



UKRAINE UPDATE

Thank you so much for the love and compassion you've shown to children and families living through unimaginable hardship in Eastern Europe — especially in Ukraine.

I'm writing to share an important update on where to from here — a look at how Mission Without Borders in the Ukraine is evolving as we move from emergency relief into long-term recovery. We'll continue to keep you informed about what's happening in the field, both in Ukraine and across the other countries where your support is making a difference.

Because of your generosity, Mission Without Borders has been able to continue our vital work even through one of the darkest chapters in the region's history.

As you may know, we've been serving in Ukraine for over 30 years — long before war dominated the headlines. During that time, we've built trusted, long-term relationships with some of the country's most vulnerable people. But everything changed in 2022, when the full-scale invasion forced us to pause our work in Eastern Ukraine and evacuate staff due to growing danger.

In the face of crisis, our teams quickly shifted to emergency relief in the western regions. There, we've continued to provide food, hygiene kits, warm bedding, clothing, and emotional support — both through our emergency efforts and through our ongoing Family and Child Sponsorship programs.

Now, as conversations around a potential ceasefire begin to stir, we are cautiously and prayerfully preparing to move into what we believe is the next chapter of this journey: **restoration**.

This restoration phase will see our work expand into areas like:

- ***Providing trauma care and counselling for children and adults***
- ***Supporting the elderly, many of whom have been isolated and without care***
- ***Helping families rebuild homes and livelihoods***
- ***Restoring damaged facilities like community centres and program spaces***
- ***Continuing afterschool and Summer Camp programs that bring joy and healing to children***



Our teams are already undergoing specialised training in trauma care and PTSD response, equipping them to offer emotional and spiritual support as families begin to return home and rebuild.

It's not a return to normal — far from it. Recovery will take years, even decades, for many families whose homes have been destroyed and lives forever changed. But with hope on the horizon, we are beginning to prepare for what comes next.

One of the most heartening parts of our work has been seeing the continuation of our Summer Camps, even in the midst of war. Across Ukraine and neighbouring countries, children who have fled violence are still able to experience laughter, safety, and community — often for the first time in months.

These camps may seem simple, but they offer something extraordinary: a reminder that joy is still possible. That healing can begin. And that they are not forgotten.



As Scripture reminds us:

“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”

– Psalm 147:3

Thank you again for standing with us. Because of your partnership, Mission Without Borders is ready to walk with families into this new season — one step at a time, with love, with care, and with hope.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Handwritten signature of Barry Raeburn in blue ink.

Barry Raeburn
National Director
Mission Without Borders New Zealand



Visit our site for more stories highlighting the impact your support is having on families and individuals across Eastern Europe



SCAN ME