

Solidarity with the Ukrainian People

three months
of action June 2022





Refugees about to board a bus towards Chisinau, the Moldovan capital.

Key figures

+ 105 000
DONORS

13 millions
euros
raised
as of June 05, 2022

2,1 million
EUROS ALLOCATED

On February 28, Fondation de France launched an appeal for funds to support the people affected by the war in Ukraine. Three months later, more than 13 million euros have been raised and 2.1 million euros allocated right from the very beginning of the conflict, to provide support to refugees and displaced people.

Early assistance (food aid, accommodation, protecting children, etc.) was provided in neighboring countries like Poland, Romania and Moldova but Fondation de France was also very quick to act in Ukraine. It provided support to local non-profit organizations directly in contact with the most vulnerable people, in coordination with its European partners.

Every week, Fondation de France identifies new projects that require support. However, the conflict is likely to be a lasting one and its effects on the population will be increasingly severe. Which is why Fondation de France will also provide long term support to local players whose needs are set to increase in the coming months and perhaps years.

In accordance with Fondation de France's operating procedures in case of emergency, a committee of volunteer experts has been set up and priorities have been established:

1/ Addressing the humanitarian emergency

Concerning humanitarian aid, sheltering thousands of people remains the most urgent task, particularly for women and children fleeing the bombing in Ukraine. That is the mission of Polish nonprofit *Domus Orientalis*, which can evacuate 200 people a week and transport medication, thanks to its minibuses.

In the same way, the Moldovan *Charity Center for Refugees*, which has assisted refugees (from Afghanistan, Syrian, Tajikistan, etc.) in finding employment, now provides basic commodities and psychological and social support to those who are fleeing Ukraine;

For those who are staying in Ukraine, Fondation de France supports *Ukrainian ecovillages* who have converted their ecotourism activities to addressing the needs of refugees in terms of accommodation, energy and food, while also offering market gardening activities. In the same spirit, Solidarités International provides meals for refugees, prepared in the kitchens of schools which are now closed.

2/ Defending human rights

Fondation de France is very mindful of human rights issues, especially child protection. For instance, it supports the project led by nonprofit *Magnolia*, seeking to list and find the Ukrainian children who have disappeared, by liaising with the police and NGOs. It also aims to support the children's loved ones. Magnolia received 2,000 calls in two months, the same number as in the past 20 years.

Because access to information is becoming vital in the current context, the *Ideas Boxes* project from *Bibliothèques Sans Frontières* aims to provide verified information in local languages on human rights for adults, as well as more fun content for children.

You can find the complete list of all the work carried out on www.fondationdefrance.org

Three questions to Karine Meaux,

Head of the International Development and Emergencies Department

What are Fondation de France's priorities in the current situation?

The needs are huge and each case is unique. The European framework means that local authorities are very engaged and well organized. They provide basic humanitarian aid, with the support of international and national NGOs. Foundations have an important part to play in specific situations and locations far removed from the capitals. For example, we pay particular attention to the elderly and disabled people or those with no documentation, including the Roma community.

Which is why we work with the Zagoriy Foundation, a family foundation which coordinates a network of ten Ukrainian nonprofits, to provide food aid and psychological and social support to the elderly and most vulnerable as a priority.

After Romania and Poland, Fondation de France has now set up a third field operation, this time in Moldova. What is the situation like there?

In Moldova, 95% of refugees are hosted by families, although this is the poorest country in Europe. This is a wonderful show of solidarity from the country. However, these families will not be able to carry on forever, with their resources already limited and the cost of food and energy soaring. We are very concerned about this situation and are therefore supporting those organizations which we will be able to assist over the long term as a priority. This is the case for Moldovan nonprofit Keystone, which



Karine Meaux from Fondation de France at the ACTED distribution center in Moldova.

provides meals and toiletries to refugees in Tudora, a village close to the border. Special attention is paid to disabled people.

With the conflict dragging on, what do we need to look out for in the coming months?

Population displacement continues and back and forth movements (meaning people who return home temporarily) are also increasing, which makes it more difficult to assist them.

Many families are waiting for the June holidays to decide whether or not to stay in their host country. The plan is therefore to offer school catchup activities for young people, who represent more than half of all refugees. Initiatives for access to employment for women are also being planned.

Europe-wide coordinated action:

European foundations are used to working as a network and in coordinated fashion. They immediately organized themselves to provide joint assistance and broaden the scope of their action on the ground. From the beginning of the conflict, Fondation de France has been working together with its European partners, on three levels:

- 1 Carrying out bilateral projects with East European foundations. For example, with the three Carpathian foundations (Hungarian, Slovakian and Ukrainian), which identify and support local solidarity initiatives for refugees, and with the Zagoriy Foundation, which has launched a joint call for projects in Ukraine with Fondation de France, to support civil society and provide structuring guidance to non-profit organizations.
- 2 Creating and adding to joint programs, such as EPIM (European Programme for Integration and Migration), which supports the most vulnerable (the elderly, unaccompanied minors, stateless people, victims of discrimination, people with poor mental health, etc.), Ukrainian or not.
- 3 Activating the Philea philanthropy network, which enables European foundations to exchange their analysis of those needs that are not being met and the capacity for action of each one of the foundations. Philea also helps coordinate the work of foundations completely transparently, thanks to a digital platform that lists all the projects supported.

→ Members of the Solidarity with Ukraine Committee

PRÉSIDENT

Michel Maïetta,

founder and director of IARAN (Inter-Agency Research and Analysis Network), a hub of humanitarian professionals based in London, specialized in strategic consulting for humanitarian and development players; lecturer at Université Paris-Saclay and Futuribles International.

MEMBERS

- **Elisabeth Dahan,**
former Director of International Relations at the French Economic Social and Environmental Council; former Ambassador of France to the Maldives and Sri Lanka from 1996 to 2000.
- **Katerina Korotetska,**
humanitarian specialist, tasked with coordinating Ukrainian civil service actors from the beginning of the war for NGO ACTED.
- **Anne Le Huerou,**
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- **Thierry Liscia,**
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- **Bérengère Quincy,**
former Ambassador of France to Denmark and Permanent Representative of France to several United Nations offices; former ambassador tasked with preparing the Paris Climate Conference (COP 21) in 2015; GRET Board member.
- **Magda Elena Toma,**
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- **Inga Wachsmann,**
in charge of Migration and Integration Policies and Practices in France and Europe, of Democratic and Civic Spaces in France and Europe, and of Equitable Transition at Porticus France.

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