



CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

FEBRUARY 2022-FEBRUARY 2023



ACROSS THE REGION



6 million

People assisted collectively by CRS partners



100,059

People benefited from CRS shelter assistance



84,088

Children benefited from education support



1,134,268

People benefited from meals provided by CRS support



\$23 million

Provided in cash assistance by CRS and partners



100,648

People received emotional and mental health support



3.6 million

People assisted within Ukraine by partners Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Spes

IN UKRAINE

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, more than 7 million people have fled to neighboring countries, while 6.3 million remain displaced within Ukraine. For Ukrainians, the last 12 months have brought unimaginable heartbreak. This year has also been a testament to resilience, strength, partnership and love. Peace remained elusive in Ukraine during this past holiday season, with near daily bombardment of cities—including Kyiv, Kharkiv and Kherson—and eastern and southern Ukraine. Ukraine’s energy infrastructure was a major target, resulting in widespread blackouts over the New Year and disrupting access to heat and water.

With continued air and ground assaults, the number of people returning home is fluctuating around the country. According to the International Organization for Migration, the number of internally displaced people fell from 6.5 million in October to 5.9 million in December. But over the past month, the IOM is reporting that more than 680,000 people were forced to flee their homes, with the vast majority coming from the east and the south of the country where the fighting is most active. The situation is rapidly changing.

“ Life is short. But if you do good things, it will keep you alive forever.”

—Ivan Scripnik, mayor of Ciorescu, Moldova

A mother and daughter at the Caritas Humanitarian Center in Rousse, Bulgaria. There, people who have fled the war in Ukraine can receive accommodation assistance, advice on medical care and social support, as well as packages of food and other necessities. *Photo by Anny Djahova/CRS.*



Communities in Ukraine and across the region have opened their hearts and homes to receive people seeking safety. Today, families are finding ways to stay together, seeking normalcy amid chaos. They are finding ways—even if remotely, from a shelter—to safely enroll their children in school, establish a semblance of home and manage their lives as best they can.

This would not be possible without the care, trust and hope of our Catholic partners in Ukraine and across the region. Catholic Relief Services is supporting our partners in their efforts to meet essential needs and have support for long-term solutions. CRS has directly contributed to Caritas partners reaching at least 1.6 million people in Ukraine and in 10 countries. CRS has supported 19 partners to collectively reach 6 million people across the region. This includes CRS support for partners to operate 168 centers.

Ukraine

CRS partners Caritas Ukraine and Caritas Spes together supported 3.6 million people with food, shelter, medicine, living supplies and counseling. Caritas Ukraine distributed over 1.9 million meals and living supply kits, provided 130,347 people with access to emotional, social and health services, and helped 353,393 people find safe shelter. CRS and our partners distributed \$4.6 million in cash assistance to 27,600 people. Additionally, repair work has started on 400 war-damaged homes.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, CRS distributed \$25,000 in cash assistance to Ukrainians, an activity that will continue in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. CRS also worked with the Red Cross Citluk to provide counseling and other social supports to Ukrainian mothers in Medugorje.

Bulgaria

CRS has supported Caritas Bulgaria to expand operations to provide case management, accompaniment and cash assistance services for more than 200,000 people. Caritas Bulgaria centers have helped 1,046 people with cash assistance and CRS is supporting Caritas Bulgaria with an economic integration and livelihoods project for 1,500 refugees and asylum seekers.

Croatia

CRS and Caritas Croatia are working with nine diocesan offices to meet the needs of Ukrainian families. To date, CRS and Caritas Croatia have assisted 500 Ukrainian families with cash distributions, provided accommodation to 126 families, enabled 933 people to receive counseling and other social support services, and helped 266 children access education and care. Other services include language courses, employment placement assistance, and referrals to social services.



CRS AND OUR PARTNERS DISTRIBUTED

\$23 million

IN CASH ASSISTANCE ACROSS THE REGION

Refugees at Medyka border crossing in Poland.
Photo courtesy of Philipp Spalek/Caritas Germany.



Greece

CRS is supporting Caritas Greece to help refugees access documentation, find appropriate affordable housing, manage rental and utility payments, and access interpretation support. Other services include Greek language courses, psychological counseling and other support activities, soft skills training, social services and connections to the job market.

and cash assistance, counseling services and integration efforts. CRS and Caritas Montenegro are also supporting two community centers established by refugees that serve as information and legal service centers, and safe spaces for mothers and children. CRS will continue providing equipment and supplies to support these centers in 2023.

Poland

CRS has supported Caritas Poland with cash assistance, a data management platform for use across 25 sites, and technical assistance for case management, counseling and other support.

Romania

CRS is supporting Caritas Romania to run five centers providing food and supply kits for 11,000 people, and safe shelter and winter supplies for 2,500 people. Ongoing support at the centers includes information and referrals, legal and psychological counseling, and language classes. Caritas Romania has also supported 292 children with online education and language classes.

Slovakia

Through Caritas Slovakia's 25 refugee support centers, more than 13,422 refugees received household goods donated by the local community, hot meals, language classes, vouchers for supplies, child care, counseling, linkages to jobs and safe accommodation. CRS has also supported Caritas Slovakia in its voucher program, and monitoring and evaluation systems.

Hungary

With CRS support, Caritas Hungary has provided 8,465 refugees with assistance, including food, water, a place to rest, information and referrals. At least 2,865 refugees have been accommodated at Church facilities, with host families mobilized through parishes or with rental assistance. These families have also received vouchers for food and hygiene items.

Moldova

CRS has supported 200,000 people with a range of assistance. In fact, nearly every registered refugee in Moldova has received cash assistance from CRS and our partners. CRS has provided more than \$640,000 in cash assistance to 1,670 Moldovan families who have taken in 6,040 Ukrainian refugees. CRS and Caritas Moldova have provided cash assistance to 82,000 refugees, hot meals to 2,884 people in accommodation centers, and vouchers for food and hygiene supplies to 21,000 families.

Montenegro

CRS supported Caritas Montenegro to assist 250 Ukrainian families with voucher



100,000

PEOPLE HAVE
BENEFITED
FROM SHELTER
ASSISTANCE
ACROSS THE
REGION

HOMES AND COMMUNITIES

Watch videos from the field showing displaced Ukrainian families as they work to heal, rebuild their lives in new countries, or return and rebuild.



Coming Home

Ukrainians return and rebuild.

[Watch the video here](#)



The Generosity of Hospitality

Moldovan families take in Ukrainian refugees.

[Watch the video here](#)



Seeking Refuge and Care

Caritas centers respond to those in need in Moldova.

[Watch the video here](#)



Creating a New Home

Ukrainian refugees finding community in Bulgaria.

[Watch the video here](#)



Creating a New Home

Ukrainian refugees finding community in Moldova.

[Watch the video here](#)