

Recent successful counter-offensives in the Kharkiv region have liberated over 150,000 people from Russian occupation. Whilst welcome news, we know from our work in other recently liberated areas, that the humanitarian situation will be dire. People in these areas have typically experienced weeks of starvation, plunder, sexual violence and witnessed horrific scenes of bloodshed, as seen in the heart-breaking images of the mass graves found in Izium. Unfortunately, the security situation remains deeply concerning, with access routes riddled with mines making it difficult for our teams to safely deliver much needed humanitarian aid.

One of our major concerns as we approach the onset of winter also proved to be well-founded when a missile strike hit a power and heating plant in Kharkiv recently, leading to wide-scale electricity and water supply disruptions. With nighttime temperatures already in the single digits, and sub-zero temperatures only weeks away, we are deeply concerned about future attacks to electricity supply systems and the risk they pose to lives by leaving people with no ability to heat their homes this winter.

Our work continues

Since February, Depaul has delivered over 2,000 tonnes of food, hygiene, and medical supplies to affected communities and, with your help, we are now providing life-saving aid to over 23,000 people a day. For many, Depaul is still their only source of food. This picture, from one of our regular food distributions in Zaporizhzhya, gives you some idea of the scale of need which remains.



A Depaul food distribution in Zaporizhzhya

In previous updates, we've shared our plans to replicate our tried and tested day centre model, creating one-stop shops where vulnerable people can access basic medical care, psychosocial support, help with housing options, livelihood support, and so much more. We're pleased to report that we have now identified a suitable building in a safer area of Kharkiv and another in Odesa and are working at pace to get these fully operational.

Anna from Depaul Ukraine met with British MPs in Kyiv

On Sunday 11th September, Anna Naumenko from Depaul Ukraine met with a delegation of cross-party British MPs in Kyiv. The event was part of a wider trip organised by the Yalta European Strategy.

It was a fantastic opportunity for Anna to speak to the MPs about the importance of aid to Ukraine and Depaul's humanitarian response. Anna also talked to the group about her fears for winter and how humanitarian aid is more than food or physical items – it's a show of support and solidarity.



MPs: Bob Seely (conservative), Jonathan Djanogly (conservative), Stewart McDonald (Scottish National Party), Liam Byrne (Labour), Stephen Doughty (Labour and Co-operative Party), Fleur Anderson (Labour) and Richard Foord (Liberal Democrat).

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Father Vitaliy met Cardinal Konrad Krajewsky

On 14th September, Father Vitaliy met with Cardinal Konrad Krajewski in Odesa. Cardinal Krajewski travelled to Ukraine on behalf of Pope Francis, to demonstrate the closeness of the Pope to Ukraine. While he was there, he visited some of Depaul's projects in the region and helped distribute humanitarian aid.

Vitaliy recounts the meeting, saying, "The Cardinal came to visit us – he was interested in the many thousands who are suffering, about our humanitarian aid and was thankful about what we are doing, especially in Zaporizhzhya. He told me how he often spoke to Pope Francis about our work, appreciated our kindness, how we offer our time to help others. He said Pope Francis thanks us."

He also said to me, "We can do good, and you in Depaul do this good. This good is in every person, we just need to discover it."



Father Vitaliy met with
the Cardinal in Odesa

Launching our winter appeal

Six months of Russia's war on Ukraine have caused death and suffering on a dramatic scale and led to a grave humanitarian crisis which will deteriorate further in the winter months. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that some 11.2 million people now need assistance with shelter and non-food items.

The Ukrainian winter is brutally cold with temperatures often plummeting to -20 degrees. Many homeless people die every year. This year, the number of people who are homeless or living in inadequate and unsafe housing has risen exponentially, which means we can expect many more deaths if we don't act now.

We have the infrastructure and the desire to expand our winterisation programme and are therefore launching a new appeal for funds to enable us to save more lives. At the end of this update are some ways you can help, big and small, including some that don't cost a penny. I hope that we can rely on your continued support.

If you'd like to learn more, think you can help, or are able to connect us to funders or organisations that could, please do get in touch with myself or our Head of Fundraising, Justine Trumper, on Justine.Trumper@depaulinternational.org.

Thank you

As always, none of the work we've achieved to date would be possible alone. We remain eternally grateful for your continued support – thank you.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark McGreevy'.

Mark McGreevy
President Depaul Group
Mark.McGreevy@depaulinternational.org

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Help that doesn't cost a penny

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Get in touch – if you'd like to learn more about the different ways you can help, please don't hesitate to contact me or our Head of Fundraising, Justine Trumper on justine.trumper@depaulinternational.org or 07903 400381.