



Supporting people who are migrants from Ukraine – Combatting contemporary forms of poverty *Slovakia*

As Ukraine's neighbor, Slovakia has been working with the Vincentian Family in Ukraine for several years. Since the outbreak of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia in February 2022, this cooperation has been greatly strengthened, with volunteers welcoming people who are migrants, collecting clothing and food, and sending medical aid and hygiene products. In 2022, a large part of AIC Slovakia's annual fundraising was used to support Ukraine, and its cooperation with the Vincentian Family enabled it to be among the first to successfully transport a shipment of humanitarian aid to the Ukrainian town of Perechyn, in the West of the country, which is home to many internally displaced people fleeing the conflicts in the East.



Context

AIC Slovakia has 220 members working in 30 associations in parishes throughout Slovakia. AIC Slovakia has been cooperating with the Vincentian Family in Ukraine for several years and supports projects such as the soup kitchen for disadvantaged people in Bukovina with financial support and collections of food and clothing. Since 2022, the war in Ukraine has led the whole of AIC Slovakia and the Vincentian Family in Slovakia to more intensive cooperation and organization of aid to Ukraine.

Local partners

The Vincentian Family in Ukraine:

- AIC Ukraine
- The Satmarian sisters
- The Vincentian sisters
- The Lazarian brothers
- DePaul Ukraine



Project theme and activities

AIC Slovakia organized clothing and food collections; some members accommodated people from Ukraine in their families. These activities are supported by the prayers of AIC Slovakia members.



AIC Slovakia, together with other branches of the Vincentian Family, annually organizes the "Fight Against Hunger" fundraiser. At the beginning of the war, a large part of the collected funds was transferred to aid Ukraine: a total of €100,000. Thanks to cooperation with the Vincentian Family operating in Ukraine, AIC Slovakia's help quickly reached where it was needed.

On February 28th, 2022, the sixth day of the conflict, a brave driver and an even braver Vincentian sister, accompanied by prayers, set off and successfully arrived at night in the Ukrainian city of Perechyn. The green van with the DEPAUL logo was the second Slovak humanitarian aid vehicle that successfully brought a shipment to Ukraine. Possibilities for assistance, including accommodation and material needs, were reported on the website of the Vincent Family, which AIC volunteers created for this purpose in Slovakia. They organized financial and material assistance. Thanks to several organizations, they managed to get this aid to Ukraine for free.

After a visit of three members from AIC Slovakia to the community of Perechyn in 2022, AIC volunteers also started sending medical and hygiene aid to this community. This assistance is implemented by the AIC Slovakia Saint Louise mobile hospice, based in the town of Handlová.

All these experiences of close cooperation and support have strengthened the relations between AIC Slovakia and AIC Ukraine and would not have been possible without the volunteers' prayers.