



# ONE PROPOSAL

Jesuit response to Ukraine Crisis

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
01/01/2024-31/12/2024

# INDEX

<b>Content</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
1. Summary	5
2. The One Proposal structure	8
3. The people we serve	13
4. Coordination and main events	16
5. Financial Overview	19
<b>Ukraine</b>	<b>21</b>
1. Summary	22
2. People served	25
3. Testimony	26
4. Financial Overview	28
<b>L'Arche Kovchev Lviv</b>	<b>29</b>
1. Summary	31
2. People served	32
3. Testimony	32
4. Financial Overview	35
<b>Hungary</b>	<b>36</b>
1. Summary	38
2. People served	40
3. Testimony	41
4. Financial Overview	44
<b>Moldova</b>	<b>45</b>
1. Summary	47
2. People served	49
3. Testimony	50
4. Financial Overview	53
<b>Poland</b>	<b>54</b>
1. Summary	56
2. People served	58
3. Testimony	60
4. Financial Overview	62
<b>Romania</b>	<b>63</b>
1. Summary	65
2. People served	68

# INDEX

<b>Content</b>	<b>Page</b>
3. Testimony	69
4. Financial Overview	71
<b>Slovakia</b>	<b>72</b>
1. Summary	74
2. People served	78
3. Testimony	79
4. Financial Overview	81
<b>Integration Fund</b>	<b>82</b>
1. Introduction	83
2. Portugal	85
3. North Macedonia	84
4. Spain	86
5. Serbia	87
6. Testimony	90
9. People served	92
10. Financial Overview	93
<b>Donors</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Partners</b>	<b>94</b>

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1. Summary

On February 25, 2025, the tragic anniversary of the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict will be marked. Since the war began in February 2022, and for the third year in a row, the Society of Jesus (SJ) steadily responded to this crisis. Coordinated by Jesuit Refugee Service Europe (JRSE) and Xavier Network (XN) and in partnership with local offices, NGOs and local authorities, the Society of Jesus developed and implemented the One Proposal to assist people fleeing from the violence of the war. Thanks to the One Proposal, the Society of Jesus supported and keeps aiding the Ukrainian people providing food, shelter, medical aid, legal assistance, education, vocational support and integration activities. The whole network of JRS country offices has mobilized resources, established partnerships with local NGOs, governments, and international agencies, and strengthened its advocacy work at the EU level supporting the extension of Temporary Protection (TP) status, securing social benefits, housing, and employment opportunities for refugees across the region.

The One Proposal proved to be a necessary project to support and relief people suffering and fleeing from the conflict. As per December 2024, the Society of Jesus helped 127.716 refugees over three years fulfilling the initial goal (2022-25) of 73,168. The incredible number of a total of 612.590 activities and services have been provided in the field of Housing, Education, MHPSS, Livelihood, Emergency Aid, Health and Capacity



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Building in a crisis whose end and outcomes seems to be unpredictable.

Indeed, the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, now entering its fourth year, has precipitated one of the most significant refugee crises in recent history. As of January 16, 2025, approximately 6.86 million Ukrainians have sought refuge globally, with 6.3 million recorded across Europe.<sup>1</sup> This mass displacement has profoundly impacted both the refugees and the host countries, necessitating a coordinated international response. The war has led to widespread displacement, with 3.7 million individuals internally displaced within Ukraine as of August 2024.

The United Nations estimates that the country's population has decreased by 10 million since the onset of the conflict, a quarter of its pre-war population, due to factors such as mass exodus, declining birth rates, and war-related casualties.<sup>3</sup> The refugee population is predominantly composed of women and children, accounting for approximately 88% of those displaced.<sup>4</sup> This demographic shift has placed unique pressures on social services in host countries, including education, healthcare, and housing. Children face significant challenges; reports indicate that 73% of Ukrainian children feel unsafe, and 54% experience sadness, highlighting the urgent need for mental health and psychosocial support.<sup>5</sup>

Despite the efforts of the international community, significant challenges persist.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The protracted nature of the conflict has strained resources, and host countries are grappling with the long-term integration of refugees. Housing shortages have emerged as a critical issue, with reports highlighting a growing homelessness crisis among Ukrainians both domestically and abroad.<sup>6</sup>

The One Proposal has been implemented in neighboring countries such as Romania, Moldova, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland and in Ukraine too with L'Arche and JRS Ukraine based in Lviv. A second branch, called the Integration Fund, involved countries in South and South-East Europe that have the goal of second destinations for UA refugees. JRS Romania, CONCORDIA (Moldova), JRS Hungary, Family Help Centre (Slovakia), JRS Poland, L'Arche-Kovchek (Ukraine), and JRS Ukraine, have been at the forefront of humanitarian aid, providing essential services such as education, housing assistance, vocational training, legal aid, and mental health support. Each of these organizations has played a crucial role in facilitating both emergency relief and long-term integration, despite financial constraints, policy changes, and shifting political landscapes that have created new challenges for refugee and IDP support systems.

Throughout 2024, efforts have increasingly focused on sustainable integration, with particular emphasis on education, employment, and community engagement. However, economic hardships, rising anti-



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

refugee sentiments, and diminishing financial resources have strained these initiatives, forcing many organizations to adapt their strategies. In countries like Romania, Poland, and Slovakia, refugee support programs have shifted towards long-term stability, while Moldova and Hungary continue to struggle with housing shortages and policy barriers. Meanwhile, in Ukraine, the war and ongoing displacement and infrastructure destruction have left IDPs in precarious conditions, requiring continuous humanitarian intervention.

Even if the One Proposal was initially thought for only 3 years, indeed concluding its operations in February 2025, JRS, Xavier Network, the Society of Jesus and all the involved partners have been decided that the ongoing operations supporting Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) will continue throughout 2025 and 2026, recognizing the persistent humanitarian needs and the vital role of cross-country cooperation in addressing them. The collaborative efforts across Romania, Moldova, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, and Ukraine have proven to be highly effective, ensuring that refugees receive not only immediate aid but also opportunities for long-term integration in sectors such as housing and access to the job market. However, given the evolving geopolitical landscape, including potential shifts in U.S. and EU policies, the restriction of available funds and the narrowing of local government subsidies for the refugees, the future trajectory of displacement remains uncertain. While we are committed to sustaining our response, we must also remain flexible, adapting to new developments and assessing our capacity at each stage. Our priority remains ensuring stability and support for those affected by the conflict, while responsibly planning for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

This report will present our activities, challenges, achievements and, no less, some people that we helped and met on our path. It is a report telling the past but also considering the future with all the uncertainties and the difficulties for the Ukrainian people, hosting communities and staff.

## 2. Response by Country offices

### JRS Ukraine

JRS Ukraine has remained committed to supporting IDPs by providing shelter, food, and psychosocial assistance. As the war persists, the organization has expanded its services to include legal aid, educational programs, and mental health support.

A primary challenge has been the continuous displacement of people due



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

to ongoing missile attacks and economic hardships. IDPs struggle with employment, housing, and trauma, requiring holistic support. JRS Ukraine has responded by offering housing solutions, community integration initiatives, and psychological care.

The project has focused on assisting vulnerable groups, including women, children, and the elderly. Language programs have been implemented to help Russian-speaking refugees adapt, while advocacy efforts aim to secure more long-term support for IDPs.

As Ukraine faces continued instability, JRS Ukraine remains a critical lifeline, providing immediate relief and laying the groundwork for long-term resilience and recovery.

## **L'Arche-Kovcheg Ukraine**

L'Arche-Kovcheg in Lviv has been a sanctuary for internally displaced persons (IDPs), particularly those with special needs. As the war in Ukraine continues, the project has provided long-term shelter, medical support, and psychological assistance to some of the most vulnerable populations.

A significant part of the initiative focused on housing families with disabled members and wounded individuals. With rising costs and insufficient government resources, L'Arche-Kovcheg played a crucial role in ensuring access to healthcare, rehabilitation, and essential goods.

Despite the absence of new mass displacement in 2024, IDPs continue to face long-term uncertainty regarding their future. Economic instability, infrastructure damage, and social tensions remain pressing concerns. The organization has helped IDPs integrate into host communities while preserving their dignity and sense of belonging.

## **JRS Romania**

JRS Romania has been at the forefront of refugee assistance, providing essential services to Ukrainian refugees across six key cities: Bucharest, Constanta, Galati, Baia Mare, Brasov, and Medias. Given Romania's significant refugee population, especially from Ukraine, JRS has had to balance both immediate relief and long-term integration support, despite diminishing funding and dwindling NGO resources.

The organization's efforts in 2024 centered on education, livelihoods, and emergency aid, marking a shift from emergency relief to sustainable integration. With education as the focus, JRS Romania provided learning support to over 3,248 refugees. It also facilitated vocational training,

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

language courses, and employment assistance to help refugees secure jobs. However, the organization faced increasing challenges due to a 41% reduction in budget, limiting the number of unique beneficiaries compared to previous years.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) remained a priority, particularly for children, single mothers, and the elderly. Over 8,320 participants attended JRS-organized community events, workshops, and therapy sessions. The organization also engaged in advocacy, coordinating with Romanian authorities and NGOs to improve refugee inclusion in the national education system.

However, financial instability, housing insecurity, and the impending expiration of Temporary Protection in 2026 forced JRS Romania to plan for a renewed emergency response in 2025. The shift in strategy aims to continue essential integration programs while reinforcing emergency aid to counter the increasing economic hardships faced by refugees.

## CONCORDIA Moldova

Moldova continues to be deeply affected by regional instability, hosting approximately 130,000 Ukrainian refugees while grappling with an energy crisis and economic challenges. The CONCORDIA Social Projects initiative has been a vital support system for refugees, ensuring access to essential



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

services such as food aid, legal assistance, and integration programs.

During 2024, CONCORDIA focused on distributing humanitarian aid to both refugees and host families, recognizing the essential role of local communities in refugee support. Food packages were distributed in various regions, improving living conditions for both host families and displaced people. Additionally, vocational training programs aimed to help refugees integrate into the local job market, while mental health services addressed the psychological impact of displacement.

The Moldovan government extended Temporary Protection status until 2025, offering some stability for refugees. However, rising economic insecurity, misinformation campaigns, and political instability continue to challenge both refugees and the local population. Social tensions have emerged due to competition for resources, and vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities face additional barriers.

CONCORDIA remains a key player in fostering social cohesion, supporting both refugees and local families through targeted interventions that prioritize integration, mental health, and economic self-sufficiency.

## **JRS Hungary**

Hungary remains a transit country for Ukrainian refugees, with around 48,725 people registered for Temporary Protection as of late 2024. JRS Hungary's primary focus has been on ensuring access to stable housing, education, and psychosocial support. However, the organization has struggled with government policies that do not provide direct housing subsidies for refugees, instead favoring temporary shelter facilities.

One of the major challenges in 2024 was finding stable housing for Ukrainian refugees, as rental prices skyrocketed and funding for shelter programs diminished. Discrimination against Ukrainian tenants further complicated the issue. Despite these difficulties, JRS Hungary facilitated accommodations and legal assistance for many refugees.

Education was another significant focus area. The Hungarian education system remained largely unprepared for refugee students, resulting in gaps in language acquisition and integration. JRS Hungary addressed these issues by offering Hungarian language courses in schools and community centers, tutoring programs, and psychological support for children facing academic and social difficulties.

While the Hungarian government extended Temporary Protection until 2026, economic hardships and the absence of a strong Ukrainian

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

community in Hungary made long-term integration difficult. Misinformation about refugees and political narratives surrounding migration created additional obstacles, requiring JRS Hungary to engage in mild advocacy and awareness campaigns. .

## **Family Help Centre Slovakia**

In Slovakia, the Family Help Centre, in partnership with JRS Europe, has provided essential services to 1,380 Ukrainian refugees, with a strong emphasis on integration and community engagement. The center has offered housing assistance, educational support, and psychosocial services while fostering cultural exchange between Slovaks and Ukrainians.

Key initiatives included legal assistance for over 2,000 refugees, focusing on employment, residency permits, and social benefits. Education programs helped Ukrainian children integrate into Slovak schools, while Slovak language courses prepared adults for job opportunities. Community engagement activities, such as cultural exhibitions, summer camps, and dance classes, strengthened social bonds between host and refugee communities.

However, the Slovak government introduced policies reducing financial support for refugees, limiting housing subsidies, and increasing bureaucratic challenges. Rising anti-refugee sentiments, influenced by political shifts, posed further challenges to integration.

Despite these setbacks, the Family Help Centre has remained a crucial support system, ensuring that Ukrainian refugees have access to stable housing, legal resources, and a community network to aid their transition.

## **JRS Poland**

JRS Poland has played a critical role in supporting Ukrainian refugees through housing assistance, legal aid, education, and psychological services. Operating in Warsaw, Nowy Sącz, Gdynia, and Poznań, the organization has ensured that refugees have access to safe accommodations and long-term integration support.

Housing support was a primary focus in 2024, with JRS Poland offering long-term accommodations for 48 refugees. Legal aid services assisted refugees with various legal issues, including residency, employment, and social benefits. Language courses and vocational training helped over 200 refugees monthly in their efforts to integrate into Polish society.

Recognizing the mental health challenges of displaced populations, JRS Poland expanded its psychological support programs, particularly

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

for children. Therapy sessions and community events helped refugees cope with trauma and stress. Additionally, advocacy efforts engaged government officials and NGOs to push for policies supporting refugee rights.

While Poland remains a crucial destination for Ukrainian refugees, shifting political landscapes and economic pressures have led to increased challenges. Nonetheless, JRS Poland continues to adapt its services, ensuring that the most vulnerable refugees receive the support they need.

## 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.
4. People belonging to the local communities:
  - Definition: Individuals residing in the local hosting communities that have no migratory/refugee background
  - Objective: Include local communities especially in integration activities to promote inclusion among different groups and lower social tensions due to misconceptions on refugees.

A demographic analysis of the Ukrainian refugee's population showed that 88% of it comprehends women with children and elderlies. Some of them

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

live with disabilities and it makes them the most vulnerable. At current date, the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and its partners successfully aided over 127.716 individuals. Much of the support was provided in Ukraine and neighboring countries. Additionally, 12.557 refugees received assistance through the Integration Fund in countries of secondary movement.

In 2024, JRS, in collaboration with the Xavier Network and other partners, provided assistance to 26,951 new unique beneficiaries. By the close of 2024, 127.716 people had received aid, with 12.557 individuals benefiting specifically from the Integration Fund. Surpassing the initial goal of 73,168 beneficiaries planned for the three-year period, JRS and its partner have helped 127.716 people.

<b>People served in 2024</b>	<b>26.951</b>	<b>in Ukraine &amp; Neighbourng countries</b>	<b>115.159</b>
<b>People served since 2022</b>	<b>127.716</b>	<b>Through the Integration Fund</b>	<b>12.557</b>

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AXIS	SECTORS	Ukraine	L'Arche	Poland	Hungary	Romania	Moldova	Slovakia	Integration fund	Total
WELCOME	Short-term shelter	15	11	91	-	-	-	-	46	163
	Emergency aid, relief and basic need assistance	4.538	10	112	1.610	1.061	260	-	657	8.248
PROTECT	Long-term shelter	47	10	48	699	8	261	4	643	1.720
	Non-Food Items	4.076	-	198	383	-	-	396	-	5.053
	Mental Health and psychosocial support	1.762	-	349	1.596	634	201	102	191	4.835
	Health	-	3	43	124	476	-	-	3	649
	Legal Assistance	152	-	155	1.626	373	-	2.025	212	4.543
	Education	38	-	773	1.017	3.248	264	234	3	5.577
PROMOTE & INTEGRATE	Livelihood	-	-	42	-	1.264	-	3	85	1.394
	Awareness raising	4	-	1.850	143.488	64	-	-	-	145.406
	Advocacy	136	-	42	-	155	-	-	55	388
	Integration	2.582	1	875	193	990	28	834	1	5.504
	Peacebuilding	0	-	-	-	-	-	303	21	324
CAPACITY BUILDING	Capacity building	10	-	41	14	136	73	57	711	1.042
UNIQUE BENEFICIARIES		13.350	31	1.580	1.296	6.617	552	1.380	2.145	26.951

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 4. Coordination and main events

JRS and its partners have developed a strong and effective coordinating force in responding to the ongoing displacement crisis caused by the war in Ukraine. 2024 proved to be a consolidation year for strengthening the mechanisms put in place in the previous two years and to consolidate our reputation and presence in cluster groups and thematic workshops issued by International Organization and local authorities. As the conflict enters its fourth year, millions of Ukrainians remain in precarious conditions, either internally displaced or seeking refuge in neighboring countries. Through The One Proposal, the network established a unified, multi-country and holistic response spanning mainly in Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Slovakia, Hungary and Moldova, addressing both the immediate humanitarian needs of refugees and their long-term integration into host societies.

Together with Xavier Network and other partners, JRS E continued to monitor and support the crisis through regular field visits, fundraising activities, and institutional strengthening opportunities. Leadership Team meetings, held regularly throughout the year, brought together COs, JRS E, XN, Curia, JRS IO, and all involved partners. At least four programmatic meetings were held: two focused on sharing the One Proposal with other countries in the European network and two dedicated to finance and strategic planning, analyzing funding gaps, opportunities, and preparing for the coming years.

A key strategic element in this coordination and effective mechanism was the realization of the second consecutive in-depth needs assessment. The assessment was conducted using a blended methodology, with in-person visits to three countries (Ukraine, Poland, and Hungary) and remote support for two others (Romania and Slovakia). The team gathered both qualitative data through direct meetings with refugees, staff, local authorities, and stakeholders, as well as quantitative data collected via online surveys. The 2025 Needs Assessment Report, conducted in late 2024, builds on the findings of the previous year and seeks to refine the strategies necessary for sustaining and improving assistance efforts. It highlights the worsening economic conditions, increasing housing insecurity, and persisting mental health challenges faced by displaced individuals. The report was apical in ensuring that the crisis response remains structured, effective, and adaptive to the evolving needs of refugees, balancing direct assistance with long-term advocacy and policy engagement.

The needs assessment findings paint a picture of a refugee population



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



increasingly resigned to long-term displacement. Compared to the past year, fewer refugees are holding onto the hope of an imminent return to Ukraine, with intentions to return dropping dramatically from 57% in 2023 to just 10% in 2024. In response, JRS Europe and the country offices have prioritized integration initiatives, recognizing that displaced individuals need not only immediate relief but also pathways to stability and self-sufficiency. Employment remains a major challenge, as language barriers and unrecognized qualifications prevent many refugees from securing jobs that match their skills. Discrimination in housing and the labor market further complicates the situation, leaving many families struggling to cover rent and basic living costs. Livelihood has emerged to be an increasing need in all the Country Offices.

The assessment also highlights an alarming mental health crisis among refugees. Anxiety, PTSD, and depression are widespread, particularly among single mothers, caregivers, and the elderly. The uncertainty of displacement, financial hardship, and social isolation have left many individuals in a state of psychological distress, with children exhibiting signs of trauma, withdrawal, and emotional instability. In response, the One Proposal has committed to expanding psychosocial support programs, scaling up therapy sessions, peer support groups, and structured recreational activities to help refugees cope with the stress of displacement. A notable data point is that Ukrainian refugees are

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

now more willing to begin individual psychosocial therapy than before, indicating that the mental and emotional burden caused by the situation is severely affecting them.

Education remains another significant concern. Many refugee children continue to struggle with language barriers, disrupted schooling, and social isolation. While some progress has been made in integrating children into local school systems, many remain stuck in a hybrid education model, enrolled in both Ukrainian online schooling and local institutions, leading to academic pressure and mental fatigue. Parents frequently report concerns about bullying, curriculum misalignment, and a lack of psycho-pedagogical support, further complicating the educational integration process. In response, JRS Europe has intensified its advocacy for better school inclusion policies, language training programs, and psychosocial interventions for refugee students.

Beyond humanitarian aid, JRS Europe has placed a strong emphasis on capacity-building—both within its own organizational structure and among local partners. The organization has trained staff and volunteers, strengthened collaborations with government agencies and humanitarian networks, and expanded its advocacy work to push for sustainable policy changes. Recognizing the need for long-term solutions, JRS is advocating for more flexible work permits, housing subsidies, and legal pathways to residency for refugees, ensuring that they have a viable future in their host countries.

Again, over 2024 JRS E supported the development of the local offices provided training and resource sharing, especially in the fields of fundraising and institutional strengthening.

As the war continues with no clear resolution in sight, JRS Europe's One Proposal remains a cornerstone of refugee support in the region.

Despite the challenges ahead, the resilience of refugees and the dedication of humanitarian organizations like JRS offer hope for a future of dignity, inclusion, and stability. Through continued advocacy, expanded support programs, and strengthened partnerships, JRS remains committed to ensuring that Ukrainian refugees find not just shelter, but a new sense of belonging in their host communities

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 5. 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	527,28	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00
	1B	Emergency aid, relief and basic need assistance	27.389,43	182,65	21.257,24	0,00	2.409,86	57.003,57	0,00	97.832,85	206.602,88
PROTECT	2A	Long-term shelter	126.298,35	6.177,33	125.509,89	93.965,01	6.070,12	29.375,93	2.015,76	24.782,02	24.782,02
	2B	Non-Food Items	58.673,84	3.244,11	1.855,65	61.407,15	117.988,76	0,00	23.923,56	240,28	240,28
	2C	Mental Health and psychosocial support	34.127,22	0,00	65.583,54	31.928,98	81.548,71	18.029,22	7.871,52	43.045,05	43.045,05
	2D	Health	0,00	3.893,70	5.449,77	5.263,29	14.247,78	9.934,71	0,00	64,68	64,68
	2E	Legal Assistance	0,00	0,00	10.067,05	0,00	78.575,33	0,00	15.705,07	699,23	699,23
	3A	Education	21.802,48	0,00	118.941,28	58.030,79	518.201,13	9.841,43	30.794,91	1.990,50	1.990,50
PROMOTE & INTEGRATE	3B	Livelihood	0,00	0,00	6.760,24	0,00	90.811,37	0,00	13.158,49	16.300,00	16.300,00
	3C	Awareness raising	3.165,88	0,00	5.599,94	0,00	38.722,71	0,00	3.600,00	133,84	133,84
	3D	Advocacy	2.460,04	0,00	3.980,18	0,00	56.326,94	3.929,00	29.409,02	0,00	0,00
	3E	Integration and Peacebuilding	6.642,31	0,00	215.550,24	373,43	38.529,87	0,00	11.174,01	3.557,17	3.557,17
CAPACITY BUILDING	4A	Capacity building	91.645,79	0,00	76.731,53	49.022,33	0,00	1.250,09	4.116,00	7.078,27	229.844,01
TOTAL			372.205,35	14.025,07	657.289,53	299.990,97	1.043.432,57	129.363,96	141.768,34	195.723,89	2.853.796,68

**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: 31/12/2024

## Location

Lviv



## Contact Person

Inga Dul, CEO JRS Ukraine



# UKRAINE

## 1. Summary

Ukraine has faced significant political and security challenges throughout 2024. The ongoing war with Russia continues to impact all aspects of life, including governance, the economy, and infrastructure. Russian forces have maintained an aggressive campaign, frequently launching complex missile and drone attacks on critical energy infrastructure, transportation hubs, and civilian areas. These relentless assaults have resulted in massive internal displacement, disrupted public services, and deepened the humanitarian crisis across the country.

The economic situation remains fragile, with inflation rising steadily and unemployment rates climbing. Despite ongoing international aid and efforts to stabilize the economy, many Ukrainian families, particularly internally displaced persons (IDPs), struggle to meet their basic needs. Particularly difficult periods for us are the period of winter and increasing cold. Frequent power outages and fuel shortages caused by attacks on power plants make it difficult for communities to maintain basic living conditions and stay warm. Vulnerable populations, including elderly individuals and families with children, are especially affected by these

**People served  
in 2024**

**13.350**



# UKRAINE

disruptions.

Despite the adversity, the resilience of Ukrainian society is remarkable. There is a strong emphasis on solidarity and mutual aid, which has been critical in sustaining communities during this prolonged period of war. However, the ongoing war and economic instability have taken a toll on people's mental health and well-being, creating an urgent need for increased psychosocial support and humanitarian assistance.

The “One proposal” project aims to address these pressing needs by providing comprehensive support to IDPs, with a particular focus on women and children who have been displaced by the war. The core elements of the project include offering shelter, legal and psychological assistance, educational workshops, and integration activities to promote social cohesion and foster self-reliance among displaced populations.

Despite all the challenges Ukrainians faced this year, JRS Ukraine has achieved significant results and successfully implemented all planned activities:

- **Provision of short-term shelter, food, and hygiene facilities** in a shelter in Lviv, ensuring displaced families have access to safe accommodation and basic needs.
- **Provision of long-term accommodation and living facilities** in two shelters, creating a stable environment for families to rebuild their lives.
- **Distribution of hygiene supplies, and essential goods** to shelter residents, ensuring they have the necessary resources for daily life.
- **Referral and advisory services** to connect IDPs with other potential assistance sources, including government shelters and community support programs.
- **Distribution of food parcels** to IDPs living outside the JRS shelters, addressing the needs of vulnerable individuals and families in different communities.
- **Provision of non-food items (NFI)** to IDPs in other shelters and private accommodations, helping them meet their basic living needs.
- **Voucher programs for household items, and clothing** for IDPs residing outside of shelters, empowering them to purchase what they need most.
- **Recreational activities** for shelter residents and displaced individuals outside the shelters, promoting psychosocial recovery and community integration.

# UKRAINE

- **Group and individual psychological support sessions** provided to shelter residents to address trauma and mental health challenges.
- **Legal and advisory assistance** to IDPs, helping them access their rights, government benefits, and other services.
- **Community integration activities** for both shelter residents and displaced persons outside the shelters, strengthening social cohesion and reducing isolation.
- **Capacity-building activities for the JRS Ukraine team**, ensuring the organization remains resilient and capable of responding to evolving needs.

These comprehensive activities reflect JRS Ukraine's unwavering commitment to providing holistic support to IDPs and vulnerable populations, addressing both their immediate needs and long-term integration and recovery.





# UKRAINE

## 2. People served

Throughout the year, JRS provided comprehensive assistance to women with children, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities residing in JRS shelters. The support included safe housing, humanitarian aid, legal assistance, and psychological support tailored to the needs of these vulnerable groups of IDP's.

**People served in 2024** **13.350**

**People served since 2022** **28.648**

JRS Ukraine extended its services beyond JRS` s shelters, delivering humanitarian aid, legal assistance, and psychological support to individuals in need across all districts of Lviv Oblast and more than 30 local communities. Our work aimed to address the most urgent needs of vulnerable categories of internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in these areas.

SECTOR	GIRLS	BOYS	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
Emergency Aid/ Relief/ Assistance	616	467	2.973	482	4.538
Short-term Shelter	2	7	6	-	15
Long-term Shelter	8	11	21	4	47
Non-Food Items	544	312	3.013	207	4.076
Legal assistance	-	-	134	18	152
Psychosocial support	745	681	257	79	1.762
Health	-	-	-	-	-
Education	27	11	-	-	38
Livelihood	-	-	-	-	-
Awareness	-	-	4	-	4
Advocacy	-	-	77	59	136
Integration	852	696	856	178	2.582
Capacity building	-	-	7	3	10

## 3. Lyudmila: “Everything familiar and dear to us was left behind”

Lyudmila describes her hometown of Pokrovsk as “a small mining town burdened with a difficult and tragic fate” and “shattered by war”. Yet, it was HER hometown and hosted all the dear memories of her life.

Then the full-scale war reached her doorstep. As she remembers, “Due to devastating shelling, my two sons, who were 5 and 9 years old at the time, my mother, and I were forced to leave our home, abandon our jobs, and flee. Everything familiar and dear to us was left behind — memories of my children’s happy childhood and belongings that tied us to my late husband”.

But leaving her hometown was just the first challenge and she was unsure of which would be her next step. “We travelled into the unknown. It’s a terrible feeling, not knowing what lies ahead while bearing responsibility for an entire family”, she recalls.

“With no income and limited resources, we ended up living for several months in a kindergarten room that usually served as a playroom for children. Fifteen people shared the space, and we slept on mattresses on the floor. Still, it was better than living in constant fear at home”, she adds.



# UKRAINE

Later, Lyudmila decided to move to Lviv to provide special care for younger son, where they met JRS. As she puts it, “Fate brought us to JRS. If this meeting with JRS had not happened, I don’t know if we could have managed on our own under such circumstances”.

Lyudmila and her family have called the JRS shelter home for two years now and they found a lot more than housing in it. “This support is invaluable. Psychological support and the time given to us to adjust to our new life have been particularly valuable. We feel care and support in everything. The opportunity to speak and be heard is extremely important to us”, she explains.

Looking forward, unfortunately, the situation remains uncertain. “The situation remains unstable and extremely difficult for the country, but we plan to stay in Ukraine”, she mentions when looking forward.

# UKRAINE

## 4. Financial summary

AXIS	CODE	BUDGET CATEGORY	EXPENDITURE IN EUROS	TOTAL
WELCOME	1A	Short term shelter	0,00	27.389,43
	1B	Emergency aid relief	27.389,43	
PROTECT	2A	Long term shelter	126.298,35	219.099,41
	2B	Non food Items	58.673,84	
	2C	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	34.127,22	
	2D	Health	0,00	
	2E	Legal Assistance	0,00	
	3A	Education	21.802,48	
PROMOTE & INTEGRATE	3B	Livelihood	0,00	34.070,71
	3C	Awareness raising	3.165,88	
	3D	Advocacy	2.460,04	
	3E	Reconciliation & Peacebuilding	6.642,31	
	4A	Capacity building	91.645,79	
CAPACITY BUILDING	4A	Capacity building	91.645,79	91.645,79
TOTAL				372.205,35

**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:** 31/12/2024

## Location

Lviv



## Contact Person

Jan Burda



## 1. Summary

The situation in war-torn Ukraine has essentially not changed during 2024. With the stabilization of the front, the influx of new IDPs slowed down. Smaller waves rose after the larger cities were occupied. Another group consisted of IDPs who came to Lviv from other areas for health care or with the hope of better living conditions. With the arrival of autumn and winter, the shelling of the energy infrastructure intensified, and there were again outages of electricity supplies. Fortunately, the country and we were already better prepared for these barbaric tactics of the Russian army. This is also why the extent of outages and the damage caused were smaller than a year ago.

A significant part of the strangers began to be wounded - both civilians and soldiers, whom they usually accompanied family members. NGO L'Arche-Kovchek continued to provide accommodation and related assistance to these needy people. This year, too, our priority was people with disabilities, as the house is adapted to their needs. Thanks to the JRS project, we have increased spending on healthcare (mainly rehabilitation) of the sheltered IDPs, taking into account their state of health.

**People served  
in 2024**

**31**



## 2. People served

This year, we have long-term sheltered three families from the occupied territories of Donbas. Four women (two pensioners), three injured men and one boy. The family with the boy came as Russian speakers. They gradually improve their Ukrainian. To the

**People served in 2024** **31**

**People served since 2022** **216**

extent possible, we also provided professional help (rehabilitation) to the three injured directly in our home. We also helped with transporting injured and immobile IDPs - both those staying with us and outside, for further examinations and procedures to medical facilities within the city. We temporarily accommodated others who stayed in Lviv due to surgeries or for other reasons. We partly financed the food for all of them. Unfortunately, we could not accommodate others who needed wheelchair-accessible accommodation, which is rather an exception in regular shelters.

SECTOR	GIRLS	BOYS	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
Emergency Aid/ Relief/ Assistance	-	-	1	9	10
Short-term Shelter	1	2	8	-	11
Long-term Shelter	-	2	5	3	10
Health	-	-	-	3	3
Integration	-	-	1	-	1

## 3. David: "That day I couldn't sleep for a long time."

David, a 12-year-old with a love for math, astronomy, and computer games, before the war lived in Myrnodgrad, a city in the Donetsk region of Ukraine, with his father Sergey and his mother Olena. When the conflict broke out, the family was forced to change their lives completely. The invasion brought challenges far beyond anything they had ever expected.

From the very first days of the large-scale invasion, David's family took an active role in defending their homeland as volunteers. They made Molotov cocktails at home, delivered food and supplies to soldiers on the front line,



# L'ARCHE

and even brought feed for the animals left behind in war zones. For David, these experiences are deeply impressed into his memory.

One day stands out vividly. David and his father were chopping and stacking firewood in the garden behind their house. After finishing their work, they paused to watch the sunset. David climbed onto a pile of logs near the neighbor's fence. The moment of peace was suddenly interrupted by the sound of an airplane flying overhead. David and his father looked up to see the plane fire two missiles. One exploded almost immediately, while the second missile flew forward and detonated right above them just a few seconds later.

David's father reacted swiftly. "Leap down and lie on the ground!" he shouted. David quickly dropped to the ground, covering his ears with his hands, while his father lay down on top of him to protect his son. The explosion shook the ground, and after a tense silence, his father told him it was safe to get up. When they stood, they saw a piece of metal that had landed just a few meters away from them. At that moment, David's mother rushed out of the house, her face full of fear.

That night, the fear and shock of the experience kept David awake. "I couldn't sleep for a long time," he recalls.



# L'ARCHE

As the war intensified and the front lines moved closer, David's family made the difficult decision to leave Myrnograd and seek safety in Lviv. This meant leaving behind their home and the life they had built. His father, who was later wounded in the war, had always been a source of strength for the family. His mother, despite the difficulties, continues to provide emotional support for David and his younger siblings.

Yet through all these challenges, David's love for learning has remained. Though he now studies online, he continues to excel in his subjects, dreaming of a future filled with peace and stability.

JRS and other organizations have provided critical support to David's family and countless others, offering not only shelter but also hope in the darkest of times. For families like David's, the assistance they receive makes a world of difference.

## 4. Financial summary

AXIS	CODE	BUDGET CATEGORY	EXPENDITURE IN EUROS	TOTAL
WELCOME	1A	Short term shelter	527,28	709,93
	1B	Emergency aid relief	182,65	
PROTECT	2A	Long term shelter	6.177,33	13.315,14
	2B	Non food Items	3.244,11	
	2C	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	0,00	
	2D	Health	3.893,70	
	2E	Legal Assistance	0,00	
	3A	Education	0,00	
PROMOTE & INTEGRATE	3B	Livelihood	0,00	0,00
	3C	Awareness raising	0,00	
	3D	Advocacy	0,00	
	3E	Reconciliation & Peacebuilding	0,00	
	4A	Capacity building	0,00	
CAPACITY BUILDING	4A	Capacity building	0,00	0,00
TOTAL				14.025,07

**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: 31/12/2024

## Location

Budapest



## Contact Person

Emőke Takács and Beáta Palóczné Kovács



# HUNGARY

## 1. Summary

The One Proposal project was implemented in Budapest in the multidisciplinary center of JRS HU. In addition, our colleagues were present on a weekly basis in the Károlyi István Children's Centre in Fót, 20 km from the capital. They provided interactive sessions for unaccompanied minors there. We also made our services available to refugees living all over the country through our partner organisations or through mobile teams set up by our staff.

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 (2 professionals) the special education needs (SEN) sessions provided by JRS HU. Additionally Hungarian language skills development and support from a psychologist is also available.

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,

**People served  
in 2024**

**1.296**



# HUNGARY

community programmes). To support the helpers, we organised group, individual and team building MHPSS sessions for JRS HU staff and volunteers. From additional funds JRS HU has provided financial and spiritual resources to organise support groups for priests, civil and charity workers of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Munkács, who meet quarterly to receive professional help

In 2024, our education team held Hungarian as a foreign language lessons (HFL) at 5 schools. We also offered accompaniment through the educational system. We were also able to run HFL classes for adults (2 groups, with 21 participants) and children (1 group, with 3 participants) in our centre. These groups started as beginner groups and as the knowledge of the participants developed the groups continued a more advanced level. We also organised free time, ludic activities and summer camps for different age groups to promote their societal inclusion.

In the past year we faced some challenges. One of the most difficult challenges has been to rethink our CVA support scheme due to the reduction in available funding. Based on needs assessment performed by JRS E in 2024, there is still a great need for additional support for housing, livelihoods and health service-related costs reimbursements.

From 21 August 2024 only people coming from and having residence in regions listed by the Hungarian Government as “war-affected areas” at the time of entry into Hungary will qualify for subsidized accommodation.

In terms of challenges, 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.

Regarding awareness raising, our communication, on the one hand, primarily was aiming at showing the everyday life of the JRS HU team to increase the level of transparency. On the other hand, we advocate for our beneficiaries by sharing their stories and volume up their voices. By raising awareness on the reality of refugees in Hungary and replenishing hope by sharing some of our beneficiaries' testimonies, positive stories and best practices, we work on their inclusion. We also focus on educating members of the host society on issues faced by refugees.

# HUNGARY

## 2. People served

During the reporting period we supported 1296 beneficiaries, of which the social work team supported 62 families under our long-term programme, in total 192 people. In addition, the education team accompanied 25 children from 33 families.

**People served in 2024** 1.296

**People served since 2022** 4.295

In 2024 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 has increased. These 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.





# HUNGARY

SECTOR	GIRLS	BOYS	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
Emergency Aid/ Relief/ Assistance	317	334	584	375	1.610
Short-term Shelter	-	-	-	-	-
Long-term Shelter	126	116	290	167	699
Non-Food Items	83	82	136	82	383
Legal assistance	270	271	737	348	1.626
Psychosocial support	180	226	960	230	1.596
Health	13	23	64	24	124
Education	479	346	161	31	1.017
Livelihood	-	-	-	-	-
Awareness	-	-	-	-	143.488
Advocacy	-	-	-	-	-
Integration/ Peace building	99	94	-	-	193
Capacity building	-	-	23	5	28

### 3. Iryna: "I am happy that I can be useful and support children who need it"

At 43 years old, Iryna from Kyiv, found herself starting over in Hungary. She arrived on March 9, 2022, with her family of seven. Like many others, Iryna was forced to leave her home, while most of her relatives remained behind, with husbands defending Ukraine in the ongoing war.

Upon arrival, they were welcomed with open arms. "We were brought to the town of Gyöngyös, where we were accommodated in a student dormitory. I would like to thank the Hungarian people for their behavior – they are the best!" Iryna shared, grateful for the kindness she encountered in their new surroundings.

Before the war, she was the principal of a secondary school in Kyiv, with a 20-year career in education that spanned roles from secretary to speech therapist to school principal. "All my life I have been learning, and this

# HUNGARY

gives me the strength to develop and support myself in the most difficult times. Now, I am studying in Hungary.”

In Budapest, Iryna quickly acted, finding ways to support fellow Ukrainians. With her savings, she rented a small apartment and began working as a primary school teacher at the Saturday Native School, and as a volunteer in a preschool space for Ukrainian children. “I met families with psycho-emotionally disturbed children and children with special needs, and the idea to organize free psycho-correctional classes came to me.”

Iryna’s passion for helping children led her to partner with another volunteer, Maryna, and together they applied for grants to provide much-needed services. “We won a small grant and started Summer Family Rehabilitation for Ukrainian families. However, in July 2023, we faced problems with the premises, and that’s when I turned to the JRS organization for help.”

Thanks to JRS, they were able to complete the program, and the collaboration became something much larger. JRS invited Iryna to join their team, allowing her to continue the work with children in need of corrective classes and psychological support. “At the beginning, I had 8 children, including an adult man who had suffered a stroke. Now, I work with 21 children, all of whom need correctional classes and emotional



# HUNGARY

care.”

The work is challenging but rewarding. “There are many such families in Hungary, and I am seeing great results with the children. I also work closely with parents, as they need support as well.”

Despite the hardship and loss that war brought into her life, Iryna has found hope in being able to give back. “I am happy that I can be useful and support children who need it,” she says with a sense of purpose and gratitude.

# HUNGARY

## 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	
	2A	Long term shelter	93.965,01	
PROTECT	2B	Non food Items	61.407,15	192.564,42
	2C	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	31.928,98	
	2D	Health	5.263,29	
	2E	Legal Assistance	0,00	
	3A	Education	58.030,79	
PROMOTE & INTEGRATE	3B	Livelihood	0,00	58.404,22
	3C	Awareness raising	0,00	
	3D	Advocacy	0,00	
	3E	Reconciliation & Peacebuilding	373,43	
	4A	Capacity building	49.022,33	
CAPACITY BUILDING	4A	Capacity building	49.022,33	49.022,33
TOTAL				299.990,97

**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: 31/12/2024

## Location

Tudora                      Rîșcani  
Bolohan  
Ruseștii Noi  
Stăuceni



## Contact Person

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



# MOLDOVA

## 1. Summary

The Republic of Moldova faces hybrid threats, including disinformation, cyberattacks, and external influences that aim to destabilize the nation and undermine its path towards Europe. These actions erode citizens' trust in state institutions and complicate democratic processes. In response, Moldova is working to strengthen its resilience and combat these threats.

Another critical issue is the Transnistrian conflict, which poses a serious threat to national security. The Russian military presence and the influence of the Russian Federation in the separatist Transnistrian region are utilized as tools to destabilize Moldova and hinder its European integration.

Additionally, the country is grappling with a major energy crisis. Previously, Moldova depended on gas supplies from Russia via Transnistria. However, gas transfers were halted on January 1. To prepare for this disruption, Moldova implemented measures to reduce electricity consumption and secured agreements with Bulgaria and Romania for gas and electricity supplies. Despite these adjustments, prices soared by 120% in January, creating challenges for both private households and businesses.

**People served  
in 2024**

**552**



# MOLDOVA

The years 2024 and 2025 are particularly significant in Moldovan politics. In October 2024, a referendum resulted in a slim majority (50.46% for and 49.54% against) supporting a pro-European constitutional change. Simultaneously, Moldova elected a new president, with Maia Sandu winning on a pro-European platform. In 2025, Moldova is expected to hold parliamentary elections, which are likely to be influenced by the Russian Federation.

Furthermore, approximately 130,000 refugees from Ukraine are currently residing in the Republic of Moldova. The large majority is hosted by local families and/or renting private accommodations, mostly in urban areas. The most requested services for these individuals include health services and psychosocial counselling, along with cash assistance. For integration purposes, various vocational training and support programs are offered to help refugees enter the Moldovan labour market.

## **Distribution of Humanitarian Aid in June-July**

In June and July, 48 food packages were distributed in the village of Palanca and the town of Ștefan Vodă to support host families helping to improve their living conditions.

The distribution recognized the essential role these families play in the integration and support of refugees. The food packages contained basic products to meet the immediate needs of the beneficiaries.

This initiative continues the organization's efforts to promote social cohesion and address local needs through well-planned interventions. Additionally, the activity was conducted in collaboration with local authorities to ensure transparency and efficiency in the distribution process.

## **Humanitarian Support for Refugee Families**

During the same period, a large-scale humanitarian support action was carried out, involving the distribution of 144 food packages to 144 refugee families Palanca (Region Ștefan Vodă) and in Chisinau. The refugees are identified by the local public authorities, which are then informing us on the most urgent needs of the refugees.

Thus, each package was designed to meet a family's basic needs and included essential food items such as grains, oil, canned goods, pasta, and other non-perishable foods. The selected contents aimed to ensure adequate nutritional intake and help families manage daily challenges.



# MOLDOVA

The distribution was executed with the support of local authorities and community partners, ensuring a transparent and efficient process. The activity aimed not only to provide material support but also to strengthen solidarity and inclusion between host communities and refugees.

This humanitarian action is part of a broader effort by the organization to assist refugee families during difficult times, providing them with the necessary resources to maintain their dignity and stability in their new environment. Feedback from beneficiaries has been overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the significant impact these food packages have had on their daily lives.

## 2. People served

**People served  
in 2024**

**552**

**People served  
since 2022**

**5.285**



# MOLDOVA

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	-	-	315	245	560
Peace building	-	-	315	245	560
Capacity building	-	-	37	16	53

## 3. Natalia and Nadja: “We were welcomed with so much warmth here”

Just a few kilometres from their home in Ukraine, 10-year-old Nadja and her grandmother Natalia (62) have found refuge in Casa Concordia, a shelter on the outskirts of a small village in eastern Moldova. Though geographically close to home, these few kilometres separate two vastly different realities: here, they are safe, while across the border, the war rages on with no clear end in sight. For more than two and a half years, they have been waiting with hope for the day they can return to Mykolaiv, their hometown in southern Ukraine.

### Fleeing a War They Never Expected

"No one expected it to last this long," Natalia says, tears welling in her eyes as she remembers April 2022. "Nadja and I were shopping when we heard

# MOLDOVA



the first explosions. The child was so frightened that all she wanted was to leave." In a moment of urgency, Nadja's parents made the painful decision to send their daughter and Natalia to safety. "My daughter told me: Go to Moldova; you'll be safe there. We'll stay here to defend our home, and you'll come back when it's all over."

## **The Shock of Displacement**

Before the war, Natalia lived peacefully in Mykolaiv with her family. Her daughter managed the household and cared for Nadja, while her son-in-law worked as an electrician, providing an essential service to the community. They had a stable life, filled with plans for the future.

Everything changed in an instant. "We left without knowing what awaited us, but with the hope of returning soon," Natalia recalls. The first days in Moldova were filled with uncertainty, fear, and an overwhelming sense of loss. Since then, Nadja has seen her parents only once—in December of last year, when they spent a few days together in Ukraine. "We shouldn't have gone," Natalia admits. "It was so bad—no drinking water and bomb alarms all night long."

# MOLDOVA

## **Facing the Challenges of a New Life**

Adjusting to life far from home has not been easy. The greatest hardship has been the long separation from their loved ones. "Nadja misses her parents deeply. Every day, she talks to her mother on the phone, sends her photos, and asks for help with school assignments," Natalia shares.

Despite these struggles, they have found a place of stability and warmth in Casa Concordia, a shelter run by the organization Concordia, which provides support to Ukrainian families affected by the war. "We were welcomed with so much warmth here," says Natalia. "Although Moldova is a modest country, its people are extremely hospitable."

## **A Community That Feels Like Home**

At Casa Concordia, Natalia and Nadja have found more than just a place to stay—they have found a new family. "We celebrate together, the children play and laugh, and we are safe," Natalia says with gratitude. Nadja, too, has found comfort in the friendships she has built and the activities that bring a sense of normalcy to her days. She continues her education through online lessons from her school in Ukraine, while Natalia receives support from the Concordia team to navigate daily challenges.

Some moments stand out as reminders of hope. "Nadja loves creating little works of art during the activities here," Natalia says, smiling. "I keep them in a box—they bring me joy every day. These moments help us find beauty amidst the difficulties."

## **Looking to the Future with Hope and Uncertainty**

For Natalia, the future remains uncertain. "I hope the war will end soon so we can return home to Mykolaiv. I eagerly await the birth of my second grandchild and dream of being a united family again." But fear lingers. "I worry that this conflict will last longer than we imagined."

For now, Moldova remains their temporary home. "Although we dream of returning, we are considering the possibility of moving to another country if necessary—to ensure a stable future for Nadja."

# MOLDOVA

## 4. Financial summary

AXIS	CODE	BUDGET CATEGORY	EXPENDITURE IN EUROS	TOTAL
WELCOME	1A	Short term shelter	0,00	57.003,57
	1B	Emergency aid relief	57.003,57	
PROTECT	2A	Long term shelter	29.375,93	57.339,86
	2B	Non food Items	0,00	
	2C	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	18.029,22	
	2D	Health	9.934,71	
	2E	Legal Assistance	0,00	
PROMOTE & INTEGRATE	3A	Education	9.841,43	13.770,43
	3B	Livelihood	0,00	
	3C	Awareness raising	0,00	
	3D	Advocacy	3.929,00	
	3E	Reconciliation & Peacebuilding	0,00	
CAPACITY BUILDING	4A	Capacity building	1.250,09	1.250,09
TOTAL				129.363,96

**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: 31/12/2024

## Location

Warsaw  
Poznan  
Gdynia  
Nowy Sacz



## Contact Person

Agnieszka Sucharska, Communications Officer



# POLAND

## 1. Summary

One of the most important factors regarding current situation of refugees and migrants in Poland is the newly introduced Polish Migration Strategy (a stricter than before approach toward migrants, pointing out the future legislation).

The situation for Ukrainians is easier than for people from other countries. The law ordering voivodship authorities to find housing for new refugees is still in effect. However, proposals for refugees who came to Poland at the beginning of the full-scale war are slowly running out (e.g., ending a program giving 40 PLN a day to anyone who hosts a Ukrainian refugee at home).

The primary source of livelihood for migrants from Ukraine is work. Migrants who came before the war obtain an average of 90% of their income from work, while in the case of war refugees it is 76% of income. The problem, however, is the relatively high unemployment rate among the elderly and low earnings of women compared to men (caused also by unavailability to take full time job due to childcare). In general, language proficiency among Ukrainians is improving. In the survey [1], as many

**People served  
in 2024**

**1.580**





# POLAND

as 68% of pre-war migrants and 28% of refugees reported very good knowledge of the language.

A short evaluation of the project - in terms of indicating the stage of advancement of the project, as well as its compliance with the original objectives - is possible by comparing the 'Matrix for 2024 activities assessment' file and the results obtained:

## **WELCOME**

We provided refugees with short-term shelter in Gdynia and Warsaw. We provided information on how to find such shelter when we could not provide it.

We issued emergency material support - including vouchers to 'Biedronka' stores. We helped translate documents and provided refugees with transportation in some situations. We gave them online links or contact information for public and charitable institutions. We gave 48 people long-term housing in Gdynia and Warsaw.

## **PROTECT**

We gave vulnerable refugees food and material support, as well as buying needed items on a one-time basis (e.g., after the birth of a child). When accepting refugees for housing assistance, we emphasized the elderly or those with additional needs.

We provided psychological workshops, individual therapy, group therapy and art therapy. Our staff often supported refugees by listening to their difficult stories. When we were unable to help them, we looked for places where they could receive support. MHPSS also includes education for children, which we provided throughout the project.

We provided adequate care for children with special needs, such as through classes with a psychologist for children with autism in Gdynia. Refugees were mostly well informed about public health services. Sometimes we paid for refugees' medical treatment, such as the purchase of hearing aids.

Our legal assistance helped much gain knowledge of their opportunities, obtain documents, translate documents and change their legal status. We helped enroll children in school, receive public money for children (the '800+' program).

# POLAND

## PROMOTE AND INTEGRATE

We provided numerous Polish and English language courses for adults (courses for children fall under the MHPSS category, 'PROTECT'). We offered tutoring, workshops and mini lectures.

A professional career counselor and coach conducted workshops to help people find their way in the job market. We also provide meetings where a volunteer explains how to look for a job and write a good resume.

We maintain a website, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube. Sister Ursula Krajewska RSCJ oversees advocacy, and Father Dariusz Michalski SJ is the spokesperson - they sometimes appear in conferences or on the radio. In addition, Ursula works with NGOs in Poland on writing recommendations to the government on how to implement the Pact on Migration and Asylum, writing an open letter about the Polish Migration Strategy. Ursula has also participated in meetings between NGOs and the government, including the minister responsible for migrants in Poland. Dariusz besides joined the council for migrants of the Polish Conference of Bishops.

Integration is possible through regular meetings of the youth club, choir and language cafe, as well as numerous occasional events. Among them are St. Nicholas Day, Fat Thursday, Migrant and Refugee Day, Multicultural Fair and Carol Singing. We also organize trips and meetings between refugees and local people.

## 'CAPACITY BUILDING'

To take care of the team of staff and volunteers, we organize supervisions once a month. We also hold training and workshops. In addition, we have meetings with volunteers occasionally. We even managed to organize a meeting of team members from all over Poland. A project coordinator was also hired for a time.

## 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.

Due to the conscription of men aged 18-60 into the Ukrainian military, those arriving are mostly women, children, and elderly people. Over 80%

**People served  
in 2024** **1.580**

**People served  
since 2022** **40.893**

# POLAND

of foreigners settling in Poland are Ukrainian citizens. Almost three years after the Russian aggression, 981 335 Ukrainian refugees benefit from temporary protection in Poland. Majority of them are women and children. Approximately half of the migrants from Ukraine in Poland are aged 27-44 . Therefore, although the One Proposal assisted everyone displaced by the conflict, the predominant category of beneficiaries was 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 east border. In 2024, JRS Poland served 1540 unique beneficiaries, providing each person mostly with three to four different sectors of support.

As stated in the table below, the main and visibly most needed sector of help is Education, followed by Integration. The following one is Psychosocial Support. Awareness category is the most numerous, although targeting local and regional communities. 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	-	-	80	32	112
Short-term Shelter	1	-	77	13	91
Long-term Shelter	5	7	24	12	48
Non-Food Items	5	11	132	51	198
Legal assistance	1	1	120	33	155
Psychosocial support	36	105	186	22	349
Health	-	1	25	17	43
Education	21	17	639	94	773
Livelihood	-	-	23	19	42
Awareness	35	15	1.225	575	1.850

# POLAND

SECTOR	GIRLS	BOYS	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
Advocacy	-	-	27	15	42
Integration	246	109	319	256	875
Peace building	-	-	-	-	-
Capacity building	-	-	30	11	41

### 3. Iwan's Journey: "I know I can come to JRS Poland at any time, and I am always welcome"

Before the war, Iwan was just like any other 14-year-old in Ukraine. His world revolved around school, friends, and his daily routine. "I had no major duties apart from learning," he recalls. But when the war broke out, everything changed overnight. He was forced to leave behind the life he knew, setting out on an uncertain journey to Poland.

#### A Difficult Journey into the Unknown

Fleeing the conflict, Iwan boarded an overcrowded train bound for Poland. "I travelled on a direct train to Poland with so many people that it's hard to imagine. Walking out into the corridor, you could see that everyone



# POLAND

(mothers with babies, children, elderly women) was sitting on the floor. I can also say that there were a lot of people in our train compartment, not to mention the necessity of a space to keep suitcases and things in general,” he describes.

When he finally arrived in Poland, he was met with kindness and solidarity. “During the first days in Poland, I felt very taken care of, because after leaving the train I was met by a crowd of people with posters 'we are with you' etc. What is more, they gave us food to start with and necessities.”

## **Overcoming Challenges in a New Country**

Despite the warm welcome, Iwan faced immense challenges. He had not planned to come to Poland, and he struggled with an unfamiliar language and culture. “I was shocked, and I did not know the language. Actually, I knew neither English nor Polish. I did not know how everything functions in Poland at all,” he admits.

Finding support was crucial, and that’s when he discovered JRS Poland. More than just a place for language learning, JRS became his home away from home. “Thanks to JRS, I managed to learn Polish and I’m in the process of learning English. I get to know beautiful places in and near Warsaw and find colleagues. Currently, I am taking part in youth meetings and even organising them to a certain extent. Now I just know that I can come here at any time, and I am always welcome,” he says with gratitude.

## **Building a Future with Hope**

As Iwan looks ahead, his future remains uncertain, but he is determined to keep moving forward. “Whether I will achieve what I planned. Whether I have enough knowledge and qualifications. I would like to stay in Poland for a longer period of time, unless conditions in Poland change, but overall I like it very much here. Here I have friends, some family, study, work etc.”

With the support of JRS Poland, Iwan has found not just assistance, but a true community that believes in him.

# POLAND

## 4. Financial summary

AXIS	CODE	BUDGET CATEGORY	EXPENDITURE IN EUROS	TOTAL
WELCOME	1A	Short term shelter	0,00	57.003,57
	1B	Emergency aid relief	21.257,24	
	2A	Long term shelter	125.509,89	
	2B	Non food Items	1.855,65	
	2C	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	65.583,54	
PROTECT	2D	Health	5.449,77	57.339,86
	2E	Legal Assistance	10.067,05	
	3A	Education	118.941,28	
	3B	Livelihood	6.760,24	
	3C	Awareness raising	5.599,94	
PROMOTE & INTEGRATE	3D	Advocacy	3.980,18	13.770,43
	3E	Reconciliation & Peacebuilding	215.550,24	
	4A	Capacity building	76.731,53	
CAPACITY BUILDING	4A	Capacity building	76.731,53	1.250,09
TOTAL				129.363,96

**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: 31/12/2024

## Location

Bucharest  
Constanta  
Galati  
Baia Mare  
Brasov  
Medias



## Contact Person

Catalin Albu - Project Coordinator





# ROMANIA

## 1. Summary

As of January 2025, the political and security landscape in Romania and the broader region continues to be influenced by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, with significant implications for both our project and its beneficiaries.

In December 2024, Romania held parliamentary elections that saw a notable rise in far-right political movements. Several ultranationalist and pro-Russian parties, gained substantial traction, raising concerns about potential shifts in Romania's pro-Western orientation and its support for Ukraine. This political shift introduces uncertainties regarding future policies affecting refugees, including those from Ukraine, potentially impacting the support structures and integration efforts currently in place.

The security situation remains tense due to the proximity of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Incidents such as Russian drones crashing several times into Romanian territory have heightened security concerns. Such incidents can lead to increased anxiety among refugees and host communities, potentially affecting the mental health and well-being of

**People served  
in 2024**

**6.617**



# ROMANIA

our beneficiaries.

The influx of refugees has placed additional demands on Romania's economy. While the government has implemented some measures to facilitate access to accommodation, healthcare, education, and employment for refugees, the rising cost of living and budgetary constraints, together with big bureaucracy and mismanagement of funds dedicated, posed a lot of great challenges to sustaining these support systems in practice. Economic strains may affect the availability of resources for our project, necessitating adaptive strategies to continue providing essential services to beneficiaries.

For the third year in a row, our assistance has remained present in the Vinnytsia Oblast region of Ukraine ensuring support reaches those both within and beyond Romania's borders. Thus, with minimal expenses and with the support of a Ukrainian partner NGO, we managed to aid a number of individuals considered the most vulnerable among internally displaced persons. As the war continues, the urgency to support IDPs in Ukraine cannot be overstated as these vulnerable populations need access to essential services and opportunities for stability and growth.

One Proposal in Romania bridged critical gaps left by existing governmental support systems and laid the foundation for sustainable, long-term integration. The 2024 data indicates that JRS Romania's assistance remains heavily focused on vulnerable groups, particularly children (60% of total beneficiaries) and women (31%). The low number of assisted men (9%) and the significant proportion of elderly men (29% of all men) highlight the demographic impact of the war, where most adult men remain in Ukraine. This trend underscores the continued need for specialized support in child protection, education, and services for single mothers and elderly individuals.

The primary focus of JRS Romania's assistance in 2024 was Education, serving 3,248 refugees, followed by Livelihoods (1,264 beneficiaries) and Emergency Aid/Relief/Assistance (1,061 beneficiaries). This marks a shift towards long-term integration efforts rather than emergency response. Our efforts were essential due to the national education system struggles to accommodate and support refugees' students effectively and the challenges in securing employment that further exacerbated these issues.

JRS Romania's response has evolved from emergency relief in 2022, to legal and social assistance in 2023, and now education and livelihoods in 2024. From 2023 to 2024, unique beneficiaries dropped by 54% to 6,617 unique persons, due to main key reasons: the project budget in 2024 was

# ROMANIA

€1.1 million, a 41% drop from 2023, leading to fewer resources for assistance and, Initial emergency assistance in 2022-2023 focused on urgent needs (food, shelter, legal help), while 2024 prioritized education and livelihoods, serving fewer but more sustainably integrated beneficiaries.

A total of over 160 activities were implemented, with at least half taking care for mid-to long-term, including dozens of weekly classes. JRS Romania organized at least 30 language courses, delivering up to 80 different classes, both online and in-person. Across all Sectors, we registered 8,320 participants, while total engagement across all activities reached 18,343 participants. The courses were conducted by dozens of trainers, with over 90% being Ukrainian professionals, including IT specialists, mathematicians, teachers, sports instructors, artists, and MHPSS experts – empowering the refugee community itself. In 2024, JRS Romania’s organic media campaigns of awareness and information reached 179,000 people, generating 384,000 views on Facebook and additionally, 15,000 people engaged with our content, accumulating 67,000 views across Instagram.

While integration was the central focus in 2024, the realities of economic hardship, legal uncertainty, and gaps in essential services have forced a strategic shift back to emergency-based assistance in 2025. In response, for 2025, JRS Romania has adapted its approach by prioritizing basic needs



# ROMANIA

assistance, ensuring that vulnerable individuals receive essential support such as housing aid, healthcare access, financial assistance, and food relief, while still maintaining integration-oriented programs where possible. The project met its objectives by addressing immediate needs while also laying foundations for long-term resilience.

## 2. People served

In 2024, JRS Romania assisted 6,617 unique refugees, including 3,989 children (60%) – 1,963 girls and 2,026 boys, 2,026 women (31%), and 602 men (9%), of whom 176 were elderly (65+ years). Among the beneficiaries, 249 individuals are living with disabilities. The majority of those supported are Ukrainians (6,214), while 376 beneficiaries belong to other nationalities. The project also covered 112 TCN and 120 volunteers from USA, France, Belgium, Norway, UK and Romania.

**People served in 2024** **6.617**

**People served since 2022** **30.316**

During the year, a total number of more than 160 different types of activities were implemented. Out of them, at least more than half were long-term or continuous (e.g., language courses, ongoing educational programs) with over 250,000 yearly participants attendances were recorded throughout the year for all activities.

The project major focus was again on education and livelihoods, over 65% of all project activities and participants/sector, addressing both children and adults in formal and informal learning settings. Significant emphasis on Romanian language courses (crucial for integration), English/French/Ukrainian language support, remedial education for children, IT, and various creative workshops. Another strong focus was on components Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Integration. MHPSS activities included individual and group counseling, art therapy, dance classes, yoga, and specialized support groups while integration efforts involved community-building events, holiday celebrations, focus groups, and recreational outings to help refugees adjust to their new environment.

SECTOR	GIRLS	BOYS	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
Emergency Aid/ Relief/ Assistance	193	205	519	144	1.061

# ROMANIA

SECTOR	GIRLS	BOYS	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
Short-term Shelter	-	-	-	-	-
Long-term Shelter	-	1	5	2	8
Non-Food Items	-	-	-	-	-
Legal assistance	22	20	220	111	373
Psychosocial support	141	109	342	42	634
Health	54	78	277	67	476
Education	1.562	1.585	68	33	3.248
Livelihood	138	138	821	167	1.264
Awareness	32	8	17	7	64
Advocacy	-	-	-	-	155
Integration/ Peace building	278	313	292	107	990
Capacity building	34	21	57	24	136

### 3. Natalia: “Without the support of JRS, it would have been impossible to integrate”

Twenty-four-year-old Natalia is from Mykolaiv. Before the war began, she was on maternity leave, with her daughter Lilia being only 1 year old at the time. When the full-scale war started, her husband went to serve in the Ukrainian Armed Forces to defend the country from the enemy. Leaving Ukraine was difficult for Natalia because her husband remained there, but the fear for her daughter Lilia’s life eventually compelled her to leave. Thus, she found herself in Romania.

"It wasn't easy. It felt like I was on another planet," Natalia recalls.

"Thankfully, my mom was with me. She quickly found a job at a bakery. I wanted to work too, because money was catastrophically scarce. What my mom earned only covered the most basic needs. When the government support program was active, things were a bit easier, but when it ended, I realized we wouldn't survive unless I worked as well. But the biggest problem was who would take care of little Lilia?"

# ROMANIA



She learnt from acquaintances that JRS Romania offered an educational hub for Ukrainian children. She reached out to them hoping to enrol her daughter so she could work. "I'm grateful that they understood and supported me. Now, Lilia attends the kindergarten from morning until evening, and my mom and I work at the bakery in two shifts. Is it easy? No. The work is hard. But I'm happy even with this. I'm glad that, thanks to JRS Romania, I can work and provide for my child", she explains.

This time also allowed her to further integrate into the community. Nataliaa highlights, "I believe my integration here is going successfully. But I understand that without the support of an organization like JRS, it would have been impossible. During my time in Bucharest, I've learned the language. Of course, it's still far from perfect, but I'm trying. I communicate with the local people in Romania, and I can see how pleased they are when they realize a Ukrainian has learned their language".

Looking forward, Natalia would like to stay in Romania. "I really like Bucharest. We definitely don't plan on moving to another country. Moreover, I admit that I would really like to stay here. I don't know how, but I would love to. I want to bring my husband from Ukraine here and continue building our life in Romania", she underlines.

# ROMANIA

## 4. Financial summary

AXIS	CODE	BUDGET CATEGORY	EXPENDITURE IN EUROS	TOTAL
WELCOME	1A	Short term shelter	0,00	2.409,86
	1B	Emergency aid relief	2.409,86	
PROTECT	2A	Long term shelter	6.070,12	298.430,70
	2B	Non food Items	117.988,76	
	2C	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	81.548,71	
	2D	Health	14.247,78	
	2E	Legal Assistance	78.575,33	
PROMOTE & INTEGRATE	3A	Education	518.201,13	742.592,00
	3B	Livelihood	90.811,37	
	3C	Awareness raising	38.722,71	
	3D	Advocacy	56.326,94	
	3E	Reconciliation & Peacebuilding	38.529,87	
CAPACITY BUILDING	4A	Capacity building	0,00	0,00
TOTAL				1.043.432,57

**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: 31/12/2024

## Location

Trnava



## Contact Person

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



# SLOVAKIA

## 1. Summary

Slovakia experienced several major political events, that have affected the lives of people in Slovakia and Ukrainian refugees too. The presidential election in April 2024 led to the 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. Since taking office in 2023, Prime Minister Fico has shifted Slovakia's foreign policy, halting military aid to Ukraine and adopting rhetoric more aligned with Russia, raising concerns among Kyiv and European partners.

The UN's refugee agency (UNHCR) estimated in January 2025 that there were 130,530 Ukrainian refugees in Slovakia.

In 2024, several key political and governmental changes directly affected Ukrainian refugees in Slovakia:

1. Extension of Temporary Protection: The Slovak government extended temporary protection status for Ukrainian refugees until March 4, 2025.

**People served  
in 2024**

**1.380**



# SLOVAKIA

This ensured continued access to housing, healthcare, education, and employment opportunities.

2. New Identification Cards: In November 2024, a legislative amendment introduced ID cards for Ukrainian refugees, simplifying administrative processes and enhancing mobility within the EU.
3. Newly arrived refugees from Ukraine will be allowed to stay in an asylum facility for 60 days instead of 120 days. The accommodation allowance will only be available for 60 days from the first time the refugee is granted temporary shelter in the territory of the Slovak Republic. This follows from the amendment to the Act on the Residence of Aliens, which also amends the Asylum Act.

## 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 December 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 were provided by the Jesuit community in Trnava for 4 persons.
- NFI: The Eco-Social Wardrobe (ESW) served 396 refugees with basic supplies.

### 2. Legal Assistance was provided to 2025 beneficiaries

- 702 beneficiaries, who came personally to see a Ukrainian lawyer in the office
- 1323 refugees received online legal advice.

### 3. Psychosocial Support

- Services were provided to 102 refugees.
- Individual counseling sessions for mothers, retired individuals, and children for 39 people.
- A Zumba dance course was replaced by Fit – dance and was attended by 56 women, 6 girls, and 1 boy promoting physical and mental health.

### 4. Education

- Services in the field of Education were provided to 234 beneficiaries.

# SLOVAKIA

- Learning Help Assistance supported 65 Ukrainian children with homework and cultural integration, 33 girls and 32 boys.
- Slovak Language Courses for 158 people, enhanced language skills essential for integration, 127 adults and 31 children.
- A Parents and Tots Sing-Along and Storytime session engaged a mixed group of Slovak and 7 Ukrainian children.
- IT course for 4 boys who learned JAVA programming language 1x per week, from October 2023 to April 2024, was led by the IT expert. The activity is closed.

## 5.Livelihood

- Part-time work for 3 UA women in Eco-Wardrobe at FHC

## 6.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,
  - a Family Day event hosted 1,320 people, including 310 Ukrainian



# SLOVAKIA

refugees.

- Summer camps for children attended 30 UA children + 30 SVK
- An exhibition “Heart on the Palm” from Oxana Lukomska was attended by 70 people.
- Creative workshops: since November 2024 attended 24 UA women

## 7. Peacebuilding:

- the Independent Day on the 23rd of August 2024 attended by 153 UA and 63 SVK people
- the Commemoration of 1000 days of war in Ukraine attended by 150 UA refugees, 19.11.2024

## 8. Capacity Building

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

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.

Our biggest challenges in 2024 are linked to the changes in the legal circumstances of UA and foreign policy restricting access to temporary residence. We still face difficulties in finding proper housing with accommodation allowance for vulnerable groups.

One of our greatest successes is that despite the inefficient functioning of the foreign policy in Trnava, many of our clients managed to meet the deadline and obtain the necessary documents because of the assistance of the Family Help Centre. Many have gained employment in their profession as they have received assistance from the CPPR (Slovak name for Family Help Centre) in the recognition of their diplomas. Several UA refugees have obtained temporary residence, started a business, and wanted to stay in the Slovak Republic. The constant support and efforts of the FHC especially our Ukrainian lawyer have improved the lives of many refugees in Slovakia.

Despite the inconsistent opinions of local politicians, the local government in Trnava considers our work very efficient and inspiring. During a big conference of local governments, the city of Trnava came to the Family Help Centre with distinguished guests to be inspired by how the integration of refugees from Ukraine can be helped in a varied way at the

# SLOVAKIA

local level. We felt that the city of Trnava appreciated after a long time our efforts.

Another huge challenge for us is to motivate Ukrainians to try to study Slovak and to participate in activities that help their integration into Slovak society. We see the fact that they have been coming to us continuously for the third year as a huge success.

## 2. People served

The main beneficiaries of this project are the refugees from Ukraine with temporary refugee protection (TRP). Most of them are women with their children.

The total number of unique UA beneficiaries in 2024 who have received our services is 1323. Each of these people received at least one service (legal assistance - online). However, most of them benefited from multiple services repeatedly provided.

**People served in 2024** **1.380**

**People served** **5.506**

SECTOR	GIRLS	BOYS	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
Emergency Aid/ Relief/ Assistance	-	-	-	-	-
Short-term Shelter	-	-	-	-	-
Long-term Shelter	1	0	2	1	4
Non-Food Items	55	44	269	28	396
Legal assistance	73	93	1.633	226	2.025
Psychosocial support	12	5	82	3	102
Health	-	-	-	-	-
Education	51	56	110	17	234
Livelihood	-	-	3	-	3
Awareness	-	-	-	-	-

# SLOVAKIA

SECTOR	GIRLS	BOYS	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
Advocacy	-	-	-	-	-
Peacebuilding	-	-	-	-	-
Capacity Building	155	137	148	50	490

## 3. Svitlana “I don’t feel isolated now. I feel I am not alone”

Before the war, Svitlana was living a quiet life working for a government organization and enjoying the life with her daughter and granddaughters. But it all change with blast near their house on February 24th.

As she recalls, “Early in the morning of February 24th, a loud explosion was heard near our house. Immediately we realized that something terrible had started. Our whole family sat in the basement for a week, and we slept together on the ground”.

As the explosions grew closer and more numerous, Svitlana, her daughter and granddaughters decided to flee. She remembers about that moment, “The children were under a lot of stress; they were very nervous and crying. We didn't have our belongings with us. It was terrible for us”.



## SLOVAKIA

They decided to seek refuge in Slovakia. “We only found out about the Family Help Centre (CPPR) and JRS after a year and a half of our stay in Slovakia. We haven’t experienced this kind of great help before”, she highlights.

Svitlana finds that it is the community aspect of this accompaniment that she values the most. She expresses, “I met a lot of good people here. I can attend Slovak language classes, where I found friends while learning to communicate in the Slovak. I can participate every week in workshops and create interesting thoughts. I also like the various events they organize, like concerts and exhibitions. I feel I am not alone”.

And she adds, “In the summer, my grandchildren were at camp, and I could accompany them some days because they were still little. I like it very much. I don’t feel isolated now, along with all this situation around me. I am an elderly lady, but I still live my life, despite everything that happened”.

Looking forward her desire is clear. “For now, we will stay in Slovakia to keep our grandchildren safe, but we really want peace in Ukraine as soon as possible, so we can return home. That is my desire”.



# SLOVAKIA

## 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	2.015,76	49.515,91
	2B	Non food Items	23.923,56	
	2C	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	7.871,52	
	2D	Health	0,00	
	2E	Legal Assistance	15.705,07	
	3A	Education	30.794,91	
PROMOTE & INTEGRATE	3B	Livelihood	13.158,49	88.136,43
	3C	Awareness raising	3.600	
	3D	Advocacy	29.409,02	
	3E	Reconciliation & Peacebuilding	11.174,01	
	4A	Capacity building	4.116,00	
CAPACITY BUILDING	4A	Capacity building	4.116,00	4.116,00
TOTAL				141.768,34

# 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

JRS-Portugal, since the beginning of the conflict, has accompanied more than 1250 displaced persons from Ukraine, of which 8,4% (105) were direct beneficiaries of the Empower UA project, through 307 specialized and tailor made supports. The activities carried out in the Project focused on the following:

1. Identifying the individual needs of the beneficiaries and helping them to find a solution for their path;
  - Initial assessment to identify the needs and potential of each person;
2. Providing psychosocial support:
  - Social counselling and meeting basic needs, namely medication and/or food
  - Guidance and support in the process of staying in Portugal – this includes not only referral to Portuguese classes, applications for social support, access to healthcare, children’s integration into school, etc., but also psychosocial support to reflect on their expectations and plan for the future.
  - Sociolegal support, especially in terms of documentation;
  - Assisting in the search process of finding adequate housing and connecting with landlords;
3. Providing personalized career guidance and counselling:
  - Identifying/Updating the profile of each person;
  - Drafting/translating CVs to present candidates to potential employers;
  - Prospecting, publicizing and/or applying for jobs by consulting several resources
  - Referrals for training, to identify answers that can improve their skills or diversify their chances of integration into the labour market;
  - 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 (307) demonstrated the need to provide a more extended support and not only a one-time informative support. In average the beneficiaries came 3 times to JRS, searching support in

# INTEGRATION FUND

the different dimensions provided by the project. This ongoing support has allowed us to have a more thorough assessment of each person's background, skills, and expectations, as well as a reassessment and adaptation of support given to match the evolving needs and fostering a more stable and sustainable integration process.

## 3. North Macedonia

The political and economic landscape of the Republic of North Macedonia is experiencing notable shifts following the recent elections, with direct consequences for both the local population and the Ukrainian refugees residing within the country.

These developments are further exacerbated by the escalating cost of living, creating additional challenges for vulnerable groups. While the war in Ukraine continues with no solution in sight, the Ukrainians who arrived did not receive special help from North Macedonia, where around 300 Ukrainian refugees sought refuge and support.

Despite their plight, Ukrainian refugees in North Macedonia have received minimal support from the government, which has limited its role to registering arrivals at border crossings. No assistance has been provided by non-governmental organizations either.



# INTEGRATION FUND

In response to this lack of institutional aid, the refugees have taken matters into their own hands. They established the Association of Single Mothers and Children from Ukraine, aptly named "Common Home," which now comprises 75 members, predominantly single mothers and their children.

After they formed an association, and approached a large number of companies, no one came forward to help them. As everywhere in Europe, the living conditions are getting more and more difficult for the refugees and for the local population, the prices of food and accommodation are constantly rising.

In alignment with the objectives outlined in the project proposal, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Macedonia, in collaboration with "Common Home," has consistently organized the distribution of essential food and non-food items to address the immediate needs of the refugee community.

This grassroots initiative highlights the resilience and self-reliance of the Ukrainian refugees while underscoring the urgent need for more comprehensive governmental and organizational support.

The Advocacy Officer and Legal Advisor from JRS Macedonia maintained consistent engagement with the members of "Common Home," facilitating the transition of their legal status from temporary residence to temporary protection in accordance with the relevant EU directive.

In parallel, JRS Macedonia actively advocated with the Sector for Asylum at the Ministry of Interior, urging expedited issuance of new identification cards granting temporary protection to the members of "Common Home." This proactive approach underscores the organization's commitment to ensuring the timely and efficient realization of refugees' rights and protections.

## 4. Spain

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 initiative has strengthened the hospitality networks by engaging over 1,600 welcoming citizens providing long-term hosting and integration solutions for 132 displaced migrants (89 of them were Ukrainians refugees with special needs, for whom the governmental resources were not the most suitable answer and were derived to the Hospitality Program)

Key components of the project include:

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- Providing long-term housing and emergency relief to meet the basic needs of 132 forced migrants.
- Offering therapeutic support: specialized therapy services are provided, especially for women, to address trauma resulting from forced displacement. Ukrainian refugees have benefitted from these services.
- Fostering community-building and accompaniment: developing a support network to facilitate local integration.
- Enhancing the skills of teams and volunteers to better accompany and assist migrants and refugees.

## 5. 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

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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.



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## 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 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

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.

This project was finalized in June 2024.

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## 6. Natalia: “What I remember the most is the warm welcome, support, and help we received”.

Natalia had a connection with Spain before having to seek refuge there, yet as she: “didn’t know the country at all”. She was focused on her treatment after being diagnosed with cancer and raising her daughters while her husband was in the army fighting the war.

Her connection to the Iberian country came through her daughters. “My eldest daughter had been part of a host program for three years, and each year she would come to spend the summer with a family in Valladolid. My youngest daughter participated in the program for just one year”, she recalls.

This connection would prove vital for her family as the people from Valladolid who hosted her daughters every summer open the doors to her family and supported. But this connection did not soften the arrival shock as she “felt very lost because it was something completely new to me”.

And as she explains: “we were worried because we didn’t fully know the family that was offering us help. We were nervous and anxious. However, once we arrived, we felt welcomed, supported, and accompanied by this



## INTEGRATION FUND

family. They have helped me in many ways. At first, they provided us with housing, but they have also offered me Spanish classes, supported me with food, and my youngest daughter receives academic support”.

This support was compounded with the assistance from Red Íncola, one of the member organizations of SJM Spain. “The support from Red Íncola has had a very positive impact on my life overall. I have been able to access healthcare, which is incomparable to what is available in Ukraine, as well as free treatment—there were things in Ukraine that I simply couldn’t afford.”.

Combined this support, has proven life-changing for Natalia’s family: “All the support has been incredibly important for me and my family. We feel very grateful”, she expresses. Yet at the end of the day, it is the warmth of the family receiving her that is forever imprinted in her memory. “What I remember the most is the warm welcome, support, and help we received from my eldest daughter’s host family—without them, I don’t think we would have made it”, she underlines.

Now, she finds herself at home in Valladolid. You can hear it in the way she describes her life in the city: “I love walking around Valladolid and enjoying the city. I also like feeding the ducks by the river, going for walks with Mayte (a volunteer from Red Íncola), and swimming in the public pool”

Looking forward, her intention is very clear. She says: “My hope is to stay in Spain. I don’t want to go back to Ukraine. We are doing well here—my husband has a job, and my daughters have adapted. Besides, I have medical check-ups coming up and need to take medication for two more years”.

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### 7. People Served

SECTOR	N. MACEDONIA	SERBIA	SPAIN	PORTUGAL
Short term shelter	-	-	46	-
Emergency Aid	210	21	447	-
Long term Shelter	-	-	622	-
Non-Food Items	-	11	-	-
Mental Health & Psychosocial	-	3	81	99
Health	-	2	-	-
Legal assistance	210	3	-	-
Education	-	44	-	-
Livelihood	-	-	-	41
Awareness raising	-	55	-	-
Advocacy	-	1	-	-
Integration & Peacebuilding	-	21	-	-
Capacity building	-	-	711	-
Unique benefiaries	210	161	1.669	105

# INTEGRATION FUND

## 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	97.832,85	
	1B	Emergency aid, relief and basic need assistance	0,00	0,00	56.209,92	41.622,93		
	2A	Long-term shelter	0,00	228,27	0,00	24.553,75		
	2B	Non-Food Items	0,00	0,00	240,28	0,00		
	2C	Mental Health and psychosocial support	16.300,00	0,00	0,00	26.745,05		
PROTECT	2D	Health	0,00	0,00	64,68	0,00	68.831,26	
	2E	Legal Assistance	0,00	0,00	699,23	0,00		
	3A	Education	0,00	1.972,44	18,06	0,00		
	3B	Livelihood	16.300,00	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	7.078,27		
	TOTAL		32.600,00	5.891,72	57.232,17	100.000,00		195.723,89
	CAPACITY BUILDING	4A	Capacity building	0,00	0,00	0,00		7.078,27
PROMOTE & INTEGRATE	3C	Awareness raising	0,00	133,84	0,00	0,00	21.981,51	
	3D	Advocacy	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00		
	3E	Integration and Peacebuilding	0,00	3.557,17	0,00	0,00		

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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.**

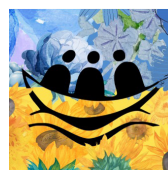
**We are grateful to our donors, staff, volunteers and all the people who make this possible.**

**Thank you!**

## PARTNERS



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