

PRESS RELEASE

Over \$70 million in humanitarian aid reaches Ukrainians over the two years since Russia's full-scale invasion

TORONTO (February 21, 2024) – The Canada-Ukraine Foundation with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress today provided an update on humanitarian programming through their joint Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. The update comes on the eve of the 2nd anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Victor Hetmanczuk, Chair of the Board of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF), and Alexandra Chyczij, National President of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), announced during a press conference that a total of \$67 million was raised for humanitarian works through the appeal, supplemented by \$20 million in in-kind donations. Over the same two-year time frame, more than \$70 million has been disbursed in humanitarian programming in Ukraine and its near-abroad.

Dr. Oleh Antonyshyn, professor at the University of Toronto, and reconstructive surgeon at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre, reported that the Canada Ukraine Surgical Aid Program (CUSAP), a long-standing project of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation of which he is founder and head surgeon, completed four separate surgical missions in the last two years, supplementing the seven previous surgical missions since the war started in 2014.

Chair of the Subcommittee on Displaced Persons, CUF executive member Yaroslav Baran provided an update on in-Canada humanitarian support for displaced Ukrainians sheltering in Canada under the Canada-Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel (CUAET) special visa program.

General Consul Oleksandr Shevchenko joined to extend the Ukrainian Embassy's gratitude to the people of Canada and to provide an update on critical needs.

KEY FACTS:

- The **Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal (UHA)** was launched in January of 2022 by the Canada- Ukraine Foundation and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress to coordinate the efficient provision of humanitarian aid to war-torn Ukraine after Russia's full-scale invasion, including relief for displaced persons in Europe and Canada.
- Since the start of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on February 24th, 2022, the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal has raised over \$67 million from 90,000 donations across Canada and received over \$20 million in in-kind donations.
- The primary focus of the humanitarian relief efforts has been in the areas of food security, medical care, emergency shelter and mental health support for displaced persons in Ukraine, neighbouring countries, and Canada.

- Since February 2022, the *Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal* has deployed over \$70 million in the following humanitarian aid to Ukraine:
 - 700,000 boxes of food to 2,000,000 Ukrainians in Ukraine, Moldova and Romania
 - 141,548kg of medicines reaching 1,580,000 patients
 - 28 Ambulances to Ukraine's Ministry of Health
 - 100 MOVES[®] SLCT[™]- Life Support Systems to Ukraine's Ministry of Health (\$20 million in-kind donation)
 - 50 Vacuum-Assisted Closure (VAC) devices to hospitals
 - 4 surgical missions: 95 patients with severe cranio-facial and/or orthopedic injuries, 110 operations, 331 procedures
 - 12 labour and 47 postpartum beds to perinatal hospital
 - Equipment for the veterans' rehabilitation centre
 - 4 psychosocial programs in Europe
 - Demining robots and X-ray machines for humanitarian demining
 - 1,000 sets of firefighters' gear
 - 10,000 protective gloves for first responders
 - 197 generators: 60 to hospitals, 87 to families of Ukrainian armed forces personnel killed in action, and 50 to Ukraine's Ministry of Energy
 - 40 water pumps
 - 60 water storage tanks
 - 13 temporary shelters
 - 5,000 wood-burning stoves
 - 4,400 beds, mattresses, bedding sets for the internally displaced within Ukraine
 - 10,000 blankets
 - 40,000 hygiene kits
 - Assistance for the vulnerable through:
 - The Ukrainian Deaf Society
 - Dzherelelo - Rehabilitation centre for children and young adults with disabilities
 - City of Goodness - Shelter for women and children escaping domestic violence, hospice

- According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (February 15, 2024), intensified air strikes and hostilities continue to have a grave humanitarian impact on the civilian population and civilian infrastructure in Ukraine. The need for humanitarian aid remains critical.

- The **Displaced Ukrainians Appeal** was launched under the umbrella of the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal after the Government of Canada opened temporary sheltering visas (CUAET) to Ukrainians fleeing the war. The Displaced Ukrainians Appeal has since raised \$3.1 million in donations from donors across Canada.

- Over 6 million people fled Ukraine since the beginning of the full-scale war on February 24, 2022. As of January 27th, according to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada, over 220,000 Ukrainians found refuge in Canada under the CUAET visa. Ontario and Alberta have taken in over 60% of all new arrivals with 40% and 22% respectively. Quebec, British Columbia and Manitoba have each taken in 10% of CUAET holders. (Source: <https://ukrainesafehaven.ca/data/ukrainian-arrivals-in-canada/>)

- Approximately \$2 million have been dispersed or committed so far through over 30 humanitarian projects in 6 Canadian provinces, supporting displaced Ukrainians – mainly women with children and the elderly, and with a focus on food security, shelter, and psychosocial support such as trauma counselling and employment assistance.

- The **Canada-Ukraine Surgical Aid Program (CUSAP)** was established by the Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF) and works in partnership with the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre to provide comprehensive surgical assistance to Ukraine’s victims of war since 2014.
- The Canada-Ukraine Foundation has funded 11 surgical missions since 2014, including 4 held in Poland since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion.
- CUSAP’s mission is to provide comprehensive state-of-the-art multidisciplinary trauma care and post-trauma reconstruction to both civilian and military casualties of the war in Ukraine, and to support Ukrainian health care professionals through education in trauma reconstruction.
- CUSAP draws on the support of over 250 volunteers across Canada and the United States. The latest mission in fall of 2023 included 11 surgeons, 4 anesthesiologists, 5 internists, 14 OR nurses, 15 ward nurses, and 12 support staff.
- The **Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF)** was founded in 1995, and has a strong track record of providing humanitarian assistance to Ukraine in the areas of healthcare, education, and civil society.

QUOTATIONS:

- *“For two years, the Ukrainian people have stood defiantly against Russia’s genocidal onslaught. Ukraine is grateful for the military, economic and humanitarian support of all allies but now, more than ever, the Ukrainian Armed Forces must be enabled to finish the fight. The democratic world cannot allow Ukraine to fail, for if Ukraine fails, Putin will have to be stopped by our sons and daughters. We thank all Canadians for supporting Ukraine and ask you to join rallies in communities across Canada on Saturday February 24 to Stand With Ukraine!”* - **Alexandra Chyczij, National President, Ukrainian Canadian Congress.**
- *“When Russia invaded Ukraine on February 24th – we were there within days with the first humanitarian supplies. We continue to expand our work as Canada’s humanitarian charity of choice to help war-torn Ukraine.”* - **Victor Hetmanczuk, Chair of the CUF-UCC Ukraine Humanitarian Relief Committee, Chair of the Board of Directors, Canada- Ukraine Foundation.**
- *“We’ve been struck by the richness, depth and diversity of volunteer efforts to help displaced Ukrainians in Canada. We’ve partnered with the best grassroots programs in this country and have so far committed over two million dollars for food security, shelter and psychosocial support for refugees sheltering on our shores.”* - **Yaroslav Baran, Chair of the Displaced Ukrainians Sub-Committee; Director, Canada-Ukraine Foundation.**
- *“Canada Ukraine Surgical Aid Program (CUSAP) was initiated with two goals in mind: provide comprehensive state-of-the-art multidisciplinary trauma care and post trauma reconstruction to both civilian and military casualties of the war in Ukraine and support Ukrainian healthcare professionals through education in trauma reconstruction. We have done this for 10 years and will continue to do so for as long as the need is there.”* - **Dr. Oleh Antonyshyn, Professor, Division of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery, University of Toronto. Reconstructive surgeon at Sunnybrook Health Science Centre. Founder and head surgeon of CUSAP.**