



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

March 2, 2022

Crisis in Ukraine and Eastern Europe

Even with the lingering threat and Russian military movements in recent weeks, the escalation of violence within Ukraine on February 24th came as a shock to many. The weight of grief is palpable as the people of Central and Eastern Europe shape their humanitarian response to the crisis in Ukraine.

Experiences of Soviet occupation are living memory for many in Central and Eastern Europe. Even as our siblings in Christ organize their efforts to respond to the immediate needs of refugees fleeing Ukraine, many are understandably anxious about the possibility of what the future could bring.

We've heard as well from our Lutheran partners in Russia the grief they are experiencing. It is a grief for the violence unfolding in their name, but without their consent. It is a grief of the future, for ministries of their church and relationships with global Lutheran partners. Our siblings in Christ in Russia are facing the impact of financial sanctions and we will accompany them as they offer their witness for peace.

Accompaniment of the smaller Lutheran Churches in Central and Eastern Europe, Ecumenical and other partners has long been a regional priority for the ELCA. In this time of crisis, we accompany our partners with concrete support for their humanitarian efforts through Lutheran Disaster Response.

In collaboration with Lutheran, Ecumenical, and other partners, the ELCA is supporting efforts to address the immediate needs of refugees through creating and maintaining reception centers on the border, providing shelter for those fleeing from violence as well as pastoral care. We are supporting our partner churches in Central Europe in their efforts to create a supply chain that can bring needed goods, such as medicine and food, across the border into Ukraine. In this acute crisis, we are uniting with the varied ministries of our partners as they respond to the needs of refugees from Ukraine, who are overwhelmingly women and children, as well as offering humanitarian support for internally displaced people still within Ukraine.

The ELCA is also accompanying those who are responding to the needs of foreign nationals who were in Ukraine when the fighting began and who are trying to cross the border to safety as well as the partners who focus their ministry on providing holistic support for under-documented and undocumented individuals impacted by this violence in Ukraine.



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These include overwhelming numbers of members of Roma communities as well as non-European nationals who often face racial and ethnic discrimination. For example, the Lutheran Church in Hungary reports welcoming 100 Ugandans who crossed the border at Ukraine.

The violence in Ukraine will have long-term impacts throughout the region. It will be critical for the ELCA to continue to accompany churches and diaconal agencies as they address the trauma that accompanies violence, dislocation, and family separation. Ministering to these needs is critically important and an area of expertise within several the programs we are supporting.

Please keep our companions and partners in Central and Eastern Europe in your prayers during these turbulent times.

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland (ECACP), Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Romania (ECACR), Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Slovakia (ECACS), Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary, German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine (GELCU), and in collaboration with Lutheran World Federation (LWF), ACT Alliance, Church World Service (CWS), Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) and Phiren Amenca.



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ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response six-month response plan

Country	Organization	Activities	Amount (USD)
Poland	LWF/ ECACP	Refugees and IDPs with some cash support and emergency non-food items such as beds, mattresses, blankets, linens, food, hygiene items and dignity kits. Protection and safeguarding of vulnerable individuals and groups, psychosocial care pastoral support,	\$350,000



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		<p>gender justice and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; water sanitation & hygiene; non-food item distribution; cash-based assistance; shelter; livelihoods and education.</p> <p>Works with Red Cross to coordinate supplies into the border in Ukraine.</p>	
Ukraine	LWF/GELCU	<p>Refugees and IDPs with some cash support and emergency non-food items such as beds, mattresses, blankets, linens, food, hygiene items and dignity kits. Protection and safeguarding of vulnerable individuals and groups, psychosocial care pastoral support, gender justice and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; water sanitation & hygiene; non-food item distribution; cash-based assistance; shelter; livelihoods and education.</p> <p>Works with Red Cross to coordinate supplies into the border in Ukraine.</p> <p>Continued pastoral work with GELCU.</p>	<p>\$350,000 (\$100,000 for clergy and operation costs for six months)</p>
	ACT Alliance / Hungarian Interchurch Aid	<p>HIA launched two truckloads of non-perishable food donations from Budapest to Transcarpathia. The value of the aid consignment weighing more than 28 tons is HUF 13.7 million (EUR 40 000. Donations will be distributed by HIA in Beregovo and Uzhhorod for families forced to flee their homes due to the war.</p> <p>Scaled up the capacities of our field office in Beregovo, which will support the care of tens of thousands of refugees arriving in the border area. Due to the shortage of goods in Ukraine, HIA is continuously supplying durable food and hygiene items from Hungary. The delivery of donations and the effectiveness of the humanitarian work of the Hungarian Interchurch Aid are facilitated by signed cooperation agreement with the Governor of Transcarpathia and close cooperation with local partners.</p> <p>In addition, a humanitarian info point is being set up in Beregovo to help those arriving to the border and waiting for entering Hungary. Hot tea, food and blankets will be distributed from here together with information on shelters in Hungary.</p> <p>HIA is heading to Lviv to build partnership, to lay the ground for the new office, to recruit staff; to build up our and strengthen our local partnership network</p>	<p>\$150,000</p>



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		around Lviv we have positive response from the following partners: International Relations Department of Mayor Office of Lviv, Greek Catholic Church, OCHA local representative, UNDP local representative.	
Hungary	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary	Ministry with African Nationals and the diaconal ministry coordinating with the response for refugees and IDPs in northeast Hungary.	\$300,000
	ACT Alliance / HIA	HIA is scaling up its shelter capacities also in Hungary, in its existing institutions - in Debrecen, Miskolc and Budapest - where they can receive and help refugee families. In collaboration with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary, establish shelters according to need for refugees.	\$150,000
	Phiren Amenca	Support for Roma families in Ukraine and in bordering countries. (pending)	\$25,000
Slovakia	LWF / ECACS	Refugees and IDPs with some cash support and emergency non-food items such as beds, mattresses, blankets, linens, food, hygiene items and dignity kits. Protection and safeguarding of vulnerable individuals and groups, psychosocial care pastoral support, gender justice and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; water sanitation & hygiene; non-food item distribution; cash-based assistance; shelter; livelihoods and education.	\$150,000
Moldova	CWS	Support refugees and IDPs in the region (pending).	\$250,000
Romania	LWF/ ECACR and Evangelical Lutheran Church in Romania	Refugees and IDPs with some cash support and emergency non-food items such as beds, mattresses, blankets, linens, food, hygiene items and dignity kits. Protection and safeguarding of vulnerable individuals and groups, psychosocial care pastoral support, gender justice and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse; water sanitation & hygiene; non-food item distribution; cash-based assistance; shelter; livelihoods and education.	\$150,000
In the pipeline:			



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Czech Republic	Czech Brethren, Interdiac	Support for refugees from Ukraine (pending).	(pending)
Italy	United for Rescue, Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy;	Support for refugees from Ukraine (pending). Collaborate with PCUSA.	(pending)
TOTAL			\$1,875,000

Summary per organization:

Lutheran World Federation: \$1,000,000

ACT Alliance (HIA): \$300,000

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary: \$300,000

Phiren Amenca: \$25,000

Church World Service: \$250,000

Czech Brethren, Interdiac: (pending)

United for Rescue, Federation of Protestant Churches in Italy: (pending)