

Safety and survival

Supporting Ukrainian families and communities in crisis, **Ukraine and Poland**

The Russian attack on Ukraine will have devastating consequences for the civilian population and humanitarian needs are expected to rise. The International Rescue Committee is ready to respond where it is needed most.

The problem

On February 24, Russia deployed its military into Ukraine. Bombs and shelling have continued to escalate as people flee their homes and desperately seek safety. War has been steadily waging over the last eight years in Ukraine, leaving more than 850,000 people internally displaced and almost 3 million people in need of humanitarian aid.

The partner

The IRC responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises, helping to restore health, safety, education, economic wellbeing and power to people devastated by conflict and disaster. Backed by nearly 90 years of disaster response expertise, the IRC has responded to humanitarian crises in Europe since 2015, providing emergency aid, health and sanitation, and psychosocial support to refugees and migrants in Greece and in Serbia. Since then, the IRC has supported families on the move in Germany, Italy, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and worked to integrate refugees into the fabric of their host communities in the UK.

The philanthropic solution

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is on the ground in Poland working with local partners, where families are fleeing and authorities are preparing potentially to welcome 1 million people displaced from Ukraine. Building on this presence, IRC's response is focused on:

- Working with local partners and the Polish authorities to stand up response centers for Ukrainian refugees fleeing to Poland. IRC will ensure that these refugees have their basic needs met through the provision of hygiene kits, cash assistance, and psychosocial support. Cash assistance—through vouchers that can be used at local markets—allows displaced families to buy essential goods including food.
- Delivering life-saving information through its suite of digital tools that provide up-to-date information in multiple languages on legal rights and documentation, accommodation, transportation, medical care and more to people who are in transit or starting life in a new country.
- Working with local partners in Ukraine itself, within the Donetsk and Luhansk regions on the eastern edge of the country, to quickly mobilize emergency support for families, such as economic assistance, survival supplies, and protection services for civilians who have been forced to flee their homes.

The evidence

IRC's approach is needs-based and rooted in its presence in the communities in which it works, earning trust and gaining a deep understanding of those they are serving.

The impact

The IRC will be able to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Ukrainian's forced to flee their homes, giving them the resources and information they need to survive, recover and regain control of their lives in the new communities in which they find themselves.

Source : IRC.(2022). <https://www.rescue.org/article/ukraine-russia-crisis-what-happening>

All programmatic data provided by IRC. The UBS Optimus Foundation is a grant-making foundation that offers UBS clients a platform to use their wealth to drive positive social and environmental change. The Foundation selects programs that improve children's health, education and protection, ones that have the potential to be transformative, scalable and sustainable as well as programs tackling environmental and climate issues.

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