



UKRAINE RESPONSE

IOCC has a long history of humanitarian and development programming in Eastern Europe, beginning in the early 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union. With strong partner relations across the region, particularly within the network of the Orthodox Church, and a portfolio of humanitarian response in Romania, Ukraine, and the western Balkans, IOCC was positioned to respond quickly, starting in March 2022. Programs are now addressing immediate and long-term needs in both Ukraine and neighboring countries.



Ukrainian refugees in Romania receive grocery vouchers from IOCC, ensuring they can get exactly what their families need.

BACKGROUND

Since it began in 2022, the conflict in Ukraine has forced millions of people to flee their homes seeking safety.

The global response strategy brings together the United Nations, nongovernmental organizations like IOCC, and local partners. Combined efforts are serving refugees fleeing Ukraine, providing humanitarian assistance in-country, and supporting host-nations across the region.

KEY PRIORITIES

IOCC is providing aid in the following key areas of programmatic response:

- Humanitarian support for people in Ukraine, including emergency supplies and shelter.
- Assistance for refugees in neighboring countries and for the families and institutions hosting them.
- Leveraging IOCC's expertise in providing emotional care and counseling in crisis situations, plus other psychosocial support and protection for women and children.

IOCC RESPONSE

Initial programs began by meeting immediate needs and have shifted over time as conflict continued and circumstances changed. Programs (past and ongoing) include the following.

In Ukraine, IOCC is working with local partners to serve people affected by the conflict.

- Renovation of a community center to provide safe accommodation and support services (including social assistance and counseling) for women and children.
- Renovation of hundreds of houses and apartments to restore people to their residences.
- Complete renovation and repair of a home for men with disabilities, providing some 100 displaced men with safe shelter where they can receive specialized care.
- Distributions of food, water, medicine, household appliances, and essential supplies to displaced persons and to families, shelters, and resource centers assisting them.
- Training for clergy and social workers in self-care and counseling in crisis situations.



This Ukrainian mother found the help she needed at an IOCC-supported distribution and information center in Ukraine serving people displaced by conflict. (Photo: Eleos)

In Romania, working with a long-time Church partner, IOCC is serving refugees and host communities.

- Transportation: Getting refugees to safe accommodation, and providing transport for refugees staying with host families to essential shopping and services.
- Food and supplies: Providing grocery vouchers and essential items to refugees so they can shop independently for what they need.
- Host family support: Help for the numerous families the Romanian Orthodox Church has enlisted to provide temporary accommodation for Ukrainian refugees.
- Humanitarian protection and safeguarding training: IOCC is offering critical training and certification for all volunteers transporting refugees, helping keep particularly vulnerable women and children safe from harm and human trafficking.
- Aid in Moldova: Through our Romania partner, IOCC also worked with a Church partner in Moldova to provide food, hygiene items, household cleaning supplies, heaters, and other essentials to Ukrainian refugees there.

In Poland, in coordination with Polish authorities and a local Church partner, IOCC is assisting refugees and host communities.

- Supplies for shelters: Serving refugees in accommodation shelters in various cities with food, hygiene, and other humanitarian items.
- Educational assistance: IOCC purchased laptops to establish 26 online learning rooms in accommodation centers for school-age students so they can continue their education remotely.
- Host family support: Many families in Poland have provided accommodation for Ukrainian refugees at their own expense. IOCC is distributing household-support packages for 700 host families including food, toiletries, baby care products, and household cleaning items.



This mother and her three children found shelter in Poland through an Orthodox monastery, and an IOCC program is helping her cover basic expenses as the family builds a new life.

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