

UKRAINE

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

May 19, 2022

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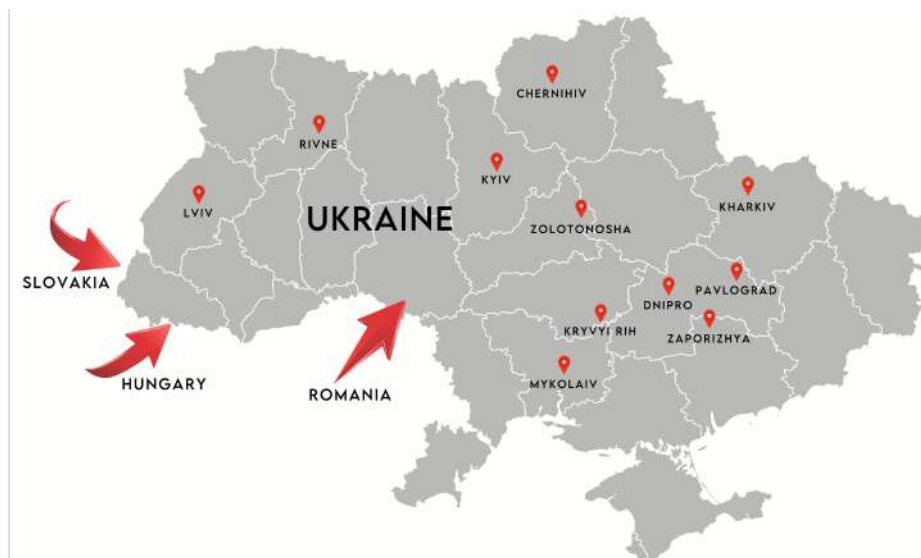


Our last major GCS Rescue Mission to Ukraine is now complete. Sadly, the work on the ground is far from finished...

This was an ambitious multi-nation operation, as we had different teams going into Ukraine with humanitarian supplies from Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania.

Coordinated from 3 countries, we had a total of 51 Vehicles (23 Coaches and 28 Minibuses) distributing aid and assisting in the evacuation of vulnerable people.

Ukraine is also in the middle of a fuel crisis because of Russia's invasion, which brought a whole new set of challenges. We only have God to thank for providing enough fuel for our fleet of vehicles to reach their destinations. We were able to deliver a total of 115 tonnes of Humanitarian supplies (nutritional food, bottled water, and hygiene products). The vehicles with the right capacity distributed supplies to: Lviv, Rivne, Near Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Kryvyi Rih, Dnipro, Zaporizhya, Mykolaiv, Zolotonosha, Pavlograd, and Kyiv.



GCS is privileged to partner with a wide range of influential people, who act as Ambassadors for our work. It has been a privilege to have our friend and GCS Ambassador, Owen Pomana from New Zealand serve alongside GCS and our partners in



Ukraine. Owen has not only raised financial support but has also been delivering aid to people facing acute hunger, and evacuating people from war hot spots.



It has also been a great honour to have Ron Stanley Mark take on the role of Charity Ambassador for GCS to specifically support the work in Ukraine. Ron is a New Zealand politician who served as Minister of Defence between October 2017 and November 2020 and served as mayor of Carterton from 2010

to 2014. Ron has publicly condemned Russia's war in Ukraine, including the indiscriminate shelling of civilians, hundreds of summary executions, and sexual violence against women and children. Wanting to support the people of Ukraine, Ron felt it was important to see for himself, and help deliver aid and evacuate refugees.



In Kyiv we had a tremendous privilege to meet with a distinguished gathering of politicians, military intelligence, police, and NGOs to plan and coordinate our humanitarian efforts in conjunction with district and regional government bodies to best support the people of Ukraine.

We were able to identify the greatest needs and formalise an agreement to enable operational efficiency for our future humanitarian efforts in Ukraine.





We have been ministering to so many civilians who have suffered grotesque war crimes. We have had countless conversations with people who have shared in graphic detail stories of family members and neighbours who were raped and murdered. Stories of hanging, looting, and torture by Russian soldiers, leave us completely lost for words.



The chief of Police was telling our delegation about the struggles they are facing, being the first response. 1260 bodies have been found in areas surrounding the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, following Russian troops' withdrawal from the area. 38 of them were children, and there were clear signs of torture, with mutilation, and arms tied. There are no words to describe the senseless attack that has been made on civilians and their homes.



The key areas we have identified would benefit both civilians, emergency services, and the military. These areas include the following:

1. Coordinated evacuation (infrastructure / placement)
2. Humanitarian aid (nutritional / hygienic supplies)
3. Personal Protective Systems (Tactical vests)
4. Trauma counselling (civilian / military)
5. Economy (social enterprise/ employment)
6. Environment (damage assessment)
7. Humanitarian Monitoring Centre (analysis)





A huge effort has been made to meet the needs of families in their darkest moments. GCS has seen an inspiring response from people across the world wanting to volunteer both inside Ukraine and in its neighbouring countries to support the multitude of people affected by the war.

GCS friends and ministry partners have kindly donated to support volunteers on the borders assist families as they arrive with almost nothing, and the aid workers in Ukrainian cities helping those unable to flee.

All donations have been used to procure wholesale food supplies, medicine and first aid kits, fuel, lorries, coaches, and minibuses. Humanitarian supplies have typically included the following long-lasting items:

- Pasta
- Potatoes
- Buckwheat
- Tinned sauces
- Soup
- Rice
- Beans and pulses
- Tinned meat
- Tinned vegetables
- Flour
- Yeast
- Tea/coffee
- Salt/Sugar
- Tinned fruit
- Biscuits
- Bottled Water

- UHT Milk
- Cartons of juice
- Jars of baby food
- Bread
- Medicine
- Tourniquets
- Wet wipes
- Hygiene products
- Nappies
- Blankets
- Sleeping bags
- First Aid Kits
- Gospel Tracts
- New Testaments
- Fuel
- Generators



Team members have been sharing the hope of the Gospel at every opportunity and distributing Ukrainian Bibles and Gospel tracts, which have been gratefully received.



GCS would like to say thank you to the organisations and individuals who enabled this GCS Rescue Mission in Ukraine by donating funds, noncash items, or supporting in a practical way on the ground

In alphabetical order:

*Aleksey Samoylow
Anatoliy Kushnir
Andriy Kasprov
Andriy Shepelenko
Bethlehem Church, Dunavitsi
Dave Higgs
Fight for Freedom
Good Life Church, New Zealand
Inessa and Dmytro Melnik
Inessa Grishchenko
János Novák
Michael Gnatyuk*

*Mitch, Estuary Signs
Nazar Borishkevich
Owen Pomana
Paul and Francey True
Raggy Ram
Rapid Relief Team
Raphael Klein
Roksolana Kravchenko
Ron Mark
Ruslan and Oksana Muts
Solid Rock Mission
Tamara Grishchenko*

We would also like to thank the many faithful individuals who have not been mentioned here who have supported the work. Thank you so much for standing with Ukraine.

As the security situation allows, GCS and its partners will continue to respond to existing and emerging humanitarian needs.



In the coming days GCS will seek to boost presence and aid supplies inside Ukraine and focus its attention on sustainable development goals – but we urgently need your help.

We invite you to donate to the GCS Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. You can help support families fleeing this devastating conflict by donating today. There are several ways you can do this:

BANK TRANSFER

Account Name: Great Commission Society
Bank: Lloyds Bank
Sort Code: 309890
Account Number: 16270268
IBAN: GB53 LOYD 309890 16270268
SWIFT/BIC: LOYDGB21592

PAYPAL

<https://www.paypal.me/gcsuk>

GCS WEBSITE

<http://www.greatcommissionsociety.org>

STEWARDSHIP ACCOUNT (for UK Tax Relief: Gift Aid)

<https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/gcsukraineappeal>

DONATE TODAY TO SAVE LIVES IN UKRAINE.

Great Commission Society

info@greatcommissionsociety.org

<https://www.greatcommissionsociety.org>

