



EBF creates an environment for collaboration and development of the mission of God.

We do this on the basis of our Christian witness and distinctive convictions. We encourage and inspire each other in faith and fellowship and shared responsibility, and inspire to seek in all our endeavours to fulfil the will of Jesus Christ.

Ukrainian Appeal

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due when it is in your power to do it. — Proverbs 3:27

We affirm and encourage the work of Ukrainian Baptists and those in neighbouring countries in reaching out in the love of Christ to those most affected by the war.

We invite you to be part of our joint response and donate generously to the work of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters and of those reaching out in the neighbouring countries.

Your donations will help to purchase food, hygiene items, medicine, generators, gasoline, blankets, pillows, and necessary items for the internally displaced people (IDPs) as well as for those fleeing the country. There are shelters being set up in many Baptist churches in the region and your donations are essential for the local people to run these centres.

More than a million people have fled their homes to escape conflict in Ukraine. Leaving behind jobs, belongings and loved ones, they now face an uncertain future.

Intense conflict in Ukraine is threatening the lives and livelihoods of civilians across the country. Families have been separated. People have been injured. Lives have been lost.

Homes have been destroyed or are unsafe to live in. Critical infrastructure such as health facilities, water supplies and schools have also been damaged or destroyed.

At Ukraine's borders with Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova, huge numbers of people are arriving with only what they can carry. In many places there are long waits to cross and scant facilities waiting for them on the other side, with temperatures dropping below freezing overnight.

There have also been increasing media reports of racism against people of colour who are being refused access to relief, aid and the right to cross the border to safety.

Situation Overview (1st March 2022)

- At least 376 civilian casualties have been confirmed, including 94 deaths, by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) before midnight 26 February. The actual figure could be considerably higher as many reported casualties have yet to be confirmed.
- At least 368,000 people have already crossed into neighbouring countries, fleeing the ongoing hostilities, according to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as of 07:30 (CET) on 27 February.

Baptist Response in Ukraine

- The Ukrainian Baptist Union has safely moved their offices from Kyiv to Lviv. They have a team actively responding to the crisis, with coordinators across the country. They are beginning to assess the needs and respond accordingly.

- Churches across the country have been set up as refuge centres to house people overnight as they flee. Churches in the east are connected with churches in the west that can receive families that are fleeing. There are 5-6 logistics centres to distribute food and aid as needed.
- The situation however is extremely volatile and will continue to rapidly change over the coming days. For now, it is still possible to purchase some goods in many parts of the country, but shortages will come. EBF is in frequent contact with Baptist leaders as they share their needs.
- Though the Ukrainian brothers and sisters are shaken, they are resolute that God will reveal His glory in all things. They have peace despite the situation and are faithfully shining the light of Christ in the darkness.

Baptist Response in Neighbouring Countries

- **Poland** — Poland has seen the largest influx of those fleeing, with over 150,000 people crossing the border in the last 5 days. Polish Baptists are actively responding to the crisis and have a team managing the response. Churches on the border have turned into shelters for people to temporarily stay. One church with a capacity for 50 people had 140 people staying over the weekend, some sleeping on pews. Volunteers are working around the clock to clean bedsheets, provide food, and check in new people who are coming in. The coordinating team is beginning to connect people with churches all over Poland where they can stay. Mostly women and children are crossing the border, as men over 18 are required to stay in Ukraine due to martial law. One border guard has even begun to refer those without family members to go directly to the nearest Baptist church.
- **Slovakia** — There are fewer reports of refugees coming across the border to Slovakia, however, the Baptist Union has a humanitarian ministry team working with the 26 churches closest to the border. These churches have the capacity to care for 300 people and are in contact with church leaders across the border in Ukraine.
- **Hungary** — Both Hungarian Baptist Aid (HBAid) and Hungarian churches are responding to the crisis. HBAid is working both across the border in Ukraine and within Hungary to provide aid to those fleeing. Currently, HBAid is mobilising to get shipments of supplies into Ukraine for the Ukrainian Baptists to distribute. Churches in Hungary are also receiving refugees and are giving generously to support the effort.
- **Romania** — Churches on the border are actively involved. There are many churches across the border in Ukraine that have close ties with Romanian Baptists churches and so the Union is collaborating closely with them. Already each church in the border region had double the number of refugees that they had capacity for. Most of the people they are serving have brought nothing with them and so need food, clothing, and hygiene items. The Union is responding and bringing together churches across the country to support.
- **Latvia and Lithuania** — Baptists in the north are mobilised and ready to receive refugees and have organised transit for refugees to go north from Poland into Latvia and Lithuania.
- **Belarus and Russia** — Belarus is struggling as many young people try to flee the country to avoid conscription into the war efforts. Russian Baptists are mobilising to help refugees that have fled across the Russian border. The international sanctions are beginning to have an impact on our Russian and Belarussian brothers and sisters.