

07 April 2022

Brethren,

The Relief Chest Appeal for Ukraine now stands at £564k and is rising. The response from members across the constitution has been tremendous and will enable Freemasonry to respond to the crisis in a meaningful and impactful way.

Following exploratory conversations between the MCF and a number of aid agencies working with Ukrainian refugees and after discussion with Regional Communication Groups, a proposal to deliver the first tranche of support has been agreed between MCF and UGLE. The aim is to support a number of charities so that MCF/Freemasonry can:-

- Demonstrate a **breadth of response** to a rapidly changing situation.
- Fund charities focussed on **separate, but complementary interventions**
- Make grants that have a **geographic spread** – i.e. supporting charities operating within Ukraine, those operating on the borders, and UK refugee response.

Five selected charities will each receive a grant of £100,000 each towards their work.

They are:-

UK for UNHCR – the UN Refugee agency

Key focus – Ukraine - EMERGENCY SHELTER AND PROTECTION

UNICEF

Key focus – Ukraine - HEALTH AND EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Plan International UK

Key focus - Border Countries – CHILD PROTECTION AND EDUCATION

British Red Cross

Key focus – UK - REFUGEE SUPPORT AND RESETTLEMENT

The Refugee Council

Key Focus – UK - REFUGEE SUPPORT AND ADVICE

Each charity will actively promote the support being provided by Freemasonry and will provide national and local human interest stories to support our central communications.

The appeal will remain open and it is anticipated that further awards in support of the refugee crisis will be made later in the year when some of the longer term needs become clearer.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely and fraternally,



Dr David Staples FRCP
Chief Executive and Grand Secretary
United Grand Lodge of England



Les Hutchinson
Chief Executive
Masonic Charitable Foundation