

IRISH RED CROSS SET OUT SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FROM HUGE GENEROSITY OF IRISH DONATIONS TOWARDS THEIR UKRAINE CRISIS APPEAL

Friday 25th March 2022

Since the onset of the crisis in Ukraine four weeks ago the Irish Public have shown massive generosity in response to the conflict to the extent that money donated to the Irish Red Cross via its Ukraine emergency appeal now amounts to €20 million (Public €15 million, Business €5 million). Given our analysis of the humanitarian needs of our Red Cross partners in Ukraine and surrounding countries, the huge numbers of refugees they encounter daily, the needs for refugees entering into Ireland as well as planning for possible developments of the crisis into the future our target to be collected stands at €26m.

In this campaign so far the Irish Red Cross has committed €5.7 million. This has been shared between the International Federation of the Red Cross, International Committee of the Red Cross and the Ukraine Red Cross. The monies up to now have been targeted at operational needs in Ukraine and its borders through setting up the Red Cross Humanitarian Services at various border points, providing tens of thousands of relief items such as food parcels, water, tarpaulins, kitchen sets, heating materials, solar lamps, first aid kits, hygiene kits, high thermal blankets, sim cards, household briquettes and cash/voucher supports. The intention of this support is to provide life-saving aid to people on the move, and to people trapped inside cities in Ukraine, ensuring that their health care and basic needs are met. We are also providing psychosocial supports and protection for vulnerable people.

Other essential services and various expertise being provided for are supporting the continued functioning of essential infrastructure, ensuring the availability of lifesaving care and other health services, helping people stay safe from weapon contamination and enabling people to contact their relatives or to ascertain their fate.

Given that this crisis has no defined end date, the Irish Red Cross has planned its funding interventions over a two-year timeframe on the basis of the aforementioned €26 million projected budget. This current period is the immediate emergency phase to which €10 million is being allocated, the second phase is the beginning of a return to normality and reconstruction to which €4.5 million is being allocated and the final phase focusing on the rebuilding of livelihoods to which €10 million will be allocated. All of this is dependent on the de-escalation of conflict or its continuance or indeed expansion.

The Irish Red Cross is also focused on supporting the newly arrived refugees in Ireland by providing meet, greet and transport services at airports and ferry ports, psychosocial first aid, information and voucher supports to assist with their immediate food and non-food needs. The Irish Red Cross is also working with the general public and Government as we continue in assisting sourcing accommodation for refugees in vacant and shared homes throughout the country. The Irish Red Cross has allocated an initial budget of €1.5 million to these supports.

Irish Red Cross Secretary General Liam O'Dwyer said "The response from the Irish Public to the Ukraine crisis has been so very generous and there has been unbelievable amount of support given so far where they just want to do as much as humanly possible to help the people of Ukraine and those impacted by this conflict. The devastating reality is that needs by people in Ukraine and those fleeing are growing by the day. We have been busy directing resources to the needs of those displaced in Ukraine, neighbouring countries and other impacted countries such as Ireland and we will continue to do so. We are very fortunate that the Irish Red Cross has a large volunteer body spread throughout every county in the country and they have already swung into action and are

providing urgent humanitarian assistance. We have a big team effort providing assistance to finding accommodation for refugees and we are very grateful to the Defence Forces with their contact centres as well as Engineers Ireland and the Irish Institute of Professional Auctioneers and Valuers for checking out the various accommodations being offered by the Irish Public of which there are close to 23,000.”

“With regard to those who have generously pledged accommodation we are asking them to be patient when awaiting contact, this process is now underway. We are initially focusing on the vacant properties to move refugees into, this will take a few weeks and from there we will move onto the offers of shared accommodation. Garda vetting is also required for many of the persons offering shared accommodation where minors or vulnerable people will go to with a guardian. The Irish Red Cross will be in touch in the next week or two in regard to the Garda vetting process,” he continued.