

Help Responsibly, Safe Aid

Ukraine Relief

March - September 2022



A big thank you to the American Jewish Committee, Solingen hilft e. V. and our private donors for their support. They have made these projects possible.

Introduction

Wadi arrived in Krakow in the beginning of March 2022, upon the request of local NGOs to assist with the mass-evacuation of Ukrainian persons. This included setting up systems/structures for managing this crisis by sharing past experience and expertise. During the first weeks of evacuation, particularly single women and unaccompanied children, were at high-risk of trafficking and sexual violence, due to the evacuees' significant number; a lack of overview that created easy-access to the evacuees; and a whole lot of good-will that resulted in cutting corners of safety protocol and security processes, in an attempt to accommodate as many persons as possible, opposed to accommodating a few through a more strict and safe protocol of regulation. In cooperation with local partners in Krakow the campaigns and strategies #SafeAid and #HelpResponsibly were created.

Background

On the 24th of February 2022, Russia conducted a large-scale invasion of Ukraine, that resulted in Poland receiving over 1 million Ukrainian refugees in less than a week. The evacuees consisted predominantly of women, children and elderly people, since all combat-capable males were requested to stay in Ukraine through the enactment of Martial Law.

Even before the invasion statistics reveal that Ukrainian women are at a particularly high risk of trafficking for sexual exploitation, not only in Europe, but also per global figures. In the weeks leading up to the war, tips and tricks would be shared on the deep web that both encouraged and explained how to traffick Ukrainian women successfully. On a more general basis statistics disclose that up to 2/3 of women in conflict will experience sexual or physical violence. Whereas nearly 90% of all domestic violence occurs behind closed doors by a person acquainted with the victim during peacetime, with an expected rise of susceptibility of violence in times of conflict.

While Ukraine is neither part of the EU, nor NATO, then Ukraine did become a member of an expanded Schengen program known as the ETIAS visa waiver program in 2017. This allows Ukrainian nationals to travel to Schengen member-countries visa-free with an electronic passport (basically like a tourist). But as was experienced, refugees crossing borders can be both a blessing and a curse: a blessing because persons in need of protection could pursue it at any minute; a curse because it made it more difficult to prevent, monitor and regulate malicious actors who sought to exploit the vulnerable position that the Ukrainian refugees found themselves in. With numerous unregistered so-called volunteers, private initiatives and organizations ready to host and transport Ukrainian refugees to all ends of Europe (and in some cases outside); it was impossible for Ukrainian refugees to know who to trust and who not to trust. Even genuine offers would present difficulties as they were performed by private initiatives and amateurs who ended up adding to the problem on the basis of not knowing what to do, or how to approach the situation. All in all, the border crossings and transport-stations opened up a "free-for-all" type of situation for malicious actors to prey more or less unnoticed.

The situation thus accumulates down to a very high number of women and children arriving within a short time, with a pre-documented susceptibility towards trafficking, sexual violence among other forms of violence, on top of all the other forms of endangerment and exploitation who are experienced by refugees, women and children in various EU-countries - without any, or if so very few male combat-capable counterparts. With malicious actors having easy-access to the evacuees through 1) chaotic border points by disguising themselves as aid workers, as well as 2) host- and transport-programs that were quickly enacted out of necessity and founded upon blind trust and good-will. While many persons did approach these programs with the best of their intent, then it's lack of regulation could also be easily exploited, resulting in evacuees being transported and accommodated against their will in almost any EU-country through a more or less easily disguised approach.

Here are some interviews that further outlines the concerns;

SVT/Swedish:

<https://www.svt.se/nyheter/inrikes/ukrainska-flyktingar-riskerar-falla-offer-for-trafficking?fbclid=IwAR04-nSz-FO8HpNQH9b7Ajl3Czh3HD96iYLSZpu6d5aDRADfuJX6IyKnC3U>

NRK/Norwegian:

https://www.nrk.no/nordland/krigen-i-ukraina_-fn-og-organisasjoner-advarer-mot-menneskehandel-ukraina-1.15882307?fbclid=IwAR0nuOIZ4zfyZw0xSnbVyP6cq6WCoo61OE6qRugrVJry3p3kehQplvuBh8

Die Zeit/German:

https://www.zeit.de/gesellschaft/2022-03/ukrainische-gefluechtete-frauen-kinder-gefahren-menschenhandel/komplettansicht?utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Ffacebook.com%2F

#HelpResponsible/#SafeAid

It was the concerns outlined above that created the basis for the #SafeAid and #HelpResponsibly campaign and (info-)strategy. The campaigns were developed in cooperation with local partners, for local partners to implement into action with Wadis support and guidance. The #SafeAid campaign itself can be split up and synchronized into various steps of the evacuation;



Sweden until a few weeks later.

The last element of the process was to map down and ensure how many Ukrainian refugees wanted to go where, and if they had the necessary documents to go where they wanted. Several of the Ukrainian refugees had many questions about the end-destination that the relocators had not considered; how soon can my child resume their education?; is volley-ball and gymnastics training available?; how will we sustain ourselves financially? In short, does there exist a plan for the family should they relocate to the proposed destination. As such, the relocation team would often act as a platform of communication between the Ukrainian refugees, the municipality and relocators. All in all making this specific task quite a complex one.

Person(s) and organisation(s) offering to relocate Ukrainian nationals were requested to bring documents that would confirm their intent; for example that the municipality was in agreement with relocating a certain number of persons; and that the trip was coordinated to avoid situation where Ukrainian nationals would arrive to a destination without further support awaiting. For example, it was experienced that a bus driver had been refused access to bring in a group of Ukrainian refugees who did not have the necessary documentation to enter the designated country. The bus driver had simply dropped the Ukrainian refugees off at the nearest gas station at the border and left.



Moreover, it provided the unit the service of flagging requests such as “do the refugees have nice teeth?”; “do they have strong muscles and can do heavy lifting?”. In other cases, it was experienced that the bus drivers had criminal records that included charges of sexual assault, as well as convicted paedophiles.

Examples

23.03.2022 Aftenposten/Norwegian

Kripos: Norwegians convicted of sexual assault "directly involved" in the transport of Ukrainian minors.

<https://www.aftenposten.no/verden/i/8QkoG2/kripos-overgrepsdoemte-nordmenn-direkte-involvert-i-transport-av-ukr>

08.04.2022 VG/Norwegian

[The Police] Stops convicts of sexual abuse with Ukrainian children in the car - not punishable

[https://www.vg.no/nyheter/innenriks/i/5GqvLX/stanser-overgrepsdoemte-med-ukrainske-barn-i-bilen-blir-ikke-straftet](https://www.vg.no/nyheter/innenriks/i/5GqvLX/stanser-overgrepsdoemte-med-ukrainske-barn-i-bilen-blir-ikke-straffet)

22.07.2022 Mirror/English

“Ten British paedophiles deported from Poland after pretending to help refugees”

[https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/ten-british-paedophiles-deported-poland-27548330?](https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/ten-british-paedophiles-deported-poland-27548330?fbclid=IwAR2pdwJPHIJtzeGhxuxFCz0OdOB0cy06ozzPPIZWcoWVq_P_YrO6mEWzRfU&fs=e&s=cl#15y9prk43dkiv2dasl1)

[fbclid=IwAR2pdwJPHIJtzeGhxuxFCz0OdOB0cy06ozzPPIZWcoWVq_P_YrO6mEWzRfU&fs=e&s=cl#15y9prk43dkiv2dasl1](https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/ten-british-paedophiles-deported-poland-27548330?fbclid=IwAR2pdwJPHIJtzeGhxuxFCz0OdOB0cy06ozzPPIZWcoWVq_P_YrO6mEWzRfU&fs=e&s=cl#15y9prk43dkiv2dasl1)

Throughout the work there was a continuous push requesting greater presence from State organs of other EU/EEA countries; either by registering persons and producing a sort of documentation that would approve that the persons coming to relocate refugees did not have a criminal record; or by leading the evacuation themselves. Unfortunately, these calls never received a reply.

DagensPS/Swedish:

<https://www.dagensps.se/privatekonomi/sa-hjalper-frivilliga-flyktingar-att-ta-sig-till-sverige/>

NRK/Norwegian:

https://www.nrk.no/nordland/krig-i-ukraina_-flyktingar-er-forsvunne_-myndighetene-ma-ta-ansvar-seier-lokale-aktorer-1.15890864

Accommodation: Shelters

Over the first few weeks numerous makeshift shelters were set up to accommodate persons. Making use of several larger venues such as sports halls, or in the case of 3 Radziwiłłowska Street which was initially a theater. Although organizations had acquired larger spaces and volunteers that could contribute to the shelter's functionality, it was the first time several of these organizations tried to operate a shelter. In the heat of the moment, it resulted in several



important aspects regarding security and well-being getting lost such as fire safety hazards, hygienic concerns (e.g. food, bathrooms and pets), access to medical and psychological assistance and general security concerns concerning particularly concerning sexual violence due to a lack of safeguarding practices. Plus general challenges that arose in the context of coordination. Lastly, several of the shelters had been opened through private initiative, and they had no immediate duty of registration; which contributed to the difficulty of locating them.

After having first inspected the site of 3 Radziwiłłowska Street, Wadi opted to fly in a longtime friend who has over 30 years of experience in running shelters. In which, it must be emphasized that 3 Radziwiłłowska Street, although operated by persons who had never worked with a shelter before, was of very high standard in comparison to other shelters visited.

At one of the locations, a shelter opened specifically for pregnant women and mothers with babies, we found it hard to move within their space due to the excessive number of dirty diapers that were piled up both in the stairs leading up to the shelters as well in their actual living space - including the kitchen. Several trash bags had already started to attract insects and a strong smell. In general, there were very few elements, if any at all, to this specific shelter that would suggest it safe for children. Whereas inspections from the landowner had created a

situation where he wanted the organization out of his spaces as soon as possible. Despite our best efforts to turn the situation around, then all forms of assistance and guidance were rejected from the persons in charge of the shelter and it was eventually closed down. Several shelter-inspections were made, where both assistance and guidance was offered to all shelters ready to welcome it.

Accommodation: Private Housing

Due to the dire need of accommodation, several organizations made use of the offers coming from private homes to take in refugees. Similar to the entry of *Relocation*, then there was little to no safeguarding protocols taken into account in the general chain of operations. To such an extent that Ukrainian refugees were housed in locations that one could neither verify that the information provided was real (even the entry of surnames were often bygone), nor did there exist a register of knowing who and how many refugees had been sent to where . The initial process was limited to one part of the call center accepting calls of invitations by Polish hosts, and another, separate part of the call center calling the refugees to offer them accommodation to these sites.



There was no physical inspection of neither the place nor site. Often the invitations would be communicated through calls, but in other events simply through texts. As a result of the call

centers being mostly operated by volunteers without any training in safeguarding security, dubious requests such as “please, I only want a young and single female refugee, preferably under 23 years old” were not flagged down in the system for further inspection. Nor was there a security mechanism in place in terms of informing the refugees of what to do should they find themselves in an endangered situation. As a result Ukrainian refugees were at potential endangerment from both the system and possible hosts, and it did not take long before specific cases began surfacing in the media.

Examples

10.03.2022 Oko/Polish

“The [49 year old] man raped a 19-year-old girl from Ukraine, whom he took under his roof. She was running away from the war” https://www.onet.pl/informacje/onetwroclaw/mezczyzna-zgwalcil-19-latke-uciekajaca-z-ukrainy-ktora-przyjal-w-domu/4hq6yfn,79cfc278?fbclid=IwAR2SFvSV8Y0Xg6Dic91bMmw0To8ycEm04KpMiS_8WSMJbeBPVEUvWY9mOEA

15.03.2022 Daily Mail/English

“Ukrainian 18-year-old refugee 'is gang-raped by two men' on board German hotel ship used to house people fleeing war”
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10614551/Ukrainian-18-year-old-refugee-gang-raped-two-men-board-German-hotel-ship.html?fbclid=IwAR37O93giewB90-4yfWI3r20fHdzdc2EDUSnDFuYJ52RvcqNG8RTWCuCYy0>

02.04.2022 NRK/Norwegian

“Charged with rape of Ukrainian 17-year-old”
<https://www.nrk.no/tromsogfinnmark/siktet-for-voldtekt-av-ukrainsk-17-aring-1.15918083>

12.03.2022 ReportersOnline/Dutch

“Ukrainian Refugees Disappear; Reception by Private Persons Appears To Be Unwise”
<https://reportersonline.nl/oekraïense-vluchtelingen-verdwijnen-opvang-bij-particulieren-blijkt-onverstandig/>

To emphasize, this is how *most* organizations operated over the first week. Upon Wadis arrival, an emergency meeting was held and information concerning the security risks were passed on. As a result several local organizations quickly changed their ways.

Accommodation: arranging accommodation online on social media and hostpages

Numerous online host pages were shared around and encouraged for their proposed use, even by large and influential actors. Yet, it became evident that most actors had put little thought into what type of systems they were actually sharing. To accept host-invitations from online systems presented the same, if not even a higher risk and endangerment towards refugees as accepting host-invitations through calls and texts.

In an attempt to map down online platforms offering accommodation to refugees, several host pages were inspected by competent computer technicians and the results were striking: not a single one of the tenfold pages assessed came with a satisfactory method of ensuring safety on behalf of the refugees!

Firstly, in fear of violating the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)[<https://gdpr.eu/>], most host pages would request hardly any information upon their host-entry.

Secondly, most host pages would stress that they were not the responsible actor; this naturally raises the question of *who is the responsible actor?*

The attached pictures is a screenshot from a hostpage that the Ukrainian Embassy in Norway encouraged its followers on various social media platforms to use in order to host Ukrainian persons arriving in Norway. Where one needs to look no further than the registration page to read in bold text that **“Our team is not responsible for the people you shelter”**. Several attempts were made to warn the Ukrainian Embassy in Norway, but to this day, the post is still available with the attached text entry:



Important information for Ukrainians who have come to Norway because of the war in Ukraine and are looking for a place to live!

There is also information for residents of Norway who have the opportunity to help resettle people from Ukraine, or want to place them at home for free.

We would like to inform you about the official website "Prykhystok":

<https://prykhystok.in.ua/>

On this website you can post information about locations, the number of available places and contact information for those who offer or need free accommodation.

It is a practical and proven service that helps coordinate the efforts of those who seek help and who can provide it.

We encourage Norwegian citizens to use the website "Prykhystok" if you want to help with housing for women and children who have been forced to come to Norway due to fleeing the war!

**Translated in Google Translate from Norwegian to English*

<https://www.facebook.com/UKRinNOR/posts/pfbid0K3Ney7po1PQ5vsKgEdQPsdAeXJDfaLScs83KMCbPNZLPAXi1wV3k3gCSiBvZdWgyl>

Moreover, referring persons to make use of such pages also served to undermine efficient and safe State safeguarding mechanisms; as a registration system with the municipality were made

available for potential hosts in Norway. This system also ensured that the designated municipality would be held at full account for the refugees' wellbeing, along potential challenges that might arise in the process. However, private persons hosting Ukrainian refugees directly would be at sole liability for the Ukrainians well-being.

This problematic is further demonstrated in this article;

It only took a little over a month before Danish persons who had registered as hosts with their municipality wanted to "return" the Ukrainian refugees back to the municipality, which they had initially volunteered to take in. DR News finds that this was the case in at least 19/64 municipalities operating with this system.

"Hospitable Danes are 'worn out' after weeks with Ukrainian refugees at home: Now they are asking the municipalities for help"

https://www.dr.dk/nyheder/indland/gaestfrie-danskere-er-moere-efter-uger-med-ukrainske-flygtninge-i-hjemmet-nu-beder?cid=soc_facebook_drnyheder_post_qgkx24hw

It must also be noted that several persons opted to arrange accommodation through social media platforms and groups such as Facebook, Instagram, Google Document and WhatsApp/Telegram groups: posing equally as large risk. It was further observed that in countries where State systems to host refugees were made available through easy registration were often overlooked simply out of incomprehension. Persons who wished to volunteer their homes had not been informed of these systems and while requesting information of the processes, they would often be redirected to unsafe sites thinking they were the best approach for registry.

Examples

25.03.2022 AT5/Dutch

"Municipality: suspicions that Ukrainian women are being recruited at shelters for human trafficking and exploitation"

<https://www.at5.nl/artikelen/214351/gemeente-vermoedens-dat-oekraiense-vrouwen-bij-opvanglocaties-worden-geronseld-voor-prostitutie>

26.03.2022 The Guardian/English

"UK's Homes for Ukraine scheme risks operating as 'Tinder for sex traffickers', say charities"

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/mar/26/uk-homes-for-ukraine-scheme-risks-operating-as-tinder-for-sex-traffickers-say-charities>

04.05.2022 BBC/English

"Homes for Ukraine: Housing scheme called danger to refugees"

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61311046>

12.06.2022 NU/Dutch

"First reports of human trafficking with Ukrainians, no arrests yet"

<https://www.nu.nl/spanningen-oekraïne/6192156/eerste-meldingen-over-mensenhandel-met-oekrainers-nog-geen-arrestaties.html>

Accommodation: #Safeshelter Platform for Safe housing

It was all of the concerns outlined above that led to the creation of #Safeshelter: a GDPR-compliant software that could catalog both private-host arrangements and shelters alike to better cooperate on meeting the needs of refugees in need of safe accommodation.

A short introductory video about #Safeshelter: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cK_we751IA&t=118s

Media: #HelpResponsibly

Media stations and social media were used intensively as a tool to get relevant information out to both Ukrainian refugees, as well as persons who wished to assist them. Simple guides for refugees to safeguard themselves were created and published in Ukrainian languages on Ukrainian media; as well as in social media groups.

#HelpResponsibly included a series of do's and don'ts particularly affecting and encouraging new and private initiatives towards a more rational approach and response that would build on safeguarding mechanisms opposed to shortcuts that could further endanger the refugees.

UAinKrakow/Ukrainian:

[https://uainkrakow.pl/pamyatka-dla-zhinok-bezpeka-pry-peretyni-kordonu/?](https://uainkrakow.pl/pamyatka-dla-zhinok-bezpeka-pry-peretyni-kordonu/?fbclid=IwAR3YXGjR6DGBVwSfa0gpMwSWQ9lyKpFREvVrzZ4EM39RBbqinFI7_EQ0UTs)

[fbclid=IwAR3YXGjR6DGBVwSfa0gpMwSWQ9lyKpFREvVrzZ4EM39RBbqinFI7_EQ0UTs](https://uainkrakow.pl/pamyatka-dla-zhinok-bezpeka-pry-peretyni-kordonu/?fbclid=IwAR3YXGjR6DGBVwSfa0gpMwSWQ9lyKpFREvVrzZ4EM39RBbqinFI7_EQ0UTs)

Martynka: a “clean-up project” from Ukrainian women for Ukrainian women

It was observed that while a wide range of services were available to Ukrainian refugees in Poland, then the Ukrainian refugees had little to no awareness of them. As such a grass-root hot-line was created to assist Ukrainian refugees with whatever service they might need while in Poland. Through the hotline it was also possible to reach and assist women who found themselves in a difficult situation. Hence why it is referred to as a “clean up project” in its introductory phase.

A short introductory video about Martynka: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQYROKKUfOY>

Local Partners



Salam Lab/SafeShelter (March - May)

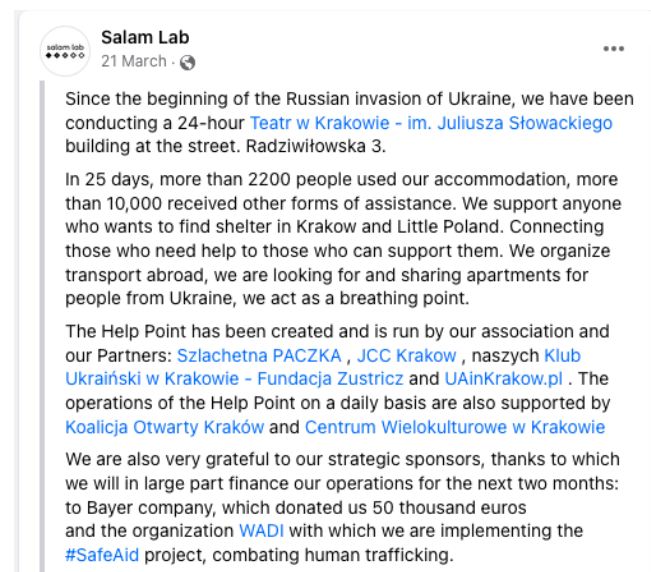
<https://salamlab.pl/pl/punkt-pomocy-r3/>

<https://salamlab.pl/pl/>

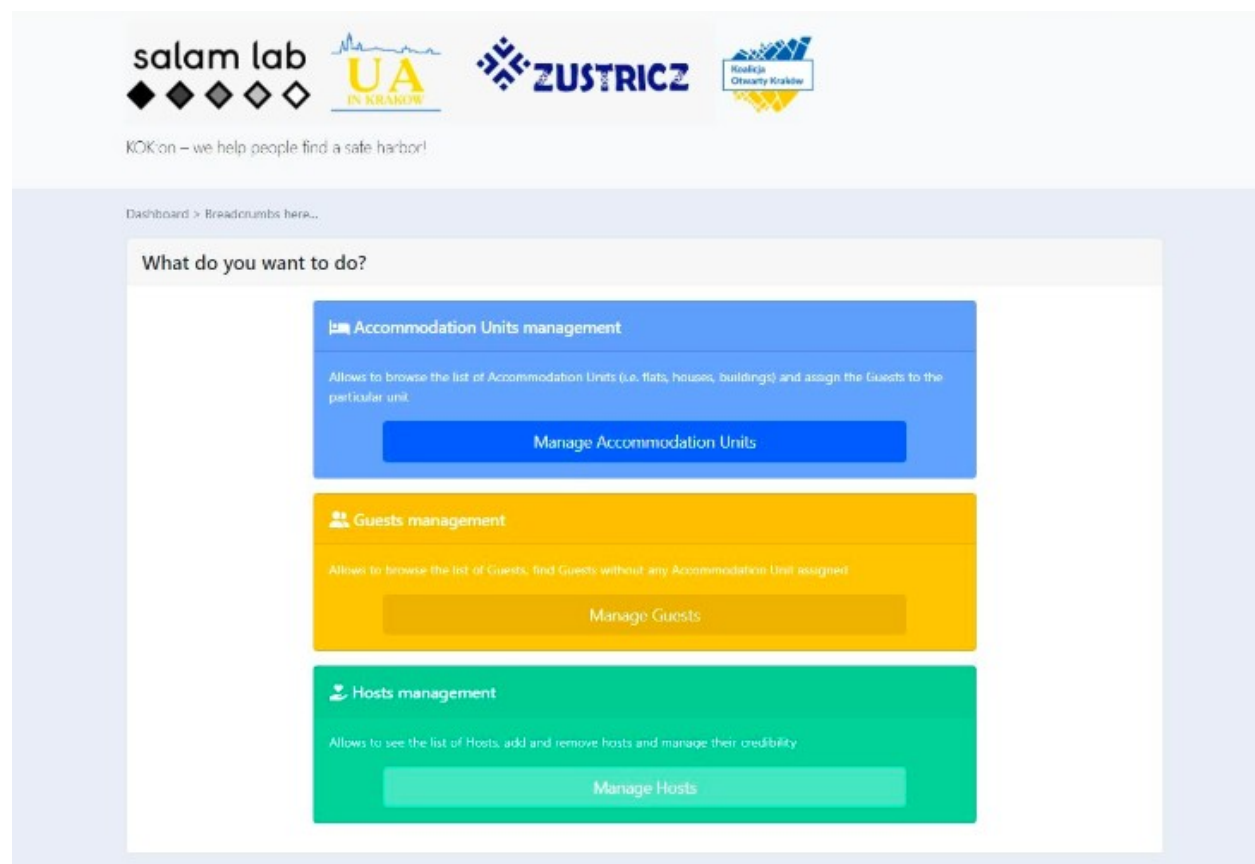
Salam Lab holds an esteemed position within “Grupa Granica”, a Polish network of NGOs operative at the border, and the “Krakow Coalition”, that represents a network of NGOs, plus local governmental bodies operating in Krakow. Using these channels, information, requests and needs could quickly be communicated to a multitude of actors within both close and far vicinity.

Several crucial functions were carried out at the emergency center in 3 Radziwiłłowska Street (near the main railway station), which had been set up by three organizations: The Poland- Ukraine Institute Foundation, the Zustricz Foundation and the Association "Action Laboratory for Peace". The centre delivered a range of services for refugees from Ukraine, including a shelter, relocation, distribution as well as networking for medical/psychological referral.

By way of illustration, the need arose to deploy refugees to accommodation. Whereas the accommodation provided by the local authorities were first in short supply, Polish/Kraków residents offered to host Ukrainian refugees within their own residences. Within the start of this process, there were no systems to check that these hosts offering rooms were safe and suitable for Ukrainian refugees.



It was this that led to the decision of developing an online host-system called Safeshelter.
(Introductory video about Safeshelter https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cK_we751IA)



The Project Manager of Safeshelter was coordinating a group of approximately 20 volunteers: developers and UX designers who designed a platform that can be used for refugees accommodation management. This online platform provides tools to avoid human error and store guests, hosts and accommodation data securely. It also lets us generate reports to present statistics of the refugees hosted by polish hosts who signed up to our database. Salam Lab's team at our Help Center has been connecting Polish hosts with Ukrainian guests since the first day of war. Since the end of March, we were able to do it more efficiently thanks to the use of the platform. The funds were spent on salary, software and licensing expenses and accrued vacation (paid out upon termination of the contract). Thanks to that collaboration we were also able to understand how to manage the safety of such programs and grow into one of the main points of contact in the country in terms of refugee accommodation. It also helped us start the process of hosts' verification through online banking and other governmentally recognized means. Furthermore, Safeshelter communicated to the process of Relocation.

Accommodation Units (Found: 8)

Refresh data

+ Add new Accommodation

- Pets not present: - Pets present: - Pets allowed: - Disabled people friendly: - Parking place available: - Easy ambulance access:

City	Address	Status	Capacity	Description	Information
Katowice	ul. Kwiatów Polskich 84/24 24-691 Katowice	New	0 / 29		
Lublin	ul. Kosmonautów 87NM9 06-631 Lublin, lubelskie	New	13 / 35	Volunteer	
Kraków	Lorem 12-345 Kraków	Verified	3 / 7	Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet	
Kraków	św. Filipa 23/4 31-150 Kraków	New	0 / 2	Takie tam Vol	
Kraków	św. Filipa 23/4 31-150 Kraków	New	0 / 1	Volunteer notes	
Włochy	ul. Janiszowska 43 14-658 Włochy, mazowieckie	New	0 / 1		
Sokołów Podlaski	ul. Czekanowskiego 70 14-291 Sokołów Podlaski, mazowieckie	New	None		

The SafeShelter Development in Stages

First solutions

First, the system for cataloging housing and people in need of shelter was promptly developed, based on Google Sheets. At the time, this was the only solution that brought the desired effect, whereas no in-depth IT knowledge was required from the users (or developers). With the military action intensifying and the influx of refugees into Poland increasing, the need arose for a system that was both secure and user-friendly. It was to be a system that would be used by volunteers (that is back-office) to enter housing, refugee data and assign refugees to housing. The system had also to be secure, that is adequately protecting all data (GDPR compliant).

Getting started on "Safe Shelter"

We commenced our work by identifying the needs of the volunteers working at the crisis centre. From the first week of March, we established meetings that took place every 2 days. These meetings were open to anyone seeking to work on the new system - feedback from people (mainly volunteers) who had worked using the first solution was particularly important.

Start-up of the Project

Over a very short time, we gathered approximately 15-20 people with a lot of experience in the IT sector. Smoothly and efficiently, we developed the PRD, divided up the tasks and commenced work. We decided that officially the project would be created in the SalamLab Association

Completion of the first stage of work on the platform

In late March 2022, that is remarkably fast, we delivered a platform that was used at the helpdesk at 3 Radziwiłłowska Street in Krakow. During the systems changeover (transition from the initial solution to our system), a dedicated person, Implementation Officer was present on site. It is worth noting that in a fairly short period of time all volunteers learned how to use the system correctly, while the full implementation took place around April 2022.

Short list of functionalities introduced in the system:

- 1. Creation and updating of: housing, guest hosts, including:
 - assigning guests to apartments,
 - assigning volunteers to visitors.*
- 2. Browsing, sorting and filtering their lists - the temporary "fast" version will be replaced.*
- 3. Login of volunteers via Google Workspace, with automatic creation of accounts in the system.*
- 4. Import of existing data from sheets.*
- 5. Saving the history of changes, enabling the audit.*

Completion of the first stage of the Project

In early May 2022, the development team completed work on an identity verification module for people sharing housing. SalamLab Association had contracted an external company to provide such a service. The verification was to look as follows: 1. entry of personal data 2. confirmation of identity via a photo of the proof including the face (so- called 'live check') or by logging into one's bank (so-called 'Open Banking'). (3) The person performing this verification was to be informed of the result by email. The entire data collection and processing process was GDPR-compliant.

<https://www.facebook.com/wadiorg/posts/pfbid0xv8qX1xWzqHi7uoLBqVxYd3RqMTWgKhMhJcl92eV8vvLhc5sNTQfDRrGxRji3nh4I>

For Relocation, a specific team at the emergency shelter was dedicated solely to the process of validating 1) legitimate bus drivers, 2) end-destination accommodation and 3) keeping track of laws - as the terms and conditions concerning Ukrainian refugees would be subject to change by other EU/EEA countries. In addition to mapping down how many Ukrainian refugees wanted to go where, and if they had the necessary documents to go where they wanted. With over 30 organisations in Krakow making contributions to the catalog of Safeshelter, it made the whole task of coordinating relocation easier.



Stowarzyszenie Mudita/SafeShelter (May-September)

<https://stowarzyszeniemudita.pl/>

<https://www.facebook.com/stowarzyszeniemudita/>

In May, the needs of Krakow changed and Salam Lab decided to pull back on several of their emergency response projects. As such, Wadi completed the cooperation with Salam Lab and started consulting Mudita; a local organization that focuses upon persons with disabilities. In May Mudita was preparing to open shelters for disabled persons in Krakow and Warsaw which had continuously up to this point been a needed element in the evacuation of Ukrainians as most organizations accommodated and supplied services for the people at large. As such, it was agreed upon moving Safeshelter and the resource of IT-expertise to achieve the integration of similar systems for Mudita.

People who flee the war in Ukraine are exposed to various dangerous and difficult situations - they become victims of violence, human trafficking and cybercrime. It is essential for us that our support is not only practical but also safe on all fronts.

This is possible thanks to our cooperation with the WADI organisation, which implements the [#SafeAid](#) campaign and the Safe Shelter project.

- ◆ Our reception points are a haven for refugees and refugees with disabilities, including victims of violence.
- ◆ We build a network of contacts with aid organisations and initiatives in Poland and Europe to provide adequate and safe assistance jointly.
- ◆ We attach great importance to ensuring digital security for recipients and recipients of our activities by developing IT systems for collecting and storing data.
- ◆ Our team and the staff of reception points take part in numerous training courses on safety standards.

We thank Wadi and the American Jewish Committee for their support!

Übersetzung anzeigen

At the turn of May and June 2022, with the agreement of all stakeholders, the decision was made to transfer the project to the 'Mudita Association'. In the period before the war, the Mudita Association had been involved in providing support to carers of people with disabilities. Once the war broke out, Mudita's activities expanded to support disabled people and their families who were fleeing the war.

Considering the special needs connected to Mudita Association's activities, the Safe Shelter project has had to be reformulated. With the enhanced requirements for the accommodation for people with disabilities, after consultation with the Mudita Association presidents, it was decided that the best solution would be to rely on technological solutions already available, that is the appropriate configuration of these, data flow

arrangements, user permissions within the organisation.

The solution currently being developed is to help relocate refugees with disabilities (along with their families) to Western European countries. The list of activities that have been undertaken so far include organising the work of the Mudita Association in terms of IT resource management. Further, contact has been established with a number of entities that will be able to assist in the relocation of refugees, once permanent cooperation has been established. These include Ukrainian foundations, Polish foundations and individual entities from Western Europe. The list will be expanding, and the project is currently in the process of establishing the requirements that such a system would have to meet. Some of the people staying at these centers express a desire to relocate to Western European countries. They are to be the first beneficiaries of the new version of the Safe Shelter project.



Martynka (April-September)

Link to bot: https://t.me/martynka_bot/
https://www.instagram.com/martynka_help/?hl=en

Martynka is a female-lead Ukrainian grassroots organization based in Poland that through a helpline/chatbot supports Ukrainian evacuees with whatever they need while in Poland, with an added focus on:

- Preventing human trafficking
- Helping victims of sexualised violence obtain legal and psychological support
- Providing access to and information on safe abortions
- Providing information on sexual health, contraception and STTs.

In addition, Martynka takes on new and other types of challenges related to women's safety and security as they emerge. This includes ensuring safety in shelters, help translating in medical practices and police stations, and long-term psychological support. The hotline is functional 24/7, with an operator responding within minutes. The hotline provides instant access to help and unified access to resources. "Martynka" is the only evacuee resource in Poland providing psychological, medical and legal support in a single place.



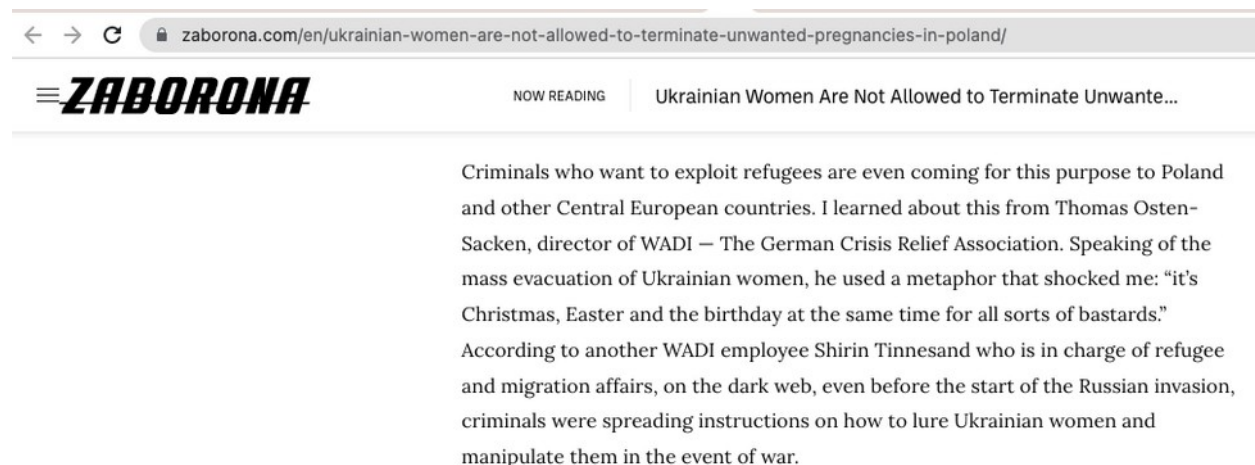
The high concentration of people without language skills, social connections in the country, and financial and other resources produces high risks of sexualized violence, human trafficking, and various forms of fraud toward refugees who seek help from local individuals and organizations.

Other than that, the fact that refugees lack access to contraception and sexual education (esp. teenagers) contributes to the risk of STDs transmission. By UNAIDS' 2019 estimate, there are around 250 thousand HIV-positive people in Ukraine (which sums up to 0,5-0,6% of the Ukrainian population).

At this point, potential victims of gender-based violence in Poland can be disoriented and lack knowledge of how to handle a threatening situation in a foreign country. Most of the Polish police officers don't possess knowledge of Ukrainian and Russian (languages spoken in Ukraine), and most of the Ukrainian refugees don't know Polish. Poland naturally has a variety of organizations that work on sexual education, support HIV-positive people, support victims of gendered violence, etc., but they're not adjusted for working with refugees. They often lack employees that know Ukrainian/Russian and understand the living situation and problems of refugees.

Martynka strives to maximise support both with preventing violence, fraud and human trafficking and dealing with the aftermath of those crimes (medical, legal and psychological). In addition, we are closely monitoring the situation to respond to the changing needs of the evacuees.

Wadis support for Martynka has been substantial in terms of consultancy and coordination. The idea of Martynka emerged over an interview, where the founder, the Ukrainian journalist Nastya Podorozhnya was interviewing employees of Wadi for an article and security guide for Ukrainian women.



Source: Zaborona/English:

<https://zaborona.com/en/ukrainian-women-are-not-allowed-to-terminate-unwanted-pregnancies-in-poland/>

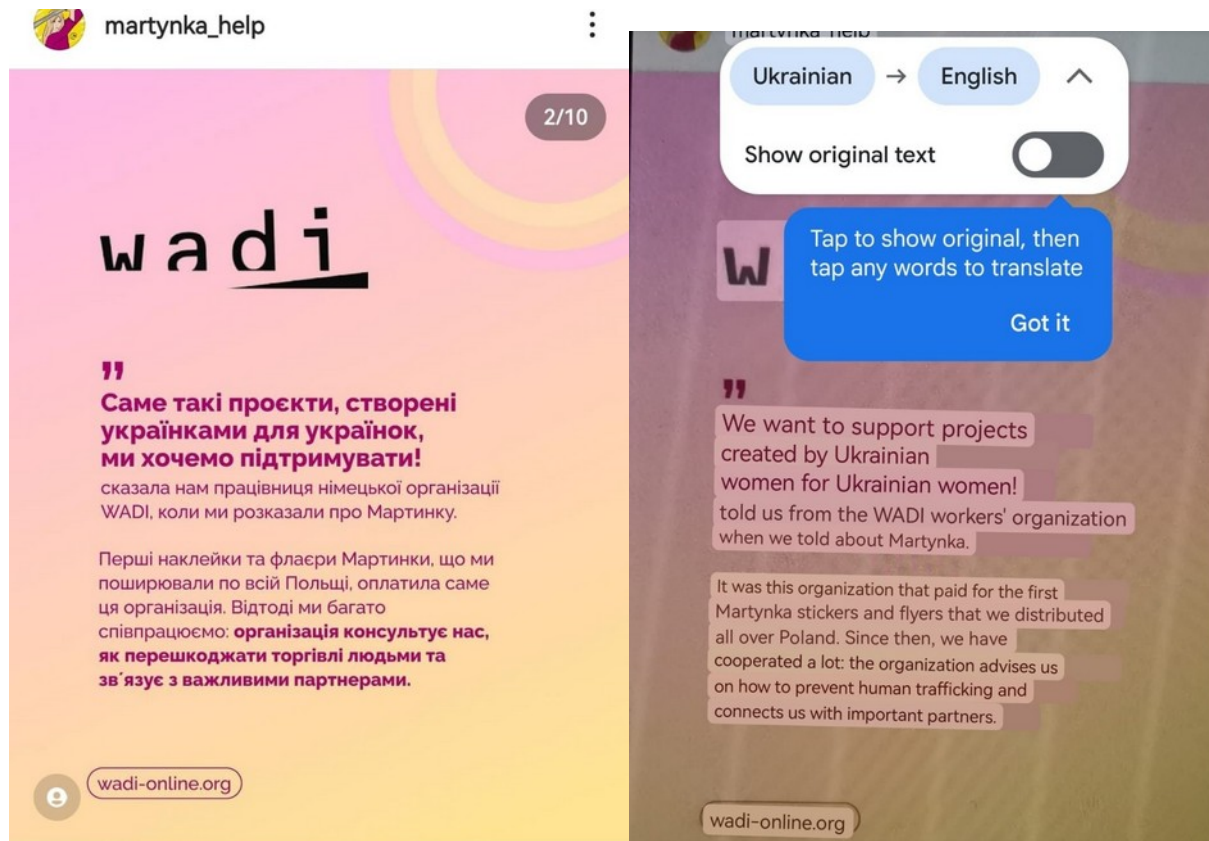
One month after the interview, Podorozhnya sent a text message where said she had created the hotline and requested assistance to move forward. Since then, Wadi has been consulting Martynkas projects through both physical and digital coordination, networking, weekly meetings, brainstorming and so forth. Martynka is currently in the process of becoming a registered organization in Poland. In just a few months, Martynka has already helped over 300 women with various services. Martynka has also gained a tremendous amount of media publicity for their work.

Zeit/German: <https://www.zeit.de/gesellschaft/2022-08/kriegsverbrechen-ukraine-krieg-sexualisierte-gewalt-frauen>

ViceNews/English:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6Uolzmm72o&t=14s>

LeDevoir/French:
<https://www.ledevoir.com/monde/718908/sur-la-route-de-l-exil-sur-la-route-de-l-exil-les-ukrainiennes-en-proie-a-l-exploitation-sexuelle>

New York Times/English:
<https://time.com/6188502/ukraine-women-poland-abortion-ban/>



More about Martynka's Current Work:

1) Hotline for supporting refugees based within a messenger most popular among Ukrainians - Telegram

Consultations for refugees that faced sexualized and other forms of violence;

Consultations for refugees that faced other instances of fraud or issues in Poland;

'Help broker': an intermediary between a person seeking help and a person providing help (this could prevent situations where a refugee is exploited under the disguise of help by a local);

Access to legal, psychological assistance offered by the partners of the project.

2) Organising need-based assistance for refugees with the participation of partner organisations

Psychological assistance for victims of violence;

Legal assistance for victims of violence, fraud, or other crimes;

Providing access to free abortion and "day after" pills, as well as medical assistance (free gynecologist, psychologist and / or psychiatrist);

Assistance with addressing police or other local authorities with various problems — e.g. helping with Ukrainian-Polish translation at the police station;

Humanitarian aid in accessing hygiene items (pads) and contraception devices (condoms).

3) Spreading information

Publication of educational materials on how to avoid violence on such platforms as Telegram, Instagram, Facebook;

Preparation of printed materials and posters for distribution in refugee shelters, railway stations, and other locations frequently visited by refugees;

Partnership with Ukrainian and international media to promote information about safety and the project.

The report was prepared by Shirin Tinnesand, Oslo October 14th 2022