



# ERA: EUROPEAN CONFLICT

IMPACT REPORT



ELIMMISSIONS

# TIM COBHAM WRITES:

We were astounded at the initial response, and now, looking back over the months are even more amazed at how God has worked through Elim. At over £500,000 raised, we have never collected so much for an Elim Relief Appeal (ERA) or had so many churches joined together in a single unified effort.

In the initial days of the war, we knew we needed to respond. Phone calls and emails were coming in from churches around the UK asking if Elim was doing something and how could the local church get involved. We were already having discussions with partners and organisations discussing strategies and how we could potentially work together.

The overwhelming consensus from inside and on the borders of Ukraine was "do not send us stuff." Because of the logistics and cost of exporting to Ukraine and the surrounding areas, the storing and distribution costs, sorting and organisation, we were getting pleaded with "keep the items you collect in the UK for when refugees arrive, please send finance, it gives us the flexibility to buy on the borders and respond quickly."

It was obvious from very early on that Samaritan's Purse had a lot of contacts in Ukraine as a result of their Operation Christmas Child (over 3,000 churches) and within days they had an emergency field hospital in an aeroplane en route to Lviv, plus a triage unit for Lviv station. In so many ways it was an easy decision to become strategic partners for this effort.

Since then, they've set up multiple hospitals, brought in thousands of tonnes of food per week and financed machines that are producing 190,000 litres of fresh drinking water per day.

They have eight distribution centres throughout Ukraine where pastors collect food to hand out where they live. 1,000-1,500 metric tonnes (approx 50 x 40ft trucks) of food per week were being sent out - through ERA we've been able to support this.

I was able to see the work we're supporting personally when I visited Ukraine in October 2022. By God's timing I travelled home on the Friday; by the Sunday, the renewed onslaught of bombs arrived in Kyiv. The closest a drone got to our team was 20 miles as we left, but the reality of the situation was still there with constant air raid sirens going off, and having to spend a considerable amount of 2 nights in the hotel's bomb shelter.

As we travelled around, we saw normal neighbourhoods blasted by repeated bomb raids. With temperatures set to fall to -20° or -30° the main priority was getting people through winter, so Samaritan's Purse was repairing roofs. Everywhere we went we saw their blue tarpaulins covering holes and being used to make at least one room in a home safe for winter. They'd had 6,000 stoves made and were taking these into the 'red zones,' supplying wood as well to ward off the life-endangering cold.

I heard story after story of God working through local Christians & the local church; resourced by us. In Chernihiv, we met some old ladies who had survived in their basements for 40 days with whatever food they had in their homes when the Russians invaded. They'd diverted drainpipes to allow rain to run into a bowl so they could have water. Their gratefulness was abounding, as they held onto us for 20 minutes to say thank you again and again.

We also heard stories of people coming to faith. As churches give out aid packages, they explain they're helping because they want to share the hope of Jesus. At one meeting 125 people became Christians.

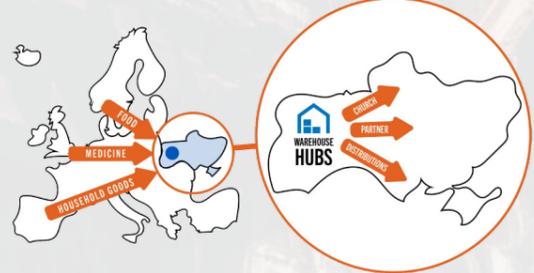
In Poland, we met two families who had fled their homes when Putin took ground in 2014. They'd lost everything and had spent the past eight years rebuilding their lives. When Putin invaded last year, they had to run again.

The stories of hardship were consistent in their horrors, over and over, but yet, alongside there were also the unending stories of redemption and restoration.

Even if the war finished tomorrow, the rebuild will be phenomenal and take years. My hope is that Elim could continue to play its part in the good news stories in this season as well.



- £500,000+** Total amount raised in the appeal.
- 200+** Homes repaired so far as part of a rolling repair programme.
- 10.5 million metric tonnes** Food shipped into 8 warehouses in Ukraine weekly. 500 trucks transport this food every week.
- 1,000,000 litres** Clean water provided through water cleansing machines.
- 7.5 tonne trucks** Three 7.5 tonne trucks of medicines have been sent into Ukraine via churches in Romania.



Graphic from Samaritan's Purse

# HOPE CENTRE, LITHUANIA

The Hope Centre is an Elim Partner in Lithuania. Through the ERA, we have been able to fund the Hope Centre's utility bills and provide equipment & furniture so that they can meet the needs of Ukrainian refugees fleeing the war. The Hope Centre has capacity to house 33 people at a time.



## CHRISTY SMITH

One of the worst things I saw in this conflict was thousands of women and children walking across the border into Poland carrying Aldi bags, desperate, destitute and traumatised. But with Elim funds we were able to help.



At the start we were on the Polish border, bringing people across, meeting them off trains and helping them get on buses to other places in Europe. We were able to buy essentials like bottles of water, deodorants, shower gel and place them at the station for people to take.

Later, we went into Ukraine, to Bucha, and worked with an evangelical Bible college to provide aid. The principal of this college has organised so many distributions and rescues. At the start of the invasion, he was trapped behind enemy lines for five days in a basement with 100 people. Then he snuck past the Russians to bring people out.

The college has a network of around 70 churches all over Ukraine which was distributing food, so we helped them feed a couple of hundred families in a village where a massacre took place.

We've also trained them to provide trauma counselling, because people were taking in families but didn't know how to cope with people who were crying or had no idea how to process their grief.

More recently we've been helping people through winter because temperatures in Ukraine drop to -20°. Electricity is a big problem because Russia has been taking out infrastructure, so the biggest need is generators, power packs and cooking equipment.

Being able to provide help like this through ERA has been great. I wanted Elim to leave a footprint in Ukraine because for me, humanitarian aid is also an opportunity to evangelise. Everywhere we go we tell people we're here for one reason - God loves them - and we're demonstrating that in a practical way. ERA made that possible.

## JULYA'S STORY

Before February 24<sup>th</sup> each of us lived our normal lives. I worked in a good position at the Odessa airport, my child went to a private kindergarten... on February 24<sup>th</sup> at about 6am, my colleague called me with the question, "What are we going to do with the staff? Half an hour ago they bombed the airport..."



From that moment on, my life changed forever.

My son, my mother and myself were in Odessa at that time. There was a terrible panic in the city; constant sound of sirens. This is a terrible sound from which everything freezes inside, fear rolls over you and you don't know where to run. I studied information on the internet: how to hide properly, how a bomb hits a house, where it is safe to hide, what to take with you.

On the night when they started bombing the nuclear power plant in Energodar, we drove to the border with Moldova. The queue near the border was 12km. We were lucky. We travelled by minibus for 52 hours to Lithuania, crossed 5 countries, drove into complete obscurity, without money, but we were safe.

Now we have been in Lithuania about 6 months. Every day we thank God that we are alive, together and that we were lucky to meet the staff of the Hope Centre. The ladies who work here are very helpful. They provided a toothbrush, bedding, detergents, food, things. But the most important thing is their care by which we are surrounded, emotional support and their attention. This cannot be described in words. We have found a second family here.



## GENERATORS FROM GIRONA

Just before Christmas 2022 our Elim Relief Appeal was able to partner with Elim Girona in sending 20+ generators out to Kharkiv, Ukraine, to support the efforts of the local church.

Elim Girona are partnering locally and internationally to support communities in Ukraine affected by Russian attacks on energy infrastructure, in addition to their ongoing support of refugees arriving in Spain.



One of the larger (100Kva) generators being loaded ready to go to Ukraine

# THANK YOU



## CHURCHES

This ERA has been the most widely supported of any we have run in our history. Over 195 churches across Elim have given towards this campaign.



## NATIONS

The support has gone beyond just Elim UK, with other nations also giving towards this appeal. Notably, Elim New Zealand and Elim Spain have made significant contributions.



## MISSIONARIES

Our missionaries in the region have done what they can to support, taking supplies across the border into Ukraine or ministering to refugees arriving in their nations.

We are immensely grateful to every church, and every church member, who have given towards this ERA. Through your generosity we have been able to provide vital support to people within Ukraine and to people fleeing as refugees from this terrible conflict.

Our strategic partnership with Samaritan's Purse has been crucial to our response in this crisis. Their team has kept us up to date with the situation on the ground and directed the funds we were able to provide through your giving in a way that ensured those who desperately needed help received what they needed. We are grateful to them for their partnership and for their vital work in this crisis.

We continue to stand with Ukraine, alongside our partners Samaritan's Purse, our Missionaries and our Elim Global Partners. We pray for an end to this conflict, and for the restoration of communities which have been devastated by war.

## IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING THIS WORK:

### Bank Transfer

**Account Name:** ETC-EFGA International Missions Board

**Account Number:** 01439364

**Sort Code:** 30 91 87

**Reference:** ERA-Europe

Once you have completed the bank transfer, please email [missionsfinance@elim.org.uk](mailto:missionsfinance@elim.org.uk) with your name and donation amount.

### Cheque

Payable to Elim Missions, marked 'ERA - European Conflict' on the reverse.

Send to:

**Elim International Missions  
Elim International Centre  
DeWalden Road  
West Malvern, WR14 4DF**

Please include a note with your name, address & email and whether you would like us to claim Gift Aid.

### Phone

If you would like more information about the appeal or the payment options available to you, please call the Elim Missions office on **01684 588940**.

### Givt

Scan the QR code with your smartphone.

