

Newsletter - April edition 2024

The month of March was marked by intense air attacks against Ukrainian cities and important infrastructure. "- Russia has fired about 190 robots of various kinds, 140 drones, and about 700 aerial bombs against Ukraine a week during March," states President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Energy supply was put to the test following record attacks on, among other things, power and heating plants. The bombing of homes and hospitals continued relentlessly. Meanwhile, OperationChange continued to deliver supplies and stoves to support the most vulnerable.

For just over two years, Russia, in addition to its actions on the front line, has continuously terror-bombed civilian targets - to kill people, to destroy hospitals, homes, schools, industries, electricity supply, and other infrastructure. More than 10,000 Ukrainian children have lost one of their parents since Russia began its full-scale invasion in 2022, Ukraine's social services state. OperationChange does not accept this and has for just as long worked to support the weakest parts of society and strengthen the civilian part of the total defense. This is what we have jointly contributed:



60 MSEK collected value physical gifts* + money

24th of February 2022–31 of March 2024

✓ 2,234 Ukrainian refugees on buses to Sweden during the acute phase March–April 2022	✓ 10,000+ family food boxes
✓ 200+ deliveries of healthcare materials and equipment including 17 operating tables	✓ 105 tons of building material
✓ 1,300+ stoves for heat, cooking and hygiene	✓ 1,400+ fire extinguishers
	✓ 150 pallets of hygiene products
	✓ 121 tons of clothes, shoes and blankets
	✓ 200 boxes of toys and stuffed animals
	✓ 62 tonnes of animal food/accessories

*Calculations according to Giva and Svensk Insamlingskontroll's principles.

A photograph of a young boy wearing a dark winter jacket and a black beanie with a small red and white logo. He is holding a thick, striped blanket in front of him. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting.

Protests over the import of inexpensive Ukrainian grain reignited at the border, leading to extensive truck queues. OperationChange has developed the knowledge and procedures to effectively pilot humanitarian aid into Ukraine. The supply chain, stretching from donors in Sweden to vulnerable villages in Donbas, remains unbroken.

Basic needs are still a high priority

Despite ongoing difficulties at the border and frequent rocket attacks, the team in Ukraine, consisting of Jennifer, Bernard, Nataliya, Maja, Oskar B, Alexander M, Mats, Tilak, Johanna, Ludvig, and Jonas, has completed 34 missions concentrated on distribution centers near the front line and temporary accommodation, so-called transit shelters.



There, deliveries of personal hygiene products, diapers, and home textiles have made a significant difference to the local organizations that support the civilian population in Donbas. We have also had the opportunity to focus on an initiative for children created by a collaboration partner, UAid Direct, where we have chosen to participate by planning and supporting the children with gifts.

In addition to this, the team has distributed medical supplies, mainly from AddLife, to hospitals and stabilization points, as well as clothing and shoes directly to the civilian population in villages near conflict zones. In addition, toys and educational materials have been delivered to orphanages and schools, as well as stoves and candles to those without access to electricity or gas.

Hygiene package - A journey from Donor to Recipient - Production and Distribution

Our volunteers in Ukraine have put together hundreds of basic hygiene kits, containing shower soap, toothpaste, and toothbrushes, generously donated by Cino Leijonhufvud and the company TePe. The packages are packed and completed in our warehouses and our homes in Ukraine, in the moments between assignments and the evenings.



The hygiene kits have been distributed to villages and communities near the front line in eastern Ukraine, where they have been very well received. In these areas, access to hygiene is one of the most critical and basic needs, often in the absence of healthcare, dental care, pharmacy, and in some cases even clean water.

Offering the possibility of good personal hygiene is not only a way to prevent health problems and diseases; it also improves the quality of life and contributes to a sense of normality. We take it for granted that access to basic hygiene and care is not a luxury. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that the collection of hygiene products - from all over Sweden - continues.

AdventRelief - Free dental care for residents in the east

In the vulnerable communities and villages of the eastern regions, Sharon Harris and her organization **AdventRelief** face a critical challenge: the lack of medical and dental care.

In March, they opened the doors to their free dental clinic and welcomed their first patients.



The dentists work tirelessly every day to provide the civilian population with necessary dental care.

With the help of volunteers, who use minibuses to transport patients from nearby villages to the clinic and back, it is ensured that no one misses out on care due to lack of transport.

The initiative is supported by our belief that access to basic healthcare and hygiene is a right.

To strengthen this work, we have contributed 2,000 toothbrushes from **TePe** and an equal number of toothpaste tubes from **Cino Leijonhufvud**, which means that the patients can maintain their oral hygiene.

From the Grassroots Movement in Sweden to Ukraine - Enthusiasts who give everything

Olena manages a temporary accommodation for internally displaced persons and we have ensured their basic needs, from sheets and toilet paper to shoes, clothes, and nutritious staples.

We have also continued to support **Valeria's** distribution center in Kramatorsk by regularly delivering children's items, including hand-knitted baby kits from **Öland** and **Nybro**, as well as regular deliveries of baby diapers from **Help Ukraine Gothenburg (HUG)**.



Druzhkivka's distribution center, which focuses on the elderly, has been provided with several transports full of clothing, shoes, hygiene products, incontinence protection, and mobility aids.

Likewise, we have provided significant support to the temporary accommodation at the **Kramatorsk train station** by providing a variety of personal hygiene products.

What these places have in common, in addition to the business, is that they are run by local zealots who see the situation their community is in and do everything they can to support their local area. OperationChange's way of working in Ukraine is to locate these types of zealots with a constant presence and support their activities with needs-based deliveries of humanitarian goods.

A laugh in the dark: Volunteer James spreads joy and security

Together with the Irish clown James, we have had the privilege of meeting over 350 wonderful children. Our volunteers in Ukraine have arranged 10 enchanting performances, where each child was welcomed with a toy from Sweden and a colorful candy bag.

James, the clown, has previously worked as an engineer and entrepreneur, which gives him financial opportunities to be able to devote his time to what was previously a hobby and which now becomes a meaningful effort. Together with a team of psychologists, James has produced the show specifically for traumatized children, where every moment is to strengthen self-esteem, provide security, and create joy.



"- To see the children collapse with laughter is priceless after so many months of only seeing serious faces."



We know most of the children from before, many of them have been evacuated from currently occupied areas, some have disabilities, and some have lost parents, family, and friends. What they all have in common is that they live under constant threat of shelling and missile attacks.

They also cannot go to school and after a pandemic followed by two years of war, most cannot hold and write with a pen.

We are very grateful to James and UAid Direct, whose efforts have created these unique moments.

We plan to send more toy bags to the children's homes we collaborate with to encourage the practice of fine motor skills playfully. If you are passionate about this particular project and want to support it - there is an opportunity via Swish, PayPal, or [TargetAid](#) "Toy bag".

As we continue our efforts to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the war in Ukraine, we depend on the generosity of individuals and businesses. With every month of war, interest, contributions, and volunteering in Ukraine are decreasing - a very worrying trend. Therefore, we need to do the opposite - we need to make even more efforts to strengthen and maintain Ukrainian civilian resilience.

The cost of transportation and fuel is a significant expense for our organization, and we need help to ensure that we will be able to continue our work. If you would like to contribute or find out more about how you can help, please visit [OperationChange](#) or contact us directly at +4673 855 5971 or info@operation-change.org.

Member 2024



It is still possible to become an OperationChange member for 2024. You can become one by supporting us with SEK 500 and filling in your details via the link [here](#). As a [Member](#) you support our organization and thereby our initiatives and values. Buy a membership for yourself or give one as a gift!

Your engagement, likes, shares and comments will help us reach more people and raise awareness of the situation in Ukraine. We are actively working to expand our presence on social media and increase our following. By following us on social platforms like [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [TikTok](#), you can keep up to date with our latest projects and help us spread our message.

Your support makes a significant difference in the lives of countless civilians who face elusive and major challenges. Whether it's through financial contributions, physical gifts, or spreading awareness, every contribution plays a role and matters.

Thank you for your continued commitment, support, and solidarity.

**Warm regards,
The OperationChange Team**

Behov → [Collection List/Insamlingslista](#)

Ge en gåva → Bankgiro 278-9535 or Swish 123 093 33 25

Starta en insamling → info@operation-change.org or 073 855 5971

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