

# TEACHING SCRIPT

SUBJECT:

**Humanitarian logistics and development  
aid**

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## Introduction

Disasters or events resulting in significant human and material losses, have accompanied mankind since the beginning of its existence<sup>1</sup>. Some of them have a natural origin - such as earthquakes, floods or volcanic eruptions, others are the result of human activity<sup>2</sup>. That is why the literature considers humanitarian aid to be the rescue and protection of life and health during natural and man-made disasters. Human activities that cause humanitarian disasters include armed conflicts, industrial accidents and other accidents leading to widespread damage, including cross-border. At the root of a disaster, such as famine, are both causes - natural conditions and destructive human activity. Humanitarian aid is provided to countries affected by armed conflicts, mass migrations, natural disasters or weather anomalies.



Source: <https://www.pah.org.pl/o-nas/kim-jestesmy/>

Humanitarian aid very much determines the viability of local communities, supports the reconstruction and revitalization of areas affected by crises. The main objective of humanitarian aid is to provide necessary assistance and support to people exposed to long-term crises. Among the activities that are the subject of humanitarian aid are: reconstruction of infrastructure and equipment; solving problems related to the consequences of population migration (refugees, displaced and repatriated people); disaster prevention and mitigation activities.

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<sup>1</sup> P. Grzebyk, E. Mikos-Skuza (red.), *Pomoc humanitarna w świetle prawa i praktyki*, Scholar, Warszawa 2016, s. 6.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, s. 6-7.

International humanitarian aid follows solidarity and empathy for people facing the misfortunes of disasters of various causes. Provided to victims of armed conflicts and humanitarian crises, it is a solidarity response of people in response to the misfortunes of other people's suffering, made for the sake of a sense of common humanity. Providing assistance, employees of humanitarian organizations and agencies - governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental, national and local, as well as members of informal religious groups and institutions, bring aid to those in need in various corners of the world.



Source: <https://www.opendoors.pl/nasza-pomocnasza-sluzba-na-swiecie/pomoc-humanitarna>

The effectiveness of the activities of humanitarian actors depends on adequate subsidies - funding that constitutes the possibility of carrying out relief operations and is dependent on the effectiveness and efficiency of the international structures that manage the transfer of humanitarian support<sup>3</sup>.

Humanitarian aid is the subject of research in many scientific disciplines. There are scientific researches aimed at understanding the essence of humanitarian aid and the mechanisms of its provision both from the point of view of the legal background, geopolitical or geographic conditions.

<sup>3</sup> J. Dobrowolska-Polak, „Pomoc humanitarna”, [http://www.repozytorium.uni.wroc.pl/Content/59046/PDF/11\\_Joanna\\_Dobrowolska-Polak.pdf](http://www.repozytorium.uni.wroc.pl/Content/59046/PDF/11_Joanna_Dobrowolska-Polak.pdf) [accessed: 01.11.2022]

Among the measures to prevent humanitarian crises are:

- ✓ reducing the risk of disasters, e. g. through climate change mitigation strategies,
- ✓ ensuring better disaster preparedness, e.g., by creating instruments such as early warning systems.

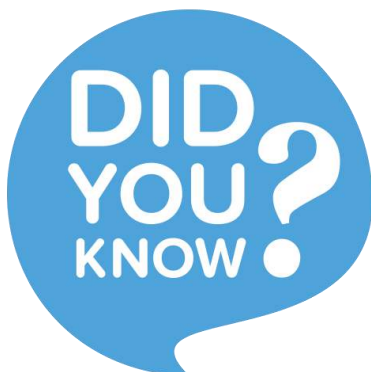
Activities during a humanitarian crisis are:

- ✓ guaranteeing a smooth transition to the next stage after the end of the relief operation, by identifying appropriate strategies for withdrawing aid,
- ✓ strengthening a community's overall capacity to respond to emergencies, e.g., by linking the relief operation to instruments for long-term reconstruction and development.

Great tragedies or natural disasters, such as the earthquake in Haiti in January 2010, epidemics and man-made disasters (the war in Syria or Ukraine), or a combination of different types of disasters, such as the tsunami in the Indian Ocean or forest fires in Australia and floods in Europe, have made the existing capacity of the European Union and the UN to respond to such disasters more effective.

Humanitarian aid is a moral obligation and the most important expression of the solidarity of the world's citizens with those affected. In a world where natural disasters are becoming more frequent and severe, and armed conflicts continue to cause suffering to many people, affecting especially the poorest, humanitarian actors should act in a coordinated manner to effectively bring relief to victims of humanitarian crises, and to reduce vulnerability in the future. The goal of humanitarian action is to save lives and provide immediate assistance to those who find themselves in crisis as a result of a specific threat.

In humanitarian aid, the most important thing is to apply best practices in delivering aid, clarify the roles of all team members, as well as the ability to coordinate aid and delegate tasks. Humanitarian aid should be implemented transparently, in accordance with the principle of adequacy, based on actual need. It is worth noting that there are currently no common principles or agreed approaches to the issue of needs assessment. In addition, among the most serious obstacles to delivering aid to those most in need are logistical problems. Hence the need to create humanitarian logistics, the main goal of which is to deliver aid to people, regardless of economic, religious, national, racial factor, also regardless of gender and age. It should also be politically neutral with regard to the areas to which this aid is delivered. Logistics and the integrated supply chain are therefore most accurately verify themselves as supply chains for life, preferably integrated and synergistic.



Web browsers did not find the term humanitarian logistics in its Polish version on the Web until May 2009, in contrast to studies in this area in English or German-language literature<sup>4</sup>.

## Key terms and definitions

### a) Humanitarian aid

Consideration of the definition of humanitarian aid should begin by noting that it can be understood in different ways, which gives rise to scientific and academic discourse and practical debates. Most often, academic discussions are focused on distinguishing such concepts as humanitarian aid versus development aid or humanitarian aid versus intervention aid.

- **Humanitarian aid.** Humanitarian aid (humanitarian assistance, humanitarian aid, humanitarian relief, relief aid, relief assistance) is considered to be that kind of material and logistical support that must occur relatively quickly, in other words, immediately after a disaster occurs, that is, in response to its first effects. Undoubtedly, among the most important objectives of humanitarian aid is to save human health and life, reduce suffering, preserve human dignity. Humanitarian aid should lead to the return of the affected community to normal existence as soon as possible. This is why humanitarian aid is primarily associated with:
  - ✓ providing food and drinking water;

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<sup>4</sup>T. Pokusa, W. Grzybowski, „Logistyka humanitarna – istota, warunki skuteczności i zastosowanie w sferze współpracy cywilno-wojskowej”. Część 1. 2010, <https://www.logistyka.net.pl/bank-wiedzy/item/6947-logistyka-humanitarna> (accessed: 21.12.2022).

- ✓ provision of personal hygiene products;
- ✓ facilitating the return to normal life for those forced to migrate, including the organization of intervention mass accommodation sites;
- ✓ access to sanitation facilities;
- ✓ shelter;
- ✓ providing access to basic medical assistance;
- ✓ facilitating the return to normal life for those forced to migrate, including the organization of intervention mass accommodation sites;
- ✓ guaranteeing security and access to information.

In a joint statement of the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting in the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission, the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid was adopted (OJ EU C 25/1, 30.01.2008). The common goal of humanitarian aid was defined: „*The objective of EU humanitarian aid is to provide a needs-based emergency response aimed at preserving life, preventing and alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity wherever the need arises if governments and local actors are overwhelmed, unable or unwilling to act. EU humanitarian aid encompasses assistance, relief and protection operations to save and preserve life in humanitarian crises or their immediate aftermath, but also actions aimed at facilitating or obtaining access to people in need and the free flow of assistance. EU humanitarian assistance is provided in response to man-made crises (including complex emergencies) and to natural disasters as needed. Local response to crisis and disaster risk reduction, including disaster preparedness and recovery, are essential to saving lives and enabling communities to increase their resilience to emergencies. Capacity building activities to prevent and mitigate the impact of disasters and to enhance humanitarian response are also part of EU humanitarian aid.*”. Humanitarian aid must be distinguished from development assistance, which is undoubtedly long-term aid.

#### **b) Development assistance**

According to the definition of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (hereinafter - OECD), Official Development Assistance (ODA) is donations and loans made to developing countries by government institutions of highly developed countries - aid donors - or international organizations. Support understood in this way is not driven solely by a sense of responsibility for the fate of the world. Development assistance is regulated by a number of

international documents, among which are: The Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus or the European Consensus on Development<sup>5</sup>.

### **Bilateral and multilateral development assistance**

Due to the way development aid is implemented, we can classify it into bilateral and multilateral aid. In other words, bilateral aid is directed directly to institutions, organizations and individuals in the partner country, while multilateral aid is provided through specialized international organizations and institutions<sup>6</sup>.

In practice, bilateral aid is the implementation of development projects financed from funds at the disposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from the budgets of other ministries. Support to partner countries is provided by non-governmental organizations, government administration, local government, universities and other social partners. Polish diplomatic missions and the Foundation for International Solidarity are also involved in aid activities.

Within the framework of multilateral aid, countries annually support the development and humanitarian activities of selected organizations through contributions and voluntary payments. This support consists of co-financing the undertakings of international organizations, such as the European Union (hereinafter - EU), the United Nations (hereinafter - UN) or the aforementioned OECD, among others. This applies to all international entities that have as their statutory goal poverty reduction, systemic transformation, promotion of human rights and democracy, combating infectious diseases, improving health care, access to education. They also conduct humanitarian assistance to victims of natural disasters and conflicts in developing countries.

#### **c) Humanitarian logistics**

„Humanitarian logistics” is a concept that has only appeared in Polish scientific terminology since 2009. "In humanitarian terms, logistics should be understood not only as a ready-made scheme of action, but rather as the need to consider unusual issues of flow, and therefore the

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<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> The official website of The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Poland  
<https://www.gov.pl/web/polskapomoc/z> [accessed: 01.11.2022]



delivery of aid through "supply chains for life", since, as a rule, humanitarian aid chains are different from the previously recognized business supply chains"<sup>7</sup>.

Among the many objectives of humanitarian logistics, an important category is the activities organized as part of crisis management. Recall that humanitarian crises or catastrophes are most often caused by:

- ✓ wars and riots (e.g. politically, religiously, racially motivated, strikes);
- ✓ technical failures (e.g., power grids, heating installations, radioactive contamination);
- ✓ natural disasters (e.g., earthquakes, floods, climatic disasters, sanitary and epidemiological hazards);
- ✓ terrorist attacks (e.g., conventional, bioterrorist).

Threats, the magnitude of which depends on the intensity and duration of the above-mentioned events, dictate the direction of action to be taken. Thus, we are usually faced with a situation where a large, and sometimes very large, number of victims and the extreme conditions under which they are being assisted make it necessary to make massive use of logistical capacity. Humanitarian logistics in its social dimension should therefore focus on the proper management of the resources at hand, not only those necessary for daily life under the given conditions, but also technical, information, financial, personnel, etc.<sup>8</sup>

### Humanitarian logistics

In English-language publications, we can define humanitarian logistics, that is humanitarian logistics, as: "[...] the planning, implementation and control of the effectively cost-effective movement and storage of goods and materials, as well as the management of all related information, from the point of origin to the point of consumption in order to alleviate human suffering."

Definition by A. Thomas, L. Kopczak, it is: "[...] the process of planning, implementing, and then controlling the efficient, cost-effective flow, storage, and delivery of various types of goods, as well as the necessary information from their point of origin to the point of consumption, in order to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable people"<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> T. Pokusa, Logistyka humanitarna jako społeczne wezwanie współczesnych czasów „Gospodarka Materiałowa Logistyka Material Economy and Logistics Journal”, t. LXXIV □ nr 5/2022, s. 15.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, s. 18.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, cf.: <https://www.logistyka.net.pl/bank-wiedzy/item/7085-logistyka-humanitarna-istota-warunki-skuteczności-i-zastosowanie-w-sferze-współpracy-cywilno-wojskowej-cz-2> [accessed: 21.12.2022]

Moreover, in another earlier study, A. Thomas defines humanitarian logistics as: "[...] the process of planning, implementing and controlling the efficient, rational and cost-effective movement and storage of goods and materials and related information from the point of origin to the point of destination, the purpose of which is to satisfy the expectations of the ultimate beneficiary"<sup>10</sup>.

### Other terms <sup>11</sup>

**Technical emergency** - sudden, unforeseen damage or destruction of a building, technical equipment or system of technical equipment, causing interruption of their use or loss of their properties.

**Crisis Management Center** - a coordination point and communications center, integrating in daily operations the emergency and municipal services that participate directly and indirectly in rescue operations. It is the executive body for emergency management at the various levels of local and state government.

**ECHO** - European Community Humanitarian Office of the European Commission for the coordination of humanitarian aid provided by the European Union structures.

**Evacuation** - the organized movement of people, sometimes with belongings, from a place of danger to a safe area.

**Evaluation** - the process of checking and assessing whether a given action produced the expected results, what contributed to their achievement, and what was a barrier.

**Natural disaster** - a natural disaster or technical failure, the consequences of which threaten the life or health of a large number of people, property of great magnitude or the environment over large areas, and assistance and protection can be effectively undertaken only with extraordinary measures, in cooperation of various bodies and institutions and specialized services and formations acting under unified leadership. Social assistance in the face of disasters and complex crises.

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> The glossary of terms comes from - A. Skowrońska, Pomoc społeczna w obliczu katastrof i kryzysów żywiołowych, Warszawa 2004, s. 185-187

**Natural catastrophe** - an event associated with the action of natural forces, in particular lightning, seismic shocks, strong winds, intense precipitation, prolonged occurrence of extreme temperatures, landslides, fires, droughts, floods, ice phenomena on rivers and the sea, as well as lakes and reservoirs, mass occurrence of pests, plant or animal diseases or infectious diseases of humans, or the action of another element.

**Crisis** - a temporary state of internal imbalance, caused by a critical event or life events, requiring significant changes and resolutions; usually this term refers to an individual.

**Complex emergency (complex emergency)** - a humanitarian crisis in a country, region, society, where there is a complete or serious collapse of power caused by internal or external conflict, and which requires international intervention conducted through the capacity or with the mandate of a single UN agency and/or program.

**Crisis intervention** - a set of interdisciplinary, professional, purposeful and coordinated interventions, using the resources of people in crisis, their natural social environment and helping institutions, the purpose of which is to facilitate their recovery of internal balance and sense of agency, and to solve the problem(s) underlying the crisis experience. The recipients of these activities can be individuals as well as groups and entire communities.

**OCHA** - the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for the coordination of emergency relief activities within the United Nations structure; the office plays an important role in monitoring the global situation, providing technical assistance, coordinating this assistance, and collecting and distributing aid funds.

**De-briefing (defusing)** - a short session, a conversation designed to help aid workers express their thoughts and feelings about the task they are doing or have done during an aid operation.

**Emergency response plans** - documents developed for each municipality, county, province and country; they describe who will do what, when, with what forces and resources and on what legal basis - before, during and immediately after a crisis event. Vulnerability to disasters (vulnerable to disasters) - characteristics of a person or group and their situation that affect their ability to anticipate, prevent, cope [with] and recover from the effects of natural risks.

**Reconstruction (Critical Incident Stress Debriefing)** - a structured group method (developed by J.T. Mitchell) to understand and manage strong emotions, master effective coping strategies and get support from colleagues.

**State of calamity** - a special formal-legal situation introduced by the Council of Ministers by decree at the request of the competent provincial governor or on its own initiative in the area where a natural disaster has occurred, as well as in the area where the consequences of the disaster have occurred or are likely to occur for a specified period of time, necessary to prevent or remove the consequences of the disaster. It involves legally defined obligations of the civilian population and special powers of local and governmental authorities.

**Emergency situation (disaster)** - a serious disruption of the functioning of society causing material and environmental losses, which the affected society is unable to cope with using its own resources and capabilities. A catastrophe is a function of hazard processes, which consist of various hazards, conditions of vulnerability and insufficient capacity or resources to reduce the potential negative consequences of risks.

**Hazards (risks)** - physical events, phenomena or human activities that can cause loss of life or serious injury, loss of material assets, social and economic damage and environmental degradation; these hazards may include latent conditions that may manifest themselves in the future and have various causes: natural (geological, hydro-meteorological, biological) or caused by human actions (environmental contamination, technological risks).

**Crisis management** - the activity of public administration bodies, which is part of the management of national security, which consists in preventing crisis situations, preparing to take control of them through planned actions, responding in case of emergencies, removing their consequences and restoring resources and critical infrastructure.

**Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)** - a set of behaviors that can be observed in people who have been involved in an event involving death or a threat to life that causes intense anxiety and a sense of helplessness. Crisis management teams - advisory bodies in the crisis management system, which include people employed in the office reporting to the person in charge of the team (that is, the provincial office, the district administration and the municipal office), organizational units, auxiliary units, employees of the units of the combined inspection and guard services, representatives of social rescue organizations.

## Task 1<sup>12</sup>: Humanitarian or development aid?

Read the brief descriptions of the situations (1-6) and decide whether the aid provided in the case is humanitarian aid (H) or development aid (R).

- 1) Purchase medical supplies and equipment for a hospital in one of the villages in Somalia and organize annual training for medical personnel employed in this hospital.
- 2) To organize study visits for journalists and female journalists from Ukraine to the editorial offices of Polish dailies, and to fund five scholarships for male and female students who stand out for their good performance at university and for their academic and social activities.
- 3) Donating food items, medicines, mattresses and blankets to Syrian refugees and refugee women who arrived in Turkey a week earlier seeking refuge from the civil war in their homeland.
- 4) Increasing access to potable water by building a well in one of the villages in South Sudan and holding public consultations in connection with plans to build more sanitation facilities in the area.
- 5) To organize a field hospital in the wake of the floods that hit Pakistan, and to take measures to counter the outbreak of cholera, an acute infectious disease of the digestive tract.
- 6) Provision of funds by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the activities of the Indonesian Red Cross following the earthquake that hit West Sumatra.

## Task 2<sup>13</sup>: Humanitarian and development aid. Create a definition of your own

Assign terms that fit humanitarian aid and development aid, and create definitions for both types of aid based on these terms.

Humanitarian aid / Development aid

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<sup>12</sup> The quest comes from Humanitarian crises and humanitarian aid in a nutshell. Lesson plans, exercises, inspirations for action:

[https://www.pah.org.pl/app/uploads/2017/10/2017\\_materiały\\_educacyjne\\_publicacja\\_kryzysy\\_i\\_pomoc\\_humanitarna.pdf](https://www.pah.org.pl/app/uploads/2017/10/2017_materiały_educacyjne_publicacja_kryzysy_i_pomoc_humanitarna.pdf) [accessed: 21.12.2022]

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

- 1) aid directed to people and countries affected by natural disasters, catastrophes, armed conflicts.
- 2) aid involving, for example, the construction of infrastructure (schools, hospitals, roads, etc.) or the education of human resources (training of experts, supporting the conduct of research, exchange of experience, etc.).
- 3) aid responding to a specific event or situation that has occurred.
- 4) aid aimed at saving and protecting human life.
- 5) emergency aid.
- 6) aid responding to more complex problems.
- 7) aid aimed at promoting the socio-economic and political development of countries.
- 8) aid directed to poorer individuals and countries facing various socio-economic problems.
- 9) aid including, for example, rescue operations, provision of drinking water supplies, food, medicine and medical supplies, or blankets and tents j. long-term aid.

## History of the origins of the principles of humanitarian aid

The Red Cross was founded in 1863 on the initiative of Swiss philanthropist and financier Henri Dunant, who was moved and shocked by the sight of the wounded left behind that he saw on June 24, 1859, on the battlefield of the great battle of Solferino, where the army of the Austrian Empire fought a bloody day-long battle with the Italian army supported by the French army. The fighting left nearly 30,000 casualties on the battlefield, including more than 20,000 wounded. Shocked by the sight of the victims left virtually unattended, he made a spontaneous attempt to help them, involving the local population, whom he successfully encouraged to carry out and nurse the wounded, regardless of their nationality<sup>14</sup>.

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<sup>14</sup>cf. Polish Humanitarian Action: <https://www.pah.org.pl/app/uploads/2021/02/POMOC-HUMANITARNA-JAK-DALEKO-SIEGA-TWOJA-CHEC-POMOCY.pdf> [accessed: 11.11.2022].



Photo: <https://www.ekokalendarz.pl/dzien-czerwonego-krzyza-i-czerwonego-polksiezyca/>

After returning to his native Geneva, H. Dunant wrote a book, "Memoirs of Solferino," in which he included a description of what he had seen and experienced and presented his proposals, most notably the idea of establishing an additional medical service to carry aid to the wounded during the war. He proposed the establishment of national relief associations that would prepare their volunteers for such tasks in peacetime, and also advocated that the wounded and those who care for them should be considered neutral even on the battlefield.



The book is available on the Polish market.

In addition to his memoirs, the author included in it several postulates, giving the foundations of the modern idea of humanitarian aid. The Geneva Conventions of 1949 extended humanitarian aid to all victims, not just soldiers and prisoners of war<sup>15</sup>.



**Important! Here are the basic principles of humanitarian aid:**

- ✓ **The principle of humanitarianism** - human suffering must be met with a response in all circumstances, and aid should first reach the most vulnerable (children, people with disabilities, people without a roof over their heads).<sup>3</sup> In addition to the aforementioned principle of humanitarianism, humanitarian aid is based on 3 principles:
- ✓ **The principle of impartiality** - means that humanitarian aid is provided only on the basis of need, without regard to nationality, race, religion, social position or political views. It is the need for assistance that should be decisive, not the worldview or religion of the affected person. It would be a violation of this principle, for example, to make the provision of aid conditional on a change of faith.
- ✓ **The principle of neutrality** - is not to get involved in religious, political, racial or ideological disputes. Individuals or organizations providing aid do not advocate any side of the conflict. It would be a violation of this principle, for example, to provide food to only one side of the conflict, increasing its chances of victory.
- ✓ **The principle of independence** - means that humanitarian aid cannot serve political, economic or military purposes. The goal of saving lives is the only and overriding one. It would be a violation of this principle, for example, to make aid conditional on the signing of trade agreements<sup>16</sup>.

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<sup>15</sup>Geneva Conventions - a series of agreements on international law and humanitarian aid signed in Geneva, Switzerland, which is part of international humanitarian law. The first of the Conventions was the result of the activities and political efforts of Henri Dunant. You can also meet the term "Geneva law", that is, the law based on these conventions.

<sup>16</sup>Four principles of humanitarian aid in a short spot: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUgh11FsR2o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUgh11FsR2o)



### Task 3: Four Principles of Humanitarian Aid

Watch a video about the basic principles of humanitarian aid. Four principles of humanitarian aid: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUgh11FsR2o> [accessed 21/11/2022].

#### Geneva Convention

The first Geneva Convention dates back to August 22, 1864, and was signed at an international conference. The provisions provided protection for the sick and wounded regardless of nationality and regulated the activities of medical personnel on the battlefield. Sanitary services and civilians assisting victims of the conflict were covered by the principle of neutrality. Three more acts of the Geneva Conventions were later signed, adding further provisions. They were enacted in 1906 and 1929, and the current convention dates from 1949.



Photo: First Geneva Convention - a breakthrough in international law. On August 22, 1864, the Geneva Convention, the first piece of legislation covering the protection of sick and wounded soldiers in wartime, was signed. It also ensured neutrality for sanitary services and civilians assisting victims of conflict.



**Remember!** The Geneva Convention is the life's work of Henri Dunant, the first winner of the 1901 Nobel Peace Prize. It was signed by 12 countries, and additional signatories soon joined.

## Task 4: The First Geneva Convention. Audio recording

Audio recording "First Geneva Convention - a breakthrough in international law" -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTWoCVgkerk>

Under the provisions of the Geneva Convention of July 6, 1906, the protection of wounded and sick soldiers was increased; rules for the registration of conflict victims were introduced; a system for the exchange of information on conflict victims was established.

*„Belligerents will keep each other mutually advised of internments and transfers, together with admissions to hospitals and deaths which occur among the sick and wounded in their hands.” (Art. 4)*

The Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Fate of the Sick and Wounded in Active Armies of July 27, 1929 expanded the provisions of the 1906 Convention. Among other things, it added the provision that:

*„Parties to the conflict shall ensure that burial or cremation of the dead, carried out individually as far as circumstances permit, is preceded by a careful examination, if possible by a medical examination, of the bodies, with a view to confirming death, establishing identity and enabling a report to be made. They shall further ensure that the dead are honourably interred, if possible according to the rites of the religion to which they belonged, that their graves are respected, grouped if possible according to the nationality of the deceased, properly maintained and marked so that they may always be found.” (Art. 17)*

The Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 on the Protection of Victims of War arose from the tragic experience of World War II. In 1977, amendments were added to provide protection for victims of armed conflict.

*„In the case of armed conflict not of an international character occurring in the territory of one of the High Contracting Parties, each Party to the conflict shall be bound to apply, as a minimum, the following provisions:*

*(1) Persons taking no active part in the hostilities, including members of armed forces who have laid down their arms and those placed ' hors de combat ' by sickness, wounds, detention, or any other cause, shall in all circumstances be treated humanely, without any adverse distinction founded on race, colour, religion or faith, sex, birth or wealth, or any other similar criteria.*

*To this end, the following acts are and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to the above-mentioned persons:*

*(a) violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment and torture;*

*(b) taking of hostages;*

*(c) outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment;*

*(d) the passing of sentences and the carrying out of executions without previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court, affording all the judicial guarantees which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples.*

*(2) The wounded and sick shall be collected and cared for.*

*An impartial humanitarian body, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, may offer its services to the Parties to the conflict.*

*The Parties to the conflict should further endeavour to bring into force, by means of special agreements, all or part of the other provisions of the present Convention.*

*The application of the preceding provisions shall not affect the legal status of the Parties to the conflict.”<sup>17</sup>(Art. 3)*

## Geneva Convention and humanitarian law



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<sup>17</sup> Article 3 Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of August 12, 1949.

**Important!** Some of the most important international agreements in the field of international humanitarian law include<sup>18</sup>:

- ✓ KG I - Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Fate of the Wounded and Sick in Active Armies, signed in Geneva on August 12, 1949 (Journal of Laws of 1956, No. 38, item 171);
- ✓ KG II - Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Fate of the Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Armed Forces at Sea, signed in Geneva on August 12, 1949 (Journal of Laws of 1956, No. 38, item 171);
- ✓ KG III - Geneva Convention on the Treatment of Prisoners of War, signed in Geneva on August 12, 1949 (Journal of Laws of 1956, No. 38, item 171),
- ✓ KG IV - Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, signed in Geneva on August 12, 1949 (Journal of Laws of 1956 No. 38, item 171).
- ✓ PD I - Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I), drawn up in Geneva on June 8, 1977 (Journal of Laws of 1992, item 175).
- ✓ PD II - Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II), drawn up in Geneva on June 8, 1977 (Journal of Laws of 1992, item 175).
- ✓ PD III - Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, concerning the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Mark (Protocol III), adopted in Geneva on December 8, 2005 (Journal of Laws of 1992, item 447).

Modern humanitarian law is based on the above acts. International humanitarian law (also known as the law of armed conflict or the law of war) is governed by international agreements and customary law. The origins of humanitarian law are closely related to the international customs formed over the centuries. The origins of humanitarian law date back to the 19th century. History has made international humanitarian law a set of norms. So, humanitarian law is the field of public international law with the largest number of adopted multilateral treaties. The great Hague and Geneva codifications of the 19th and 20th centuries were among the greatest law-making undertakings of modern international law. Moreover, in addition to the codifications, many further conventions were concluded as part of the so-called progressive development of international law.

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The conventions developed by international law are a response to armed conflicts, as it is possible to trace the causal threads between armed conflicts and subsequent changes in the international legal status. As a result of successive wars and conflicts, the loopholes and illegible nature of the provisions, the interpretative difficulties of international law came to light. Today it is believed that each new convention appears one war too late. These factors triggered the need for changes and new regulations, in other words, the need for post-war codification steps to improve and supplement the existing treaty regulations, which contributed to the creation of clearer and more precise provisions. This is why humanitarian law is one of the most respected laws, as opposed to norms that are unclear or difficult to interpret clearly. Another feature of humanitarian law is the specific way in which humanitarian law norms are drafted, developed and supplemented, for a significant part of them have been formulated in the language of self-executing norms<sup>19</sup> (self-executing rules), i.e. norms suitable for direct application without the need to enact relevant acts implementing them into national law. The next important feature of humanitarian law is that there has been no reduction in the role of customary law. On the contrary, international humanitarian law has been significantly strengthened by the development of a collection in the shape of a code of customary law norms.

## Humanitarian aid in the EU. Objectives of aid

The Union's actions in the field of humanitarian aid are enshrined in primary and secondary EU legislation. EU legislation precisely defines the principles and objectives of external action. The Treaty on the Functioning of the EU stipulates that relief operations shall be directed towards the provision of emergency assistance and care to and protection of populations in third countries<sup>20</sup>, who are victims of natural or man-made disasters, in order to meet the needs of those affected by humanitarian crises<sup>21</sup>. In addition, the Treaty states that the actions of the Union and the Member States shall be complementary and mutually reinforcing (Article 214.1 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union)<sup>22</sup>. The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union defines the concept of humanitarian assistance provided by the Union and the Member States. The Union's policy in the field of humanitarian aid is regulated by a Council Regulation, which defines, among other things, the main objectives of humanitarian aid to third countries.

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<sup>20</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No. 1257/96 of June 20, 1996 concerning humanitarian aid (Official Journal. EC L 163 of July 2, 1996, as amended).

<sup>21</sup> Article 214.1 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.



**Important! Among the objectives of humanitarian aid are<sup>23</sup>:**

- ✓ Saving and protecting lives during and immediately following emergencies and natural disasters that involve greater loss of life, physical, psychological or social suffering, or material damage;
- ✓ Providing necessary assistance and support to people facing long-term crises resulting in particular from outbreaks of hostilities or wars that have the same effects as those described above, especially when their own governments prove incapable of providing assistance or assistance cannot be provided due to the lack of appropriate authorities;
- ✓ Assistance in financing the transportation of humanitarian aid and efforts to ensure that it is accessible to those for whom it is intended, through all available logistical means and ensuring the protection of goods and personnel serving humanitarian purposes, but excluding activities involving defense issues;
- ✓ Carry out short-term reconstruction and rehabilitation work, especially in terms of infrastructure and equipment, in close cooperation with local institutions, in order to facilitate the arrival of aid, prevent the worsening of the effects of the crisis and begin to help the affected recover a minimum level of self-sufficiency, taking into account, as far as possible, long-term development goals,
- ✓ Overcoming difficulties related to the consequences of population migration (refugees, displaced persons and repatriates) caused by natural or man-made disasters, and carrying out assistance programs for repatriation to and re-settlement in the country of origin, if the conditions established by applicable international agreements are met;
- ✓ Prepare for the risk of a natural disaster or comparable exceptional circumstances and use a timely early warning and intervention system;
- ✓ Supporting civilian actions to protect victims of combat or comparable emergencies, in accordance with applicable international agreements.

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<sup>23</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No. 1257/96 of June 20, 1996 concerning humanitarian aid (Official Journal. EC L 163 of July 2, 1996, as amended).

The Union's humanitarian aid activities shall be carried out in accordance with the principles and objectives of the Union's external action. These activities are aimed at providing emergency assistance and care to and protection of populations in third countries who have been victims of natural or man-made disasters, in order to meet the humanitarian needs arising from such different situations. The actions of the Union and Member States are complementary and mutually reinforcing. The Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid at the European Commission funds humanitarian aid and coordinates the policies and actions of the Member States. The Parliament and the Council act as co-legislators in shaping EU humanitarian aid policy and participate in the global debate on the effectiveness of humanitarian operations.

#### Legal basis for humanitarian aid in the EU<sup>24</sup>:

- ✓ Article 21 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) sets out the rules for all external actions of the Union (Article 21(2)(g) concerns humanitarian operations).
- ✓ Article 214 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provides the legal basis for the provision of humanitarian aid.
- ✓ Article 214(5) of the TFEU provides the legal basis for the establishment of the European Voluntary Humanitarian Aid Corps.

The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid is the overall policy framework for humanitarian aid, the document was signed in 2007 signed by the three EU institutions (Commission, Council and Parliament). The Consensus defines the EU's common vision, policy objectives and principles in a number of areas, including international humanitarian cooperation, good aid arrangements, risk reduction and preparedness, civil protection and relations between civilian and military actors. In addition, four humanitarian principles were enshrined: humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. The Consensus provides for a more coordinated and coherent approach to aid delivery, in which humanitarian and development aid are linked to enable the EU to respond more effectively to growing needs. The European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, signed on the day, sets out the EU's policy framework for responding to humanitarian crises. The Consensus sets out precisely why, how and when the EU takes action.

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<sup>24</sup> Official website of the European Parliament: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/pl/sheet/164/pomoc-humanitarna> [accessed: 11.11.2022]



**Remember!** The overarching goals of humanitarian action, as enshrined in the Consensus, are:

- ✓ preservation of life
- ✓ prevention and alleviation of suffering
- ✓ to help preserve human dignity in the face of natural and man-made hazards.

## Humanitarian aid. Poland



Photo: <https://www.gov.pl/web/polskapomoc/pomoc-humanitarna>

Poland's humanitarian efforts remain in line with internationally recognized standards, principles and patterns of conduct. Poland, as a signatory to the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid, has pledged to abide by the Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in emergency response programs.

On the other hand, as a member of the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) forum, it has pledged to follow the guidelines contained in the "Principles and Good practice of Humanitarian Donorship" and "Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response" documents, respectively. In the context of the transfer of medicines and



medical aid, Poland follows the recommendations of the World Health Organization, and in the context of complex emergencies conducts its activities in accordance with the OECD-DAC Humanitarian Aid Evaluation Guidelines. Polish humanitarian aid is implemented simultaneously in accordance with the provisions of the "European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid", which means that it is guided by the following principles: humanitarianism, impartiality, neutrality, independence.

In addition, Poland provides humanitarian assistance after conducting a thorough needs analysis of the affected population. Of particular importance in the needs analysis are the appeals and reports of UN and ICRC humanitarian agencies, as well as the results of DG ECHO's Global NeedsAssessment and ForgottenCrisesAssessment. This means that in its decision-making processes regarding the allocation of humanitarian funds, Poland takes into account not only sudden, unforeseen and high-visibility humanitarian crises, but also so-called protracted crises (protractedcrises) and forgotten crises (forgottencrises). Another important rule of humanitarian action of Polish aid is to allocate funds for support in proportion to the scale of the crisis.



**Important!** The following principles are extremely important in Polish humanitarian aid:

- ✓ **Speed** - it is important that aid reaches those in need as soon as possible after the disaster that resulted in the humanitarian crisis. Efficient delivery of aid means reducing the damage caused by a protracted crisis (epidemics, famine, weather conditions);
- ✓ **Adequacy** - aid should fully meet the needs of the affected population. This means obtaining information both from the authorities of the recipient country and on the basis of analyses of Polish diplomatic missions, as well as from non-governmental organizations, especially international ones;
- ✓ **Administrative costs as low as possible** - the need to ensure that the costs of providing assistance (aid planning, transportation, administrative handling) are as low as possible in relation to the value of the support actually provided.

## Humanitarian aid and the activities of international organizations. United Nations (UN) - selected UN agencies



The organization implements humanitarian activities through specialized agencies, assigning them specific areas of responsibility. The tasks of this group of actors are primarily to coordinate and carry out their own humanitarian activities.

**Among the many UN agencies, the leading role in distributing aid during humanitarian crises and reducing the impact of natural disasters and armed conflicts is played by:**

- a) **FAO - Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.** It is a specialized UN organization dedicated to fighting poverty and hunger and raising prosperity through food redistribution and rural development.



**Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations**

FAO supports the food production process and provides technical advice. It provides substantial support to farms affected by natural disasters. Developing countries receive significant support to modernize agriculture, forestry and fisheries management. In addition, the organization's activities are centered around reducing the incidence of world hunger and contributing to economic growth.

**An example of how an organization works:**

Among the FAO's best-known actions is its activity in the Indian Ocean region, affected by the December 2004 tsunami. Remember that the actions taken by the FAO are not only to provide food aid, prevent epidemics and famine, but above all to make long-term efforts to enable new life to begin.

For more information visit: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)

**b) UNDP - United Nations Development Programme**

This UN agency is the organization responsible for coordinating disaster mitigation and prevention efforts. In situations that may jeopardize humanitarian assistance in a country, the UNDP Permanent Representative coordinates the delivery of aid and reconstruction efforts. UNDP supports programs to disarm combatants, demining operations, the return and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons, and the reconstruction of government institutions.



For more information visit: United Nations Development - [www.undp.org](http://www.undp.org)

**c) UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees provides assistance and protection to people fleeing war and persecution. In addition, the organization's activities are also focused on helping people returning to their lands and so-called internally displaced persons. The UN Refugee Agency, works to protect the rights and well-being of refugees around the world. UNHCR's goal is to ensure that every person can exercise his or her right to obtain asylum and safe haven in another country. UNHCR also protects stateless people.

In all its activities, UNHCR attaches importance to the needs of children, and promotes gender equality for women and girls.



**Examples of how the organization works:**

Over the past 10 years, UNHCR has provided shelter to victims of the conflict in the Balkans, which has led to the largest wave of refugees and internally displaced persons since World War II. Equally spectacular operations include those undertaken in Kosovo, East Timor or the Great Lakes Region of Africa. UNHCR is currently involved in relief operations in Pakistan, Afghanistan, southern Sudan, Darfur and the Indian Ocean region. See more: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

**The role of the UNHCR organization in Poland.** UNHCR has one office in Poland, located in Warsaw. UNHCR is also present in Krakow, Lublin and Rzeszow. UNHCR monitors the Polish government's compliance with international standards on refugee law, statelessness law and human rights. The office advocates for prompt access to fair and effective procedures for international protection, access to rights and access to information. UNHCR in Poland is also active in raising awareness about refugees and stateless persons and works with a wide range of partners, including NGOs, academia, schools, youth organizations and businesses.

In Poland, the government, not the UNHCR, is responsible for processing applications for international protection, recognizing someone as a refugee and facilitating their integration.

This means that in Poland, UNHCR has no authority to:

- ✓ Registration of refugees
- ✓ Review applications for international protection
- ✓ Issuing documents for refugees
- ✓ Influence the outcome of international protection proceedings

Note: The Polish government is responsible for these procedures.

**d) UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund**

It consistently urges governments and warring parties to strengthen the protection of children living in conflict zones. UNICEF negotiates ceasefires to facilitate the delivery of aid. UNICEF initiates and oversees special programs to help affected children, helps reunite abandoned children with their families. It has established peace days and peace zones in war-affected areas. During major humanitarian crises, together with other UN agencies, it helps restore sanitation, water supply, medical services and education.

UNICEF was founded in 1946. The organization's goal at the very beginning was to help children affected by World War II and is guided in its work by the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Today, every day UNICEF staff work in 190 countries and territories, often in some of the toughest places on earth, to reach the neediest children. From life-saving vaccinations to building schools to providing immediate relief in humanitarian disasters, UNICEF does everything to make life better for children. It works in small villages and with national governments because it believes that every child, regardless of place of birth, color or religion, has the right to a healthy and safe childhood.



For more information visit the organization's website: United Nations Children's Fund - [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

## Case study. Humanitarian logistics on the example of Lublin Social Aid Ukraine. The first three months of the war in Ukraine

The intensification of the influx of the Ukrainian population, associated with the opening of the borders by the Polish authorities to Ukrainian citizens and representatives of other countries

residing on the territory of that country by February 24, 2022, caused a migration crisis in many Polish cities. Lublin was no exception.

Migration crises, known as refugee crises, are one of the most important contemporary political and social challenges facing the European Union. Before the start of the war in Ukraine, international migration was not a new phenomenon, and waves of intra-European migrations and those that resulted in the influx of citizens of countries from different parts of the world are an important part of European history<sup>25</sup>. Migrants have co-created European culture for centuries, and openness to difference has become part of the concept of human rights adopted by international institutions such as the Council of Europe, among others. It is impossible not to agree with Barbara Pasamonik and Urszula Markowska-Manista that for centuries the primary factor "pushing out" migrants has invariably been ethnic conflicts and wars and their aftermath: political and religious persecution, political instability, economic inefficiency and human rights violations, while the primary factor "attracting" migrants has invariably been the search for better living conditions<sup>26</sup>. And yet, faced with a wave of refugees and migrants from conflict areas, mainly from Syria and more recently from Ukraine, the European Union is unable to offer a common solution. The divergence in the conduct of European countries on the issue of accepting refugees has revealed exactly the divisions that the unification of Europe was supposed to alleviate or even eliminate<sup>27</sup>. In 2022, we are witnessing a migration crisis involving a sharp increase in the number of migrants, mostly refugees from war-torn areas in Ukraine, in the background of these migration processes we see incoherent and chaotic migration policies of the European Union, including Poland, as well as grassroots actions aimed at helping and supporting citizens of many EU countries. In this text, the author would like to focus on the migration crisis triggered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and review several months of activity of the social movement Lublin Social Committee for Assistance to Ukraine, which was established on the day the war in Ukraine broke out.

### **The beginning of the war in Ukraine**

Russia launched an armed attack on Ukraine on February 24. Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has caused one of the largest humanitarian crises in recent European history.

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<sup>25</sup> Cf. M. Polakowski, D. Szelewa, *Kryzys uchodźczy – Czy jesteśmy gotowi?*, *Warszawskie debaty o polityce społecznej*, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Przedstawicielstwo w Polsce wspólnie z Fundacją Międzynarodowe Centrum Badań i Analiz (ICRA), Warszawa 2016, s. 3.

<sup>26</sup> B. Pasamonik, U. Markowska-Manista (red.), *Kryzys migracyjny. Perspektywa społeczno-kulturowa*, Wydawnictwo Akademii Pedagogiki Specjalnej, Warszawa 2017, .t. 1, s. 7-8.

<sup>27</sup> Cf. M. Polakowski, D. Szelewa, *Kryzys uchodźczy...*, s. 3-4.

Casualties, destruction and displacement inside and outside Ukraine continue to mount. An estimated one-third of Ukrainians have been forced to leave their homes, either within the country or fleeing to neighboring countries. As of July 6, more than 5.6 million Ukrainian refugees have been registered in Europe, in countries such as Poland (1,207,650), but also Germany (867,000), the Czech Republic (388,097), Turkey (145,000) and Italy (141,562). About 90% of them are women and children, who are more vulnerable to violence and exploitation, including trafficking, smuggling and illegal adoption<sup>28</sup>. The largest number of refugees and refugee women have chosen to come to Poland. Border Guard data shows that approx. 3 million people have crossed the Ukrainian-Polish border. Some of them went further to the West. Poland has become the second country after Turkey to receive the largest number of refugees and refugee women in the world<sup>29</sup>. In just three weeks, an estimated 2.5 million Ukrainians fled their homes, seeking refuge in neighboring European countries<sup>30</sup>. These numbers are constantly changing, but since the beginning of the Russian invasion, some 2.5 million Ukrainians have returned home<sup>31</sup>. Some are returning to areas that were threatened by Russian forces at the start of the war, but are now considered safer. Called the capital of eastern Poland, Lublin, located 100 kilometers from the Ukrainian border, is the largest and most rapidly developing city on the right side of the Vistula River. As the capital of the Lublin Voivodeship, it plays a key role as the administrative, economic and cultural center of the region<sup>32</sup>. This enchanted place attracted by its unique climate, rich architecture and numerous historical monuments has become one of the key reception sites for female refugees and war refugees since February 24, 2022. According to the tourist traffic survey, the period of February-April 2022, 1,224,013 citizens of Ukraine stayed in Lublin, of which 138,066 spent at least one night in the city<sup>33</sup>. During the first three months (February-May), the city provided accommodation to 102,661 people in public accommodation facilities and served 143,631 meals there. At the same time, 39,531 packages of durable food were issued in the city. At its peak, 68,396 Ukrainian refugees temporarily resided in the city for more than a few nights,

<sup>28</sup> Official website of the European Parliament::

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/pl/headlines/world/20220324STO26151/odpowiedz-ue-na-kryzys-uchodzczy-w-ukrainie?xtor=SEC-169-GOO-\[Ukraine\]-\[Responsive\]-S-\[kryzys%20migracyjny\]](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/pl/headlines/world/20220324STO26151/odpowiedz-ue-na-kryzys-uchodzczy-w-ukrainie?xtor=SEC-169-GOO-[Ukraine]-[Responsive]-S-[kryzys%20migracyjny]) [accessed: 17.07.2022].

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> A. L. Urban, C. McLeod, *Wołodymyr Żelenski. Zdumiewający bohater Ukrainy, który oparł się Putinowi i zjednoczył świat*, Arti, Ożarów Mazowiecki 2022, s. 81.

<sup>31</sup> Official website of the European Parliament:

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/pl/headlines/world/20220324STO26151/odpowiedz-ue-na-kryzys-uchodzczy-w-ukrainie?xtor=SEC-169-GOO-\[Ukraine\]-\[Responsive\]-S-\[kryzys%20migracyjny\]](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/pl/headlines/world/20220324STO26151/odpowiedz-ue-na-kryzys-uchodzczy-w-ukrainie?xtor=SEC-169-GOO-[Ukraine]-[Responsive]-S-[kryzys%20migracyjny]) [accessed: 17.07.2022].

<sup>32</sup> Official website of the City of Lublin, <https://lublin.eu/lublin/o-miescie/> [accessed: 03.07.2022].

<sup>33</sup> Dabrowska A., Lublin Social Committee for Aid to Ukraine. 90 days of assistance. Report .

<https://hf.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/raport-eng.pdf> [accessed: 03.07.2022], s. 7.

accounting for 17% of Lublin's total population. After three months of the migration crisis, 14 public accommodation points operated in Lublin, with a total of about 1,500 people<sup>34</sup>. The remaining refugees found shelter either in private homes or, on a smaller scale, rented apartments on the open market. The PESEL number assignment system in Lublin, launched on March 16, registered 8476 people<sup>35</sup>.

### Lublin Social Committee to Aid Ukraine

Representatives of the Lublin City Hall, NGOs, students and residents of the city gathered on February 24, 2022 at 6 pm at the Cultural Center at 12 Peowiaków Street. On that day, on the initiative of Lublin NGOs, the Lublin Social Committee to Aid Ukraine (Ukrainian: Люблінський громадський комітет допомоги Україні, Polish: Lubelski Społeczny Komitet Pomocy Ukrainie) was established. The Committee began its activities on the first day of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. The main task of the Committee became the coordination of assistance to refugees arriving from war zones in Ukraine. For the first three months of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, the headquarters of the Committee was the building of the Cultural Center in Lublin. Among Lublin NGOs, the Homo Faber Association, the Rule of Law Institute and the Borderland Spiritual Culture Foundation played a key role and the first three months of crisis intervention. A special role in the activities of the Committee is played by employees from the departments of the Lublin City Hall: the Office of Social Participation, the Department of Culture, the Department of Strategy and Entrepreneurship, the Office - Center for International Cooperation, the Office of Integrated Territorial Investments. Undoubtedly, the strengths of the Committee are the people whose experience, skills, language competence, knowledge of the city made it possible in those crucial first days to build an efficient crisis support system.

As of February 24, the temporary headquarters of the Committee (from February 24 to May 15) became the Cultural Center in Lublin - a local government cultural institution located in the city center, in a building fully adapted to people with disabilities. The Center's support was not limited to providing space, but also equipment. A person was delegated to work with the Committee, taking care of the needs and communication<sup>36</sup>.

Recognizing the needs of refugees, confronting them with the activities of other entities (social organizations, local government units and institutions), not entering areas already covered by the government system and assuming responsibility provided an opportunity to maximize the

<sup>34</sup>*Ibid*, s. 7-9.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>36</sup>*Ibid*, s. 9.



effectiveness of the Committee's work with limited resources and working on many variables. One of the Committee's first actions became the launch of a 24/7 hotline, as well as an assistance center offering accommodation, food, transportation and logistics, legal and medical assistance, and cross-cultural assistance to people arriving from Ukraine. Within 24 hours of its establishment, the Committee had already managed 17 areas<sup>37</sup>. The hotline was launched on February 25, with the aim of providing reliable information for those fleeing the war. In the first three months of the migration crisis, 16,021 calls were answered<sup>38</sup>. Psychological support was provided in cooperation with the Crisis Intervention Center. The Committee's data shows that 208 consultations were held in the first 90 days of its operation, including 73 individual consultations and 135 group and family consultations<sup>39</sup>.

### Volunteerism

A call for volunteers was launched in the Committee's first hours. Within hours, more than 4,000 people filled out the form<sup>40</sup>. At first, the volunteers on duty at the accommodation points were directed to the accommodation points as translators, in fact, they did everything—changed bedding, cleaned, issued personal hygiene products, served meals, went to outpatient clinics and hospitals, and were the main source of information about Poland and Lublin. The average age of a volunteer is 22. The most common volunteer is a student of a Lublin university. The author's own observation of the article shows that the majority of volunteers are students of the Lublin University of Technology and the University College of Enterprise and Administration in Lublin. Volunteers of Ukrainian origin account for 70%, Belarusian 10% of the total number of volunteers on duty at the intervention accommodation points, as well as at the Railway Station and Bus Station in Lublin<sup>41</sup>. For the most part, these were students from Ukraine and Belarus, who themselves needed support and assistance. The students were losing their income, could not pay their dormitories, and did not have funds for food. Students from Ukraine mostly gave shelter to their families. Emotionally, these young people were not prepared for the stories of refugees and refugee women. This war is also their war. A war that directly affects their families. Taking this into account, the Committee launched a psychological support program for volunteers, including individual and group supervision. The Committee's biggest challenge was to keep a group of volunteers working at various points. It is worth remembering that, for the most part, those

<sup>37</sup>*ibid*, s. 11.

<sup>38</sup>*ibid*, s. 25.

<sup>39</sup>*ibid*, s. 29.

<sup>40</sup>*ibid*.

<sup>41</sup> Source - participant observation by the author of the article.

volunteering were not trained in the basics of relief. The Committee's Board of Directors decided to organize a series of training courses for volunteers as early as the first month of the migration crisis, including humanitarian principles, pre-medical first aid, dealing with aggression, anti-trafficking, and interpreting.

### **Intervention accommodation, lodging**

In 4 months, the number of emergency accommodation points for people fleeing the war has decreased from 17 to 12. As of early July, 850 Ukrainian citizens had found shelter in accommodation points prepared by the city<sup>42</sup>. The city is leaving in reserve locations ready to be activated as needed. The Lublin local government provided food, basic necessities, care for those seeking shelter there was provided by the City's Family Assistance Center together with employees of the Crisis Intervention Center and volunteers of the Lublin Social Committee to Aid Ukraine. At this point, it is worth noting that a barrier to communication between employees of the City's Family Assistance Center, in other words, people specialized in providing assistance to war-affected families, was the lack of knowledge of the Ukrainian/Russian language, which made it difficult to conduct community interviews on the basis of which it was possible to relocate people in need of specialized assistance. The sites had first contact teams providing psychological assistance, including by Ukrainian-speaking psychologists, and language support provided by volunteer translators. Any person who spoke Ukrainian or Russian, as well as English, and had reached the age of 16 could become a volunteer.

The City Guard and the Municipal Emergency Management Center monitored the situation at the city's main entrances, streets and parking lots to direct those in need of assistance to temporary accommodation if necessary. According to the author, the relocation of refugees from the border, took place in an inadequate manner. In the first two months of the migrant crisis, there was no verification of destinations or relocation organizations. Occasionally, in the case of larger transports, there were interventions by the uniformed services, which verified the drivers and organizations taking the population abroad. There was a lack of cooperation with diplomatic missions of the countries to which the Ukrainian population was going. Very often, in the interventionist accommodations, the possibility of going abroad was presented as the only chance. Due to the lack of community interviews, the assistance provided by state bodies was not always adequate.

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<sup>42</sup> Official website of the City of Lublin, <https://lublin.eu/lublin/aktualnosci/miasto-lublin-pomaga-obywatelom-ukrainy,9392,66,1.html> [accessed: 03.07.2022].

Volunteers of the Lublin Social Committee to Aid Ukraine provided assistance and support to refugees in the following places of emergency accommodation for the Ukrainian population, among others:

- ✓ Sports hall "Mosir" at 4 Zygmuntowskie Street;
- ✓ The hall of the City Guard station at 3 a Podwale Street;
- ✓ Sports hall of the School Complex No. 5, 5 Elsnera Street;
- ✓ Sports hall, 8 Magnolia Street;
- ✓ "Start" sports hall, 22 Pilsudski Street.

Thanks to the cooperation of the Lublin City Hall with academic centers and educational institutions, places have been set aside in dormitories located within the City of Lublin, among others:

- ✓ Dormitory No. 2, 13b Chodźki Street;
- ✓ Dormitory "Helios" Street Czwartaków 13;
- ✓ Student House 4 20-501 Lublin Nadbystrzycka 42 A Street.

The third pillar of accommodation for the Ukrainian population in Lublin, in which the social side was presented by the Lublin Social Committee to Aid Ukraine, became the hotels located in the center of the City of Lublin - B&B (7 May 3 Street), Europa (27 Krakowskie Przedmieście Street), Campanille (14 Lubomelska Street). In addition, volunteers of the Committee conducted volunteer activities at the Lublin Railway Station located south of the city center, at 1 Dworcowy Square, and at the PKS Bus Station, 6 Aleja Tysiąclecia Street.

Due to the willingness of residents of the City of Lublin and surrounding areas in the first months of crisis intervention, the Committee launched an online application form "If you want to host someone in your home then please fill out the form"<sup>43</sup>.

Questions on this form included: from when is accommodation available? For what period of time? For how many people? The Committee's Accommodation Department had the data at its disposal on a daily basis. Its task was to verify the offers in the base and inform both hosts and guests about the conditions based on the principle of hospitality<sup>44</sup>. About 30 volunteers worked at the accommodation point. A team of three people worked on site at each table: a Polish-speaking accommodation person, an official (representative of the Lublin City Hall), and a translator from/to

<sup>43</sup> Official website of the Homo Faber Association: <https://arch.hf.org.pl/index.php?id=2553> [accessed: 17.07.2022].

<sup>44</sup> Dabrowska A., Lublin Social Committee for Aid to Ukraine...s. 24

Ukrainian/Russian, providing language support. In addition, in the first two months of operation, the Committee's associates associated with the Accommodation Department coordinated relocation to Western European countries Dodatkowo<sup>45</sup>.

At the end of April 2022, an Multicultural Assistance Team was established within the organizational structure of the Committee. The team consists of people fluent in Ukrainian, Russian and Polish. As part of their activities, those involved in volunteering help with everyday matters, such as doctor's appointments, office visits, enrollment of children in schools, nurseries, kindergartens. They provide assistance in completing medical and official documentation.

After two months of operation, the Committee has set up a system of feeding Ukrainian families housed in private homes. A twenty-kilogram box of vegetables, fruits and dairy products is delivered to them every week. Another aid service is the "Personal Development Scholarship," which is designed to help refugees rebuild their previous lives in their new country. If a child has played a sport or developed other passions, he or she can return to these activities in Poland. An adult can also apply for such a scholarship<sup>46</sup>.

In the first three months of the migrant crisis, the Lublin Social Committee to Aid Ukraine conducted the following activities aimed at refugees:

- ✓ Monitoring the situation of refugees in the intervention accommodation points of the City of Lublin;
- ✓ Providing assistance to refugees: psychological counseling, childcare, assistance with medical appointments and legal advice, career counseling;
- ✓ Language support, conducting Polish and English language lessons;
- ✓ Guidance on the education and higher education system, humanitarian aid provided by organizations in the City of Lublin
- ✓ Recognizing the needs of refugees (diagnosis of the crisis situation);
- ✓ Providing protection in a health or life-threatening situation;
- ✓ Cooperation with institutions working for refugees;
- ✓ Counseling and intervention activities carried out in the intervention accommodation of the client's residence (point visits);
- ✓ Counseling during duty hours at the Committee's information desk.

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<sup>45</sup>Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> Gazeta Wyborcza: <https://wyborcza.pl/AkcjeSpecjalne/7,173931,28370577,pomagac-trzeba-teraz-ale-nalezy-pomyslec-o-tym-co-bedzie-za.html?disableRedirects=true> [accessed: 18.07.2022]

Problem areas:

- ✓ The failure of state institutions to conduct community interviews to monitor the current situation of refugees or their individual plans has resulted in the inadequacy of humanitarian assistance provided to people from Ukraine.
- ✓ Humanitarian aid is running out, and families in the eastern part of Ukraine will unfortunately not be returning home any time soon. Many people involved in helping the Ukrainian population are asking the question, what next? Will Poland provide people from Ukraine with a roof over their heads, jobs, education and a decent life?
- ✓ Relocation of people from abroad took place in an inadequate manner. In the first three months of the migration crisis, the return of families from abroad to accommodation points could be observed.
- ✓ Very often the possibility of going abroad was presented as the only chance. It was not always established where people from Ukraine were going, where and under what conditions they were staying.
- ✓ Humanitarian aid provided in the City of Lublin was primarily focused on humanitarian assistance to mothers with children, while unaccompanied children, the elderly, and the sick were also among those fleeing the war.
- ✓ Government institutions have not conducted an information campaign on how to help wisely. How to put up boundaries? How to make aid appropriate to the needs of refugees?
- ✓ The failure of state institutions to conduct community interviews to monitor the current situation of refugees or their individual plans has resulted in the inadequacy of humanitarian assistance provided to people from Ukraine.
- ✓ Humanitarian aid is running out, and families from the eastern part of Ukraine will unfortunately not be returning home any time soon. Many people involved in helping the Ukrainian population are asking the question, what next? Will Poland provide people from Ukraine with a roof over their heads, jobs, education and a decent life?

In the city of Lublin, the municipal authorities have been committed to a coherent, coordinated response regarding assistance for refugees from Ukraine. On February 24, 2022, local NGOs, together with the City of Lublin, established the Lublin Social Committee to Aid Ukraine. The Committee launched a 24-hour hotline and help center to provide incoming refugees with information and services, including: housing, food, legal, psychological assistance. The social movement has involved thousands of volunteers, officials, representatives of NGOs and and

students, e.g. of Ukrainian and Belarusian descent, in helping and supporting Ukrainian people fleeing the war.

From the author's own observations, as well as from Anna Dabrowska's data contained in the Report "Lublin Social Committee to Aid Ukraine. 90 Days of Assistance" shows that in the near future the following phenomena will occur in Lublin and other Polish cities<sup>47</sup>:

- ✓ Housing deficit;
- ✓ Violation of labor rights;
- ✓ The lack of a sustainable system for including Ukrainian children in Polish schools;
- ✓ The lack of systemic solutions for the full care of women victims of war rape;
- ✓ The lack of systemic support for pensioners and the chronically ill;
- ✓ The lack of integration programs in line with state migration policies;
- ✓ The inadequacy of state assistance;
- ✓ Depleting resources (energy, motivation) of those involved in helping (burnout, helping fatigue).

It is worth noting that during the first months of the war in Ukraine, there was a significant change in Western public discourse about Poland. As scholars from the Department of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Warsaw servingly note, claims previously considered unauthorized, exaggerated, characteristic of a government criticized by left-liberal elites or even associated with so-called "Russophobia" were incorporated into the mainstream of this discourse. "The portrayal of Poland as a state and society friendly to refugees (and even exemplary in fulfilling its role in this regard) was a topos hitherto essentially absent from foreign public discourse"<sup>48</sup>. And it's all thanks to, among other things, the social movements created to help and support war refugees from Ukraine, bottom-up activities of Polish women and men.

## Task 5<sup>49</sup>: When disaster strikes

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<sup>47</sup> Dabrowska A., Lublin Social Committee for Aid to Ukraine...s. 47.

<sup>48</sup> *Working Report - Working Paper of the Department of Social Policy*, Faculty of Political Science and International Studies, University of Warsaw, March 2022, <https://wnpism.uw.edu.pl/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Kryzys-uchodzczy-2022-raport-KPS.pdf> [accessed: 18.09.2022]. s. 86.

<sup>49</sup> Task taken from Polish Humanitarian Action teaching materials: [https://www.pah.org.pl/app/uploads/2017/06/2017\\_dlaszkol\\_kampania\\_pomochumanitarna\\_publikacja\\_pomoc\\_hu-manitarna.pdf](https://www.pah.org.pl/app/uploads/2017/06/2017_dlaszkol_kampania_pomochumanitarna_publikacja_pomoc_hu-manitarna.pdf) [21.12.2022]

Objectives:

- To help students learn more about appropriate disaster response,
- To challenge students' current views on disaster response.

Divide students into teams of 4-5 people.

Distribute sheets to all groups with descriptions of situations faced by humanitarian workers at the scene of a disaster. Ask students to imagine that they are humanitarian workers forming a rapid response team. Their task will be to make quick decisions regarding those affected by Cyclone Haiyan in the Philippines. Read out a description of each situation and give the teams a minute to discuss how they would act under the circumstances. Then ask the groups for their answers. The team that gives the correct answer gets 1 point. The group with the most points wins. For each question, read the correct answer and encourage discussion if there is doubt.

Material for students

#### SITUATION

1. Immediately upon learning of the disaster, you send out an urgent appeal for international help from doctors, nurses and medical personnel.  
YES NO Justification
2. You ask people in Poland through the press and television to collect and send medicines, clothing, food and equipment to the needy.  
YES NO Justification
3. Collection and disposal of dead bodies becomes a priority, as there is a risk that they will cause infectious diseases.  
YES NO Justification
4. It is better to place people as close to their homes as possible than in resettlement camps.  
YES NO Justification
5. Food is a priority after a major disaster, otherwise people will starve.  
YES NO Justification
6. When there are limited food supplies, the youngest and oldest should receive food first.  
YES NO Justification
7. You ask the police and military to guard houses, stores and factories. This is to stop people from stealing things while their owners are away.  
YES NO Justification

8. Even several years after the disaster, it is to be expected that the situation will not return to normal, and some services will not work.

YES NO Justification

Material for the lecturer

Answers:

1. NO - before you ask for help, you do reconnaissance as to what action is needed and to whom. In addition, local health services are usually able to handle a disaster. People in the disaster area speak the local language and are familiar with the local culture and environment. They know what medical assistance is available locally and how to use it. Foreign teams can provide specialized services and equipment, but at the same time they must be provided with food and shelter.
2. NO - it is important that unnecessary items are not sent to the site. Those who want to help should wait to find out exactly what is needed, or donate money for the purchase of materials to agencies and organizations involved in relief efforts.
3. NO - corpses do not cause epidemics and do not transmit diseases in the first 72 hours after death. The priority is to rescue and care for the injured.
4. YES - placing people as close to their homes as possible is the best solution. Resettlement camps are a last resort, as there are separate problems there, such as diseases spreading faster due to the cramped conditions in such a place. Placement close to home is also better because of the mental state of the victims. However, international assistance in the form of construction materials and tools may be necessary.
5. YES - food is a priority after a flood or hurricane, but it should be stored and served properly. After a disaster, it is equally important to distribute seeds and tools for growing crops.
6. NO - food should be available to everyone. People who are involved in rescue and reconstruction (usually not the youngest or oldest) need regular meals so they can continue their work. Within each community, however, we have so-called vulnerable groups that will be more likely to suffer negative consequences if an emergency occurs. We should start distributing aid to these groups.
7. NO - The media often reports that selfish behavior is common after a disaster. In reality, such events usually bring out the best in people. Communities are banding together to cope with a difficult situation. Police and military will be needed to rescue the injured and rebuild the damage.



8. YES - long after the disaster fades from the headlines, people will still have to deal with its effects, which may be felt for years to come. The care system and water supply may be destroyed. Reconstruction is very expensive.

## Final project

Simulation "Escape from Ukraine". Objectives: 1. Sensitizing the participants to the problems and difficulties faced by refugees after leaving the country. 2. Practical familiarisation with refugee issues. 3. Learning about the journey a person goes through before becoming a refugee. 4. Experiencing the problems faced by war refugees. 5. Analysis of the spec act. 6. Conclusions from humanitarian aid in the city of Lublin.

Students are divided into groups and given family cards. Then they plan their escape. The simulation provides for independent planning of the escape route, the procedure for assigning a PESEL number, the procedure for accommodation in places of lodging, going through and analysing the procedures at the border and then simulating the adaptation period in Poland. Students get acquainted with the financial means of aid for refugees, they plan the family budget. They learn about governmental and non-governmental organisations responsible for helping foreigners in Lublin. The project should be prepared on the basis of an interview with one Ukrainian family fleeing the war. It should contain a list of national and international organisations and governmental and self-governmental bodies on whose support the family can count. The most important part is the preparation of conclusions from the implemented assistance in the city of Lublin, corrective actions.

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