Emergency Update 3:
Urgent Response
to the Ukraine Crisis

TULCEA HUMANITARIAN LOGISTICS HUB, ROMANIA
BACKGROUND AND SITUATION UPDATE

It has now been three months since Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022. More than 25% of Ukrainian civilians have fled their homes, with 6.3 million seeking refuge in neighboring countries, and an additional 8 million people displaced within Ukraine.* Within Ukraine, essentials like food, medicine, and electricity are scarce. Over 12 million people still urgently need humanitarian aid within and beyond Ukraine.

Since February 27, our experts have been supporting Ukrainian refugees in Moldova with essential protection, education, healthcare, and relief items. We are active at Palanca, the main border crossing; in Chișinău, the Moldovan capital; and in rural villages where local communities are stretching their own limited resources to host refugees.

In addition, with our partners, we are coordinating and managing the Tulcea Humanitarian Logistics Hub on the Romania-Ukraine border. This is currently the only way to deliver essential aid to civilians across the whole of southern and eastern Ukraine. Russia is attacking these regions harshly and supplies are scarce. IsraAID is ensuring that lifesaving humanitarian items, including food and medicine, make it directly into Ukraine and reach the most vulnerable people there.

* United Nations OCHA Humanitarian Impact Report, May 19, 2022

IsraAID was honored to receive a letter from the President of Moldova recognizing our work in the country with Ukrainian refugees recently:

“I appreciate the dedication of your organization and team, the human and financial resources you have spent during this crisis. Through your generosity, openness and care, you have created a safe haven in Moldova for the Ukrainian people. Thanks to you, Moldova has proven that it is a small country with a big heart.”
With our partners, IsraAID is coordinating and managing the Tulcea Humanitarian Logistics Hub to process, ship, and verify humanitarian aid directly to southern Ukraine. This region continues to face harsh bombardment with significant damage to civilian housing and infrastructure. IsraAID and our partners are providing the only safe route for lifesaving aid and relief items to reach civilians in urgent need across the whole of southern Ukraine.

We are working with a wide range of partners to procure essential items locally and globally, and collaborating with NGOs, hospitals, religious institutions, and civil society organizations in southern Ukraine itself to reach those most in need.

So far, we have shipped some $25 million worth of supplies. This has included over 50 shipments in May alone, reaching Odessa, Reni, Izmail, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Kryvyi Rih, Zaporizhzhia, and Bolgrad. For example, we sent over 700 kg of food to a shelter in Dnipro (above left). We sent power banks with the capacity to run medical equipment to a hospital in Mykolaiv (above right), as electricity is unreliable due to heavy damage. Other hospitals, including a pediatric hospital in Odessa, have received supplies according to their needs, such as tourniquets. We also installed a stable, controlled cold-chain environment, and have begun shipping vital medicines that are in short supply, such as insulin.

Lastly, as fighting continues to damage civilian infrastructure, we are exploring ways to provide safe water access in southern Ukraine. This is in the early stages – more to follow.
PROTECTION

Refugees are still fleeing into Moldova, and IsraAID continues to provide a safe tent at the border. Newly arrived mothers can relax while their children play with local volunteers trained by our experts. This month, the tent was upgraded with a direct electricity connection, allowing refugees to charge their phones, and a sunroof to improve comfort in the warmer weather. We are also still providing essential items for new arrivals, including hygiene and first aid kits; stress relief packs for children; and baby kits.

IsraAID continues to operate our Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) in the main shelter in Chișinău, offering children stability and support through arts and education. Additionally, as many refugees are now hosted in the community, we are also running CFSs in public spaces like libraries. This month, over 300 Ukrainian children accessed these spaces. Our trained facilitators also identify child protection concerns and refer cases to relevant welfare services, and we continue to support and strengthen the local authorities.

EDUCATION

IsraAID is working with UNICEF to conduct a rapid assessment of the 50,000 children refugees in Moldova. We are establishing their education needs and helping to improve coordination and communication between partners, the government, and the refugee community. Through this, we will help facilitate continued access to education - which helps displaced children integrate into new societies, supports their psychosocial wellbeing, and reduces the long-term negative impacts of their displacement.
Many refugees in Moldova want to stay close to the border, in the Stefan Voda region, as they anxiously await the chance to return home or receive news of loved ones still in Ukraine. Some 1,500 refugees are staying with local Moldovan families in Stefan Voda. These host families are themselves rural and economically vulnerable, so we are providing food and hygiene supplies to boost both refugees’ and hosts’ psychosocial wellbeing. We are also operating a weekly medical clinic for refugees and host community members.

"In a small medical clinic near the border, I meet with refugees currently living in the area to check patients dealing with diabetes, high blood pressure, running noses, anxiety, and often stress and painful stories... I listen, trying to understand how else we can assist them."

– Martina Paletova, a nurse deployed with IsraAID

Practicing self-care and burnout prevention helps frontline workers harness their own personal strength and resilience amid difficult and demanding work, so that they can continue to support refugees for the long term. This month, IsraAID provided training for the staff of CoTN/Greengate, an ecological alternative learning facility providing daily classes for Ukrainian children, and for volunteers from Keystone International, who are leading children’s activities in our tent in Palanca.
CURRENT LOCATIONS

Chișinău: Psychosocial support in refugee shelters and the host community; capacity building for local service providers; education mapping

Tulcea, Romania: Managing a Humanitarian Logistics Hub to deliver essential humanitarian items across southern Ukraine

Stefan Voda region, where 1,500 refugees are staying with local families: relief distributions, healthcare, psychosocial support

Palanca, the busiest border crossing in Moldova: safe spaces for mothers and children; relief item distributions

NEXT STEPS

After three months, this situation remains extremely fragile and volatile. While some organizations are concluding their emergency responses, there are huge outstanding needs, from civilians desperately awaiting lifesaving supplies in Ukraine to psychosocial and integration challenges among the refugees in relative physical safety.

We will keep delivering essential services for refugees and host families in Moldova, and equipping local authorities to support them long-term. **We will also continue to operate the Humanitarian Logistics Hub in Tulcea.** Finally, we will scope out the possibility of additional aid to southern Ukraine, including the provision of safe water.

We are also monitoring all developments, including the flow of refugees, services available to them, and locations of fighting and aid convoys. We will adapt our programs as needed.
MEDIA AND PRESS COVERAGE

BLOGS AND INTERVIEWS
- Displaced from Ukraine: Iulia and her family's story - IsraAID
- On the Ground in Moldova: Doctors and Nurses of IsraAID's Medical Team Share Their Experiences - Airlink

NEWS ARTICLES
- The Ukrainian refugee crisis is a women’s crisis - Jerusalem Post
- IsraAID CEO: Ukraine crisis is the worst I’ve ever seen - Israel21c
- Once Victims in Southeast Europe, Jews Come to Aid Fleeing Ukrainians - New York Times
- Russia-Ukraine war: A muddy escape from Ukrainian danger through Moldova - Jerusalem Post
- Mothers With Babies, Babushkas With Canes: A Day With the People Escaping Ukraine - Haaretz
- The emergency refugee response on Ukraine’s Moldova border - Jewish News
- What I learned helping refugees at the Moldova-Ukraine border - The Independent
- Ukraine war takes a heavy toll on refugees’ mental health - Ynet
- For Israelis, the outpouring of aid to Ukraine is personal - Israel21c
- Israeli NGO Partners with Romania to Launch Logistics Hub - Jewish Press

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT