

SITUATION REPORT: CRISIS IN UKRAINE

March 17, 2022 | No. 2

BY THE NUMBERS

 **3.1 Million+** Fleeing to other countries

 **1.85 Million+**
Fleeing to safer places within Ukraine

 **200,000+** People without access to water

Sources: UNOCHA, Ukraine Emergency Situation Report, March 15

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Conflict in Ukraine has put millions of people in danger. As Ukrainians shelter from bomb blasts or flee their homes, many need medical attention, food, water, and basic sanitation. Civilians have been injured or killed in eastern Ukraine, the capital Kyiv, and other areas. People are sheltering underground to escape shelling from heavy artillery, rockets and airstrikes. In the combat zones, thousands of families have been cut off from water, food, electricity and fuel for days. Health facilities have sustained damage and many Ukrainians are in need of medical attention.

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) estimates that more than 3.1 million people have fled to neighboring countries, while more than 1.85 million have been displaced within Ukraine in winter temperatures. The Polish government has just passed legislation to support Ukrainian refugees in Poland, which allows them to access basic services such as healthcare, education and the right to work. The flood of refugees is putting pressure on food and other supplies in host communities.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF RESPONSE

We have committed \$3 million to respond to this crisis, and we expect to increase this amount as we secure additional funding.

Our Humanitarian Action team is working with partners to rapidly develop and implement programming based on short- and long-term needs. We are deploying additional technical staff to support our relief operations in Poland, including a team leader and a health specialist. We are also working to expand our humanitarian assistance to reach heavily affected communities and populations in Ukraine.



A young boy in the Kraków Główny Main Station after arriving from Ukraine.

Our initial response includes:

- Providing emergency cash support to Ukrainian refugees in southwestern Poland in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), Lutheran World Federation and Diakonia Germany.
- Delivering food and personal care items to Ukrainian refugees in Poland. We have provided essential supplies including milk, energy biscuits, personal hygiene products and room partition panels to St. Martin Lutheran Church in Krakow, which has established a hostel for Ukrainian women and children. We will continue to support the church to expand its relief operations.
- Shipping and distributing LWR Quilts and Care Kits in partnership with Polish Humanitarian Action. Our initial distribution includes 8,000 care kits and 7,400 quilts.

We are coordinating with local organizations to move essential supplies into Ukraine, including medical supplies. We are also developing plans to provide support for gender-based violence and protection services for women and children refugees.

We are grateful for the thousands of Lutherans across the United States whose care and generosity have made it possible for us to respond immediately. At this time, financial gifts are the number one need to assist refugees on the move.

**Until your love reaches
every neighbor.**



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