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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Friday, February 24 marks one year since Russian forces invaded Ukraine, driving people out of their homes, decimating towns and cities and destroying the lives and freedoms of millions.**  To mark the anniversary and further show we stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, churches in **[INSERT AREA]** are joining others across Britain and Ireland in coming together for an act of witness.  National services have been organised, by the Ukrainian Greek Catholic community, alongside Churches Together in Britain and Churches Together England.  These will take place on February 24 - and congregations have been invited by Christian Aid to share in the moment with a Prayer for Peace during their worship on Sunday, February 26, or as part of a community event.  The aim is to be united in remembrance and hope, to show the people of Ukraine are still in our thoughts and prayers.  International development charity, Christian Aid, is working with local partners in Ukraine to provide support including medical supplies, shelter, and food in order for communities to survive and eventually rebuild.  The organisation has warned the invasion is having a devastating impact in Ukraine and the knock-on effect on global food prices is turning a tough situation into a dire crisis for many other parts of the world, such as East Africa.  **[INSERT NAME AND ROLE]** said: “The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine is currently being made worse by freezing winter conditions and Russia’s deliberate targeting of civilian heating and power facilities.  “Through local initiatives and thanks to the overwhelming response of the British people, we can support the hardest hit by providing humanitarian aid and helping them restore their homes and communities.  “As we mark a year since the invasion, we are reminded that every prayer, every gift, every action brings hope to the people of Ukraine. By joining us, you can give hope to our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.”  **ENDS.**  **Notes to editors:**  **Christian Aid’s response in Ukraine:**  **Christian Aid works through partners in the countries we support. In the case of Ukraine, this includes Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA), a member of the ACT Alliance, which has provided** shelter and distributed lorryloads of food as well as life-saving medical equipment, hygiene kits and emergency cash grants for those forced to flee their homes. HIA also set up two Refugee Support Points where staff and volunteers are available to help people fleeing the country.  Another organisation is Alliance for Public Health, a Ukrainian group, which works in every region, or Oblast – even occupied territories – with mobile testing units which can deliver first aid.  **Millions of pounds has also been donated to purchase baby incubators and life-saving drugs for babies born with respiratory issues, plus other equipment such as thermal blankets and trauma kits.**  Case Study:  Before the Russian invasion, the villages of Horenka, Moshchun and Ozery were thriving with a total population of more than 11,000 - but they are now in ruins. According to UN statistics, 98 per cent of Moshchun, which was at the epicentre of hostilities in the battle for Kyiv, was destroyed.    Representatives from the NGO, Public Ray of the Future, in co-operation with the territorial defence troops and the Armed Forces of Ukraine, evacuated the villages of Horenky and Moshchun. They managed to establish the supply and distribution of humanitarian aid (food, hygiene and household items, medicines), delivery of hot food to the elderly and people with limited mobility. They also arranged to feed pets left without care.    The group was awarded a grant to set up a project called The Construction Workshop. Thanks to this funding, the residents of the destroyed settlements of Buchansky district have the opportunity to rent construction tools and materials free of charge to repair their damaged homes and restore destroyed ones.    One of those working for the charity said: “We are doing titanic work to solve the humanitarian crisis in the community. This concerns the provision of food, hygiene items and medicines, as well as the provision of materials and tools for the restoration of destroyed housing.  More than 690 families have applied to us for help and this number is growing every day.  "It is planned to purchase construction equipment that will be provided on a free of charge basis for joint use by the community members as needed. For high-cost or highly specialised construction devices, this is the most economical way to use them (a shared use), and for some households it is the only way to get such devices."  **For more information contact:**  **(INSERT YOUR DETAILS)**  **Or Juliet Lunam (media advisor) on** [jlunam@christian-aid.org](mailto:jlunam@christian-aid.org) | | | |