

## IN THE LOOP

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE** 

October 2024

## **Ukraine Overview**

The Migration Accompaniment Ministry of PDA, in collaboration with World Mission, has been deeply involved in responding to the humanitarian crisis in Eastern Europe, focusing on both immediate relief and long-term recovery for those affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

PDA's multifaceted support has involved humanitarian projects to meet the urgent needs of individuals affected by the conflict including women support groups, traumainformed care, rehabilitation projects, agricultural livelihood, psychosocial programs, children and youth support, educational relief and refugee support.



 PDA funds enabled the reconstruction of an entire wing of a residential facility to house up to 60 internally displaced men with mental disabilities. Re-trenching and rebuilding the sewage network to the building was also required to make it fully functional. A second project has focused more on women's economic empowerment through technical training and seed grants for new livelihoods.



PDA has also provided technical support for partners who have had to "scale up" considerably to meet the needs of their communities.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) partners are involved in coordination meetings with local and national governments, other non-governmental organizations (local, national and international) and with the UN agencies.

 Through a coordination center relocated to western Ukraine, PDA support has enabled volunteers to distribute food, hygiene products, clothing, and other essential items to people displaced to that region. In addition, medical products and medicine have been trucked to hospitals closer to the conflict zone.

- L'Arche community in Ukraine serves their members with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. PDA support has focused on 3 areas: 1) daily basic needs support includes food, supplements, medications, and personal hygiene supplies, materials for handcrafts and other daily activities; 2)
   Psychosocial needs, including non-violent communication and coping skills; and 3) staff retention.
- Ukraine Education Platform (UEP) provided grants at the end of the course for displaced women in the western part of Ukraine to develop their own initiatives. Woven into almost every project was an element of emotional and spiritual care for themselves, other women and their families. Balance for Your Ministry offered 40 Ukrainian clergy a 5-month psychological literacy training program, recognizing their essential role in identifying mental health needs among their communities as part of a broader effort to reform the mental health care in Ukraine, particularly in the time of such great emotional, psychological and spiritual needs.

PDA continues to receive grant requests from existing and potential partner organizations.

Current planning is focused on 2025-2026, including scenario planning for an eventual hoped-for end to this terrible war.

Through partner organizations outside of Ukraine, PDA has been able to support services for Ukrainian refugees:

 Hungary: Basic emergency assistance for food, clothing and housing, case management, group activities, employment counseling and referrals and grants for community-led initiatives Moldova: Medical and social services including organizing telemedicine appointments through home healthcare organization; services through multi-purpose center, including legal assistance; 'chicken raising project', providing food source and income from the sale of eggs and chickens; emergency housing and psychological support.

Czech Republic: Support for local parishes as they host support groups among Ukrainian women for their psychological and emotional well-being as well as to enhance their social integration, including energy assistance support for those facing potential shutdowns due to the high cost of fuel.

**Lithuania:** Solidarity grant to cover basic operational costs as local organization expanded their ministry to include Ukrainian refugees at their social service centers.

**Greece:** Grant for Greek language instruction and a food bank serving Ukrainian refugees in the northern part of Greece.

## **How to support**

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