

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

# PoMOCna KAWA #4



## HOUSING

**18** ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING (Kieleckie Forum Kultury, Habitat Polska, Mudita Kraków, Stowarzyszenie ku Dobrej Nadziei, Fundacja na Zakręcie, Wolno Nam Foundation, Dla Ukrainy, NGO Forum, Fundacja Leny Grochowskiej, "Nasz Wybór" - Ukrainian House in Warsaw (Ukraiński Dom w Warszawie), Noclegi przy Szpitalu, Stowarzyszenie Pogotowie Społeczne, CultureLab Foundation and others).

### Sources of funding for housing assistance

One of the first steps in the process of helping refugees from Ukraine is to provide them with shelter. A survey conducted at the meeting showed that organizations receive funding for this type of support mainly from individual donors, private companies and large organizations.



Qualitative survey of Mapuj Pomoc from 18.10.2022, conducted on a group of 17 NGOs conducting shelter activities

### Types of housing assistance

Ukrainian refugees are first offered a temporary place to stay, and only then are they offered more permanent shelter. This first, temporary place of shelter can be used for a period of one week to one month. Multiple organizations have helped thousands of refugees in this way – by paying for their hotels, hostels or night shelters stays. For example, that is the modus operandi of the Ku Dobrej Nadziei Foundation that runs a program in cooperation with the Biedronka Foundation. The recipients of this project also receive vouchers that they can later redeem at Biedronka stores.

A survey conducted on 18.10 shows that about 30% of housing organizations also offer food assistance.

*CONTACT: If you want to get in touch with a specific organization, email [mapujpomoc@culturelab.pl](mailto:mapujpomoc@culturelab.pl). We also encourage you to join the closed group for NGOs, where we share knowledge and resources, seek inspiration, and let you know about grants: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mapujpomoc>*

## Permanent housing and labor incentivization

- Currently, housing where refugees can stay for an extended period of time is extremely necessary and in high demand.
- Many organizations note that a refugee will feel a sense of security and stability only when they find themselves a place to stay and a place to work. Many of the organizations present at the meeting are trying to help simultaneously in both areas: housing and labor incentivization.
- Making refugees independent, giving them a sense of agency and self-sufficiency is as important for refugees as it is for organizations that are unable to care for refugees for an extended period of time.

## Positive examples and contacts

**The "Noclegi przy Szpitalu"** organization in Torun helps refugees within its capacity by offering places to live, while also facilitating work searching.

*In addition, in the interest of the well-being and inner balance of their tenants, they collaborate with a psychologist who speaks Ukrainian and a foundation that organizes art therapy classes.*

**The Kielce Local Government Forum** (Kieleckie Forum Samorządowe), which adapted a unit in its office building into an apartment for a family of six, is acting similarly. The Forum supported the women living there with the aim of integrating them into the society. Today, all the refugee women are already working, and the oldest resident enjoys visiting a nearby senior citizen's club and learning Polish.

***\*important\*** KFS strongly urged all other organizations to provide refugees with the most important information at the stage of accommodation: that is, providing them with information about places where they can look for work, the ways they can enrol their children in pre-schools or schools, and to show them where integration classes are being held. A comprehensive approach and a policy of full disclosure will make it easier for refugees to become independent.*

**The Lena Grochowska Foundation**, with support from the Arche Group, initially paid for refugees to stay in hotels. After some time, however, it decided to organize permanent residences. It adapted buildings obtained from private donors and the municipal authorities to the refugees' needs. The foundation now runs collective residence houses in Ozarów Mazowiecki, Siedlce, Lublin and Łódź. Each of these facilities hosts several hundred people. One of the buildings is adapted to the specific needs of disabled refugees. In exchange for help, the tenants take care of the house themselves: they make sure it stays clean and tidy, work in the kitchen, organize childcare, etc. This makes them remain active. In addition, the refugees are provided with Polish language lessons that are conducted on-site.

***\*important\*** Currently, the Foundation has 100 vacancies in the Łódź area. In other places it only has single accommodations left. Some of them are adapted for people with disabilities.*

**Habitat for Humanity** is running a "social rental" project. It connects rent-seekers with Poles who want to rent an apartment. It transfers responsibility for the fees to the tenants gradually, but already from the very beginning. For the first six months, the foundation pays 60% of the rent for the tenant, then that number is reduced to 40% and eventually to 20%. This approach is an important incentive for migrants to actively seek work. Moreover, the organization provides training and vocational courses. It also helps organize child care.

**The Ukrainian House in Warsaw**, in cooperation with Booking.com and other entities, has created a database of people willing to offer their apartment for a period of up to 1 month. Some apartments are free of charge, some are offered for a fee. You can contact them for help in finding accommodation.

*The Foundation also provides legal counselling for those seeking housing and practical assistance in finding work, e.g., translation of resumes, diploma nostrification, etc. It supports refugees with psychological counselling.*

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