CARE Ukraine Crisis Update

Refugee count surpasses 10 million

According to the UN's refugee agency, border crossings from Ukraine recently surpassed 10 million since the beginning of the conflict on Feb. 24. (See "By The Numbers," p. 4)

"This news is a reminder that the Ukraine Crisis has resulted in the biggest humanitarian disaster the world has seen since WWII, impacting the lives of millions, not just in Europe, but around the world," said Michelle Nunn, CARE CEO. "As the war enters its sixth month, we must all recommit to supporting its most vulnerable victims – be they Ukrainians still fleeing the violence, or the tens of millions of people who will go hungry this year because of the war's disruption of global food supply chains."

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Finding Hope: Daria's Story

turned into a celebration of pride and hope, something I and the Ukrainian community in Warsaw still greatly need.

I came to Warsaw to build a new life. I registered my son Max for school, and he has made new friends. He is happy here; he spends time with his friends and in the evenings, we have a new tradition of walking our cat in the garden.

"We have the bravest people, and I am proud to be Ukrainian"

– Daria Khrystenko

I miss my father and grandmother a lot. They stayed in Ukraine. My dad has joined the army and it adds extra worries and stress, but I'm proud of him. He is 63 and he could have come with us, but he chose to defend our country. I hope this conflict ends soon and Ukraine will prosper and rebuild quickly. We have the bravest people, and I am proud to be Ukrainian.

Since the war broke out, I'm proud to work with CARE USA in Poland. We work in collaboration with Polish NGOs to help Ukrainian refugees by providing many programs: cash assistance, cash-for-work programs that hire Ukrainian teachers in Polish schools and assistance with accommodations.

Summer in the city

Summer in the City is an innovative summer camp integrating Ukrainian and Polish children across Poland. A collaboration between CARE, our Polish partner PCPM, and Polish municipalities, the camp provides workshops and other recreational activities during the summer months. These programs not only help integrate Ukrainian kids into Polish society but also provide childcare for Ukrainian families who have found employment in Poland. The program will become a part of ongoing after-school programming offered to Ukrainian refugees in Poland to help them stay employed.

"This is a great opportunity for Ukrainian kids," says Volodymyr "Vova" Zemlianko, a refugee from Konstiantynivka in the Donbas region, who teaches in the program along with his wife. "People sometimes joke: 'Vova wants to change a huge country, Ukraine, with a small camp,' but these are the small steps we have to take."

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CARE's Daria Khrystenko is a refugee from Ukraine, with family remaining in the country while she works with fellow refugees in Poland. She shares her story here.

As soon as the war broke out, I knew we had to leave Kyiv immediately.

I grabbed one small bag, my son Max, and my two cats and drove to the smaller city Kremenchuk where my parents live. Not long after, my mom began to have heart problems because of all the stress, so again I packed up the car, this time driving her and Max out of the country.

We drove through Romania and Moldova, Slovakia and finally found accommodation in Warsaw. Looking back, the memories are foggy—I was only concerned about protecting my son and mother.

I'm glad I was able to leave, but now I am so sad when I think about the little personal things: the keepsakes and photos I left behind. One photo I remember is that of my grandmother's wedding—it's old and faded but you can make out their faces and the traditional flower crown she is wearing. They are all very thin because of a food shortage in Ukraine.

My grandmother had a hard life—she is Lithuanian, and because of that, the Soviets moved her and her parents by force to Kazakhstan, where her father was kidnapped and put in prison. Her mother took her and two other children and joined family in Ukraine, but it was during the famine when the Soviets withheld food from Ukrainians. My grandmother survived but her baby sister didn't. Despite all this, her wedding was a time of joy, and the photo has always reminded me of her strength.

Based on these fond memories, we at CARE organized a traditional flower headdress-making workshop for Ukrainian refugees like me as well as our Polish neighbors at a community garden. The workshop quickly

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From 'nightmare' to normal

Today, Ukrainian refugee Diana lives in Olsztyn, Poland, where she attends school, thanks to the support of CARE and Polish partner ADRA. She dearly misses her home in Mariupol, in southeastern Ukraine, but the change is welcome.

Once the conflict started, "it was like a nightmare, or a horrible movie," she says. "Every day we were thinking we will die. Electricity, gas, water, communications were cut off." Residents were faced with lines more than a half-mile long for clean water, and instead resorted to boiling river water for drinking.

With great reluctance, Diana and her family realized they had to leave. "The road from Mariupol to Zaporishia was very difficult; lots of military equipment and also lots of mines," she recalls. "It was very dangerous, but we survived."

BY THE NUMBERS

10,623,910
refugees fleeing Ukraine since Feb. 24[1]
(Up 16.07% from July 13 update)

6.3 million
internally displaced[2]
(Up 4.76% from June 23 update)

Neighboring countries receiving refugee influx:

1. **Poland:** 5.27M[1]
2. **Russian Federation:** 1.97M[3]
3. **Hungary:** 1.14M[1]
4. **Romania:** 999K[1]
5. **Slovakia:** 668K[1]
6. **Moldova:** 566K[1]
7. **Belarus:** 17K[1]

6,466
civilians injured[4]
(Up 14.51% from July 13 update)

445
healthcare facilities damaged
or destroyed[5] (Up 17.11% from July 13 update)

2,315
education facilities damaged
or destroyed[6] (Up 4.54% from July 8 update)

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