

Te Aud Romania and the response to the Ukrainian refugee situation

We are living unprecedent times, that require immediate response and support. Te Aud Romania, as a charity, has a mission of <u>supporting children and young adults</u> in vulnerable situations with a focus on education. **Being located 70kms near the Siret border**, ever since the war started, we have turned into a support organisation for the Ukrainian refugees, with immediate effect.

<u>We have allocated resources and time</u> to alleviate the rough times people fleeing away from the war are facing now.

Our strategy, under the current given circumstances, is based on the following pillars and direct actions:

1. Immediate response for individual situations

We are a grassroot organisation, with an extended national and international network. As such, we have received a lot of individual requests to support refugees on a case-by-case basis, whether this be accommodation near the border, support with transition to other countries or connecting people for medium to long term solutions. We feel and understand their pain and we are committed to doing our best to support with practical solutions, under the given circumstances.

2. Partnerships for in kind donations

Our network of international partners has proven to be extremely supportive. At the same time, we have created new national and international connections and together we have sent, via our network medicine and <u>other necessities to Ukraine</u> on a weekly basis.

Alongside our British partners from <u>School in a Bag</u>, we delivered around 1000 schoolbags between March – June 2022 to Ukrainian children that have been integrated into Romanian public schools.

Together with LifeStraw we have delivered 10 community water purifiers to refugee camps and into Ukraine, as well as almost 1000 individual water purifiers included into our transit kits. We have partnered with <u>Pharmacists without borders</u> and we are able to support over 10 refugee centres with necessary usual medicine for a period of three months.

We partnered with the social media protection services in Suceava county and have delivered over 1,000 kits to the border for Ukrainian refugees passing through Siret border.



Courtesy of our international partners from <u>Goodera</u>. Apple employees from around the world have sent their letters and warm thoughts to refugee children in Romania. We made sure the letters have been received by their intended recipients.

HELLO, DATE: May 5, 2022 Content comes here Dobryj Den, I know these are uncertain times and I hope you are Safe. I want to wish you loads of positivity and send my positive vibes to bring loads of and happiness you With Love YOUR NAME ROHIT

3. Medium to long term integration

Us, at <u>Te Aud Romania</u> believe we are in the medium to long term in this and it is our responsibility to ensure we have the know-how, resources and planning to be able to provide the required support for as long as necessary.

Whilst there is no magic wand for this, we are committed <u>to identifying the best solutions</u> that have the potential to change tormented lives and guide them towards a brighter future.



UA PROJECTS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

1. PACKED WITH HOPE

Between April and August 2022, we have partnered with a couple of independent UK publishers and their partners and delivered the Packed with Hope campaign. Together, we have delivered 10,000 backpacks to Ukrainian children fleeing away from the war, of which 4,000 have been delivered into Ukraine. The project has been documented by award winning writer and journalist Horatio Clare, during the week they spent visiting us and when we started the official distribution of backpacks back in April, for a <u>BBC Radio 4 Programme</u>.

The campaign has been documented and presented on both national and international media <u>here</u>, <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>.

Upon his visit to Romania, after travelling all the way from the UK with the backpacks, Horatio Claire wrote two interesting articles that has mentions to the joint campaign, one for the <u>Financial Times</u> and one for <u>Unherd</u>.



2. SPORTS FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

<u>Sport is one of the most powerful tools</u> we have to facilitate positive impact within a community. Moreso, the concept of sport for social impact is something our organisation has been promoting and <u>developing for the past few years</u>.

We have developed and facilitated various interventions for Ukrainian refugee children sport as a tool for an easier and smoother integration within the community.

- April 2022: we have organised the first ever international tournament for a group of <u>Ukrainian swimmers</u> that have reached Suceava county and <u>athletes from the community</u>
 event that proved <u>a real success</u> and set the scene for other sport integration events within Suceava county
- October 2022: 'Integration through sport' camp <u>took place in Gura Humorului</u> for over 50 children, aged 6 to 18, of whom 37 are Ukrainian children residing in the area.



3. INTEGRATION WITHOUT BORDERS

From September to November 2022, <u>we have supported over 200 Ukrainian children</u> integrate within their host communities through a series of interventions developed in partnership with United Way and comprised of:

- 3 integration camps (English, Arts, Sports) delivered for over 50 UA children, alongside children from the community
- <u>15 nonformal educational workshops for UA refugee children in Suceava county</u>
- <u>15 group counselling sessions for Ukrainian refugee moms and their children</u>

OUR UA INTERVENTION IN FIGURES

- Over 1,000,000 Euros dedicated to supporting Ukrainian refugees
- 10,000 backpacks distributed for UA children across Romania and Ukraine
- Over 1000 kits distributed
- 1000 individual transit water purifiers distributed
- Over 700 children cared for
- Over 100 individual cases solved
- Over 20 refugee centres that we are in close contact with to support with needs and requirements
- Over 30 dedicated workshops for Ukrainian moms & children
- **10 LifeStraw community purifiers** sent to refugee camps across Romania and in Ukraine
- 3 integration camps
- Two major sport events organised





MOVING FORWARD

As a charity focused on non-formal educational programs for children, we are committed to developing long term solutions to integrate Ukrainian refugee children within the community and provide a safe and appropriate environment to alleviate the pain and grow.

Aside from continuing to develop dedicated project, our foremost goal is the development of an integrated educational centre, with the potential to provide a more holistic approach to the refugee paradigm and provide a safe learning environment from children and a connection hub with their host community.

Thank you!

Gabriela Popescu