

Media Release

27 February 2024

Two years of steadfast support for over 100,000 Ukrainian refugees

Two years on from the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, the Jesuits in Europe, with the support of the Australian Catholic community, have been able to provide emergency assistance to over 100,000 Ukrainian refugees.

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

As the crisis extends and the needs of the refugees who have endured two years of conflict evolve, the Jesuits have committed to long-term holistic accompaniment, including, psychological support, education and integration services to empower vulnerable individuals and families in the years ahead.

"Our shared commitment to alleviating suffering and fostering resilience is a beacon of hope for those who have fled the conflict," said Helen Forde, CEO of Jesuit Mission Australia.

"I am deeply grateful to our Jesuit partners and our supporters for their role in this humanitarian effort, your generosity has been a lifeline for those suffering and in their greatest time of need."

More than 6 million people have been displaced across Europe, with neighbouring countries such as Poland, Romania, Hungary, Moldova, and Slovakia bearing the brunt of this crisis.

Frequent missile launches and air raids, which sometimes last up to 3.5 hours, continue to shatter lives, destroy infrastructure and have led to a vastly fatigued and traumatised Ukrainian society.

Despite the dangers, the Jesuits continue to provide steadfast support, welcoming refugees and empowering them to get back on their feet and to flourish.

"It is a privilege to be able to count on the continued solidarity of so many generous people, foundations and other organisations who trust in the work of the Society of Jesus. On behalf of our teams and the people we serve. Thank you," said Fr Alberto Ares SJ, Director of JRS Europe.

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: Art class for Ukrainian children. Photographer: Sergi Cámara



Caption: A Ukrainian family arrive at the border of Poland.
Photographer: Sergi Cámara



Caption: A class for Ukrainian refugees in Romania.



Supporting Links:

Ukraine Emergency Action Fund donation page

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

About Jesuit Mission Australia

Jesuit Mission Australia works in over 10 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.