

Media Release

23 February 2023

Jesuits support over 56,000 Ukrainian refugees in one year

Today is the one-year anniversary of the war in Ukraine, a conflict with no end in sight, which has devastated the country and shaken the international community.

At the outbreak of the conflict, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Europe with the support of Jesuit Mission Australia and the Xavier Network, immediately provided emergency assistance, shelter and opportunity to refugees fleeing the conflict.

Thanks to this collaboration the Jesuits have been able to support over 56,000 Ukrainian refugees in one year.

“Our hearts are with the people of Ukraine. I thank our many JRS partners across Europe for working tirelessly on the ground to ensure that nobody is left behind,” said Helen Forde, CEO of Jesuit Mission Australia.

While millions have been forced to flee, thousands have been killed and entire cities have been brought to the ground, JRS Europe, project partner of Jesuit Mission Australia, continues to accompany those people most affected by the conflict.

Through the Jesuits’ One Proposal Program, forcibly displaced Ukrainians are receiving support across Europe, from immediate humanitarian response and emergency assistance in Ukraine to delivering long-term programs to promote and integrate refugees in neighbouring countries.

“We have been responding in Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Moldova, and Slovakia. We have also expanded many of our JRS offices around Europe, where we now offer long-term programs to promote and integrate refugees in Spain, Ireland, and Croatia, among others,” said Fr Alberto Ares SJ, Director of JRS Europe.

Over the next three years the program will continue to provide psychosocial support, housing, education and employment opportunities to refugees in need.

“It is really moving to hear the testimonies of so many refugees with whom we walk and who express their pain, but also their hope. These efforts are possible thanks to the continued solidarity of so many generous people, foundations and other organisations who trust in the work of the Society of Jesus,” said Fr Alberto

Jesuit Mission Australia stands in solidarity with the devastated families in and outside of Ukraine. A donation to Jesuit Mission Australia's Emergency Action Fund will support refugees surviving the Ukraine crisis and other crises around the world. Please donate to <https://jesuitmission.org.au/ukraine/>. or call 02 8918 4109.

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Caption: Refugees arrive in Poland.



Caption: Grateful to have been provided with shelter, a Ukrainian family begins a new life.



Caption: After fleeing the war in Ukraine a refugee girl arrives in Poland.

Supporting Links:

Ukraine Emergency Action Fund donation page

<https://jesuitmission.org.au/ukraine/>

About Jesuit Mission Australia

Jesuit Mission Australia works in over 14 countries across Asia and Africa to uphold the innate dignity of people living with the effects of poverty, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable. Funds from our supporters:

- Break cycles of poverty through teaching and education
- Protect the health of communities by providing medical care and programs that improve access to clean water and toilets
- Develop independent, sustainable communities through livelihood training and income-generating projects
- Provide vulnerable individuals with pastoral care, social inclusion and advocacy
- Support refugees in crisis
- Enable effective disaster response and relief.