



Thank you for all your support for our sisters and brothers from Ukraine during this terrible time.

It is now seven weeks since the current Russian invasion of Ukraine, since then over 3,500,000 people have fled, with over half of them children. Tragically there have been tens of thousands of casualties. Over the coming months it is projected that 12,000,000 people from Ukraine will need humanitarian assistance.

The Catholic community here is ready to respond to any global emergency through its international humanitarian agency CAFOD, which is a member of the second largest aid network in the world – Caritas Internationalis. Because of our global reach and local presence, we are there when an emergency hits. We are responding together as one global Catholic Caritas family to support people whose world has been turned upside down by the shocking conflict in Ukraine.

Your support is helping in bomb shelters and cities under attack and across Ukraine, where CAFOD's brilliant Caritas and Church partners are working tirelessly, providing beds, food, washing facilities and transport to people trying to survive. In fact since the beginning of the war Caritas Ukraine has assisted no less than 318,252 beneficiaries, and Caritas SpesUkraine has helped 215,470 people!



Here you can see our sister agency, Caritas Spes, serving hot meals for people in Ukraine on their way to a safe location.

Your support is also helping thousands of families fleeing Ukraine at safe centres in neighbouring countries such as Poland, Moldova and Romania with food, water, shelter, and psychological support.

Through CAFOD's Ukraine appeal, the Catholic community in England and Wales is also reaching tens of thousands of refugees entering Poland every day through our sister agency Caritas Poland, who have been carrying out extensive activities to support the relief effort. Within Poland, there are around 1,000 centres specialising in social assistance and medical care alongside 100,000 Caritas volunteers who provide support in these centres on a daily basis.

Caritas Poland staff are in constant exchange with border guards who will, based on need, send an immediate request to Caritas Poland. Their activities include:

- shelter assistance (at Caritas' own facilities or home stays)
- free food distribution points
- free distribution of sleeping bags and mattresses and other goods as needed
- reception of unaccompanied children (incl. guardian)
- information dissemination at reception points and border crossings
- coordination of volunteers



Local staff and volunteers continue to distribute aid packages containing food, warm clothing and hygiene items like soap, toothpaste and shampoo. Thousands of aid packages have already been distributed. Our local experts have also set up tents near borders with Ukraine which serve as a meeting point, where refugees receive a warm meal. The tents are therefore called "tents of hope" by Caritas staff. Our Caritas aid workers and volunteers tell us of the tremendous solidarity and hospitality they have seen from people and communities receiving Ukrainian refugees.

Thank you so much again for your support at this time of crisis for the people of Ukraine. Please continue to pray for Ukrainian families and please could you also pray for our Caritas aid workers and volunteers as they serve in Ukraine and in border countries.

To donate or for more information visit: www.cafod.org.uk/ukraine

HOMES FOR UKRAINE

The public response to Homes for Ukraine has been unprecedented

and thousands of people have contacted Reset to take part.

RESET have [launched a training and matching service](#)

to connect sponsors and refugees. Several parishes have been in touch with Caritas Plymouth to let us

know they are planning to offer a property to a Ukrainian family and we know that many parishioners have also registered to welcome a family. Caritas Plymouth will be holding an online event on 20 April from 5-6 pm to share our experience of community sponsorship and how communities can welcome the stranger. If you would like to join us please [register here](#).



Local Councils are also putting some really helpful advice for sponsors on their websites:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/supporting-ukraine/>

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/people-and-communities/help-for-ukraine/>

https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/refugee-programme-in-dorset?p_l_back_url=%2Fsearch%3Fq%3DUkraine

CARITAS SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK

On 11 March 2022, Caritas Plymouth joined an online meeting convened by CSAN to consider the domestic response of the Catholic Church in England and Wales to the impact of a new wave of refugees from the war in Ukraine. 39 representatives of Catholic organisations tackling poverty in England and Wales took part. It was wonderful to hear of the positive response of many Catholic organisations to the current crisis. CSAN has also provided a web-based toolkit resource for people to respond here in the UK to the war in Ukraine. <https://www.csan.org.uk/ukraine/>