

State Department Testimony of  
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Chairman Cardin, Co-Chairman Cohen, Ranking Members Wicker and Wilson, and other Distinguished Members of the Helsinki Commission, thank you for the opportunity to testify about the work that the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM) and our international partners have been doing to assist refugees fleeing from Russia's war on Ukraine. This hearing occurs slightly three months after Russia began its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and the humanitarian costs of this war have been immense. For the more than eight million internally displaced persons inside Ukraine and more than six million refugees who have fled Ukraine since February 24, the past three months have been a waking nightmare of disruption, displacement, and fear about all aspects of life in this new harsh reality. The overwhelming majority of those fleeing have been women and children and include both Ukrainians and third country nationals. I would like to describe the humanitarian work that the State Department and the U.S. government have done in the past three months to stand with the people of Ukraine, particularly to support the refugees impacted by Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion.

The United States is the largest single-country donor of humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. We have provided more than \$1 billion in humanitarian assistance since Russia first invaded Ukraine eight years ago, including more than \$688 million this year. We are working closely with the Government of Ukraine, European allies and partners who are on the forefront of the response, as well as international organizations and NGOs, to mitigate the humanitarian impacts of Russia's further invasion into Ukraine.

So far this year, PRM's portion of humanitarian aid comes to nearly \$212 million to respond to this refugee crisis. More than \$93 million of this funding has been

directed to efforts inside Ukraine and nearly \$119 million supports the efforts to address the needs of refugees in neighboring countries, including:

- Nearly \$48 million in Poland;
- Nearly \$26 million in Moldova;
- More than \$10 million in Romania;
- More than \$9 million in Hungary;
- Nearly \$4 million in the Slovak Republic;
- \$400,000 in Belarus; and
- More than \$21 million more for activities in the region.

Our funding is primarily channeled through international organizations that are experts in responding to the needs of vulnerable people displaced by conflict. These include the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). We support their delivery of life-saving assistance throughout the world and recognize the key role that local organizations play.

With our funding, these organizations provide protection services and urgently needed aid to refugees and support and bolster the capacities of governments and international and local non-governmental organizations to respond to refugee needs. Our assistance provides those fleeing the war urgent relief at reception centers, including food, safe drinking water, shelter, and clothing. We also support emergency health care and mental health and psychosocial support. In addition, U.S. taxpayer funding provided through PRM to our partners covers legal support, case management support, and referrals to services for those in need. We also provide multi-purpose cash assistance as an important part of the transitional safety net for refugees. Cash assistance is a primary support in this crisis. It allows refugees the freedom and dignity of choice for how to meet their needs. UNHCR has established cash assistance operations in Ukraine, as well as in Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.

Ukraine's neighbors and countries further afield in Europe and the world have demonstrated tremendous solidarity and compassion in accepting and providing care for refugees. We especially commend host countries that have offered temporary protection mechanisms that allow refugee integration into state welfare systems; access to health care, childcare, education, and housing programs; and the ability to seek employment. I traveled to Poland and Moldova last month and saw

firsthand how national and local officials, plus local NGOs and private citizens, are responding to the situation. At the government refugee reception center in Warsaw, for example, I saw how recent arrivals could register for a national identity number, enroll their children in school, and apply for social services. They could get specialized counseling and other support, including a new bank account. It was efficient and impressive.

We know this immediate response is just the first step. As the war continues, Ukraine, its neighbors, and partners will need medium- and long-term plans for supporting these refugees and those internally displaced inside Ukraine. They will need to maintain that support until the war ends and those displaced can return home to rebuild their towns and their lives.

As part of this effort, PRM is closely reviewing the UN's recently revised and released Humanitarian Flash Appeal and Regional Refugee Response Plan. The Response Plan lays out programmatic and budgetary requirements to sustain the current Ukrainian refugee population in Europe until the end of the calendar year and makes provision for additional arrivals. The United States intends to support the revised Plan Appeal consistent with our leadership as the largest single-country humanitarian donor to the crisis in Ukraine, and based on assessed needs, feasibility, cost effectiveness, and responsibility sharing with the rest of the donor community. We are grateful that other partners, like the European Union, are also giving generously to support this effort.

In the months ahead, PRM also will continue our proactive humanitarian and migration diplomacy with host nations to maintain their responses. We will work with the EU to provide additional funding and operational support for this effort. We will remain closely engaged with international humanitarian organizations to meet crucial response gaps. We will continue to advocate that all refugees receive protection so that their needs are met, including refugees who are elderly, persons with disabilities, members of the LBGTQI+ community, women and children, stateless persons, and Belarusian and Russian political dissidents (including Chechen dissidents) in Ukraine who are under threat. Our support to our international organization partners also empowers national and local NGOs' capacity for the long term. These organizations have played an important role in supporting and complementing state initiatives and efforts, at border reception points and in main urban centers. All parts of the State Department and the interagency will remain engaged on this effort. We will continue to collaborate with government counterparts in the region to discuss preparations for additional contingencies that could create significant additional displacement.

PRM and the U.S. government will remain at the forefront of efforts to help address the human cost of this war and meet the needs of the civilians caught in the middle of this horrible, unnecessary war of choice.