



Yana, her mother, Liliia, and her daughter, Marta, fled their home in Cherkasy, Ukraine, after the war started. The family was relieved to find a Habitat-subsidized apartment in Warsaw, Poland.

## Ukraine crisis response

### 2-year report

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Habitat for Humanity has provided assistance to thousands of refugees from the region. Over the past two years, we have partnered with other humanitarian and aid organizations to support Ukrainians and Ukrainian refugees.

**8,000+**  
refugees

served with short-term accommodations.

**34,335+**  
people

received essential items, including furniture and winterization products.

**27,380**  
individuals

reached with repairs, rehabilitation work and empty space transformation.

**2,485+**  
refugees

served with mid- or long-term accommodations.

**1,000+**  
participants

in webinars and conferences to promote advocacy work.

Habitat has responded to housing needs in Ukraine and border countries over the last two years, supporting families at risk. We will continue providing housing solutions and expanding our work in Ukraine and throughout the region. Please join us as we assist vulnerable refugees and those remaining in Ukraine.



"I never really thought about what a 'home' means before. ... But now, after everything, and after coming to Poland, I've come to realize that home is where safety resides, where your soul finds peace. Home is like a stronghold, where you're surrounded by love and smiles await you — a place of safety. Every mother wants that secure place for her children."  
Iryna, a refugee from Ukraine who settled in Poland with her mother and young son.



Russian bombing forced residents out of their homes and apartments, creating a refugee crisis across many European countries.

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine two years ago has created an enormous humanitarian crisis, with an estimated 14.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in the region<sup>1</sup> and approximately US\$56 billion in damage to the housing sector, representing 37% of the total damage.<sup>2</sup>

The devastating conflict has forever changed the lives of millions of people. Within Ukraine, 3.7 million people remain internally displaced, while an additional 6.5 million people have become refugees in neighboring European countries.<sup>3</sup> Habitat has been responding to the regional crisis since day one, offering refugees emergency services and helping them find short-, mid- and long-term accommodation by supporting housing arrangements with host families, refurbishing and furnishing communal spaces, repurposing empty spaces, subsidizing rentals, and running social rental programs .

At the heart of our work is ensuring refugees have safe, stable places they can call home, even if only temporarily. As we embarked on the second year of our response to the conflict, we applied our Pathways to Permanence approach inside Ukraine, meeting affected families where they are and supporting their short-, mid- and long-term housing needs to achieve stability and recovery. Even before the war, the housing situation in Ukraine was challenging. An estimated 30% of Ukrainian households were unable to maintain adequate housing temperature in wintertime, and 70% of flats in multi-apartment buildings were also highly energy inefficient, affecting approximately 34 million people, or two-thirds of Ukraine's population.<sup>4</sup>

The World Bank estimates that 10% of the total housing stock has been either damaged or destroyed, impacting more than 2 million housing units across the country. Through our partnerships with local and international entities in Ukraine, Habitat successfully supported vulnerable families with direct repairs and winterization upgrades, along with repairs to vital community infrastructures in the hardest conflict-affected regions. In addition, we are supporting war-affected communities by modernizing multi-apartment buildings to be energy-efficient and by upgrading the buildings' basements to establish safe shelter from missile attacks.

Since the start of the conflict, Habitat has raised over US\$22 million to assist in the humanitarian crisis in Europe. Habitat understands that rebuilding in Ukraine will be just as important as aiding in refugees' long-term integration in their new countries and advocating for their needs. We are committed to developing and implementing long-term regional housing strategies that bring together government officials, civil society actors and fellow aid organizations to mitigate secondary displacement of refugees and ensure families have the resources they need to thrive. Together, we can help Ukrainians rebuild their homes and their futures.

## Habitat for Humanity's work in Ukraine

Habitat has been working on the ground in Ukraine since September 2022 through partnerships with local and international organizations, offering interventions aimed at home and community infrastructure repairs and supplying resources and technical expertise for home weatherization.

### Repairing homes and infrastructure in northern and eastern Ukraine

In 2023, Habitat and its partners Catholic Relief Services, Caritas Spes and Caritas Ukraine implemented the Homes and Communities Assistance to Vulnerable Conflict-Affected Households in Ukraine project, which provided critical repairs to homes and community infrastructure. The program included referrals, cash assistance or repair support for participating households. People with war-damaged houses could purchase materials or hire workers to make repairs. By the end of the nine-month project, Habitat and its partners completed 619 home repairs in the Kyiv and Kharkiv regions, including two community infrastructure repairs in Kharkiv.

### Energy modernization in Odesa

Habitat partnered with the Odesa Housing Union, a local nonprofit organization representing over 660 multifamily buildings in Odesa, to implement the project Habitat for Odessaites, carrying out energy-efficient upgrades of the heating systems of multi-apartment buildings and ensuring the basements could offer shelter to people during air raids. As a result of the project, the heating systems in 16 buildings were upgraded, benefiting over 2,700 people, and energy consumption is expected to decrease by 25-30%. By April 2024, Habitat and the Odesa Housing Union will modernize an additional eight buildings, improving the energy security of an estimated 700 people.



Four-year-old Eva and her family have found a safe haven away from the trauma of war, thanks to Habitat.

While gas remains unreliable in Kherson, stoves like these are extremely helpful for families struggling to prepare food and stay warm.



### Delivering stoves in Kharkiv and Kherson

In partnership with Volunteer Corps, Habitat funded the construction and delivery of 250 stoves to the Kharkiv and Kherson regions. The wood-burning stoves cost about US\$110 to produce, including distribution costs, and are made in Kyiv by a company that normally builds long-haul trucks. Families who received stoves were living in apartment buildings or homes that were damaged and didn't have adequate electricity or heating.

The stoves enable individuals and families to remain warm during the winter and to cook food, even without regular access to gas and electricity. An additional 200 stoves will be distributed later in the year.

### Item distribution to collection centers in Ukraine

Habitat coordinated the supply of nonfood items to 10 collective centers in Lviv and Czerasy through partnerships with the western regional shelter cluster, the United Nations Refugee Agency and Lviv Oblast administration. Nearly 1,000 internally displaced people, predominantly elderly Ukrainians whose homes were destroyed in the war, benefited from the assistance. The essential items distributed include furniture – sofas, desks, tables and chairs – and repair materials. Volunteer Corps also distributed more than 300 electric stoves, along with desks, chairs and wardrobe components, to individuals in the Mykolaiv region.

### Solar solutions in Ukraine

Supported by Habitat Nederland and in collaboration with Volunteer Corps, Habitat distributed 740 WakaWaka Power+ devices in the regions of Kyiv, Chernihiv, Mykolaiv, Kherson and Kharkiv. Families in these regions now have light in their homes or workplaces as well as access to a reliable source of electricity, as the WakaWaka can also be used as a power bank. The WakaWakas were distributed in areas where there are frequent power outages, including the front lines, schools and hospitals, and in shelter locations for orphans and children with disabilities.

“ They help not just physically but mentally. A warm glow in a cold dark place, something life-sustaining to tend to and have some control over in these uncertain and difficult times. ”

Warren, a volunteer with Habitat Ireland who relocated to Poland to help after the war broke out. Warren spearheaded an effort to provide simple, wood-burning stoves to families still living in Ukraine.

## Impact to date



Natalia fled to Romania with her mother and two sons soon after Russia invaded Ukraine. Habitat assisted the family with emergency accommodations and eventually moved them into a long-term rental.

### Emergency response

In the immediate aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Habitat for Humanity provided emergency assistance in Poland, Romania, Hungary, Germany, Bulgaria and Slovakia to those escaping the violence.

Facing this unprecedented challenge, we began administering immediate support to refugees. Romanian staff members were present with teams at the most transited border points, in Siret and Isaccea, and in Bucharest at the North Railway Station, where the organization met refugees with on-the-spot information and emergency accommodation in Bucharest hotels for more than 2,700 refugees. During those early cold days, Habitat Romania also donated electric heating devices and backpacks with external batteries.

In December 2023, Habitat Romania was the only NGO among 50 public institutions and private companies invited to the final conference organized by the Department for Emergency Situations, serving as an expert in emergency shelter interventions and raising awareness about the need for safe and stable housing

for Ukrainian refugees. The government of Romania and the Emergency Situation Department also awarded Habitat Romania's the Emblem of Honor for its disaster response interventions, bringing more attention to Habitat's work with refugees in the country.

In Poland, Habitat's staff focused on providing short-term accommodations by matching refugees with host families in Warsaw. Habitat Poland coordinated stays at local hostels for almost 5,600 people and provided information support to more than 5,180 individuals through a dedicated housing infoline. To quickly identify and assist families in urgent need of accommodation, Habitat established an effective referral mechanism. This mechanism, developed in close coordination with organizations operating at the Warsaw East Railway Station transit site, was crucial in ensuring that the most vulnerable individuals received the timely support they needed. The establishment of a robust collaboration with the Norwegian Refugee Council, which managed the transit site, further streamlined the referral process.

In recognition of its work with refugees from Ukraine, Habitat Poland received the S3KTOR Award from the city of Warsaw. The award recognized Habitat Poland's work organizing the kiosk at the Warsaw East train station, matching people coming to Warsaw from Ukraine with host families in cooperation with the local authorities from Warsaw and offering support under the social rental program.

Habitat Hungary launched a solidarity accommodation program with a local partner, placing over 500 families in no-cost or low-cost midterm housing. The Hungarian team immediately began cooperating with humanitarian organizations, providing them with household items, appliances and independent accommodations to improve the housing quality of refugees.

Habitat Germany focused on mobilizing vital funds to support the emergency response efforts in Ukraine, Romania, Hungary and Poland. It also established an affordable housing program in two cities in North Rhine-Westphalia. There, staff members, volunteers and partners helped refugees identify long-term rental options, which often proved scarce given Germany's housing shortage and affordability issues.

In Slovakia, Habitat began responding to the needs of the refugees in the country by focusing on a range of housing needs. An early assessment identified essential item support, such as hygiene and sanitation products, as the most urgent need of newly arriving refugees, particularly for the most vulnerable, such as the elderly, those with disabilities, and women and girls. Meeting those essential needs has helped reduce the vulnerability of the affected population.



The Bondarenko family from Adzhamka, Kirovohrad Oblast, Ukraine, enjoy spending time in their new apartment in Poland and have even bonded with Danuta, the owner of the apartment (seated at center).

**Short- and long-term accommodation**

While the Russian invasion of Ukraine continues, Habitat remains on the ground in neighboring countries to implement both short- and long-term solutions with refugees. In many areas, the immediate priority is finding shelter, and Habitat has been working with local organizations throughout Europe and with international relief organizations to ensure refugees have safe, secure places to escape the violence in their home country.

Poland has faced the highest influx of refugees, with over 17 million border crossings from Ukraine since the beginning of the war. As of the end of December 2023, almost 1 million individuals from Ukraine were either officially registered or recognized as refugees or asylum-seekers in Poland.<sup>5</sup>

Habitat Poland provided continuous support to refugee households through midterm rental assistance, reaching over 1,090 individuals. Under the Social Rental Program, it provided partial monthly rental subsidies to beneficiary households, who gradually increased their participation in the rental costs as they moved toward self-reliance. Habitat Poland provided full rental cost coverage to the most vulnerable households, who required more assistance because of their specific needs and socioeconomic situations. Habitat Poland also introduced the Step into Your Home Program, which helped refugee households secure midterm lease agreements with landlords and served 184 people. Participants either independently selected landlords or received assistance from rental agency services.

Habitat Poland has achieved a significant milestone by collaborating with local authorities to integrate its social rental assistance program into Polish national law to establish social rental agencies. As a result, Habitat Poland inaugurated a rental agency in Dąbrowa Górnicza, marking one of Poland's pioneering efforts in this domain. The initiative, slated for a five-year duration, aims to bolster the housing independence of families in crisis. The Social Rental Agency in Dąbrowa Górnicza provides affordable rental housing along with supplementary services in employment, education and social welfare. Habitat Poland is also extending its support to other municipalities, assisting them in establishing similar social rental agencies.

Furthermore, Habitat Poland introduced an innovative “do-it-yourself” project to improve the living conditions of Ukrainian refugee families renting long-term apartments. Through an electronic application process, clients provided apartment details, family information and landlord particulars, then Habitat Poland worked out agreements to ensure project durability and proper fund allocation. From August to November, Habitat completed 96 renovations, including bathroom and kitchen updates, painting, window replacement, insulation, equipment procurement, replacement of damaged appliances, and help acquiring furniture.



The kitchen in the Edmond Nicolau Center helps refugees staying there feel at home.

In Germany, two years after the initial attacks in Ukraine, many refugees are still living in shelters or in guest rooms – situations that were only meant to last for a few months. Habitat Germany started a project to find apartments suitable for refugee households; persuade owners to rent to refugees; and support the refugee households in reviewing rental contracts, understanding their rights and responsibilities as tenants, and securing state subsidies for paying rent and utilities. The project is being implemented in Overath, Bergisch Gladbach, Rösrath and Leichlinge, and 114 apartments have been rented to refugee families – 363 individuals altogether.

Habitat Germany has also created housing specifically for child refugees from Ukraine. The Heimstatt Nikolaus-Groß-Haus in Cologne and the Lebensgemeinschaft Jugend in Kürten have both housed disadvantaged young people for decades, but after the influx of refugees, they partnered with Habitat to expand their facilities, offering young people safe places to live independently.

The From Streets to Homes! Association, which partnered with Habitat Hungary's solidarity accommodation program until March 2023, continues to help families find free accommodation. The project aims to identify apartments for the families, sign a contract with them and start social work to ensure they can settle in Hungary for as long as they need. In the first phase, Habitat and its partners created a database listing free homes and apartments that were available and connected families with people who could help them obtain these accommodations. Habitat Hungary's solidarity accommodation program won a special award at the Civil Society Awards Gala, which acknowledges Hungary's most outstanding nongovernmental organizations and initiatives.

Through a social rental program similar to the one in Hungary, Habitat Romania is offering long-term housing solutions for refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine. Since Habitat Romania started its social rental program in June 2022 with a capacity of 30 apartments for Ukrainian families, it has helped over 100 refugees, 60% of whom are now fully integrated in Romania.

In early 2023, Habitat Romania began a program to assist in negotiations with landlords and help refugees understand the country's new legislative measures and how they can receive government subsidies. Habitat Romania also completely remodeled the Edmond Nicolau Center in Bucharest for refugee use in partnership with the local municipality and UNICEF. This public shelter and social hub, a refurbished unused office building at Edmond Nicolau Technical College, can house 100 refugees over the long term and features a transitional shelter where refugees can stay overnight as they travel to other locations. Since it opened, the Edmond Nicolau Center has given 986 refugees safe shelter and helped more than 1,500 refugees with employment assistance and social, educational and medical support.



The Edmond Nicolau Center in Bucharest can house 100 refugees long term and offers counseling and other support services.

**Advocacy and additional interventions**

While housing remains a priority for refugees, finding quality of life again in their new homes is also important. Together with local nonprofits and aid organizations, Habitat has been able to help refugee families regain some sense of normalcy by assisting with enrolling children in school, making doctor's appointments, entering the job market and building a sense of community. Psychological support is also essential, as many refugees have suffered greatly from the trauma of the war and subsequent displacement. To ensure refugees can acclimate and receive necessary assistance in the future, Habitat has engaged in advocacy, mediating on behalf of renters, speaking to governments and nonprofits about refugee housing needs, and influencing policies.

Habitat Poland has addressed the broad spectrum of needs faced by refugees in Poland, emphasizing the importance of solutions that extend beyond the basic requirement for shelter. The organization has highlighted the challenges that refugees encounter in securing gainful employment and achieving self-reliance, despite Polish legislation that allows them access to social benefits and employment. Socioeconomic barriers remain a significant obstacle, and recent legislative changes that require refugees to contribute to housing costs may further complicate their situation.

In recognition of its expertise in refugee housing solutions, Habitat Poland was selected to co-lead the Shelter Working Group with the U.N. Refugee Agency. The organization's contributions in this area have included facilitating meetings, advocating with relevant authorities, aligning strategic approaches, and offering guidance on sector standards. These efforts have been crucial in establishing a standardized coordination mechanism among stakeholders, enhancing the collective capacity to manage the refugee influx, and fostering effective cooperation and coordination.

Committed to evidence-based solutions, Habitat Poland conducted extensive research on housing barriers and requirements within the refugee community. An October 2023 report titled "Housing Problems of People Living in Poland and Evaluation of Existing Solutions – Report of a Public Opinion Poll" delved into the housing landscape of Poland, particularly emphasizing the challenges experienced by Ukrainian refugees.



ReStore employees assemble furniture at an apartment that will soon be the Railko family home in Warsaw, Poland.

Throughout 2023, Habitat Poland organized a series of training sessions and workshops aimed at promoting the social rental agency model and strategies for the effective use of empty spaces. These initiatives, designed to address the needs of the Ukrainian refugee community, aimed to facilitate discussions on potential local-level partnerships for the implementation of these models. The goal was to catalyze systemic changes in housing policies and practices. The response to these efforts was overwhelmingly positive, leading to engagement with over 100 Polish municipalities.

Habitat Poland also developed a comprehensive set of informational materials to deepen understanding of the social rental agency model and renovation strategies for empty spaces. These materials addressed critical issues such as support mechanisms for refugees and energy efficiency in renovation projects. The organization's support extended to municipalities, assisting them in renovating empty apartments and establishing criteria to prioritize the most vulnerable, including Ukrainian families.

A landmark achievement for Habitat Poland was influencing the Ministry of Development Fund and Regional Policy to allocate approximately US\$23 million for proposals aimed at establishing and developing social rental agencies for vulnerable groups. This funding, derived from the European Union's Social Fund Plus allocation, underscores the tangible impact of Habitat Poland's advocacy and efforts.

**Advocacy and additional interventions, continued**

After the war broke out, Habitat Hungary stepped in to help where the Hungarian government was unable, coordinating aid work and providing assistance to local aid organizations. The primary goal of Habitat Hungary's Ukraine response was to begin working with partner organizations that were helping refugee families by providing accommodations and acquiring and disseminating donations of goods like furniture, appliances, cleaning supplies and electronics. Habitat Hungary also gathered and distributed items for infants, such as diapers and pacifiers, and for older children, such as musical instruments, sports equipment and school supplies.

It was important for Habitat Hungary to share its experience with the long-term support of refugees, hoping to provide a blueprint for other aid organizations in the future. In July, Habitat presented a study that evaluated its joint work with five partner organizations to improve the housing conditions of refugee families through donations of goods. The event, held at the Habitat Creative Center, invited the partner organizations to tell their stories and experiences, and garnered important media coverage for Habitat Hungary and its Ukraine project.

Habitat Romania also found that the government was providing little help for the refugee crisis, and it has been working with the U.N. Refugee Agency to advocate for refugee rights. Legislation in Romania decreased government subsidies for refugees, forcing many families, who thought they had found long-term accommodations, to move again. Even though they were able to pay the rent, landlords were hesitant to rent to refugee families, fearing they would default on their payments. Habitat Romania intervened on behalf of refugees, serving as an intermediary between families and landlords. This helps landlords build a trusting relationship with refugees, setting them up for positive rental experiences in the future.

A Basic Needs Working Group comprised of nongovernmental organizations, including Habitat Romania, was developed with a focus on finding shelter solutions for refugees. The aim of the Basic Needs Working Group is to partner with other active nongovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies to advocate for safe, stable and dignified shelter and housing policies.



Habitat for Humanity Hungary and partner organizations met at the Habitat Creative Center in July 2023 to discuss their experiences and challenges housing refugees from Ukraine.

## Success stories

### Returning home and rebuilding

After retiring, Maria, 77, and her husband, Sergii, 80, moved from Kharkiv to the small village of Korobochkyne, where Sergii grew up. Like many of their neighbors, the couple tended animals and grew vegetables on a plot behind their house on the edge of the village. When Russian forces advanced south through Kharkiv Oblast in the direction of their village, Maria and Sergii fled to the west, where their daughter had set up a temporary residence.

“We left just like we were,” Maria says. “We just grabbed our documents, got in the car, and left. I had to leave my chickens, my goats and my geese. We left everything.”

During the period of active fighting, Korobochkyne was caught between Ukrainian and Russian positions and suffered substantial damage. Out of approximately 3,500 inhabitants, fewer than 400 remained through the period of fighting before a Ukrainian counteroffensive drove Russian forces out of the area in September 2022. Homes in Korobochkyne suffered shelling damage to roofs, windows, doors and walls, and the interiors of many homes were damaged further by exposure to rain and snow. Maria and Sergii’s home suffered broken windows, and extensive moisture caused one of their ceilings to partially collapse.



Maria and Sergii repaired their home in the small Ukrainian village of Korobochkyne with the help of a grant from Habitat. They also received visits from an engineer and a social worker to ensure the work was going well.

Like most displaced families, Maria and Sergii wanted to go home and rebuild. After more than a year in western Ukraine, Maria and Sergii returned to Korobochkyne in April 2023. They registered the damage to their home with local authorities and learned that Caritas Spes would provide home repair assistance in the village with the support of Habitat for Humanity International.

Some Ukrainians who want to rebuild received grants from Habitat to buy materials and hire skilled laborers to repair their homes, but Maria and Sergii have construction experience, so they used the grant money to pay for materials and make the repairs themselves. Sergii is a specialist in stonework, and Maria specializes in plastering. Despite their ages, they were happy to put their knowledge and skills to work to repair their home. Maria completed the ceiling repairs herself and organized the replacement of damaged windows in the kitchen and living room with double-chamber glass panes that will keep the home warm during the winter.

Maria’s ambition is evident. Asked if she is pleased with the result, she quickly responds that she’s not quite done. “I still need to paint everything,” she says. “And if there is enough paint left, I will paint our fence, too.”



“The beginning of the war was very hard for Denys to understand,” Tetiana says of her son with Down syndrome. “He will always be a little boy. He is always smiling, like a sun child. But when the war began, he started to have new symptoms, and he knew our life will not be same anymore.”

### Finding hope in Bucharest

Tetiana was living in Bakhmut with her husband and 32-year-old son, Denys, who has Down syndrome, when Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, though for them, the war began in 2014. Back then, pro-Russian separatists living in Bakhmut began holding rallies and calling for unification with Russia. Ukrainian forces, including Tetiana’s husband, successfully repelled Russian attacks, but when Russia launched its full-scale invasion in 2022, Bakhmut was not spared.

Tetiana and Denys evacuated from Bakhmut in the middle of March 2022. They feel fortunate that they got stuck in traffic on the way to the train station, because 15 minutes before they would have arrived, there was a missile attack at that station. After getting out of the Donetsk region, they spent a week in western Ukraine, and eventually crossed the border to Bulgaria. They were able to live in a hotel financed by the Bulgarian government for a few months, but eventually that program ended. Finally, Tetiana and Denys arrived in Constanta, Romania, where government programs allowed them to live in hotels once again.

Living in hotels was hard on Denys, though. They had to change hotels often, and Denys became confused and stressed, worried all the time that he might lose Tetiana. When the government aid in Romania ran out, Tetiana and Denys moved once more, this time to Bucharest. There, they found Habitat Romania, which helped them get a long-term apartment rental.

“My son has started to be more calm,” Tetiana says. “Finally, I can leave him alone at least for a few hours. I also found medical support for Denys because he has to take pills all the time. It’s very hard for me to find a job, but we still have some benefits. Thank you for the chance to live a normal life!”

### Finding peace in Poland

Irina and her 6-year-old daughter, Kira, found refuge in Poland after fleeing Mariupol two months after the outbreak of war. Like many other Ukrainians, they escaped into the unknown. They were full of fear and uncertainty about the future, but they hoped that everything would work out, and they had faith that they would receive the support and safe shelter they so desperately needed.

They benefited from Habitat for Humanity Poland's housing assistance for 12 months. The social rental program became a lifeline for them. Thanks to the help they received from Habitat, they quickly felt safe and began to create a new life in Poland.

"Home is the most important support," Irina says. "We probably wouldn't have decided to move to a big city in Poland if it weren't for participating in the program."

These days, Irina is completely independent and no longer relies on Habitat support. Because of the help she received initially, she can now take care of herself and her daughter on her own. She feels fulfilled and happy and has even found meaning in being able to help others.

Irina got a job at the Help Ukraine Center at the Freedom Institute in Warsaw, and she enjoys being able to show her appreciation for the support she received by helping others.

"Of course, I have plans to go to Ukraine and be helpful in the reconstruction," Irina says. "However, right now my plans are focused only on the short term."

As they become more settled in Warsaw, Irina and Kira have found time to enjoy extracurricular activities together. Kira attends piano classes and art workshops, and she's hoping to join a sports team in the future.

"Home for me is a place where it is safe, cozy, comfortable," Irina says. "It's a place where I can be myself, be alone with my own thoughts. I can act the way I want to."

Kira fled Ukraine with her mother and settled in Poland, where she is thriving, thanks to housing help from Habitat.



Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by the crisis in Ukraine, often relying on informal sources of shelter, increasing their risks during the cold winters. Lydia, 75, lives in Odesa, in an apartment where the temperature last winter didn't rise above 15 degrees. Her building was eligible for modernization under Habitat's program with the Odesa Housing Union.

### Future interventions

While Habitat is proud of what we have accomplished to help families in Ukraine and those who have fled to neighboring countries, we know the work is far from over. We will continue to support those in need of supplies, housing and advocates across the region.

Moving forward, Habitat offices in Poland, Germany and Romania are continuing programming to help refugees from Ukraine. Several of the initiatives are evolving into social rental programs for all vulnerable groups in the area. Habitat Hungary continues to deliver goods directly to families and refugee centers. Within Ukraine, Habitat is expanding the energy efficiency modernization program from Odesa to the western and northern regions as part of a wider energy efficiency effort across Ukraine, while continuing to support collective centers and war-affected families as shelter needs evolve in the eastern regions. In addition, Habitat has established partnerships with local nongovernmental organizations and municipalities in the western region to develop an empty space refurbishment pilot for affordable rental solutions for vulnerable households.

To ensure the people of Ukraine continue to receive support even after the active conflict ends, Habitat for Humanity is opening a national office in Ukraine for the first time. We intend to strengthen our local partnerships and build capacity in the country to best support those in need of our help. Habitat will begin piloting, and then scaling, decent housing solutions to support vulnerable families and communities across Ukraine, and we will continue to engage in advocacy with governmental and private organizations to effectively grow and manage the available social rental housing stock.



# We are grateful for our supporters!

Habitat is grateful for the many generous donors who made it possible to continue our work helping the millions of people struggling to put their lives back together since Russia invaded Ukraine.

## US\$1 million+

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“Ukraine and supporting countries are now like a big family.”

Olena, mother of two, who fled with her family to Romania

## US\$100,000+

Amy Weaver and Jeff Fisher	HoffnungsBAUer	Saint-Gobain
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## Working together to make a difference.

Habitat affiliate offices from around the U.S. and across the globe sent financial support to assist refugees from Ukraine, as well as Ukrainians who remain in the country. Thank you for coming together with Habitat's Europe and Middle East area office to help those in dire need.

### US\$500,000+

Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley

### US\$10,000 - \$250,000

- Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity
- Austin Habitat for Humanity
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- Habitat for Humanity Japan
- Habitat for Humanity Korea
- Habitat for Humanity New York City and Westchester County
- Habitat for Humanity of Addison County, Vermont

“ I am very grateful for this help! I don't know what we would have done without it ... once we overcome our difficulties, I will do everything to help more people. ”

Kateryna, a Ukrainian refugee who now lives with her two children in Poland, in an apartment provided by Habitat Poland

- Habitat for Humanity of Broward
- Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod
- Habitat for Humanity of Clallam County
- Habitat for Humanity of Danville
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Indianapolis
- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Los Angeles
- Habitat for Humanity of High Point, Archdale and Trinity
- Habitat for Humanity of Lake City Columbia County
- Habitat for Humanity of Marion County
- Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Tennessee
- Habitat for Humanity of South Central New Jersey
- Habitat for Humanity of Summit County, Ohio
- Habitat for Humanity Portland Region
- Habitat for Humanity Tucson
- Habitat for Humanity Vail Valley
- Lancaster Lebanon Habitat for Humanity
- Livingston County Habitat for Humanity
- Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

Thank you for helping so many families from Ukraine!



1. As of February 2024, according to the United Nations Refugee Agency.
2. According to World Bank. Third Ukraine Rapid Damage Assessment (RDNA3): February 2022 - December 2023 (English). Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group.
3. As of February 2024, according to the UN Refugee Agency.
4. According to ComAct's report on Ukraine.



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