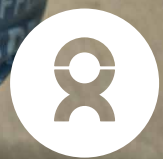


THE UKRAINE CRISIS

Adapting to an
evolving crisis through
partnerships

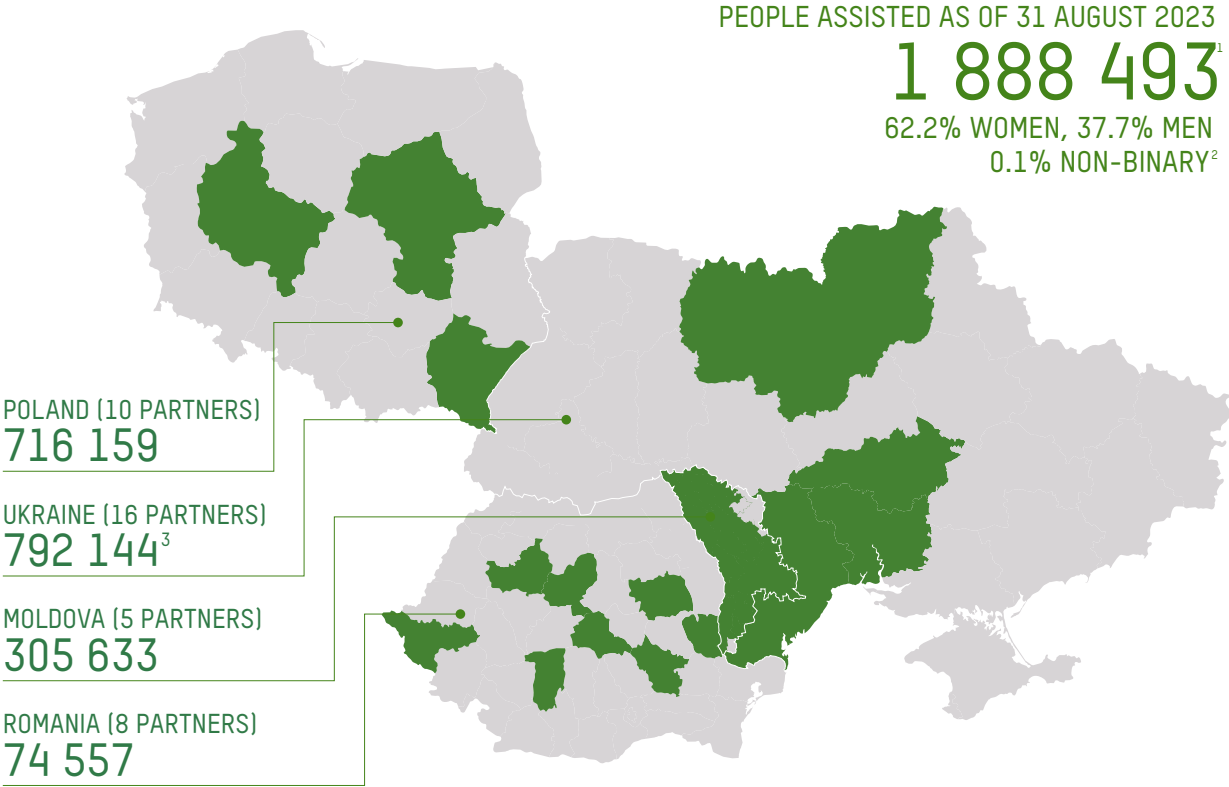


OXFAM

A HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE LED BY LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

“Oxfam understands partnerships as mutually empowering relationships, which are aware of power imbalances and focused on mutual growth, organizational development, institutional strengthening and above all, achieving impact. We believe that programs implemented in partnership increase the collective knowledge, skills, reach and experience applied to an issue or challenge.”

Oxfam’s Partnership Principles



Introduction

As the war in Ukraine continues, communities affected by the crisis are having to constantly adapt to new realities. In response, humanitarian action needs to be flexible, agile and responsive to people’s needs.

Since February 2022, Oxfam has been working with local Ukrainian NGOs to support communities that have been particularly affected by the conflict. The specific communities and the types of support they need are changing over time.

THE UKRAINE CRISIS ADAPTING TO AN EVOLVING CRISIS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

03

Areas located close to the conflict in the East have particularly high humanitarian needs. Over the summer, intensified fighting in these areas forced thousands to leave the shelter of their homes. Fewer than half of health facilities in areas close to the front lines remain operational, and damage to schools has severely impacted children's access to education.

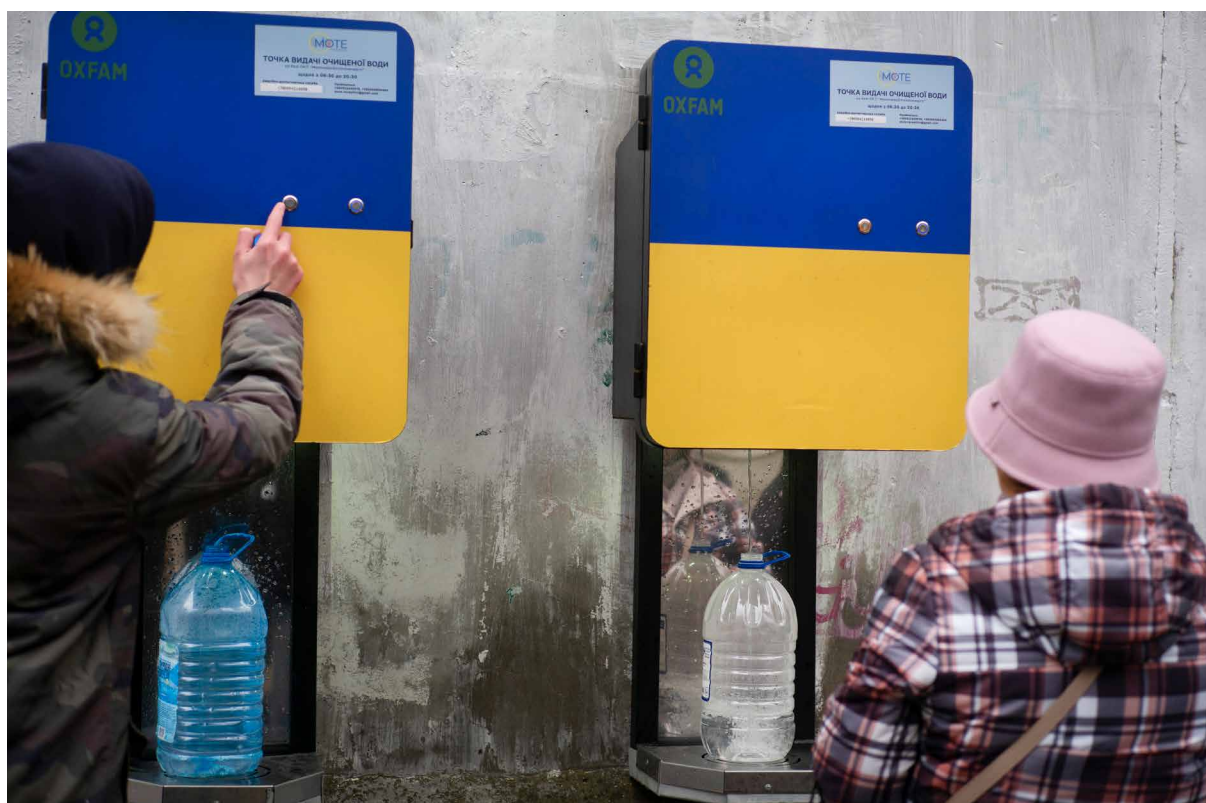
Ukrainian refugees in Europe are also adapting to changing realities. With no immediate end to the conflict in sight, families are making decisions about where to be in the medium term – whether that is back in Ukraine or elsewhere in Europe, where 5.9 million people who have fled the conflict still remain.

In response to the humanitarian crisis, Oxfam has developed partnerships with local organizations, based within affected communities, who can adapt and respond to the changing environment and provide support to those who need it most. We are committed

to upholding Oxfam's values of supporting local humanitarian leadership, applying feminist principles and ensuring that our humanitarian assistance reaches the most marginalised communities.

During this next phase, the humanitarian response to the Ukraine crisis must ensure that it is reaching the most marginalised and those who have the most critical needs. To do this, the international humanitarian community must support greater local humanitarian leadership, investing in and supporting community-based organisations, particularly women's rights organisations, to provide flexible and localised support to the communities.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our supporters who have enabled us to reach over 1.88 million people in Ukraine, Poland, Romania and Moldova and provide them with critical humanitarian assistance since the escalation of war in February 2022.



Oxfam water points in Mykolaiv, Ukraine. Photo: Kieran Doherty/Oxfam

Our Humanitarian Approach

We've continued to build a humanitarian response to the war that is led by local organizations in Ukraine and Poland. Our approach is consistent with the central tenets of the sector-wide reform to 'change' the way that international aid agencies work – shifting the balance so that local and national organizations are in the lead.

Local leadership as a foundational pillar of Oxfam's new humanitarian approach

This strategic shift in approach is not new, but it is evolving.

Oxfam had previously signed up to the Charter for Change, the Grand Bargain and the Pledge for Change. This is our public commitment to create a more fair, effective, and sustainable system of humanitarian response by shifting power, resources, and hard skills to local and national humanitarian actors.

In 2018 we adopted a revised humanitarian approach that centers equitable partnering and local humanitarian leadership, along with gender and feminist principles, and prioritises safe programming, stronger safeguarding and community engagement practices.

These commitments guide Oxfam's ways of working. They reflect our recognition that the power imbalance between international and local and national humanitarian actors means that these actors have often been underfunded and undervalued by the humanitarian system. Despite their knowledge, experience, and skills, they are often treated as subcontractors rather than as true partners whose thinking and leadership are crucial from day one and throughout an emergency response.

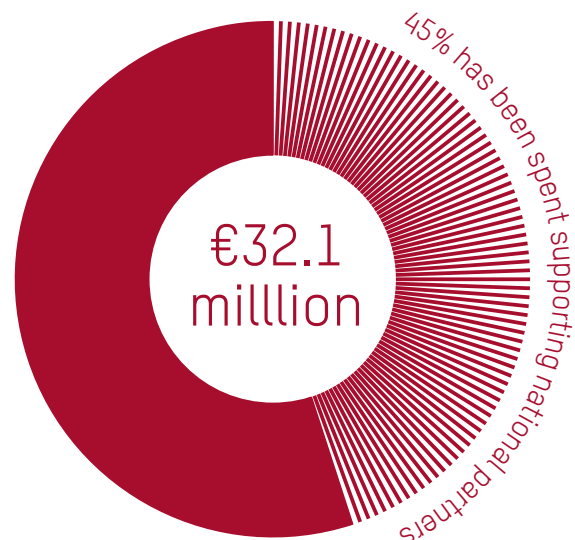
Oxfam works in collaboration with others in many other parts of the world. As an organisation we are learning how we and our partners can best support each other in an effective and fair way. This learning has been adapted for the Ukraine context, as in each country that we work in, the context – and consequently, our partner relationships and collective program – is tailored. This means that different choices are made; from direct one-off training in specific skills and knowledge areas to longer-term support and information sharing on the context.

It has been well recognised that, from the outset, Ukrainian organizations were the first to respond to these humanitarian needs. In the early stages, commentators speculated on whether the Ukraine response could be a game changer for the realisation of global commitments to strengthen local humanitarian leadership. While there are certainly examples of good practice and positive initiatives, the ambition for the response to be locally led and a turning point for "localization" is at risk of failing. OCHA's official tracking of the humanitarian funding showed that less than 1% of the €4.4 billion humanitarian funding for 2022 went directly to local actors. Ukrainian civil society organisations have themselves publicly called for action to shift the power to local organisations. The international community must do more to turn words into action in the Ukraine humanitarian response to ensure that the rights and needs of affected communities are being met as effectively as possible.

ONE OF THE GRAND BARGAIN COMMITMENTS IS TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF FUNDING THAT IS CHANNIELED TO NATIONAL AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS TO 25%.

From February 2022 to August 2023, we spent €32.1 million in our humanitarian response to the Ukraine crisis.

45% has been spent supporting national partners in Ukraine, Poland, Romania, and Moldova.



The key principles of a partner-led response

Oxfam believes that working in partnerships with local and national organizations makes our humanitarian and early recovery efforts more efficient and effective. Our partnership model is driven by the following principles:

→ Joint responsibility

Partners and Oxfam take mutual responsibility in setting the priorities of intervention based on humanitarian needs and have mutual accountability. Risks are proportionally shared and not just transferred.

→ Co-creation

Partners move from a role of implementing Oxfam's plan to a role of leading in designing and prioritizing the interventions based on evolving needs of the affected populations.

→ Flexibility and adaptability

As partners are leading the implementation of programs, they have the liberty to adjust targets, budgets, and timelines according to changing needs – provided we are aligned on operational modalities and quality standards.

→ Complementarity

Oxfam acknowledges that local and national organisations have strong capacities. Where partners are less familiar with humanitarian work, we provide financial and technical support as required, to ensure quality and accountability of the response.

→ Equity

Oxfam behaviors and practice in this response shift from a contractual partnership to an enabling way of working that is built on trust. The focus is on relationships as much as on contractual obligations.



Delivery of an Oxfam latrine to a community damaged by shelling and bombardment. Photo: Kieran Doherty/Oxfam

Our partnership approach: responding flexibly to a changing crisis

The future for those affected by the war in Ukraine is uncertain. As people’s needs change, we need to listen to the communities we serve more than ever, to respond quickly and ensure no one is left behind.

To do this, we work with local actors, who are best placed to understand the needs of their communities and adapt quickly as needs change. Many of our partners have already displayed incredible agility in pivoting to a humanitarian response when the war broke out.

We will continue to push policymakers to make sure that the humanitarian response in Ukraine is driven by organisations who are embedded in their communities. Oxfam is also working to try to improve the way the humanitarian system works with local organisations, including by supporting networks and forums where these organisations can raise their voices and lobbying policymakers to provide more funding directly to local organisations.

We are constantly investing in quality relationships with our partners and providing them with support that has been tailored to their needs - but know we can always improve. So, we are continuing to reflect on our approach to partnerships.

In the coming months we will be conducting a learning review, asking our partners and staff about the achievements and challenges of our approach to partnerships in the Ukraine response. We will use the outcomes of this review both to inform how we build truly equitable partnerships, and the wider humanitarian community.

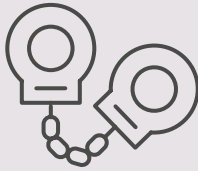
From **March 2022 to August 2023**, our partners have provided food, hygiene products, legal and psychosocial and cash assistance, organised safe transport and shelter, repaired damaged homes and restored livelihoods.

Together we have supported more than **1.88 million people** with vital humanitarian assistance across Ukraine, Poland, Romania, and Moldova.

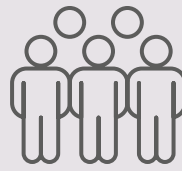
As of August 2023, Oxfam has worked with 39 organizations in Ukraine, Poland, Romania, and Moldova, whose core missions are to provide support to the most vulnerable populations, such as legal aid, social assistance and integration activities. Among these organizations are:



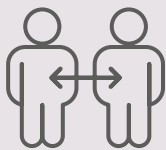
4 Women-led organizations and women’s rights organizations



3 Anti-trafficking organizations



4 Community-based organizations



2 LGBTQIA+ organizations



2 Roma-led organizations



1 Youth organization

FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE

Total funding for 3 years (2022-2025) As of August 2023: € 57,959,914

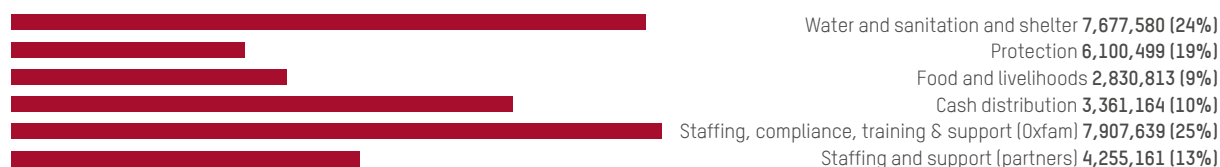


Total expenditure as of 31st August 2023: € 32,132,857

Oxfam: 16,505,475.58 (51%); Partners: 15,627,381.42 (49%)



Expenditure by theme



(1) Oxfam Great Britain's contribution includes funds received through the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) (€37m) and Ukraine Response Appeal Funds (€2.6m).

(2) 100% of Oxfam Novib's contribution come from funds received through the consortium appeal fund Giro 555. The total contribution to Oxfam from Giro 555 is €12,000,000. Contributions to the following organisations were made for their work in Ukraine at the start of the conflict: Action Contre la Faim, HEKS/EPER, Norwegian Refugee Council, People in Need. €7,560,000 was dedicated to work by the Oxfam Ukraine response across Ukraine, Poland, Moldova and Romania.

(3) Oxfam Germany's contribution includes funds received through the consortium appeal fund BEH (Bündnis Entwicklung Hilft).

(4) 100% of Oxfam Belgium's contribution come from funds received through the consortium appeal fund 12-12.

(5) Other affiliate contributions came from Oxfam Australia, Oxfam Quebec, Oxfam Canada, Oxfam Intermon, Oxfam Denmark, Oxfam France, Oxfam New Zealand, and Oxfam America.

18 months on in Ukraine



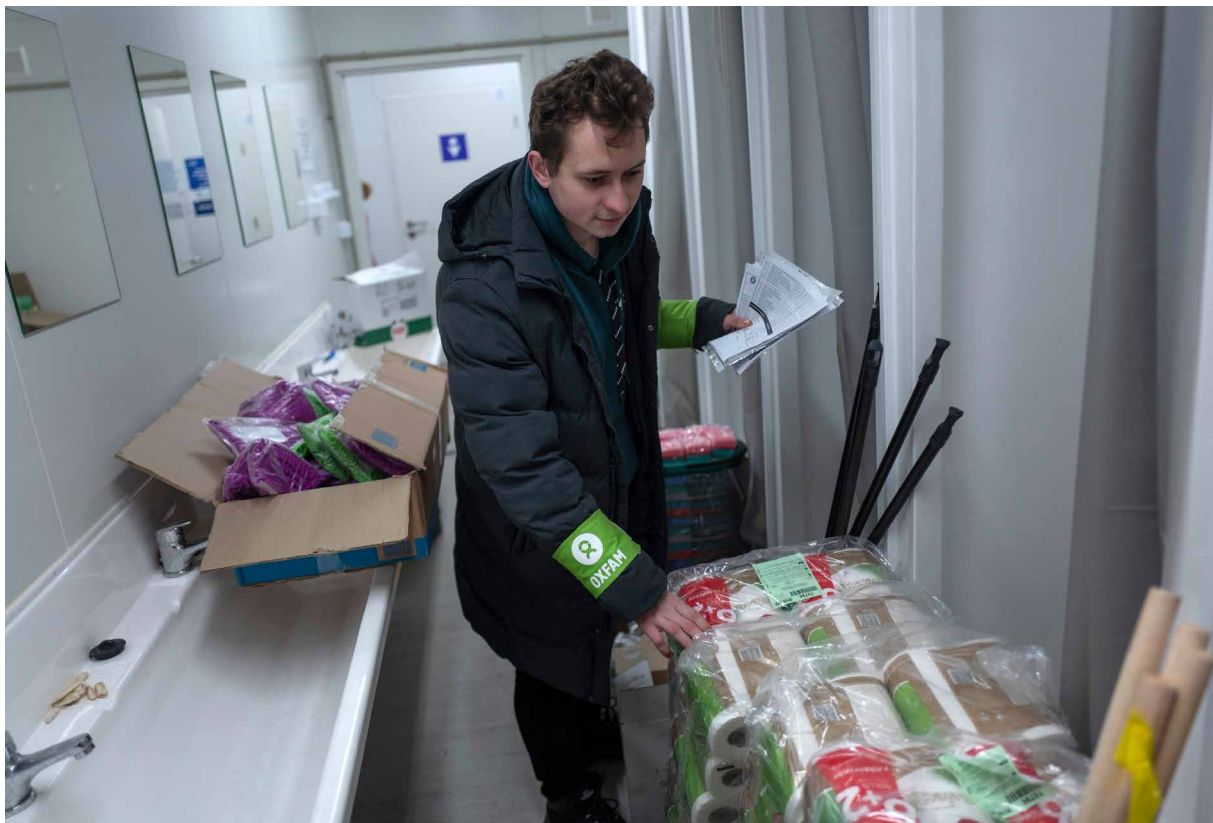
OUR WORK IN UKRAINE

The war in Ukraine continues to take a heavy toll on the innocent civilians that are caught up in the conflict. Over the winter, damage to infrastructure meant that many struggled to access basic essentials including heating and water. As the year went on, humanitarian need shifted and concentrated in regions that were heavily affected by the conflict.

Throughout the summer months, intensified hostilities had a devastating impact on the nearby communities causing further displacement, adding to the existing 5 million people who are displaced within the country. Increased attacks have led to the destruction of homes, schools, hospitals and other essential civilian infrastructure. Humanitarian aid has become an essential lifeline for millions of people in Ukraine.

With the changing dynamics of the conflict, Oxfam has been working with partners to identify how to adapt our response to the changing needs. By working with organisations who are embedded in their communities, together we have been able to identify what changes are needed and responded accordingly.

One example, is the increasing need for cash assistance. While there are many remote communities who cannot access local markets and so still need hygiene kits and food, those living in cities have better access to goods and services, but don't have the means to use them. Our partner organisations started to understand from the communities themselves that financial support would be better to meet their needs.



Vladislav Kubrak checks hygiene items to support a shelter for displaced people in Novoselivka. Photo: Kieran Doherty/Oxfam



10,000 people reached with cash assistance in North-East and South of the country.



3.67 million people internally displaced in Ukraine

“With the outbreak of hostilities, all the needs of the population were constantly changing and depended on the distance from the city. In the beginning, a large number of the population needed food kits, hygiene kits, because there was no proper access to these goods in the markets, and the territories that were back under government control needed ready-made food and drinking water, as they did not have access to gas supply and electricity. Over time, the situation began to improve, and there was a need to restore housing in communities where the situation has become a little calmer, in communities where daily destruction is still carried out there is still a need for hygiene kits, kits for partial restoration of roofs and hot lunches.”

Peaceful Heaven of Kharkiv

In response, we worked with partners to develop multi-purpose cash assistance programmes in 15 regions so that individuals can decide for themselves what they and their family need most. For a number of our partners, this was the first time they had been able to offer this type of support. Through cash assistance, together we have reached nearly 10,000 individuals in the North-East and South of the country. Spending trends show that nearly 49% of the cash that was distributed was spent on food with most of the rest being spent on rent, utilities, firewood and medicine related expenses.

“Thank you. I plan to use the funds received to buy a generator because they say there won't be electricity in winter. My father is 90 years old, and it will be very difficult for him without electricity and heating. So, I plan to buy a generator. Thank you again.”

“Thank you for the help. On August 18, 2023, a shell hit our house. The applicant was injured. It shattered all the windows, doors, and damaged the fridge and other appliances. We will use the funds for medical treatment and to repair the house after the explosion.”

Feedback from recipients of multi-purpose cash from Oxfam partner ELEOS Community

Responding to the Kakhovka dam disaster

On 6th June 2023, an explosion at the Kakhovka Dam in Kherson Oblast led to widespread flooding which triggered a major humanitarian and environmental crisis. Around 100,000 residents in 80 settlements across four Oblasts (areas) were directly affected, up to a million people lost access to drinking water, and an estimated 140,000 lost electricity.

In the aftermath of the disaster, Oxfam worked with partners to quickly mobilize and provide urgent assistance to the people affected by the flooding.

Peaceful Heaven travelled from Kharkiv the following day with a mobile kitchen and distributed cooked meals, drinking water, and food supplies to those displaced by the crisis. Their mobile teams targeted

support in hard-to-reach areas. By August this year, over 35,000 affected individuals have accessed hot meals through these distributions.

The Tenth of April conducted registration for emergency cash assistance to 278 affected households (including 533 individuals) from June 8 to June 20. Working together with Oxfam, they also provided much needed access to drinking water, delivering over 160,000 litres of bottled drinking water in Kherson and Mykolaiv oblast.

In partnership with Oxfam and another local women's rights organisation, Women's Consortium of Ukraine distributed blankets, flashlights, and first-aid kits containing medications and medical supplies for immediate emergency aid, and one-time cash assistance.



Family receives farming items from RWBN distribution. Photo: Kieran Doherty/Oxfam

THE UKRAINE CRISIS
ADAPTING TO AN EVOLVING CRISIS
THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Additionally, Oxfam provided 44 water tanks each with a capacity of up to 95,000 litres, along with tap stands and pumps. We also supplied mobile water purification stations to support communities facing a lack of water due to the critical decrease in the water level in the Kakhovka reservoir and wells.

The strong relationship between Oxfam and partners was an essential component of enabling a fast and effective response to the sudden humanitarian crisis brought on by the explosion of the dam. By working together, we were quickly able to adapt and redirect support to the thousands of people directly impacted by the crisis.

“As a result of the disaster everything is very complicated. Many houses were destroyed or are uninhabitable. Back in May, in the first days after the explosion, the WCU with the support of Oxfam, together with a partner organization in the network - the NGO “Kherson Regional Center “Successful Woman” - handed out over 100 blankets, 100 flashlights and 40 first-aid kits containing medical supplies for those affected. 161 victims of the disaster were given one-time cash assistance too. Those affected by the floods still live in fear - fear of not surviving the winter: without a home, work, access to medical care, or enough food for their families. In the near future, the plan is to issue 400 grocery sets.”

Women’s Consortium Ukraine (WCU)

“It is very difficult for people to cope with the consequences after the flooding of their homes, a lot of property was destroyed, all things were damaged, so we helped to dismantle rubble and clean homes, and also pump out water from basements with our crews in the city of Kherson.”

“People are afraid that there will be a lot of water pollution, due to the many people and animals who have drowned in the floods; and that this pollution will affect the soil making it unsuitable for cultivation and impossible to grow vegetables to eat. They are also afraid of the development of cholera.”

Peaceful Heaven of Kharkiv



35,000 people
accessed hot meals.



160,000 litres of bottled
drinking water delivered.



44 water tanks provided
each with a capacity of up
to 95,000 liters.

Connecting with the Community

One of the ways to ensure that Oxfam's humanitarian response is adaptive and responsive to the changing needs of communities is to have a direct contact point within a community. Since May this year, Oxfam has been piloting an initiative with one of our partner organisations, The Tenth of April, to establish 'Protection Focal Points' (PFP's) in three affected hromadas (areas) in the Mykolaiv region.

These are members of those communities who actively engage and promote dialogue with the people living there to understand what the needs are, how humanitarian aid can be best adapted to support those needs, and to share information about how to access aid.

"The Tenth of April (TTA) provided us with repair kits. When people started to return, many of them did not have information where to get a repair kit. People of retirement age who do not have phones, who are not in social networks couldn't find information about it. My role was to go to households to make lists for repair kits whereby all people could receive this help."
Natalia, Community member and volunteer



Volunteers working with our partner organisation, The Tenth of April, as Protection Focal Points. Left to right: Natalia, Olga and Kseniia.
Photo: Tetiana Kutas



'Protection Focal Points' in 3 hromadas (areas)



Social taxi service set up in response to feedback.

Through information from the PFPs, The Tenth of April and Oxfam have been able to set up initiatives that directly respond to the needs of the communities, such as setting up a social taxi service for those in remote areas unable to access essential items and services or identifying individuals in the community who are in need of urgent cash assistance.

The volunteers go into their communities four days a week and are provided with a stipend to support their work. They have become an invaluable source of up-to-date information on the changing needs of those living in their hromada as the conflict evolves, changes and impacts them in different ways. For example, the volunteers run classes which provide people with information and support, and redirect people to specialists where required, like lawyers and psychologists. They also go to households and make lists for repair kits, so that people can get that they need in the kits provided by The Tenth of April.

What is protection?

Protecting people is one of the core objectives of humanitarian action, because in situations of violence or crisis, people often can't access their usual systems of safety and support. It includes all activities aimed at ensuring that the rights of the individuals affected by the war are fulfilled, in line with laws that guarantee those rights. It involves improving people's safety during situations of conflict and crisis and protecting them from violence through, for example, providing psychological support, helping safe evacuation, or providing information on services and civil documentation.

"I believe with the assistance of someone like me, a facilitator, people would have the opportunity to find out more accurate information. Thanks to me, people get more accurate information. If I can't give some information I also redirect them to our lawyers, to psychologists, that's why those people still have a platform from which they can start"
Natalia, Community member and volunteer

Meet the volunteers

Tetiana is a project manager for TTA who met 3 of these brilliant volunteers: Natalia, Olga, and Kseniia*. Tetiana spoke to them about their experiences and what motivated them to work with 'The Tenth of April' and Oxfam.

Tetiana Where are you from and how long have you lived in your hromada (community)?

Kseniia *Mykolaiv oblast, Snihurivska hromada.* I have been living in Snihuriv for 49 years

Natalia *Mykolaiv oblast, Polygon village.* I have been living in Polygon for 17 years.

Olha *Mykolaiv oblast, Kvitneve village.* I have been living in Kvitneve for 45 years

Tetiana Please tell us why did you agree to work with TTA as facilitators?

Natalia As for me, at the beginning of the war I found myself in a situation similar to that of internally displaced people (IDPs). The people we work with are primarily IDPs and I felt compelled to aid those facing the same circumstances my family endured.

'I felt compelled to aid those facing the same circumstances my family endured.' Natalia

Olha First of all, I want to contribute to the development of my hromada. I want to live as I used to, and even better. I want to help people who are not able to get reliable and basic information, to organise daily help, hence make their lives easier. That's why I agreed to work for the NGO "Tenth of April" and Oxfam.

Kseniia Once my town was back under government control, I had returned to my hometown and realized that I have to help people as much as possible. Especially having a resource, such as, knowing my population, knowing what problems exist in our city, knowing what we have experienced, there was a lot of destruction.

'I want to help people who are not able to get reliable and basic information, to organise daily help, hence make their lives easier.' Olha

Kseniia Once my town was back under government control, we had to socialize the residents in a new way. For people who came to us from Kherson, specifically to the town of Snihurivka, thanks to the support of Oxfam and TTA, we created a social project which nowadays is really useful. In this difficult time we needed such a social room, where we created a lot of different activities. Most valuable thing when people leave the classes is to receive information and support from us.

'Many pensioners are too shy to ask or talk about problems or to go to the village council. So they come to me alone and start telling me what urgent needs they had.' Kseniia

Tetiana Please tell us how the hromada in which you live, feels about the fact that they have such a person, such as facilitator.

Kseniia People are very comfortable.

Natalia People make calls on their own, asking if they have questions. When they meet on the street, they can come up and talk.

Olha I guess the reason is because they know us. We live next door to them and understand their problems better than anyone else.

Tetiana Please tell me, how has volunteering in this position affected you?

Olha By helping other people, I help myself! It makes me feel better. And it probably makes me stronger.

Natalia We recognize that we play a role, like a cog in a larger mechanism. Being part of this small victory, helping people, is what matters most to us.

Kseniia Well, I want to say that I have always been active in my hromada. I am a teacher, and we are always so proactive, so it is very easy for me to work. I even feel that it is mine, and you know, you get these wings when you help people, and it is really cool.

*Name changed to protect identity

Supporting Roma communities in Ukraine

From the first day of conflict in Ukraine, ‘Voice of Romni’ actively looked for ways to address the urgent humanitarian needs of Roma communities and of those who suffering the impacts of the war. Since the beginning of the war, they have provided humanitarian aid to the Roma of Zaporizhzhya, Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv regions.

The main focus of the organization, as well as the project, is Roma communities. The Voice of Romni team are themselves representatives of the Roma community, this means that the organization has

direct access to the community and can provide support to the most vulnerable families.

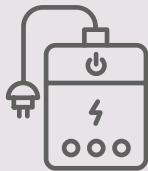
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The “Voice of Romni”, is a Ukrainian NGO, whose mission was designed to promote gender equality, social and economic empowerment of women and girls including those belonging to vulnerable groups (e.g. Roma women and girls, IDPs, women and girls from rural areas, women and girls with disabilities). Before the war, the organization was working on creating conditions for self-realization and economic security of Roma women.
.....



Irina, 63 and Mira, 27 are living with five other family members in a small rented house in a Moldovan village, after having fled their home Odessa. Their names have been changed to protect their identity. Photo: Lottie Stevenson/Oxfam



2,658 people supported with distribution of food/hygiene kits



1,053 people supported with distribution of powerbanks

With Oxfam's support, the organization has supported the most vulnerable Roma communities living in the Eastern regions close to the front-line, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, and Dnipropetrovsk regions, who were provided with winterization support, mainly through firewood, power banks and warm blankets. At the same time, distribution of food and hygiene kits was provided to the most vulnerable Roma households in Kharkiv region and Dnipropetrovsk regions.

In August 2023, the organization launched the initiative of livelihood restoration support for 15 local Roma entrepreneurs in Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia and Dnipropetrovsk regions whose businesses or income generating activities were affected by the war.

"War, like any crisis, increases discrimination. Roma women who tried to evacuate experienced discrimination at the border. And those who remained were afraid that they would not be allowed to go to shelters. Roma families faced denial of humanitarian aid and settlement in shelters. Meanwhile, our humanitarian aid hotline received calls accusing us of "robbing Ukrainian society by providing aid to the Roma."
Voice of Romni president during Book Arsenal, Kyiv 24 June

"The last All-Ukrainian Population Census, conducted in 2001, found that 47,587 people identified as Roma (State Statistics Committee of Ukraine, 2001). However, this data is outdated and may not accurately reflect the situation even in 2001, as a large part of the Roma population presumably was not captured by the census due to a lack of identity documents, absence from their place of residence, or fear of participating because of presumed discrimination and negative consequences."

[Further into the Margins](#)⁴: A regional report on Roma communities displaced by the Ukraine crisis. (Oxfam)

OUR WORK WITH REFUGEES

Since the escalation of the war in February 2022, over 6.2 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded globally, with 5.8 million recorded in Europe as of August. Those displaced by the conflict often require immediate support to access housing, education and medical services, all while facing uncertainty over what their future holds.

While the number of refugees from Ukraine who are in Europe remains high, where people move to, how long they stay, and whether they decide to move on is evolving as the war in Ukraine continues. The number of refugees who have returned to Ukraine is estimated at around 1 million, with many moving in and out of Ukraine on a semi-regular basis.

Many refugees who fled to neighbouring countries have not necessarily remained in the same place.

In Moldova for example, only around 90,000 of the 590,000 refugees recorded in the country since February 2022 have remained in the country. Many have either returned to Ukraine or have made their way elsewhere in Europe, often to be closer to members of their family or community.

Most of the refugees who have settled in neighbouring countries have applied for asylum or temporary protection. In March 2022, the EU activated the Temporary Protection Directive which provided those fleeing the crisis in Ukraine with a range of essential rights across all EU countries. Supported by national governments, this has enabled refugees to access temporary residency, employment, housing, medical assistance and social welfare, and education for children.



Natalia (19) from Romani minority, found refuge in a reception center at the border of Poland and Ukraine with her son. Photo: Tineke D'haese/Oxfam



5.8 million people recorded as refugees
in Europe as of August 2023



4.15 million people were under
temporary protection in the EU at the
end of August 2023

Over 4.15 million people were under temporary protection in the EU at the end of August 2023, with 960,550 in Poland alone.

Since February 2022, Oxfam has worked with 27 partners in Poland, Romania and Moldova to support refugees to access vital humanitarian assistance. We have prioritised partnerships with organisations who work directly with marginalised communities who often face additional barriers in accessing aid.

Oxfam's focus has been to respond to the immediate needs of communities affected by the Ukraine crisis and to ensure that their rights are fully respected and

upheld. We have worked closely with women's rights organisations, LGBTQIA+ organisations, and Roma-led organisations, to ensure that these groups do not get left behind in the refugee response.

In Poland, we continue to focus support for refugees who face additional barriers to accessing the services they need. It is hard to know the full extent of these barriers, as often marginalised groups fall through the cracks and are not recorded in official statistics, but by working closely with our local partners we are able to identify some groups of people that need additional assistance.

For instance, both LGBTQIA+ refugees and Roma refugees in Poland have reported that when trying to get support, they frequently face discrimination or find that the system is not designed to meet their needs. By partnering with organisations led by and for people from these communities, we can better create a connection of trust to understand and address these challenges. We also support these organisations to raise the voices of people who are too often pushed to the margins.

"Over time, the proportion of services we provided tilted, according to the needs of the people we work with, more and more in favor of activities about adaptation. This was possible thanks to the support we received from Oxfam, thanks to which, in August 2022, we opened the Roma Community Centre in Warsaw, which became the main centre for the activities we carried out."

Foundation Towards Dialogue

Romania and Moldova

In Romania and Moldova, through our work with 13 local partners, we have been able to provide cash assistance as well as support for accessing accommodation and protection services. Our partner eLiberare assessed the vulnerabilities of 3,000 Ukrainians in Romania to provide them with an individualised safety plan from a trained specialist. To enable better responses for vulnerable groups of refugees, they also provided training to 24 grassroots organisations on early detection of human trafficking and trauma informed approaches.

As refugees have moved to other countries in Europe and social protection systems have started to take

over from immediate humanitarian aid in responding to the needs of refugees that remain, Oxfam took the decision to assess its role in Romania and Moldova. Based on this assessment and in consultation with our partners, we took the decision to phase out of our programmes in these countries and, building on existing responses, focus efforts to increasing support for affected communities in Ukraine and the larger refugee population in Poland.

As of part our responsible exit, Oxfam maintains contact with partners in Romania and Moldova, and continues to look for ways to create connections that support them with their mission.



Anastasia at the Refugee Accommodation Center with her children. Photo: Pablo Tosco/Oxfam

The humanitarian situation on the Poland-Belarus border

In 2021, a humanitarian crisis began to emerge on the border between Poland and Belarus. Hundreds of individuals - often from conflict affected countries such as Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia – have faced pushbacks, violence and abuse as they attempt to cross the border. Many who have attempted to cross the border have died or disappeared in the Białowieża Forest.

Over the last two years, there have been consistent reports of highly concerning violent incidents by border guards, sometimes involving vulnerable groups including children, the elderly and pregnant women. There is a desperate need to provide food, medical

attention and other lifesaving supplies to those who are crossing the border, but the Polish government continues to deny humanitarian groups access to the state of emergency zone where people are most vulnerable. Despite this, groups of activists and volunteers risk criminal charges to find and support people in need of assistance.

As a humanitarian organisation who is already responding to a humanitarian crisis at the border with Poland and Ukraine, we recognise the importance of providing assistance to the other humanitarian crisis unfolding in Poland. We are actively exploring partnerships with organisations who are delivering the much-needed aid to people who are caught up in this crisis.



Ukrainian refugees arrive at the Przemyśl Główny train station in Poland. Photo: JB Russell/Panos/Oxfam

Supporting the LGBTQIA+ community

In Poland, Oxfam partners with 'Lambda Warszawa' who have been active in supporting and creating a positive image of the LGBTQIA+ community in Poland since 1997. When the war began, they started getting requests for assistance from the LGBTQIA+ community in Ukraine. 'Lambda Warszawa' was already well known given their decades of experience and robust networks in Ukraine, and many LGBTQIA+ refugees at the Polish/Ukrainian border were getting information about how to get in touch with this organization.

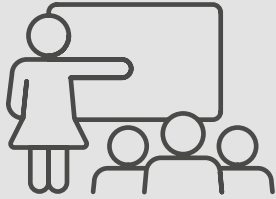
The queer community lacks tailored services and often faces discrimination at shelters and other essential services. In response, Lambda Warszawa decided they wanted to create a safe space where people could access relevant, tailored information and socialize without discrimination. A safe space

was created that brought the community together, where people could build connections, learn Polish and access a range of support that meets people's complex and intersecting needs. The centre offers a range of activities and types of support, including for mental health, legal support, training needs and support in finding a job. People also have the opportunity to work through this centre, for example as hairdressers, where they can build a new customer base.

'People are thrilled, since they can not only perform work for a decent pay but also have a safe place, where they can be part of a larger community. Also – as they say – "the interior is cozy" and "it feels great to spend time with people, who have similar experiences to me"'



Oxfam water points in Mykolaiv, Ukraine. Photo: Kieran Doherty/Oxfam



1,194 people reached through trainings conducted on assertiveness, self-development and teamwork

“We have noticed a rise of LGBTQIA+ refugees who are visiting the community center – during weekends, and also during working hours. The numbers are a positive surprise, but also show how huge the demand for a safe place is. The scheme for the weekend meetings is the same – people gather around, play boardgames, have lively discussions – but what is most important: they have a SAFE PLACE, where they can be themselves and probably it is the ONLY place, where they have a chance to spend quality time together among those, who are alike.”

Lambda Warszawa

The center is an important meeting place between LGBTQIA+ individuals from Poland and Ukraine. Due to widespread discrimination in Poland, many of these individuals suffer from depression and experience isolation. This time together allows the participants to find and build community as well as support their mental health. Lambda Warszawa has connected more than 90 participants with information and other critical services that provide dignity for the community, including health providers that treat trans and nonbinary people with respect.

“The center functions well for work, customers are coming in (mostly people from the LGBTQIA+ community). What is crucial is the fact, that gender non-conforming people and those, who witnessed acts of homo-, bi-, and transphobia have a safe place to work, where they don’t need to pretend to be someone, who they are not – they can be themselves.”

Lambda Warszawa

Supporting Roma Communities

Roma communities in Ukraine face persistent inequality, discrimination and marginalization. Research has shown that discrimination significantly affects the Roma communities access to protection, basic services and general wellbeing for those who are displaced within Ukraine and those who are refugees in other countries.

Towards Dialogue is a Roma-led organization working on integration and awareness raising related to Roma issues in Poland.

They run a community centre which is a hub for all their activities, supporting the wellbeing of the Roma community. The activities offered, allow them to acquire new skills, discover and develop their talents, thus building up their sense of agency and self-

confidence. It is a place where the Roma community can always come, ask for help or simply talk without fear of being treated less favourably, ignored or discriminated against because of their ethnic origin.

Towards Dialogue conducted mentoring and workshops involving members of Polish Romani community and activists working with Roma communities to support social cohesion. Participants are encouraged by the mentors to undertake new activities that will help them to function better, such as a driving licence course, completing their education, learning the Polish language. Mentors play a significant role in motivating their mentees, providing emotional support and assisting with important decisions. Such help is very important, because in the situation of Roma people it is often difficult to gain trust, which the mentors have.



Katya and her two children fled Kherson and now lives in Bucharest, Romania. Photo: Pablo Tosco/Oxfam.



140 Ukrainian Roma individuals received social assistants and cultural-educational assistants.



126 Ukrainian Roma individuals participated in social cohesion event and activities.

On the initiative of one of the refugee women now employed by the organization as a mentor, Roma language and culture lessons have also been started, dedicated to people from the Roma community who do not speak Roma (some Roma from Transcarpathia) and to anyone who wants to learn more about their culture. Getting to know one's cultural heritage better is important for a sense of belonging and pride in one's origin, which undoubtedly influences the well-being of the beneficiaries.

"The people we've worked with are very appreciative of the support they have received in Poland through our organization. They often point out that this assistance is so important for them because it is often the first time in their lives that someone has taken care of them, that someone has treated them subjectively and not just as a social problem."
Foundation Towards Dialogue

"Our organisation, as well as its area of work, has undergone a very big transformation over the past year. Before the outbreak of war, we were a small organisation which, although it had been working for the Roma community for ten years, had never before been involved in humanitarian aid or refugee support. This situation changed dramatically after the outbreak of war in Ukraine. As an organisation carrying out activities aimed at counteracting the marginalisation of the Roma community in Poland, we could not remain indifferent to the very numerous cases of discrimination against Ukrainian refugees of Roma origin, so we decided to expand our profile to include activities supporting this ethnic minority among Ukrainian refugees."

Foundation Towards Dialogue

OXFAM'S PARTNERS IN UKRAINE, POLAND, ROMANIA AND MOLDOVA

Oxfam has worked with 39 partners between February 2022 and August 2023. You can find out more about these organisations in this section.

UKRAINE

Women's Consortium of Ukraine (WCU)

The WCU unites 45 women's non-governmental organizations and has 15 branches in Ukraine. It plays a coordinating role in advocacy, training, and education initiatives aimed at strengthening the principles of equal opportunities for women and men, as well as child rights, in the country.

Rural Women Business Network (RWBN)

The purpose of the RWBN is to protect the rights and interests of rural women, to support their empowerment, equal economic participation, leadership, access to education and health care, and participation in local governments' decision-making processes.

Caritas Odesa

Caritas Odesa is the Ukrainian member of the organizations Caritas Internationalis and Caritas Europe. With more than 30 branches in the country, its purpose is to assist the most vulnerable, regardless of their ethnicity, nationality, religion, social status, or other characteristics.

Gay Alliance Ukraine (GAU)

The main purpose of Gay Alliance Ukraine is to increase the level of tolerance in Ukrainian society, to promote the full realization of human rights for the LGBTIQ+ community in Ukraine and beyond, and to promote the establishment of equality of all people and respect for people's freedom.

The Tenth of April ("Desyate Kvitnya")

The mission of The Tenth of April is to ensure access to rights for everyone in need and make laws and international obligations work. It has been providing free legal aid to refugees and asylum seekers, in partnership with the UNHCR, as well as psychosocial support and cash grants to people whose safety is at risk.

Because We Can, Anika Foundation and Rebuild

Makariv are community-based organizations providing support to people directly affected by the war in the Chernihiv and Makariv regions. They help clean the ruins of destroyed or severely damaged homes, rebuild houses, repair roofs, and install windows, and provide families in difficult conditions with everything they need to survive the winter.

Rokada is an organization that has been involved in supporting refugees and asylum seekers and since February 2022 has extended their support to displaced people and other population affected by the conflict. They provide with inclusive social and other protection services, community engagement activities, basic needs, and shelter.

Peaceful Heaven of Kharkiv is an organization supporting people in need in Kharkiv city and oblast with hygiene kits, food and non-food items and hot meals. The organization operates four humanitarian centres, in which they also provide psychosocial support and other relevant services such as warm places in wintertime for people affected by destruction of infrastructure.

Ecoclub

The organization was founded in 1998. They have a mission to create a safe environment by influencing policy and strengthening communities. Their approach is premised on educating people, aiming to preserve and minimize the negative impact on the environment while taking care of the present and the future of humankind.

SpivDiia

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide charitable assistance to individuals, territorial communities, non-profit organizations, as well as legal entities under private law in the specified areas, as well as the development and support of these areas in the public interest to help people in need and struggling small businesses become self-sufficient.

Eleos

The mission of ELEOS-UKRAINE is to serve the society, namely helping those who need support. Their main areas of support include providing food, clothes, and protection to people in need, creating decent living conditions for everyone; contributing to the spiritual growth of people; promoting access to education, work, quality medical care, food, housing, and other necessities.

Shchedryk

Shchedryk was created to provide assistance to the war-affected population of the region. Sectors of operations include food security, psychological and legal support of socially vulnerable population segments. They also provide information support for businesses.

Open Door Ukraine

Open Door Ukraine (ODU) was set up as a Dutch non-profit foundation (stitching) in December 2018 to bring actors and stakeholders from Ukraine and the Netherlands together, in order to promote cooperation among people and organizations from the two countries.

Voice of Romni

The Association of Roma Women Voice of Romni is a nongovernmental organization based in Zaporizhzhya. Since the outbreak of the full-scale Russian invasion it relocated to Uzhhorod. The name of the organization reflects the very purpose of its activity: "Romni" means "a Roma woman", so the organization works with women of Roma origin.

POLAND

Fundacja Centrum Badań Migracyjnych (Migrant Info Point - MIP)

Migrant Info Point is an information clearing house and assistance program for immigrants living in Poznan and vicinity. MIP offers legal advice as well as integration activities such as Polish language courses and professional counselling and training.

Stowarzyszenie Lepszy Świat (The Better World)

Better World provides social assistance, supports education, and offers volunteer support. They have been involved in pro-migration activities since 2013, supporting refugees in Poland and around the world.

Fundacja w Stronę Dialogu (Foundation Towards Dialogue)

Towards Dialogue is a Roma led organization working on integration and awareness raising related to Roma issues. They assist Roma and other marginalized and vulnerable groups at risk of exclusion and create educational programs about minorities.

Fundacja Feminoteka (Feminoteka Foundation)

Feminoteka is a feminist and gender-based violence response organization. They run a helpline for women experiencing violence, offer free legal, psychological, and therapeutic support and campaign to change the law and society.

Ukrainian House Przemysl

Ukrainian House is supporting the integration of migrants into Polish society. They work to preserve the cultural identity of Ukrainian minority, promote Ukrainian culture, organize language trainings, and offer legal support to Ukrainians arriving in Poland.

Fundacja Aktywizacji i Integracji

FAI is member of a federation of organizations which works on integration and mobilization of people at risk of social inclusion (people with disabilities, seniors, people at risk of homelessness) and addresses the issue of homelessness for refugees.

Stowarzyszenie Lambda Warszawa (Lambda Warsaw Association)

Lambda Warszawa has been active in supporting and creating a positive image of the LGBTQIA+ community in Poland since 1997. They are working on providing LGBTQIA+ Ukrainian refugees with safe working space and opportunities through an integrated protection program.

Homo Faber Association

Homo Faber is a human rights organization specialized in anti-discrimination and integration of migrants. They have two main programmes, which focus on providing legal advice to migrants and asylum seekers and integration for migrants in Lublin.

Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej (SIP)

SIP is a human rights organization which supports refugees and migrants, including those held in detention centres. They provide legal aid and advice and seek social cohesion by promoting the equality of all people in the face of the law.

Migration Konsorcjum

The Migration Consortium is a group of 9 organizations giving support to immigrants and refugees in different regions throughout Poland by providing legal and integration support, advocacy work and campaigns.

ROMANIA

eLiberare is involved in prevention, early detection and awareness raising around human trafficking. It helps build the capacities of local authorities and civil society organizations to prevent and respond to cases of human trafficking.

The Peace Action, Training and Research Institute of Romania (PATRIR) is one of the leading centres of expertise in peacebuilding and peace education and is involved in gender-based violence and anti-trafficking counselling, training and prevention.

Carusel is a human rights organization promoting and ensuring that the most vulnerable people receive both immediate and long-term support, enjoy equal opportunities and become visible to society.

easyECO is an inclusive and feminist organization combating any form of exclusion and discrimination and focusing on responding to the needs of women, Roma and LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities residing in state-run shelters.

The Romanian Federation of Community Foundations (FFCR)

FFCR aims to contribute to the development of social collective responsibility in Romania and supporting the refugee response through a range of activities encouraging social cohesion, education and food security (language classes, workshops, open events etc.)

Federation of Romanian NGOs (FONSS)

FONNS offer social services to vulnerable groups. Thirty-one of its 44 member organizations are involved directly in supporting refugees through a variety of actions including managing and providing services in large transit centres, as well as providing specialized centres for people with disabilities, chronic conditions and autism.

FEM Consortium (Centrul Filia, MozaiQ, E-Romnja)

Centrul Filia is a feminist NGO focused on advocacy, research and activism on gender-based violence. MozaiQ is a community organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life for LGBTQIA+ people in Romania. E-Romnja is a Roma feminist organization whose mission is to promote and make visible the implication of Roma women in society.

CLEAR Global

CLEAR Global are a non-profit helping people get vital information and be heard, whatever language they speak. CLEAR stands for community, language, engagement, accountability, and reach, the cornerstones of their work around the world.

MOLDOVA

Women's Law Center (WLC)

The WLC's mission is to contribute to the promotion of gender equality and to prevent and combat gender-based violence in Moldova by raising public awareness, building the capacity of relevant actors, providing services to assist and protect women, and conducting research and analysis.

Amici dei Bambini (AiBi)

The AiBi Association's mission is to support abandoned children and to promote every child's right to a family through adoption. Over the past 15 years, it has been developing socio-educational programs in order to contribute to the integration of children from disadvantaged families and boarding schools.

Centrul de Drept al Avocatilor (CDA - Law Center of Advocates)

The LCA's mission is to promote respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of asylum seekers, beneficiaries of international protection, stateless persons, people at risk of becoming stateless, and foreigners in need (including foreigners in detention).

La Strada

La Strada is a non-governmental human rights organisation that supports the rights of women and children to stay free from violence through research, legal expertise, counselling and representation, capacity building programs and development of toolkits, with a special focus on anti-trafficking strategy in Moldova.

Y-PEER Moldova

Y-PEER Moldova is a youth led organization and the Moldovan member of the Y-PEER global network. Its mission is to promote youth health education, especially reproductive and sexual health education, youth leadership and global citizenship education, targeting both rural Moldovan host community and refugee youth from Ukraine.

Notes

¹ Estimated cumulative beneficiary reach in Oxfam Ukraine Response. Marginal double-counts of beneficiaries might not be removed due to operational constraints. While every effort has been made to ensure that all statistical information is verified, figures represent an estimate. Triangulation of information and sources is performed on a continuous basis. Therefore, amendments to figures may occur, including retroactively.

² 0.1% people identified as non-binary in primary data collected by 8 of our partners. This equates to 2,811 people

³ Figures for Ukraine also include beneficiaries reached through partnerships with Bank Lviv, NRC, ACF, HEKS/EPER and PIN.

⁴ <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/further-margins-regional-report>

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Front cover photo:

The dining and recreation room in the reception center for refugees, Bucharest, Romania.

Photo: Pablo Tosco/Oxfam

Page 8: The Rural Women's Business Network, Oxfam's Partner in Odessa, Ukraine, protects the rights and interests of rural women.

Photo: Kieran Doherty/Oxfam

This page: Julia and her children at the Halo Kijowska reception in Korczowa, Poland.

Photo: JB Russell/Panos/Oxfam



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