

LeSEA Global

FEED THE HUNGRY

A full life feels good.

REFUGEE

**FIELD
REPORT**

SUMMER 2022



DESPERATE TO HELP

Most of us can not comprehend the devastation brought about by war. It's not just buildings, businesses and industries that are destroyed, but the homes, the livelihoods and the families that are torn apart.

Feed The Hungry has worked with refugees for years in places like Uganda, where South Sudanese refugees have settled, or with internally displaced communities in Burkina Faso. But maybe the thing that makes the war in Ukraine so shocking is how close to home it is - all of this is happening in a developed, European country, just 1000 miles away.



Gwyn Williams
National and International
Operations Director

When, in the media, we see the atrocities being committed, we can't help but want to do something. While war shows some of the worst of humanity, over the past few months, I have seen hundreds of people in the UK so desperate to do something to help - I've been privileged to witness some of the best of humanity, as people step forward and say, "I stand with Ukraine - what can I do to help my neighbour?"

IN THIS ISSUE...



4 Gone:
The Refugee Story



7 Hand To Hand
at the NEC



14 Starting from Ground
Zero in a Forgotten Land

FEATURE



10 Driven by
Compassion

By feeding the hungry together, and delivering it in the name of Christ, you are joining with Feed The Hungry to help change people's lives for the better, for the future and for eternity.

Please consider financially supporting the work of Feed The Hungry. To donate, phone 0303 3000 484 or visit fth.org.uk/fieldreport

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GONE

THE REFUGEE STORY

Almost 5 million Ukrainian refugees have fled an unprovoked war for safety in neighbouring countries such as Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania & Moldova.

Daniel Skokan, FTH Director for the Czech and Slovakian countries, shared the story he's heard time and time again over the past three months.

"Imagine you are a father with a young family, wife and maybe 2 or 3 children. You drive them to the nearest train station. But you are on the wrong side of the country, in a dangerous part under attack, so you drive for 1.5 days to reach the safest station for your family to escape the war.

You load them onto the train, but you discover it is so full that each family is only allowed to take one suitcase in total.

You have maybe five suitcases, and now you have to pick just one.

You are about to get on the train with your family, but you are stopped. Your wife can get on, your children can get on, but you are a male under 60. You are of 'fighting age' - your country needs you to stay and fight. There is no choice, you must stay. So you go and you say goodbye.

Now, I don't know if you have ever travelled on a train for a long time, but sleeping in a train, while everybody is standing there is difficult. You have your children there, who are sad that their father is gone. You are worried about what is going on with your husband. But your little one needs the bathroom, then you need to try and sleep, but you're jam packed in a train with hundreds of other people in the same situation.

And then the train journey gets to the border. But nothing happens. You wait. You wait for hours... maybe a day, sometimes even two. Waiting.

And then, finally, you end up in some other country. They don't know exactly the language. It sounds very similar, but it's not your mother tongue. Your money is gone. Your food is gone and you have just a few things like clothing, and maybe some family pictures. It's everything in one suitcase for a three or four member family to last for three or four weeks.

But after a few days traveling, you exchange your clothes in the suitcase for something else, and quickly everything is dirty.

You don't have mattress or a pillow. You don't even have a blanket. You might not have a toothbrush or hygiene products. You remember everything that you own but it's sitting at home, not here.



Families receive resources through Feed The Hungry partners working in Eastern Europe.

And then you start thinking about your home 2000 km away. Maybe you bought it 20 years ago. You took out a mortgage, You painted it. You repaired. You painted it again. You paid it off. And then you see the news and see the horrific pictures of your home town, and you dread the thought, but fear it's probably true: I probably lost my home.

You arrived empty handed, and if you ever get to go home, you know you will have to start from scratch. You start to think what you need to build your life again... and inevitably will start to worry about your husband.



Pastor Alex Ilash, who leads WLW Church, Feed The Hungry's partner in Ukraine, distributes aid to families who are starting life from scratch.



A gentleman waits in a Ukrainian bunker. Photo: Taras Chuiko

Continued from Page 5:

'Is he safe? Will I lose him too? Is he fighting on the front lines? Is he just in the background in a support role, just building some trenches or carrying supplies around? What is he doing? Is he alive? Is he hurt? My world has turned upside down in an instant. Help! I can't do this on my own...'

This is their new reality, but this is something none of us have experienced. It is so stressful for kids and wives. Even I don't know how to grasp the situation.

This is a story that is repeated a million times.

The first day is very hard. They were standing, sometimes two days and nights outside in the rain, in like zero degrees - that means freezing temperature - without warm tea, without any blankets. They come sometimes six in a group; you have to seek supplies for a large group, which increases their parental and guardian stresses.

But are providing food and hope to them in Jesus Name.

I want to really thank our friends and supporters in the UK for your generous donations. And I would like to ask you to pray again, if God puts on your heart for some special gift, do it, please do it."

*- Pastor Daniel Skokan
Feed The Hungry Czech*



In early May, Feed The Hungry, working with The Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland, ran two days of food packing at the NEC in Birmingham as part of The Rotary's Annual National Volunteer Expo.

During the course of the two day event, over 720 boxes of food and hygiene resources were put together specifically for Ukrainian Refugees in Eastern Europe. Volunteers gave a few minutes of their time to fill each box with specific items, before sealing it and putting the box on to a pallet, ready to be shipped.



Hand To Hand boxes for Ukrainian Refugees

From the NEC, the boxes were sent to Feed The Hungry's warehouse in Warwickshire and then were delivered to our partner in Moldova.



The cost of the food for the boxes was generously donated by Rotary Clubs from around the UK. We are so grateful for the support from Rotary GB&I and all of the volunteers who helped to pack boxes.

To find out more, visit fth.org.uk/hand-to-hand

EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN EASTERN EUROPE

WHERE UKRAINIAN REFUGEES HAVE FLED

POLAND: 1,152,000

ROMANIA: 82,000

RUSSIA: 1,116,000

HUNGARY: 24,000

MOLDOVA: 86,000

SLOVAKIA: 77,000

Data from UNHCR as of 7th June 2022, rounded to nearest 1,000.

AID SENT BY FEED THE HUNGRY INTERNATIONALLY

Since the start of the Ukraine conflict, Feed The Hungry has delivered



1,526 pallets of food and resources, equating to 268,000 kg of aid, to Eastern European partners, plus over £15,000 sent to purchase resources locally.

FUTURE COMMITMENT



Besides nine lorries of resources already underway, Feed The Hungry is committing to send **20 lorry-loads of aid each month for the next 6 months** to partners working in countries that have taken in Ukrainian Refugees.

TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES:

4,816,923

as of 7th June 2022

Please continue to support Ukrainian Refugees at fth.org.uk/ukraine

DRIVEN BY COMPASSION



Resources are delivered from Feed The Hungry partner, Bread of Life, to projects supporting refugees.

While war ravages and guns and bombs destroy, the compassion that has moved the hearts of people around the world has been overwhelming.

It started with a video call on 25th February, the day after the war began. A handful of Feed The Hungry Directors and Project Partners in Eastern Europe came together online to pray and to talk about what they could do in response to the conflict

in Ukraine. At that time, no one had any idea of what was going to unfold over the following weeks and how the ripples of disruption would impact, not only Eastern Europe, but the rest of the globe.

As the call concluded, each Feed The Hungry Office and Partner knew that they needed to respond - to help those who would be affected - and that we would need to work closely together to deliver vital aid and support.

In the UK, an appeal was made for dry food, bedding and hygiene items - simple resources that families leaving Ukraine would have left behind.

The response was incredible. People around the UK were desperate to help, being moved, even shaken, by what was happening in Eastern Europe. Throughout March and April, our phones rang constantly as supporters wanted to give resources, money and even volunteer their time.

Daily, collections for resources were being made by churches, schools, organisations and the general public, which were then being dropped off at our warehouses in Leicestershire and Warwickshire.

During the first few weeks, our warehouse in Hinckley was continually being filled with donated items, which were sorted by volunteers and then sent on to a holding warehouse in Leamington Spa, which itself, had

been generously donated to Feed The Hungry to use for a few weeks in the Spring.

On 7th March, the first delivery of food arrived in Ukraine, which was split between church partners working in Kharkov and Kyiv. Resources were being sent from Czech Republic, the UK and Italy to our partners working both in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries, where refugees were pouring in.

Our partner in Romania, Bread of Life, whom we've worked with for over a decade, were well positioned with a warehouse in Northern Romania, not far from the Ukrainian border. The connection between Feed The Hungry



UK and Bread of Life was already well established, as food and resources have been regularly sent to Bread of Life to support their orphanage and feeding programmes.

Over the next few weeks, regular shipments were sent out from the UK to Romania and Moldova. Two members of staff from Feed The

Hungry were able to travel out to Romania to see first-hand the work that was being done in supporting Ukrainian refugees, and the impact that the resources being sent were having.

Gwyn Williams described the scenes he witnessed in Romania, "We were driven to Suceava Sports Hall, where the floor of the gym was covered with 250 mattresses lined up in rows, many of them already occupied. A constant stream of refugees were arriving on minibuses who had been picked up at the border and delivered to the centre by the local fire brigade.

You immediately feel the emotional tension; the confusion and the dread of people who have lost everything and want something to bring reality back into their lives. You feel emotionally and viscerally struck by their pain. We were told about a father and daughter who were shot and wounded whilst escaping and then drove for two days without stopping to reach

the border. We heard of many mothers and wives trying to communicate with their husbands, brothers and sons who had been left behind to fight. And all of this in the extreme cold of winter where the air cuts through you like a knife."

The scenes and stories in Romania are echoed throughout Eastern Europe, and it is deeply troubling.



A Ukrainian refugee sits on a mattress on the floor of a sports hall in Suceava, Romania.

Whilst this war continues, your ongoing support is bringing hope to Ukrainian refugees who have lost everything. The compassion that people in the UK and around the world have shown, and continue to show, is incredible. Let us keep standing with our brothers and sisters in Ukraine during this dark time.

To support Ukrainian Refugees, please donate at fth.org.uk/ukraine



Volunteers sort resources at a Feed The Hungry Warehouse.



STARTING FROM GROUND ZERO IN A FORGOTTEN LAND

Roger Walterhouse, Feed The Hungry International's Director of Ministry Programmes, shares about his experience of seeing a Church in a small village in Uganda grow from the ground up.

It's not easy to get to Nakwanya. From the capital city of Kampala, it's a one-hour flight and nearly five hours of driving to this town of 5,000 people in northern Uganda.

When Feed The Hungry first visited, there were only three buildings - a trading centre, a police outpost and a

brewery - surrounded by simple mud huts with a few chickens and goats wandering around. It is a place you want to drive right past.

No wonder Nakwanya is a forgotten town. There was no infrastructure to speak of, no church, no school and no medical clinic. The children we met there were malnourished, in tattered clothes, and with not a shoe to be found. It was tough to coax a smile out of them. Life was dull, even for children. The only comfort for adults is alcohol.



The community gathers in Nakwanya to see the resources that have been given to the newly established Church.

In November 2021, Feed The Hungry sent a container with 300,000 fortified rice meals to Nakwanya, and from that moment, the tide began to turn for this forgotten town.

A church was planted. A school opened for the children. A medical clinic is in the works. And villagers are receiving aid to start businesses.



Young people in Nakwanya queue to get a hot meal, provided by Feed The Hungry.

We heard the hearts of the people for a better life for their children. They want the children educated and taught about God.

You can expect to hear much more about Nakwanya in the coming months, as - with your help and our partners - Feed The Hungry continues to feed the people. In time, you will see the change that comes as the Gospel takes root. The Church which started with 50 people under a tree now meets in a new building with under the trees already has 1400 worshippers attending. Praise God!

To find out more, visit
fth.org.uk/not-forgotten

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

Please join with us as we pray for Ukraine. As we pray, we:

- Recognise God's love and power**
- Ask for protection for the vulnerable**
- Pray for disarming of weapons**
- Plead for the changing of hearts & minds**

Always begin with **worship**.

Remember who God is: He is **EI Shaddai** (Lord God Almighty); **EI Elyon** (The Most High God); **Adonai** (Lord, Master); **Yahweh** (Lord, Jehovah); **Jehovah Nissi** (The Lord My Banner); **Jehovah Raah** (The Lord My Shepherd); **Jehovah Rapha** (The Lord That Heals); **Jehovah Shammah** (The Lord Is There); **Jehovah Tsidkenu** (The Lord Our Righteousness); **Jehovah Mekoddishkem** (The Lord Who Sanctifies You); **Jehovah Jireh** (The Lord Will Provide); **Jehovah Shalom** (The Lord Is Peace); **Jehovah Sabaath** (The Lord of Hosts)

Remember, God so **loved** the world that He sent His only begotten son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Remember that God is **not distant** or uncaring. Ukrainian or Russian, all are His children and God cares for every one.

We ask for an **end to senseless violence** and needless death. We ask for instruments of death and destruction against the innocent to fail.

We pray for the **protection and safety** of all innocent children and families caught up in the conflict.

We are asking for **godly and wise voices** of counsel to encourage leaders to end the conflict.

Whether defender or invader, we plead for **salvation** for everyone involved in the combat, and that God's peace will prevail.

Amen.