

Caritas International



Emergency Response Fund

Just over a week following the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the UNHCR has reported over 1,045,459 people have fled to neighboring countries, including Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Moldova, Romania as well as Bulgaria, with the hope of finding safety for themselves and their loved ones during a time of intense violence and uncertainty. In response, Caritas staff and volunteers throughout eastern Europe are working tirelessly to go out and meet thousands of refugees fleeing Ukraine, providing them with food, medicine and temporary accommodation in spite of a highly volatile and dangerous situation.

- In Slovakia, around 70,000 Ukrainians have crossed the border and Caritas staff and volunteers from four dioceses are preparing efforts to coordinate their response to meet the refugee crisis.
- While in neighboring Romania, where border police have reported the entry of 45,000 refugees from Ukraine, Caritas continues to set up a number of refugee centers in various cities to offer accommodation, meals as well as transportation for beneficiaries.
- Caritas Romania is also inviting refugees to remain vigilant about individuals who propose transportation and private accommodation to refugees. There have been signs of organized crime active on both sides of the border, and the risk of human trafficking is high.
- Caritas Moldova is working with local authorities and parishes to reach as many of the 65,000 refugees who have crossed the border by offering food, water, hygiene packs as well as social and emotional assistance to hundreds of people, particularly women and children, in government refugee centers in Chisinau, Ocnita and Palanca.
- Caritas staff and volunteers hope to open crisis centers in additional locations as needed and capacity allows.
- Caritas Czech Republic is also focusing on helping refugees from Ukraine. The number of refugees in the country is around 25 000, but it will continue to increase in the coming days. Already before this crisis, there were many Ukrainian immigrants in the Czech Republic. Now efforts are being made to facilitate reunification with their families who fled Ukraine.
- Caritas Czech Republic distributes food and clothes, but also other items such as mobile phone chargers, mobile phones, SIM cards. It is also helping refugees to find safe accommodation. Caritas staff is also helping refugees to apply for visas and some documents they need. The counselling centers for foreigners are now working hard, and they focus especially on Ukrainians.
- Caritas Hungary, in cooperation with Caritas Diocese of Nyíregyházi and Caritas Diocese of Debrecen-Nyíregyháza, welcomes refugees at the border crossing Barabás-Mezőkaszony. Here people fleeing Ukraine can rest in a warm place until relatives come to pick them up or they reach a reception station, from where they are directed to accommodation. The refugees include Ukrainians, but also people of other nationalities who were in Ukraine when the war broke out.
- Meanwhile, Caritas staff and volunteers in Bulgaria, through its three diocesan offices in Sofia, Rusa and Vitana, are supporting arriving families, women and children with housing, food and hygiene items, and psychosocial assistance.

Donate Online

Visit CARITAS.ORG and select “Donate ” where you can select your donation amount and pay by Credit Card

Please give generously! When disaster strikes, our Emergency Response Team works with national Caritas members to get families the help they need fast. There are over 160 members who are working at the grassroots in almost every country of the world. This means we know the communities we work with and can respond quickly to all kinds of emergencies – from an earthquake or typhoon to famine or a refugee crisis. Donate today so that we can be prepared for an emergency tomorrow.

It is also possible to make donations

through a bank transfer.

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*Payment Details: Emergency Response Fund
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Please email donations@caritas.va to receive more information.*