

LeSEA Global

FEED THE HUNGRY

A full life feels good.

UKRAINE ONE YEAR ON

FIELD REPORT

SPRING 2023



KEEPING OUR EYES **FIXED ON JESUS**

"You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth-pains."

Matthew 24:6-8 (NIVUK)



Gwyn Williams
CEO
Feed The Hungry UK

Jesus spoke truth and life. But also, sometimes, He spoke incredibly challenging words. This passage, in which Jesus is speaking about the End Times, is one that I find difficult to grapple with. The future - the end plan - is perfection. A restored perfect creation. That's the final destination for those in Christ. But that's not where we are yet and there is hardship on the way. Jesus warns that there will be wars, famines and earthquakes, which will devastate people's lives. Look around - that's the world we're living in today. But while we have not yet reached the end, we are challenged to do as Jesus did; to love our neighbour as ourselves, until such a time that creation is restored to perfection.

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By feeding the hungry together, and delivering aid in the name of Christ, you are joining with Feed The Hungry to help change people's lives for the better, for the future and for eternity.

Please consider financially supporting the work of Feed The Hungry. To donate, phone **0303 3000 484 or visit fth.org.uk/fieldreport**

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Following the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Turkey and Syria on 6th February, and the subsequent quakes that have shaken the region since, Feed The Hungry has been working to get food and emergency resources into affected areas.

As the initial quake struck, Feed The Hungry's CEO, Gwyn Williams, was en route to Bucharest in Romania, as part of the charity's latest mercy mission to support Ukrainian refugees.

He said: *"As we were traveling to Bucharest early on Monday morning to arrange delivery of aid to Izmail in Ukraine, we never imagined that our plans for the week would take a dramatic turn. We journeyed to the main distribution warehouse straight from the*

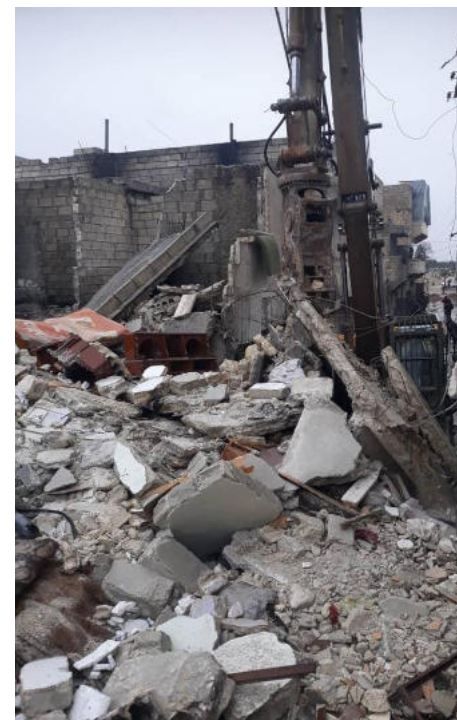
airport and immediately began planning how we were going to respond to this tragedy."

The warehouse in Romania is operated by Feed The Hungry's partner, *Bread of Life* and regularly receives shipments of aid, sent from the UK and elsewhere around Europe.



At the same time, Feed The Hungry in the UK, USA and Germany began conversations with partners in Syria and Turkey who were already working on the ground, to see what resources were required and how aid could be shipped to them. Our partner in Lebanon, Pastor Said, quickly took resources into Syria in the days immediately following the first quake. He shared, *"We've arrived in Aleppo, after distributing aid in Homs and Idlib. We've spent all afternoon and night distributing blankets, food cans, sandwiches and mattresses to displaced Syrians in four different centres and to those sleeping outdoors under open skies on the highways and roads."*

With him was Pastor Hami. *"There is little food or water, and it is very cold."* he shared. *"The churches are filled with women and children seeking shelter. Most of the men are helping with rescue efforts, trying to find survivors under the rubble."*



With generous financial donations from companies in the UK, such as Amtico, and physical donations of food from Heinz in Europe, resources were quickly able to be sent by lorry, through Eastern Europe, into Turkey. Food parcels began to be prepared in the UK, which will be sent as a second load later in March.

Although the initial impact of this disaster has passed, rebuilding the lives of those affected is going to take years. There is still the opportunity to donate financially to this appeal by going to fth.org.uk/earthquake.

UKRAINE ONE YEAR ON

It's hard to imagine the sheer scale of destructive force that has been thrown at Ukraine over the past year.

In March 2023, an estimated 8,000 civilians have been killed in the conflict, besides hundreds of thousands of military personnel on both sides. Cities have been damaged and made derelict. Power infrastructure and Medical Care Facilities have been destroyed. There are currently over 8 million Ukrainian refugees living elsewhere across Europe and the

UK, and over 9 million Ukrainians living without power in Ukraine.

It really is a war zone.

And yet, the support for the people of Ukraine from around the world has been immense. Over the previous 12 months, over 105 containers carrying more than 2000 tonnes of aid have been sent by Feed The Hungry to support Ukrainians in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries.

In early February, a small team from the UK visited Ukraine to see the



Food is distributed to vulnerable individuals and families in Ukraine through Church partners.



Resources driven from Romania into Ukraine are decanted into other lorries and taken to be distributed across the country.

impact that these donations were having. Landing in Romania, the first stop was to visit the main distribution warehouse in Bucharest, where resources sent from the UK are stored until they're ready to be sent out. Having this facility in Eastern Europe has been critical in being able to get regular supplies into Ukraine and Moldova.

Then by night, two lorries of aid were driven up to the eastern border with Ukraine. Crossing the Danube River, which separates Romania and Ukraine, the trucks of food and bedding were taken up to Izmail in southern Ukraine. It's a long journey, but the team from Bread of Life Ministries in Romania are used to it.

In Izmail, the aid is decanted to a temporary holding facility before being taken to smaller distribution centres around Ukraine.

Elliot Harris, International Logistics Manager, shared, *"Bread of Life have strong and direct relationships with the grassroots, ground-level local churches and community groups, who distribute it directly to those in need. This direct relationship is key to our distinctive approach to effective humanitarian aid."*

By distributing through churches, those receiving the food and resources being sent are seeing the Gospel in action.

As well as the aid sent through Romania into southern Ukraine, containers of food are being sent from

a Feed The Hungry warehouse in the Czech Republic into western Ukraine, with resources even being taken into Kyiv.

Pastor Victor who runs a church in Kyiv explained, *"We helped a woman called Irina, who has two children, aged 11 and 14. She is raising them alone. Because of the war she lost her job and turned to us for help with food and hygiene products. At that time, she was helping us to prepare food for free at our street kitchen, for the soldiers who were defending Kyiv. In time, she found a job, but after a month of hard work for 12 hours a day, she was paid only half of the amount that was promised. She turned to us again for help. When we met, she was crying from helplessness. We shared food with her and she was so grateful."*



Ukrainians living in the UK pack food parcels for people living in Ukraine.



There are thousands of individuals and families like Irina, who are not only needing support, but also wanting to give support to others.

In January 2023, at The Halo Centre in Coventry, a group of 40 Ukrainian refugees living in the West Midlands, came together to pack food parcels for Ukrainians still living in Ukraine. Over the course of a few hours, over 500 food parcels were packed, each containing dried and canned food; enough to support a family for a few days.

Alina, who has lived in the UK since June last year, shared that the area of

Ukraine in which she lived had been a battleground since the start of the war, having been occupied from March and then liberated in September. Her house had been destroyed in the conflict.

"It has been a horrible time," said Alina, "Some of my friends have died. I respect Ukrainian volunteering and I want to be a part of this flow - it's good to help people."

The invasion of Ukraine still looks far from being over but Feed The Hungry are committed to continue sending aid and supporting Ukrainians for as long as it is needed.

To support the relief effort, please donate at fth.org.uk/ukraine.



Gwyn Williams, CEO of Feed The Hungry UK, delivers aid to struggling families.

FEED THE HUNGRY LOGISTICS NETWORK

Getting food to where it is needed

Feed The Hungry works with Christian partners around the world to ensure that food is delivered to where it is needed.

This logistics network has been critical in responding to recent crisis, particularly the conflict in Ukraine and the Turkey-Syria Earthquake.

1. Coventry, UK

Feed The Hungry UK's main warehouse is in Coventry. Here, food and other resources are collected from different sources; usually donated from companies, other charities and individuals. The warehouse is able to hold over 400 tonnes of aid.

When there are resources ready to send, a lorry or container is arranged to carry the goods overseas.



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2. Czech Republic

The Feed The Hungry warehouse in the Czech Republic has been an incredible hive of activity, particularly for sending resources directly into Ukraine since the start of the war.

3. Romania

Bread of Life in Romania is a critical partner. Their warehouse in Bucharest stores food and resources, which are then sent on to Church partners in other countries.



4. Izmail, Ukraine

Our Church partner in Izmail receives the food sent from Romania and distributes it throughout Ukraine.



5. Kyiv, Ukraine

Working with a Church in Kyiv, food is distributed to vulnerable individuals and families.

6. Turkey and Syria

Resources are carried across land to our partners working in Turkey and Syria following the earthquake in February 2023.



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CHANRAM SCHOOL

Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, Uganda

In Uganda, Bishop Solomon oversees several Feed The Hungry feeding programmes. He shares an update from Chanram School in the Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, where South Sudanese refugee students are regularly fed.

"This is a school for refugee children from Sudan. Two tribes in their homeland are at war. COVID made things even more desperate. Many of the children here lost parents and relatives. They walked hundreds of miles to this place. When they arrive, the families receive a tarp to make a house and a small piece of land.

They are grateful for the safety of this place, but before we came there was little if any food. You would see many small coffins. Now you don't. The young children are surviving on the extra food from Feed The Hungry that the school children take home for their families.

Today, as I write this, it is a school holiday. The children are supposed to be home, but many are here. This is the only place

with food. They walk 3 to 5 miles to school in the morning and then home in the evening. In this school, there are 2,568 children. One classroom has 600 students. They learn under the care of local pastors and teachers and they are safe.

Nearby are other schools for more Sudanese and Congolese children.

Overall Feed The Hungry cares for 10,000 children in this area with daily meals. Without that, they would starve. We would have a famine.

One day the fighting may cease and they can go home. But for now, this place is all they have."



FIELD REPORT

THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

Leaving a gift in your Will can help to feed hungry children around the world for generations to come.

Feed The Hungry is working to make life-long changes to the lives of over 430,000 children globally. By providing food, education and spiritual care, we are sowing seeds that will bring real, positive change to communities.

You can make a life-changing impact by leaving a gift in your Will to Feed The Hungry UK; you can help shape the future of these young people. **And as a Feed The Hungry supporter, you can have a free, legal Will written and checked by a specialist.**

Feed The Hungry is working with one of the UK's leading Will writing services, Farewill, to offer a free Will writing service to anyone who has previously supported, or would like to support, Feed The Hungry.

You can start your free Will today by visiting fth.org.uk/freewill, or call Farewill on **020 8050 2686** to book a telephone appointment.

To get a free Will, make sure to tell the Customer Service operator that you're a Feed The Hungry supporter at the start of the call.



Hand To Hand FOOD PACKING EVENTS

Every year, Feed The Hungry sends millions of meals around the world to those facing food crisis. These meals are often packed by volunteers at food packing events in the USA, UK and around Europe.

In 2023, we're looking to expand the number of Hand To Hand events being run across the UK. But what is *Hand To Hand*, and how is it impacting those struggling for food globally?

What is Hand to Hand?

The idea of packing high-nutrition dry meals to be able to send, ready to use almost anywhere in the world, is not a new concept. Charities have been doing this for over 30 years. The ingredients are fairly simple - rice,

lentils, soya and micronutrients - but the meal that they create is one that is able to sustain life. There are a number of charities who prepare food like this; *Hand To Hand* is Feed The Hungry's version.

So, how is Hand To Hand different?

There are two main things that make Hand To Hand different.

Firstly, the price; wherever a food packing event is run, there is a cost involved - mostly, the cost of the food that goes into each bag. We've intentionally tried to keep this cost as low as possible - currently, around 25p per meal - and have done this to try to make food packing events accessible to Churches, Schools and Community groups.

The second difference is that Feed The Hungry oversees the whole process. Some charities pack food and then give it to another charity to ship to where it's needed. We know, because we receive a lot of food in this way. Hand To Hand is different because we not only help to run the food packing events for Churches and Schools, but also ship the food to our feeding programmes around the world. That's why it's called 'Hand To Hand' - it literally goes from your hands to the hands of those who need it.

By operating in this way, we know that the food that you pack is getting to its intended destination; we oversee the whole journey.

How do you know the food works?

Because we work in close relationship with our partners who are distributing the food in lower income countries, often through school programmes, we are able to get their feedback and testimony of the difference the food makes. In Uganda in 2017, the UNHCR, who run several refugee settlements, wrote a report stating that

malnutrition and stunted growth had been eradicated in children in the two camps where Feed The Hungry distributed food. That was unprecedented at the time and it is solely down to these rice-based dry meals being cooked and shared. And there are scores of stories like this - that's how we know the formula works.

How do I take part?

If you would like to get involved in a Hand To Hand food packing event, there are two ways; find someone who is organising an event and join in, or organise an event yourself. We have a friendly team who can help you through the organisation process. Once an event has been confirmed, our team will come to your venue with all of the food and equipment, and teach your team of volunteers how to pack food. A few hours later, when the food has been packed, we'll take it to our warehouse, ready to be sent on to one of our feeding programmes.

To see Hand To Hand in action, visit fth.org.uk/handtohand.



NEWS

To keep up to date with all our latest news stories, go to fth.org.uk/news or follow us on Facebook and Instagram.



SENDING THE NEXT CONTAINER TO BURKINA FASO

At the end of February, the next load of resources for Burkina Faso was packed at The Halo Centre in Coventry. This 40' freight container was loaded full of rice meals and hygiene products, before setting on its 4500 mile trip. The journey typically takes about 8 weeks, and at the other end will be received by Pastor Joseph Koomson of Victory International Ministries. Pastor Joseph supports young people at a school for the blind in Ouagadougou, as well as internally displaced refugees who have fled from insurgents from Mali, entering the country over the northern border.



Please consider financially supporting the work of Feed The Hungry.
To donate, phone 0303 3000 484 or visit fth.org.uk/fieldreport