

### **The International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals (the Fellowship)**

Fellowship Chairman Rtn John Philips, who is also a member of this Taskforce, is in regular communication with Fellowship members in Ukraine.



The situation is worsening day by day.

- Patients with cancer and other chronic conditions are being evacuated to Poland where possible.
- Hospitals are full to capacity with temporary beds in many places.
- Main challenge is treating horrific war injuries many of whom are children.
- Trucks with medical supplies are arriving in Ukraine and there is a system of redistributing items to various hospitals.



Following an appeal by the Fellowship, there have been significant cash donations to the D2232 account, but more is needed. This is being used to purchase drugs and other medical items. They say that at this time medical supplies are still available in

Ukraine and they appeal for more funds.

The Fellowship would like to coordinate all GBP donations from the UK through its own 'donate' page. It is a UK registered charity and can therefore claim Gift Aid where applicable <https://rotaryhealthprofessionals.org/donate/>.

The Fellowship has agreed an MOU with D2232 that funds will be released in instalments in a safe manner against perceived needs. Appropriate feedback would be expected before releasing more funds.

The Fellowship has also launched an appeal for essential medical items requested by colleagues in Ukraine. Banbury Rotary Club is helping with safe transfer of these items to the Polish border and linking with Rotary contacts. Speak to your DG to find out more details



Olha Palychuk, Secretary of Ukrainian Healthcare Professionals says: 'they are just now shooting and many wounded and injured - now we are waiting for the receipt of funds from abroad from Rotarians who help with transfers and we as well with D2232 Team issue a quick global grant from RI for 50 thousand \$ - it will also go to medical needs - but it will only in 7-10 days, and funds are needed now. We are also, all Rotarians in all cities, constantly spend own money and our RCs funds for food, medicine and other things for evacuees, work is in full swing with all their needs every day and everyone helps who can and what.'

## Inter Country Committees (ICC)

ICCs are acting as a communication route with established contacts to answer the key questions.

They have been working with local Rotarians inside Ukraine and in bordering countries to establish what is needed to support displaced refugees and find safe routes for money.

Whilst we acknowledge that currently funds are still arriving safely in the Ukraine District bank account in Kyiv we do not advise Districts to send money directly into the Ukraine.

Required goods are being routed through Poland and an account there.

Rotarians are supporting their communities and providing local services for sick and injured people, as we see people and infrastructure are being targeted.

In the bordering countries Rotary is manning border posts and hotlines 24 hours a day.

Poland is taking more than half the refugees and Rotary has a smooth system to support. ShelterBox is opening a centre in Cracow.

In the Czech Republic/Slovakia District they continue to run a train to the border from Pilsen and Jihlava in the Czech Republic with humanitarian supplies for onward distribution to local Rotarians in Uzhorod, Ukraine - returning with 6-700 refugees.

Disaster Aid Europe is running trucks from warehouses in the Czech Republic.

Moldovan Rotarians are using a 200-bedroom hotel at the border which is owned by a member for short stays for refugees.



Taskforce members Peter King, Roger Stent and James Onions met by zoom with the DG for the Romania/Moldova District and representatives from both nations. As the poorest country in Europe Moldova is in great need of support. Over 240K refugees have entered Moldova. Though 150K have moved on that still leaves Moldova with 90K guests from Ukraine. They need most help.

## What can Clubs and Districts do?

- Make sure any funds collected go into your Club charity account so you can claim eligible Gift Aid.
- The DGS in many Districts are making their own arrangements to pool monies from Clubs so see what is happening in your District
- Districts / Clubs can then decide on where to send their donations. The Taskforce **strongly** encourages you to donate to Rotary Districts in the 'refugee zone' (Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Moldova). Your District team has the account details and the necessary safe procedures
- Donating to the Fellowship through their donate page <https://rotaryhealthprofessionals.org/donate/>

- The only goods the Taskforce is recommending, and which is the highest priority, is medical equipment. A list has been sent to every DG and is being updated regularly. There is a collection point in Banbury, Oxon – Rtn John Philips [drjohnphilip1945@btinternet.com](mailto:drjohnphilip1945@btinternet.com) can advise on planned shipments
- The Taskforce is not recommending sending goods to Ukraine whilst it is possible it is problematic - border delays into France, queues at Ukrainian borders and internal road insecurity. If you want to send goods and materials it is wise to check logistics and check that the goods are actually what is needed
- DGs Roger Stent [roger@strlearning.co.uk](mailto:roger@strlearning.co.uk) and Selwyn Foreman (DG London) [forselwyn@hotmail.com](mailto:forselwyn@hotmail.com) are very happy to come to any District meetings by Zoom to update you all on the current position and to answer your questions.
- Start preparing for when refugees arrive in the UK and Eire – make sure your club has a Resilience officer known to your District team.

**The Rotary Foundation** - all funds received into the Disaster Response Fund by 30<sup>th</sup> April will qualify for use in support of Disaster Response Grants for the Ukrainian relief efforts. Donations can be made [online here](#) or through completion of the donation forms [here](#)

**ShelterBox** - are currently opening a location in Poland to address the anticipated need over many months. Go to their [Ukraine Crisis Appeal page](#) to learn more and to donate

**Water Survival Box Ukrainian Appeal** – the Water Survival Boxes are designed to meet short to medium term needs of displaced families which is their immediate priority and what their current appeal is primarily intended for. They will target these needs when they have been fully identified. They are maintaining close contact with the other Rotary initiatives and this Taskforce including talking with ICCs across Europe.

This Rotary registered charity is entirely volunteer managed and operated so every pound donated is applied to covering the costs of the boxes, contents, and air freight to expedite their delivery.

For further details please see their website [www.watersurvivalbox.org](http://www.watersurvivalbox.org) where donations can be made and boosted by applying gift aid where applicable.

**Disaster Aid** - already take in truckloads of goods.

### **Distribution of Bulletin**

Unlike Bulletin 1 this Bulletin and future Bulletins will not be distributed by DMS to all Rotarians but to DGs. It was felt that clubs are more likely to read communications from their DG than by national DMS. May we leave you it to you to arrange distribution

**On behalf of the Taskforce team in Rotary and friendship,**

*Allan*

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