries Ben and Krista Taylor and Pierre and Hanna Jutras have given significant leadership and pastoral care throughout this emergency response. By supporting the ministry of these two families and their diverse network of partners, you have helped meet the needs of thousands of refugees and displaced people all over Poland and Ukraine.



Pierre and Hanna Jutras



Ben and Krista Taylor

Messages from Pastors in Ukraine

A Ukrainian pastor serving in Kharkiv, Ukraine:

“From the bottom of my heart, we thank you all for caring for us as family. Today, our van was taken from the service station where it was repaired with your support and is ready for further trips to rescue families and refugees from the war zone! Without you and your good heart, we could not even count on anyone’s help. Now our community has an opportunity to continue to bring the Good News to people – the Gospel of Christ. We will always pray for you. The greatest gratitude and humble bow from all of us!”

A Ukrainian pastor serving near the Moldavian border:



Thank you for your care and help. Thank you very much for your support. God bless you!

— Yatskiv Vyacheslav,
pastor from Odesa region, Lymanskoe

Prayer requests:

- Pray for peace in Ukraine.
- Pray for wisdom to know how best to conduct ministry during this time of war.
- Pray that people would not tire of doing good.
- Pray that Russians and Ukrainians would find their hope in Jesus.



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