

03.2022 – 03.2023

Shelter for Everyone: How We Helped Ukrainians

Support for internally displaced
persons since the outbreak
of the full-scale war



East
Europe
Foundation

Shelter for Everyone: How We Helped Ukrainians

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Victor Liakh,
President of East Europe Foundation



... through solidating ... with ... people, ... we able ... implement ... an ... important ... relevant ... gram”

... moved quickly into action. The Foundation reformatted its work to ensure that our many years of experience, expertise, established connections and support from international partners can work for all Ukrainians’ benefit. In early March of 2022, we initiated the Shelter Program which is designed to provide internally displaced persons, or IDPs, with shelter and everything necessary for life in safer regions of Ukraine.

Almost all employees of East Europe Foundation working in different areas joined work on the Shelter Program. Thanks to their mobility and coherence, our team was able to quickly respond to needs and immediately help. We were among the first to deliver medical supplies to the hospital in Yavoriv in the Lviv region immediately after the March 13 Russian missile attack. We organized aid delivery to de-occupied territories. We supported hospitals in the Kyiv region. Through public organizations that care for IDPs in shelters, we distributed humanitarian supplies in the western and central regions of Ukraine.

To implement the Program, we created a special emergency fund and a humanitarian coordination center. People and institutions from all over the world can donate funds or send humanitarian aid to Ukrainians who needed it most. We turned to the network of our partners - international donors, commercial companies, government officials and public organizations.

At first, the Shelter Program was implemented with private donor money and those companies that changed their focus to help others with the outbreak of Russia’s hostilities. The Foundation received donations of various sizes from all over the world. I was most touched by donations from children who live abroad.

Eight-year-old Michele from the London-based King Alfred School began to sew hearts. With her classmates, Michele sold 250 hearts and raised £250. These funds, plus £3,500 from the King Alfred School, were donated to support the Shelter Program. Ten-year-old sisters from England - Miri and Leila - collected £86.65 to support forced migrants from Ukraine. The girls and their friends made cakes and sold them in their neighborhood. These are incredible stories that make you move forward and work harder with inspiration.

Also, in the spring, we involved the GoFundMe platform to raise funds, where, thanks to international philanthropists, we managed to accumulate about \$16,000. This supported transporting humanitarian supplies to IDP centers which was a particularly urgent task at the time.

East Europe Foundation enlisted the support of systemic donors and a network of local civil society organizations, through which we were able to continue and scale up assistance to Ukrainians from regions most affected by Russian hostilities. This support was and is invaluable.

I am grateful to the entire Foundation team and everyone who joined the Shelter Program. Every contribution - from the smallest to the largest - was and is important. Only by uniting, we were able to implement such an important program which supports people in terrible times of war. Only together are we capable of everything.

Thanks to everyone!

For the East Europe Foundation team, outbreak of the full-scale Russian




invasion was as unexpected and terrifying as it was for all Ukrainians. The whole country was engulfed by confusion and fear so strong it was impossible to describe in words.

From the morning of February 24, 2022, Ukrainians began to flee en masse from hostilities, especially from the east of Ukraine, where the war came with renewed vigor for the second time. In the first two weeks, about three million Ukrainians went abroad and another two million became internally displaced. People left their homes almost empty handed. In one day, many families lost their homes, jobs and all their possessions. The primary objective of everyone was to simply save lives.

The main mission of East Europe Foundation has always been to help people and make Ukraine a better place. So, when the first shock of the Big War had passed, we

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-  Shelters
-  Humanitarian aid
-  Territories of Ukraine, where military operations continue or which are under temporary Russian occupation, according to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry as of March 20, 2023



Shelter Program: Key Figures

275

TONS OF
HUMANITARIAN AID
DELIVERED IN
20 REGIONS

65

SHELTERS
ARRANGED
IN 14 REGIONS

~75 000

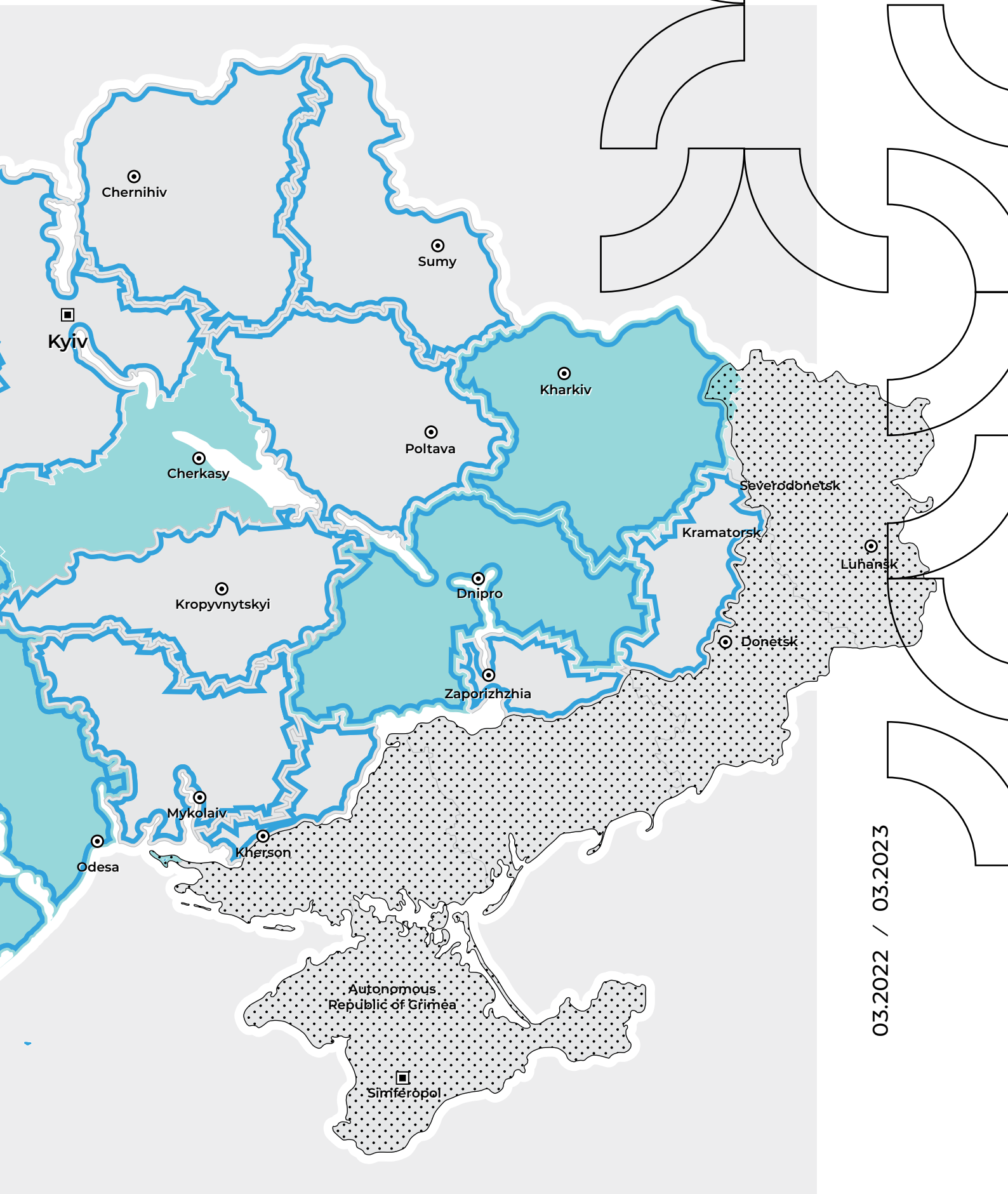
DISPLACED
UKRAINIANS
ASSISTED

9 000+

RECEIVED FOOD
SUPPLIES

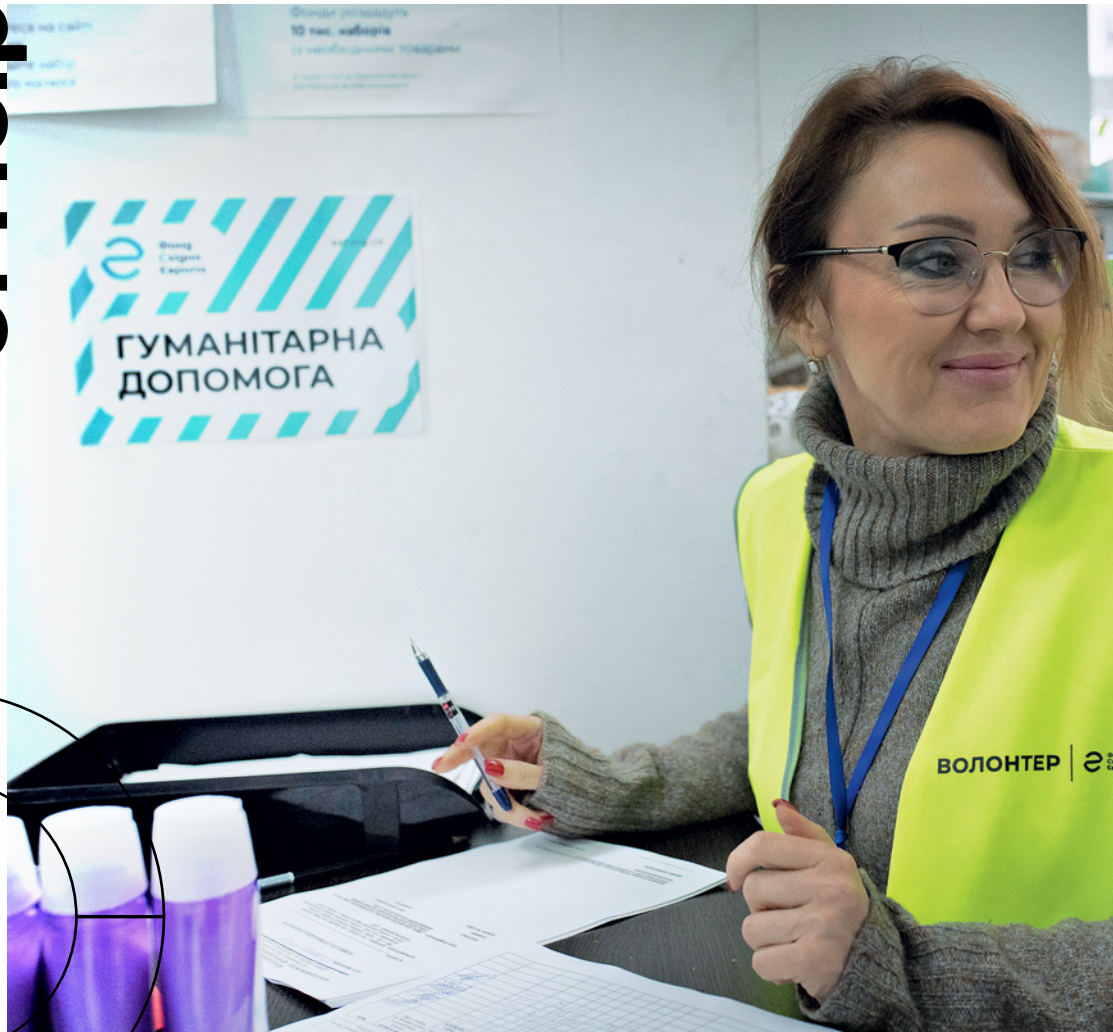
5 000+

RECEIVED CORE
RELIEF ITEMS



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Four Tracks of Help



“How can I help?” is a question that all Ukrainian asked themselves every day starting from February 24, 2022. East Europe Foundation team was no exception. We immediately realized that we should use our extensive experience, networks and connections to bring valuable help to those who were endangered by the war.

Millions of people have lost their homes and fled, together with their families, literally nowhere. Therefore, our main mission had become to support as many Ukrainians as possible, to provide them with temporary shelter and basic necessities. To assist internally displaced persons in Ukraine, we, together with partners, have identified four main tracks to direct our efforts as follows.

Arrangement of Shelters

Our first priority was to provide shelter for Ukrainians fleeing hostilities. Since the beginning of the full-scale war, the Foundation has been working together with regional non-governmental organizations to help internally displaced persons. Together with our partners, we took care of temporary residence centers and created comfortable living conditions for IDPs.

Over one year of the Program implementation, we managed to equip 65 shelters in 14 regions of Ukraine. In total, more than 6,700 people received shelter. Public organizations, understanding the needs on the ground, delivered household and office appliances, sanitary equipment, furniture, bedding and other essential non-food supplies for shelters. Thanks to generous support from our donors, Ukraini-



ans who fled the war were provided with food, clothing, medicines and basic necessities. We took care of the children, too. To create proper conditions for entertainment and development, we arranged a sensory playroom for children in the Magalski Children's Boarding Home.

Psychological Care

War endangers not only physical, but also psychological safety. Therefore, psychological assistance became another track of help we provided. The Foundation issued grants to six organizations from different regions of Ukraine to provide psychological support to 1,900 Ukrainians. Thanks

to the hard work of professionals we involved, almost 1,900 Ukrainians received professional psychological care.

From the first days of the war, the Center for Medical and Psychological Assistance was organized at the Lviv Railway Station: about 600 psychologists, doctors and volunteers provided round-the-clock support to adults and children who came from active combat zones. Special attention was paid to the families of the military: we supported NGO Women's Power of Ukraine Public Movement to establish the hotline to provide psychosocial support to the families of Ukrainian soldiers. In addition to it, the Foundation provided supervision for psychologists to help them develop new skills.

Distribution of Food and Non-Food Supplies

Together with local public organizations, the Foundation provided Ukrainians affected by the war with everything they needed. Centers for internally displaced persons in different regions of Ukraine provided support to newly arrived, low-income families and vulnerable groups of population.

During one year of work, we managed to create and distribute more than 9,000 food packages. More than 21,000 people have received food supplies through the Shelter Program. We also provided non-food items to IDPs. Bed linen, blankets, pillows, hygiene products, household chemicals - we responded quickly to people's needs and did everything we could to improve their well-being. In total, nearly 5,300 non-food items have been distributed since the Shelter Program has been in existence.

Humanitarian Aid Delivery

Receipt and distribution of humanitarian cargo became another important track of work. People and organizations from different countries have responded to our call to help Ukrainians who suffered from hostilities. The objective of the Foundation was to ensure the transportation and distribution of goods within the country.

During the Program implementation, we received and distributed 275 tons of humanitarian aid in 20 regions of Ukraine. Such support for the most part contained food supplies, household chemicals and appliances. From Poland alone, we received three trucks for a total of 55 tons of humanitarian aid with goods for health, hygiene and nutrition.

We established logistics to make sure that the aid is delivered not only to host communities to support internally displaced people, but also to de-occupied areas. In total, almost 75,000 people received humanitarian assistance under the Program.



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Almost 75 thousand Ukrainians received support and assistance under the Shelter Program. Forced refugees who fled the fighting left behind all their past life. Some needed shelter, some were looking for psychological help, and some were in need of clothes or food. We provided all this to Ukrainians thanks to a network of local public organizations and generous support of our donors from all over the world. For almost a year of the Program existence, Shelter has collected thousands of fantastic stories about the incredible people of Ukraine. And we will share some of them with you.

Stories of People Who Were Helped



Svitlana Murich, Melitopol

After the Russian invasion began, Svitlana decided to stay in Zaporizhzhia for as long as she could in order to help people under the occupation. But the danger kept growing, so in the autumn the woman and her family left Melitopol. Svitlana addressed one of the refugee shelters in Vinnitsya. She was pleasantly surprised that there were people out there to take care of her:

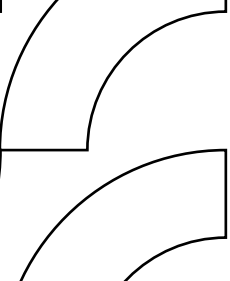
"I've always felt responsible for other people, and thought I should be the one helping them. That's why it was so shocking to me that

they help me and don't ask anything in return."

At the shelter, Svitlana met representatives of the Podilskyi Regional Development Agency NGO, who reached out to the shelter to deliver humanitarian aid. Svitlana told them that she used to work in the urban development sector, and in response she received an offer to join the NGO.

Thus, the shelter in Vinnitsya provided the woman not only with housing and food, but also gave her a job. Later, Svitlana moved into a rented apartment: "Yes, I'm still in a precarious position, but at least I'm back on my feet. It means we are coping with it somehow."





Maryna, Kharkiv

Maryna is the mother and wife of Ukrainian soldiers. At the beginning of the invasion, the woman and her daughter left for Germany. The family found a refuge in a small town where it is difficult to realize professional talents or establish communication. But Maryna was most worried about “how to support her boys.”

When Maryna saw an announcement about a support group for soldiers’ wives and mothers, she immediately felt she needed to go there. “I’m very glad I found it,

because it’s about communication with women having similar situations and experiences,” said Maryna. “We understand each other, and that’s already a lot of support.”

The support group was organized by the Women’s Power of Ukraine Public Movement as part of the Shelter Program. During group discussions Maryna learned techniques to analyze thoughts and how to better cope with emotions and manage her emotional state. The woman hopes that with the knowledge gained in the support group, she will be able to help her boys recover after the war.

Maryna Voloshyna, Bakhmut

Maryna is the mother of five children. Since the outset of Russia’s full-scale war against Ukraine, Maryna remembered the fighting for Donbas in 2014: “We had experienced it once before and hoped that the big trouble would bypass us again. But when the incoming strikes began and the number of explosions increased daily, I realized I had to leave.”

She gathered her children, mother and sister with the baby, and they all left together to their relatives in Cherkasy. Maryna and her family were warmly welcomed there, but she understood that there were “far too

many people out there.” A few weeks later she rented a house in the same village and moved in with the children.

Now the mother of five receives financial assistance as an internally displaced person, in addition to humanitarian aid from international organizations. Under the Shelter Program, the Voloshyn family received food, household chemicals, hygiene products, towels and bed linens.

Maryna is grateful for the constant support she was getting since the evacuation. She believes the war will be over soon and things will get better. Yet, she is well aware that in her native Bakhmut, it will take long before life is fully restored.



Evgenia Sergienko, Donetsk - Kostiantynivka

Evgenia had to flee from the war twice. In 2014, together with her husband and ten-month-old baby, they left their native Donetsk. And in 2022, a full-scale invasion forced the family to flee Kostiantynivka. Their newly purchased apartment was damaged by a missile strike in early autumn.

Now the displaced family lives in a rented apartment in Dnipro. Evgenia’s children attend workshops at the volunteer center, which helps them have some fun and distraction. The family also received

assistance from the Center for Aid to Displaced Persons and the Army under the Shelter Program. The woman applied here for humanitarian aid and received food, household chemicals and vitamins for her children. She says it’s a significant support, which has made her feel less stressed and less spent.

The displaced woman admits that she lives “waiting for a miracle” to happen and hopes that soon they will be able to return to their home: “I know that we will be welcomed there by crumbling walls and broken windows, yet, this is our home.”

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Development of Public Organizations

One of the strategic goals of East Europe Foundation is the development of civil society. We train, support and help young or newly created public organizations to grow. To implement the Shelter Program, we found and involved 30 public organizations, all of them local.

We sought to form a partner network in the regions of Ukraine, which welcomed internally displaced persons since the outbreak of the war. Most of these organizations were newcomers, so in addition to grants we gave them, we shared with them knowledge and expertise and took care of their institutional development. To do this, we have used three main tools.

Organizational Capacity Assessment

Twenty organizations that received grants from the Foundation were offered to undergo organizational capacity assessment. To do this, we conducted a survey to find out about public organizations' work methodologies and internal policies, their strengths and growth points.

As part of the assessment, we asked how organizations perform financial control, project management and fundraising. In addition to it, we asked how external relations are established in an organization and whether they have a clearly outlined communication strategy. Following the assessment, the Foundation team analyzed the information received

and suggested activities aimed at their partners' capacity building.

Support During the Grant Project Implementation

Our objective was to improve the professional level of local public organizations. To make our partners stronger and more performant, we provided support to selected NGOs at every stage of work under the Shelter Program.

We provided mentoring support to selected local public organizations, while sharing our own experience and recommendations. We are confident that in the future our support will help Ukrainian civil society organizations to grow and receive funding from other donors for their activities.

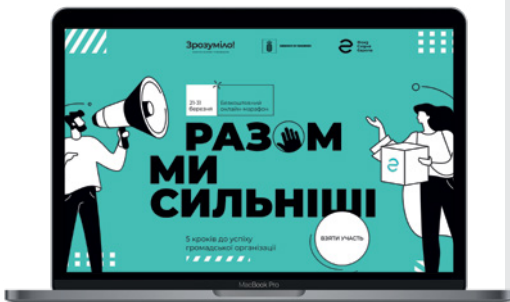
Additional Training Programs

East Europe Foundation aims to develop civil society in Ukraine. To this end, we develop free training courses to improve the professional level of public organizations.

Local nongovernmental organizations can benefit from taking the online marathon Together We Are Stronger which will help them build capacity and increase visibility. Within the training program, five lecturers will guide NGO representatives to success.

As part of the Shelter Program, we created a special course for NGOs on the Zrozumilo! Online Educational Platform. This course is designed for NGOs that provide vital services to people affected by war in order to help them build capacity.

<https://marafonrazom.com.ua/>

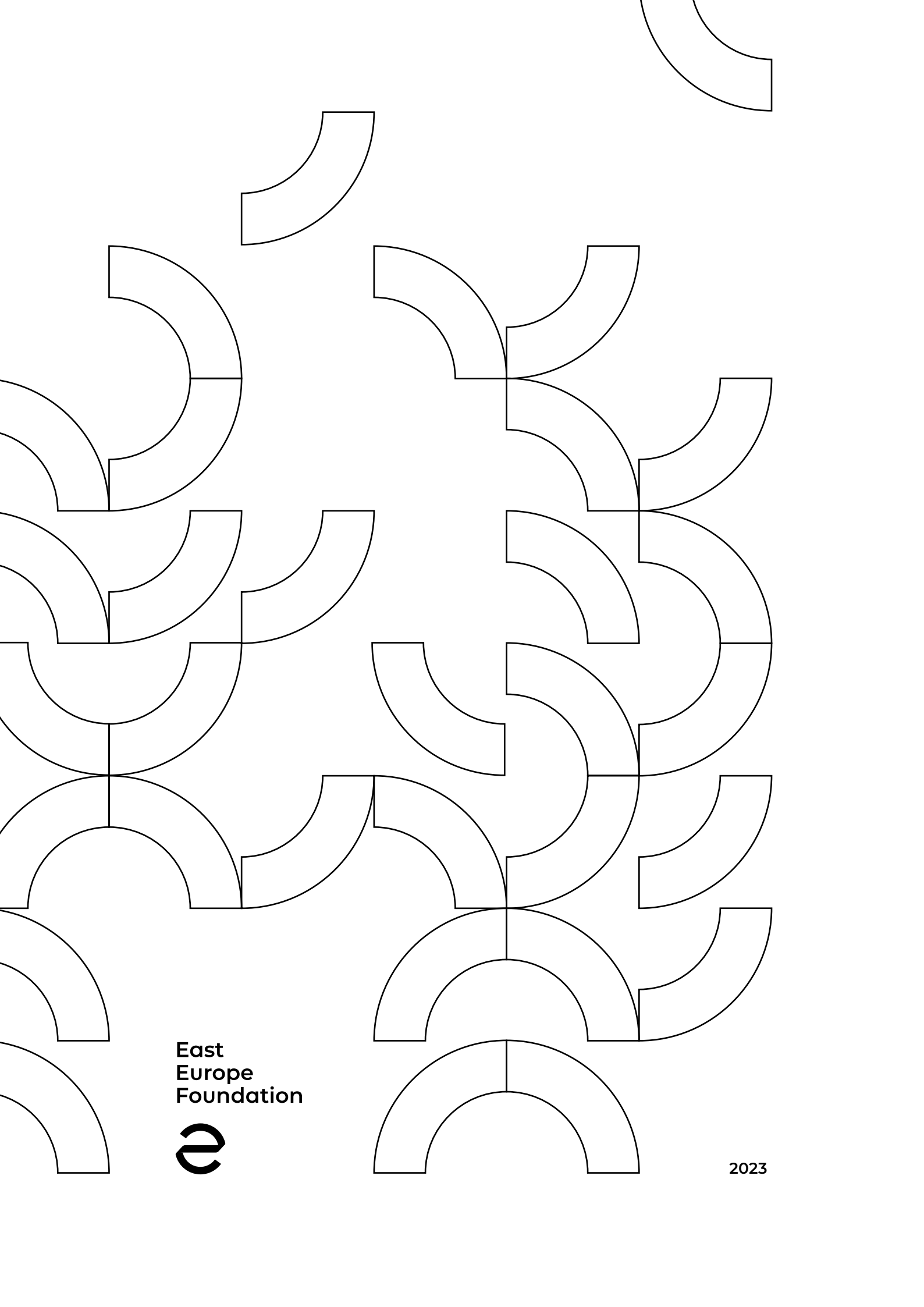


Pictures made by Elena Tita

List of Local Organizations Involved in the Shelter Program Implementation:

- NGO Podilskyi Regional Development Agency
- Local Association of Local Self-Government Bodies Prykarpattia ATC Development Agency
- Youth NGO Stan
- NGO Lviv Regulatory Hub
- Rivne Regional Organization of Civic Network OPORA NGO
- NGO Center for Initiative Development InSource
- NGO Volyn Institute of Law
- NGO Interregional Institute of Community Development
- NGO UFRA
- NGO Pravo (Law)
- Charitable Foundation Wings of Hope
- NGO Development and Investment Agency
- Charitable Foundation Help Your Neighbor Cherkasy
- Charitable Foundation Vyhodsky Krai
- NGO Social Initiatives Movement
- NGO Union of Wives and Mothers of ATO Soldiers
- NGO Vatra
- NGO Good Deeds
- Charitable Foundation Center for Aid to Displaced Persons and the Army
- NGO Women's Power of Ukraine Public Movement
- NGO Promin Dnipro
- NGO Tvory Dobropillia
- Charitable Foundation Angels of Salvation
- NGO Anti-Corruption Movement Zaporizhzhia
- NGO New Social Vector
- NGO Local Development Support Fund
- NGO Alternative Journalist Union
- Ugledar Development Agency
- NGO LAMPA
- NGO Pravopolis

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