

Report

Activities conducted by the National Foundation of Tax Advisers [*Ogólnopolska Fundacja Doradców Podatkowych*] and the National Chamber of Tax Advisers [*Krajowa Izba Doradców Podatkowych*] to support the Ukrainian people.

The National Chamber of Tax Advisers (hereafter referred to as "NCTA") and the Polish National Foundation of Tax Advisers (hereafter referred to as "PNFTA") have entered into an agreement to assist citizens of Ukraine. The main areas of assistance to Ukrainian citizens and refugees are in-kind and financial aid, finding accommodation and transporting refugees.

In the signed agreement, the National Foundation of Tax Advisers committed itself to the following activities:

- 1) to organise a fundraising event to provide material and financial assistance to the inhabitants of occupied Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees,
- 2) to promote any initiative to raise funds, all of which will go towards the purchase of medical supplies (dressings and medicines, etc.),
- 3) to create and maintenance of a database of tax advisors who declare to help provide Ukrainian refugees with a roof over their heads (mainly women, children and the elderly),
- 4) to create and operate a database of volunteers who pledge to help transport Ukrainian refugees from the border,
- 5) to finance and assist the people from Ukraine with accommodation, food, medical treatment and all other forms of livelihood security for refugees.

It is worth emphasising that the activities of the Foundation cover both the inhabitants of Ukraine and refugees and immigrants who have come to Poland. The Foundation helps not only the citizens of Ukraine, but all those living on its territory, regardless of their origin or faith.

PNFTA continues to work actively to help those in need and to carry out the tasks for which it was established, as well as those tasks included in the agreement. Only some of these will be presented below.

1. One form of assistance is the collection of essential products. The Foundation managed to collect many necessary items, which were transported in vans to Ukraine - near Lviv and in its eastern regions - as part of the humanitarian aid. Both people who stayed in Ukraine and refugees need many basic products, such as bandages, food, hygiene products for adults and children, clothes and medicines.

The Foundation is in contact with volunteers operating in Ukraine and consults with them on current needs in order to deliver those items that are necessary at a given moment. The volunteers reported that Russian soldiers often take food from humanitarian aid transports. Therefore, there is a great need for flour, which will be used to bake bread, rolls, cakes, etc., and which is useless for Russian soldiers.

2. From the funds collected, PNFTA purchased over 2 tonnes of flour from the mill in Reszel. Another 2 tonnes were donated by the owners of the mill. In total, 4.2 tonnes of flour was purchased, which was delivered to Lviv and then distributed to neighbouring towns and the eastern regions of Ukraine. The flour turned out to be a very good product, because already after a few days, Ukrainian volunteers asked for more deliveries. The transport of another 14 tonnes of flour purchased from the Ecological Mill in Niwiski is in progress.

3. Another example of in-kind assistance is the generators purchased by PNFTA, which enable various institutions and public facilities in Ukraine, such as social welfare centres, orphanages and large linked families, to carry on their activities.

4. Other countries have also joined in to help the people of Ukraine and refugees. The PNFTA trust received many donations from the UK - over 40 tonnes of parcels in total. The donated products are mainly pampers, modified milk, baby bottles, canned food, personal hygiene products, sweets, clothes, towels, etc. The delivered products will be transported to Ukraine and used to help refugees who have found shelter in Poland. In the country, the gifts will be given primarily to orphanages, foster families and hospitals that have taken in sick children from Ukraine.

5. Currently, essential items for children, such as care products and pampers, are being transported by rail to Odessa and Lviv. This is 54 m³ of gifts for mothers and their children. It is worth noting that rail transport is currently the safest and best form of delivery of donations.

6. Another form of support provided by the Foundation is the transportation of refugees and assistance in finding accommodation. At the border crossing point in Korczowa, our volunteers transport refugees to the places they have indicated. In case the refugees have nowhere to stay, the Foundation helps them find accommodation. Mothers with small children and the sick require special assistance. So far, over 400 people have been successfully transported from the border.

7. We are actively involved in helping children, including those who are ill, from orphanages or foster families. Support for the above group of needy people involves donating necessary items, medical assistance, medicines and finding accommodation. It is worth noting that one of the items needed by mothers with children is prams. Mothers with children fleeing Ukraine take only essential items with them. They often carry their children in their arms while fleeing. Upon arrival in Poland, they buy only the necessary items, where the first need is usually food. Over 360 prams were collected and donated.

8. A group that needs special help are sick children. The Foundation has taken care of children after liver transplants. Children from Ukraine are currently staying at the Children's Health Centre in Warsaw. The following 4 families are now under our care:

- Yulia and her 4-year-old daughter Alexandra, who come from near Kiev. The girl is one year after the transplant and is still struggling with many complications. The girl's father stayed in Ukraine, where he is fighting as a soldier on the frontline. Due to Alexandra's health condition, her mother will not be able to take up gainful employment. To carry out the operation, the girl's parents managed to raise almost 300 thousand zloty. However, there is still 150 thousand zlotys to be repaid. Before the war, thanks to her father's work, it was possible to repay the loan, but now, due to the current situation, the parents do not have that opportunity.
- Romek came to Poland with his parents and his 11-year-old sister. The child's condition is grave, and he is currently under the care of a home hospice. The boy was resuscitated after the transplant and the hypoxia caused major changes in his brain.
- Tania, together with her mother Svetlana and sister Yulia, fled from a village near the Belarusian border, which is in an area of intense warfare. Yulia is eight months pregnant. The parents fought for a long time for the life of the sick Tanya. Currently, the whole family is being looked after by a Polish family, whose child is also a transplant recipient.
- Eight-year-old Maksim and his mother Olga have also reached Poland. The boy is also a transplant patient. After the operation he has a very low immunity and is often ill. The family is now living in Izabelin, in a building with over 30 refugees. Therefore, the Foundation is trying to find accommodation in Warsaw. The case is urgent, because the boy should not be exposed to infection. Olga is a teacher from Lviv. She would like to find a job in her profession as soon as possible to help in the education of Ukrainian children.

The above families will need independent housing due to the health of their children. The Foundation is trying to help them find suitable accommodation. The families and children will need not only accommodation, but also medical assistance, medicines and essentials such as clothing, cleaning and hygiene products, etc.

8. To help those in need, the Foundation cooperates with many other organisations, and with some of them have signed the relevant agreements. Many people need help at different levels. Working together will enable wider and more effective assistance.

- The Volyn Motorcycle Rally Association, which took care of the orphanage run by the Immaculate Sisters in Jazlowiec, Ukraine, asked PNFTA for help in providing the children with necessary items. The Sisters of the Immaculate asked for basic hygiene and care products, food, as well as board games, toys and art materials. These items will allow the children and their caregivers to function as normally as possible.
- PNFTA has also entered into an agreement with the UNaweza Foundation (known to the wider public as the Martyna Wojciechowska Foundation). The UNaweza Foundation helps people in need all over

the world. One of its areas of assistance is support for children and foster families. The aim of the agreement concluded is to undertake joint actions for the benefit of war victims in Ukraine. Under the agreement concluded, OFDP will support joint activities of the UNaweza Foundation and the Foster Care Coalition.

As a result of the agreement, PNFTA will take care of a mother who is a foster family for 15 children aged between 6 and 16. The family has been given a flat, but without furnishings. They therefore need basic household items in order to function normally.

- Another agreement has been concluded between PNFTA and the Association of Polish Judges "IUSTITIA". Ensuring the safety of minors is the main objective of the agreement. Assistance in the adaptation and professional activation of refugees is also an important objective, including the organisation of Polish language classes.

It is worth noting that the end of the war will not always mean that refugees can return to their homeland. Many months will have to be spent rebuilding the devastated Ukraine. Therefore, refugees will need help for a long time to come.

PNFTA tries to help as many people as possible. As presented above, the activities carried out concern various areas, forms of assistance - in accordance with the current demand. The Foundation is constantly working to establish cooperation with various organisations and volunteers. Many people with exceptional predispositions have become involved in helping those in need. PNFTA is constantly trying to raise the funds necessary to carry out its tasks.

Helping Ukrainians in need is a long-term task. As long as it is necessary, the Foundation will continue to work for the benefit of those in need.

The Foundation continues to support and help the struggling Ukraine. Assistance in kind is very important. Many people require individual assistance and have specific needs that cannot always be met with donated gifts. That is why parallel financial assistance is so important.

*Iwona Wojstaw
President of the National Foundation of Tax Advisers
Vice-President of the National Council of Tax Advisers*