

Case study

Stories from Ukraine

In February 2022 Russia began a large scale invasion of Ukraine. Many Ukrainians fled to neighbouring countries, and some fled to other parts of Ukraine in search of safety. People were in need of food, water and emergency shelter.

Since the beginning of the war nearly a third of Ukrainians have been forced from their homes over 6.3 million people remain displaced by the war. The UN declared this as the largest human displacement crisis in the world today.

As of July 2022 the war is still ongoing.

Homes and infrastructure have been damaged – roads, schools, hospitals
5,237 civilians have been killed – including 348 children
7,035 civilians have been injured

This is Khalina



She is a teacher of Ukrainian and Polish language.

When the war started, she had to flee her home with two of her children to meet her eldest daughter in Lublin, Poland.

Khalina's journey to the Polish border was long and difficult. It was freezing cold as they drove slowly out of Ukraine and towards the border. A woman who Khalina was travelling with died of a heart attack en route to safety. It was a huge shock for her and her family.

Khalina told us that she is exhausted but knows she's lucky to be safe. As she waits to meet her daughter, she keeps busy by helping Caritas volunteers and other refugees by translating, organising beds, and providing what medical assistance she can.

This is Andrej

Before the fighting began, Andrej and his wife, Daria, played the keyboard and made music together.



Andrej and Daria were forced to escape their hometown of Kharkiv by car while rockets fell from the sky all around them.

'It was very difficult to bear psychologically' Andrej says.

Andrej is now a Caritas volunteer at the border crossing into Poland. He had to say a difficult farewell to Daria on the border. She found refuge in Hamburg and his only consolation is that she's safe.

Andrej told us that he is not a fighter, so he became a Caritas volunteer – this way he feels he can still help. He supports his people by distributing food and drink so they have energy for their long journey ahead.

Over £1 million has been donated to SCIAF to assist with the response to the conflict. We also received a £500,000 grant from the Scottish Government towards this work.

With these donations we are supporting

- Caritas Ukraine who are working with people displaced within Ukraine, which is increasingly challenging in the areas where intense fighting remains.
- Caritas Poland, Caritas Moldova and Caritas Romania who are providing aid to refugees who have fled to find safety in neighbouring countries.

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

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