



CWRD UPDATE

THE COVENANT WORLD RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022

Covenant Response to Ukraine

In February 2022 the world watched in shock as Russia invaded Ukraine. Through our international partners, Covenant World Relief and Development was able to respond quickly to the needs of the Ukrainian people, millions of whom have fled for refuge throughout Europe. This crisis has touched the hearts of Covenanters, enabling CWRD to partner in the provision of medical assistance, trauma care, food, and lodging for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.

In June, CWRD partner Hope International Ministries led a trip to Poland and Romania to visit the refugee ministry there. We met a Ukrainian couple in Cluj, Romania, who had fled from Ukraine when the shelling in Kyiv hit just outside of their home. Dennis and Galina were sheltering friends and neighbors in their basement as the war raged around them. With 30 people in the home, including 18 children, they finally decided that the families needed to evacuate. After moving all the women and children further west, Dennis remained with his mother and father until the bombs were too close. When we met Dennis



LEFT: GALINA AND DENNIS;
ABOVE: AFTERMATH IN IRPIN, UKRAINE

and Galina, they were living in a comfortable apartment provided by our CWRD partner. In July, their baby daughter was born in safety because of the faithfulness of God's people.

The plight of more than 7 million Ukrainian refugees reminds us that more than 27 million refugees and 53 million internally displaced people have fled violence and natural

disasters in recent years around the world. CWRD continues to stand with refugees from Syria, South Sudan, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Venezuela. **In this update we are happy to share with you a few stories of the faithful work our international partners are doing among refugees and internally displaced people.**

When a foreigner lives with you in your land, don't take advantage of him. Treat the foreigner the same as a native. Love him like one of your own. Remember that you were once foreigners in Egypt. I am God, your God.

[Leviticus 19:33-34, MSG](#)



Refugees of Economic Crisis

A refugee crisis is often associated with war or natural disaster, but sometimes it is a socioeconomic situation that forces people to flee their home. Venezuela has suffered from hyperinflation for several years, the worst economic crisis for a country in peacetime in nearly a century.

Severe shortages of basic food supplies, coupled with increasing crime and violence, have created a situation that is untenable for many citizens. More than 6 million Venezuelans have left their homeland under extreme duress, many traveling on foot to neighboring South American countries, including almost 2 million who have crossed into Colombia.

Our partners in Colombia, the Covenant Social Foundation of the Atlantic (FUSPA), have witnessed this situation first-hand as entirely new communities of displaced Venezuelans are forming. Many arrive with nothing more than the clothes they are wearing. Thankfully, the leadership of FUSPA sees these newly arrived neighbors not as a strain on their economy but as gifted people who have much to offer their new community.

FUSPA has responded by creating a program to help equip the displaced people with the essential resources—from documentation to community understanding to material assets—to build on their existing skills to establish small businesses and thrive in their new setting.

One group of 20 women have begun selling coffee as street vendors in the city of Barranquilla (pictured below). They already possessed a deep knowledge of coffee, and in partnership with FUSPA they are now equipped to put their ability into practice and significantly increase their ability to provide for their families.

Children in Lebanon

In 2011, the Arab Spring brought up-rising throughout much of the Middle East as citizens protested corruption and tyranny in their governments. In Syria, the backlash was especially violent, erupting in a decade-long civil war that continues today. More than five and a half million people have fled, seeking shelter in nearby countries.

Mass migration due to violence means an increased need for medical care to address casualties, as well as crucial emotional and psychological care in the face of the trauma of brutal war conditions and forced relocation. We are grateful for our long-time partner, Medical Teams International (MTI), who has been on the ground in Lebanon for many years. MTI is mobilizing faith leaders to respond to core health-related issues affecting their communities, as well as working in collaboration with local health systems to provide direct care for Syrian refugees' physical and psychosocial needs.

Children in particular require specialized care. The young man pictured above participates in therapy sessions with a trained professional to encourage healthy emotional development in an impossibly difficult situation.



Complex Crisis in Goma

In eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, the area around the city of Goma has experienced a terrible double humanitarian crisis in the span of just over a year. In May 2021, Mt. Nyiragongo erupted, causing the devastation of hundreds of homes and the displacement of thousands of people.

Then in 2022, while many of those internally displaced people were still without a home, another crisis struck in the form of deadly fighting between rival factions. The violence grew to the point where people were once again forced to flee and seek refuge.

In response to this multifaceted crisis in Goma, CWRD is partnering with an organization called AGIR (French for the verb “to act”). AGIR’s understanding of community organizing allowed them to identify those who were most in need. Together they are working with the community to make plans for both immediate relief



response and to equip the internally displaced for the emotional and physical challenges of reestablishing their lives and livelihoods in a new place.

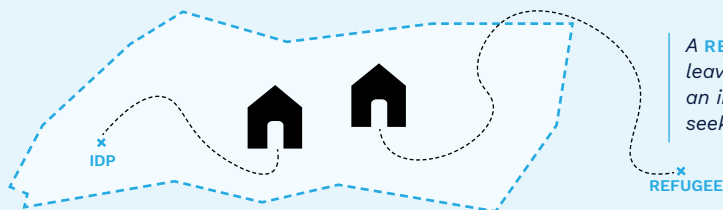
The partnership with AGIR is in addition to CWRD’s ongoing community development work in the northwest region of DR Congo through the Covenant Kids Congo (CKC) partnership. CKC is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year. For more about CKC, visit covchurch.org/ckc.



Understanding IDPs and Refugees

CWRD serves both *refugees* and *internally displaced persons* (IDPs).

An **INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSON (IDP)** is someone who was forced to leave their home due to war, violence, persecution, or natural disaster.



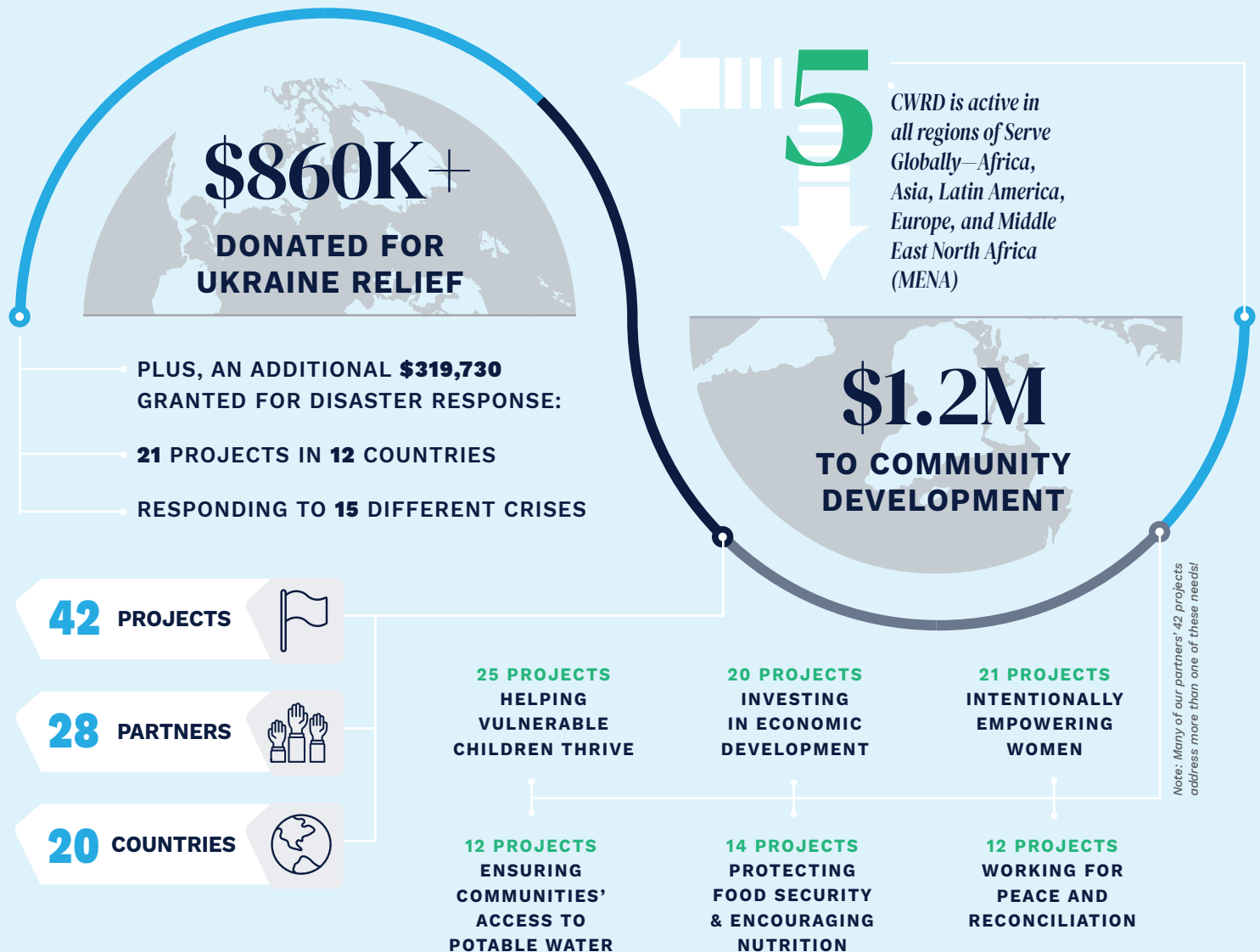
A **REFUGEE** has been forced to leave their home and has crossed an international boundary seeking refuge.

➔ According to the UN Refugee Agency, at the end of 2021—before the war in Ukraine began—there were already more than 80 million IDPs and refugees around the world, 40% of whom are children.

CWRD YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 2021-JUNE 2022

Thank you for your generous support and partnership with Covenant World Relief & Development. Here is a glimpse of your support of CWRD this year!



100% of every gift to CWRD goes to ministry. **90%** of every gift goes directly to ministry programs. God has blessed us with increased partnerships and projects. **We depend fully on you to continue this ministry.** If you would like to learn more about giving to CWRD, please go to giving.covchurch.org/cwrd.



Covenant World Relief
and Development

PARTNERS IN TRANSFORMATION



The Evangelical Covenant Church

Learn more and give at covchurch.org/cwrd.