



MOSFED

MOSAIC Federation



HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT

War in Ukraine

Concerned with the war in Ukraine and the unfortunate situation the fleeing Ukrainians found themselves in, MOSFED decided to deploy its staff to the Polish/Ukrainian border area to obtain a firsthand assessment of the situation that would enable MOSFED to better tailor its anti-human trafficking strategy.

Since the onset of the war, over 5 million refugees have fled Ukraine to the neighboring countries, with Poland receiving the bulk of the refugees. Sadly, 90% of these refugees are women and children who were forced to separate from their husbands, fathers, and brothers called to defend their homeland. The majority of those arriving carry a minimal amount of belongings besides the clothes they are wearing, identification documents, and a small bag/suitcase with a few things they were hastily able to collect before setting out on the treacherous and very dangerous journey. Those more fortunate carry a phone along with a name or an address of a relative or a friend living in the West. Unfortunately, countless others have no such support mechanism or plans in place and are desperate to find a safe haven for themselves and their families. It is these women and children who have become potential targets of human traffickers seeking to take advantage of their vulnerable state. With the intensification of the war rhetoric and endless bombing campaigns of their homeland, there is no indication of when the migration might end, and with it, their exposure to human trafficking.

Unfortunately, the urgency with which the refugees had to flee Ukraine meant that not all the effective safeguards working to prevent human trafficking were in place, at least not in the first few weeks following the onset of the war in Ukraine. Numerous media sources, non-government organizations, and charities that rushed to help report on untold numbers of those who fell into the traps of traffickers.

MOSFED quickly responded by deploying our own staff to monitor the situation and report on the observations with the ultimate goal of helping those in need. Within two weeks, MOSFED staff arrived in an area that links southeastern Poland with the city of Lviv in western Ukraine. Our staff monitored the influx of refugees at two border checkpoints, one in the town of Hrebenne and the other in the town of Medyka, in addition to visiting refugee centers in the towns of Lubycza Królewska and Tomaszów Lubelski, both located near the Ukrainian border. The following report provides a brief synopsis of MOSFED's activities along with some observations and suggestions for MOSFED's future planned engagements.