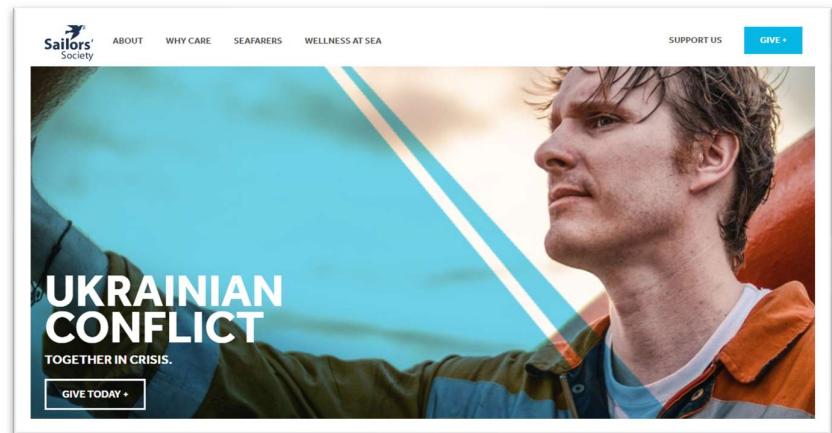


Ukraine Update for Baltic Exchange Charitable Foundation

November 2022

At the time of Russia's invasion of the Ukraine on 24 February, we had already been seeing anecdotal of an increase in requests for support from Ukrainian seafarers. In March, we launched an appeal to raise funds to cover the costs of our work on the ground in Ukraine and responding to the needs of Ukrainian, and Russian, seafarers around the world. We hoped we might raise £100,000 – but have to date raised over £120,000 mainly with donations from within the Maritime industry.



There are three main pillars of our support for seafarers affected by the war:

On the ground In Ukraine

Before the invasion, we had five staff working across five ports in Ukraine: in Mariupol in the east, and Odesa, Chernomorsk, Belgorod Dnestrovsky and Izmail in the west. When the invasion happened, the two eldest members of the team (both over 60 years of age) left immediately. One sought refuge in Moldova and is currently in Germany waiting to move to the US. Another fled to Romania and has now relocated to Spain where he has a daughter.

The ports are no longer accessible, and we are not currently operating from there. Our team member on the ground in Izmail, Eduard, established and is running a refugee centre, where they organize accommodation, food, transportation, and help with documents. A number of those seeking support are seafarers and/or the families of seafarers and we are supporting a proportion of the expenses of the refugee centre in recognition of this fact. Eduard's refugee centre has recently moved to a new location due to the raise in rent costs and they will start preparing for winter.

Two other colleagues, Victor and Sergey, left their homes to flee fighting. They have both been based near the borders with Hungary and Romania, re-establishing their chaplaincy in these locations; taking funeral services, helping seafarers access Sailors' Society crisis grants, using Sailors' Society vehicles to transport humanitarian aid and

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AT HOME • IN PORT • AT SEA

to take refugees to the border. They have also helped provide recreational activities for the families of Ukrainian military.

Crisis Grants:

As well as continuing to work on the ground providing practical support, this also includes providing financial support, through grants, to Ukrainian seafarers and their families. We have been giving modest grants ranging from about \$200 to \$1,000 dollars to help seafarers and their families. A lot of seafarers' contracts have ended or they've left their contract to go back to Ukraine to help their family, and they have no income now as a result. While there is quite a lot of help on the ground from aid agencies, people still need an income to pay for vital things like food, mobile phones, medicine, and rent.

We have distributed nearly \$50,000 in this way.

*"I want to write the words of gratitude to your organization. These are incredible emotions, when you understand that you are not indifferent to unfamiliar people, thank you so much. You assisted not only to me, but also my family. War deprived everything from us. I and my family pray not only for us, but also for such people as you who help us all in a difficult moment." **Ukrainian Seafarer Oleg, a welfare grant recipient.***

Chaplains continue to give out free SIM cards to Ukrainian & Russian seafarers to help them stay in touch with their families.

Wellbeing support:

In over 80 ports around the world, and via our 24/7 Free Helpline and paid-for Ship Connect services, our chaplains have been reaching out to support seafarers affected by the war. We continue to provide emotional and spiritual support to help them through this difficult time.

We have set up three new Peer Support Groups – one for Ukrainians, one for Russians, and one for seafarers of other nationalities – to offer each other support and place to share and listen. These groups are monitored by our trained team, and we will lean in to offer direct support if needed.

Thank you to Baltic Exchange Charitable Foundation for your generous support to help us reach for seafarers affected by the war in Ukraine.

