1. OVERVIEW

War in Ukraine has resulted in at least 1,151 civilian deaths and an additional 1,824 civilian injuries, according to the UN.

Damage and destruction to residential areas and civilian infrastructure serves as a major obstacle to people accessing essential resources, such as water and food, as well as healthcare and other critical services.

As of March 27, 2022, nearly 3.9 million people have fled Ukraine since war activities commenced on February 24, 2022, according to the UN, resulting in the fastest-growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. Most refugees are fleeing to Poland, which is home to the region’s largest Ukrainian community, and is the easiest EU country to reach from Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv.

A total of 4 million people are estimated to flee Ukraine due to the war, which would eclipse the combined number of refugees in the 2015-2016 European refugee crisis and the 2014 Russian invasion of Crimea. According to estimates from the UN, 12 million people inside Ukraine will need relief and protection due to the war.

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In addition to the imminent threat of violence, the conflict has increased vulnerability to diseases, including COVID-19. Ukraine is home to the second-lowest vaccination rate in Europe, with 35 percent of its people having received one or more doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

2. CORE’S RESPONSE

CORE is working with international and local partners to support the immediate needs of people fleeing war in Ukraine.

- CORE’s response has begun in Polish and Romanian border towns and is initially focused on providing Ukrainian refugees who have crossed the border into Poland and Romania with cash assistance to help families get access to essential items, such as food, water, and safe transit to shelter.

- CORE is also providing emergency relief supplies, including hygiene kits with soap, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes, and other essential hygiene items, as well as thermal blankets to keep refugees warm amid freezing temperatures.

- CORE is supporting community-based refugee centers in Poland and Romania with supplies and institutional support to help them continue supporting refugees as the influx of individuals fleeing the war continues to increase.

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Activities

3. ACTIVITIES

Highlights:

March 23
Romania
• Executed Grant Agreement with third local partner, Carusel, to start CTP implementation.

Poland
• Signed MOU with city of Krakow to assist refugees.
• Identified two local partners to assist with protection, monitoring, and capacity building activities for informal shelter partners in Rzeszow area.

March 24
Romania
• Procurement of another 100 gift cards to distribute to Ukrainian refugees.

Poland
• Cash assistance program launching at two shelters.

March 25
Romania
• Procurement of 300 blankets and finalizing the plan for delivery of supplies.

March 28
Romania
• Identification of provider for the procurement of 390 kg of fresh fruits for Romexpo shelter.
• Coordination of supply delivery to Odesa inside Ukraine.

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Resource Coordination:
The below resources have been procured and delivered to support Ukrainian refugees:

- Gift cards
- Dry food stock
- Kitchen appliances
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Infant formula
- Baby Hygiene products (Soap, shampoo, diaper rash cream)
- Canned goods
- Feminine Hygiene products
- Soap
- Toothpastes & toothbrushes
- Mouthwash
- Bodywash
- Nail clippers
- Clothing
- Rain coats
- Children toys
- Chairs
- Bedding
- Sleeping mats
- Cleaning supplies
- Batteries
- Flashlight

4. PARTNERS

- Team personally delivered 100 gift cards and basic needs supplies together with FARA, Romanian based, representatives. We will continue to work with FARA to identify new basic needs for the refugees.
- VOICE is working with CORE on its operational programming from a safeguarding perspective to preserve the human rights, safety and dignity of marginalized groups affected by the crisis. VOICE will work with CORE to implement appropriate GBV and SEA risk mitigation approaches and ensure the safety and security of women staff and volunteers, including for commodities distributions.

5. NEXT STEPS

CORE’s immediate priorities for the response are:

- Continue to identify and provide technical support to grassroots community organizations and other local CBOs working to assist Ukrainian refugees
- Establish new NGO and CBO partnerships for service delivery in Poland, Romania, and Ukraine
- Assess evolving needs of refugees and adapt support measures accordingly
- Strategize on procurement for next round of CBO support

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