



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth
and Development Affairs

King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH
Tel: 0207 008 5000

Email: fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/fcdo

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Sarah Champion MP
Chair, International Development Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

1 April 2022

Dear Sarah,

Thank you for your letter of 09 March to the Prime Minister about the disbursement of humanitarian aid to Ukraine. The Prime Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.

The humanitarian situation in Ukraine and the surrounding region continues to be of grave concern. The UN estimates that 12 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance within Ukraine. Over 3.7 million people have also now left Ukraine for neighbouring countries.

As I set out in my letter of 17 March the UK has led the way in our response. We were quick to announce £220 million humanitarian funding as part of a wider £394 million package of support for Ukraine, deploy a 13-person field team of UK experts to the region who are now in Poland, Slovakia, Moldova and Romania, mobilise effective supply chains which are helping medical aid reach those who need it most and engage the public through the UK's largest ever aid match contribution of £25m to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal, which has raised over £200m to date.

We are working across Government to support Ukraine. On 13 March working with the Department of Health and Social Care and the Department for Transport, we brought 21 child oncology patients back to the UK with their families to receive treatment and support in our hospitals and have worked closely with DEFRA on a new package of vital food aid which will deliver more than 300,000 items of dried food, tinned goods and water. This rapid donation is essential, with the window to reach towns and cities already encircled, as well as those at high risk, closing.

We are working tirelessly to disburse our funding quickly and effectively and encourage our international partners to do the same. To date we have disbursed £48.5m to multilateral partners, including the UN, to stand up their response to deliver life-saving assistance to those in most need. A further £9.6m will be spent by the end of March on bilateral assistance, including medical supplies, food aid and shelter and technical assistance including to the UN, with further Departmental spend to follow including £3.5m via DHSC likely within the next week. This spend has been predominantly for programmes within Ukraine itself where the needs are most severe, as well as support to refugees in neighbouring countries. We are scaling up at speed whilst ensuring that risks are managed appropriately and aid is targeted effectively. We are on track to disburse up to £60 million by the end of March.

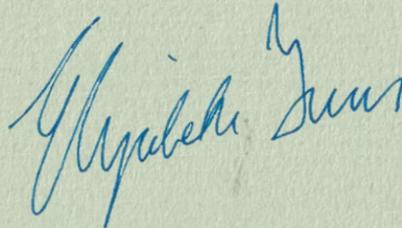
Our funding is delivering real impact on the ground. Working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care and Devolved Administrations we have delivered more than 3.7 million items of medicines, medical equipment and consumables to the Ukrainian Ministry of Health. 9,468 items (blankets and hygiene kits) were delivered and handed over to the Moldovan Ministry of Labour and Social Protection on 12 March and equipment (including inflatable structures and heaters) for six Internally Displaced People reception centres in Lviv has been flown to Poland and handed over to the International Organisation for Migration. Further consignments of relief items including blankets, kitchen sets, solar lanterns, hygiene kits, and shelter supplies will be arriving in Ukraine next week, alongside essential food assistance for besieged cities and further medical consumables and pharmaceuticals.

In addition, as you know, the UK is a leading contributor of core funding to the UN humanitarian agencies, including the Central Emergency Response Fund, and the Red Cross; this is critical in enabling them to act swiftly to scale up their response whilst appeals are ongoing. .

The UK's humanitarian support for Ukraine will fall within the 0.5% ODA/GNI target. Departmental ODA allocations for financial year 2022/2023 are under consideration. Humanitarian funding for Ukraine for next financial year will form part of the agreed allocations.

We continue to work closely with our international partners to maximise disbursements at speed to support the humanitarian response in Ukraine and in the region. We are calling on the international community and allies to speak as one in demanding that Russia uphold its obligations and ensure humanitarian agencies have safe and unimpeded access to affected populations, and that civilians are allowed safe passage, and access to food and medical supplies.

Yours sincerely,



RT HON ELIZABETH TRUSS MP
FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT SECRETARY