

Container House for Ukrainian Internally Displaced Family

A house with shared sanitary facilities for all



We all remember the year 2022, when nothing was the same any more for the people of Ukraine. So many had to flee their homes, leaving everything behind, just saving their lives. Many left their country to find safety; however, a great number sought refuge inside their own country, in relatively safe places.

These would be considered internally displaced persons (IDP). Article 2 of the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement describes them as a group of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee their homes or places of habitual residence, as a result of the effects of armed conflict, situations of general violence, or natural or human-made disaster and who have not crossed an internationally recognised state border. They do not fall into the legal definition of a refugee. Currently there are about 8 million Ukrainian citizens who fall into the category of internally displaced persons.

In order to provide aid and accommodation to this large number of people, many aid organisations sprang into action to help organise housing. Our Association was contacted by the German Association Hoffnungsträger Ost (HTO), a Christian missionary organisation, funded exclusively by members and donors, which does not receive any public funding. Their work is centred primarily in Eastern Europe, especially Moldova, in places with great humanitarian need. With the outbreak of the war, HTO has extended its assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons in Ukraine.

With the start of the cold season in 2022, it was of the utmost importance to offer shelter to as many people as possible. To this aim, the organisation acquired a piece of land next to one of their help centres where material aid, advice, assistance and companionship is offered to displaced people.

. Projet du mois – Project of the Month .

This centre is located in Khmelnitsky, very close to the Moldovan border. On this piece of land, they built a village made of container houses to give a roof over their heads for displaced families.

Our organisation donated the funds for one of these container houses to shelter one family.

It was accomplished just before the winter 2022/23 and the family was able to move in before the Christmas period, which can be seen from the decoration inside the kitchen. The house is not big and space is tight, but it can be heated and is a safe area. Every few families share a separate little house providing sanitary facilities.



The organisation HTO also thought about the future use of the houses after the end of the war (which now, more than a year later, does not look like it will be very soon). They will convert the houses into a vacation park for deprived children.

Renate Smith, Austrian Group



A cosy little house for one family