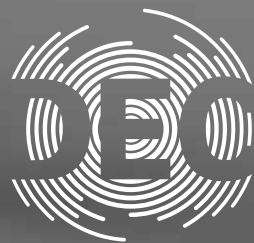


UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

Reporting back



DISASTERS
EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE



Six month report

March – August 2022

Published January 2023

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A queue for humanitarian aid in Kharkiv, Ukraine, where DEC member charity CAFOD is providing food to people sheltering in basements and bomb shelters

© Dmytro Minyailo/DEC

FOREWORD

The response of the UK public in the face of the horrors of the conflict in Ukraine has made the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal one of the biggest in the DEC’s 60-year history. The fundraising total is second only to the appeal following the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami. Millions of people up and down the country supported the appeal, by texting to donate, giving through our website, attending fundraising events or taking on sponsored challenges. Communities, businesses, sports bodies, arts organisations and people of all walks of life came together, inspired to take action.

We watched images showing the impact of the conflict on civilians and the vital infrastructure that we all need, such as hospitals and water supplies. We saw families split apart and lives and livelihoods disrupted and taken away from one day to the next. But the response of the UK public is truly something we can be proud of. Thanks to this incredible support, the DEC is the biggest charity donor to the humanitarian response inside Ukraine and to the regional refugee response, as reported through the UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service.

DEC member charities have risen to the challenge of meeting the widespread and varied humanitarian needs, and the scale of donations has allowed them to reach millions of people with vital aid. From food supplies to medical aid, accommodation to clean water, donations to our appeal have played a key role in supporting people affected by the conflict, providing a lifeline to so many as they have faced terrible hardship. A key part of the response has also been providing people with cash or vouchers to buy the essentials they need – a method that humanitarian charities are increasingly utilising to make aid delivery more efficient, support local markets and give people the ability to choose how best to meet their own needs.

The response has of course not been without its challenges. Reacting to the biggest movement of people in Europe since World War II, rapidly changing frontlines and operating in areas under heavy bombardment have made this a uniquely difficult crisis to deal with for our member charities. But they have nonetheless succeeded in reaching a great number of people caught up in the conflict with vital aid.

I would like to pay tribute to the incredible bravery and commitment of the aid workers and volunteers on the ground, most of whom are themselves Ukrainians, who have continued their hugely important work in extremely difficult conditions, making a real difference to the lives of so many.

An example which really sticks in my mind and highlights the resilience and creativity we’ve seen in this response is

a team of volunteers delivering food to people stuck in their homes in Kharkiv, a city that was on the frontline and under heavy shelling for months. When there was a shortage of fuel, deliveries of food parcels to people who couldn’t leave their homes could no longer be done by car, so volunteers formed a team of cyclists to bike the food to people’s doors. As is so often the case in conflicts, you see the best of humanity as well as the worst and it’s a privilege to be able to support this kind of work.

This report details the work carried out by the 13 of our member charities working in Ukraine and neighbouring countries using DEC funds in the first six months of the response, reaching millions of people. Sadly the needs continue to grow and change as the conflict continues, but the incredibly generous response to this appeal means that we are able to continue supporting people now and in the months and years ahead.

Saleh Saeed
CEO, Disasters Emergency Committee



Saleh Saeed and Hannah Richards from the DEC meet refugees from Ukraine at a hotel providing temporary accommodation in Bucharest, Romania

OVERVIEW

After weeks of escalating tensions, the conflict in Ukraine began in the early hours of 24 February 2022. Intense clashes and aerial attacks forced thousands of families to flee as their homes were destroyed and essential infrastructure such as water supplies, hospitals and schools were damaged.

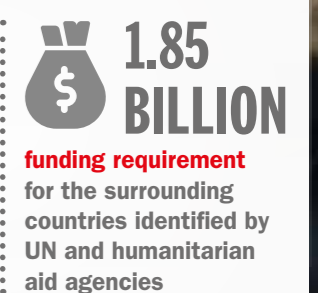
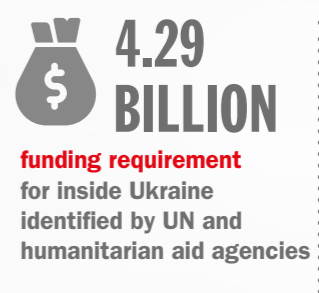
Within a week, more than one million people had fled Ukraine and many more were displaced inside the country. Hundreds of thousands of people began to cross the borders into neighbouring countries, mostly women and children who arrived with only what they could carry. With the country on the brink of a humanitarian crisis, the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) launched an appeal on 3 March 2022 for people affected by the conflict, including refugees, those displaced within Ukraine and people still in situ. Thirteen DEC member charities are responding with DEC funds to the crisis in Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Moldova and Hungary.

The conflict caused Europe's fastest growing displacement crisis since World War II. Nearly 13 million people fled their homes in less than two months – almost a third of the population. There has been widespread urban devastation and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Around 300 health facilities are in conflict areas and many health workers have been displaced or are unable to work. Almost half of Ukraine's pharmacies are thought to be closed. In April 2022, it was reported that 1.4 million people in Ukraine had no access to water, and another 4.6 million people had only limited access. By June 2022, 15.7 million people were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance; this figure rose to 17.7 million by October 2022.



Damaged high-rise buildings in Kharkiv, Ukraine

CURRENT SITUATION



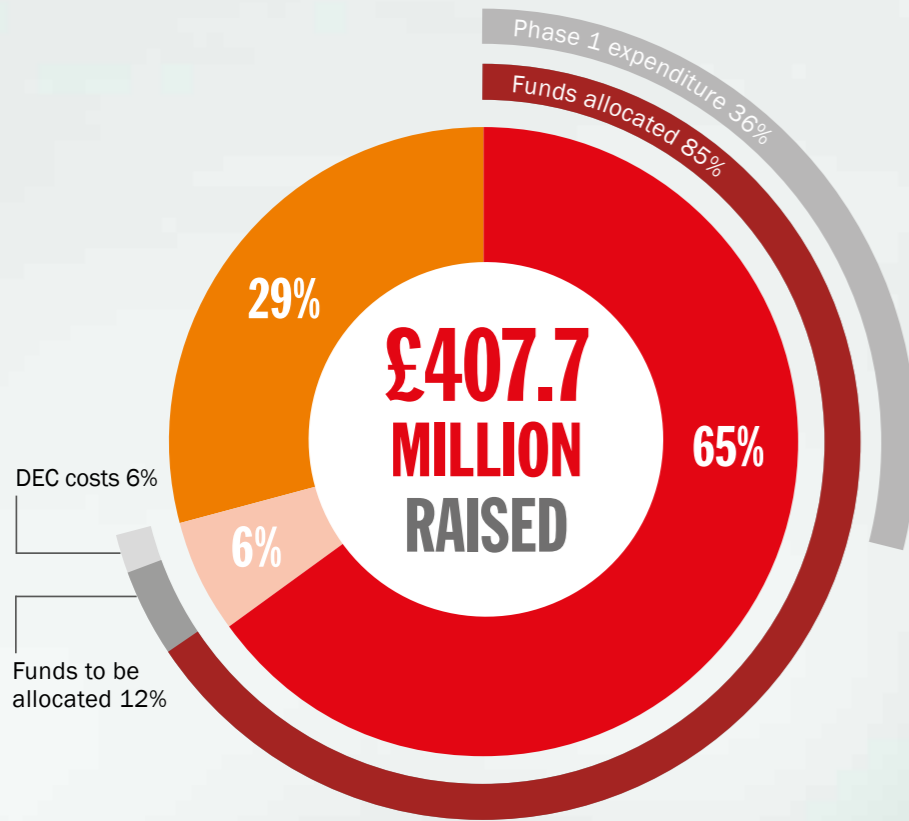
Refugees wait at a crossing point on the Poland-Ukraine border where thousands flee as conflict escalates



Refugees from Ukraine at a makeshift camp at a crossing point on the Poland-Ukraine border

Cover image: Iris* hugs a friend in a public bomb shelter in Kharkiv, Ukraine, where DEC charities CAFOD and Plan International are working with local partner Depaul to keep people safe and warm. © Maciek Musialek/DEC
* Names changed to protect identity

HOW WE HELPED



- £263.3m DEC direct donors (65%)
- £25 million UK Aid Match (6%)
- £119.4 million raised by member charities (29%)

PHASE 1 CONFIRMED BUDGET
£81,794,586

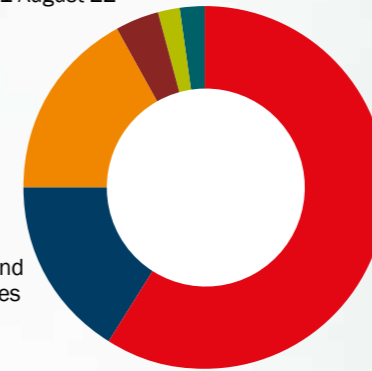
6 MONTH EXPENDITURE
£85,598,512

6 month expenditure: 3 March – 31 August 22

EXPENDITURE BY COUNTRY

6 month expenditure: 3 March – 31 August 22

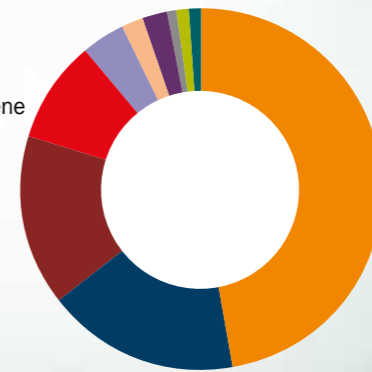
- 59% Ukraine
- 17% Romania
- 16% Poland
- 4% Moldova
- 2% Hungary
- 2% Regional safeguarding and capacity building programmes



EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR

6 month expenditure: 3 March – 31 August 22

- 47% Cash assistance
- 17% Food assistance
- 15% Health
- 9% Water, sanitation & hygiene
- 4% Protection
- 3% Other
- 2% Accountability to affected populations
- 1% Education
- 1% Shelter
- 1% Capacity building



Volunteers from Depaul Ukraine, a local partner of DEC member charities, at a humanitarian aid warehouse in Kharkiv

SIX MONTH ACHIEVEMENTS ACROSS ALL COUNTRIES



392,800 PEOPLE



RECEIVED **FOOD ASSISTANCE**, FOR EXAMPLE HOT MEALS, FOOD PACKAGES AND GROCERIES

127,900 PEOPLE accessed **basic services** at transit centres

338,000 PEOPLE benefitted from **cash assistance** to meet their basic needs

37,600 PEOPLE received **mental health and psychosocial support**

114,800 PEOPLE received **legal assistance and support**

1,956,400 PEOPLE benefitted from access to **clean water**

10,800 PEOPLE benefitted from **shelter provision**

71,300 PEOPLE accessed **primary healthcare services**

A note on figures: Each sector of activity presented in this report includes net figures for the number of people reached with DEC funds. Double-counting in the net number of people reached per sector has been eliminated, however some double-counting may persist across sectors; also, when two or more charities reach the same people with different types of assistance. All figures reported have been rounded down

Vania* (l), Yemelia* (c) and Iris* (r) in a public bomb shelter in Kharkiv, Ukraine. DEC member charities are helping people stay safe and warm
* Names changed to protect identity

UKRAINE: THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Even before the escalation of hostilities in February 2022, Ukraine was facing an economic and humanitarian crisis as a result of ongoing conflict and the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Eight years of fighting in eastern Ukraine had forced hundreds of thousands of people from their homes and prompted a surge in incidences of gender-based violence and human trafficking. By 2020, a third of children were living in poverty, though this figure was as high as 75% in some regions. A third of households in parts of eastern Ukraine did not have sufficient access to clean water and around 400,000 people did not have enough to eat. At the end of 2021, an estimated 2.9 million people needed humanitarian assistance.

When the conflict intensified in February 2022, thousands of people fled the capital, Kyiv – home to almost three million people – and other affected areas of Ukraine. In cities across Ukraine, families spent days and nights underground, sheltering in basements, car parks and subway stations. Intense clashes, aerial attacks and bombs destroyed vital infrastructure including road and rail links, disrupting supply chains. As a result, food and medicines were in short supply in some areas. Though millions fled the country, many older people and those with disabilities found it impossible to escape.

“Rockets are raining down on cities including Kyiv... For many people remaining in the country, life is becoming increasingly difficult and dangerous. Most places have little or no infrastructure to shelter and protect large numbers of people who arrive with virtually nothing. We must help Ukrainians help each other through this terrible time”

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General, 1 March 2022

AT THE TIME THE DEC APPEAL WAS LAUNCHED:

525 PEOPLE INJURED
(2 March 2022)



227 PEOPLE KILLED
(2 March 2022)



17.7 MILLION PEOPLE in need
(3 March 2022)



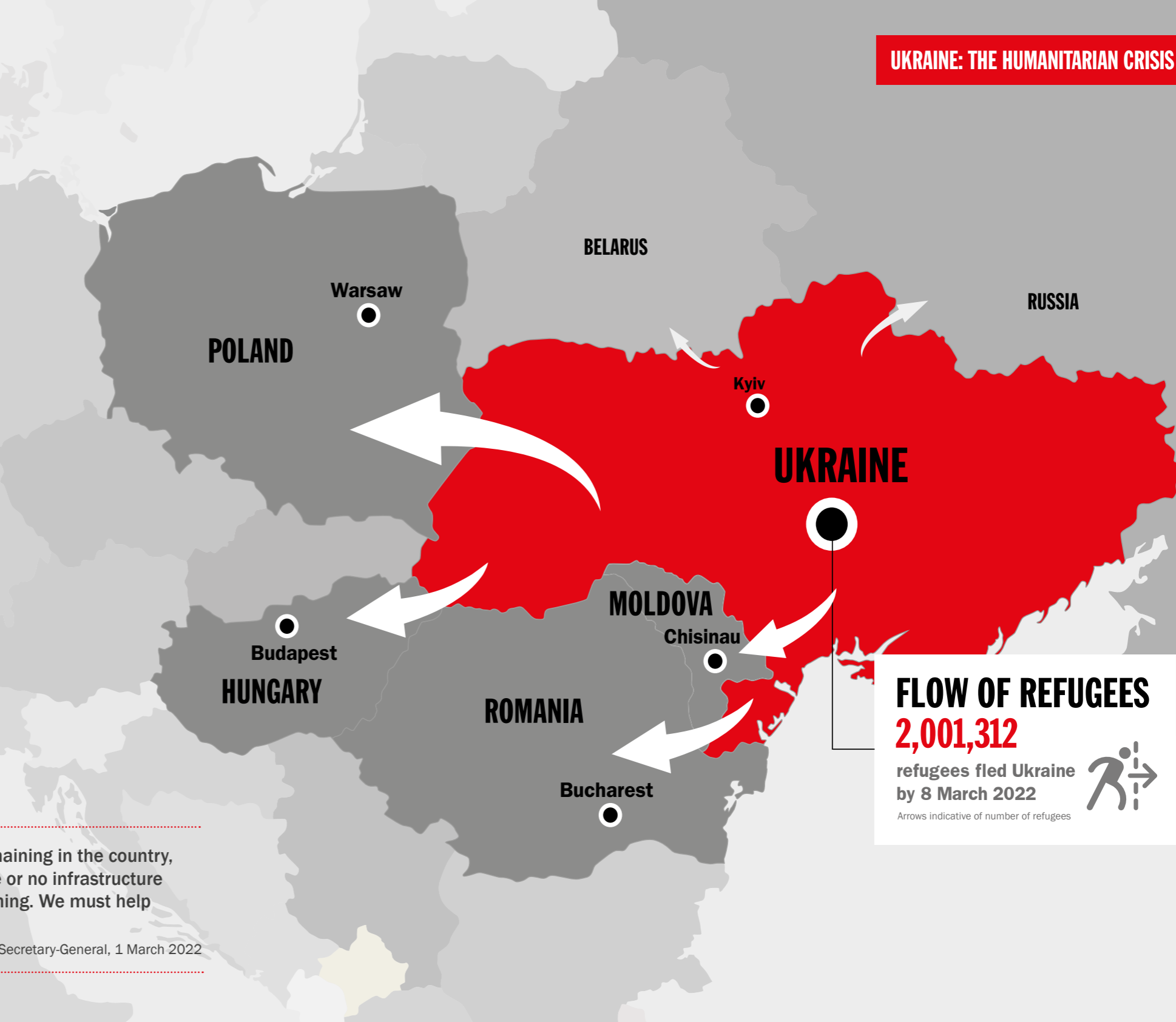
OVER 2 MILLION people fled Ukraine in less than two weeks
(8 March 2022)



1.85 MILLION PEOPLE estimated to be displaced
(9 March 2022)



MORE THAN 1,500 residential buildings, 210 schools and 34 hospitals damaged or destroyed



FLOW OF REFUGEES
2,001,312
refugees fled Ukraine by 8 March 2022
Arrows indicative of number of refugees

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



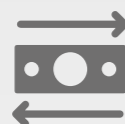
1,886,400 PEOPLE



PROVIDED WITH CLEAN WATER SUPPLY

177,000 PEOPLE

received cash assistance



70,800 PEOPLE

accessed primary healthcare services

1,431 HEALTH FACILITIES

provided with essential medical supplies and equipment



41,800 PEOPLE

benefitted from hygiene kits containing items such as toothpaste, soap, shampoo and sanitary products

93 SAFE SPACES

established for displaced families and children

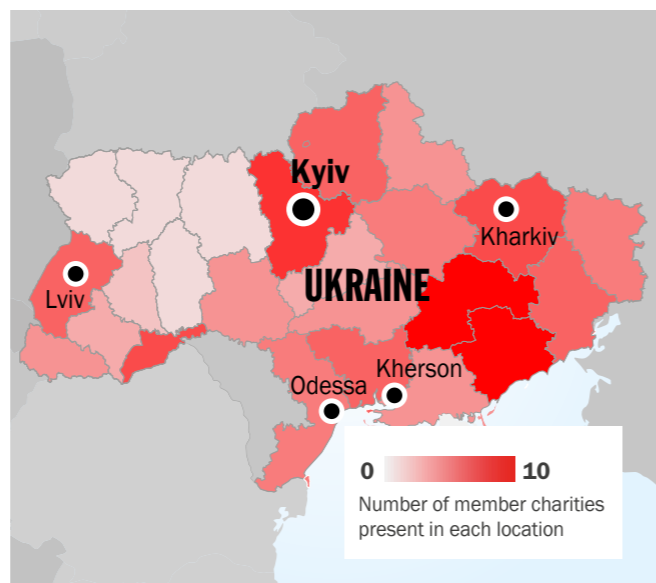
4,400 HOUSEHOLDS

benefitted from kits containing essential household items, such as blankets, towels, mattresses, bed linen and kitchen sets

129,700 PEOPLE

benefitted from food assistance including hot meals and food packages

HOW WE HELPED



Phase 1 confirmed budget	6 month expenditure
£49,191,685	£50,605,380

14% DEC's contribution to member charities' response to the crisis in Ukraine

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

21 LOCAL/NATIONAL PARTNERS

10 OTHER PARTNERS

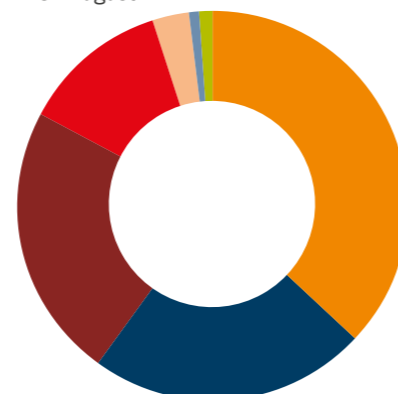
£2,118,396 spent by local/national NGOs



UKRAINE: EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR

6 month expenditure: 3 March – 31 August 22

- 37% Cash assistance
- 23% Food assistance
- 23% Health
- 12% Water, sanitation & hygiene
- 3% Other
- 1% Protection
- 1% Shelter



HOW WE HELPED: PROVIDING FOOD

The cost of food in Ukraine has increased significantly over the last six months, as farmers' fields became battlegrounds and food imports were disrupted because of supply issues. According to the World Food Programme, one in three households in the country did not have enough to eat, and in the east and the south, this number rose to one in two. Food assistance has played a critical role in the response and was provided in several ways, such as soup kitchens, vouchers to exchange for food, food parcels and contributions to food banks. Providing goods in-kind was often more appropriate than cash assistance for those who found it difficult to buy food, such as people with disabilities and those who were ill.

Food parcels for displaced families contained items such as pasta, rice, canned meat and fish, vegetable oil, salt, high-energy biscuits, tea and coffee, and sometimes sweets for children. Fresh food was included where possible and appropriate (if, for example, families had somewhere to store it). Parcels were distributed to eligible families at home with their host families or were available for collection at distribution points such as shelters, schools and transit centres. In some locations, food baskets contained several core items and people were able to choose additions that reflected their needs and circumstances, such as softer foods like paté and stew for older people, and more canned fish, meat and ready-to eat-foods for people without access to cooking facilities.

People receiving food parcels in Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv and Donetsk reported that they were largely satisfied with the contents, though some requested more items for children, such as biscuits, dried fruits, jam and condensed milk. In some areas, packaging was changed from boxes to bags as people found them easier to carry.

Many displaced families who sought refuge in subway stations, schools and other public spaces were unable to cook for themselves and were therefore reliant on ready-to-eat food. With DEC funds, hot meals were prepared for people living in shelters and other communal centres in Kharkiv, and for orphaned children in a camp in Mykolaiv in southern Ukraine. In Odessa, displaced people were supplied with packed lunches to take on the train as they looked for a safer place to relocate.



Sophia (r), a volunteer working with a DEC-supported charity in Kharkiv, Ukraine, distributes food baskets to those most in need



Cycle volunteer Viktoria* delivers food to Larysa, an older resident of Kharkiv, Ukraine

CYCLE VOLUNTEERS DELIVER FOOD TO PEOPLE'S DOORS

Many older people and people with disabilities were not able to leave their homes to collect food parcels, but fuel shortages meant it was also not easy to transport food to them. One DEC-funded project in Kharkiv, eastern Ukraine, recruited a team of cyclists who deliver the baskets direct to people's doors.

Aleksander, 50, lived in a district of Kharkiv that suffered most from shelling so he insisted that his wife and two daughters leave the country. "It was the hardest decision of my life but my family have thankfully found safety in the Czech Republic," he says.

“After I started to volunteer with the bicycle delivery team, I relocated to stay at the warehouse, as it is safer there and there are more people to talk to. As bicycle delivery volunteers, we are united by a common goal – to help. We live without making plans for the future. We simply wake up, make our deliveries, spend a couple of hours of free time, and repeat. We are alive, and that is enough to be happy”

Aleksander, 50, a bicycle delivery volunteer

* Name changed to protect identity

HOW WE HELPED: CASH ASSISTANCE

Cash assistance proved to be a quick way of supporting people to buy what they needed immediately, such as food, soap, toothpaste, nappies and medical items such as insulin. As well as helping to give people some choice in how best to meet their needs, it reduced the cost of delivering aid and helped to foster good relationships with host communities by supporting local markets, jobs and producers. Cash assistance was delivered in eastern and south-eastern parts of Ukraine, such as Mariupol, Dnipro, Luhansk and Donetsk, as well as other parts of the country. Vulnerable people were prioritised to receive cash grants, including older people, people with disabilities or chronic diseases, single-parent families and households whose members had been killed or injured.

Community groups, churches and self-help groups in badly affected areas such as Dnipro also received cash grants so that they could initiate or continue community-led actions and responses. This approach encouraged genuine participation at a grassroots level, fostered self-reliance and helped improve these groups' ability to respond even more rapidly to crises. Cash grants were used, for example, to provide hot meals and food packages for displaced people as well as furniture, cooking appliances and heating equipment to improve temporary accommodation. With DEC funds, some of these community groups also offered legal aid consultations for people seeking advice on how to record the destruction of their home, restore lost documents, take custody of a child whose parents had died, or receive pensions and social benefits.



A damaged home in Kyiv

REPAIRING DAMAGED HOMES

Shelling in residential parts of Kyiv almost completely destroyed several small neighbourhoods. A local charity, which had previously helped to extinguish fires and evacuate people from their homes, received a DEC-funded grant to buy construction tools and materials. These were then lent out free of charge so that people could repair their homes.

“This is the most economical way to use them and for some households, it is the only way to get such devices



Member of partner charity



Through a DEC-funded grant, residents in Kyiv had access to communal construction tools to repair damaged homes

Grants were designed to be as flexible as possible to suit changing circumstances. For example, a grant that had been intended to support a client's medical costs was used to pay for a dignified burial when the client unexpectedly died. In Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine, a community group was awarded a grant to set up and equip a bomb shelter in a high school that was being used by displaced people. Before work could begin, the school was destroyed by a rocket attack, so it was agreed the grant could be used to fund another strand of the community group's work – providing transport for people in conflict-affected areas. The group's cars were often damaged by shelling and gunfire so the grant was used to repair vehicles. The group was able to evacuate more than 3,000 people, including people with disabilities.

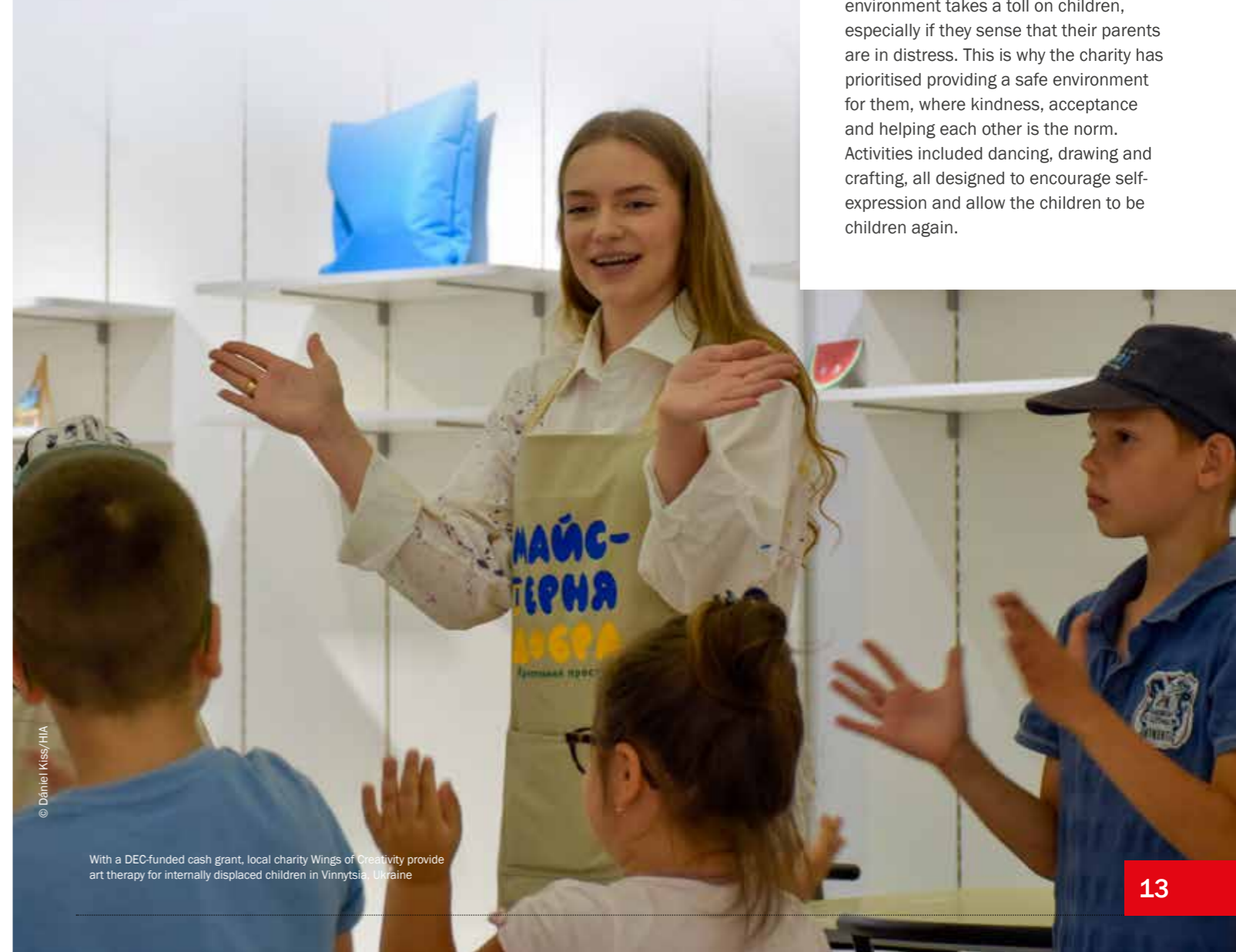
DEC member charities consulted cash programme participants on how they preferred to receive their grants, for example via pre-paid cards or digital transfers. Making transfers through MoneyGram meant participants were able to pick up money at the bank or post office where they collected their pensions or other benefits, thereby ensuring anonymity for them in public places. This helped to preserve participants' dignity as well as reducing the risk of theft or violence towards them. Home delivery of cash through the postal system was also used and was often preferred by those with mobility issues.



Art therapy for internally displaced children in Vinnytsia, Ukraine, funded by the DEC

OVERCOMING TRAUMA THROUGH ART

“Art and crafts are the wings of creativity children can use to soar. Our job is to preserve these wings,” says a volunteer with a charity in Vinnytsia, which was awarded a DEC-funded grant to provide art therapy classes for displaced children. Fleeing from the horrors of war and finding themselves in a strange new environment takes a toll on children, especially if they sense that their parents are in distress. This is why the charity has prioritised providing a safe environment for them, where kindness, acceptance and helping each other is the norm. Activities included dancing, drawing and crafting, all designed to encourage self-expression and allow the children to be children again.



© Daniel Kiss/HIA

With a DEC-funded cash grant, local charity Wings of Creativity provide art therapy for internally displaced children in Vinnytsia, Ukraine

HOW WE HELPED: PROVIDING ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The shelling of reservoirs, water tanks and water treatment facilities caused severe damage to water and sanitation networks across Ukraine, while chronic power outages disrupted power grids, which in turn destroyed pumps and damaged piping networks.

To ensure affected people had access to clean drinking water, DEC member charities provided pumps for main water pipes, and parts and tools to repair water networks, as well as bottled water to health facilities and schools where supplies had been affected. As part of emergency preparedness, DEC funds were used to supply protection panels that stabilise electricity input and maintain water supplies during power shortages, along with water treatment units, tap stands, water tanks and treatment chemicals. DEC member charities also supported water boards in Dnipro, Donetsk, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv so that they could continue to treat and deliver water, by supplying water treatment chemicals as well as materials to repair pumping and heating stations.

To prevent the transmission of water-borne diseases, repairing fractured sewage systems was a priority. With DEC funds, sewage cleaning equipment and sewer

pumps were installed and chemicals were provided to treat wastewater. Toilets were also constructed, including a permanent 20-toilet block at Berehove border assistance point near the border with Hungary.

Hygiene products were sometimes either unaffordable or not readily available in local shops. DEC member charities provided kits containing essentials such as shampoo, soap and sanitary products, tailored where possible to local contexts. For example, kits for people on the move were light, easy to carry and included travel items, while kits for people staying in shelters or private accommodation contained items in larger quantities. In some cases, people were able to choose the items they wanted, which helped to prevent waste (for example, kits designed for men usually contained razors but were not always needed by adolescents). Baby kits contained nappies, baby oil, baby powder and wet wipes. In Dnipro in eastern Ukraine, DEC member charities provided cleaning and disinfecting supplies for schools or other public buildings that were used as centres for displaced people. They also installed washing machines and dryers. DEC funds were also used to run information campaigns on the importance of good hygiene in stopping the spread of disease.



© Polish Red Cross

ICRC teams deliver 16,200 litres of potable water to a village in Donbas, Ukraine

HOW WE HELPED: HEALTHCARE

The conflict has stretched the fragile health system to breaking point, following years of under-investment and the Covid-19 pandemic. While doctors continue to treat casualties, routine and basic healthcare has become even harder to access, with medicines, medical supplies and trained staff all in short supply. The World Health Organisation found that since the escalation of the conflict, medicines and health services were the most commonly reported needs after financial assistance.

DEC funds were used to provide quality healthcare services, including supporting primary healthcare centres and health posts in transition centres in Zaporizhzhia, south-eastern Ukraine. Mobile health units were set up and equipped in areas such as Mykolaiv, southern Ukraine, to provide care for people who were unable to reach other facilities. Nurses were trained on nutrition in infants and young children and on the appropriate use of breastmilk substitutes. Given the levels of stress that displaced families had endured for months, mental health needs were high so psychologists and specialist mental health workers were hired to provide counselling to traumatised individuals, including children. In Drohobych, Lviv, one DEC member charity set up and equipped a medical centre in its partner's premises, to provide free health consultations and support medical evacuations from eastern to western Ukraine and from Ukraine to other countries.

In a survey conducted in March 2022, members of the public in Ukraine cited lack of medicines in medical centres or pharmacies as the greatest barrier to accessing healthcare. One DEC member charity provided £1 million-worth of life-saving medical equipment to the Ministry of Health, including phototherapy units, incubators and more than 10,000 first aid trauma kits, as well as medicines such as antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs. Over-the-counter medications such as painkillers, creams and decongestants were also provided to individuals. In some areas, people were given prepaid gift cards to use at a local pharmacy chain.

To strengthen the health system's workforce, DEC member charities provided training to clinical staff, working closely with national and regional health authorities. This included training on orthopaedic nursing, surgery and cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and managing mass casualties and trauma. Courses were also held on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear response. First responders such as the fire and rescue service, police officers and paramedics were also trained.



Staff and volunteers of a DEC member charity's partner in Ukraine make up packs of food, warm clothes and other necessities for displaced people



© Emre Caylak/HelpAge International

81 year old Valentina from Dnipro is displaced. She received food, medicine and hygiene items from DEC member charity Age International.

SUPPLYING ESSENTIAL MEDICINES

"My generation built Severodonetsk," says 81-year-old Valentina. "Now it's destroyed." Valentina and her 75-year-old sister fled their home in Severodonetsk, Luhansk, for Dnipro, Ukraine's fourth-largest city, where they are now living in temporary accommodation. With DEC funds, she has received medication for her lung condition, as well as food and personal hygiene products.

“ Before I left, a bomb nearly hit [my house] and the windows were broken, but there is no one left there to call to ask if it's still standing ”

Valentina, 81, from Luhansk

SUPPORTING YOUNG MOTHERS

The conflict has forced many young mothers to leave their homes and start a new life somewhere safer with their children.

Anxious and afraid, they may suffer from sleep disorders, panic attacks, or find the stress affects their ability to breastfeed. Adjusting to life in a new city without the support of family and friends, living in cramped shelters, and financial worries all add to the pressure.

Svitlana is one of a group of professional psychologists in Chernivtsi who volunteer their expertise to help these young women.

“What we offer are self-support techniques to regain confidence and focus on the mother’s well-being”

Svitlana, one of a group of professional psychologists in Chernivtsi

The project, supported with DEC funds, aims to lower maternal stress and provide emotional and social support. With improved mental health, young mothers are better able to help their children cope with their own feelings of disorientation and loss.



Volunteers and staff meet to review Action Against Hunger’s support for activities in a baby-friendly space in Chernivtsi, Ukraine

HOW WE HELPED: PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

The majority of displaced people within Ukraine are women and children. Some face significant safety and protection risks, such as domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse. Many are also deeply traumatised by what they have experienced and need psychosocial support and somewhere that they can feel safe. Children separated from their families are particularly vulnerable.

With DEC funds, women- and child-friendly spaces were set up in schools, sports halls and other public buildings in Odessa and Zaporizhzhia as well as other locations across the country. They provided a safe place where women could relax and share their experiences, and children could play and learn. These safe places also provided psychosocial support and counselling, and played a major role in building the resilience of traumatised women and children.

Child-friendly spaces offered a variety of activities, such as art, drama, dance and sports, as well as board games. In Berehove, western Ukraine, a child-friendly playroom for displaced children was set up in a school, where ‘therapy’ dog Doxa was introduced to play with the children to help reduce their levels of stress and anxiety. DEC member charities also funded summer camps in Lviv and Berehove, where displaced children received sport kits and enjoyed a variety of sports and excursions in the surrounding countryside. Baby-friendly spaces in transit centres and other public buildings provided women with a safe and private space to feed their babies, they also offered information on best feeding practices for infants and young children and advice on the appropriate use of breastmilk substitutes.

Exposure to traumatic events can have a long-lasting effect on physical and psychological well-being. For people in obvious distress, DEC member charities and their partners provided psychological ‘first aid’ (listening to concerns, assessing needs and identifying relevant local services that could provide further support). They also provided group and individual counselling sessions, sometimes using teams of mobile psychologists. For parents, workshops on mental health and psychological well-being provided information on how children react to stress; how to support traumatised children, including through art and play therapy; the principles of non-violent communication; and the importance of self-care as the main prerequisite for positive parenting.

With DEC funds, three day centres and three shelters were set up in Kyiv, Lviv and Uzhhorod in Ukraine to provide in-person services and emergency care for women living with HIV, and those at risk. Activities included preventative care, referrals to shelters and medical facilities, remote counselling, and psychological support via a virtual platform.

“When Doxa comes to visit us, that is a very good day for me. I always look forward to it. Her fur is super soft, I like to pet her. Her owner even lets us lay our heads on her! Doxa is a smart, good dog, she allows us to cuddle [her]”

Sonia*, aged 5, from Mikolayiv

“It’s very hard to start life anew. These kinds of events help me and my daughter not only to have a good time together, but also to communicate with people who have similar problems to mine. I don’t feel lonely anymore”

Olga, 38, who took part in DEC-funded art therapy classes with her daughter



Children take part in a DEC-funded art activity at a shelter in a church in Bucharest, Romania



Displaced children at a shelter in Zakarpattia are visited by Doxa the therapy dog

* Name changed to protect identity

CHALLENGES IN UKRAINE

The overall situation has remained tense and volatile during the last six months, with active conflict in the north-eastern, eastern, and southern parts of Ukraine in particular, and air missile attacks reported daily across the country. With the conflict frontline shifting frequently, establishing humanitarian programmes has been very challenging.

The conflict has had a devastating impact on staff and volunteers in Ukraine. The sheer scale, unpredictability and intensity of the violence has meant that in addition to providing humanitarian assistance to displaced families, local partners have themselves been affected and had their lives turned upside down. They have lived in constant fear for the safety of their families and friends, and many have been forced to flee intense fighting, some several times. Under such volatile and uncertain conditions, scaling up operations and establishing stable staff teams has been enormously challenging.

In addition, the increase in the number of agencies establishing responses in Ukraine has created more competition for staff recruitment. Some staff left the country as the security situation worsened, which further reduced the pool from which DEC member charities could hire. Some member charities deployed staff from outside

Ukraine as a temporary measure until local staff could be found, used consultants to strengthen the recruitment process and reviewed salary packages for national and international staff.

Persistent shelling has degraded vital infrastructure such as power, roads, bridges, railways and depots. Combined with huge volumes of traffic at Ukraine's borders, this has caused delays in transporting relief supplies into and across the country. In September 2022, the queue at the Ukraine border with Poland was said to have stretched back 30km.

It was sometimes challenging to strike the right balance between ensuring that due diligence processes and rigorous reporting mechanisms were in place for partners, whilst at the same time ensuring that partners who were already over-stretched by the scale and urgency of the response were not further burdened. Partners varied in nature, from larger organisations with global experience to small, grassroots groups that had never worked on a humanitarian response before. DEC member charities worked to standardise and simplify procedures as much as possible, to adapt them to the profiles of the different partners, and to provide support based on the different capacities of partner organisations.

“It wasn't unusual to talk through work plans with colleagues... and to find that after all that they were doing during the day ... they were also hosting refugee families in their own homes or supplying hot food to families at night”

Mike Noyes, Action Aid



A damaged high-rise building in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city where DEC member charities are providing essential aid to people sheltering in basements and bomb shelters

IMPROVING HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME DELIVERY IN UKRAINE

SUPPORTING A LOCALLY LED RESPONSE

Given the strength of government departments such as the Ministry of Health, along with numerous active local organisations and grassroots groups, DEC member charities were keen to reinforce and support local structures rather than creating parallel systems. Many member charities already had strong, long-term partnerships in the country, and focused efforts on providing support and training to get their partners to strengthen their ability to deliver humanitarian aid efficiently. This approach aimed to ensure that results were sustainable and that local people were better equipped to deal with future crisis situations themselves. Despite the fact that large numbers of staff fled their homes for other parts of Ukraine or other countries, local organisations were often the fastest to deliver on the ground.

In some areas, partners fully designed and established their own projects while DEC member charities provided only organisational and technical support. This allowed partners to focus on areas of expertise, such as protection and cash programming, while member charities supported in the areas where they delivered clear added value, such as water and sanitation.

DEC member charities supported dozens of grassroots organisations in Ukraine, such as associations of private citizens and faith-based groups, which often have little or no access to traditional donor funding. Because of their local knowledge and strong relationships with local communities, they were able to ensure that people in the hardest-to-reach and most conflict-affected areas had access to humanitarian aid. DEC funds were used to strengthen the capacity of these groups, which sometimes had little experience of responding to such a large crisis. Training was designed to ensure community groups attained high humanitarian standards when delivering aid, covering issues such as compliance with safeguarding standards, humanitarian principles, procurement procedures, accountability, monitoring and evaluation.

One DEC member charity made its health interventions more sustainable by training local medical students and junior doctors to deliver its community health education sessions using the international team's curriculum, lesson plans and teaching style.



Staff and volunteers of a DEC member charity provide food and other basic necessities to people sheltering in a subway station in Kyiv, Ukraine

ACCOUNTABILITY TO COMMUNITIES

Community engagement was a central part of the DEC-funded response in Ukraine, ensuring that communities affected by the crisis were the central actors in their own recovery. During the design phase of a project, DEC member charities worked in collaboration with community members and leaders, local organisations, regional authorities and key government ministries to identify specific needs. Information was provided to the targeted community about the nature of the organisation, what people could expect to receive, the required behaviour of staff and volunteers and how to get in contact with project staff. This was shared through

a variety of channels, such as meetings, posters, fliers, social media, messaging services and partner websites. Partners were encouraged to share information with communities in ways that worked best for them.

DEC member charities offered a variety of options for feedback on projects, ranging from face-to-face discussions with staff, telephone hotlines and suggestion boxes, to digital communication options such as through Facebook, Telegram, Signal, WhatsApp and email. Sometimes food parcels also contained a letter informing participants of how they could make a complaint or give positive feedback. Partner staff were trained on how to receive sensitive information, and staff who spoke several languages of the region were deployed.

By soliciting and acting on feedback, DEC member charities enabled affected people to shape their interventions and ensure they remained relevant. After cash distributions, for example, a sample of recipients were asked for their views on the amount they had received, the way in which it had been delivered, and how they had spent the grant. This information was then fed back into future programme planning.

COORDINATING THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

With around 2,000 national and international organisations providing aid in Ukraine, the coordination of humanitarian efforts was crucial. DEC member charities worked with local authorities such as city councils and the police force as well as key government departments. This partnership was critical, granting safe access to affected areas and permission to provide support to public bomb shelters, prisons and hospitals. It also meant that projects had local support to continue. Collaborating with social services allowed member charities to identify the most vulnerable.

DEC member charities and their partners took part in formal coordination forums such as 'cluster' meetings, where United Nations and international aid agencies, national organisations and government authorities discussed interventions in particular sectors, such as food security and livelihoods. One DEC member charity co-led the Cash for Protection regional coordination team for Ukraine working to ensure consistent high standards in the response. Several DEC member charities belong to international alliances whose members are also responding to the crisis. They coordinate their interventions with sister agencies to avoid duplication, which reduces pressure on local partners.



A DEC member charity delivers two vanloads of urgent food and medical supplies to a hospital in Ukraine

Member charities and their partners also contributed to various NGO coordination platforms at a local or city level. Through communication with other NGOs operating in similar areas, partners were able to standardise and harmonise aspects of their operations such as HR practices. It also ensured there was no duplication of activities on the ground.

Given the scale of the crisis and the number of organisations delivering aid, it is unsurprising that there have been a few problems. Some local partners expressed frustration that their voices were not being heard in formal coordination groups such as cluster meetings, or that these meetings were hard to follow as they were conducted in English rather than Ukrainian. Some partners, including those working with sex workers or the LGBTQ+ community, said they faced discrimination when trying to collaborate with local authorities or other charities.

INCLUDING PEOPLE WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

DEC-funded projects targeted the most vulnerable, including young children, older people, and women and girls. They also supported people from marginalised groups such as the Roma and the LGBTQ+ community who faced significant discrimination when trying to access health and education services or obtain civil status documentation.

The partner of one DEC member charity is led by and comprised of marginalised and vulnerable groups, such as men who have sex with men, intravenous drug users, transgender people and sex workers. As well as providing assistance to these groups, this partner also used DEC funds to support people with HIV, TB and hepatitis, people with disabilities, and large or single-parent families. In Lviv, another partner organisation targeted LGBTQ+ people who had fled their homes, providing essential items such as food and medicines, including hormones.

Older refugees and displaced people also have specific needs. Almost two thirds of older people were travelling with children, with the burden of care falling largely on older women. With DEC funds, volunteers were trained to provide mental health and psychosocial support to older people and other vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities. Older people were also supported with home visits by community volunteers, helping to reduce their feelings of isolation. In collective centres, beds, hoists and toilet chairs were supplied with DEC funds to meet the specific needs of older people and people with disabilities.

A high proportion of those who remain in hard-to-reach areas around conflict zones are vulnerable people who couldn't evacuate because they have some sort of mobility issue, such as older people, people with disabilities, and pregnant and breastfeeding women. Projects were adapted to meet their needs, for example by posting or delivering household goods, food and medicines to their doors. Hygiene packs were gender and age specific, including incontinence pads for older people and sanitary products for women.

DEC member charities and their partners provided support to nationals from other countries, including many students of Asian or African origin who were studying in Ukraine when the conflict began, as well as people of colour. These groups have faced significant racial discrimination. In Poland, for example, many faced challenges in accessing state support and services and because of this, few now remain. For those who did stay in Poland, member charities and their partners provided assistance such as mental health support, legal advice and translation services. In Romania, nationals from other countries received cash assistance as well as mental health support.

DUTY OF CARE TO STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

The whole population of Ukraine has been affected by the conflict. Staff and volunteers working for DEC member charities and their partners may have witnessed the destruction of their homes or have been separated from their families. Younger men are also faced with the possibility of conscription into the armed forces. Many volunteers such as church groups have not worked in this context before but have been the prime responders since the beginning of the conflict. As well as the physical hazards of working in a conflict zone, burnout is also a real danger.

DEC member charities recognise that they have a duty of care to all staff and volunteers in this very stressful working environment. One DEC member charity has been rolling out community resilience skills training for its partners and their staff, which helps people to manage their response to stress, anxiety and trauma. The training focuses on understanding the biology and neurophysiology of trauma and resilience and teaches simple wellness skills that can help stabilise the nervous system.

Where possible, member charities accommodated staff redeployment to programmes in more secure areas or agreed remote working arrangements. Some offered staff a small well-being bonus to be spent at their discretion, or organised rest and recuperation activities such as fishing trips away from conflict areas. While local staff were often reluctant to prioritise their own well-being given the level of need in their communities, they acknowledged the benefits for their colleagues.

Oksana*, 28 years old, and her daughter Galyna play in their room in a shelter at a church in the outskirts of Lviv, Ukraine where DEC member charity Christian Aid provides community organisations with grants to help displaced people access shelter and essential services

REFUGEE RESPONSE

At the start of the conflict, refugees quickly fled Ukraine for neighbouring countries. The initial focus was on meeting basic needs, including shelter, food and water in a range of settings, such as transit camps, temporary shelters and in rented or host accommodation. As the situation in Ukraine developed, many refugees returned home or moved to other countries.

Interventions in **Poland, Romania, Moldova and Hungary** accounted for almost 40% of total DEC expenditure during the first six months of the response. As in Ukraine, cash proved to be the most effective way of getting help to people quickly, while the provision of food and protection services were also prioritised.

“Working on the Ukraine–Poland border in the first few weeks of the conflict, we saw thousands of scared families crossing, mothers, grandmothers, single women, children. Their relief on reaching a safe haven was palpable and the welcome and solidarity they received brought relief in itself”

Mike Noyes, Action Aid



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Phase 1 – first 6 months

161,000 PEOPLE
received **cash assistance**

263,000 PEOPLE
benefitted from **food assistance** including hot meals, food packages, groceries

62,200 PEOPLE
benefitted from **hygiene kits** containing soap, cleaning materials, toilet paper

114,800 PEOPLE
received **legal assistance** and **support** such as advice on immigration and legal help-desks

34,900 PEOPLE
provided with **mental health** or **psychosocial support**

127,900 PEOPLE
at transit centres provided with **basic services** and **support** such as water, food, information, toilets, hygiene



Margaryta * (11) and Vita * at the Red Cross Poland Humanitarian Aid point for Ukrainian refugees, at a Tesco building in Przemysl, Poland

AT A GLANCE

ROMANIA

Romania is one of the poorest country in the European Union. Almost three-quarters of people living in poverty are in rural areas, where the poverty rate in some counties is more than ten times higher than that in the capital, Bucharest. According to the World Bank, more than 900,000 people were living in extreme poverty in 2018, many without access to basic services such as piped water, sanitation or electricity. Around 4 in 10 Romanian children are poor and 40% of 15-year-olds are functionally illiterate. The Roma population is disproportionately affected, with 70% at risk of poverty.

Almost 51,000 refugees have obtained temporary protection in Romania, which enables access to healthcare, education and the labour market. Although Ukrainian refugees are guaranteed similar rights and entitlements as Romanian citizens by law, this does not always happen in practice. Some families have been unable to access medical services, and refugee children are not formally enrolled in school until they can demonstrate proficiency in Romanian. Marginalized groups, such as LGBTQ+ people and the Roma community are particularly affected by discrimination. While many refugees live with host families, it is anticipated that longer-term shelter needs will rapidly become urgent due to host community fatigue.

POPULATION: 19.1 MILLION
(2021)



1.5 MILLION



BORDER CROSSINGS

(as of 15 November 2022)

90,000 REFUGEES



from Ukraine currently registered in Romania

(as of 15 November 2022)

Male: 22%; female: 53%; children: 25%

38%



REFUGEES

living with host families*

27%



REFUGEES

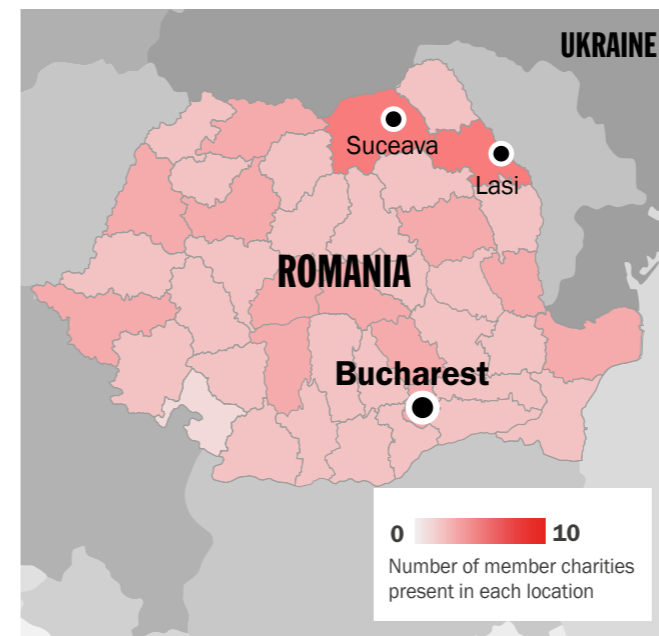
living in reception/transit centres*

* Data from UNHCR (2022) Lives on hold: profile and intentions of refugees from Ukraine. Data not necessarily representative of the whole refugee population



World Vision Romania staff with refugees from Ukraine on the border with Romania in Vama Siret

HOW WE HELPED



Phase 1 confirmed budget	6 month expenditure
£13,311,130	£14,389,873

28% DEC's contribution to member charities' overall response to the crisis in Romania

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

33 LOCAL/NATIONAL NGOs
2 OTHER PARTNERS

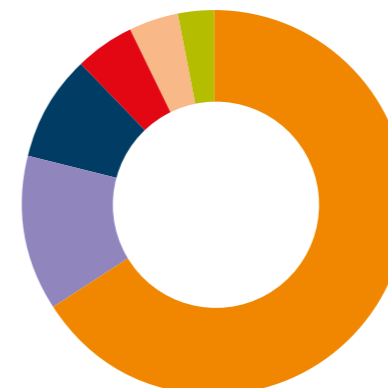


£5,296,400 spent by local/national NGOs

ROMANIA: EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR

6 month expenditure: 3 March – 31 August 22

- 66% Cash assistance
- 13% Protection
- 9% Food assistance
- 5% Water, sanitation & hygiene
- 4% Other
- 3% Shelter



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



105,700 PEOPLE



BENEFITTED FROM CASH ASSISTANCE TO MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS

47,400 PEOPLE



Received **food assistance** including hot meals or food packages



4,100 PEOPLE

benefitted from **essential household items** such as blankets, pillows, mattress protectors and fire extinguishers

12,000 PEOPLE



provided with **mental health** or **psychosocial support**

3,000 PEOPLE



provided with **shelter** or **cash assistance** at collective centres



70,000 PEOPLE

provided with **sanitation facilities**

31,900 PEOPLE



received **legal assistance** such as advice on immigration or access to services



Elena, a refugee from Ukraine, meets with Saleh Saeed and Hannah Richards from the DEC at a hotel where CAFOD's local partner JRS are providing temporary accommodation in Bucharest



Mira Chmel (right), with her mother and two daughters, benefitted from a DEC-funded cash assistance programme

HOW WE HELPED: CASH ASSISTANCE

The conflict has impacted on imports of goods and energy, on which Romania is heavily dependent, causing food prices to rise to record levels by May 2022. Most Ukrainian refugees – overwhelmingly women and children – had little money and no means of supporting themselves. Providing cash grants was therefore an important part of the DEC-funded response, with 66% of assistance to refugees in Romania being provided as cash.

One DEC member charity and its partner reached almost 18,000 refugee families across Romania with emergency cash assistance for a 3-month period. Participants were able to register themselves through a phone app, available in Ukrainian, Russian and English, and updates on the progress of their application were sent via WhatsApp or Viber messaging services. Once the application was approved, cash could be collected at any MoneyGram office in Romania. Information about the programme was posted in the partner’s branch offices, at border crossings and in temporary collective accommodation centres, airports and train stations.

To help people navigate the system, a national call centre was set up, handling 50–100 calls a day, mostly about technical problems with the app. More complex issues with registration were handled by caseworkers. Three service points were also set up in early May in Bucharest, Iasi and Sibiu, where refugees could seek advice in person. The feedback on the programme has been positive – around two thirds of those interviewed said they had found it slightly or much easier to buy food as a result of the grant, and 60% said their experience of using the app was good or excellent.

Mira Chmel is from Odessa and is one of the thousands of people in Romania registered with this DEC-funded cash programme. “Registering was easy. I received our first payment not long after. My first expense was food. I love to cook Ukrainian dishes like Vareniki to keep us connected to home,” she says.

“I hope this war finishes soon. I want to go back home, to my family, to my friends, to my job. I want to live a normal life”

Mira Chmel, from Odessa



Olesia, a refugee from Ukraine, receives money for rent, utilities and food from the JRS centre in Bucharest, supported by DEC member charity CAFOD

POLAND

Though Poland is the sixth-largest economy in the European Union, there are significant regional disparities, with eastern parts of the country experiencing higher rates of poverty and unemployment. Home to several minorities, including the Roma, Poland remains a homogenous country where 96.2% of the population speak only Polish at home.

Ukrainian refugees were granted temporary residence in the country and equal access to the labour market as well as health, education, social assistance and housing. Many refugees were hosted privately by Polish families who received roughly USD\$9 per day under a government housing assistance scheme. When this largely came to an end in July 2022, DEC member charities noted a rise in refugees’ needs for shelter, food and other assistance.

Roma community members fleeing Ukraine are reported to have faced discrimination when trying to access to services, especially housing. Individuals from third countries, particularly those from outside Europe, have also experienced differential treatment, particularly at the Poland–Belarusian border, where there have been reports of pushbacks and other human rights violations of refugees seeking to enter Poland.

Many organisations have now closed their border assistance points as the influx of refugees into Poland has slowed significantly since April/May. Fewer than 1.5 million refugees remain in Poland as many people have returned to Ukraine or moved to other countries in Europe. However, within the context of global rising prices and the energy crisis, it is anticipated that arrivals may increase again as Ukrainians seek better living conditions during the cold winter months.

AT A GLANCE

POPULATION: 37.7 MILLION (2021)



7.5 MILLION



BORDER CROSSINGS (as of 15 November 2022)

1.4 MILLION REFUGEES

from Ukraine currently registered in Poland (as of 15 November 2022)

Male: 29%; female: 71%; children: 42%; older people: 8%

40% REFUGEES living with host families*

41% REFUGEES living in rented accommodation*

* Data from UNHCR (2022) Lives on hold: profile and intentions of refugees from Ukraine. Data not necessarily representative of the whole refugee population

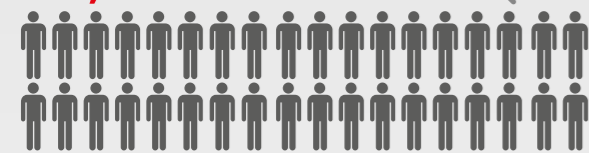


Kristina *, 17 and her mother Lydia *, 39 left Kyiv to escape to Poland. They are sheltering at a secondary school in Przemysl. Caritas Poland has provided 80 beds, food and other aid at the school.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



46,300 PEOPLE



BENEFITTED FROM CASH ASSISTANCE TO MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS

1,900 PEOPLE

who experienced gender-based violence accessed specialist services

15,700 PEOPLE

received mental health and psychosocial support

42,400 PEOPLE

received hot meals and food packages

27 SAFE SPACES

for women, girls or older people established

2,800 TEACHERS

trained to support those fleeing Ukraine

3,500 PEOPLE

benefitted from hygiene kits containing soap, toilet paper and cleaning materials



A school gym provides shelter for refugees from Ukraine, where support from CAFOD through Caritas Poland provided 80 beds, food and other aid

HOW WE HELPED



Phase 1 confirmed budget	6 month expenditure
£12,181,805	£14,007,236

20% DEC's contribution to member charities' overall response to the crisis in Poland

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

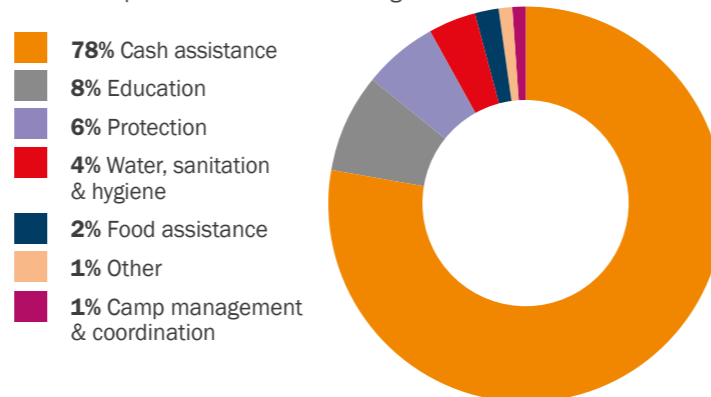
30 LOCAL/NATIONAL NGOs

1 OTHER PARTNERS

£4,803,225 spent by local/national NGOs

POLAND: EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR

6 month expenditure: 3 March – 31 August 22



HOW WE HELPED: EDUCATION

Many Ukrainian refugees entering Poland who are under the age of 18 have lost their homes and find themselves in an unfamiliar place surrounded by people they don't know. Going to school in their new host town and mastering language is key to helping young Ukrainian refugees to make their way in a new environment. In the longer term, it also allows those who decide to stay in Poland to pursue further education and improve their chances in the labour market.

With DEC funds, more than 1,500 teachers from across Poland were trained in teaching Polish as a foreign language through a series of four expert webinars. The course provided information on cultural differences in approaches to formal education and basic language skills such as phonetics and grammar. Most of those taking part were teachers of Polish as a native language, early school education teachers or teachers of foreign languages, all of whom had already started working with Ukrainian students, or were just about to. The aim was to quickly equip teachers with the skills they needed so that Ukrainian students could be welcomed into the Polish school system as soon as possible. Though the course contained only basic content it was very well received

because of its responsiveness, easy accessibility and high level of expertise.

The project also adapted existing short films about young people and social and emotional learning, adding subtitles in Ukrainian, and providing accompanying worksheets that were also translated into Ukrainian. Materials on communicating with parents on developing social-emotional competencies in their children were also produced, including sample letters to parents in Ukrainian.

Wieslawa, 56, has been teaching for 25 years and works in a large school in Mazovia. She enrolled on the course because she was worried about her lack of experience in this field and concerned about her students' mental health. It has given her more confidence, she says, and has taught her how to deal with the trauma experienced by children from Ukraine.

Headteacher Urszula, 60, from Warmian-Masurian, says "I will use the knowledge I gained from the recent trainings to better plan educational activities in my school. Thanks to this programme I have gained confidence that less is more."



Children attend class at one of three schools that teach the Ukrainian curriculum, set up by Save the Children's local partner, Unbreakable Ukraine Foundation, to help refugee children continue their education whilst adjusting to life in Poland

AT A GLANCE

POPULATION: **2.5 MILLION**
(2021)

693,000

BORDER CROSSINGS
(as of 15 November 2022)

95,000 REFUGEES

from Ukraine currently registered in Moldova
(as of 15 November 2022)

Male: 41%, female: 59%, Other groups, children 61%

38% REFUGEES living with host families*
34% REFUGEES living in reception/transit centres*

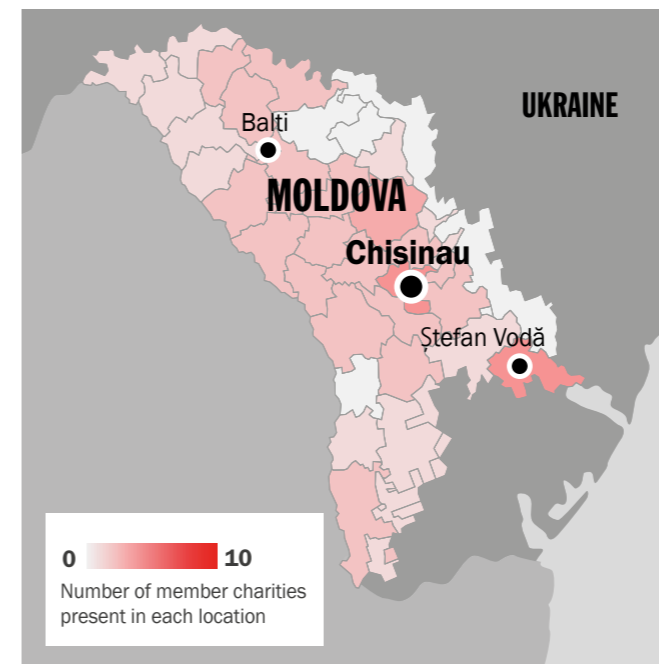
* Data from UNHCR (2022) Lives on hold: profile and intentions of refugees from Ukraine. Data not necessarily representative of the whole refugee population

MOLDOVA

Moldova remains one of the poorest countries in Europe. Economic, social and political inequalities mean that people do not share the same access to power and justice, quality education, the labour market, health services and utilities.

According to UNHCR, Moldova has received the highest number of Ukrainian refugees per capita. Some 95% of refugees, who are mostly women and children, are hosted by Moldovan families or are living in host communities. The Moldovan government set up 90 accommodation centres across the country, providing hot meals for refugees as well as beds. These have proved to be an enormous burden on both municipal and government budgets, especially as poverty and inflation rates are predicted to rise in Moldova. As well as facing protection risks such as gender-based violence and sexual abuse and exploitation, refugee women also face obstacles in terms of integration into the labour market and economic autonomy, as gender roles in Moldova can be different from what women in Ukraine are used to. Priority needs are cash, employment and accommodation. The humanitarian context inside Moldova continues to change rapidly as it is highly dependent on the evolving conflict across the border.

HOW WE HELPED



Phase 1 confirmed budget	6 month expenditure
£4,036,012	£3,571,844

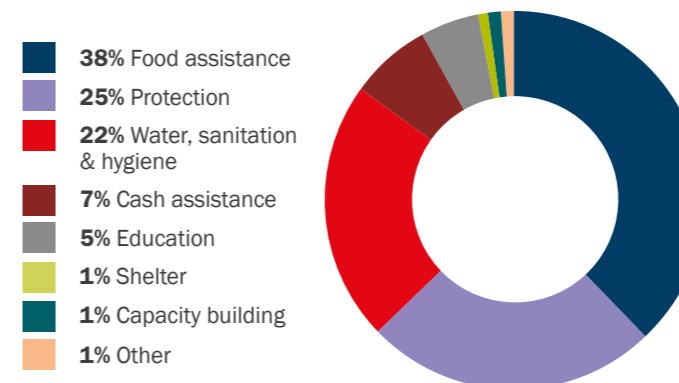
18% DEC's contribution to member charities' overall response to the crisis in Moldova

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

10 LOCAL/NATIONAL NGOs
£1,382,139 spent by local/national NGOs

MOLDOVA: EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR

6 month expenditure: 3 March – 31 August 22



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

172,100 PEOPLE

RECEIVED HOT MEALS AND FOOD PACKAGES

5,200 PEOPLE benefitted from **cash assistance** to meet their basic needs

27,400 PEOPLE benefitted from **hygiene kits** containing items such as mattresses, towels, clothes and washing powder

600 SCHOOLCHILDREN received backpacks containing **educational materials**

6,600 PEOPLE received **mental health and psychosocial support**
3,700 PEOPLE received legal assistance from **mobile legal helpdesks**



A social worker plays with Alina, 3, at a child-friendly space in a refugee centre in Chisinau, where the DEC-funded mobile teams of Plan International and CNPAC deliver psychological support to refugees



Malina aged 12 (r) takes part in a DEC-funded educational activity at a refugee centre in Chisinau, supported by Plan International and the National Centre for the Prevention of Child Abuse Moldova (CNPAC)



Ukrainian refugees wait in line to receive DEC-funded food and hygiene kits at a warehouse run by a DEC member charity's local partner

HOW WE HELPED: HYGIENE SUPPLIES

Good hygiene is not only important in preventing the spread of disease and helping to keep people healthy. Being able to shower, clean your teeth and wash your clothes also helps to maintain dignity and keep up morale. DEC member charities and their partners supplied toiletry packages to Ukrainian refugees at transit and border reception centres and to those living with host families across Moldova. Packages included soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant and nail scissors. As poverty rates are relatively high in Moldova, these items were also distributed to vulnerable Moldovan families. Member charities took into consideration the gender and age needs of families, for example by including razors for men, sanitary products for women, and nappies and wipes for babies.

They also supplied vulnerable refugee and host families with other essential household items such as toilet paper and washing powder, and sometimes personal items such as underwear and socks. Instead of goods in-kind, refugees and vulnerable Moldovan families sometimes received vouchers which they could exchange at a local supermarket chain.

With DEC funds, cleaning products were supplied to government-run accommodation centres and public buildings housing refugees. Items included bleach, floor mops and plastic buckets. To meet the specific needs of older people, DEC member charities supplied assistive devices such as toilet seat supports and shower seats, as well as walking canes, crutches and wheelchairs.

Anna, 30, left her home in Dnipro, Ukraine, to seek safety in Chisinau with her 16-month-old daughter. "I'd never been to Moldova before, it was just a quick decision to go anywhere as soon as possible," she says. Every 10 days she picks up toiletries, nappies and a food package from a DEC-funded project.

“The nappies are a huge help as we don't have much money and nappies cost a lot and you get through them so quickly!”

Anna, 30, from Dnipro, Ukraine



Ukrainian refugees, Anna, and her one-year-old daughter, Maria, collect a DEC-funded food and hygiene kit every ten days containing fresh produce and essentials

© Andreea Campeanu/DEC

HUNGARY

Though ethnically homogenous, Hungary is home to a sizeable population of minority peoples. The Roma are the country's largest ethnic group and often face discrimination, societal exclusion and poverty. DEC member charities have also found that the public discourse has often been unwelcoming towards refugees.

In late February 2022, large numbers of Ukrainian refugees began to cross the border into Hungary. They were referred to short-term accommodation in government-run facilities or with volunteer networks. Most of those who remained in the country have stayed in and around Budapest, because of the wider availability of opportunities and assistance. However due to the ongoing economic crisis and soaring inflation, finding affordable housing has been a significant challenge. Hungary continues to have an open border policy for entry of Ukrainians and is both a transit and destination country. While applications for temporary protection continue, there has been a noticeable slowdown in numbers of applicants.

AT A GLANCE

POPULATION: 9 MILLION
(2021)

17 human icons, with the last one being a person with a walking stick and an arrow pointing right.

1.7 MILLION

17 human icons.

BORDER CROSSINGS

(as of 15 November 2022)

31,000 REFUGEES

from Ukraine currently registered in Hungary

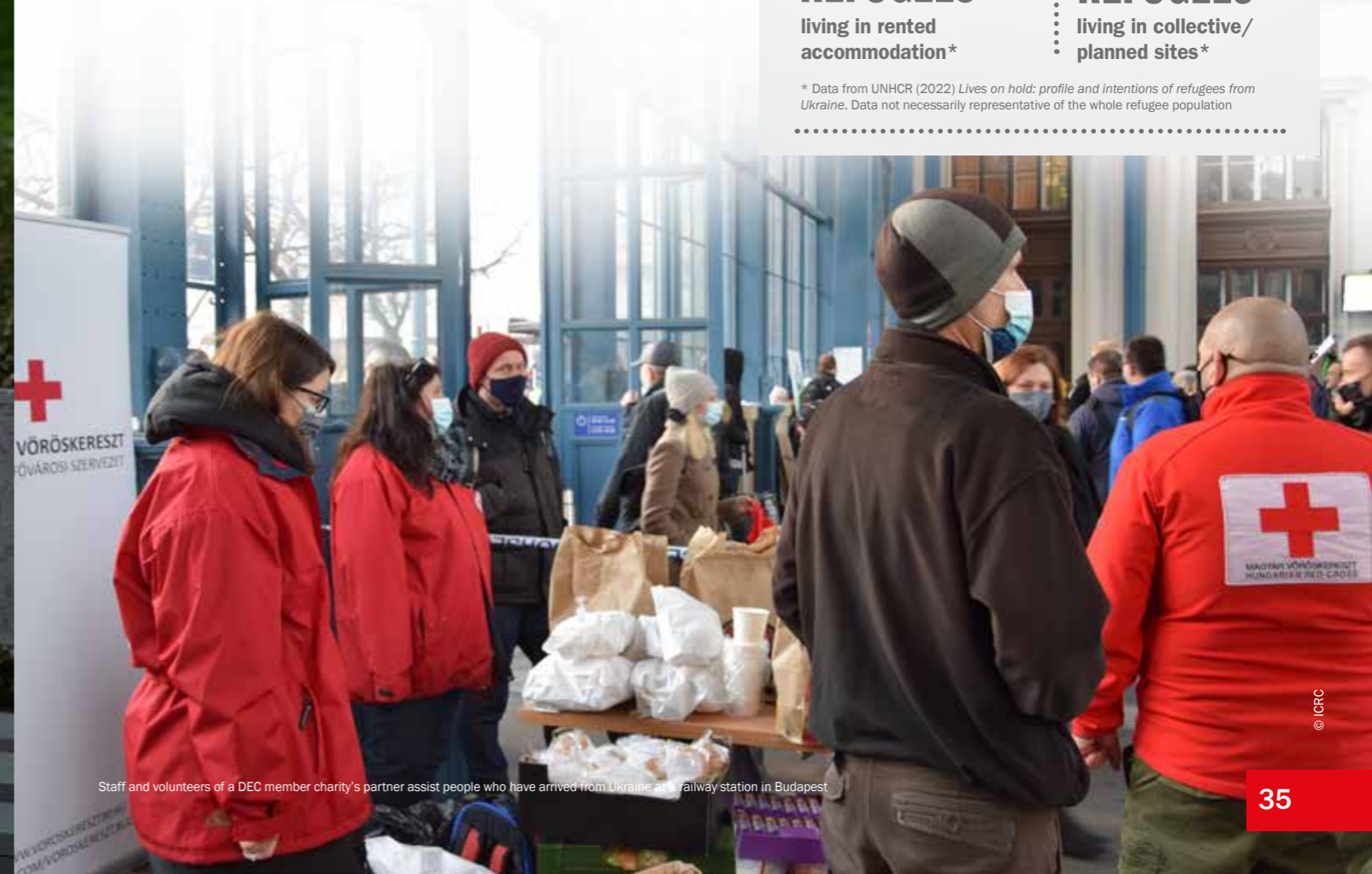
(as of 15 November 2022)

Women and children: 69%

41% REFUGEES living in rented accommodation*

31% REFUGEES living in collective/planned sites*

* Data from UNHCR (2022) Lives on hold: profile and intentions of refugees from Ukraine. Data not necessarily representative of the whole refugee population



Staff and volunteers of a DEC member charity's partner assist people who have arrived from Ukraine at a railway station in Budapest

© ICRF

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



In Hungary, the staff and volunteers of a DEC member charity's local partner prepare parcels containing bedding and hygiene items for people arriving from Ukraine



RECEIVED PROTECTION AND RIGHTS-RELATED INFORMATION AND SERVICES

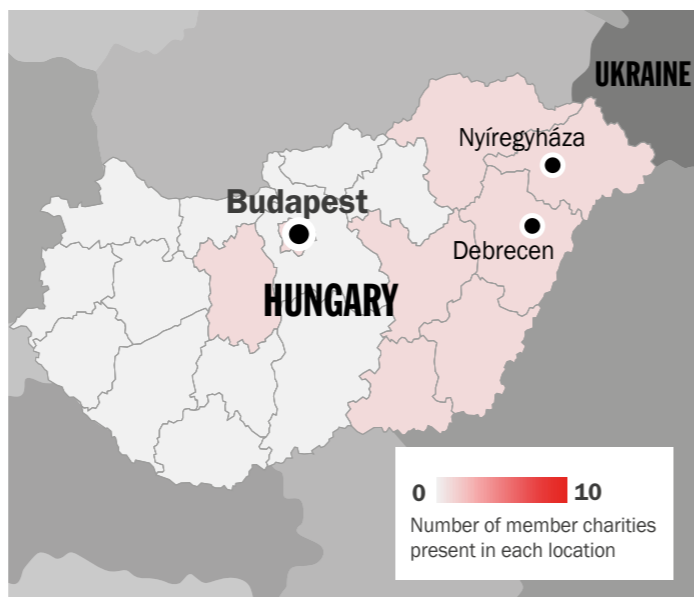
1,000 PEOPLE received essential household items such as blankets, sheets and towels

3,700 PEOPLE benefitted from cash assistance to meet their basic needs

4,000 PEOPLE benefitted from hygiene kits, including sanitary towels and incontinence pads

1,000 PEOPLE received shelter support

HOW WE HELPED



Phase 1 confirmed budget	6 month expenditure
£1,712,680	£1,599,912

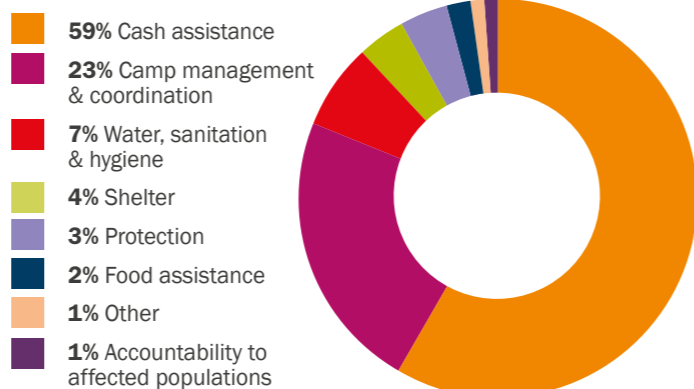
100% DEC's contribution to member charities' overall response to the crisis in Hungary

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

2 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

HUNGARY: EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR

6 month expenditure: 3 March – 31 August 22



HOW WE HELPED: PROTECTING VULNERABLE PEOPLE

As in other countries receiving Ukrainian refugees, the vast majority of arrivals were women and children. During the early months of the crisis, protection efforts in Hungary focused on setting up safe spaces for women and children at strategic points, for example near the Berehove border crossing, which provided 24 hour support to 6,400 refugees. This included hot meals and basic essentials such as toiletries, as well as a place to rest, transportation and information on services for refugees. In Budapest's Liszt Ferenc airport, a DEC-supported child-friendly play area reached 6,000 refugee children, while a safe space set up in a large conference and sports arena provided services to 6,000 refugees.

As the flow of refugees into Hungary lessened, DEC member charities and their partners switched their focus to longer-term protection issues, such as providing psychosocial support for mothers and their children. This included referrals to psychologists and social workers, interpreter services, outdoor activities and therapies. DEC funds also supported summer camps for children, which provide activities for them as well as some respite for parents.

Anastasia volunteers at a summer camp in a high school where she teaches children arriving from all over Ukraine. "While the children are at the day camp, the parents can look for work because they have to support their families," she says. "Our main goal is to take the burden of looking after the children off their shoulders. For the children, it's very important to create a relaxed atmosphere, to put smiles on their faces by letting them play with other kids of their own age, so that they can forget what they saw at home."

Lev, aged 11, who fled Kyiv with his family, attends the summer camp. "What I really like about the camp is the sweets, the interesting games, the excursions and the dancing. I am also very happy that we are learning Hungarian and a lot about Hungary and Budapest as well."



Children take part in DEC-funded activities at a summer camp for refugee children in Budapest, supported by DEC member charity Christian Aid

“Our main goal is to take the burden of looking after the children off their shoulders. For the children, it's very important to create a relaxed atmosphere, to put smiles on their faces by letting them play with other kids of their own age, so that they can forget what they saw at home”

Anastasia, volunteer



Children take part in DEC-funded activities at a summer camp for refugee children in Budapest, supported by DEC member charity Christian Aid

CHALLENGES ACROSS THE RESPONSE

Marginalised groups including the LGBTQ+ community, Roma people, third country nationals and people living with disabilities found it more difficult to access services and support in some countries because of discrimination. The Roma community in particular faced unfair treatment from private landlords, government-run shelters, host community members, and even their own Ukrainian co-nationals. Partner staff and volunteers took a firm stance to ensure no discriminatory behaviour was adopted in their shelters and centres. One partner advocated on behalf of individual refugees on a case-by-case basis, challenging the behaviour of landlords and shelter managers.

DEC member charities sometimes had difficulty in tracing people taking part in cash assistance programmes, as they tended not to stay in border areas where they had been registered but to move to the capital or larger towns. In one cash assistance programme in Poland, this was the main reason why some clients didn't cash their second or third grants. To address this, last-minute checks were made on selected families, and DEC member charities who had partnered with local social services departments were able to update information using their internal systems.

Without recognised forms of ID, registering for services has proved difficult for some displaced people and refugees. Many DEC member charities partnered with MoneyGram to disburse cash grants, but some branches in Poland would not accept ID documents in the Cyrillic alphabet, including all Ukrainian 'oldbook' passports.

Attempted fraud has occasionally been an issue. Through its real-time monitoring and data management system on the border between Romania and Ukraine, a DEC member charity noticed a high number of new self-registrations for its cash assistance programme. More than 1,000 Ukrainians, mostly from Chernivtsi on the border, had entered Romania specifically to register and had then immediately returned to Ukraine. Within 72 hours, self-registration for people from that area had been disabled and GPS technology was used to create a virtual geographic boundary to prevent further registrations. People outside this geofenced area near the border were still able to apply as normal. After discussions with the government, it was agreed that an additional layer of verification would be added to ensure that claimants were actually residing in Romania.



Refugees from Ukraine, Victoria, 83, and Valery, 72, receive DEC-funded cash vouchers through a local partner of Age International in central Moldova

© Andreea Campeanu/DEC

IMPROVING HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME DELIVERY

ADJUSTING WAYS OF WORKING

The DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal has raised over £407 million as of January 2023, making it the DEC's second-largest appeal to date. Though the DEC has managed other multi-country responses in the past, the level of funding, the large number of partners and projects and the difficulty of working in a rapidly changing conflict area has created a very different level of complexity. From the outset, the DEC took a more flexible approach to reflect this reality, balancing the need to deliver rapid emergency assistance with programming that builds resilience and takes longer to deliver.

This response has built on learning from two previous large-scale appeals: the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, the largest ever DEC appeal; and the 1999 Kosovo crisis, which was the biggest appeal that the DEC had had up to that point and was, like Ukraine, in response to a conflict in Europe. The Boxing Day tsunami response serves as a cautionary tale for the aid sector. While the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition found that overall, the international aid effort reduced suffering, it concluded that the response did not achieve the potential offered by the level of funds received. This view was echoed in a report on the Kosovo crisis, which also warned that the principles and standards that guide humanitarian response must not be compromised by the urgent need to disburse resources. It recommended extending the time period during which record levels of funding can be spent.

As it was apparent from the very beginning that the Ukraine crisis would be protracted, the response duration was increased from the standard two years to at least three, with the possibility to extend further if necessary. DEC member charities were consulted on how best to plan for the second phase of the response, given the rapidly changing context. The consensus was to split the second phase into two parts of 12 and 18 months respectively, allowing member charities

to plan for shorter, more manageable periods of time in what remains a fluid context.

In the early months of the response, many DEC member charities were stretched as they established a presence in affected countries or set up new partnerships while delivering urgent humanitarian assistance. The DEC took several steps to minimise the bureaucratic burden on them. Member charities were no longer required to conduct a due diligence process with new partners if the latter had already received funding from another DEC member charity, and had completed a due diligence process that satisfied DEC requirements. The DEC also created more flexibility in terms of reporting requirements, for example by adjusting timelines and shortening reporting templates, while still providing the necessary accountability for the funds used.

More flexibility was introduced on where funding could be spent. As millions of people arrived in one location and then quickly moved on elsewhere, member charities were allowed to add new countries of operation at the three- and six-month stages of planning. The DEC relaxed some rules on how funding had to be spent, so that, for example, cash vouchers procured during the first phase of the response could be distributed during the second phase. Member charities were given more time to spend their allocation without the risk of the DEC clawing back and reallocating their funding. The DEC has adapted its funding allocations so that member charities with higher capacity to support the areas of greatest need in Ukraine are able to access additional funds.

Finally, given the sometimes chaotic environment of the first few months of the response, the real-time response review – normally carried out during the third or fourth months of a DEC-funded response – was postponed until months seven and eight so that it was not an additional burden on local staff.



Refugees from Ukraine currently living in a host community sign papers in order to receive DEC-funded food and hygiene kits provided by Action Against Hunger and Comunitas in east Moldova

© Andreea Campeanu/DEC

SUPPORTING HOST COMMUNITIES

DEC member charities have reported that some refugee hosting communities are growing tired of the humanitarian response, and there is a perception among some of unequal assistance. There are pockets of poverty in Poland, Hungary and Romania but it is particularly acute in Moldova, where many lower-income families are dependent on pensions and social assistance. The arrival of thousands of refugees, 95% of whom either live with local families or in their communities, has put additional pressure on this already vulnerable population.

To ensure their needs were also met, member charities have supported host communities alongside refugees, working closely with local social services to identify the most vulnerable. Single-parent families, older people, pregnant and breastfeeding women, orphaned children and people with disabilities or chronic diseases were prioritised. Assistance included cash grants, hot meals, food parcels, personal hygiene kits containing items such as soap and shampoo, baby items such as nappies, and protection services.

DEC member charities also supported events to promote social cohesion between refugees and host communities. In Romania, for example, these included children's summer camps, sports and recreation activities, concerts and art festivals, drama clubs and cooking workshops. English and Romanian language courses were also delivered to both adults and children. Child-friendly spaces were supported in Moldova, where sessions were held for children from both the refugee and host communities. Activities included games, songs, crafts and contests, giving children the opportunity to make friends with each other.

With DEC funds, bursaries were awarded to 20 journalists in Romania to enable them to cover the stories of Ukrainian families across five counties. They produced and disseminated refugee portraits and stories within local media and online; ran community fundraising campaigns to engage local donors; organised public debates on humanitarian aid; issued press and video releases on the crisis; and published stories about the dreams and hopes of Ukrainian refugees and their children.

ADAPTIVE PROGRAMMING

The DEC provided a flexible source of funds that allowed its member charities to adapt their responses quickly when circumstances required, addressing the needs that communities said were most relevant. Thirteen DEC member charities are now working in Ukraine, three more than originally planned. Some of the needs in neighbouring countries have not transpired in the way or at the scale that was first expected, which has freed up funds to spend inside Ukraine. After plans for the first six months of the response were submitted, an additional £8 million was programmed in Ukraine for that period, including more than £1 million that had been initially budgeted for Moldova that was used to implement new cash programming in Ukraine.

As the context began to change, so did DEC member charities' response. When the flow of refugees into Poland began to ease and many transition centres were phased out, food support that had been earmarked

for these centres was then switched to the reception centres that remained open. In Moldova, the population in refugee accommodation centres had become more stable by May, and the need for psychological first aid was less pressing. Instead, DEC funds were used to provide more in-depth mental health and well-being support for children and their caregivers. A parenting programme for young children looked at how to set boundaries with love and respect, while a course for adolescents taught them how to build resilience against sexual abuse and exploitation.

Plans were also adapted as a result of feedback from affected communities. For example, after a new needs analysis and requests from refugees at some reception centres in Poland, cash vouchers and food were provided with DEC funds instead of relief kits as originally planned.



Volunteers Tatiana and Janna wait for refugees to collect DEC-funded food and hygiene kits at a distribution warehouse run by a local partner in Moldova

REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

DEC member charities adjusted logistics and supply chains to reduce the carbon footprint of their interventions, for example by buying goods locally and using cotton bags or cardboard boxes to distribute food and hygiene kits. They also supported partners to develop local procurement strategies, hiring a logistician in Ukraine to deliver training on this issue. Local suppliers were asked to minimise their environmental impact: in Moldova, a DEC member charity worked with catering companies that supplied meals for refugees to plan the most efficient delivery routes, so that delivery costs per km were kept to a minimum. Staff travelled by train where possible, and international flights were minimised.

DEC funds were used to support a group of small-scale farmers in Ukraine to provide food for refugee and displaced women and children in both Ukraine and Romania. As the farmers use agroecological methods, this is an environmentally friendly approach to providing much-needed access to fresh and nutritious food.

The project also supported Ukrainian farmers who had struggled to sell their products through their usual channels because of market disruption.

Providing refugees and displaced people with cash rather than goods such as food or clothing is an effective way of reducing the carbon footprint of aid operations, as well as increasing their efficiency. As a result, programmes became less dependent on international and regional supply chains that have numerous intermediaries, such as transporters, distributors and sellers. The use of cash played an important part in the DEC's response to the crisis (see pages 12 and 28).

Some DEC member charities analysed environmental and climate risks at the start of a project and put in place measures to mitigate them. However, due to the nature and urgency of this emergency, it was challenging to systematically integrate environmental considerations across all partners and activities. This is being taken forward with partners in the next phase of the response.



Aliona, who is a social worker for CNPAC, gives Trympka toys to children from Ukraine at a child friendly space at a refugee center in Chisinau, Moldova

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

These are an integral part of DEC-funded programmes, enabling member charities to track the progress of their interventions, discover any unintended consequences, make adjustments and assess their impact on vulnerable people.

During the last six months, the DEC Secretariat (supported by a steering group made up of member representatives), commissioned several studies for the purpose of learning and improvement. The first round of a community perception study, 'Bringing people's perceptions and lived experiences into monitoring and evaluation of the regional Ukraine response', has been undertaken and results have been shared with DEC member charities. In addition, an external real-time review was undertaken during October and November, with field visits to Ukraine and Poland, and remote data collection for Moldova, Romania and Hungary. Preliminary findings and learning workshops have taken place with DEC member charities and final reports are due to be published in December 2022. Both these initiatives are designed to support member charities (individually and collectively) to reflect on the findings and make positive adjustments on the ground.



Firefighters help refugees in Vama Siret on the Ukraine-Romania border



A school gym provides shelter for refugees from Ukraine, where support from CAFOD through Caritas Poland provided 80 beds, food and other aid

SAFEGUARDING

DEC member charities have robust safeguarding policies, procedures and mechanisms in place to protect the people with whom they work. These outline unacceptable behaviour, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and the actions that will be taken to investigate allegations, support victims and discipline perpetrators, including referring them to the relevant authorities.

In some DEC-funded programmes, a safeguarding specialist was recruited to accompany local partners in-country and support the development of safeguarding systems and training materials for them and staff, as well as guiding them on developing their own safeguarding reporting channels and policies. Partner staff were also trained on tools and methodologies that can be used to identify protection risks and needs with and from refugees and displaced people, as well as an overview of safe identification and referrals approaches and pathways.



Refugees from Ukraine Victor and Elena receive DEC-funded cash vouchers through a local partner in central Moldova



Mothers from Ukraine, (l-r) Irina and Silvia, take part in a group support session run by social workers of Plan International and CNPAC's mobile support teams

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Building capacity in the region

Providing appropriate training and support enables humanitarian workers to respond more effectively to crises and is key to supporting a more localised response. In May 2022, a DEC member charity and its partners launched an online Response Learning Hub, which includes specially developed e-learning modules and other digital resources designed to upskill those working on the response. Resources on essential operational and technical topics such as leadership, resource mobilisation, programme development, people management, performance and well-being are available in English, Arabic, French, Spanish and Polish. There are plans to translate modules into additional languages including Ukrainian and Romanian.

DEC funds were used to develop four micro-learning resources, the first in a series of 'pocket guides' designed to be either printed out or used on a phone. They cover logistics and needs assessment, accountability, and the Core Humanitarian Standards. Fourteen humanitarian micro-learning animation videos were also translated into Polish, Ukrainian and Romanian. A DEC member charity partnered with The MHPSS Collaborative, a global platform for research and advocacy in mental health and psychosocial support, to curate a collection of resources that are specific to the needs of children and families in the context of the emergency in Ukraine. The Sphere standards – a set of principles and minimum standards in technical areas of humanitarian response – are currently being translated into Ukrainian, Polish, Slovakian and Romanian. This will be completed in 2023.

To enable leaders of local humanitarian organisations to become coaches and mentors, a DEC member charity worked with Coach Mentoring Ltd and Leeds Beckett University, thus creating a more scalable, sustainable, and robust approach to driving change.

Strengthening local humanitarian response

The DEC commissioned a scoping exercise to identify bottom-up approaches to accelerate localisation in the Ukraine Humanitarian Response. The scoping exercise sought feedback from local and national entities implementing humanitarian response activities in Ukraine to understand the gaps, needs and opportunities to support and strengthen local humanitarian action in the DEC response.

The review identified several areas of existing good practice in the DEC response in Ukraine that support local partners. This includes multi-year, flexible funding, tracking spending to local partners, the harmonised reporting template and allowing due diligence passporting. The DEC secretariat will work with member charities to consider how the recommendations for future actions can be put into practice to ensure that local partner organisations' key role in the response is supported.



© DEC/Andreea Campeanu
David*, aged 8, plays a game with Nadejda, a social worker of Plan International and CNPAC's mobile support teams

Regional safeguarding hub

Refugees and people displaced within Ukraine face many safeguarding and protection risks, such as sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment at border crossings and in places where they access services or find accommodation. The risks are particularly high for children, women, older people, and people with disabilities. To reduce this risk, the DEC funded the establishment of a Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub for Eastern Europe. It aims to support any organisation working in the international aid sector to strengthen their safeguarding policies and practice, with a focus on local and national organisations. It covers issues such as child safeguarding; safe communications; data collection and storage; communication and portrayal of refugees; and discrimination by service providers towards stigmatised groups.

Work on the Hub's online platform began in May 2022, bringing together high-quality guidance, tools, and research on safeguarding. Launched in English in June, it is now available in Ukrainian, Russian, Polish, and Romanian. It links clearly with Child Hub, a child protection website with 20,000 members that promotes continuous improvement of child protection practices and policies in south-east Europe, which will help to drive traffic to the Hub's platform.

Communication with disaster-affected communities (CDAC)

The communication environment in Ukraine is very complex, conducted in multiple languages through a variety of channels and between a wide range of local, national and international humanitarian organisations. In July 2022, the CDAC network (of which some DEC member charities are members) initiated a project on bridging the gap between local and international responders in Ukraine. The purpose of the project is to integrate local skills and experience in communication and community engagement with the international humanitarian response. A quarterly snapshot report on activities, trends and analysis of communication and community engagement is being developed and an online portal for communications tools has been set up. Core technical guidance is being translated into local languages and training is planned over the next 12 months. To date, 75 senior staff involved in coordination and communications have been trained.



© Kasia Strek/DEC
Galyna* and her husband Krystian* sit in their room at the shelter in a church on the outskirts of Lviv, Ukraine

* Name changed to protect identity

FUNDRAISING FOR THE UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

The UK public has responded to the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal with extraordinary generosity. The appeal has raised more than **£407 million** since it was launched, making it the second-largest in the DEC's history. The speed with which individuals, communities and business across the UK responded to the appeal set a new Guinness World Record for the most amount of money raised by an online campaign in one week.



The DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal press launch: Bethan Lewis, Head of Disaster Risk Management at Plan International; Saleh Saeed, CEO of the DEC; Andrew Morley, President and CEO of World Vision International

The appeal was announced in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister on 2 March and launched with films on 3 March following the news on national broadcasters. Actors Adrian Lester and Kit Harrington presented appeals on the BBC and ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 and Sky respectively, while appeals on commercial radio were voiced by David Tennant. Actors Simon Pegg and Hugh Bonneville made social media videos and many other public figures supported the appeal on social media. Members of the Royal Family including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Majesty King Charles III made generous donations.

More than £288 million was donated directly to the DEC, including £25 million matched by the UK Government, the largest ever commitment made to a DEC appeal through UK Aid Match. The appeal total includes a further £119 million raised by DEC member charities from their own supporters using DEC co-branding.



FUNDRAISING IN THE COMMUNITY

The Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal saw an inspiring array of fundraising efforts from individuals, communities and businesses. From bake sales to choral concerts, sponsored cycle rides to art fairs, the DEC is sincerely grateful to all those who organised their friends, families and local communities to show support for those affected by this devastating conflict.

In May 2022, a team of 10 cyclists, including former professional footballer Sylvain Distin, started out on an epic challenge to cycle from Sandbanks, UK to St.Tropez, France in just 10 days. The challenge saw the team collectively riding over 2,000km per week in preparation for the feat and raised almost £22,000 for the appeal.

The appeal was also supported by major UK arts and sporting institutions, including the Royal Opera House, the Royal National Theatre, the Southbank Centre, Sadler's Wells, and Glyndebourne Opera, the Ambassadors Theatre Group, the Football Association and England Football team, English Premier League football clubs, and at the Six Nations.

SUPPORT FROM UK BUSINESSES

The Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal received significant support from a wide range of UK businesses – including from our committed Rapid Response Network of corporate partners. Activities included making grants, donating proceeds from sale of products, employee fundraising, opening innovative new fundraising channels for customers to give to the appeal, multi-channel marketing campaigns, and significant pro bono support. Most notably, the DEC partnership with NatWest Group raised £10 million and won a Corporate Engagement Award for Most Effective One-Off Campaign. We are extremely grateful to our Rapid Response Network and all businesses that supported this appeal.

The Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal also received significant support from trusts and foundations, both existing supporters of DEC appeals and those new to the DEC. In the first six months of the appeal, support from trusts and foundations totalled more than £15 million. This is an incredible outcome for a DEC appeal and we are very grateful to all trusts and foundations that supported this appeal.



CONCERT FOR UKRAINE



On 29 March 2022, the Concert for Ukraine brought together a host of stars for a two-hour performance to raise funds for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Broadcast live on ITV, STV, and on Global radio stations Capital and Heart, the Concert for Ukraine featured artists such as Ed Sheeran, Camila Cabello, Paloma Faith, Gregory Porter, Emeli Sandé, Nile Rodgers and Chic, and Ukrainian singer and former Eurovision winner Jamala. The evening included moving readings of refugees' testimonies by Tamsin Greig and Eddie Marsan, films from Ukraine's borders with Mel Giedroyc and Robert Rinder, and a video diary from an aid worker inside Ukraine.

An incredible £13.4 million was raised on the night for the appeal from public donations, including the proceeds from advertising and ticket sales. In the UK, 3.6 million people tuned in to watch the event, organised by Livewire Pictures. It was also broadcast on Irish and Australian television to support appeals there, as well as Ukrainian television, with social media posts describing people watching the show in bomb shelters.

Camila Cabello and Ed Sheeran perform during a Concert for Ukraine at Resorts World Arena

NEXT STEPS

Drones strikes, missiles and shelling are still widespread across Ukraine as the conflict continues. Schools remain closed in the face of persistent air strikes and explosions. The damage to Ukraine's critical infrastructure, particularly energy supplies, has had a significant impact on families. Hundreds of towns and villages have recently lost power, particularly in north-eastern Sumska and central Dnipro. The government has repeated its call for people to restrict their use of electricity, especially during peak hours. By late October 2022, the UN estimated that 17.7 million people required humanitarian assistance.

The main priority for humanitarians operating in the country is to prepare millions of people for the harsh winter ahead. The challenge is significant as much of the country struggles without basic necessities such as electricity, and in some places, water. The ongoing destruction of homes and buildings continues to drive displacement and need.

The second phase of the DEC-funded response began on 1 September 2022 and will run until 28 February 2025. This will allow DEC member charities to continue providing the help that people need now, as well as establish programmes to support them as they try to rebuild their lives in the months ahead.

“ I have huge concerns for what is going to happen over the winter. We are not going to be able to cover all of the needs ”

Denise Brown, UN Resident Coordinator in Ukraine,
18 October 2022

Almost half of planned expenditure in the second phase of the response will be used to support affected people in Ukraine. DEC member charities are planning to provide:

- cash grants to cover immediate and longer-term needs
- items to help people prepare for winter, such as heaters, winter clothing and appropriate shoes
- food assistance to affected people in private accommodation and at collective centres
- support with temporary housing
- professional training to enable people to earn a living again

In Romania, DEC member charities are planning to provide:

- expenses for accommodation through privately rented flats and household furniture
- food parcels and hot meals in shelters
- support to the Romanian government and UNICEF with registration of Ukrainian refugee children
- training frontline workers such as teachers on child protection and gender-based violence
- setting up digital learning centres, running back-to-school campaigns, language classes, catch-up classes, and supporting internet connectivity

In Poland, DEC member charities are planning to provide:

- cash assistance
- small grants to help people find work
- legal assistance on employment rights
- vocational, technical and social skills training to integrate refugees into the Polish labour market, as well as small business grants
- funds to set up digital learning centres, teacher training and language training

In Moldova, DEC member charities are planning to provide:

- cash grants to enable people to prepare for winter
- psychosocial support to children and young people, their caregivers and frontline workers
- skills for employment training
- legal assistance, counselling and representation through stationary and mobile teams
- support to develop a podcast on mental health support for adolescents addressing issues associated with war and conflict

In Hungary, DEC member charities are planning to provide:

- cash grants to community groups so that they can support refugees in their area
- supporting refugees to meet their basic needs and integrate into Hungary
- training, mentoring and accompaniment for partner staff to strengthen emergency programmes

The following sources were used in this report: OCHA, Ukraine Situation Report, 16 November 2022; OCHA, Ukraine Humanitarian Impact, Situation Report, 2 March 2022; UNHCR, '1 million refugees have fled Ukraine in a week'; OCHA, Humanitarian Impact Situation Report, 8 March 2022; UN, 'Secretary-General's remarks to launch the flash appeal for Ukraine', 1 March, 2022; UN, Government of Ukraine – United Nations Partnership Framework 2018–2022; UNICEF, Ukraine Vulnerability: Regional Aspects, May 2020; OCHA, Humanitarian Response Plan: Ukraine, February 2022; IOM, Ukraine Internal Displacement Report, Round 1, Round 2, Round 3, 2022; World Bank Data Bank, Population, total – Poland, Romania, Moldova, Hungary; UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, Ukraine Refugee Situation; World Bank, Country Partnership Framework for Romania for the period FY19-FY23, 2018; UNHCR, Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation, Romania, July 2022; World Bank, Country Partnership Framework for Poland for the period FY19-24; UN, Common core document forming part of the reports of States parties: Poland; UNHCR, 'UN expert praises generosity towards Ukrainian refugees by Poland', 28 July, 2022; UNDP, Report on Energy Poverty Assessment and Support Mechanisms in the Republic of Moldova, 2022; UNDP, Inequalities and Sustainable Human Development in Moldova, 2017; Council of Europe Advisory Committee on the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, Fifth Opinion on Hungary, May 2020.



Refugees from Ukraine crossing into Poland are supported by a local partner who provides them with food, water and shelter

DEC MEMBER CHARITIES



actionaid

ageInternational



CAFOD
Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development



CONCERN
worldwide



Save the
Children

tearfund

World Vision

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