SUMMARY PoMOCna KAWA #48



MEETING OF POLISH-UKRAINIAN ORGANISATIONS. ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES IN WINTER 2023/2024

14 ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING Organization "Tourist Ukrainian Family", Organisation "Struggle for Rights","All-Ukrainian Youth Communication" in Lviv, NGO Forum "Razem", Organisation Charitable Wings of Ukraine Nikopol, Right to Protection and others

On Tuesday, 17 October, we met among Polish-Ukrainian NGOs to discuss our aid plans for the upcoming winter. We tried to answer the question of what are the biggest challenges we face as NGOs and how we can help ourselves. You can read the written summary below.

UNHCR's strategy in Ukraine

On 29 September 2023, UNHCR presented an operational document <u>Ukraine</u> <u>Situation: Moldova and Ukraine 2023-2024 Winterization Response</u>, which describes the key activities that UNHCR intends to carry out by February 2024. The numbers are as follows:

- 450,000 people will receive cash assistance for their winter energy needs;
- 15,750 people will receive housing assistance this includes cash for rent for
- **1,350 displaced families**; rapid thermal kits for 3,000 households living in poorly heated homes; and 938 solid fuel heaters to be installed in rural homes.
- **250,000 people** who will receive winter non-food items, including thermal blankets, kitchen sets, mattresses, sleeping bags, solar lamps, thermoses and towels.
- In addition, 62,250 people will receive winter jackets and boots.
- **18,000 people** will receive care and maintenance of collective accommodation facilities, including minor repairs and support for heating and electrical installations in 362 such facilities.



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On-line assistance from Polish organisations

Ukrainian organisations have reported to us on the continued need to integrate internally displaced populations. Winter and its difficulties are a particularly hard time for the Ukrainian community, which has remained in its homeland despite the full-scale invasion. Polish organisations could support their neighbours with a series of on-line, collaborative integration activities. During the meeting, the example was given of meetings between refugees from Ukraine and internally displaced people. Their experiences are similar in places, so this solution has been interestingly adopted, but requires the watchful eye of the meeting supervisors. However, helping with integration is not the only area where Polish organisations could show support. Let's not waste the power that the Internet has and let's also inform internally displaced people in Ukraine about the help offered on-line. Our initiative also maps Ukrainian organisations - you can find all potential partners for your activities in one place.

Poland's preparations for winter

Last year, Russia adopted an unlawful military conflict strategy that involved bombing critical infrastructure (e.g. power stations) so that Ukrainians would be left in even worse conditions. **This year, expect more of the same, with an increased influx of refugees from Ukraine over the winter due to this situation. We are talking about more integration programmes, psychological support and housing**. The flow of information about such aid activities between Polish and Ukrainian organisations is crucial.

Shelter renovation

The drop in temperatures does not only affect residential buildings - it also affects those staying in shelters for the duration of the bombing. **The time spent in hiding can be up to several days, so it is essential that the shelter is properly prepared** - equipped with a generator, blankets, clean water and other essentials. Among the plans of NGOs to offer in-kind assistance, one should not forget to equip places that protect civilians in moments of bombing.



If you need a contact for a specific organisation, please email us at julia.bochenek@culturelab.pl.