**UKRAINE: CASH ASSISTANCE CONTINUES TO HELP WAR-HIT POPULATION THROUGH WINTER**

KYIV, UKRAINE – January 12th – **With funding from EU Humanitarian Aid, ACTED and the Estonian Refugee Council (ERC) will continue addressing emergency needs across Ukraine through a multi-purpose cash assistance programme that was launched at an early stage of the emergency response in Ukraine.**

*The humanitarian situation in Ukraine is dire. Russian missile attacks against infrastructure have left millions without electricity, water and heating. Many civilians who have lost their homes and livelihoods struggle to pay for food, medicine, or rent. Through partners like ACTED and ERC, the European Union is delivering much needed humanitarian aid across the country. Cash assistance boosts the local economy and helps civilians pay for the things they need most urgently." -* **Claudia Amaral, Head of EU Humanitarian Aid in Ukraine**.

Over the past months and until the end of May 2023, ACTED and ERC will continue to deliver emergency multi-purpose cash assistance to over **112,000** war-affected persons across Ukraine.

The most vulnerable among the civilian population receive cash assistance for three months, which will be used mostly to provide for immediate needs such as food or medicine. Among the people identified as vulnerable are those whose homes have been damaged or destroyed, older persons, and people with serious health issues. This response will target almost every oblast in Ukraine, with a special focus on areas directly affected by hostilities, such as Mykolaiv.

*“Homes are badly damaged. Pervomaisk is constantly shelled. It is very unsafe to live. Everything was fine before the war, and now the settlement is destroyed, there is not a single house left. Now it is a ghost town. Broken family and friendship ties, the war scattered loved ones across the country.” -* Mia, 52-year-old resident of Mykolaiv Oblast.

Since February 2022, ACTED and ERC have already distributed cash assistance to over 130,000 vulnerable people with funding from EU Humanitarian Aid, reaching most oblasts of Ukraine, including recently liberated and hard-to-reach areas.

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**Notes to Editors**

**EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (<https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/index_en>:** Through the European Commission’s [Civil Protection and Humanitarian aid Operations department](http://ec.europa.eu/echo/), the European Union helps millions of victims of conflict and disasters every year. With headquarters in Brussels and a global network of field offices, the EU provides assistance to the most vulnerable people around the world on the basis of humanitarian needs.

**ACTED** <https://www.acted.org/en/> : ACTED has been present in Ukraine since 2015, responding to the emergency and longer-term needs of vulnerable, marginalized and conflict-affected populations living along the Line of Contact in Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. Since the conflict eruption in the rest of the country on 24 February 2022, ACTED is upscaling its activities to support affected people in conflict hotspots, displaced and evacuees across Ukraine, as well as refugee populations in neighboring countries of central Europe.

**Estonian Refugee Council (ERC)** <https://www.pagulasabi.ee/en> Estonian Refugee Council is a provider of direct support to refugees and other vulnerable groups in as well as outside of Estonia and a renowned and independent competence center on forced migration and integration.

**Multimedia**

**Web – Testimonies**

<https://www.acted.org/en/ukraine-rebuilding-life-after-the-occupation>

<https://www.acted.org/en/without-home-but-with-hope-in-the-heart/>

**Podcast – Spotify (Estonian)**

<https://open.spotify.com/show/1pewCw67CubiNsmUj2tNMS?si=95bdbf1978394439>

**Video – ERC’s video Cash Assistance**

[**https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xmf4uefxxy92zuc/AABGBQAbF72DvF8sWED5FCcia?dl=0**](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xmf4uefxxy92zuc/AABGBQAbF72DvF8sWED5FCcia?dl=0)