The Salvation Army Response to the Ukraine Crisis

March 17, 2022 Update

The Salvation Army has a long-standing presence in Ukraine and its neighboring countries. Because we are already part of the communities in which we serve, we are on the ground and responding immediately to the crisis. Where it is safe to serve, The Salvation Army officers have pivoted programs to provide food, clothes, blankets, and emotional and spiritual care to those who have been displaced from their homes and are seeking refuge.

Moldova

With increasing numbers of families and individuals crossing the border, The Salvation Army has been working to find accommodations for those displaced refugees. Territorial Headquarters apartments are filled with refugees. This location has become a short-term spot for refugees to get paperwork in order before moving forward to Romania or Poland.

The Salvation Army also works in coordination with the ‘Centre For Refugees Reception’ in the village of Mikhailany in the Ryshkansky district.

Romania

As tens of thousands of refugees pass through the Siret swamp in Romania, The Salvation Army emergency team offers assistance with completing documents for asylum seekers and obtaining biometric ID documents. Refugees are primarily being cared for in camps, with Salvation Army staff providing emergency services. Additionally, the team is working close with police on the border and has helped to avert three girls last week from being trafficked, a major risk as refugees flee across the border.
**Ukraine**
The Salvation Army has been able to send baby formula, diapers, blankets, and clothing to maternal hospitals in Odessa. Salvation Army officers and staff continue to serve many individuals in churches, offices, and their own homes. Many consider evacuating, but it has become too dangerous to travel. Officers and corps are reported safe and continue to have access to basic needs, however, food is becoming harder to access.

**Hungary**
The Salvation Army Switzerland, Austria and Hungary Territory is supporting the Hungary Division in their response with basic relief items and personnel from within the territory. As corps officers in Debrecen and Miskolc mobilize to help at different border posts, an emergency team is also at the border collaborating with Baptist Aid to support incoming refugees with emergency shelter and emotional and spiritual care.

**Slovakia**
The local team has been working on a plan of action in preparation for accommodation, material needs, and emotional support for incoming refugees. An emergency response team consisting of representatives from Slovakia and Czech Republic has commenced and will meet on a regular basis to assess how to provide the best support in response to the crisis.

**Russia**
The Salvation Army in Russia responds to the needs of displaced people by providing food, hygiene, and other relief items. To date there are over 60,000 displaced people in the southern part of Russia.

**Czech Republic**
The Czech Republic is already home to some 200,000 Ukrainians and therefore anticipates many refugees who will seek support from family and friends in the area. The Salvation Army has available capacity in the existing social services in the Czech Republic and stand ready to provide support.

**Poland**
A sign at the train station near the border of Poland reads “You are safe here,” as refugees are welcomed into the country. Together with the regional officers and corps officers in Warsaw, International Emergency Services were able to bring much needed supplies to a Warsaw reception center to support affected individuals and families. Partnerships such as this are proving key to meeting human needs.

**Bulgaria**
Although The Salvation Army’s presences is small, they have been immensely helpful with translation as many in Bulgaria speak Russian.

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