



## Distributing meals in Ukraine and surrounding countries as a humanitarian disaster unfolds

### ABOUT WCK

Founded in 2010 by Chef José Andrés, World Central Kitchen (WCK) is first to the frontlines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises while working to build resilient food systems with locally led solutions. WCK has served more than 60 million fresh meals to people impacted by natural disasters and other crises around the world. WCK's Resilience Programs strengthen food and nutrition security by training chefs and school cooks; advancing clean cooking practices; and awarding grants to farms, fisheries, and small food businesses while also providing educational and networking opportunities. A critical pillar of our emergency relief work is to support communities affected by humanitarian crises, including Venezuelan refugees, Afghan refugees, and migrants along the U.S./Mexico border.

### WCK'S RESPONSE TO SUPPORT UKRAINIANS

On February 24, Russia launched a large-scale military operation on neighboring Ukraine, invading the country on several fronts. The United Nations estimates that 3.5 million Ukrainians – primarily women and children – have fled since the attack began. Many refugees fleeing Ukraine lack access to food for multiple days during the long and arduous journey to the border. For example, one refugee in a report from *The Washington Post* had scarcely slept in six days and hadn't eaten in two.

WCK began serving hot meals within hours of the initial invasion of Ukraine, and quickly set up at the eight border crossings with Poland. Our Chefs for Ukraine response has grown rapidly and is distributing nourishing food and fresh meals across the region, including Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, and Spain, a key destination country. In addition to our field kitchen, WCK is working with local restaurants, caterers, and food trucks to provide fresh and comforting meals at border crossings, reception centers, shelters, and other locations along their journey. Working with local food businesses allows us to 1) leverage the existing infrastructure to provide meals immediately, 2) invest in the local economy during a time when business as usual has ground to a halt, 3) ensure the meals we provide are culturally relevant, and 4) engage the local community in our response.

### In response to the humanitarian disaster, WCK has served more than 2 million meals – and counting – to 80+ cities across six countries.

- **Ukraine:** WCK is partnering with dozens of food suppliers to serve around 70,000 meals per day across Ukraine, where an estimated 6.5 million people are internally displaced. We are providing meals to refugees at the border and in Ukrainian cities. WCK is also transporting truckloads of dry food product to local restaurants and partners in cities such as Lviv and Odesa. We have served more than 675,000 meals in Ukraine.
- **Poland:** Poland has been WCK's largest area of operations so far, with more than 2 million refugees entering the country and millions more estimated to follow. We are serving meals at eight border crossings and reception centers along the border, and are increasing food support at transportation hubs, shelters, and other sites in large cities such as Krakow and

Warsaw, where large numbers of refugees are relocating. WCK's community kitchen in Przemysl is steadily ramping up to prepare tens of thousands of meals per day. We are serving 70,000 meals per day and have provided more than 1 million meals in Poland.

- **Moldova:** WCK is set up at all five border crossings along the Ukraine/Moldova border and is partnering with 15+ suppliers to deliver meals to refugees in shelters in Chişinău. We have served more than 125,000 meals in Moldova.
- **Hungary:** WCK is providing 1,000+ daily meals at Záhony, a border crossing where trains arrive every day carrying refugees who then continue on to Budapest and beyond.
- **Romania:** WCK is serving meals at Siret, the busiest border crossing into Romania, and a second border cross on the southeastern border. We are providing meals to the main bus and train stations in Bucharest and are expanding our efforts in eastern Romania.
- **Spain:** WCK is cooking 1,700 meals/day at our kitchen in Madrid for arriving refugees. We are ready to scale this kitchen if needed.

### SCALING OUR RESPONSE

WCK began serving meals in Poland on February 25 and has rapidly scaled our response. We have worked with 135+ food suppliers and cooked out of our relief kitchen in Poland to provide more than 2 million meals. **WCK is now serving 180,000+ fresh meals and nourishing food per day.** Our meal costs are currently averaging \$4-\$7 per meal in the border countries, and to be closer to \$10 per meal in Ukraine, as the conflict within Ukraine has disrupted gas and other supply chains.

We will continue to monitor the situation along the border, within Ukraine, and in destination cities where refugees arrive and relocate, so we can continue to support communities whose lives have been so suddenly and tragically uprooted. As the situation evolves, WCK will continue to help and spread hope in the best way we know how: with a freshly prepared, hot plate of food.

### UPDATES ON OUR UKRAINE REFUGEE RESPONSE

For real-time updates on our activation please visit our social media channels:

- Twitter: [@WCKitchen](https://twitter.com/WCKitchen)
- Instagram: [@WCKitchen](https://www.instagram.com/WCKitchen)
- Facebook: [/WorldCentralKitchen](https://www.facebook.com/WorldCentralKitchen)

### CONTACT INFO

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**“World Central Kitchen was born from the simple idea that food has the power to create a better world. A plate of food is a plate of hope, it is the fastest way to rebuild life and communities.”**

**- Chef José Andrés**