

SUMMARY OF A ONE YEAR MISSION IN UKRAINE (February 2022 – MARCH 2023)

PHASE I: February - April 2022:

a) Crisis team:

From the very beginning of the war, the Association "**Dom Wschodni - Domus Orientalis**" took action to help war victims. In the first days of the invasion, a coordinating team was formed under Michał Kardynia (he was the mission coordinator until November 2022) and volunteers (including A. Skrzypczyk, K. Cyniak, C. Derda and T. Berehova).

b) Evacuations from Ukraine:

Initially, we focused on the evacuation of Ukrainians by helping with transport from the Polish border to various aid points in Poland. The rescue trips were held 4 times a week. This allowed us to transport about 300 people fleeing the war, by the end of March, including foreigners residing in Ukraine.

At the beginning, transport was carried out in private cars of volunteers. Thanks to cooperation with the "**Zielony Jamnik**" Foundation (Solaris), we managed to purchase 2 VW Transporter cars (for approx. 80,000 PLN), which allowed us to transport more people and reach further regions of Ukraine, i.e. Winnica, Chmielnicki, Żytomierz.



c) Hotspots:

From the very beginning, the aim of our Association's aid mission in Ukraine was to create safe points on the territory of Ukraine - the so-called hotspots, acting as safe places where refugees from the East of Ukraine, as well as volunteers of Domus Orientalis and other organizations going to the interior of the country, will be able to stay and gather strength. We delivered the necessary help to the points - mainly food, personal hygiene products, clothes and assortment (e.g. 50 camp beds). The main hotspot was the church in Chervonohrad, where about 100 refugees stayed regularly until the end of April.



Other hotspots:

- Zhytomir – where food aid was provided to over 200 people a day, mainly elderly and disabled people who had no possibility of escaping.
- 2 hotspots in Lviv, based in one of the schools (mainly serving as a transfer point for refugees from Eastern Ukraine wishing to get to Poland and further to the West) and the „Good Deeds Foundation” (apart from the shelter for refugees, volunteers also reached infants and children in school age).

d) Other activities:

- From the beginning of the war, we maintained contact with Polish priests on mission in Ukraine, including the Carmelites from Kiev and Fr. G. Draus from Sokoliki near Lviv. In March, we carried out 3 trips to Sokoliki and one to Kiev, delivering food, medicines and other items, i.e. a generator.
- As a result of the liberation of the area around Kiev, we organized a humanitarian aid trip (about 3.5 tons of food) to Chernihiv and the surrounding villages, where people stayed for about 2 weeks in their homes and cellars.

Funds:

- The immediate respond for the situation caused by war was possible thanks to the Great Hearts of our Donors, who transferred funds to our account. In the first weeks, over 15,000 PLN was received for aid activities and 7,000 PLN for fuel. In the further phases of the operation, we continued to receive regular payments, especially for fuel.
- Other funds came from grants and subsidies received from the **PERN Foundation** (100,000 PLN for fuel), **Bank PEKAO Foundation** (50,000), **Bank Ochrony Środowiska** (4,000), **BOŚ Foundation** (6,000) and **FdF**.
- The collected funds also allowed for cooperation and assistance to other organizations wishing to provide support to war victims. We transported aid collected by companies, parishes, schools, etc.. Also in collaboration with an educational institutions, we organized packages for children and youth for the duration of the journey from Ukraine to Poland. We also donated funds for fuel to the „**Humanosh Foundation**”, which organized the transport of Polish ambulances to Ukraine.
- Due to problems with fuel in Ukraine, we also managed to deliver approximately 700 liters of fuel from Poland in barrels and canisters.
- It is worth adding that thanks to the kindness of Polish companies, we were able to buy products such as canned peas or pasta at preferential prices from the companies "Stoczek sp.z.o.o" and "Czarnecki Makarony".



SUMMARY:

- Number of regular volunteers and partners: 10 people
- Number of trips to Ukraine: approx. 30
- Number of refugees transported: over 430
- Number of kilometers driven by our cars: over 57,000 km
- Transported humanitarian aid: approx. 35,000 kg
- Fuel delivered: 700 liters

PHASE II: May - November 2022

a) "Stabilization" of the migration crisis and re-profiling activities to frontline areas:

• The "Hotspot" in Chervonograd becomes a transit point for further assistance to the east of Ukraine in the demilitarized areas. In June, the number of refugees in the Chervonograd hotspot is reduced to 45, and only a few people remain in Lviv. Hence, we were developing the use of Chervonograd as a hub for operations in the most sensitive eastern and south-eastern regions of Ukraine, where the situation is dramatic. Our help reached Donbas (Krematorsk, Pokrovsk, Bachmut), Kobilaki, and Mikołajew.

In Mikolaiv, in addition to supporting the field kitchen, thanks to cooperation with the company "PPHU Węłostal", we tried to help in the process of treating technical water to make it fit for consumption. We also delivered two containers of 1000 liters for drinking water, which is distributed by local volunteers.

- In July 2022, the help point in Chervonohrad changed, because people staying in the church building were asked by the administrator to find apartments for themselves. Hence, in cooperation with the city authorities and Ukrainian volunteers, our new help point was relocated to kindergarten building, where 85 refugees from the east stayed. Humanitarian aid went there, as well as fold-out beds from the previous "hotspot".



b) Start of artistic and therapeutic workshops:

- Unemployment, apathy and lack of hope were a noticeable problem among the refugees staying at the help point in Chervonohrad. That is why in August we started the project: "Reanimation - awaken to life" - a series of workshops aimed at stimulating and activating adults and children staying at the help point. So far, we have conducted two series of workshops "The art of gesture - expressing emotions through art" (13.08) and other in the field of painting art, inspired by impressionism. The workshops were conducted by Irmina Kuzik, and the works were shown in October in Łódź in our "Fratelli Tutti" coffee club.



- At the same time, in "**Fratelli Tutti**" in Łódź, we launched the "**Women for Women**" project, originally aimed at both cultural and social integration of women who emigrated to Poland, as well as mobilization of women of different nationalities to provide financial, psychological and mental support to women who remained in Ukraine. In June-November 12 meetings were held.
- "**Widows to widows**" is another project aimed at providing humanitarian support to women in Ukraine. Polish widows prepared aid packages, which in November 2020 were handed over to ten widows and their children staying in Chervonohrad. The parcels were organized by consecrated widows from the diocese of Łódź and parishioners from Rzgów.
- "**Welcome in Łódź**" - integration meetings in "Fratelli Tutti", organized in cooperation with the Film's School in Łódź.

SUMMARY MAY-NOVEMBER:

- Number of permanent volunteers and partners: 6-8
- Number of trips to Ukraine: 48
- Number of refugees transported: 112
- Number of kilometers driven by our cars: over 52,000 km
- Transported humanitarian aid: approx. 56,000 kg
- Fuel delivered: 4200 liters

PHASE III December 2022 – April 2023

a) Basing further actions on Kiev / "Warmth for Ukraine" project:

- Due to the situation in Ukraine, we strive to rely on contacts in Kiev (Polish Carmelite Fathers - Marek Gromotka and Benedykt Krok from the parish of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross) in order to create a "hub" there. Our aim become to conduct long-term activities not only in the capital of the country and in the surrounding towns, but also in the areas near the frontline (Donbas region) and those still threatened by the renewal of large-scale military operations, i.e. the Belarusian borderland or the Kharkov area.



- From December 2022 to March 2023, thanks to a grant from the "**Orlen Foundation**" (PLN 50,000), we implemented the "Warmth for Ukraine" project, purchasing power generators, gas and oil and other type of stoves, as well as fuel/gas for them. **Caritas of the Archdiocese of Lodz** also actively joined our activities, providing facilities mainly for the supply of various food products with long-term usefulness.
- In the winter, in cooperation with the parish in Kiev, we reached various regions affected by the current military operations (Donbas) or located in liberated areas (villages near Kiev, Belarusian borderland, Kharkov, Izium area).



b) Activities during the winter in Ukraine:

- December 2022 – a trip to Kiev, Irpen and Cherwonohrad, during which we distributed about 1 ton of food donated by Caritas Łódź, medicines, batteries, reflective armbands and vests, and a power generator.

- January 2023 - handing over one hundred food parcels to the residents of Horenjka (near Irpień) and Marjanka (areas near the Belarusian border), additional food products and 13 stoves (gas and oil) to the Carmelite fathers for further distribution and 2 gas stoves to Cherwonohrad.



- February 2023 - transfer of 10 stoves to Kiev, Irpień, Kutuzówka and Oskil, as well as 100 packages of medicines and about 300 kg of food (mainly Izium and Oskil). During the trip we made contacts in Kharkiv, Izium and Oskil.



- March 2023 - to Ukraine we delivered 10 power generators, 5 stoves, 2 gas cylinders (for stoves in Czerwonograd) and thanks to Caritas Łódź 757 pairs of socks (collected during the "Arena Młodych"), 80 sets of thermal underwear (collected during the retreat preached by arc. G. Rysia), as well as 3 power banks and food items.



c) Activities in Poland:

- In January, Fratelli Tutti prepared 100 food packages for Ukraine.
- In February, creative workshops by I. Kuzik on Impressionism.

What next steps are we going to take?

a) Continuation and development of activities in cooperation with the Carmelites of Kiev by supporting:

- Parishioners and persons under the care of fathers in Kiev.
- People in need in towns near Kiev.
- Aid initiatives in other regions, ie Belarusian borderland, eastern and southern areas of Ukraine.



b) Using contacts in Kharkiv, Izium to provide assistance in the areas of these cities and in the areas near the front, including Donbass.

c) If necessary and possible, our Mission will also cover other regions, e.g. Zakarpattia Oblast. Kherson, Mykolaiv or Chervonograd.

b) Continuation of activities in Łódź using the Fratelli Tutti space:

- Creative and therapeutic workshops
- Initiatives supporting charity collections, ie cultural events or meetings.
- Integrating activities.

d) Funds:

• We intend to base our Mission on constant cooperation with our partners from Caritas Łódź, other entities, grants from Polish and foreign institutions and constant contributions from individual Donors.

Finally, it should be emphasized that our international aid (also in Ukraine) is directed to the **CIVILIANS** affected by warfare or other crises, i.e. migration, economic collapse or humanitarian disasters!

