



CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE

FEBRUARY 2022-FEBRUARY 2024



CONTEXT

In February of 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, causing massive destruction and loss, separating families and uprooting millions of people from their homes. Over the past two years, Catholic Relief Services has worked with Caritas and other partners across Ukraine and the region to provide a range of support to meet people’s urgent needs for food, shelter, living supplies, medical care and counseling—as well as to recover, heal and rebuild their lives. We continue to support families who have returned home, as well as those who are internally displaced or living as refugees—helping them find stability and, in some cases, build new lives.

The war continues to drive humanitarian needs in Ukraine, particularly among people who remain in communities close to the front line. Since 2022, more than 6 million people have fled Ukraine to neighboring countries, while 3.6 million remain internally displaced. Even now, the security situation has deteriorated in the eastern part of the country. At the end of 2023, Ukraine incurred the largest aerial attack since the beginning of the full-scale invasion.

At this two-year marker, stories of recovery, rebuilding and healing have taken place alongside the ongoing need of those in harm’s way. One constant at this time of great uncertainty has been the presence and unwavering commitment of our Caritas partners. Even at the onset of the conflict—when Caritas staff members were directly affected and uprooted from their homes and loved ones—they provided food, shelter, counseling and medical assistance. Throughout the past two years, CRS has been able to support our partners in their expanded reach to people in need.

“Caritas is more than an organization. It is a movement of the heart – which leads to action. But it begins with the ability to see the other. You have seen us and you have acted. From the first days of this full scale invasion, you have been with us.”

—Tetiana Stawnychy,
Caritas Ukraine President

Faith knows no bounds® / 

In the Ukrainian village of Sokilnyky, children who have been displaced by the conflict take part in education classes supported by CRS. The classes help them catch up on time lost at school, as well as have the opportunity to socialize and connect. *Photo by Vladimir Gerasimov for CRS*



CRS and Partner Response

CRS support is taking place in Ukraine, Moldova, Bulgaria, Poland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Slovakia, Greece, Hungary, Romania and Georgia. CRS supports our partners in their efforts to meet essential needs and provide support for long-term solutions.

In eastern Ukraine, we've worked closely with our Caritas partners and other organizations to help families return home, with support for housing repairs to keep them safe. Assistance for Ukrainians is wide-ranging and tailored for the local context—and it also supports communities who have generously taken in those who are displaced.

In Moldova, for example, CRS is supporting thousands of host families who have welcomed Ukrainian refugees into their homes. **In Poland**, Caritas Poland is helping Ukrainians with disabilities to access critical social services and medical care. **In Croatia and Montenegro**, Ukrainians receive cash assistance that has been the fuel to starting a new life, helping to pay for rent and all the household and living needs that come with it.

Above all, we work with the Catholic Church—the unparalleled presence of Caritas across Ukraine and the region—with staff who are of these communities. The war is not yet over. Families are still rebuilding their lives, whether in their home country or a new one.

Spotlight on Impact

In Ukraine and across the region, CRS supported cash assistance, winter supplies, rental assistance, work opportunities, counseling and crisis care, home repair, and assistance to help families integrate into new areas and rebuild their lives. CRS support to Caritas partners reached 3 million people. Below are highlights of CRS' direct program impact:

IN UKRAINE

Shelter and Cash Assistance

- 68,750 people—34,390 families—benefited from cash assistance.
- 34,292 people—17,146 families—benefited from winter support.
- 757 people—500 families—benefited from rental assistance.
- 9,450 people—4,725 families—benefited from contractor-led home repairs. An additional 50 homes were repaired.

Crisis Care and Children's Well-being

- 800 people took part in activities to improve coping and social skills.
- 200 people received counseling and crisis support.
- 100 children engaged in child-friendly support activities.

Income Generation

- 100 people took part in cash-for-work opportunities for community services such as cleaning public spaces and assisting the elderly.



CRS AND OUR PARTNERS SUPPORTED

3 million PEOPLE ACROSS THE REGION

In Moldova, thousands of families opened their doors to Ukrainian refugees and welcomed them into their homes. CRS supported Moldovan families with cash assistance to cover housing and food costs. Nini, pictured right, was among the Moldovans to receive such assistance. *Photo by Schimbator Studio for CRS*



ACROSS THE REGION

MOLDOVA

Shelter and Cash Assistance

- 10,000 Ukrainian refugees benefited from shelter support.
- 3,000 Moldovan host families received cash assistance, helping to support their costs for rental and utility subsidies for refugees, small home repairs and winter support.
- 3,830 beds were provided to refugee accommodation centers.
- 51,653 people received vouchers for critical hygiene supplies.

Crisis Care and Children's Well-being

- 270 children and more than 130 caregivers received daily education and counseling support activities.

Integration Activities

- 700 people participated in more than 100 social events at community centers. These events included recreational activities, language courses and arts and crafts.

GREECE

- Provided critical referrals and information to 2,324 Ukrainians for their integration through a social services hotline.
- Supported Ukrainians to connect with job opportunities.
- Supported apartment searches, rental assistance and language courses.

POLAND

CRS has supported Caritas Poland to launch a regional learning platform for the Caritas organizations engaged in the Ukrainian refugee response. Through this initiative, five working groups will be formed to exchange ideas that will help scale learning and achievements in the areas of case management, counseling support, employment, education and safe return.

THE BALKANS

CRS and partner support has been tailored to local needs across the range of countries. This includes:

- Cash assistance.
- Language courses.
- Counseling support.
- Children's activities.

“What was there to decide? We decided to help people. Help them, because where we would they go?”

—Nini Turcan in Moldova, who welcomed Ukrainian refugees into her home.



10,000

PEOPLE HAVE
BENEFITED
FROM SHELTER
ASSISTANCE
IN MOLDOVA