



## Summary

Within days of the Russian invasion, GOAL teams were on the ground in Poland and Western Ukraine. Distributing food and non-food items such as hygiene kits, clothes and blankets to families fleeing the conflict.

Now 10 months on since the Russian invasion, the situation in Ukraine remains tense and complex, with the onset of Winter bringing freezing temperatures amid Russian attacks on energy infrastructure that have resulted in blackouts. The threat of missile and air strikes, artillery and mortar shelling remains throughout all of Ukraine, leaving the population and the country's infrastructure, hospitals and homes, vulnerable to attack.

Working with a Ukrainian partner organisation, Right To Protection, GOAL has now embarked on a larger programme offering legal and personal rights' advice to internally displaced people. The programme aims to ensure families are aware of their entitlements and protections following the loss of homes and livelihoods, as well as where to access critical services.

GOAL and Right To Protection are providing these services in temporary shelters across Ukraine; in Kyiv, Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Poltava and Sumy oblasts. GOAL has also delivered over 30 generators and over 100 electric heaters to provide power and heat for temporary displacement centres in a number of regions, including recently in Kharkiv, where near-daily shelling continues.

Over the past six months, GOAL has distributed essential items both by our own teams and in partnership with local partner, PHA, in Donetsk Oblast, in south eastern Ukraine.

In the Lviv Oblast, GOAL worked with Lviv City Council, supporting temporary shelters and setting up a Business Centre to promote job opportunities for IPDs and host communities. GOAL is also increasingly working in the urban centres of Kyiv, Chernihiv, Cherkasy, Poltava and Sumy further east.

To date, GOAL has distributed 1,200 food kits and 3,000 Non Food Items and Hygiene kits, serving circa 17,000 people, getting these vital items to those who need it most and ensuring a basic level of protection is met.

GOAL is working with City Councils including that of Kyiv, Chernihiv and Lviv to provide temporary accommodation equipped with generators for IDPs. GOAL's programming services – emergency items, information on access to services, legal support, and psycho-social support – continue to be offered to these Internally Displaced People.

Since November 2022, GOAL staff has been delivering generators, convector heaters and heat guns for large heating centres in Kharkiv.

### Kherson

Thanks to support from Donors, such as NLW, further generator purchases are now also underway to help the people fleeing Kherson and will be available for the Kherson community in the city of Dnipro where so many are fleeing to for safety.

**TODAY** - Kherson is currently a very dangerous place and for security reasons remains inaccessible. The majority of its people have fled the city with many seeking refuge in Dnipro, a city which is approximately 5-6 hours away by car.

At the end of December, Ukrainian officials urged residents to evacuate from the city of Kherson as Russian forces stepped up mortar and artillery attacks on the recently liberated southern Ukrainian city. Some residents who lived through the Russian occupation are reluctant to leave despite the bombardment, according to a local official who has been involved in the evacuation. **However, It is now said that there are less than 70,000 residents in Kherson where pre-war there was 300,000.**

Ukraine has faced a renewed onslaught of Russian artillery fire, missiles, shelling and drone attacks since early October, much of it targeting the energy infrastructure in a bid to cut electricity and heating services as the freezing winter advances.

The shelling has been especially intense in Kherson since Russian forces withdrew with shelling coming from them across the Dnipro river.

**NLW funding continues to generously support the Ukrainian people, with their recent contribution to aid vulnerable people fleeing Kherson.**

GOAL Ukraine has procurement underway for two 20Kva generators from NLW funds for people fleeing Kherson. We will very likely deliver these to Dnipro to support displaced people from Kherson. Distribution will take place late January/early February, depending on the security situation.

***'Generators 'as important as armour' to Ukraine, says Zelenskiy***

As part of their intervention GOAL is also looking at procuring further generators for Kherson and for an orphanage in Lviv oblast.

GOAL's efforts in Ukraine have been recognised at an appreciation event on Tues 20<sup>th</sup> December, hosted by the Kyiv Regional State Administration, and we will continue with help the people of Ukraine thanks to support from Donors.



*GOAL delivering generators for displacement centres in Ukraine.*

## Human Interest Story

### Forced from Home in Ukraine: Alina's Story



*35-year-old Alina is a mother of two from Toretsk town in eastern Ukraine. When conflict broke out in her region in 2014, the town's population was halved. Following the Russian invasion in February, most of the remaining population was forced to leave. She now lives in a displaced person's centre three hours from Kyiv.*

"My town used to have 80,000 people," says Alina. "There were 12 coal mines employing a lot of people in the area. In 2014, when the conflict first started, around 40,000 people left. Since then we've lived in a grey zone, contested land."

Over the past eight years, Alina's family – husband Mykolai (36), daughter Khrystyna (14) and son Aleksii (9) were determined to continue with their lives.

"Despite the challenges, we stayed living there, to work, to keep our home going. I used to work in a laundry for the coal mines. My husband was a coal miner."

"We had one hectare of land and were farming for our own needs. We wanted our children to have natural food and it was also cheaper to grow our own."



*An apartment building hit by shelling in Alina's hometown of Toretok.*

### **A Tough Decision to Leave**

The tentative peace came to an end in February, when renewed conflict came to Alina's doorstep.

"When the invasion started in February, things became terrifying. We saw regular shelling and explosions. There were attacks in the middle of the night and we would hide in the cellar under the house. We had no water supply, no electricity, no heating," Alina says.

"We moved to a refuge in the middle of the Toretok but in April we decided we could not stay any longer. We were worried for our children to live in such conditions. It is absolutely impossible to live a normal life there."

"We decided to leave. We didn't have a destination in mind. We just got in the car and had to go away. If there was no war, we would go west by Kharkiv. At that time it was under heavy shelling, so we needed to find a different way, which was difficult, as road signs were removed."

"After 24 hours we arrived here. I went to the town council to see what help we could get and registered us as displaced people. We were then accommodated here in this displacement centre."

### Seeking A Sense of Normality



*Alina (left) with the displacement centre manager in Lubny, Galyna*

They have no idea when, or if, they can ever go home but Alina and her family are trying to maintain a sense of normality.

“My children study online now. Teachers from our hometown, who are also displaced across Ukraine, offered to continue lessons online.”

They also maintain contact with neighbours who chose to stay in Toretsk. Following the invasion, this year, just 2,000 people are left in the town.

“Occasionally we can talk to our old neighbours, but there is almost no means of communication. Mostly it is elderly people who stayed in the town, as they felt they didn’t have anywhere else to go. I heard from a neighbour that my house is damaged, but still standing.”

Alina is appreciative of the support being provided by centre management, Right to Protection and GOAL at this challenging and uncertain time. She dreams of returning home to her farm.

“There are very good people here and our accommodation is good. Here we have a room together and we share the kitchen and bathroom. We are so grateful for the support, but as they say, ‘east or west, home is best.’ Hopefully we get to go home one day.”