Today the world celebrates World Refugee Day. An ordinary day for most, filled with plans, tasks, work, laughter, friends, family dinner. For most – not for everyone.

For 100 million people today is a day of lost dreams, hope, home, child’s favorite toy left behind, tears of separation, not knowing if you will ever see your loved ones again, and overwhelming dread of constant instability and insecurity in life. No more yearly or monthly plans, day-to-day at best.

Home is no longer a place you go to rest, but a place you found to sleep. Work is no longer your choice; you do what you can to get by.

80% of all the refugees are women and children.

Prior to 24th February 2022 I personally never once thought about how refugees live and survive. What their kids grow up to be… How they bury their elderly… Today I know all about it…

And today, on this special day, I want to bring some joy to the children who have already realized that their lives have changed forever. Those who study, support their mothers, and answer all questions of "what would you like" with "to see dad, their friends, their pets, their home, their yard, their toys."

In Plovdiv and its surroundings, there are about 8,000-10,000 Ukrainians who have fled from the war. 35-40% of them are children under 18. To help these families, we ask for your support and assistance every day.

Thanks to you, for a year and three months now, we have been providing food, clothing, household hygiene products, diapers, toilet paper, giving strollers to pregnant women and bicycles to children. In a year and three months, with your help, we have assisted over 50,000 people...

Seeing all the newly arriving families I want to ask you about only one thing – please never stop helping. I know it is hard – helping for such a long time is exhausting. However, it is very crucial for people who arrived from Kherson a week ago, and for a mother of three who lived with us for five months. Whose children no longer cry when their mother leaves, and now they all joined kindergarten, so that their mother can go and earn enough money for necessities. It is never enough for more, no matter what she does.

Today I want to ask you for only 5 dollars, to buy sweets and balloons for kids, so that they remember this day not with tears and sadness, but with joy and smiles. So that today they were just a bit happier and stronger. Even small acts help us get through weeks and months ahead.

Today we will do everything to ensure that children have only good memories of this date. Looking at their children – mothers, who have aged 10 years in 1, will smile too.

#sweets\_for\_kids

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