

# RESPONDING TO THE CRISIS IN UKRAINE

Since Russia began its invasion of Ukraine one month ago, nearly four million people have fled the country and millions more have been internally displaced. As the violence in Ukraine continues, the refugee crisis also grows, impacting the neighboring countries of Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Moldova, and Poland. This has become a global crisis where tens of millions of people have already been affected.

With nearly eight decades of crisis response experience, World Relief immediately engaged partners on the ground to provide humanitarian assistance to more than 18,000 people fleeing the conflict in the past 3 weeks. While there is no certainty around how this crisis will end, it has become clear the impact has been and will continue to be devastating to the people of Ukraine, the entire region, and the global community.

President Biden recently announced that the United States will admit as many as 100,000 Ukrainian refugees. This has highlighted for us the unique and important role World Relief plays in moments like this – reaching the most vulnerable by both providing immediate humanitarian relief in the midst of crisis overseas, and helping refugees make new homes for themselves in the U.S. as they flee crisis, [all in partnership with the local Church](#).

Today, in response to this crisis, World Relief is doing just that. As we work with partners on the ground to meet immediate needs, our U.S. teams are also preparing to welcome and resettle Ukrainians in the near future.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN EUROPE

In partnership with the global Integral Alliance network, national NGOs, local Christian NGOs, and most importantly local churches, World Relief has mounted a multi-tiered response to reach both displaced persons within Ukraine and refugees who have fled to neighboring countries. The most pressing needs in the region include shelter, food, water, personal hygiene items, and medical care.

In Western Ukraine, our supporters are allowing us to provide church networks with resources to respond to the needs of their congregations and provide outreach to internally displaced persons. In neighboring countries, our partners are providing support to refugees. In Slovakia, our partners are constructing refugee centers where people can sleep safely and access food and other necessary items as they transit through the country. Our partners in Romania are driving food and supplies on convoys to





displaced people in need. And in Poland and Moldova, partners are receiving refugees and providing emergency shelter, transportation, and medical care.

Given the quickly deteriorating situation in Ukraine and the rise of refugees fleeing into neighboring countries, World Relief is committed to responding to needs on the ground as they arise. And as Ukrainian refugees inevitably need to find new places to rebuild their lives, we stand ready to welcome them to our shores as well.

## RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

Refugees need both immediate care during a crisis as well as long-term support as they rebuild their lives in their new home countries. These individuals need stable housing, food, medical and mental health care, legal support, and assistance finding jobs and learning English. World Relief is preparing to welcome Ukrainian refugees through our 21 U.S.-based offices in the near future while continuing to provide services to hundreds of Ukrainian families already in the U.S., including helping them file for family reunification programs.

Prior to the Russian invasion last month, World Relief had resettled more than 13,000 refugees from Ukraine over the last 18 years. In fact, the 7,300 Ukrainians that World Relief resettled in the past decade represent nearly 40 percent of all Ukrainian refugees resettled in the U.S. during that time – making us the leader nationally in all resettlement from Ukraine. Our local offices are in contact with these individuals, many of whom have loved ones now at risk in Ukraine or in neighboring countries.

World Relief is being asked to continue to be the leader in Ukrainian resettlement and expect a disproportionately large number of Ukrainians compared to other resettlement agencies. We look forward to welcoming Ukrainian refugees, helping with family reunifications where possible, and pursuing other avenues of protection for those looking to resettle in the U.S.



## A GROWING REFUGEE CRISIS

The Russian invasion of Ukraine is just the latest in a series of wars and conflicts that have fueled one of the world's most pressing problems – the greatest global refugee crisis since World War II. The need to support vulnerable families fleeing violence worldwide is beyond what we've seen in our nearly 80 years of work.

As we prepare to welcome refugees from Ukraine, World Relief is simultaneously resettling a record number of Afghans who fled after the fall of the country to the Taliban last August. In total, World Relief has welcomed and resettled more than 3,400 Afghan women, men, and children since August, providing comprehensive services designed to help them adjust and ultimately thrive.

Refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan, as well as those who have fled similar conflicts that have garnered less media attention or been largely forgotten, deserve a chance at a new life. In partnership with local churches and community partners across the country, World Relief stands ready to welcome all refugees seeking safety for themselves and their families.

## **TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Thanks to the support of donors, churches, foundations, and partners like you, World Relief has been responding to disasters and crises like this for nearly eight decades. While we are proud of our response to date, [we know that we must do more in the face of this mounting catastrophe. And we cannot do that without you.](#)

World Relief exists for moments like this – to stand with those suffering in vulnerable situations and equip our communities to do the same. Last year alone, World Relief served nearly 1.4 million women, men, and children in response to humanitarian crises and natural disasters. As we face this unprecedented time, you can count on World Relief to respond effectively and quickly to the urgent needs of Ukrainians, both abroad and at home.

Today, in the face of this and many other crisis, our mission to serve the most vulnerable remains unchanged. We exist to empower the church to serve the most vulnerable.

Join us in responding to this crisis – both through immediate relief efforts and long-term welcome and resettlement for Ukrainians. For more information, please visit [www.worldrelief.org/respond](http://www.worldrelief.org/respond).