

Rapid Response



Global Mission

# Ukraine Response Report: One Year On

Stewardship   
*Active generosity*

# One year on from the war in Ukraine – Hope in generosity

On 24 February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, sparking global outrage and a mass migration of Ukrainian people fleeing their homes. Giving across the UK increased as people sought to respond. Here at Stewardship, we experienced a massive spike in giving as it climbed to £2 million above any Ukraine-specific giving seen previously.

Our response was to launch a Stewardship Rapid Response Fund in aid of Ukraine that raised over £365,000, boosted by a match-funded donation from one of our philanthropists. That fund was then used to make 47 grants to charities and churches offering practical help and gospel hope in the face of the war and UK organisations helping those fleeing the conflict to take refuge in the UK.

Sadly, the war continues and international humanitarian agencies are further challenged as they stretch their resources to also respond to the earthquake disaster in Syria and Turkey and the increased cost of living. As we mark the one-year anniversary of the war, we pray for our charity partners to be blessed with the resources they need to keep on helping and for a resolution to the conflict. We also give thanks as we reflect on the incredible generosity that we continue to witness as Christ through His Church, and others, offer a light through generosity in even the darkest of times.



## The generous heart

There was an immediate and rapid peak as givers responded; this was a £2 million increase on any Ukraine-related giving in the previous year! The generosity of our givers was clear and we wanted to make sure that people felt confident about who to give to.

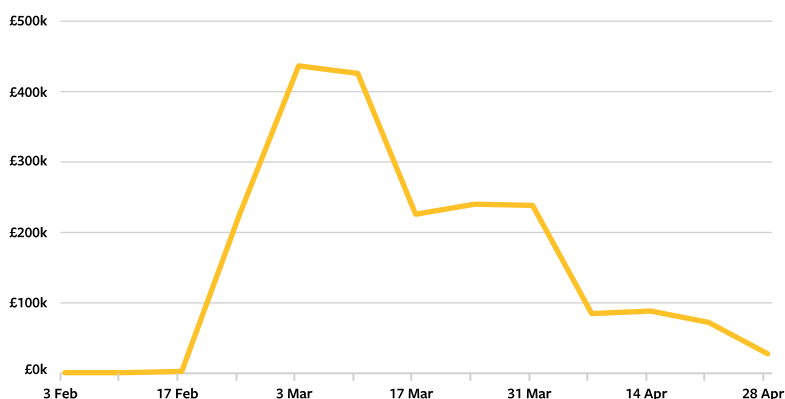


Fig 1: Giving with reference to Ukraine over time

“In Spring 2022, we, like so many others watched and read the news of the war beginning in Ukraine with a sense of fear of what could be ahead, heartache at the atrocities and helplessness as to what we could do that would make a difference. With Christians around the world, we prayed for the people of Ukraine. The Lord heard those prayers, and answered them in a way we never expected. What launched in early March was the All Saints Preston and Kharkiv City Church Partnership.”

ELLA BIDEN, TREASURER, ALL SAINTS PRESTON



## Highlighting key partners working on the ground

On 1 March 2022, we published our first blog ‘Christian Charities Working in Ukraine’. The aim was to provide our people with trusted partners to give to.

We followed this up on 14 March 2022 with ‘How to best Support Humanitarian Relief for Ukraine’ which aimed to help people make wise choices with their giving, to ensure as much support as possible was going to those in need.

We began raising awareness on our social media platforms through posts from 10 March 2022, with a series highlighting different organisations to give to that were working on the ground in Ukraine. Our aim was to direct people to give to these partners and help spotlight the important work that they were doing.

As a result of these communications, the charities spotlighted received an average of eight times more\* than in the previous month. This equated to roughly £16,000 of additional funds with one charity receiving £68,000 more in March 2022 than they did in February 2022. This demonstrated the eagerness of people to give and the help we could provide in directing them to partners working to support those affected.

As time progressed, it became clear that people continued to desire to give but felt that they couldn’t make an impact with their ‘smaller’ gift. In response to this, we launched the ‘UK Response Fund - Ukraine’ with the aim of providing a vehicle for giving to organisations on the ground.



“We pray with them and for them. We pray for peace, both in Ukraine and around the world. We are grateful to the Lord for the way the whole of Moldova is actively involved in providing housing, food, counselling, hygiene products, push chairs and more.”

PASTOR SERGIU, LOCAL PASTOR

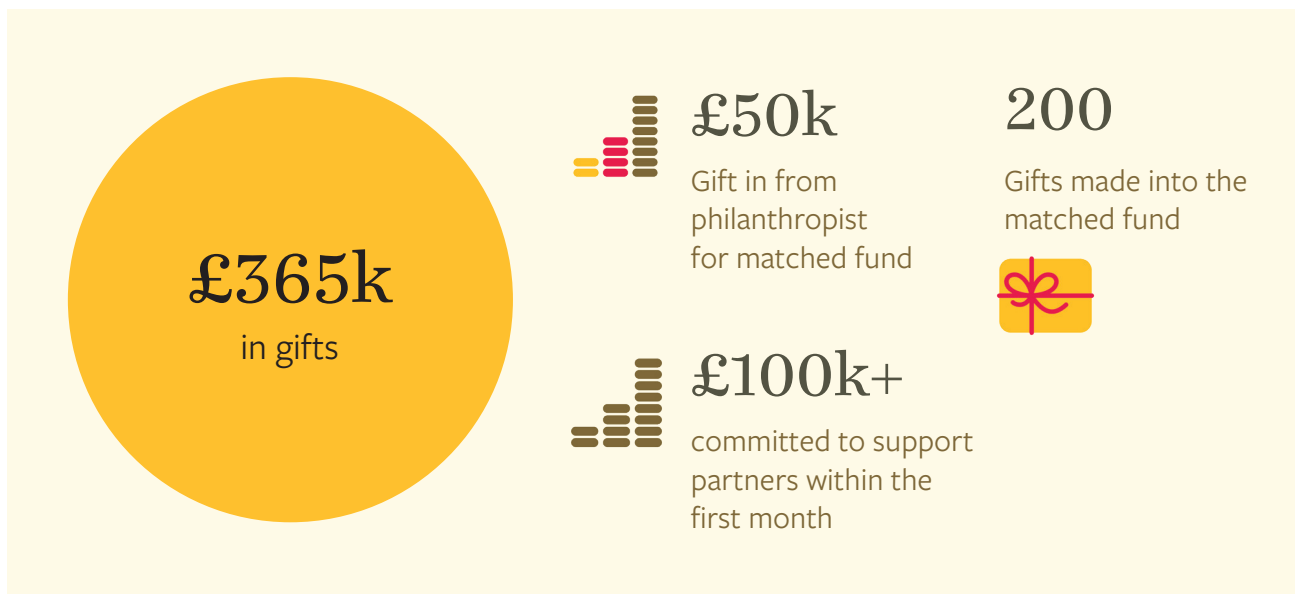
\*Charities highlighted in the ‘Christian Charities Working in Ukraine’ blog post received on average eight times more in grant payments from Stewardship in March 2022 than they did in February 2022.



## UK Response Fund: Ukraine

The fund was launched on 11 March and ran until 4 August 2022. In week following its launch we saw just over £66,000 given to the fund. An amazing picture of generosity.

On 24 March 2022 one of our philanthropists kindly agreed to match fund for up to £50,000 of giving. This wonderful act of philanthropy was quickly matched by givers within the week. 202 gifts were made into the matched fund. The most common amount given to this was £50 plus Gift Aid, showing how every person's gift mattered in reaching the £50,000 goal.



This meant we committed over £100,000 to support those in need within a month of the war beginning. The fund ran until early August, continuing to provide people with the ability to support those impacted by the war financially. It was closed in August as we enabled people to find charities to give to for long term support of those affected.

By the end of the campaign, we received a total of over £365,000. That is an amazing response and demonstrates the real heart of our giving base. It is an honour to have served so many as they sought to support those in need.

“We were very encouraged by the generous response to Ukraine last year and to hear about the very real difference that generosity is making to Ukrainians.”

PETER WILSON, CHIEF PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER, STEWARDSHIP

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## Grants out

We began making grants out on 8th April 2022.

Most of these grants were made before the end of April 2022 (37 out of the 47 made). The remaining ten were made between July and September 2022.

The criteria for organisations who would receive grants was as follows:

1. Gospel focus expressed in word and deed through the love of Christ;
2. Provide immediate impact (within 3-6 months) with a longer-term legacy for the gospel;
3. Giving wise counsel, service, encouragement and promoting the reputation of Jesus Christ, the Church and Christianity through a biblical response to the conflict.

Organisations also had to demonstrate that they were either:

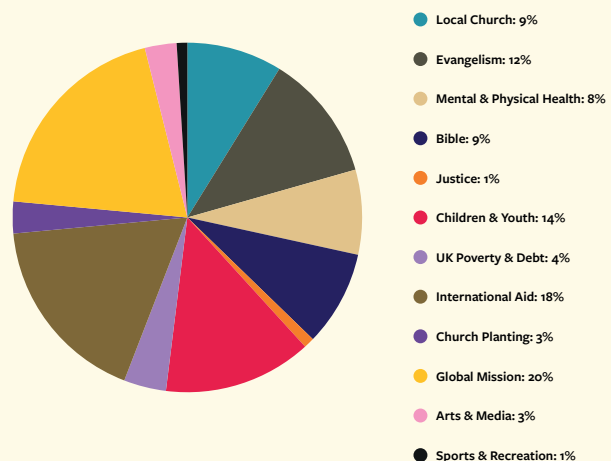
1. A proactive response to the plight of the Ukrainian people through projects that have an immediate and lasting impact on the ground in Ukraine and the surrounding countries in these priority areas of provision:
  - a) Food, water, shelter, medical assistance and safe areas;
  - b) Transition and homing arrangements for refugees;
  - c) Provision of Bibles, biblical literature and chaplaincy.
2. Creating pathways for those fleeing the conflict to take refuge in the UK.

An internal advisory board considered recognised partners in accordance with the above and then selected suitable grantees.

We gave grants to 47 charities. Each grant ranged from £3,150-£40,000, depending on their need. The most common amount granted was £5,000.

Fig 2: Cause breakdown

The charities covered numerous areas of support, with high focus on International Aid and Global Mission being obvious, but also key focuses on Evangelism and Children and Youth.



[www.stewardship.org.uk/support-cause](http://www.stewardship.org.uk/support-cause)

# 3

## Grants out

The fund was used to make 47 grants to charities and churches offering practical help and gospel hope in the face of the war and UK organisations helping those fleeing the conflict to take refuge in the UK.



**Transform Europe Network (TEN)** - The grant received by TEN helped their partners in south-east Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova who continue delivering vital supplies into Ukraine and finding accommodation for refugees. One partner in Romania has been appealing for woodburning stoves, blankets and food for a refugee camp of about 150 people where there is no electricity or gas. Another partner in Moldova continues to work with churches in Ukraine to provide aid to those who are still in the country and support refugees in Moldova. In the last four months, they have helped over 1,500 adults and over 2,000 children with food and hygiene packages and they continue to see over 160 refugees in their support programmes. [ukrainecrisis.org.uk](http://ukrainecrisis.org.uk)

# 4

## Impact

Updates from some Stewardship charity partners on the frontline of the Ukraine war:

**Hope Lebedyn** – This partner located in the Sumy region of Ukraine distributed Christmas gifts to all the children in Lebedyn with an invitation to come to their centre to receive aid. The centre hosts many support programmes including medical care. They are now opening a Bible college so they can raise new leaders ready to plant churches back in villages where they have been destroyed. Hope Lebedyn is marking the anniversary with a special thanksgiving service at the end of the anniversary week. [hopelebedyn.org](http://hopelebedyn.org)

**Medair** - Thanks to the generosity of Medair supporters and its Emergency Response Team's preparedness, Medair was the first international NGO registered in Ukraine following the onset of the crisis. Since then, their international and local teams have reached over 330,000 vulnerable Ukrainians with life-saving healthcare, shelter and essential supplies. [medair.org](http://medair.org)

**The Sanctuary Foundation** – This coalition of charities was set up to support Ukrainian refugees in the UK. The Homes for Ukraine Scheme has helped to house over 112,000 refugees in people's homes, more than at any time in the UK's history. The Sanctuary Foundation distributed gifts to 2,970 mums and children over Christmas from Ukraine and also Afghanistan and is now focused on helping refugees find work and housing. It has also written, produced and distributed over 27,000 welcome books for Ukrainian refugee children and trained over 2,000 hosts in how to safeguard and support Ukrainian families. [sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk](http://sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk)

### Give



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### Pray

For peace in Ukraine, continued welcome and safety for those who have fled the country, and give thanks for the generosity of the Church in times of crisis.

### Act

Get in touch with Sanctuary Foundation to see how you can support Ukrainian families in the UK. Your time - and prayers are so appreciated.

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