



Weekly Update #8: 29th April

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You can find all the information about our appeal, the work being done, articles and video updates on the Ukraine Appeal section of our website [here](#).

If you are in a position to offer accommodation to a Ukrainian refugee, please do consider registering with our [Cross Connect Ukraine](#) linking scheme, run jointly with our friends in the [Slavic Gospel Association](#). We're seeing many Christian hosts and Ukrainian refugees register. It's a real joy to participate in the Zoom calls where we seek to link up the hosts to refugees, and to witness the kindness and care shown by Christians offering a temporary home to people in great need.



The situation in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, especially when viewed from a human rather than military perspective, is probably more complex and diverse now than it has been to date.

We thought you'd like to hear first hand from some of our missionaries and co-workers of their recent experience, so please do take the time to watch the video below, where [Mihai Chisari](#) (in Chişinău, Moldova), [Adam Urban](#) (in Siedlce, Poland), and [Vitalii Mariash](#) and [Sasha Diankov](#) (both in Chernivtsi, Ukraine), share their experience of the current situation, along with prayer requests.

(You can also download this video from [here](#)).

Some of the most notable points which come across from these gospel workers are:

- The continuing stream of refugees and displaced people, lower in number than in previous weeks, but still substantial. (The [UNHCR](#) reported a further 300,000 leaving the country last week, taking the total to over 5.4 million, with over 7.7 million people displaced internally).
- But also, a number of people choosing to return to Ukraine, and other people choosing to move to Kyiv from the war-torn East, rather than to the West of the country. But often, reports of a missile strike, for example on Odesa, are sufficient to cause people to reconsider.



Mihai Chisari (in Moldova), Adam Urban (in Poland), Vitalii Mariash and Sasha Diankov (both in Ukraine), share their experience of the current situation.

- The refugees being cared for in places such as Ternopil, Chernivtsi, and also Chişinău, coming from some of the most devastated regions of Mariupol, Kharkiv, Donetsk and Luhansk.
- The impact of the recent attacks in the [Transnistria](#) region, creating concern amongst Moldovans about the war extending to their country, as they seek to support refugees.
- But also widespread opportunities for the gospel. Adam reported more Ukrainians attending their services now than Polish people. And Mihai described up to 60 people coming to listen to their gospel presentation each day, with many asking for Bibles.

Please continue to pray for evangelical Christians working tirelessly on the front line, that in the midst of providing all they can in physical support for refugees, they would also have opportunity to share the Gospel, and meet the greatest need of people, the need of salvation.

Donations Received:

£761,000 has been received since the start of the appeal.

Funds Disbursed:



£400,000 has been disbursed since the start of the appeal.

- 63% to Ukraine
- 22% to Moldova
- 8% to Poland
- 6% to Romania
- 1% for across Italy and Hungary, and literature from UK

We continued to put the largest part of our support into aid supplies into Ukraine using Ternopil as a very effective hub from which to distribute around the country to over 100 evangelical churches. There was a full shipment of food and hygiene products from Lublin to Ternopil delivered successfully last Wednesday. But we are currently arranging for a lorryload of supplies - food, bedding, hygiene products alongside equipment such as generators and appliances - to be transported from Netherlands, from where we can get better access to this type of equipment. We're very grateful to our friends in Lublin (Jaroslaw & Natalia Lukasik, East European Reformation Foundation), and also Pastor Simon Gay and his friend Tim van der Roest in Netherlands, who have been so effective in managing these supplies into Ukraine.

This week we also supported the purchase of two minibuses, for the evangelical churches in Zaporizhzhia and in Chernivtsi to help them distribute aid supplies, and transport people. Both of these were bought in Germany, and driven back to Ukraine.

You can find an **interactive map** of all the work which your donations are being used to support [here](#).

Thank you to everyone who has donated. 100% of donations will be passed through to support refugee work in the region, including provision of evangelistic literature.

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We work through our network of missionaries, their churches and sister evangelical churches to distribute support for refugees, across Ukraine, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Hungary - and even extending to Italy and Greece. This has proved effective, and enabled us to support 31 projects working through 19 churches directly and around 120 churches indirectly.

The types of work could be broken down into:

1. **Providing aid supplies:** mainly through Ternopil as a hub.
2. **Supporting churches hosting refugees**
3. **Supporting churches providing supplies to refugees**
4. **Supporting people taking aid into needy areas**
5. **Providing literature**

As mentioned above, this week we've enabled churches in Zaporizhzhia and in Chernivtsi to buy minibuses support refugees in their area. We've also being responding to a request from a church in Kharkiv who need a minibus to enable them to support people in this war-torn city. Only a few people are left in the church, and they have limited transport available to them. The adapted minibus which Pastor Viktor Pugach, a close friend of Volodia Kostyshyn, brought back from Germany to Ternopil last week, was already being put to intensive use, to help people, especially those with disabilities.

Through the generosity of one supporter, Grace Church in Bydgoszcz, Poland, has been enabled to host the family of a Ukrainian pastor, by renting a flat for them in the city - and enabled them look for other ways to extend this type of support refugees. This example, however, highlights the growing problem in countries such as Poland and Moldova, where the 'emergency' short-term support for the vast number of refugees in these countries turns into a medium-term problem, and accommodating and providing for 100's of thousands of refugees in a cities like Warsaw and Chişinău, becomes an enormous challenge.



New minibus already being used heavily to support people with disabilities in the Ternopil area.

For more details of how we are working, to make effective use of the



Last week, we spoke to Maryna who had applied through our [Cross Connect Ukraine](#) scheme to come to the UK. She and her daughter Diana (3), together with her friend Yevgenia and her daughter Maria (9) had fled Ukraine a few weeks ago to temporary shelter in a friend's house in Slovakia, where they could only stay to the end of May.

Maryna and her husband were living in Brovary (to the east of Kyiv) when the Russians attacked, and quickly fled to safety in Ternopil, where they were helped by Volodia Kostyshyn and other Christians, before Maryna and her daughter moved on to Slovakia. She shared her story with us with such dignity, but she was unable to hold back her tears as she told us about her mother who was in Kherson, occupied by the Russians, to whom she spoke every day. Her mother was unable to get the medicine she needed, and had been unable to get out of the city.

Maryna also told us how about her friend Yevgenia, who was living in Bucha, when the Russians took over the area. She'd been held prisoner by the Russians, but she and her daughter had managed to escape, and Maryna had encouraged them to join her in Slovakia. Maria, Yevgenia's daughter, still has nightmares every day re-living what she experienced.

It was heart-warming to be on the call with Maryna, and the retired couple from County Antrim, who were offering them a home in the UK - evangelical Christians, who invited Maryna and her group to come with such grace and gentleness, and told them of the peaceful beauty of the Antrim countryside and all the facilities there were there for the children.

We're still waiting to hear about Maryna's visa application to come to the UK.



Yevgenia with daughter Maria (left), and Maryna with daughter Diana (right)

[Please continue to pray for Andrii & Yolanta Kaustov](#)

We continue to ask you to pray for [Andrii & Yolanta Kaustov](#) and their visa application to the UK. They are both receiving chemotherapy, in a limited form, but need to find treatment outside of Ukraine. There's been no response to the two escalations we've raised, requesting that Yolanta's visa is granted without the need for her to travel to a visa application centre (VAC) in Poland or Romania since she is currently too weak to travel.

Thanks to all the supporters who have been willing to write to their MPs for their intervention in this situation.



Andrii & Yolanta Kaustov

Phil Dunn

(EMF Northern Ireland Representative)

Martin Tatham

(EMF Church Partnership Coordinator)



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