



# UNITED FOR UKRAINE FUND INTERIM IMPACT REPORT

## UNITED WAY WORLDWIDE

A suitcase, fear and hope, is all the luggage I carry through customs.

– A Ukrainian refugee

The war in Ukraine has devastated millions. For the women and children who've fled their homeland in search of safety, life has been upended in the last year. In response, United Way Worldwide launched the United for Ukraine Fund in March 2022, raising \$4.2M in the first six months to advance relief efforts. Of every dollar raised, 95 cents goes to on-the-ground partners, while 5 cents helps United Way vet recipients, track and measure impact.

Across Poland, Romania, Hungary, Germany, the Netherlands and Spain, United Way and our partners have supported the women – many of whom are young, lower-income, ethnic minorities, or single mothers – and their children every step of their journey. In the short-term, we provided transportation, shelter, food and medicine, supplies for children, legal and translation services. To help them rebuild their futures, we've co-created longer-term support, including education for children, job training and job search help, mental health services, housing, language classes and more.

It's part of who we are. All over the world, United Way brings people together to build strong, equitable communities so everyone can thrive. We serve 95% of U.S. communities and 1,100 communities across 37 countries and territories, impacting 48M people every year.

In its first six months, the United for Ukraine Fund helped **131,349** Ukrainian refugees in meaningful ways.

104,801

people received essential food and non-food items, shelter, clothing, and mental and physical health services

7,108

people received long-term support with jobs, training, language courses, and access to education

52,042

people received assistance, advice, and referrals at border crossing points and reception centers, and transportation assistance including vouchers and phone SIM cards

Through United Way, communities tackle tough challenges and work with our private, public, and nonprofit partners to boost education, economic solutions, and health resources.

Here are just a few examples of how United Ways in the region (and their partners) are addressing critical needs for refugees in transit or settling down:

### Poland

Volunteers and staff from United Way's trusted partner, Fundacja Dobrych Inicjatyw (Good Initiatives Foundation), prepared food packages to feed 5,250 people, and provided 6,640 warm meals on top of that. Volunteers packed hygiene kits and provided clothes for families. For children who were sent to Polish orphanages, volunteers provided clothing, bedding and more.

### Romania

Ania, 5, didn't know her home country was at war. "I came to Romania on vacation," she said, after travelling 1,000 miles from Kyiv by train and bus with her mother, Maria. In customs at Sighetu Marmatiei, Maria managed logistics for their journey to a host family in Bucharest while Ania drew, modeled play dough, had a snack and played with toys, courtesy of [United Way Romania](#). It made the arduous trip just a little easier for both mother and child.

We cannot take the weight off their souls, but it is in our power to make their stay in Romania a comforting experience and reassure them that the power of humanity defeats war.

– A Romanian working to help Ukrainian refugees

### Hungary

Volunteers, civic organizations and charities knew Ukrainian children were traumatized upon arrival, but few had expertise in providing the right kind of emotional support. In response, [United Way Hungary](#) collaborated with experts to create a video series with tips and tools for volunteers. For example, a soothing fairy tale that teachers or volunteers can read aloud is accompanied by a worksheet (in several languages) adults can use to teach self-soothing techniques to the children.

### Germany

Many refugees are resettling in Germany, so response efforts are focused on supporting refugees build a new life in a new country. [PHINEO-United Way Germany](#) launched a startup incubation program to help refugees start their own businesses and become economically independent. The program also deepens multi-cultural bonds. NGOs like PHINEO-United Way Germany are leading efforts to create infrastructure that promotes sustainable, impactful volunteering and community-building for refugees. United Way's partnerships with global companies also came to bear in generating support for PHINEO-United Way Germany's efforts to provide housing, paid jobs, and cultural acclimatation.

### Spain

When Ukrainian refugees started streaming into Spain, [United Way Spain](#) sought to better understand the situation, assess needs and gaps, and start programs and initiatives that could support their integration into Spanish life. After an in-depth situation analysis, United Way co-designed a project with NGOs to support post-shelter life. Access to housing is a big issue in Spain, which has a very small rental market. United Way Spain is designing a nationwide campaign to encourage populations to rent empty or second homes to refugees, with a call to eliminate discrimination.

### The Netherlands

Finding a good job is among the biggest barriers refugees face. That's why [United Way Netherlands](#) collaborated with the Tent Partnership for Refugees, a global business network supporting refugees' economic integration, to create a mentoring program aimed at helping Ukrainian women find jobs. Ukrainian women are matched with mentors from the Netherlands' largest global companies. Anastazja Kolcowa, a senior manager and mentor from Adidas, is excited about getting involved. "I see the mentoring as a great opportunity to engage with refugees who have recently arrived in the Netherlands," she said.



Across Europe, United Way has been working hard to understand and assess the evolving situation, co-design programs with NGOs already serving refugees and engaging the refugees themselves; and sharing strategies and innovative ideas with governments, foundations, funders and NGOs.

While the war is not over, the lessons United Ways and their partners are learning from their on-the-ground work supporting Ukrainian refugees will benefit all the communities involved for many years to come.

Of course, we don't do it alone. Our 45,000 corporate partners, and 29,000 community agency partners, are vital to this work. But none of it would be happening without the 6.8M people who donate to United Way, and the 1.5M who give their time as volunteers.

**To read the full Interim Impact Report about the difference United Way's \$4.2M is making, download the report [here](#).**

Learn more about United Way at [www.unitedway.org](http://www.unitedway.org).