



OperationChange Newsletter - December 2023 Edition

November may seem a gray and gloomy month, but has been buzzing with activity across OperationChange. The energy, creativity and stamina of almost 80 volunteers in Sweden, Poland and Ukraine has resulted in:

- 15,5 tons of supplies worth 1.250,000 SEK delivered to Ukraine on 6 trucks & cars
- 10 volunteers working on site in Ukraine with the last mile deliveries
- 27 deliveries of supplies to health facilities, distribution points and villages in eastern Ukraine
- 5 new volunteers joined the organization. Warm welcome!

Below we highlight some activities and achievements throughout the month of November.

Nybro and Kalmar County

In November, the Nybro volunteers closed their seventh collection and prepared to ship an astonishing 562 boxes with warm clothes, food, hygiene products, medical supplies, bed linen, blankets and toys for the kids now for the winter. This time around they also gained the support of Smålands Logistik AB to palletize, wrap and super efficiently load the cargo.



Totally, the Nybro volunteers have collected items, sorted, packed and shipped 2500 boxes so far, and are now not only active in Nybro but in the entire Kalmar county.

Swedish-Ukrainian grass root movement at its best

In the spring, Cino Leijonhufvud reached out to us with a plan to gather supplies and personally drive them to Poland. This was part of a coordinated effort with OperationChange for further transportation and distribution in Ukraine. We collaborated closely to identify which items were most needed, based on our activities within the country. Following this plan, Cino has successfully delivered three truckloads of humanitarian aid.

On Nov 18, Cino and his son Sebastian embarked on a journey to Kyiv, driving a firetruck to deliver it to the Donbas fire department together with another Swedish grass root movement *Support for Ukraine - Manifestations and aid collections in Helsingborg*.



In Kyiv, Cino joined forces with our volunteers Jennifer and Bernard and paid a visit to the Social Service Center in Kyiv, a place where he has been contributing with essential items like diapers, baby food, and wet wipes for the most vulnerable people in the society for 6 months.

This partnership is a shining example of our idea to function as a Swedish-Ukrainian support platform. Making it easier and safer for people in Sweden to help with precision in Ukraine to really make a difference!

Collaborations and Networking

Throughout November, our team has been actively participating in various events to expand our network and stay on-top of the latest developments that could influence our organization. Below, you'll find a detailed overview of some of these key events.

→ Nov 14-15, "Rebuilding Ukraine Expo"

Sven Kerstis, our representative of the OperationChange Rebuild initiative, attended "RebuildingUkraine Expo" in Warsaw. It was great to hear leading European top politicians, including Johan Forsell, Swedish Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, steadily promising all support needed and as long as necessary to win the war against Russia. It was inspiring to listen to some NGO:s which presented very impressive activities. Valuable to meet suppliers from Sweden and local representatives from Kramatorsk, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Pokrovsk to discuss possibilities for future cooperation, the purpose of our presence.

→ Nov 17, Nordic Ukraine Forum - Repower

Charity Evening in Stockholm to collect funds for the Ukraine-based Repower Foundation. Their mission is to help medics prevent complex psychological disorders, restore strength and regain motivation to serve in the combat zone. OperationChange is collaborating with and supporting Repower.

→ Nov 29, Rebuild Ukraine

Regeringskansliet (UD)/Foreign Affairs, Stockholm. The aim is to identify shared opportunities for expanding business operations in Ukraine, featuring insights from well-established Swedish companies operating in the region. Host Peter Ericson, EC-UD. Johan Forsell, Minister for Aid and Trade. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Political direction in support of Swedish business involvement in Ukraine. Main take-away is the difficulties transferring money from Swedish banks to Ukrainian.

→ 01 Dec "Conference on Support to the Recovery & Development of Health Care in Ukraine"

Medical Affairs attended "Conference on Support to the Recovery & Development of Health Care in Ukraine" in Stockholm, organized by the Swedish Ministry of Health & Social Affairs

Around 150 participants, mainly from the public sector and companies.

Keynote by Viktor Liashko, Minister of Health Care, Ukraine that really grabbed the audience.

Sweden's support to the Health sector for 2023 - 2027 will amount to 6 Billion SEK and focus on:

- Training & Education
- Antimicrobial resistance, infection prevention & control
- Mental Health & Psychosocial support
- Healthcare infrastructure, hospitals and care facilities

Valuable presentations around the needs, especially for the longer term such as building new hospitals and reforming the healthcare organization. Educational, inspirational and new connections forged.

Code of Conduct

OperationChange signed the Code of Conduct for organizations operating in Ukraine. A joint initiative for Transparency and Anti-Corruption Efforts that we support. The Code of Conduct is a joint initiative of the World for Ukraine Foundation, Ukraine Focus, Rotary International, Razom, Future for Ukraine, the Global Empowerment Mission, Project Nadiya, Let's do it Ukraine, and the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). [Code of Conduct](#)

The initial signatories are:

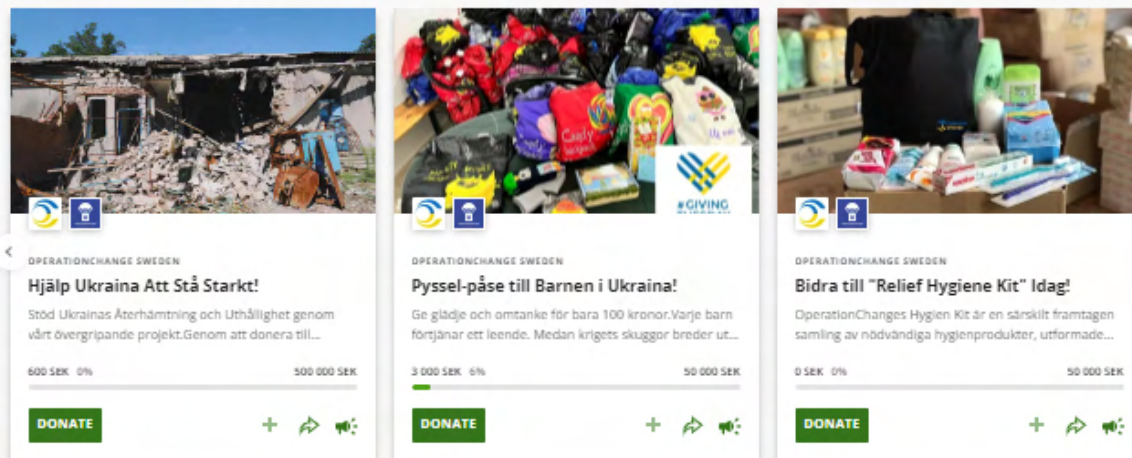


TargetAid - Fundraising platform

From **Nov 28** OperationChange is now active on [TargetAid](#), an online platform designed for fundraising, that empowers users to support various charitable causes. We have started a few collections supporting our causes but this service provides an opportunity to contribute to a range of projects or to start your own donation drive, making it perfect for special events like birthdays or other personal milestones.

Additionally, for those interested in organizing events such as concerts, TargetAid also provides an event-service feature. This allows you to not only plan your event but also to offer tickets directly through our platform, seamlessly integrating fundraising and event management.

Support our projects and causes



Scheduled for December:

- We estimate to distribute approx 20 tons of supplies consisting of stoves, medical equipment, warm clothes, hygiene products and rebuilding material during the last month of 2023.
- During the Christmas weeks, extra focus on the children of the war by distributing large amounts of clothes, toys and candy in the most affected parts of the country.
- Expansion of the medical network in Ukraine.
- The most experienced voluntary driver, Tyrone, is gearing up for his 8th tour, to deliver 110 m3 of supplies during the Holiday Season.

Current needs? Check out our list. [Collection List/Insamlingslista](#)

Important book

As we conclude our final newsletter for 2023, we want to share a recent book release. Whether you're looking for a meaningful read during Christmas or searching for a gift idea for a good cause.

[BlåGula Kriget](#) by Alex Voronov



Stay safe, stay warm, StayConnected

Christmas greetings from the OperationChange team



OperationChange - a brief introduction

OperationChange is a charitable organization co-founded in June 2023 by ten individuals who played essential roles in building and running OperationAid (ideell förening) - Bernard Christensen, Christian Nordberg, Göran Skoglund, Isabella De Farfalla, Jennifer Croona, Ksenija Orlovskaya-Köll, Ludvig Ramestam, Nataliya Starak, Stina Jansson and Åsa Peleback.

With many thousands of hours already spent in Sweden and in Ukraine, the founders of this organization understand and respect that the grassroots movement plays a pivotal role in raising awareness and mobilizing support for Ukraine within local communities throughout Sweden. Thus, OperationChange remains firmly rooted among, and driven by, volunteers and is committed to a leadership and board without financial compensation.

Our focus revolves around three core areas:

Relief - Providing immediate, direct humanitarian assistance.

Resilience - Offering support for recovery and endurance.

Rebuilding - Enabling long-term sustainable development.

Presence is key. As a mid-sized grassroots organization, OperationChange maintains a community-centered approach. Cooperating closely with local institutions, organizations and communities to foster sustainable change from within, empowering individuals and communities to carve out their own futures. At all times, OperationChange have dedicated Swedish and Ukrainian volunteers living and working in the country at war, making sure the support reaches its targets.

Since June 2023, the organization has been joined by about 80 volunteers, collecting and delivering aid to Ukraine worth 1.2 million euros already. You can follow the activities and the development of OperationChange through the link below.

The total value from 2022 amounts to 4,78 million euros in monetary and physical donations from individuals, companies, and associations, including previous fundraisings as part of another organization.

Undoubtedly, Ukraine is unbelievably strong, but the nation needs a lot of support to resist and endure the attacks and, given time, embrace a future free from the aggressor. OperationChange remains resolute in its commitment to do the utmost as long as this madness and crisis persists. We are happy to cooperate with every single one with the same ambitions. Please be encouraged to reach out if you have any questions, want more information or would like to engage with us.

Warm regards,
OperationChange team

TAKE ACTION TODAY

[OperationChange](https://operationchange.org)

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