



The Global Church Is Standing with Ukraine for the Long Term

Established by the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), **The Response - Ukraine Special Task Force (TRUST)** is coordinating efforts with evangelical churches in Ukraine and neighboring countries to serve the immediate and long-term needs of those affected by the war.



What's the latest situation?



7 million
internally displaced people¹



7.2 million
refugees in European countries²



13 million
stranded in affected areas³

- Fighting and shelling continue in eastern and southern Ukraine, and strikes in other areas have caused additional destruction of civilian infrastructure and a large number of civilian deaths and injuries. The civilian toll has reached 14,000 confirmed deaths since the beginning of the war.⁴
- Nearly 18 million people – 40 per cent of the country's population – need humanitarian assistance, and the situation is expected to deteriorate further in the winter months.⁵
- As villages and towns are being liberated from Russian occupation as part of Ukraine's ongoing counteroffensive, significant needs remain. Many communities still lack access to clean water, electricity, and cell service, and also face challenges with limited food supplies. The clean-up and rebuilding effort will also take some time.

What are the needs?

Humanitarian needs⁶



9.3 million people

need food and livelihood assistance



14.5 million people

need health assistance



11.2 million people

need shelter and non-food items



17.7 million people

need protection assistance and 3.7 million people at risk of gender-based violence



Economy and Infrastructure needs

- The World Bank estimates Ukraine's economy will **shrink by half** in 2022.⁷
- The war has caused **US\$108 billion in damage** to Ukraine's infrastructure.⁸
- **140,000 residential buildings and 114,700 private homes** have been destroyed.⁹
- At least **240 church buildings** have been damaged.¹⁰

Mobilising the church: Response priorities

Our partner alliances, denominations and church and ministry networks across Ukraine and neighboring countries are mobilizing to focus on the following interventions to serve people affected by the war:



Basic aid, including food, clothing, first aid and medicine



Evacuation and temporary accommodation assistance



Psychological and spiritual support



Rebuilding of damaged properties



Preparing for winter

Faith in action: Evangelical Response achievements (March to September 2022)*

Our partner networks are committed to bringing essential aid and support to those who need it most. We're grateful for the opportunity to come alongside them in this work. Here's some of what has been achieved together so far:

In Ukraine and the surrounding region



Over 65,716
staff and volunteers
mobilized



Over 2,241,693 people
received basic aid supplies



Over 380,843 people
evacuated



1,700 children
were reached in Ukraine with OpSAFE trauma care program supported by Children Mission



147 tons of food
sent to Ukraine by Bucharest Churches 22, a collaboration of 45 churches and 40 NGOs in Romania

*Latest cumulative figures from reports received from fifteen partner networks in Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia



Voices from the front Ivan Rusin

President of Ukrainian Evangelical Theological Seminary and
Deputy Bishop of the Ukrainian Evangelical Church

"99% of our faculty and staff were refugees, and our students are scattered all around the world. Our campus was shelled by Russian forces, and impacted by Russian bombs. But also, this war opened absolutely new opportunities for us in a missional sense. We had the chance to serve our nation as never before.

I am very proud to see what evangelical churches are doing right now in Ukraine. This is a unique ministry that we have.

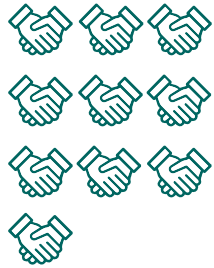
And on behalf of Ukrainian Christians, I would like to say thank you to the World Evangelical Alliance for supporting us from the first day of the war. Your support is crucial for our relief ministry in Ukraine."



[Watch full interview](#)

Read Ivan Rusin's interview in [Christianity Today](#)

TRUST partners and how we work



18 partners
in Ukraine



16 partners
outside Ukraine (Poland,
Slovakia, Romania,
Hungary, and Moldova)

...and counting

The evangelical community, with its 13,000 churches in Ukraine alone and its many parachurch ministries, is collaborating to deploy resources and services and to facilitate an outpouring of financial and practical support from the global network of Evangelicals who are standing with Ukraine.

Our partner evangelical alliances, denominations, and church and ministry networks are working closely on-the-ground together with others to bring much-needed relief and support to those affected by the Ukraine crisis. Together, we are putting our faith into action by sharing the gospel through word and deed.



Partners in Ukraine

Council of Evangelical Protestant Churches of Ukraine
Ukrainian Pentecostal Church
Ukrainian Baptist Union
Ukrainian Evangelical Churches Association
Ukrainian Adventist Union
Fellowship of Independent Churches
Salvation Church Network
Charismatic Churches of Ukraine
Union of Evangelical Reformed Churches
Word of Life Association of Churches
Save Ukraine Network
Our Heritage (Sports Movement)
Alliance for Ukraine Without Orphans
Children Mission
Ukrainian Bible Society

Slovakia

Slovak Evangelical Alliance

Romania

Romanian Baptist Union
Union of Christian Evangelical Churches
Ukraine Bucharest Churches 22
Collaboration

Hungary

Hungarian Evangelical Alliance

Moldova

Pentecostal Church of Moldova
Moldova Baptist Union

Partners in other countries

Poland

Polish Evangelical Alliance
Pentecostal Church of Poland
Church of Christ in Poland
Church of God in Poland
Baptist Church of Poland
Church of Christians of Evangelical Faith
Ukrainian Pentecostal Churches in Poland
Ukrainian Baptist Churches in Poland
Church for the City Krakow



WEA Networks working together

Responding to Tragedy Begins with the Church United



A survivor being evacuated.

“While the war in Ukraine is a tragic situation, it’s also an opportunity to strengthen unity between Christians and to develop models for long-term collaboration.”

Ruslan Maliuta is a Ukrainian Evangelical who oversees TRUST, a task force established by the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) to support and strengthen collaboration among the churches and ministries directly responding to the war. Although the WEA has not historically raised funds to respond to emergencies, established relationships and a providential connection left them well positioned to respond in Ukraine.

Yuriy Kulakevych, a leader in the Ukrainian Pentecostal Church, says Ukraine’s churches were the first to respond. While the government scrambled to mobilize defenses, it was churches that began evacuating civilians from combat zones, offering them shelter in church buildings and members’ homes. Within two weeks, many churches had exhausted their funds buying gas to transport refugees and food to feed them.

With trusting relationships already forged, existing financial agreements allowed the WEA to transfer money directly to the churches and ministries in Ukraine, while many organizations were still arranging logistics. By the fourth week of the war, the WEA had already provided \$210,000 to Ukrainian church networks.

Maliuta underscores that the WEA is a church-focused alliance with a vision beyond the immediate relief efforts.

“We want to come alongside and strengthen the Evangelical communities in Ukraine and other countries as they serve people affected by the war.”

[Read full article.](#)

Editor’s note: This article first appeared on the WEA website on August 15, 2022.

Evangelicals Discuss Strategic Collaboration at Ukraine Partnering Summit “Today for Tomorrow”

Ukrainian fortitude and resourcefulness have repeatedly shocked the world over the past six months. This is not just true of their military but the people too, and especially the Ukrainian church.

To strengthen their united voice and amplify it to the world, the Council of Evangelical Churches of Ukraine and World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) brought together leading Christians from across the region for a two-day summit, titled “Today for Tomorrow.”



Summit participants in prayer

“We had a great and fruitful time, where we were able to discuss the current situation as leaders of different Evangelical denominations,” says Victor Pavovski, Senior Bishop of the Moldovan Pentecostal Union. “The complete unity of all participants was also a visible display of how churches may be of help to needy people inside the country of Ukraine and abroad.”

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- Victor Pavovski,
Senior Bishop of the Moldovan Pentecostal Union

The summit’s participants released a [resolution](#) to highlight some of these key messages.

As Ukrainian and Central and Eastern European churches refocus on long-term needs and strategies, they have also begun planning a larger gathering for this fall. They hope to bring together a broader group of leaders, including service organizations and other ministries, with a goal to foster further collaboration and greater unity.

“We are working to identify how there can be an ongoing conversation,” Ruslan Maliuta says, “between leaders in Ukraine, leaders in neighboring countries, and globally speaking in the Church.”

[Read full article.](#)

Partners spotlight

Church for the City in Poland provides long term refuge



Children activities in KDM temporary shelter

When the war started, the Church for the City of Krakow (KDM) was a youth-oriented church in the second biggest city in Poland. When refugees began arriving in the city, located less than 250 kilometers from the Ukrainian border, the church started to receive them. At a Sunday service, the church leadership was approached by a local businessman, who offered his hotel as a temporary refugee shelter. Shortly after, they decided to transform this arrangement into a long-term, multi-partnership project targeted at housing over 1,000 refugees over a period of six months.

Unlike most temporary shelter providers at the time, KDM did not operate as a short-term rest area where refugees would stop for 1-3 days and then move on. Instead, they had a vision and deep understanding of the importance of

stability and consistency for refugees who were in a foreign country with no plan or assets in place. With this in mind, they decided to focus on long-term housing in dedicated facilities. Over the past months and to this day, KDM has been working to secure funding and other resources for their project while simultaneously opening and operating new facilities. They are cooperating with the city authorities, who consider them a trustworthy operation and direct refugees to them.

Several facilities are currently operating, with some functioning since the first days of the war. In those facilities, dedicated staff members, coordinators, and specialized professionals are working to provide their guests with everything they need while providing holistic care and legal and psychological assistance.

OpSafe launches trauma-care camps for young children

Children's Mission - a Ukrainian training-equipping ministry, has teamed up with OpSafe - an international organization that provides trauma care for young children, to set up trauma care camps in Ukraine.

OpSafe trauma care camps are organized similar to five-day vacation Bible school, located in a population center, where children usually spend up to 4 hours of their day. Participants, who are 6-12 years old, are split into small groups of 5-6 children, which are then assigned a mentor who works with them for the duration of the camp. Together, they go through various "stations," where they study the Bible, play, discuss, and learn therapeutic techniques.

Children's Mission has reported that 20% of children who go through these camps discover that they have a deeper trauma and are assisted by their mentors in understanding it. Among these children, 2-5% require professional psychological assistance and are directed to local professionals. In two months of OpSafe operating in Ukraine, their teams, trained and supervised by Children's Mission, have held 31 camps and reached 1,700 children. Additional camps are also being planned. OpSafe, Children's Mission, and their teams plan to continue their efforts and reach as many children as possible.



Therapeutic storytelling for children.

WEA Networks in action

Peace and Reconciliation Network: Providing trauma care for the war-affected



Children activities at counseling center.

As the war in Ukraine moves tragically past the six-month mark, the Peace and Reconciliation Network is collaborating with other WEA Public Engagement ministries to assess the scope of existing trauma-response work and expertise in Ukraine and in the border countries. This work includes establishing and financially seeding counseling centers that can provide immediate trauma-care for those displaced by the war, be a trauma-care resource for local churches and their

leaders and become hubs for ongoing development of peace and reconciliation in their context.

For example, PRN is partnering with the Latvian Biblical Center in Riga, Latvia that will make it possible for a program leader and facility to function for at least one year. The desire is to see similar centers formed over the next number of months.

To learn more about PRN:
<https://www.reconciledworld.net/>

European Freedom Network: Long-term needs cannot be forgotten



The war has caused significant and widespread damage to homes and infrastructure

With the winter months approaching and battle fronts expanding the situation remains far from stable and there is still potential for a new wave of refugees.

Those who have already fled Ukraine are becoming increasingly vulnerable to homelessness as funding and public support begin to wane; the number of Ukrainians in need of homes in the United Kingdom, for example, has already doubled.

Difficulties in finding work and becoming integrated into host country support services, such as education, are also creating new challenges for Ukrainian refugees.

The European Freedom Network urges the global church community to remain engaged and continue their support and prayer for war-affected Ukrainians in and outside the country. There is a long road ahead.

To learn more about EFN:
www.europeanfreedomnetwork.org/

Funding



To-date:

US\$1.6 million

has been dispersed by WEA to partner networks in Ukraine and neighboring countries to provide greatly needed aid, support, and care for children, families, and communities affected by the war.

Our goal is to continue raising funds to strengthen Evangelical churches and ministries in the region and to build their capacity to provide short- and long-term support so that the people of Ukraine can rebuild their lives and their country.

Contact



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For latest news and stories:

<https://worlddea.org/ukrainecrisis>

Get involved



Give

Your donation matters. Financial support is coordinated by TRUST and distributed to churches and partners who are on the front lines, directly helping affected Ukrainians.

To give, please go to:

<https://worlddea.org/crisis-response/donate>



Pray

- For the immediate end of the war.
- For the care and protection of the people of Ukraine.
- For long-lasting peace.



WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE

Over two billion Christians in the world today are represented by three world church bodies. The World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) is one of those, serving more than 600 million evangelicals belonging to churches that are part of 143 national Evangelical Alliances in 9 regions. Launched in London in 1846, the WEA unites evangelicals across denominations for prayer, evangelism, mission, theological education, religious freedom, human rights advocacy and engagement in a wide range of social issues. It speaks with one voice to the United Nations, governments and media in public or through behind-the-scenes diplomacy on issues of common concern to the Church.

For more information, visit: <https://worlddea.org/>

Footnotes:

- ¹ [UN OCHA Ukraine Situation Report](#). Retrieved on 15 September 2022.
- ² Ibid.
- ³ [UNHCR Ukraine](#). Retrieved on 16 September 2022.
- ⁴ [UN OCHA Ukraine Situation Report](#). Retrieved on 15 September 2022.
- ⁵ Ibid.
- ⁶ Ibid.
- ⁷ World Economic Forum. [Ukraine's economy will shrink by almost half this year, says World Bank](#). April 22, 2022.
- ⁸ Kyiv School of Economics. [The total amount of documented damages has reached \\$108.3 billion, minimum recovery needs for destroyed assets — \\$185 billion](#). August 02, 2022
- ⁹ Washington Post. [At least 140,000 residential buildings destroyed, 3.5 million Ukrainians homeless, Kyiv says](#). August 02, 2022.
- ¹⁰ Institute for Religious Freedom. [The Russian invasion of Ukraine caused damage to at least 240 religious buildings](#). July 29, 2022.