



# NEWS & NEEDS

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

2022 | ISSUE 3



## Urgent Action amid Ukraine Crisis

*Meeting Immediate Needs, Building Long-Term Response*

For over 30 years, IOCC has provided humanitarian and development programs in Eastern Europe. With strong partnerships across the region, particularly within the network of the Orthodox Church, IOCC is now addressing the immediate and long-term needs of those impacted by the Ukraine crisis.

The conflict in Ukraine has affected ordinary people, destroying infrastructure and forcing millions to flee their homes seeking safety. Crisis response efforts are helping ensure safety for refugees from Ukraine and providing humanitarian assistance both there and across the region.

At present, IOCC is working to meet three crucial needs: providing humanitarian aid to people still

in Ukraine, helping families and institutions hosting refugees in Poland and Romania, and leveraging IOCC's expertise to offer emotional care and counseling.

Working with local partners in eastern Ukraine, IOCC support is evacuating civilians to safe accommodation, while supplying others affected by the conflict with heating fuel, bath and bedding essentials, baby food, diapers, and medicine.

To help refugees, IOCC is taking a multifaceted approach. In Poland, IOCC and its Church partner are providing food, water, and hygiene items. Additionally, IOCC established online learning centers so refugee children can continue their education remotely. In Romania, IOCC has set

*Working with dioceses across Ukraine, IOCC provided parcels of basic food items to displaced people during Holy Week. IOCC's aid efforts are ongoing across the region.*

*continued on page 2*

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

When we see someone facing crisis, someone in need, someone working to overcome trying circumstances, IOCC's mission is to respond – and we are grateful that you share that commitment. Grateful because it allows us to collectively offer Christ's love in ways that make a real difference in the lives of people around the world every day.

In this edition of *News & Needs*, you'll see how your gifts are making an immediate impact in Ukraine and how they are helping to create brighter futures for students in the West Bank and Uganda.

We are happy to share these stories of progress, while we remain focused on the work to be done – continued support in Ukraine, preparing for hurricane season in the US, being ready to respond to other potential crises around the world, and continuing ongoing initiatives in places such as Ethiopia, Greece, Lebanon, Syria, and many others.

We are honored that through the years, you have trusted IOCC to steward your gifts. Thank you for your support.

In Christ,

Constantine M. Triantafilou  
Executive Director & CEO

*continued from cover*

up a transportation network to safely move people from border areas to secure accommodation and has partnered with a Romanian grocery chain to provide vouchers so refugees can provide for their families. And, in both Poland and Romania, IOCC is helping families who are hosting refugees by supplying groceries, household cleaning items, and more.

One of the many terrible consequences of war is that refugees, particularly women and children, are vulnerable to gender-based violence and human trafficking. IOCC is providing critical training and certification for volunteers transporting refugees in Romania to help protect Ukrainians as they seek safety in a new place. Additionally, IOCC is training clergy, social workers, and others to provide emotional and spiritual care to help Ukrainian refugees and those serving them deal with the trauma and stress of the conflict longer term.

Today, only two things are certain about the situation in and around Ukraine: that the effects will be felt for many years to come and that IOCC will continue working with Ukrainians and their neighbors in Europe to provide hope and help.



*In Romania, IOCC and long-time Church partner Federatia Filantropia have provided emergency supplies to Ukrainian refugees.*



**BEFORE**



*A new recreational area takes shape: clearing the old space (above left), building a new retaining wall (below), and preparing for resurfacing (above right).*

# Continued Investment in West Bank School

## *Recreation Is Vital to Successful Education*

Since the early 2000s, IOCC has been working collaboratively with the Church-run Taybeh Orthodox Secondary School in the West Bank to expand and improve its facilities. The additions – including a new wing supported by USAID funding – have increased the school’s capacity to over 400 students (K-12) and 40 teachers and administrative staff.

An important element of a well-rounded education is providing students with opportunities for exercise and fresh air. Since the school needed safe play areas, building recreational spaces is an ongoing project. Work began with the demolition and removal of more than 8,800 square feet of existing concrete and asphalt. Renovations will also include a new reinforced concrete retaining wall for the playground to protect the students.

Once completed, this new outdoor recreation area will give the school plenty of space to conduct sports lessons and activities for all grade levels.



International Orthodox Christian Charities, Inc. (IOCC), is the official humanitarian relief and development agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America.

IOCC, in the spirit of Christ’s love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need worldwide, without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.

[iocc.org](http://iocc.org)



# Developing Healthier and Safer Schools in Uganda

## *Important School Project Completed*

Since 2014, IOCC has been working with the Uganda Orthodox Church (UOC) to improve access to educational opportunities in rural Uganda. IOCC is currently engaged in a multiyear program with the UOC and the St. Nektarios Education Fund at St. Michael the Archangel Secondary School in Gulu.

After an IOCC assessment determined that deteriorating sanitary facilities were threatening the health and safety of staff and students, the construction of a new sanitary block became an urgent priority at the boarding school.

Construction of new central sanitary block began in 2021, and all work was done in collaboration with the Uganda Orthodox Church, applying engineering best practices and meeting or exceeding all Ugandan government standards. Today, the new block is complete, helping to protect the health of the 170 students who live and study at the school.



*A new central sanitary block ensures that students at this rural Ugandan boarding school have a safe, healthful learning environment.*

While a new central sanitary block may seem like a small thing, water-borne diseases associated with poor sanitation remain one of the greatest causes of illness and death in Uganda, presenting threats to the students and faculty at the school. The new facility will help students learn in a healthier environment – and prepare to pursue their dreams, learn valuable skills, and even attend college.



**It's Hurricane Season**

**PREPARE YOUR FAMILY  
NOW FOR ANY DISASTER.**

**[iocc.org/getprepared](http://iocc.org/getprepared)**

**IOCC  
Prayer  
Journal**

Planning a new Sunday School curriculum?  
Watch for the upcoming Prayer Journal and lessons.



**COMING SOON**