



# **ONE PROPOSAL**

Jesuit response to Ukraine Crisis

**INTERIM REPORT**  
01/01/2024-01/06/2024

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1. Summary

This interim report outlines the developments and efforts undertaken in the first six months of 2024 regarding the support JRS has given to the Ukrainian refugees under the One Proposal, during the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and its wide-reaching humanitarian impact. Despite initial hopes for a resolution, the conflict remains unresolved and has reached a stalemate, with no significant territorial gains made by Russian force or the Ukrainian Army. The protracted nature of the conflict has resulted in a profound humanitarian crisis, marked by extensive displacement and the continuous movement of people seeking safety and stability.

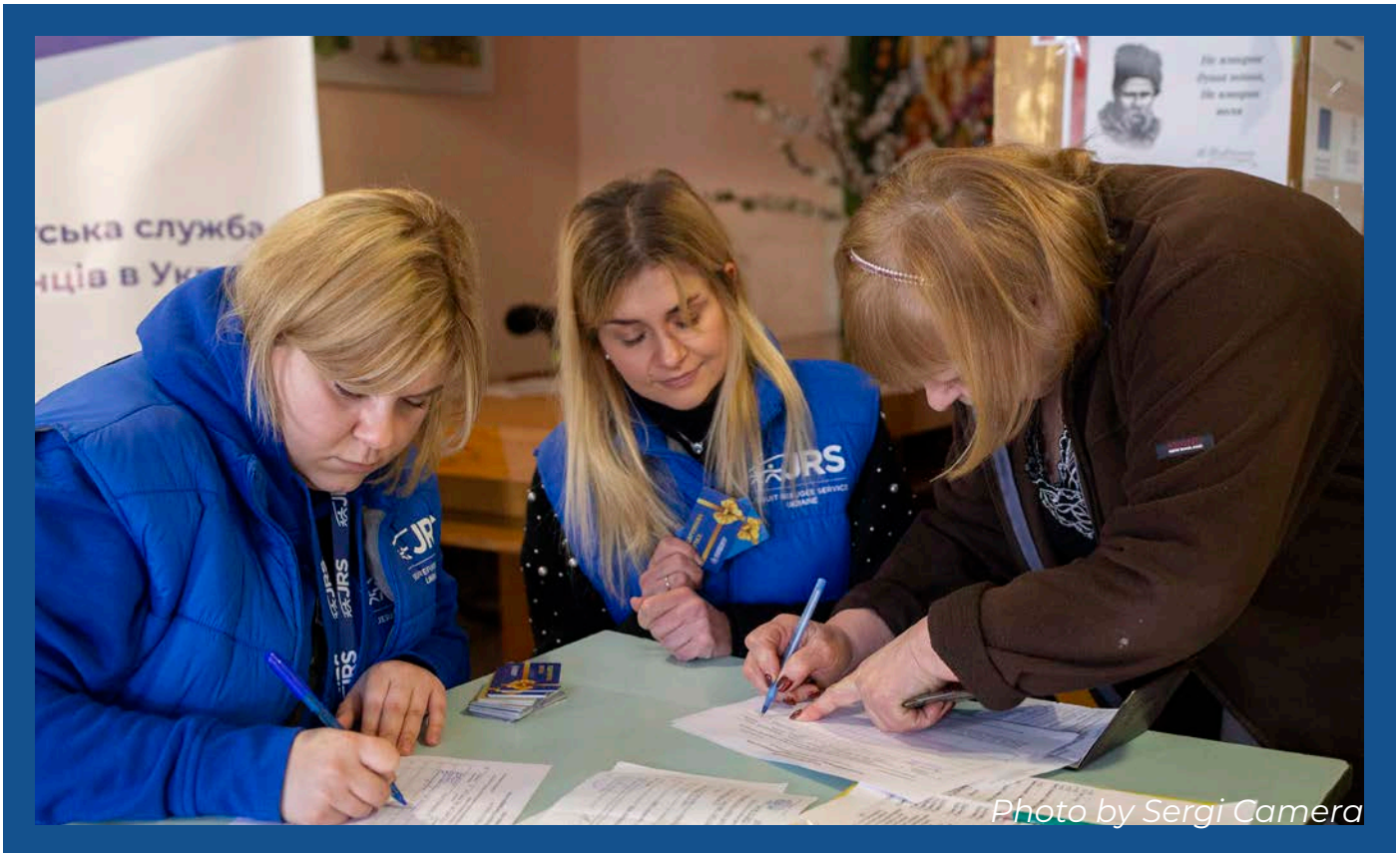
More than 6 million individuals have been displaced across Europe, seeking refuge from the relentless violence in Ukraine. Of these, approximately 1.8 million people are frequently crossing back and forth between Ukraine and neighboring countries for various reasons, including family visits, work, and other personal matters. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has reported that within Ukraine, there are currently 3.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). These figures highlight the immense scale of the displacement crisis and the pressing need for sustained humanitarian assistance.

In response to this crisis, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), in collaboration with XN and the wider Society of Jesus, has been unwavering in its



*Photo by Sergi Camera*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



commitment to supporting the Ukrainian people. From the onset of the conflict, our efforts have been directed towards providing emergency relief. However, as already experienced during the whole 2023 and at the beginning of 2024, our focus has gradually shifted towards fostering mid- to long-term inclusion of refugees. This strategic shift aims to address not only the immediate needs of displaced individuals but also to lay the groundwork for their sustainable integration into host communities. In 2024, the needs might change again towards protection of the most vulnerable and the whole Ukrainian people abroad as the ongoing conflict is posing many challenges especially on their sustainability and protection.

As the static nature of the frontline and the general stalemate that is draining all the Ukrainian resources into the conflict, the Ukrainian population is living severe hardships. The ongoing conflict has exposed them to escalating dangers and threats, particularly in the protection sector. This vulnerability is exacerbated by insufficient government funding and dwindling support from both the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Many displaced individuals are depleting their savings, and the inadequate integration opportunities in some host countries are compelling some to return to Ukraine, even to areas still affected by conflict.

The effectiveness of our activities in this critical period will significantly



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

influence the success or failure of the integration process for Ukrainian refugees. Our analysis and prediction, as per the calls and funding opportunities issued by institutional donors shows that the response is focusing on livelihood and job placement to allow the Ukrainian refugees to access the job market and consequently having money and funds to survive. Our comprehensive Needs Assessment conducted in the last quarter of 2023 has underscored the pivotal role of inclusion in determining the well-being of displaced individuals. The assessment revealed that without adequate access to jobs, healthcare, and quality housing, the risk of re-displacement remains high, and many Ukrainians may feel compelled to return to their home country, despite the ongoing war. This situation of instability is also affecting people mental health giving to MHPSS a pivotal role in our activities.

Therefore, this report aims to provide an overview of the actions taken in the first 6 months of 2024, the challenges encountered, and the outcomes achieved in our mission to support Ukrainian refugees. We will report on the strategies implemented to facilitate their inclusion into host communities and assess the impact of these initiatives on their lives in the different countries where JRS is operating. Our goal is to highlight both the successes and areas for improvement, ensuring that our future efforts are informed by the lessons learned during these critical first six months of 2024.



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024, JRS confirmed and strengthened its presence in Lviv with the opening of a new office in town and thanks to the growing of the team. In Ukraine we are also cooperating with L'Arche but JRS's commitment extends beyond the borders of Ukraine. Intensive efforts have been directed toward neighboring countries - Romania, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and Moldova - where the need for assistance has been most acute. The One Proposal initiative has played a crucial role in delivering immediate humanitarian aid and has transitioned smoothly into providing medium- and long-term support. This holistic approach encompasses integration programs, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities, housing solutions, and ongoing access to basic needs assistance. The shift from urgent, large-scale, short-term relief to enduring services underscores a central aspect of JRS's efforts in neighboring countries as the conflict continues.

As per June 2024, JRS has completed the Integration Fund both the 2022 and the second one issued in 2023. A total of 1.250.000 euros have been forwarded to support projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Croatia, Serbia, North Macedonia, Greece, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Ireland. This fund is not only dedicated to addressing the immediate needs of Ukrainian refugees but also focuses on actively facilitating their integration into host societies across Europe. Into this report you will find details about the last projects under the Integration Fund: Serbia, Spain, Portugal and North Makedonia.

At a coordination level, JRS is committed to enhancing the capabilities and readiness of its staff to effectively implement activities on the ground. During the first six months of 2024, several coordination and planning meetings were conducted, culminating in the Regional Coordination Meeting (RCM) held in Bucharest in March '24. These meetings have been instrumental in refining our strategies, aligning our goals, and ensuring that our response remains agile and responsive to the evolving needs of the affected populations.

On the programmatic side, a new needs assessment is scheduled for fall 2024. This assessment aims to reassess the needs of both the displaced populations and our operational offices. It will provide critical insights that will guide our interventions and help us adapt our programs to better serve the communities in need. This reassessment is crucial as it allows us to identify gaps in our current efforts and to align our resources and strategies with the most pressing needs on the ground.

In June 2024, JRS successfully completed its Monograph meetings, which focused on four thematic priorities identified in June 2023: Education,



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Housing, and Institutional Strengthening. Livelihood has emerged to be a cross-cutting sector to support the basic needs of the UA people. Access to the labor market, with fair salaries and fair contracts, is one of the most pressing needs for the people. These thematic priorities are central to our mission of providing comprehensive support to displaced individuals and fostering their long-term integration into host communities.

These efforts are part of JRS's broader strategy to support displaced populations and to promote their sustainable integration into host communities. The insights and outcomes from these thematic meetings will guide our future interventions and help us to better address the complex and multifaceted needs of those we serve.

In conclusion, the first six months of 2024 have been a period of significant planning, coordination, and strategic development for JRS. Through our ongoing commitment to enhancing staff capacity, reassessing needs, and focusing on key thematic areas, we aim to provide more effective and comprehensive support to Ukrainian refugees. As we move forward, these foundational efforts will be crucial in shaping our response and ensuring that we can continue to make a meaningful impact in the lives of those affected by the conflict.

As we navigate this complex and evolving humanitarian landscape, our commitment to the Ukrainian people remains steadfast. The next sections of this report will delve into specific programs and initiatives, evaluating their effectiveness and identifying the key factors that will shape the continued integration and support of Ukrainian refugees. Through this ongoing commitment, we strive to alleviate their suffering and provide them with the stability and opportunities they need to rebuild their lives amidst the ongoing conflict.

## 2. The One Proposal structure

**WELCOME**



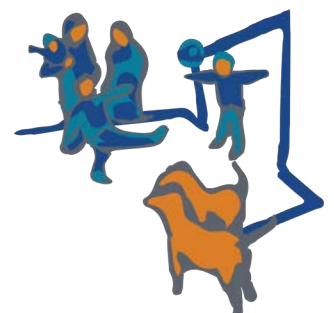
**PROTECT**



**PROMOTE**



**INTEGRATE**



**INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

| AXIS                | SECTORS   | DEFINITIONS (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)   |
|---------------------|---|--|
| WELCOME             | Short-term shelter                              | Temporary Protection or Stay Arrangements as responses to humanitarian crises for a maximum of 2 months. The food provided while sheltering is accounted here.   |
|                     | Emergency aid, relief and basic need assistance | Assistance to the victims of conflicts or disaster situations in urgent situations, which cause human suffering or imminently threatens lives or livelihoods through short-term distribution, and long-term accompaniment, other than non-food items and shelter provision.  |
|                     | Long-term shelter                               | Long-term Protection or Stay Arrangements (TPSAs) as responses to humanitarian crises for a longer than 2 months . Food provided while sheltering is accounted here.   |
| PROTECT             | Non-Food Items                                  | Distribution of items other than food, including vouchers, household items, soap, containers, cooking items, among others.   |
|                     | Mental Health and psychosocial support          | Activity providing Mental Health and Psycho-Social support both towards beneficiaries and staff.   |
|                     | Health  | Distribution of general hygiene products, medicines, health assistance, and items dedicated to the beneficiaries' wellbeing.   |
|                     | Legal Assistance                                | Provision of legal and social counselling and assistance towards a beneficiary, a family or a household.   |
|                     | Education                                       | Provision and support of access to Education activities both for adults and minors.  |
|                     | Livelihood                                      | Technical and Vocational abilities development with the objective of improving quality of life.  |
| PROMOTE & INTEGRATE | Awareness raising                               | Activities aimed to raise consciousness in the general public about Ukrainian refugees and the situations they are facing.   |
|                     | Advocacy  | Advocacy activities aimed at promoting the rights and access to services for Ukrainian refugees' integration and safety in the community.  |
| CAPACITY BUILDING   | Integration and Peacebuilding                   | Activities supporting a two-way process between refugees and the host society to reduce economic and social marginalization, and support more cohesive, inclusive, and robust societies, as well as peacebuilding activities related to conflict management and resolutions among the hosting communities and refugees or among refugees themselves. |
|                     | Capacity building                               | Activities aimed at improving the country office knowledge, skills and capacities through staff hiring, training and space improvement, among others.  |

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 3. The people we serve

The One Proposal project is dedicated to assisting individuals in three main categories affected by the conflict in Ukraine:

### 1. Internally Displaced People (IDPs):

- Definition: Those displaced within Ukraine due to the conflict who have not yet crossed an international border.
- Objective: To provide support and aid to those who have remained within the country despite being displaced.

### 2. Refugees of Ukrainian Nationality:

- Definition: Ukrainian citizens displaced by the conflict seeking refuge.
- Objective: To offer assistance and resources to Ukrainian nationals who have been forced to leave their homes.

### 3. Refugees of Other Nationalities:

- Definition: Individuals of non-Ukrainian nationalities displaced by the conflict in Ukraine.
- Objective: To extend support to refugees of diverse nationalities affected by the ongoing conflict and to support local communities for a better integration of the UA refugees.

At current date, July 2024, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and its partners successfully aided about 110.000 individuals since the implementation of the One Proposal. Much of the support was provided in Ukraine and neighboring countries where 97.429 people have been helped. Additionally, 12.883 refugees received assistance through the Integration Fund in countries of secondary movement.

In the first six months of 2024, the network extended assistance to 9.337 new unique beneficiaries: 7.076 thanks to the One Proposal and 2.261 thanks to the Integration Fund. JRS has already surpassed the initial goal of 73.168 beneficiaries planned for the three-year period, and with its partners has already helped 110.102 people.

**People served  
in 2024** **9.337**

**People served  
since 2022** **110.102**

**in Ukraine &  
Neighbouring  
countries** **97.429**

**Through the  
Integration  
Fund** **12.673**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

| AXIS                 | SECTORS   | Ukraine | L'Arche | Poland | Hungary | Romania | Moldova | Slovakia | Integration fund | Total  |
|----------------------|---|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|----------|------------------|--------|
| WELCOME              | Short-term shelter                              | 4       | 6       | 87     | -       | -       | -       | -        | 46               | 97     |
|                      | Emergency aid, relief and basic need assistance | 477     | -       | 37     | 665     | 409     | -       | -        | 1.473            | 3.024  |
|                      |   |         |         |        |         |         |         |          |                  |        |
| PROTECT              | Long-term shelter                               | 43      | 9       | 48     | 358     | 2       | 11      | 4        | 1.463            | 1.940  |
|                      | Non-Food Items                                  | 563     | -       | 85     | 46      | -       | -       | 229      | 25               | 1.091  |
|                      | Mental Health and psychosocial support          | 466     | -       | 225    | 660     | 565     | 201     | 58       | 161              | 2.723  |
|                      | Health  | -       | 3       | 22     | 42      | 43      | -       | -        | 10               | 143    |
|                      | Legal Assistance                                | 18      | -       | 96     | 709     | 28      | -       | 1.185    | 213              | 2.322  |
|                      | Education                                       | 11      | -       | 514    | 870     | 2.638   | 264     | 113      | 54               | 4.822  |
| PROMOTE & INTEGRATE  | Livelihood                                      | -       | -       | 21     | -       | 1.699   | -       | 3        | 35               | 1.748  |
|                      | Awareness raising                               | 2       | -       | 1150   | 52.454  | 64      | -       | -        | 55               | 52.922 |
|                      | Advocacy  | -       | -       | 42     | -       | -       | -       | -        | 1                | 43     |
|                      | Integration and Peacebuilding                   | 221     | -       | 424    | -       | 221     | 560     | 490      | 21               | 2.260  |
| CAPACITY BUILDING    | Capacity building                               | 8       | -       | 34     | 14      | 30      | 53      | 12       | 416              | 567    |
| UNIQUE BENEFICIARIES |   | 1.813   | 15      | 850    | 1.212   | 2.071   | 237     | 878      | 2.261            | 9.337  |

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 4. Financial Overview

All sums are indicated in Euros

| AXIS                | CODE | SECTORS   | Ukraine    | L'Arche  | Poland     | Hungary    | Romania    | Moldova   | Slovakia  | Integration-fund | Total        |
|---------------------|------|---|------------|----------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|--------------|
| WELCOME             | 1A   | Short-term shelter                              | 0,00       | 0,00     | 0,00       | 0,00       | 0,00       | 0,00      | 0,00      | 0,00             | 89.040,72    |
|                     | 1B   | Emergency aid, relief and basic need assistance | 4.576,46   | 0,00     | 10.210,82  | 0,00       | 0,00       | 12.177,21 | 0,00      | 62.076,23        |              |
| PROTECT             | 2A   | Long-term shelter                               | 48.923,04  | 3.461,67 | 48.901,66  | 54.683,81  | 603,22     | 15.833,67 | 2.015,76  | 41.961,88        | 526.635,53   |
|                     | 2B   | Non-Food Items                                  | 14.666,42  | 1.873,35 | 1.849,46   | 35.947,28  | 45.234,72  | 0,00      | 11.897,50 | 93,57            |              |
|                     | 2C   | Mental Health and psychosocial support          | 16.080,94  | 0,00     | 40.971,23  | 20.165,28  | 26.316,77  | 3.514,37  | 3.935,76  | 24.635,53        |              |
|                     | 2D   | Health  | 0,00       | 1.355,94 | 1.863,74   | 2.884,20   | 1.149,97   | 0,00      | 0,00      | 64,68            |              |
|                     | 2E   | Legal Assistance                                | 6.238,91   | 0,00     | 3.386,82   | 0,00       | 52.269,49  | 0,00      | 6.132,36  | 0,00             |              |
|                     | 3A   | Education                                       | 0,00       | 0,00     | 58.425,84  | 30.536,54  | 226.010,18 | 3.969,08  | 17.571,29 | 1.990,50         |              |
| PROMOTE & INTEGRATE | 3B   | Livelihood                                      | 0,00       | 0,00     | 0,00       | 0,00       | 35.362,57  | 0,00      | 10.754,46 | 9.835,26         | 582.135,91   |
|                     | 3C   | Awareness raising                               | 0,00       | 0,00     | 5.393,30   | 0,00       | 24.505,83  | 0,00      | 0,00      | 133,84           |              |
|                     | 3D   | Advocacy  | 0,00       | 0,00     | 3.966,91   | 0,00       | 19.662,42  | 771,32    | 1.076,88  | 0,00             |              |
|                     | 3E   | Integration and Peacebuilding                   | 4.263,10   | 0,00     | 99.174,17  | 0,00       | 10.442,27  | 0,00      | 2.696,78  | 3.557,17         |              |
| CAPACITY BUILDING   | 4A   | Capacity building                               | 25.602,06  | 0,00     | 35.116,63  | 23.791,76  | 0,00       | 1.252,03  | 1.952,00  | 1.437,28         | 89.151,76    |
| TOTAL               |      |   | 120.350,95 | 6.690,96 | 309.260,56 | 168.008,87 | 441.557,45 | 37.517,67 | 58.032,79 | 145.544,69       | 1.286.963,93 |

**UKRAINE**



# UKRAINE

Local project implementation  
Partner



## Project Implementation

Start date: 01/05/2022  
End date: 28/02/2025

## Project Reporting

Start date: 01/01/2024  
End date: 01/06/2024

## Location

Lviv



## Contact Person

Inga Dul, CEO JRS Ukraine



# UKRAINE

## 1. Summary

As of May 2024, Ukraine continues to face severe political and security challenges due to the ongoing Russian attack. The situation has intensified with frequent and destructive attacks on Ukrainian cities and especially, critical infrastructure.

These attacks have heavily targeted energy facilities, leading to widespread disruptions in electricity and water supply, significantly affecting civilian life across the country, as reported by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The situation caused by Russia has resulted in a humanitarian crisis with a high number of civilian casualties. The UN Office reported over 24,000 civilian deaths since the full-scale invasion, with the actual figures likely being much higher.

The constant threat of attacks and the destruction of homes and infrastructure continue to force people to flee their regions and homes. This creates a massive strain on resources and humanitarian aid efforts every day, and these factors have led to widespread fatigue among the Ukrainian population due to the prolonged challenges of war.

**People served  
in 2024**

**1.805**





# UKRAINE

Since the beginning of the year, we have provided weekly classes for children in schools, our shelters, and other places where IDPs are staying. We create activities and events to integrate IDPs into society and create a safe, comfortable environment for them. We continue distributing humanitarian aid and providing consultations and support to those in need, following our mission.

Despite all these circumstances, we continue to implement our project and activities every day and faithfully serve our beneficiaries.

In our activities, we operate within the framework of an integrated approach. We create and implement activities for residents of our shelters and for other IDPs of our city and region. In our JRS shelters, we have vulnerable categories of IDPs: elderly women, families and mothers with children aged 2 to 18 years, people with disabilities. In the shelter on Antonovycha and in the shelter in Bruhovychy, children are able to attend recreation activities and crafts, and English and Ukrainian language classes. Adults in shelters, have group and individual psychological consultations, integrative and cultural activities aimed at integration and community building.

Activities for other shelters are aimed at meeting the primary needs of the beneficiaries and integrating them into society. We cooperate with other shelters and organizations and help with humanitarian aid, NFI, psychological and legal consultations

Since the beginning of 2024, we have been engaged in the following activities:

- Provision of short-term shelter, food, and hygiene facilities in our shelter in Lviv.
- Provision of mid-to-long-term accommodation and access to living facilities in 2 shelters.
- Provide food, necessary hygiene supplies, and other goods for shelter's residents.
- Provision of advice and referral to other potential sources of assistance (state shelters).
- Provision of food parcels for IDPs, that don't live in our shelters.
- Provision of NFI items for IDPs in other shelters or the private sector.
- Provision of necessary equipment and NFI items, building materials and plumbing for other shelters
- Provision of vouchers for food, household items, clothes for IDPs outside

# UKRAINE

of the shelters.

- Advised new-coming IDPs to access their rights, government benefits, and other services.

We organized:

- Recreational activities and workshops for children and their parents in JRS shelters and other shelters.
- Regular individual and group sessions with a psychologist for residents of our shelters.
- Group activities by the JRS psychologist with children at schools and workshops by JRS social workers with children at schools.
- Integrational events for students-IDPs and their classmates.
- Cultural activities for IDPs, for integration with local culture
- Training on the protection and development of the rights of IDPs

We heartily execute our activities and projects, continuously learning to navigate and adapt to the ever-evolving challenges posed by the war.

Despite all the challenges we face, we managed to help approximately 1,805 IDPs by providing various assistance within 2024.



# UKRAINE

## 2. People served

Through this project, we have supported internally displaced people who were compelled to leave their homes. The majority of these individuals are women and children, along with people with special needs and those from vulnerable groups. Our efforts have included providing short-term and long-term housing in our shelters for 47 individuals.

**People served in 2024** **1.805**

**People served since 2022** **17.103**

| SECTOR                            | GIRLS | BOYS | WOMEN | MEN | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------|-------|-----|-------|
| Emergency Aid/ Relief/ Assistance | -     | 1    | 363   | 113 | 447   |
| Short-term Shelter                | 1     | -    | 2     | 1   | 4     |
| Long-term Shelter                 | 8     | 11   | 21    | 4   | 43    |
| Non-Food Items                    | 1     | 2    | 377   | 183 | 563   |
| Legal assistance                  | -     | -    | 16    | 2   | 18    |
| Psychosocial support              | 187   | 176  | 81    | 22  | 466   |
| Health                            | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Education                         | 6     | 7    | -     | -   | 11    |
| Livelihood                        | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Awareness                         | -     | -    | 2     | -   | 2     |
| Advocacy                          | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Integration/ Peace building       | 108   | 92   | 17    | 4   | 221   |

## 3. Gulina Olga and Her Sons Ivan, Dmytro, and Artem

The beginning of the war was a complete shock for Olga. She was caught by surprise and desperately did not want to leave. She believed everything would be over in a few days. Her sister and niece were the first to go abroad, and her sister persuaded her to evacuate.



# UKRAINE

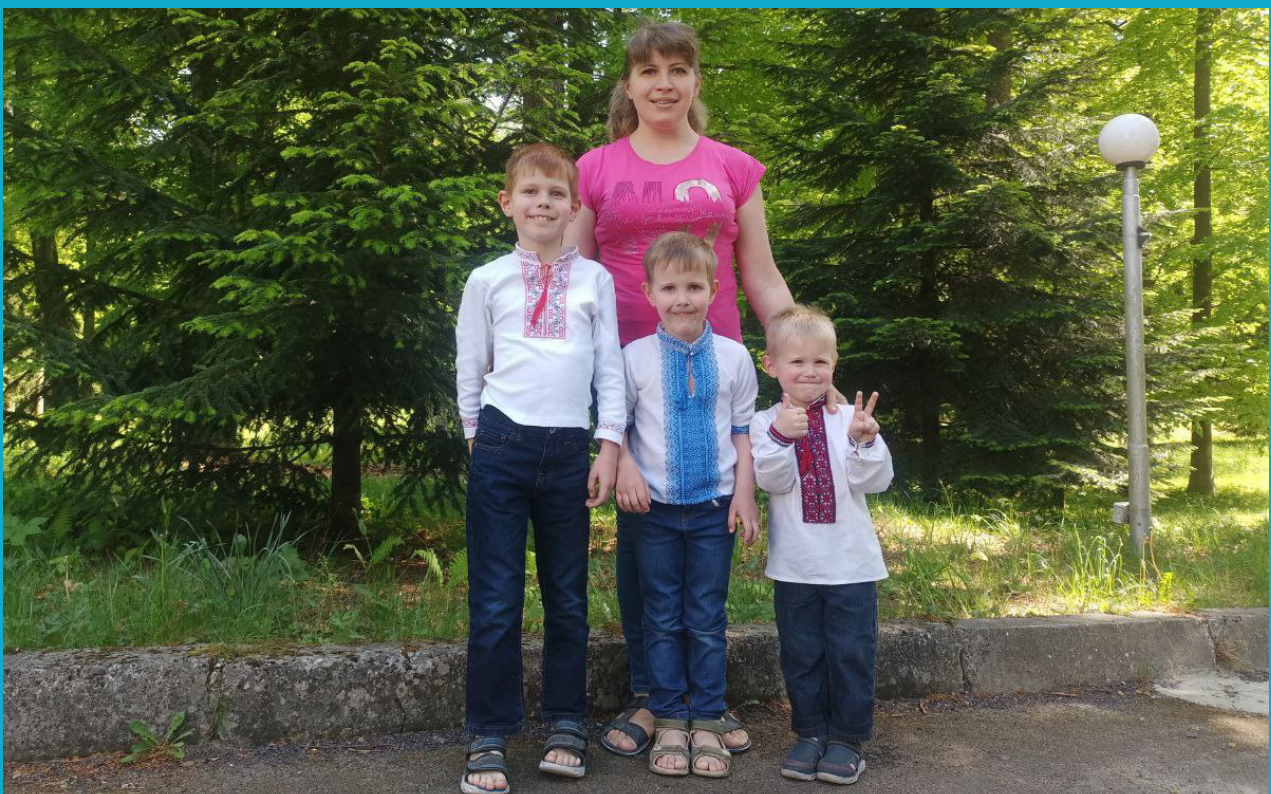
Olga: "I was never a political person and had no interest in politics. My life revolved around my family and taking care of my children. Before the full-scale invasion, I was on maternity leave with my youngest son, and my other two sons went to kindergarten.

I decided to leave mainly because of my elderly mother. She was distraught, and I was deeply worried about her and my children. One night, there was an explosion, followed by a blue flash. Plaster spilled in the kitchen, the glass on the veranda shattered, and my children woke up terrified.

In the first 10 days of the war, my sister, parents, and I agreed to stay together at night. Eventually, my children, parents, and I left by evacuation train. I felt devastated, confused, and desperate, with no idea about our future.

During our first days in the new place, the children and I often woke up in the middle of the night out of fear. Finding housing was our biggest challenge because we had nowhere to go and no concrete plans. We felt hopeless and lost.

My sons and I are very grateful to JRS for the accommodation and all the help they have given us. JRS provides us with the most important things:





# UKRAINE

a place to live, food, hygiene, and support in all our matters. We feel safe here, and there is a good place for children's leisure and development.

Despite this, I have a lot of anxiety, confusion, and fear because of the uncertainty of the future. I worry for my sons and parents. I worry about our house. I sincerely hope that I will return home. I dream about it, but at the moment, I don't see such an opportunity. I understand that I will go abroad only if there is no other way out. After all, I love my country and want to live here.”

# UKRAINE

## 4. Financial summary

| AXIS                | CODE | BUDGET CATEGORY                        | EXPENDITURE IN EUROS | TOTAL      |
|---------------------|------|--|----------------------|------------|
| WELCOME             | 1A   | Short term shelter                     | 0,00                 | 4.576,46   |
|                     | 1B   | Emergency aid relief                   | 4.576,46             |            |
| PROTECT             | 2A   | Long term shelter                      | 48.923,04            | 85.909,32  |
|                     | 2B   | Non food Items                         | 14.666,42            |            |
|                     | 2C   | Mental Health and Psychosocial Support | 16.080,94            |            |
|                     | 2D   | Health                                 | 0,00                 |            |
|                     | 2E   | Legal Assistance                       | 6.238,91             |            |
|                     | 3A   | Education                              | 0,00                 |            |
| PROMOTE & INTEGRATE | 3B   | Livelihood                             | 0,00                 | 4.263,10   |
|                     | 3C   | Awareness raising                      | 0,00                 |            |
|                     | 3D   | Advocacy                               | 0,00                 |            |
|                     | 3E   | Reconciliation & Peacebuilding         | 4.263,10             |            |
|                     | 4A   | Capacity building                      | 25.602,06            |            |
| CAPACITY BUILDING   | 4A   | Capacity building                      | 25.602,06            | 25.602,06  |
| TOTAL               |      |  |                      | 120.350,95 |

**L'ARCHE  
KOVCHEH  
LVIV**

# L'ARCHE

Local project implementation  
Partner



## Project Implementation

**Start date:** 01/05/2022  
**End date:** 28/02/2025

## Project Reporting

**Start date:** 01/01/2024  
**End date:** 31/05/2024

## Location

Lviv



## Contact Person

Jan Burda



## 1. Summary

The political, economic, social and military situation in Ukraine has not changed significantly in recent months. The front line is more or less stable so far. The biggest changes are in the general mood in society. The increased mobilization of men into the army reinforces the internal anger and resistance to war as such, the feelings of fatigue that Russia wants to achieve as a way to capitulation. The second factor is the targeted missile and drone attacks on power plants all over Ukraine since March, the consequence of which is the loss of generating capacities and the regulation of electricity supplies for the population and industry. It can still be endured in the warm sunny season, but winter can be cruel for all residents. Without electricity, the heating won't work, and frosts can damage water distribution systems, making entire cities uninhabitable. A new wave of refugees may arrive in Europe.

Thanks to support from JRS, we have continued to provide stable accommodation preferably for IDPs with special needs, for whom it was and is more difficult to find suitable accommodation. From these funds, we covered a small part of the medical treatment especially for Dmytro.

**People served  
in 2024**

**15**



## 2. People served

The project serves to internally displaced persons from the eastern parts of Ukraine affected by the war directly. It was aimed mainly at families with members with special needs. In period January – May 2024, we accepted and accommodated 15 people, including 1 girl, 1 boy

**People served in 2024** **15**

**People served since 2022** **200**

and 2 men with special needs. Since most of them have a little income, the possibility of free accommodation in relatively safe place with food support is a great help to them. With our minibus adapted to transport people in wheelchairs we not infrequently helped IDPs with transport to and back the hospitals and accommodation facilities within the city. Our biggest challenge with Dmytro who has an intellectual disability and his injured leg ended by his removal to Charity house in the city of Stryj because his mum Lyudmila was diagnosed with cancer and could no longer care for him. She is lying in the palliative ward in Lviv, with no medical hope of reversing the disease.

| SECTOR             | GIRLS | BOYS | WOMEN | MEN | TOTAL |
|--------------------|-------|------|-------|-----|-------|
| Short-term Shelter | 1     | -    | 5     | -   | 6     |
| Long-term Shelter  | -     | 1    | 6     | 2   | 9     |
| Health             | -     | -    | 1     | 2   | 3     |

## 3. Iryna

Before the war, we lived in Severodonetsk, Luhansk region. When the invasion began on February 24, 2022, our family decided to stay together and not leave our region. All of us—my brother, father, mother, grandmother, and I—stayed at our parents' country house. It was difficult, as by early March 2022, enemy shelling had damaged the power lines and gas pipelines, leaving us without electricity or gas. We had to cook outside on a fire and sleep and hide from shelling in the basement.

We were forced to leave our home due to dire circumstances. During one shelling, my brother received a serious mine-explosive wound and needed qualified medical care, which was unavailable in our city due to constant hostilities. With the help of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, we managed to



# L'ARCHE

leave for Dnipro, where he had surgery at the Mechnikov hospital. In the first days after the move, we felt very anxious, unsure of what lay ahead or how my brother's treatment and recovery would go. Once his condition stabilized, he was sent to Lviv for further treatment and rehabilitation. We had to adjust to a new city all over again.

I want to emphasize that you should never lose hope and give up. There will always be people who will help you. We must believe that there are more good people than bad. During this time, many people helped our family: military and medical workers, volunteers, and charitable organizations. We are deeply grateful to all of them for their help.

The main challenge for us, as for many other displaced persons, was finding housing. In our case, we needed accessible housing for my brother, who now uses a wheelchair after losing his leg due to the injury.

L'Arche-Kovcech and JRS have been a tremendous help to our family. They provided us with shelter, allowing us to live in a house together with all the necessary conditions for a comfortable stay. They also provide us with food and rehabilitation assistance. This support is crucial for us, as it is very difficult to find suitable housing for a family with a disabled person in a big city. Thanks to their help, we can feel at least a little confident about tomorrow, knowing we have a roof over our heads and a place where we



can feel relatively safe.

Our most important hope, like that of every Ukrainian family, is for a swift victory in this war. We have many fears: how quickly the war will end, whether all the occupied territories will be liberated, if we will be able to return home, and whether our destroyed housing will be rebuilt.

For now, we do not have plans to travel further abroad because my brother is still waiting for a complex operation, which will be performed here in Lviv. Therefore, we will remain in Lviv for now. We still do not know how things will turn out.

## 4. Financial summary

| AXIS                | CODE | BUDGET CATEGORY                        | EXPENDITURE IN EUROS | TOTAL    |
|---------------------|------|--|----------------------|----------|
| WELCOME             | 1A   | Short term shelter                     | 0,00                 | 0,00     |
|                     | 1B   | Emergency aid relief                   | 0,00                 |          |
| PROTECT             | 2A   | Long term shelter                      | 3.461,67             | 6.690,96 |
|                     | 2B   | Non food Items                         | 1.873,35             |          |
|                     | 2C   | Mental Health and Psychosocial Support | 0,00                 |          |
|                     | 2D   | Health                                 | 1.355,94             |          |
|                     | 2E   | Legal Assistance                       | 0,00                 |          |
| PROMOTE & INTEGRATE | 3A   | Education                              | 0,00                 | 0,00     |
|                     | 3B   | Livelihood                             | 0,00                 |          |
|                     | 3C   | Awareness raising                      | 0,00                 |          |
|                     | 3D   | Advocacy                               | 0,00                 |          |
|                     | 3E   | Reconciliation & Peacebuilding         | 0,00                 |          |
| CAPACITY BUILDING   | 4A   | Capacity building                      | 0,00                 | 0,00     |
| TOTAL               |      |  |                      | 6.690,96 |

**HUNGARY**

# HUNGARY

Local project implementation  
Partner



## Project Implementation

Start date: 01/05/2022  
End date: 28/02/2025

## Project Reporting

Start date: 01/01/2024  
End date: 31/05/2024

## Location

Budapest



## Contact Person

Emőke Takács and Beáta Palóczné Kovács



# HUNGARY

## 1. Summary

The number of border crossings from Ukraine had totalled over 4.8M. According to the statistics 43.229 people were registered for Temporary Protection. However, there are still no accurate statistics on how many Hungarian-Ukrainian dual citizens have arrived in Hungary since February 2022.

The One Proposal project is being implemented in Budapest in the multidisciplinary center of JRS HU. In addition, our colleagues are present on a weekly basis in the Károlyi István Children's Centre in Fót, 20 km from the capital. There, they provide interactive sessions for unaccompanied minors. We also make our services available to refugees living all over the country through our partner organisations or through mobile teams set up by our staff. Between January and May 2024 we worked with a total of 1212 beneficiaries.

As of the beginning of 2024 an increasing number of families have expressed a need for services aimed at developing children with disabilities and special needs. As a result, we have expanded the special education needs (SEN) sessions provided by JRS HU. Since May, a

**People served  
in 2024**

**1.212**





# HUNGARY

Hungarian-speaking SEN teacher colleague has joined the Ukrainian-born SEN teacher colleague.

There was also an increased demand for individual and group psychosocial support. Thus, in addition to a shift response to gaps in the provision of basic needs - offering individual case management and school accompaniment, supplemented by cash and voucher assistance - we have further strengthened the range of services linked to MHPSS (e.g. women's mental health group, individual psychological support, supportive discussions, community programmes).

In the first semester of 2024, our education team held 9 Hungarian as a foreign language lessons (HFL) at 5 schools (2 advanced level and 7 beginner level groups). There was usually one 90-minute-long lesson per week for each group. Children were grouped according to their language level and age (1-12 participants/group). Another element of our basic services is the monitoring of the progress made by our beneficiaries at school. We offer this service not just for those who attend our HFL lessons but also for those who were enrolled with the help of JRS Hungary at the beginning of the school year. We were also able to run HFL classes for adults (2 beginner groups, with 21 participants) and children (1 beginner group, with 3 participants) in our multidisciplinary centre.

In the last six months we have faced a number of challenges. The most difficult challenge has been to rethink our CVA support scheme due to the reduction in available funding. Although, based on available surveys and our own experience, there is still a great need for additional support for housing, livelihoods and health service related costs reimbursements (eg. specialist medical examination, purchase of prescription and medical aids). Ukrainian refugee households demonstrate a high degree of economic vulnerability. On an individual basis, half of them live with an equivalised disposable income that falls below 50% of the host population median. This contrasts with just 9% of nationals belonging to the same income bracket.

Another challenge was that it was increasingly difficult to find rental property in and around Budapest. Prices are extremely high and we often faced the problem of landlords turning away people of Ukrainian origin. At the same time, more and more organisations are forced to close shelters for Ukrainian refugees due to a decrease in funding.

In the past period, our colleagues have participated in several coordination meetings with several NGOs and aid organisations. The aim of these meetings was to share experiences and to advise each other in specific

# HUNGARY

cases. As a member of the Inter Agency Network coordinated by UNHCR, we participated in joint reflection on Eligibility and vulnerability criteria on CVA, recommendations to improve the situation of dual nationals, elderly refugees and the willingness to participate in the Hungarian education system.

In terms of awareness raising our communication primarily aims at showing the everyday life of the JRS HU team, who we are, what we do, what programs and services we offer to our beneficiaries in terms of education, integration, mental health and social benefits for the purpose of increasing our transparency. We also raise awareness of the challenges teachers who have refugee children in their classes face in the Hungarian education system. Our other main focus is to raise awareness about the reality of refugees in Hungary and replenish hope by sharing some of our beneficiaries' testimonies, positive stories and best practices of inclusion. We also focus on educating young people on issues faced by refugees other than war.

Hungary is not a primary destination for refugees because of the language, the economic situation, and the lack of communities of their original language, culture and religion. This makes it difficult to plan for a longer term and allocate human and material resources to help at all



# HUNGARY

levels. What is more, there is a distrust, sometimes hostility among the refugees towards the temporary host communities, aid agencies and authorities, as a result of prior misinformation and deliberate creation of mistrust against Hungary even before their arrival to the country.

## 2. People served

Overall, refugee households from Ukraine are facing a high degree of economic vulnerability, with half of them falling below the poverty line based on reported income.

During the reporting period we supported 1212 beneficiaries, of which the social work team

supported 57 families under our long-term programme, in total 153 people of which 12 families or individuals started receiving support last autumn. In addition, the education team is accompanying 25 children from 33 families.

Over the past 5 months, we have been contacted by an increasing number of people who have applied for housing assistance. Also the number of families with special needs and vulnerabilities have increased. These

**People served  
in 2024** **1.212**

**People served  
since 2022** **4.211**



# HUNGARY

families include elderly people aged 65-85 years old who are trying to meet their basic needs on meagre pensions or family support. These elderly people suffer from chronic health issues. Their income is not even enough to cover their housing and livelihood expenses. Families who are caring for a child or young adult with a chronic illness or disability are also in a vulnerable position. This situation also makes it difficult or even impossible to find a job. In order to prevent these families from getting stuck in the poverty gap we are committed to continue their accompaniment beyond the 3+3 month scope available in our long term housing program.

| SECTOR                            | GIRLS | BOYS | WOMEN | MEN | TOTAL  |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------|-------|-----|--------|
| Emergency Aid/ Relief/ Assistance | 122   | 138  | 241   | 164 | 665    |
| Short-term Shelter                | -     | -    | -     | -   | -      |
| Long-term Shelter                 | 65    | 67   | 137   | 89  | 358    |
| Non-Food Items                    | 9     | 8    | 17    | 12  | 46     |
| Legal assistance                  | 120   | 138  | 301   | 150 | 709    |
| Psychosocial support              | 48    | 113  | 408   | 91  | 660    |
| Health                            | 4     | 9    | 19    | 10  | 42     |
| Education                         | 425   | 282  | 139   | 24  | 870    |
| Livelihood                        | -     | -    | -     | -   | -      |
| Awareness                         | -     | -    | -     | -   | 52.454 |
| Advocacy                          | -     | -    | -     | -   | -      |
| Integration/ Peace building       | -     | -    | -     | -   | -      |
| Capacity building                 | -     | -    | -     | -   | -      |

## 3. Olenka's story

Until February 2022, we were an ordinary family. My husband worked at a truck tire repair shop, I was a director at a construction company, and our daughter went to school. We had just renovated our flat and were making plans for the future.



# HUNGARY

Everything changed on February 24. By the next day, all the shops were closed, and we had to buy food amidst constant shelling. Soon, we started losing electricity, gas, and water—sometimes all at once. On March 8, a grenade exploded under our house, shattering the window in the nursery. For a month, we lived in the hallway, the safest place in our apartment.

When a neighboring apartment was destroyed, we decided to leave. The independent roads out of the city were already closed. My mother, daughter, and I left by evacuation transport, but no men were allowed, so my husband stayed behind. We arrived in Lviv and faced the daunting question of where to go next.

Fearing to stay in Ukraine, we bought a ticket to Hungary, thinking we would be gone for just a month. On April 1, 2022, we arrived in Budapest.

The question of where to live became urgent. Volunteers and kind strangers helped us initially. On June 4, I received a message from my husband—he was in the hospital with an injury. Leaving my mother and daughter in Budapest, I went to be with him. We spent half a year in the hospital until he could stand on crutches and learn to walk and sit again.

On November 25, after a 70-hour bus journey, my husband and I arrived back in Budapest. I was fortunate to find a job almost immediately, but



# HUNGARY

money was tight as I was the only one able to work. We were four people living on one income.

We were very lucky that JRS came into our lives. Their support in paying utility bills, providing food cards, and hygiene kits was invaluable during our difficult time. They also offered moral support, for which I am deeply grateful.

Now my husband is working too, and we are two working people. We plan for the future with caution, knowing how quickly plans can be shattered. For now, we live and cherish each day as it comes.

# HUNGARY

## 4. Financial summary

| AXIS                   | CODE | BUDGET CATEGORY                              | EXPENDITURE<br>IN EUROS | TOTAL      |
|------------------------|------|--|-------------------------|------------|
| WELCOME                | 1A   | Short term shelter                           | 0,00                    | 0,00       |
|                        | 1B   | Emergency aid relief                         | 0,00                    |            |
| PROTECT                | 2A   | Long term shelter                            | 54.683,81               | 113.680,57 |
|                        | 2B   | Non food Items                               | 35.947,28               |            |
|                        | 2C   | Mental Health<br>and Psychosocial<br>Support | 20.165,28               |            |
|                        | 2D   | Health                                       | 2.884,20                |            |
|                        | 2E   | Legal Assistance                             | 0,00                    |            |
| PROMOTE &<br>INTEGRATE | 3A   | Education                                    | 30.536,54               | 30.536,54  |
|                        | 3B   | Livelihood                                   | 0,00                    |            |
|                        | 3C   | Awareness raising                            | 0,00                    |            |
|                        | 3D   | Advocacy                                     | 0,00                    |            |
|                        | 3E   | Reconciliation &<br>Peacebuilding            | 0,00                    |            |
| CAPACITY<br>BUILDING   | 4A   | Capacity building                            | 23.791,76               | 23.791,76  |
| TOTAL                  |      |  |                         | 168.008,87 |



**MOLDOVA**

# MOLDOVA

Local project implementation  
Partner



## Project Implementation

**Start date:** 01/05/2022  
**End date:** 28/02/2025

## Project Reporting

**Start date:** 01/01/2024  
**End date:** 01/06/2024

## Location

Tudora                      Rîșcani  
Bolohan  
Ruseștii Noi  
Stăuceni



## Contact Person

Caroline Lercher Tauber, Partnerships and Projects Coordinator  
(CONCORDIA Social Projects)



# MOLDOVA

## 1. Summary

Moldova is facing unprecedented challenges due to the spill over effects of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which resulted in an energy and refugee crisis that is straining household budgets, the economy, and public finances. Despite significant efforts to address these crises through fiscal measures and monetary policies, decreasing household incomes and persistent high risks continue to suppress private consumption and investment confidence, resulting in slow growth in 2023 following the recession in 2022.

According to recent UNHCR data, as of the end of April 2024, approximately 120.548 refugees from Ukraine remained in the country. This population constitutes approximately 4% of the total population of Moldova, which is the greatest number of refugees per capita in Europe. Within this refugee population, 59 % are women and girls, 44% are children and 18% are older people .

The project led by CONCORDIA Social Projects in Moldova aims to provide comprehensive support to Ukrainian refugees and vulnerable host

**People served  
in 2024**

**237**



# MOLDOVA

communities, addressing their immediate and long-term needs through various services and initiatives. This summary highlights the main progress and achievements from January 1, 2024, to May 31, 2024.

Day care services have been a cornerstone of the project, benefiting 40 refugees and 217 community members. These services provide a safe and supportive environment for the elderly, addressing their social, emotional, and physical needs. Beneficiaries engage in activities that promote well-being and social interaction, significantly enhancing their quality of life. Additionally, laundry and washroom services have been crucial in maintaining personal hygiene and overall health. These services have supported 46 refugees and 149 community members, helping to improve living conditions and fostering a sense of dignity among the beneficiaries.

Efforts to create a safe and family-friendly environment have had a direct impact on 28 refugees, including children, adults, and elderly individuals. Collaboration with the Local Public Administration (LPA) ensures that accommodations adhere to rigorous standards set by the Official Development Assistance (ODA) and Child Protection Policy. This initiative has been instrumental in fostering a sense of security and community among the refugees.

Educational activities at the multifunctional centers in Sanatauca and Tudora have been pivotal in supporting the academic needs of both refugee and community children. These centers have provided daily homework assistance and school preparation for 57 refugee children and 274 community children. By creating a supportive learning environment, the initiative ensures that these children stay on track with their education and receive the necessary academic support. Furthermore, day care services provided for refugee and community children have included a daily warm meal, educational activities, and various free-time activities such as singing, dancing, handcrafts, and interactive games. This comprehensive approach ensures the well-being and development of the children.

Professional case management has benefited 28 refugees, focusing on monitoring personal needs, mid- and long-term development objectives, and access to available services. This initiative assists refugees in their search for employment and personal and professional development. Feedback mechanisms are in place to ensure that the services provided effectively meet the needs of the beneficiaries.

A total of 46 refugees and 117 community members have actively received direct support and recreational and psycho-emotional counseling.



# MOLDOVA

These services are crucial for helping refugees manage the trauma and challenges associated with displacement, providing them with the emotional and psychological support needed to adapt to their new environment.

CONCORDIA actively participates in relevant UNHCR cluster meetings organized by the Refugee Coordination Forum Working Group. These meetings, held every two weeks, gather an average of 10-15 participants and focus on key areas such as Child Protection, Accommodation and Transportation, and Cash Distribution. The insights gained from these meetings are implemented at the local level, informing further policy and practices regarding the refugee situation.

During the reporting period, several training sessions and workshops were organized for CONCORDIA staff. Topics included the referral mechanism in the social services system for child protection, trauma and discrimination, intercultural education, and gender perspective in the refugee response. These capacity-building efforts are essential for enhancing the staff's ability to support refugees effectively and ensure that they are equipped with the knowledge and skills needed to address the complex challenges faced by the refugee population.



## 2. People served

The refugee movement from Ukraine affects the daily lives of different groups of people in the conflict country as well as in the neighbouring regions and the destination countries. The target group of this project includes Ukrainian refugees as well as the host society and CONCORDIA staff.

**People served  
in 2024** **237**

**People served  
since 2022** **4970**

The following specific groups of Refugees from Ukraine are addressed:

**Women:** Mainly women, or mothers with children, were crossing the border to Moldova due to the exit ban for men of military age. Therefore, women are especially burdened with childcare and worries about their families back home and were in all matters, be it psycho-emotional support, administrative and legal matters as well as education and training and job search. Many women are also involved in designing the children's and after-school programmes in the multifunctional centres. In the multi-functional centre in Tudora there are regular events organised by the refugee women for refugee families. Including a choir, DIY workshops and fitness sessions.

**Children & UASC:** The school children are provided with all necessary school materials according to age and school level for online classes, such as laptops and handhelds, and Moldovan schools. Furthermore, the kids can participate in the activities at the multi-functional centres, which include homework support, remedial education and recreational activities with the children of the Moldovan population, thus promoting integration into the host society. One of CONCORDIA Moldova's facilities in Chisinau is licensed to accommodate and care for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC). During the reporting period, CONCORDIA Moldova did not encounter any case of UASC, nor was any case referred by local authorities.

**Elderly and people with disabilities:** Limited access to mobility and disabilities were assessed on an individual level and supported accordingly. There was one person registered with a disability. This target group is also welcome to visit the multifunctional centres and is encouraged to participate in various activities with the children, and the mothers, regardless of origin. They can engage and socialise with people from the local community and get actively involved in the daily



# MOLDOVA

programme.

Hosting Families & Hosting Communities: CONCORDIA Moldova works closely with the local public authorities to support the families and households hosting refugees as well as vulnerable households in the hosting community.

CONCORDIA Staff: During the reporting period several Trainings, Supervisions and Knowledge Exchanges were organised and offered to staff members: capacity-building in cooperation with Kindernoithilfe e.V., Hemayat, Jugend Eine Welt and Fundatia Don Bosco was organised for different professionals. Furthermore, through a best practice meeting in Bucharest of all involved organisations in the One Proposal, it gave CONCORDIA Moldova the opportunity to exchange experience and learn from one another. Thematic areas were working with traumatised children and child protection, trauma-informed practices, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies, children's rights and human trafficking.

| SECTOR                            | GIRLS | BOYS | WOMEN | MEN | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------|-------|-----|-------|
| Emergency Aid/ Relief/ Assistance | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Short-term Shelter                | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Long-term Shelter                 | 11    | 5    | 11    | 1   | 28    |
| Non-Food Items                    | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Legal assistance                  | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Psychosocial support              | 39    | 53   | 65    | 44  | 201   |
| Health                            | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Education                         | 127   | 137  | -     | -   | 264   |
| Livelihood                        | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Awareness                         | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Advocacy                          | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Integration/ Peace building       | -     | -    | 315   | 245 | 560   |
| Capacity building                 | -     | -    | 37    | 16  | 53    |

# MOLDOVA



## 3. Daniil

Before being forced to flee, I led a vibrant and active life in Tatarbunar. I spent my days playing with friends and exploring my favorite spots in the courtyard of our apartment block. I enjoyed simple pleasures, like riding my bike through the neighborhood, playing soccer with my friends, and spending time at my secret hideouts. My days were structured around school, playtime, and family gatherings, all of which contributed to a stable and happy upbringing.

The day my family and I fled was one of chaos and fear. It was just a day after the military conflict erupted, and the atmosphere was charged with panic. I remember the hurried packing, the worried expressions on my parents' faces, and the overwhelming sense of urgency. As we left Tatarbunar, I felt a deep sense of sadness and fear, particularly about leaving behind my friends and the familiar environment of my neighborhood. The first days in Moldova were filled with apprehension and the stark reality of our displacement.

The journey to Moldova and the subsequent arrival in Tudora were fraught with challenges. The uncertainty of our future loomed large over my family. We struggled to find stability and a sense of normalcy in the new environment. My father was fortunate to find a job at an auto service, but

# MOLDOVA

my mother faced difficulties securing employment in the village, adding to our financial and emotional strain. For me, adjusting to a new school and community was particularly hard. I missed my old friends and found it difficult to communicate and connect with my new peers. The language barrier and cultural differences made me feel isolated, and I struggled to keep up with the academic demands of my new school.

In my case, the support from the day service at the CONCORDIA Center in Tudora through the JRS project was instrumental. The center provided me with educational and psychological assistance, which helped me navigate the challenges of adapting to my new environment. The educators and psychologists at the center worked closely with me, helping me manage my emotions and build new social skills. They organized fun and educational activities that facilitated positive interactions with other children, making it easier for me to integrate into the new community. The support from JRS helped to create a stable routine for me, giving me a sense of security and belonging.

The support from JRS had a profound impact on my life. It played a crucial role in my integration into the new school and community. The center's activities helped me manage my emotions and develop social skills, making it easier for me to form friendships and feel accepted. The educators and psychologists provided me with the guidance and support I needed to navigate the challenges of displacement. As a result, I was able to thrive academically and socially. I became more confident and resilient, able to face the uncertainties of my new life with a positive attitude. The sense of belonging and stability provided by the CONCORDIA Center was invaluable in helping me rebuild my life.

I hope to continue thriving in Tudora, dreaming of a future where I can pursue my passions and achieve my goals without the fear of displacement. However, I also harbor fears about the ongoing instability that comes with being displaced. I worry about my family's long-term stability and the potential challenges we might face. Despite these fears, I remain hopeful and determined to make the most of the opportunities available to me. I believe that with continued support and perseverance, I can overcome any obstacles that come my way.

For now, my family and I plan to stay in Moldova. Despite the challenges we have faced, we are starting to build a new life in Tudora. Moving again would mean facing another round of uncertainties and adjustments, which we wish to avoid. We have found a sense of stability and belonging in our new community, and we are focused on making the most of our current situation.

# MOLDOVA

## 4. Financial summary

| AXIS                   | CODE | BUDGET CATEGORY                              | EXPENDITURE<br>IN EUROS | TOTAL     |
|------------------------|------|--|-------------------------|-----------|
| WELCOME                | 1A   | Short term shelter                           | 0,00                    | 12.177,21 |
|                        | 1B   | Emergency aid relief                         | 12.177,21               |           |
|                        | 2A   | Long term shelter                            | 15.833,67               |           |
|                        | 2B   | Non food Items                               | 0,00                    |           |
|                        | 2C   | Mental Health<br>and Psychosocial<br>Support | 3.514,37                |           |
| PROTECT                | 2D   | Health                                       | 0,00                    | 19.348,03 |
|                        | 2E   | Legal Assistance                             | 0,00                    |           |
|                        | 3A   | Education                                    | 3.969,08                |           |
|                        | 3B   | Livelihood                                   | 0,00                    |           |
|                        | 3C   | Awareness raising                            | 0,00                    |           |
| PROMOTE &<br>INTEGRATE | 3D   | Advocacy                                     | 771,32                  | 4.740,40  |
|                        | 3E   | Reconciliation &<br>Peacebuilding            | 0,00                    |           |
|                        |      |  |                         |           |
|                        |      |  |                         |           |
| CAPACITY<br>BUILDING   | 4A   | Capacity building                            | 1.252,03                | 1.252,03  |
| TOTAL                  |      |  |                         | 37.517,67 |

**POLAND**



# POLAND

Local project implementation  
Partner



## Project Implementation

**Start date:** 01/05/2022  
**End date:** 28/02/2025

## Project Reporting

**Start date:** 01/01/2024  
**End date:** 31/05/2024

## Location

Warsaw  
Poznan  
Gdynia  
Nowy Sacz



## Contact Person

Agnieszka Sucharska, Communications Officer





# POLAND

## 1. Summary

As of early January 2024, there were 955,893 active registrations of Ukrainian refugees in Poland, predominantly residing in Mazowieckie voivodeship, followed by Dolnośląskie and Śląskie. Notably, 64% of refugees are females, with nearly 40% of this group falling in the 18-59 age bracket. Accommodation arrangements vary, with approximately 68% living in private accommodations, 12% in shared dwellings, 13% in hostels, and 7% in collective centers (CC) managed by government and private entities, including NGOs.

On May 15th, the Polish government adopted an amendment to the law on assistance to Ukrainian citizens, extending temporary protection until September 30, 2025. Despite legal provisions, over 10,000 illegal border crossing attempts into Poland were recorded from January to May 2024, mainly at the Belarus border. The Polish Border Guard took measures, including rescue-medical teams, responding to the growing demand for support services.

In 2024 JRS Poland continues assistance to Ukrainian refugees in their displacement and assimilation into Polish society by offering essential

**People served  
in 2024**

**850**



# POLAND

services including accommodation, legal aid, language instruction, psychological support, and integration events.

In Warsaw and Gdynia, JRS Poland provided accommodation, ensuring a safe haven for vulnerable refugees. Magis House in Warsaw offered long-term housing for people from war-torn areas, those who are ill, or with insufficient income. Food vouchers were distributed, especially benefiting seniors in Nowy Sacz in cooperation with Biedronka food chain store. Legal assistance was provided by the JRS legal team, covering various matters such as residency permits, pension claims, and lease agreements. Vocational counselling was also available.

To foster integration, Polish language courses were held monthly for over 200 refugees, along with English language classes crucial for employment in Poland. Educational activities targeted Ukrainian children, including language classes, IT classes and video editing, to enhance academic skills and social integration.

Psychological support and therapy sessions were conducted in multiple cities, engaging over 120 individuals, with a notable portion being children. Integration events, like Easter celebrations and cultural exchanges, facilitated connections with local communities and cultural heritage celebration.

In summary, the project aims to facilitate refugees' smooth integration into Polish society by offering essential support. By addressing various needs and promoting independence, the project fosters social cohesion, mutual understanding, and cultural exchange, contributing to a more inclusive society in Poland.

## 2. People served

The project benefited:

- Refugees of Ukrainian nationality, displaced by the conflict in Ukraine,
- Refugees of other nationalities, displaced by the conflict in Ukraine.

**People served  
in 2024** **850**

**People served  
since 2022** **40.163**

Due to the conscription of men aged 18-60 into the Ukrainian military, those arriving are mostly women, children, and elderly people. Over 80% of foreigners settling in Poland are Ukrainian citizens. Two years after the Russian aggression, 950,000 Ukrainian refugees benefit from temporary protection in Poland. 63% of them are women and children. Approximately half of the migrants from Ukraine in Poland are aged 27-44. Therefore,

# POLAND

although the One Proposal assisted everyone displaced by the conflict, the predominant category of beneficiaries were women (especially women with children), the elderly, and children (those under 18). As Poland is the first country for Ukrainians to escape the war, we are at the front helpline for people fleeing via our eastern border.

In the first 5 months of 2024, JRS Poland served 850 unique beneficiaries, providing each person with nearly three different sectors of support.

As stated in the table below, the main and visibly most needed sector of help is Education, followed by Integration and Peace building, each representing over 1/4 of the Polish team's efforts. The following ones are Psychosocial Support and Awareness. Shoes and food vouchers were distributed to the elderly and people with disabilities or their caregivers in Nowy Sacz. The previously organized library, which is used by, among others, the elderly and disabled people, continues to be very popular. There are also meetings with the Local Social Welfare Center, assisting people in applying for social benefits, and providing individual consultations on various life-important topics.

| SECTOR                            | GIRLS | BOYS | WOMEN | MEN | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------|-------|-----|-------|
| Emergency Aid/ Relief/ Assistance | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Short-term Shelter                | -     | -    | 36    | 5   | 41    |
| Long-term Shelter                 | 5     | 7    | 25    | 13  | 50    |
| Non-Food Items                    | 13    | 23   | 153   | 39  | 228   |
| Legal assistance                  | 1     | -    | 135   | 33  | 169   |
| Psychosocial support              | 97    | 170  | 291   | 54  | 612   |
| Health                            | -     | 2    | 28    | 15  | 45    |
| Education                         | 14    | 38   | 731   | 89  | 872   |
| Livelihood                        | -     | -    | 7     | 4   | 11    |
| Awareness                         | -     | -    | 247   | 100 | 347   |
| Advocacy                          | -     | -    | 27    | 15  | 42    |
| Integration/ Peace building       | 160   | 87   | 280   | 220 | 747   |
| Capacity building                 | -     | -    | 32    | 2   | 34    |



# POLAND

## 3. Anastasia's story

Before the war, I worked as a cultural organizer and acting group director in Kharkiv. We fled a week after the conflict intensified. During our escape, we experienced terrifying shelling; it was so loud, and we could see the explosions. Upon arriving in Poland, every loud sound frightened us for some time.

Our journey felt guided by fate. We first traveled to a town 247 km from Kharkiv where distant relatives lived. Several families, including ours, stayed with them. My sister-in-law and I decided to move to Poland. At the railway station, we discovered our train would depart in a few hours. Another train, which usually didn't stop there, made an unexpected stop. We asked the train attendant for available seats, and they allowed us to board. We later learned that people in Kharkiv had waited 24 hours to get on that train due to the chaos at the station. We reached Lviv, intending to take a train to the Polish border, but there were no seats. We took a bus instead. Volunteers picked us up at the Polish border and brought us to Nowy Sącz, where a friend of mine lives.

JRS has been a lifeline. When we arrived in Nowy Sącz, I struggled to find work similar to what I had in Ukraine. Language barriers forced me to work 12-hour shifts at a restaurant, which took a toll on my health, leading to



# POLAND

surgery. Unable to continue at the restaurant, I joined a JRS channel and found a part-time job as an acting teacher. I was thrilled and immediately contacted the JRS office, where they employed me. I later secured another job and balanced both at JRS and a factory.

The children eagerly attended acting classes, feeling isolated in a foreign country. These gatherings provided much-needed support, and we have had numerous performances.

JRS helped me resolve issues with my child's education and corrected a mistake in my Polish ID number. A JRS psychologist advised me on handling my child's behavior. When I lost my factory job, JRS helped me find new employment.

Both my children are now in school, and I need to pay rent, so a single part-time position wasn't enough. JRS found several part-time jobs for me. I now work as an acting director at a local library and continue my part-time work with JRS.

My son attends Polish courses organized by JRS. He was initially afraid to speak Polish, but now he speaks confidently.

I have several fears. We live in a rented apartment that the owner plans to sell, so I fear having to find a new place. I also worry about being unable to support my family financially and whether my work experience in Poland will count towards my pension when I return to Ukraine. I am not young anymore.

Despite everything, we dream of returning to Ukraine. Life will never be the same as before February 24, 2022, but there, I have a home and a job.



# POLAND

## 4. Financial summary

| AXIS                | CODE | BUDGET CATEGORY                        | EXPENDITURE IN EUROS | TOTAL      |
|---------------------|------|--|----------------------|------------|
| WELCOME             | 1A   | Short term shelter                     | 0,00                 | 10.210,82  |
|                     | 1B   | Emergency aid relief                   | 10.210,82            |            |
| PROTECT             | 2A   | Long term shelter                      | 48.901,66            | 96.972,90  |
|                     | 2B   | Non food Items                         | 1.849,46             |            |
|                     | 2C   | Mental Health and Psychosocial Support | 40.971,23            |            |
|                     | 2D   | Health                                 | 1.863,74             |            |
|                     | 2E   | Legal Assistance                       | 3.382,82             |            |
|                     | 3A   | Education                              | 58.425,84            |            |
| PROMOTE & INTEGRATE | 3B   | Livelihood                             | 0.00                 | 166.960,22 |
|                     | 3C   | Awareness raising                      | 5.393,30             |            |
|                     | 3D   | Advocacy                               | 3.966,91             |            |
|                     | 3E   | Reconciliation & Peacebuilding         | 99.174,17            |            |
|                     | 4A   | Capacity building                      | 35.116,63            |            |
| CAPACITY BUILDING   | 4A   | Capacity building                      | 35.116,63            | 35.116,63  |
| TOTAL               |      |  |                      | 309.260,56 |

**ROMANIA**

# ROMANIA

Local project implementation  
Partner



## Project Implementation

Start date: 24/02/2022  
End date: 28/02/2025

## Project Reporting

Start date: 01/01/2024  
End date: 31/05/2024

## Location

Bucharest  
Constanta  
Galati  
Baia Mare  
Brasov  
Medias



## Contact Person

Catalin Albu - Project Coordinator



# ROMANIA

## 1. Summary

In Romania, there were 164.900 persons with temporary protection and 77.900 persons from Ukraine registered in the country as of May 2024.

Payments for the new financial program dedicated to Ukrainian refugees were disbursed with delays for the months of May – December 2023. However, payments for the subsequent months (January- March 2024) are still pending and experiencing. The financial program was extended until the end of June 2024.

The AMIF projects dedicated to all other migrants (asylum-seekers, refugees, tolerated, TCN) were finalised in October 2023 and the new call for proposals was organised with delay, thus leaving them without support and assistance until present.

The RRP for Romania coordinated by UNHCR envisaged a need of a budget of 117.2 mil. \$ and reached only 14 mil. (12%) with 35% of the population in need reached so far.

The educational hubs supported by JRS Romania were reduced from 25

**People served  
in 2024**

**2.041**



# ROMANIA

to 15 and will be furthermore limited to 5 across the country (Bucharest, Constanta and Brasov) due to budgetary restraints.

The project was structured to provide multifaceted support across key domains: emergency relief, shelter, and non-food items (NFI), legal assistance, psychosocial support, health services, educational opportunities, livelihood initiatives, awareness and advocacy efforts, and integration and peacebuilding measures.

Our strategic project execution aimed to meet the urgent and fundamental needs of the refugee community, thereby smoothing their transition from immediate crisis response to longer-term integration. We allocated resources to ensure refugees could access basic livelihoods, despite the very limited and very much delayed financial assistance from governmental sources, as well from other international agencies who considerably reduced their assistance.

Furthermore, JRS Romania has invested in helping refugees build their livelihoods and skills, focusing on economic independence and community contributions.

The program concentrated on providing education for adults to empower them to become self-sustainable. This included courses in Romanian and English, vocational training, job orientation, and specialized meetings among IT entrepreneurs. Additionally, educational services were extended to children, featuring a kindergarten, a preparatory class ("0 class"), and dedicated courses in Constanta and Bucharest.

The organization's holistic approach is evident in its work on health and psychosocial support for individuals who have endured trauma and stress.

JRS has effectively created safe and supportive environments conducive to educational and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities for both children and adults. These initiatives are structured around a detailed weekly schedule and are delivered by a skilled team including members of both the Ukrainian and Romanian communities. These services were addressing a diverse pyramid of needs. The range of offerings included psychological counselling sessions, art therapy such as painting, yoga, and tailored activities for the elderly.

Special attention was devoted to coordination and empowerment of specialised psychological staff from all projects.

In addition to the comprehensive suite of services provided, JRS Romania has significantly enhanced communication channels with the refugee



# ROMANIA

population, ensuring that their needs are meticulously addressed. This improved communication framework has been pivotal in tailoring our activities to meet the specific requirements of the refugee community more effectively, thereby facilitating a more nuanced and impactful support system.

Advocacy efforts are centred on securing support from Romanian authorities through schools and local inspectorates to ensure and enhance the integration of Ukrainian children into Romanian educational systems.

Weekly sessions for intervention and staff care since the end of July 2023 until end of May 2024, all under the coordination of JRS International specialists. In total, there were trainings on:

- Orientation for non-MHPSS professional: 3 meetings with staff working as psychologists in schools and kindergartens,
- Orientation for non-MHPSS professional with other staff involved in assisting refugees (mangers, social workers) - 2 sessions,
- MHPSS in education – 2 meetings
- MHPSS in working with kids and teenagers, "I support my friends" materials - 2 meetings
- Psychosocial skills: - 2 meetings



# ROMANIA

## 2. People served

In total, the project has reached 5.448 people served with 2.041 unique beneficiaries. Among the services provided, the Education was the main component with 2.638 persons served, followed by the livelihood component with 1.699 persons helped and MHPSS with 565 persons. This demonstrates a

substantial emphasis on education for adults and children and livelihoods in the project's activities and the critical need for educational resources and support among refugee children. It underlines the importance of ensuring access to education in such communities.

**People served in 2024** **2.041**

**People served since 2022** **25.740**

| SECTOR                            | GIRLS | BOYS | WOMEN | MEN | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------|-------|-----|-------|
| Emergency Aid/ Relief/ Assistance | 27    | 15   | 304   | 63  | 409   |
| Short-term Shelter                | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Long-term Shelter                 | 1     | 1    | -     | -   | 2     |
| Non-Food Items                    | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Legal assistance                  | -     | -    | 23    | 5   | 28    |
| Psychosocial support              | 27    | 12   | 511   | 15  | 565   |
| Health                            | 13    | 30   | -     | -   | 43    |
| Education                         | 364   | 224  | 1.607 | 443 | 2.638 |
| Livelihood                        | 803   | 850  | 41    | 5   | 1.699 |
| Awareness                         | 32    | 8    | 17    | 7   | 64    |
| Advocacy                          | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Integration/ Peace building       | 70    | 49   | 79    | 23  | 221   |

## 3. Svitlana Mamontova

I used to live in Mykolaiv until circumstances forced me to move due to a family tragedy: my daughter-in-law's cancer diagnosis. Then the war

# ROMANIA



found us, and it was terrifying—we didn't know what to do next or how to go on living. I worried about my granddaughter and my own children. We decided to leave our home and find a safer place, but we had no idea where to go. Our journey stopped in Bucharest, where a Romanian family welcomed us and another family. They gave us separate bedrooms and a shared kitchen-studio. We stayed there for two weeks before starting to search for housing on our own, which was very difficult because we didn't know or understand anything.

My acquaintance with JRS began with a phone call. I was invited to come and receive assistance in the form of vouchers and medical supplies, which were very much needed. That's how our relationship began. We received consultations and started participating in activities. At one activity called "Grandparents 60+," we met people our age and bonded with them. Now we're friends with their families. We started attending yoga classes together, painting, attending psychological sessions, and dancing. It was exactly what we needed.

We have decided to stay here until the end of the war, but we hope that the war will end soon and we will all return home because we miss our relatives and loved ones dearly. Thank you, JRS Romania, for everything you do for Ukrainians. Thank you for introducing us to Romania. We also

# ROMANIA

went on tours and visited museums.

# ROMANIA

## 4. Financial summary

| AXIS                | CODE | BUDGET CATEGORY                        | EXPENDITURE IN EUROS | TOTAL      |
|---------------------|------|--|----------------------|------------|
| WELCOME             | 1A   | Short term shelter                     | 0,00                 | 0,00       |
|                     | 1B   | Emergency aid relief                   | 0,00                 |            |
| PROTECT             | 2A   | Long term shelter                      | 603,22               | 113.537,96 |
|                     | 2B   | Non food Items                         | 33.198,51            |            |
|                     | 2C   | Mental Health and Psychosocial Support | 26.316,77            |            |
|                     | 2D   | Health                                 | 1.149,97             |            |
|                     | 2E   | Legal Assistance                       | 52.269,49            |            |
| PROMOTE & INTEGRATE | 3A   | Education                              | 238.046,39           | 328.019,49 |
|                     | 3B   | Livelihood                             | 35.362,57            |            |
|                     | 3C   | Awareness raising                      | 24.505,83            |            |
|                     | 3D   | Advocacy                               | 19.662,42            |            |
|                     | 3E   | Reconciliation & Peacebuilding         | 10.442,27            |            |
| CAPACITY BUILDING   | 4A   | Capacity building                      | 0,00                 | 0,00       |
| TOTAL               |      |  |                      | 441.557,45 |



**SLOVAKIA**

# SLOVAKIA

Local project implementation  
Partner



JESUITS

## Project Implementation

Start date: 24/02/2022  
End date: 28/02/2025

## Project Reporting

Start date: 01/01/2024  
End date: 31/05/2024

## Location

Trnava



## Contact Person

Fr. Peter Girášek, SJ – Project Manager  
Lenka Jančovičová, PhD – Office Manager



# SLOVAKIA

## 1. Summary

### Current Political and Security Context

The political situation in Slovakia is currently very tense and uncertain. The presidential election in April 2024 led to extreme polarization of the society. Following a shooting attack on the Prime Minister on May 16, 2024, fragmentation and tension have worsened, with many hoaxes and conspiracy theories spreading on social networks. The Ukrainian refugee community in Slovakia is significantly affected by these events, particularly due to concerns over military aid to Ukraine, which was one of the motives in the attack.

### Governmental Changes and Impact on Refugees

The Slovak government has implemented several changes affecting Ukrainian refugees:

- The validity of certificates of tolerated stay has been extended to March 4, 2025.

**People served  
in 2024**

**878**



# SLOVAKIA

- An amendment to the Government Regulation on expatriate accommodation allowances was proposed in March 2024, extending the allowance until June 30, 2024, at EUR 6 per night.
- General administrative service fees for refugees increased in April 2024.
- The Slovakia Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for 2024 was presented in collaboration with UNHCR. Within the framework of the inter-agency Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), 25 partners in Slovakia have joined efforts to provide protection services and multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance to refugees from Ukraine, third country nationals and other persons in need, and support the host communities.

Since March 2024, housing allowances for refugees have been halved, causing financial instability and uncertainty. Adequate housing for large families and children's education remains a persistent issue. The Ministry of Education reported in February 2024 there are 37 000 Ukrainian children under 18 living in Slovakia, 11 800 of whom are in school.

We see the insufficient support for school attendance.

## **Project Implementation and Activities**

The Family Help Centre (FHC) continues to support Ukrainian refugees through various activities aligned with the One Proposal project. Despite the challenges, the project has provided services from January to May 2024, focusing on integration and support for vulnerable groups. Here is an overview of the key activities and their outcomes:

### 1. Shelter and NFI Distribution

- Long-term shelter and basic food provided by the Jesuit community in Trnava for 4 persons.
- The Eco-Social Wardrobe (ESW) served 229 refugees with basic supplies.

### 2. Legal Assistance was provided to 1184 beneficiaries

- 306 beneficiaries, who came personally to see Ukrainian lawyer in the office
- 878 refugees received online legal advices.

### 3. Psychosocial Support

- Services were provided to 58 refugees.
- Individual counselling sessions for mothers, retired individuals, and children for 21 people.



# SLOVAKIA

- A Zumba dance course attended by 34 women and 2 girls and 1 boy promoted physical and mental health.

## 4. Education

- Services in the field of Education were provided to 113 beneficiaries.
- Learning Help Assistance supported 35 Ukrainian children with homework and cultural integration.
- Slovak Language Courses for 67 people, including 19 children and 48 adults, enhanced language skills essential for integration.
- A Parents and Tots Sing-Along and Storytime session engaged a mixed group of Slovak and 7 Ukrainian children
- IT course for 4 boys learned JAVA programming language 1x per week, from October to April 2024, was led by the IT expert

## 5. Integration and Peacebuilding

- Various integration activities included:
  - an exhibition “From Jerusalem to the All Nations” attended by 80 people,
  - a Dancing ball and Carnival with 320 participants,





# SLOVAKIA

- a Family Day event hosted 1,320 people, including 310 Ukrainian refugees.

## 6. Capacity Building

Efforts to improve internet connectivity and communication to better meet the needs of Ukrainian refugees.

Overall, the Family Help Centre has successfully implemented numerous activities despite the challenging political and social environment, continuously supporting the integration and well-being of Ukrainian refugees in Slovakia.

## 2. People served

The main target group of our beneficiaries are women with their children. We served just few seniors and smaller group of men.

To conclude, the total number of the unique UA beneficiaries in the period 1.1.2024 – 31.5.2024 who have received our services is 878. Of

these people, each of them received at least one service (legal assistance). However, most of them benefited from multiple services repeatedly provided.

**People served in 2024** **878**

**People served** **5004**

| SECTOR                            | GIRLS | BOYS | WOMEN | MEN | TOTAL |
|-----------------------------------|-------|------|-------|-----|-------|
| Emergency Aid/ Relief/ Assistance | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Short-term Shelter                | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Long-term Shelter                 | 1     | 0    | 2     | 1   | 4     |
| Non-Food Items                    | 45    | 31   | 134   | 19  | 229   |
| Legal assistance                  | 39    | 54   | 949   | 143 | 1,185 |
| Psychosocial support              | 5     | 2    | 50    | 1   | 58    |
| Health                            | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |

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| SECTOR                         | GIRLS | BOYS | WOMEN | MEN | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|-------|-----|-------|
| Education                      | 26    | 39   | 45    | 3   | 113   |
| Livelihood                     | -     | -    | 3     | -   | 3     |
| Awareness                      | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Advocacy                       | -     | -    | -     | -   | -     |
| Integration/<br>Peace building | 155   | 137  | 148   | 50  | 490   |

## 3. Iryna

I was enjoying maternity leave with my two-month-old daughter when everything crumbled overnight as war broke out in Ukraine. Fear and chaos engulfed our entire family. My memories of fleeing our homeland are foggy, as if it all happened in a daze. I cried constantly, fearing for my children – my little daughter and my older son.

The journey to Slovakia was arduous. I didn't know Slovak or English, and my chronic migraines, worsened by stress, were relentless.

Thankfully, we found help at the Family Help Center (FHC) in Trnava, where they provided clothes for my children and me. At this Center, I finally felt a sense of calm. I started attending Slovak language classes and



# SLOVAKIA

met a wonderful friend from Ukraine. With the help of FHC, I was able to take care of my children's basic needs and found psychosocial support and friendships with both Ukrainians and Slovaks. We all share a similar fate here and help each other as much as we can.

I still dream that one day we will return to Ukraine, to our home. But for now, it is still too dangerous there. War took my home, but in Slovakia, I found humanity and solidarity. Slovakia has become a refuge for us. Because of that, I believe even the darkest times will eventually end, and we will be able to return to a peaceful and free home.

FHC has become a place where I find strength and hope. I am extremely grateful for the help and support we receive here. It makes us know we are not alone in this difficult situation.

# SLOVAKIA

## 4. Financial summary

| AXIS                   | CODE | BUDGET CATEGORY                              | EXPENDITURE<br>IN EUROS | TOTAL     |
|------------------------|------|--|-------------------------|-----------|
| WELCOME                | 1A   | Short term shelter                           | 0,00                    | 0,00      |
|                        | 1B   | Emergency aid relief                         | 0,00                    |           |
| PROTECT                | 2A   | Long term shelter                            | 2.015,76                | 23.981,38 |
|                        | 2B   | Non food Items                               | 11.897,50               |           |
|                        | 2C   | Mental Health<br>and Psychosocial<br>Support | 3.935,76                |           |
|                        | 2D   | Health                                       | 0,00                    |           |
|                        | 2E   | Legal Assistance                             | 6.132,36                |           |
|                        | 3A   | Education                                    | 17.571,29               |           |
| PROMOTE &<br>INTEGRATE | 3B   | Livelihood                                   | 10.754,46               | 32.099,41 |
|                        | 3C   | Awareness raising                            | 0,00                    |           |
|                        | 3D   | Advocacy                                     | 1.076,88                |           |
|                        | 3E   | Reconciliation &<br>Peacebuilding            | 2.696,78                |           |
|                        | 4A   | Capacity building                            | 1.952,00                |           |
| CAPACITY<br>BUILDING   | 4A   | Capacity building                            | 1.952,00                | 1.952,00  |
| TOTAL                  |      |  |                         | 58.032,79 |

# INTEGRATION FUND



# INTEGRATION FUND

## 1. Introduction

Although the greatest number of refugees displaced from the conflict in Ukraine, and the greatest humanitarian needs, were located in Ukraine and its neighbouring countries, millions of refugees moved on to so called 'countries of secondary movement'. These refugees faced numerous challenges in the short, medium, and long term: a need for sustainable, dignified housing, a need for children to receive appropriate education, a need for access to employment and for support with basic needs, a need for integration and contact with local communities, and many others.

JRS Europe launched the Integration Fund, allowing JRS Country Offices across Europe to run projects supporting refugees from Ukraine. This Fund was intended to improve the medium- and long-term wellbeing of refugees in these countries of secondary movement, assisting them in meeting their basic needs, in accessing their rights, and in integrating in and building connections with host societies.

Here follows a summary of the projects by country, together with key data on those served and on the activities undertaken in 2024.

**People served  
in 2024**

**2.261**



## 2. Portugal

At the breakout of the Ukrainian conflict, JRS Europe and JRS Portugal united their forces to support and bring relief to Ukrainian refugees that fled from Ukraine and found shelter in the Iberic country. Since the beginning of the Russian invasion in Ukraine, Portugal has had a relevant role in supporting refugees fleeing from the conflict, namely through the implementation of a special mechanism that granted immediate authorization for a residence permit (Temporary Protection Title), with automatic allocation of Social Security and tax identification numbers and access to the National Health System. This temporary protection was initially limited to one year but has been extended and is now valid until the end of 2024. Approximately 60 000 temporary protection titles have been issued to displaced persons from Ukraine.

Through the Integration Fund and under the one proposal JRS Portugal supported people thanks to the “Safe Rent” project and thanks to the “Empower UA”.

During the “Safe Rent” project JRS Portugal addressed the housing crisis, significantly impacting migrant and refugee families who struggle to find affordable rental housing. Despite constitutional and human rights provisions for housing, this right is not practically guaranteed, leading to rising rents due to limited rental availability. The SAFE RENT program was created to support monthly rental costs and provide stability for refugees.

The Safe Rent project, focusing on Ukrainian refugees, offers financial aid for rent based on family needs and vulnerability, with a maximum of 800 euros per month for up to 12 months. This aims to ensure stable housing for at least 63 Ukrainian refugees. Beneficiaries are supported by JRS offices in Lisbon and Porto or live in the Cristo Rei Temporary Centre.

In 2023, JRS Portugal launched the ARCA project, supporting Ukrainian refugees with temporary reception centers and a comprehensive support team to help them learn Portuguese and find employment, complementing the Safe Rent program. Safe Rent promotes autonomy by requiring beneficiaries to seek employment, learn Portuguese, and integrate their children into schools.

By the end of 2022, Safe Rent had assisted 35 individuals with rent costs, covering 11 households. In 2023, it supported 59 lease contracts, benefiting 132 individuals with 961 monthly rent payments. In early 2024, the program continued to support 37 families, adding 3 new leases. Over two years, the project supported 145 beneficiaries through 63 lease contracts, covering

# INTEGRATION FUND

554 rent payments. JRS also acted as a guarantor for seven leases, building trust and facilitating refugees' financial independence.

Challenges included managing expectations about the war's end, high rental prices, lack of affordable housing, and landlords' reluctance to rent to refugees due to cultural differences. Despite these hurdles, the Safe Rent program has been crucial in supporting refugees' integration and autonomy in Portugal.

In 2024 JRS Portugal dedicated to implement the “Empower UA” refugees project. Since the beginning of the conflict, JRS Portugal has accompanied more than 1250 displaced persons from Ukraine, of which 7% (87) were direct beneficiaries of the Empower UA project, through 242 specialized and tailor-made supports.

The activities carried out in the Project focus on the following:

1. Identifying the individual needs of the beneficiaries and helping them to find a solution for their path.
2. Initial assessment to identify the needs and potential of each person;
3. Providing psychosocial support:
4. Social counselling and meeting basic needs, namely medication and/or food



# INTEGRATION FUND

5. Guidance and support in the process of staying in Portugal - referral to Portuguese classes, applications for social support, access to healthcare, children's integration into school, etc.
6. Sociolegal support, especially in terms of documentation;
7. Assisting in the search process of finding adequate housing and connecting with landlords;
8. Providing personalized career guidance and counselling;
9. Identifying/Updating the profile of each person;
10. Drafting/translating CVs to present candidates to potential employers;
11. Prospecting, publicizing and/or applying for jobs by consulting several resources;
12. Referrals for training, to identify answers that can improve their skills or diversify their chances of integration into the labour market;
13. Conducting sessions on Job Search Techniques, focusing on topics such as the Portuguese labour market, job search tools, skills valued by employers, the Curriculum Vitae, interview preparation, types of employment contract, employment rights and responsibilities, and worker support services.

The number of accompaniments (242) demonstrates the need to provide a more extended support and not only a one-time informative support. In average the beneficiaries are coming 3 times to JRS, searching support in the different dimensions provided by the project, namely social support; other means of regularization; housing, health food and employment.

## People Served

In the "Safe Rent" project, between June 2022 and June 2024 a total of 63 contract leases benefited from this project, providing an autonomous house for a total of 63 households, which benefited 145 refugees who fled from the Ukrainian war. Financial support helped to co-finance the rent for 38 autonomous apartments and 25 individual rooms.

The majority of the beneficiaries were ukrainian refugees (92%) while 12 refugees had other nationalities (Iran, Morocco, India, Ethiopia, Iran, Gana and Nigeria).

Under "Empower UA", from January to May 2024, 85 unique beneficiaries were accompanied in a total of 240 appointments. 66% represent women and 34% representing men. The majority of them (80%) are under working age, while a small percentage are children (11%) or above 60 years old (9%). In terms of nationality, additional to Ukrainians (79%), the project has



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supported other refugees that were living in Ukraine and fled from the war, namely nationals from Nigeria, Georgia, Pakistan, and a few others.

In the following table, because the data is divided between psychosocial and livelihoods supports, the total number of beneficiaries is 112, because some refugees benefited from both responses.

## Challenges & Lessons learnt

One of the biggest challenges is working on integration. Normally, the staff will intervene with the aim of helping refugee to integrate. This involves providing information on how the host society works, what their obligations and rights are, making sure that their basic needs are covered, helping them to learn the language of the host country, seeking professional integration, etc. However, many Ukrainian refugees, believing that the war will end soon, the proximity to their country of origin (they don't have to cross continents, for example), the ease of travelling there (the return journey is relatively accessible and safe) and the resident family factor with whom they have frequent contact in their country of origin (husbands, children), mean that they are less willing to integrate. They therefore seek less help and are less likely to create a therapeutic relationship, which makes intervention more difficult.



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The language issue also stood out as a crucial challenge. Learning the Portuguese language proved difficult for many refugees, jeopardising their chances of applying for job opportunities. Alongside with this the selectivity of job opportunities was an additional barrier, as many refugees were highly selective and not very open to considering job offers that didn't fulfil very specific criteria, namely in some cases high salary expectations compared to Portuguese standards. These factors coupled with the constant prospect of returning to Ukraine, have meant that employment was not a priority for some of the refugees.

Some Ukrainians have managed to keep their jobs remotely, which has been positive as it has allowed a certain normality and connection to their life before the war, but on the other hand it has influenced their less proactive approach to integration. A large part of the Ukrainian population has higher education, however the lack of recognition to practice their profession in Portugal has constituted a significant barrier. Bureaucracy and the need to translate documents further complicate this situation and their expectations of being able to maintain the same standard of living in Portugal, were dashed, especially for those who were unable to continue their work remotely.

Many had a good standard of living in the UA, being middle or upper-middle class, but here they were unable to maintain it, because social support in Portugal is low and due to the non-recognition of qualifications and lack of knowledge of the language, they were unable to get the same kind of job. So, they didn't have the same economic resources. This brought a lot of frustration to the refugees. Additionally, they had never been in a situation where they needed social support before, which created some discomfort and little openness to using services at this stage in their lives.

However, the fact that most of them have a high level of education and a certain cultural and social proximity to our society has made it easier for them to learn about their rights and obligations and how the services work, which has led to less dependence on psychosocial support.

On the other hand, the fact that the war in Ukraine is going on longer than initially thought has had the effect of changing the life plans of some refugees, who are now starting to try to establish their lives in the host country after two years. In other words, learning the language, getting their children into Portuguese schools, looking for work, etc. This is starting to happen as the war continues and worsens, but at a time when sensitivity towards the situation of displaced people from Ukraine has diminished, reflecting in a reduction in the inclusion of these people

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in employability programmes, contributing to a more difficult integration process.

The social support provided by the Portuguese state is also a challenge for this or any other refugee population, as it is limited and does not facilitate integration. The renewal of the temporary protection offered brought instability for some refugees and also for companies, which had few guarantees regarding the continuity of the hiring process. Housing is a national problem at the moment, affecting even more those who don't have much income or stability in Portugal. Refugees are therefore in a very vulnerable situation. Initially, they benefited greatly from the solidarity of civil society, but this faded over time.

What have we learnt?

The response to support refugees has to be tailored to the specific group, i.e. supporting a refugee from the DRC, Syria, Afghanistan or Ukraine is completely different. However, the needs are very much the same - language, psychosocial support, professional integration, academic equivalences, regular documentation, etc. This assumption seems basic and obvious, but in practice, when projects and funding are being prepared, this aspect is not taken into account and attempts are made to create measures to facilitate integration without taking into account



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the origin of the refugees (e.g. the Ukrainians were interested in having money to provide their children with sports or music lessons, etc.; while the Afghans send the pocket money they received to feed the family that remained in their country of origin).

## 3. Serbia

The effective integration and support of refugees and asylum seekers in Serbia became more complex with the extended war in Ukraine that generated arrival of new refugees. Moreover, it is expected to become more challenging due to adopting the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum 2024. Serbia is not an EU member, however considering its geographical position on the EU External Borders, we can assume that adopting the proposed Pact would negatively affect national migration policies, which is following EU decisions in almost all aspects of migrations and asylum policy. Besides that, government services for refugees in Serbia remained basic, without offering any steps towards integration, and government plans (if any) remained unpublished so far.

Approx. 1.250 Ukrainian refugees in Serbia have received temporary protection. The refugee population comprises individuals of varying ages and educational backgrounds, resulting in a wide range of unique needs within each family. Vulnerable demographics are noticed in target group. Most refugees consist of women, single women with children, and elderly individuals, emphasizing the importance of addressing their specific requirements and vulnerabilities.

JRS successfully accomplished planned tasks. Additionally, we increased the capacity of our team by enhancing public communication.

### **Welcome:**

- Non-Food Items (NFI) Support: We organized collection of second-hand clothes and sending it to mostly elderly Ukrainian refugees in the Refugee Centre Vranje in South Serbia.
- Legal Assistance: Provided legal support to ensure refugees' rights and access to services in cases of problems to find a job, to apply at National Employment Bureaus, and in case of problem with employer.

### **Protect:**

- We provide legal support, consultation, and assistance to help solve problems and protect their rights.

### **Promote:**

- Education: Alongside online Serbian language classes, we gathered



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a group of adult Ukrainian beneficiaries who wished for a place to meet, have tea, and converse with their compatriots. Learning Serbian remains a part of these gatherings.

- Awareness Raising: JRS held a celebration in Belgrade for the 30th Anniversary of JRS in Southeast Europe, attended by over 60 guests and partners from governmental and non-governmental organizations. The event highlighted our work with Ukrainian refugees. Additionally, we organized three public happenings for promotion of the Ukrainian culture and their integration in the Serbian Society. Two of them on the open, in the Belgrade Resort Ada, where many people visited our place and get information directly from Ukrainian volunteers.

## **Integrate:**

- Serbian Language Classes: Our live and online Serbian language classes for Ukrainian refugees across Serbia have evolved into supportive meetings where beneficiaries share their challenges, thoughts, and news under the guidance of an experienced online teacher.
- Workshops for children and mothers were held to strengthen psychological status of children and mothers, and relief their stress.

## **People Served**

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Ukrainian refugees who are dominantly women, are experiencing significant benefits from our project, which offers:

- Serbian lessons with grammar explanation on the native language
- Our Cultural Mediator for Ukrainian refugees facilitates gatherings, supports job searches, assists with CV and job interview preparation, and explains important aspects of Serbian culture.
- We provide other legal support, consultation, and assistance to help solve problems and protect their rights.
- Additionally, Serbian people have the opportunity to learn about Ukrainian culture firsthand, beyond what is presented in the media.

## 4. Spain

### Political and security context

The Ukrainian war has forced an exodus of 195.000 Ukrainian war refugees into Spain. The Spanish government has deployed a prompt response providing temporary protection and shelter for the Ukrainian refugees. Because of this response many other forced migrant and asylum seekers (160.000) were left in destitution due to the lack of allocation of sufficient resources. Moreover, the Ukrainian war has had strong impacts (raising energetic prices, food shortage, inflation crisis) that have strongly impacted global south countries already weakened after the covid increasing the refugee crisis worldwide.

In this context where we are facing constant and emergency crisis situations that aggravate other crises all over the world, we need to develop resilient and flexible refugee support systems to reach where the public policies leave people in need behind. Thus, SJM proposal is to strengthen the networks of hospitality to provide long term, sustainable and community accompaniment to refugees and force migrants in destitution due to the Ukrainian war to prepare Spanish society to keep answering to the challenges of global instability.

### Project overview and status update

This project focuses on developing community hospitality networks and providing community-based reception and integration responses for forced migrants in destitution due to the Ukrainian war. The strengthening of the hospitality networks have engaged over 1.600 welcoming citizens providing long term hosting and integration solutions for 132 forced migrants (89 of them were Ukrainians refugees with special needs, for whom the governmental resources were not the most suitable



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answer and were derived to the Hospitality Program)

## Key components of the project include:

- Providing long term housing and emergency relief to cover basic need to 132 forced migrants,
- Therapeutic support: specific groups, especially women, receive professional therapy to address trauma related to forced displacement. Ukrainian people have participated in these services.
- Community building and community accompaniment building support network for local integration.
- Developing skills of teams and volunteers for accompaniment. 400 people of the accompaniment network trained.

## Project implementation and challenges

During the second year of the project less new Ukrainians arrived to Spain. The governmental reception system was in place and less people were left behind. Also, many of them people accompanied achieved autonomy and leave the projects. Therefore, SJM received less Ukrainian refugees than the first year of the project.

The focus of developing community networks for their integration easy



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their way to autonomy and keep providing some support for the Ukrainian families.

However, several challenges have emerged during implementation:

- Administrative barriers: specially for third country national living in Ukraine.
- Economic constraints: limited funding and resources have sometimes hindered the project's ability to meet all identified needs, particularly in providing long-term housing solutions and comprehensive legal support.
- Volunteer coordination: ensuring consistent and high-quality training for volunteers is ongoing, as their roles are crucial in delivering effective support to the beneficiaries. Families and volunteers accompanying Ukrainian people have participated in these processes. Here are some of the testimonies of the people accompanied and their families of reference who talk about the experience.
- Gender-specific needs: while the project has made significant strides in addressing the specific needs of women, such as providing therapy and promoting participation, the deep-rooted gender roles and stereotypes within both the migrant and host communities require continuous and sensitive handling. The Ukrainian women have joined the women's groups, also in the Spanish classes, both processes have made it possible for them to strengthen their process of inclusion

Despite these challenges, the project has made significant progress in empowering women, building supportive communities, and fostering greater understanding between migrants and local populations. Moving forward the project aims to enhance its impact by addressing these challenges and refining its approach to better meet the evolving needs of its beneficiaries.

## People Served through the Project

The project has directly benefited 132 forced migrants 89 of them were Ukrainians refugees. Although many others have participated in different activities, community networks and relief programs (1.110). 416 people of the host community (staff, volunteers and hosts) have been trained for accompaniment and on MHPSS skills.

## 5. North Macedonia

The political and economic situation in the Republic of North Macedonia have implications after the elections (8 May 2024), also on the local

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populations and refugees from Ukraine who are still in North Macedonia and all this in line with the rising prizes for live hood.

With no end in sight to the war in Ukraine, the EU has started preparing for the post-March 2025 period when temporary protection for displaced persons from Ukraine ends and the same impact will be also for Macedonia.

The number of refugees from Ukraine who were offered this option is still 300 people.

Still, the Government of North Macedonia and NOT any other NGO's does not provided any support to the Ukrainian refugees other than their registration at the border crossings and because of that the refugees from Ukraine in North Macedonia organized by themselves and registered the Association of single mothers and children from Ukraine "Common Home" with 75 members mostly single mothers and children.

The implementation of the project was in line with the proposed application, JRS Macedonia together with the Association of single mothers and children from Ukraine "Common Home" continuously organized distributions of food and other NFI items.

Advocacy Officer – Legal advisor from the JRS Macedonia continuously was "in line" with the members of "Common Home" with the transformation of their status from temporary residence to temporary protection according to the EU directive. JRS Macedonia advocates with the Sector for Asylum at the Ministry of Interior to speed up the process of issuing new ID cards with temporary protection for members of "Common Home".

## **People Served through the Project**

The number of beneficiaries during the project who directly received support from the JRS Macedonia according to the project is still 210 with special attention to the vulnerable single mothers and children members of "Common Home".

The support from JRS Macedonia is from crucial importance because the beneficiaries spent their money savings on rent and live hoods. We help them in their lives to survive in Macedonia because the prices are continuously going up like everywhere.

They are still afraid for their future in the direction of what will happen in Ukraine, and also in Macedonia, considering the procedure for transferring

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their status to temporary protection and the EU plan for the post-March 2025 period when temporary protection ends, hoping that JRS Macedonia will support them as much as it can because the support is very significant for them and probably will continue in 2025.

## 6. Liana's story

Liana lived in a small town in eastern Ukraine with her husband and two children. She was a singer, earning a living through performances and lessons. Although she was in the process of a divorce, she put it on hold due to the war. From the very first days, their town was heavily bombed. Deciding to flee, they moved to Serbia, where her husband's sister had lived for a long time. The journey was long and exhausting, and upon arrival, they realized they had lost everything—their nice flat, good car, and her modern music studio.

In Serbia, Liana faced not only a new foreign reality and language barriers but also continued family problems. She soon needed to rent separate accommodation to live and complete her divorce remotely. She had to start her life from scratch without knowledge of the local language, savings, or support from relatives.

The local anti-war community helped her rent a music studio by the hour



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to give singing lessons and earn money. Kind people shared household items, clothes, contacts, and collected money for her to rent a small, modest but separate place to live.

To support herself and her children in Serbia, Liana took any job she could find, such as working in a bakery and pizzeria. A JRS integration grant provided her with a professional microphone and mixer, improving her chances to earn money as a singer and bringing her closer to her dream of opening a music studio in Belgrade.

Her talent was recognized when JRS invited her to sing at their 30th Anniversary in Southeast Europe. This performance led to invitations to sing at the Belgrade Marathon and the International Day of Refugees, both paid opportunities.

Liana has realized there is no chance of returning home, as her town is under occupation. Considering there is no safe place in Ukraine, she has decided to stay in Serbia, save money, and one day open a music studio. She is currently preparing a Ukrainian concert in Belgrade, planned for the end of June 2024.



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### 7. People Served

| SECTOR                       | N. MACEDONIA | SERBIA | SPAIN | PORTUGAL |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------|-------|----------|
| Short term shelter           | -            | -      | 46    | -        |
| Emergency Aid                | 210          | 21     | 1.242 | -        |
| Long term Shelter            | -            | -      | 132   | 1.331    |
| Non-Food Items               | 14           | 11     | -     | -        |
| Mental Health & Psychosocial | -            | 3      | 81    | 77       |
| Health                       | 8            | 2      | -     | -        |
| Legal assistance             | 210          | 3      | -     | -        |
| Education                    | 10           | 44     | -     | -        |
| Livelihood                   | -            | -      | -     | 35       |
| Awareness raising            | -            | 55     | -     | -        |
| Advocacy                     | -            | 1      | -     | -        |
| Integration & Peacebuilding  | -            | 21     | -     | -        |
| Capacity building            | -            | -      | 416   | -        |
| Unique benefiaries           | 210          | 161    | 1.658 | 232      |

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## 8. Financial Overview

All sums are indicated in Euros

| AXIS    | CODE              | SECTORS   | Portugal          | Serbia    | N.Macedonia | Spain     | Total      |           |          |
|---------|-------------------|---|-------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|
| WELCOME | 1A                | Short-term shelter                              | 0,00              | 0,00      | 0,00        | 0,00      | 62.076,23  |           |          |
|         | 1B                | Emergency aid, relief and basic need assistance | 0,00              | 228,27    | 25.357,78   | 36.490,18 |            |           |          |
|         | 2A                | Long-term shelter                               | 32.443,00         | 0,00      | 0,00        | 9.518,88  |            |           |          |
|         | 2B                | Non-Food Items                                  | 0,00              | 0,00      | 93,57       | 0,00      |            |           |          |
|         | 2C                | Mental Health and psychosocial support          | 9.784,50          | 0,00      | 0,00        | 14.609,78 |            |           |          |
| PROTECT | 2D                | Health  | 0,00              | 0,00      | 64,68       | 0,00      | 66.514,41  |           |          |
|         | 2E                | Legal Assistance                                | 0,00              | 0,00      | 0,00        | 0,00      |            |           |          |
|         | 3A                | Education                                       | 0,00              | 1.972,44  | 18,06       | 0,00      |            |           |          |
|         | 3B                | Livelihood                                      | 9.835,26          | 0,00      | 0,00        | 0,00      |            |           |          |
|         | 3C                | Awareness raising                               | 0,00              | 133,84    | 0,00        | 0,00      |            |           |          |
|         | 3D                | Advocacy  | 0,00              | 0,00      | 0,00        | 0,00      |            |           |          |
|         | 3E                | Integration and Peacebuilding                   | 0,00              | 3.557,17  | 0,00        | 0,00      |            |           |          |
|         | 4A                | Capacity building                               | 0,00              | 0,00      | 0,00        | 1.437,28  |            |           |          |
|         | CAPACITY BUILDING | 4A  | Capacity building | 0,00      | 0,00        | 0,00      |            | 1.437,28  | 1.437,28 |
|         |                   | TOTAL   |                   | 52.062,76 | 5.891,71    | 25.534,09 |            | 62.056,12 |          |
|         |                   |   |                   |           |             |           | 145.544,69 |           |          |

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**Your support helps the Ukraine emergency response of JRS and Xavier Network become a reality and provide support for forcibly displaced people and refugees from Ukraine.**

**We are grateful to our donors, staff, volunteers and all the people who make this possible.**

**Thank you!**

## PARTNERS



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Version 1.0  
04/07/2024