



Ukraine Family Relief Fund

Accompanying Families in Crisis

— Ukraine —



A mother and her baby receive food supplies.



Thousands of Ukrainians remain displaced in temporary resettlement shelters.

Families Seeking Peace and Rest in God

Since February 2022, the people of Ukraine have endured immense suffering. The displaced and scattered families, not knowing where the next danger will arise, often have no choice but to rely on the mercy of others to meet their basic needs for food, water, clothing and shelter. Surely, our Father in Heaven mourns for his precious children, who are caught in the crosshairs of political, geographic and economic strife.

Today, many of these children of God spend each night in temporary resettlement shelters, fearing for their lives and flinching at the buzzing of drones and gunfire. St. John Paul II, who also witnessed great suffering in Poland, preached in the encyclical *Sollicitudo Rei Socialis* that the antidote to violence is Christian solidarity.

“The correlative response [to injustice] as a moral and social attitude, as a ‘virtue,’ is solidarity,” he wrote. “This then is not a feeling of vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of so many people, both near and far. On the contrary, it is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all.”

The human suffering that occurs in the cities and countryside of Ukraine can feel distant, almost fictional, to people who live thousands of miles away from the front lines. Tragically, these events are real and ongoing. The men, women and children who live there have names, and their existence speaks a louder truth than a number on a newscast. Their faces, which too often hold expressions of grief, reflect the beauty of God’s own countenance. They look to you, their brothers and sisters, to stand by them and uplift them as Christ compels us.

As the unified Body of Christ, we accept the responsibility St. John Paul II spoke of, refusing vague feelings of compassion and choosing instead to work for the good of those who suffer. **Please join us as we link arms with the Dicastery for the Service of Charity and Catholic partners in Eastern Europe to be a source of hope for Ukraine’s families!**



Executive Summary

Description

This project seeks to relieve the burdens of Ukrainian families by providing food, shelter, medical supplies and ambulances.

Purpose

To stand in solidarity with those who suffer, promoting both physical and spiritual healing through the works of mercy and testifying to Christ's love for his children.

Our Partners

Our three partners for this initiative are:

- **The Dicastery for the Service of Charity**, also known as the Apostolic Alms Office. Headquartered in Vatican City, the dicastery seeks to respond quickly to humanitarian disasters worldwide.
- **The Archdiocese of Przemyśl**, Poland, which to date has welcomed and accompanied over 1,700 displaced Ukrainian families. The archdiocese and its humanitarian outreach, the **Pastoral Family Care Foundation**, support families by securing necessary documentation, finding parents jobs across Europe, and funding school fees for children, among a myriad of other services.
- **Mission Vlaster**, Moldova, provides social, legal and material assistance to orphans and children. This mission has provided mothers and caregivers with baby supplies, diapers, Vitafood meals and relief blankets. It also has a unique charism for those with mobility issues to transform their lives and make basic tasks more achievable.

Location

Ukraine, Poland and Moldova, where ministry partners are providing support for affected Ukrainian families.

Campaign Goal

\$542,419 is needed to support the ongoing medical, educational, legal and spiritual ministries of our three partners. See a complete financial summary on page 14.

Highlights

Your gift will transform the lives of suffering Ukrainian communities in the following ways:



WATER & HEALTH You will empower our partners to provide medicine, wheelchairs, prosthetics and counseling for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).



FOOD Each year since the conflict in Ukraine began, Cross Catholic Outreach has provided Vitafood meals and hot soup through local partners. Your generosity acts as a lifeline for families that pray each day for their daily bread.



DISASTER RELIEF You will continue the critical work of our partners by providing blankets, hygiene supplies, thermal clothing, cleaning supplies and even emergency vehicles, upholding human dignity and providing a sense of normalcy in an uncertain time.

Be a compassionate source of rest for a Ukrainian family in need!



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A bus full of Ukrainian refugees arrives at the Pastoral Family Care Foundation in Poland.



SECTION I

THE NEED

A man in Moldova receives clothes and shoes through Mission Vlaster.





Families eat a hot meal at the Pastoral Family Care Foundation in Poland.

Poverty in Ukraine

Ever since the war started in 2022, normal life has been on hold for many Ukrainians. According to the World Bank, approximately 36.9% of the population lives in poverty, a staggering number compared to prewar levels. Many industries and companies have pulled out of the country to avoid the risks of war, diminishing job opportunities. Meanwhile, shrinking pensions and, most tragically, the deaths of many household breadwinners have left families struggling to secure even basic necessities.

Due to these and other factors, thousands of families are continuing to flee their homeland to pursue gainful employment and stability abroad. This, in turn, has left a lack of skilled labor in Ukraine and widened the divide between wealthy and impoverished households.

Poverty in Ukraine has resulted in a large homeless population, a high demand for soup kitchens and feeding centers, and a scarcity of common household items, such as soap and paper towels. These shortages are exacerbated by hyperinflation and unpredictable supply chains, forcing the most vulnerable Ukrainians to rely almost entirely on international humanitarian aid for their basic survival, medical, hygienic and monetary needs.

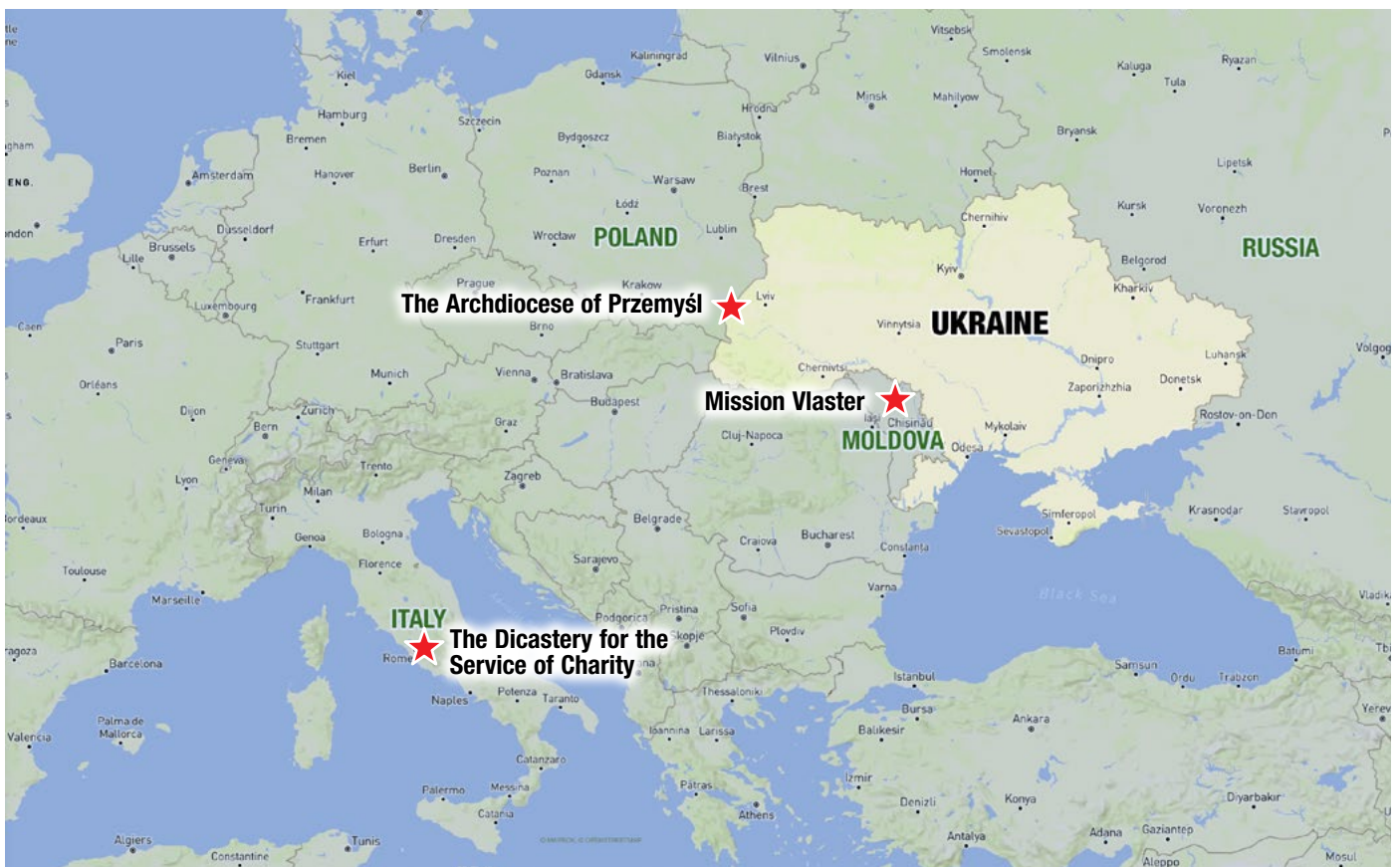


Location of the Partners

The Dicastery for the Service of Charity: The dicastery is a specialized arm of the Roman Curia, and it is headquartered in the heart of the Catholic Church: Vatican City. Members of the dicastery travel worldwide to distribute aid, including to the most dangerous regions of Ukraine.

The Archdiocese of Przemyśl: This archdiocese is located in southeastern Poland, which hugs the western border of Ukraine. This is one of the most common passage points for refugees fleeing the country to pursue a better life for themselves and their families in other parts of Europe.

Mission Vlaster: This mission in Moldova is also located along Ukraine's border. Historically, it used to serve the most vulnerable members of its own country, but since the onset of the war, it has pivoted to also aid Ukrainian refugees.



Ukraine Refugee Facts

As of this year, approximately 5.7 to 5.9 million people have fled Ukraine in the global diaspora, with approximately 10 million Ukrainians displaced from their homes, according to the United Nations. The bulk of these migrant populations resides in Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic. According to the World Economic Forum, about 2.3 million Ukrainian refugees have found employment abroad with help from the Archdiocese of Przemyśl and other benevolent organizations and outreaches.



The Rending of a Father's Heart

Visiting the graves of fallen Ukrainians in 2024, Cardinal Konrad Krajewski stood before row upon row of crosses. Each one represented a human person made in the image and likeness of God, stripped away by the brutal reality of war. His emotions ran high, his heart torn by the sight.

Cardinal Krajewski concluded that despite the tragedies that have befallen Ukraine and its people, it is up to each one of us to become a counterforce for good. Recently appointed Archbishop of Łódź in Poland, His Eminence served as Papal Almoner from 2013 until 2026. Envisioning a future in which children can freely play in the streets, he believes we ought to help relieve the burdens of struggling Ukrainians “until the last soldier has returned home to his family.”

Witnessing the war's devastation was a defining moment in Cardinal Krajewski's ministry, and he worked under both Pope Francis and Pope Leo XIV to alleviate Ukraine's suffering, one act of mercy at a time. With support from Cross Catholic Outreach, he faithfully delivered food, medical supplies and ambulances to affected communities — sometimes braving gunfire to ensure relief items reached

their destination. In 2026, the Most Reverend Luis Marín de San Martín was appointed the new prefect of the Dicastery for the Service of Charity, which continues to conduct charitable works in Ukraine and around the world on behalf of the Holy Father.



Cross Catholic Outreach's Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer Jim Cavnar and President Michele Sagarino visit Cardinal Krajewski at the Vatican to discuss aid for Ukrainian refugees.

Jesus, the Stranger

As he preached the Parable of the Sheep and Goats, Jesus taught us that whatever we do for someone in need, we do unto him. So many people around the world, especially those living in extreme circumstances, experience loneliness, hopelessness, hunger and the dangers of migration. One act of kindness to a stranger resting on a park bench can make a tangible and life-changing difference. When we enact Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, we put a smile on the face of Christ himself.



A Desperate Escape



A group of children arrives at the Pastoral Family Care Foundation in Poland.

At the onset of the conflict, countless Ukrainian families said goodbye to the only life they had ever known. Hastily packing up what they could carry in their arms, they were forced to leave their generational homes — the places where they had lived out their most joyful and important moments — uncertain whether the buildings would be there when they returned. Days of exile turned into months, and months became years. Today, we know that over 10 million people have still not returned home.

Among these people are those whom St. John Paul II described as “the immense multitudes of the hungry, the needy, the homeless, those without medical care and, above all, those without hope of a better future.”

Some had family in other parts of Eastern Europe that would take them in. Others had jobs lined up overseas. But most walked alone, knowing only that they were headed west toward the border. They prayed to our Father in Heaven that they would meet kind souls to point them in the right direction once they reached Poland, Moldova, Slovakia, Hungary or Romania.

For many, our ministry partners have been those kind souls, sharing hope in the midst of great pain. The Dicastery for the Service of Charity has seen many families placed with border missions that offer food, shelter, medical care and other resources. The Archdiocese of Przemyśl and Mission Vlaster have been working tirelessly to accommodate the migrant populations as they look to build a brighter future far from their homeland.

As families rebuild their lives and move on from these ministries, the volunteers rejoice over God’s mercy and the new path he has provided. However, the feeling is bittersweet as these families reckon with the harsh reality that they might never see their former homes again.



Living in a War Zone

Not everyone was able to flee Ukraine. Millions of people still live in active combat zones, either because they do not have the ability to move or because they retain a sense of duty to the communities they hold so dear. These are the people who flinch at the crack of artillery fire and search the sky at the dreaded whirring of unmanned drones.

Many of those left behind go for days on end without access to clean water, nourishing food and a place to safely rest their heads at night. These are the souls that Cardinal Krajewski has rushed through gunfire to reach, donning a bulletproof jacket as he distributed humanitarian aid. Their situation is dire, but the Church never abandons its mission to save souls and share the Good News of Christ, regardless of the dangers that present themselves. The witness our Catholic brothers and sisters give to our faith in these intense moments is nothing short of heroic.

At Cross Catholic Outreach, we feel strongly called to stand with these heroes of the faith and with Ukrainian families in the thick of the unpredictable threats they face each day. As God has comforted us, we want to remind them that our Good Shepherd is with us and that we have nothing to fear in his presence. He promises mercy to his people and eases the yoke of persecution, violence and separation from those they love.

As part of the year's European giving initiative, we invite you to join us in standing with the suffering people of Ukraine. Thank you for taking action to relieve their burdens and accompany them until the peace of Christ reigns over our world.



A mother and daughter receive Vitafood provided by Cross Catholic Outreach at a distribution in Kharkov, Ukraine.



SECTION II

THE PLAN

Workers unload a shipment of Vitafood meals that Cross Catholic Outreach sent to the Pastoral Family Care Foundation in Poland.





WATER & HEALTH



Refugees at a healthcare facility in Ukraine receive aid gifted by Cross Catholic Outreach.

The tragic reality of war is that some people will literally never walk away. Many are permanently disabled by mines and other explosives. Thousands of Ukrainians have had one or more limbs amputated since the beginning of the conflict, and very few hospitals can accommodate inpatient rehabilitation to help meet those patients' long-term needs. Basic tasks that require walking or reaching higher places have become insurmountable for so many.

Your gift will strengthen these brothers and sisters by providing essential medical supplies, including medicine, prosthetics, wheelchairs and even ambulances.

St. John Paul II called us to recognize the face of God in our neighbor: "Solidarity helps us to see the 'other' — whether a person, people or nation — not just as some kind of instrument, with a work capacity and physical strength to be exploited at low cost and then discarded when no longer useful, but as our neighbor."

Join us in treating the wounded, the sick and the most marginalized members of society as our neighbors today.

Mobility Cart Testimonial — Valeria's Victory

This past year, Mission Vlaster assisted a third-grade student by giving her a mobility cart. Paralyzed since birth, Valeria has had many surgeries in her childhood. With the help of the cart, she can now move around her house and yard independently — a blessing that feels like a miracle to Valeria and her family. We thank God for the generous benefactors who made this possible!



PTSD and Psychological Counseling

Not all medical issues are physical. That is why our partners offer one-on-one PTSD and psychological care for those who have experienced familial losses and endured traumatizing events. We believe that getting a person to safety is the first step of solidarity, but we understand that the journey does not end there. You can help your brothers and sisters experiencing psychological hardship recover from the horrors they have faced. At the Pastoral Family Care Foundation and Mission Vlaster, staff and volunteers are guided by Christian principles to administer psychological, spiritual and medical relief.



FOOD



Selfless volunteers prepare cakes and other delicious food at the Pastoral Family Care Foundation.

Food is becoming increasingly scarce. According to the World Food Programme, around 5 million Ukrainians face moderate to severe food scarcity, affecting one in six people nationally.

Before the conflict began, food production depended heavily on local agriculture and farms. For centuries, Ukraine was considered the breadbasket of Eastern Europe. Traditionally, Ukrainian communities have subsisted on bread, borscht, buckwheat, dairy products and stuffed dumplings, to name their most famous dishes.

Due to the constant shelling and occupation of farmlands, many Ukrainians can only dream of such a feast. Sadly, many families struggle to

locate their next meal daily, often relying on foreign aid and charity-run soup kitchens to fill their stomachs. This is where the Church has always stepped in to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters as Christ compels us.

We plan to provide as many nutritious meals as possible to people who desperately need a merciful encounter with Jesus — the man who multiplied loaves and fishes to provide for everyone who approached him for help. Cross Catholic Outreach has sent 1.9 million meals to Ukraine and our partners in Poland and Moldova, where refugees often experience their first taste of freedom. With your help, no Ukrainian man, woman or child in the care of our partnering ministries will go hungry.

More About Vitafood

With decades of international humanitarian experience under our belts, we use specially formulated meal packs designed to meet the needs of people without ready access to food. Vitafood consists of a rice or potato base; a protein (typically a bean variety); and key nutrients to promote good health, strength and satiety.

The World Food Programme reports that millions of children die from hunger every year, and nearly half of all deaths among children under 5 are caused by hunger. A healthy meal encourages healthy development, keeping children strong and protecting them from learning disabilities, illnesses and psychological distress. A gift to this campaign will alleviate the pain of hunger and malnutrition, guaranteeing full plates for children and their families.

Give the gift of food to the hungry. Restore their hope, one meal at a time!



The Fight Against Hunger in Ukraine

Almost

4 million people are internally displaced in Ukraine.

More than

5 million people have become refugees across Europe.

Roughly

11 million people in Ukraine are now food insecure.

1/3 of people

across six front-line regions struggle to find enough to eat.

In 2024, the cost of basic food items rose by

25%

72%

of those receiving food assistance reported cutting back on food, purchasing less nutritious food, skipping meals or borrowing money to feed their families.

Since 2022, Cross Catholic Outreach has sent

1,905,120 meals to serve both internally displaced Ukrainians and Ukrainian refugees.

With your help, we can send

272,160 more meals this year.



Sources: UN World Food Programme, USA for UNHCR (The UN Refugee Agency)



DISASTER RELIEF

Blankets. Diapers. Paper towels. At first glance, those items might be mistaken for a grocery list. Sadly, even the most common household commodities are considered luxuries by many people in Ukraine. As factory production has ceased across the nation, the cost of these goods has increased exponentially, placing them out of reach for the majority of Ukrainian communities.

To remedy this, Cross Catholic Outreach is working with the Dicastery for the Service of Charity and our partners on the western border to give families the supplies they need to live with dignity and stability. Your support for this campaign will mean that families no longer need to go without basic toiletries and hygiene products.

Through this important project, they will also gain another valuable gift — the knowledge that they are not alone. This is proof to these children of God that the Church does not hold back when others need help the most. Your generosity will bring peace of mind to Ukrainian families who need to know they have not been forgotten.



With your help, we can provide baby supplies and other household necessities for families in need.



A Mission Vlaster team unloads relief supplies shipped to Ukraine.

Aid for Refugees

Mission Vlaster gratefully received thousands of meals, survival equipment and personal care gifts at its center in Ukraine. The gifts were sent from the Vatican through a partnership between Cross Catholic Outreach and the Dicastery for the Service of Charity. The much-needed items were quickly distributed to refugee families.

Offer hope, help and comfort by sending relief items for families affected by war.



Cardinal Krajewski displays an ambulance purchased with support from Cross Catholic Outreach to transport Ukrainian civilians.



SECTION III

HELP NOW

Cardinal Krawseki oversees donations in Kyiv, Ukraine.





Financial Summary

Disaster Relief

Shipment of Clothing and Personal Care Items	\$54,012
Pastoral Family Care Foundation Operations	\$40,000
Diocese of Fastiv Humanitarian Kitchen, Feeding Centers, Purchase of Food and Medicine	\$340,000

Food Relief

Shipment of 272,160 Vitafood Meals	\$18,004
Cross Catholic Outreach Program Oversight, Reporting and Monitoring	\$90,403

Total	\$542,419
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Volunteers in Ukraine unload a truck full of supplies sent by Cross Catholic Outreach.



Thanks to generous donors like you, clothes and blankets were delivered to Mission Vlaster in Ukraine.

Give Generously

As St. John Paul II reminded us, we are all really responsible for all. Today, that responsibility has a face, an address and a name: Ukraine.

Now is your chance to act in Christian solidarity with your brothers and sisters in crisis. Your generous gift to Cross Catholic Outreach will empower us to stand by the people of Ukraine in this time of deep need. Join us in answering the call to share the Lord's peace and compassion with those who need it most.

Total Amount Needed: \$542,419

Suggested Gifts

\$40,000 Abundant Mercy Sponsor

\$30,000 Faithful Care Sponsor

\$20,000 Hope in Action Sponsor

\$10,000 Light of Hope Sponsor

Or donate whatever amount the Lord places on your heart. It will be greatly appreciated!

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

GALATIANS 6:2



Cross Catholic OUTREACH

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor

Our Mission

We mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.

How We Serve

Rather than create new institutions to distribute aid, we support existing ministries and churches already serving in developing countries. In addition to this being the most cost-effective way of helping our brothers and sisters in need, empowering these existing ministries also allows us to support the Church's spiritual mission and leadership role in poor communities.

Good Stewardship

We consider every gift we receive as a precious resource from God. We direct every donation to its intended project, provide honest and accurate reports to our donors, and keep overhead costs to an industry low. We handle funds with utmost integrity and hold our ministry partners in the field to the same high standards by asking them to document costs and the impact of their outreach.

Platinum
Transparency
2026

Candid.



Accord™
NETWORK



Our Promise to You!

Donations from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred through June 30, 2027, the close of our ministry's fiscal year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet the most urgent needs of the ministry.

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