

A BIG THANK YOU

ON BEHALF OF THE ROTARY GB&I TASKFORCE AND THE D2232 CRISIS TEAM

We would like to sincerely thank you for your tremendous humanitarian response to the Ukraine crisis by raising an estimated £5m in cash and kind during 2022 and devoting many volunteer hours to help in a myriad of ways.

We recognise that this month many clubs will be concentrating your support in your local communities. Therefore the majority of this bulletin will be a wonderful illustration of how, through your generosity, you will be **saving babies lives in Ukraine**, your very own ‘Christmas story’.

<p>Ukraine priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unchanged from our last bulletin – click here to view Bulletin 22 ○ or go to the Ukraine page in the members area of rotarygbi.org website ○ With the deteriorating weather and ongoing attacks even more important
<p>Hear directly from Ukrainian Rotarians</p> <p>6pm – 7.30pm Thursday 5th Jan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hear up to the minute information from the leader of the Ukraine Crisis Team and his fellow Rotarians ○ Ask your questions ○ Register now for the Rotary GB&I Peace team zoom meeting by going to https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrceCvrjgpH9ODgvzsuQIHx9q0OJ-tohMe ○ Please help spread the word as the more people get to hear the realities straight from our Ukrainian colleagues the more support, we may be able to stimulate
<p>Global Grants The Rotary Foundation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Areas of Ukraine are interested in looking towards longer-term rebuilding efforts ○ Are you interested in doing a Global Grant and have any questions? ○ Destiny Nobles, destiny.nobles@rotary.org, is the Regional Grants Officer for Ukraine and would be happy to discuss
<p>Can you help with admin for logistics support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Derwent Jaconelli is our Taskforce Logistics expert ○ He has his own business and works more than full time ○ We are looking for someone with good communication and admin skills to assist Derwent by taking some of the critical admin off his shoulders so he can focus on adding the value of his expertise ○ No logistics experience required ○ Interested in finding out more? Contact Allan Smith in the first instance
<p>Icons on Ammunition Boxes</p> <p>Ukrainian Art Exhibition</p> <p>Inter Country Committee (ICC) GB&I and Ukraine</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exhibition of Ukrainian 'Icons on ammo boxes' (ammunition) by famous Ukrainian artists ○ ICC GB&I and Ukraine supporting this exhibition raising funds for mobile hospitals/ambulances ○ See flyer with more info by clicking here ○ Open now through to February in Oxford at the University Church St Mary the Virgin ○ Led by Yana Bobrova from RC Kyiv Capital ○ They were auctioned last week to raise funds but continue to be exhibited ○ After London they will be exhibited in other cities around Great Britain

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WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR CAN ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS ROTARY MAGIC

Many of you have been most generous in supporting our medical aid to Ukraine since the outbreak of war on 24th February. What you have funded includes supplying 20,000 tourniquets, various medications and £120,000 worth of orthopaedic instruments and much more. The total cash value of the support through IRFHP is in excess of £363,000. It is difficult to put a value on the many other medical support goods and donations to Ukraine from other organisations the IRFHP has been able to help facilitate.

The health sector in Ukraine is remarkably resilient. However, it is being placed under huge pressure due to the large number of people who are injured, fear of attacks on medical facilities, shortage of supply, internal migration as well as external migration of professionals.

As the war has continued and intensified the medical needs of the people of Ukraine have become increasingly complex. We, as a Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals, will continue to offer medical aid to Ukraine. We will do so in a selective manner, ensuring that our aid is focussed, meets priority needs and always achieves value for money. We also look for measurable outcomes and to be able to learn lessons from whatever we do.

Recent attacks on power supply and other provision such as water supply have added further danger.

Whilst all patients in need of medical care such as heart patients, cancer, mental health, and more are victims of the war, mums and the new born deserve special and urgent help.

HELPING MUMS AND BABIES

I recently travelled 1350 miles, from my home in Newbury across the channel, through France, Germany and Poland to the Ukrainian border town of Tomaszow Lubelski to hand over 120 boxes of vital medical equipment to colleagues from Ukraine.

The boxes were packed tight into two vans driven by two Scottish colleagues – my role was mainly navigating.

The reason I felt compelled to make this journey was because the medical equipment was purchased by donations from Rotarians in Great Britain and Ireland, some donations from Rotary in Australia and also a company in Wales and I simply could not rely on someone else to take responsibility for this. It was also important to get these boxes to hospitals in Ukraine with speed and before the onset of the harshest part of their long winter.



BABY'S FIRST BREATH - The first breath of a new born infant, often with a whimpering cry, is magical. It triggers in its delicate body physiological changes enabling it to transition from a dependant to a



relatively independent human being. Almost always for those witnessing this amazing moment there are mixed emotions – mostly cries of joy.

But those moments can seem very long. Each tick of the clock when the baby does not spontaneously breathe, raises concern for those around – especially the attending medics.

They know that if the baby's first breath is delayed, the consequences could be so serious.

The clinicians prepare for this moment from the first time they meet a pregnant woman. They do their best to help the baby remain healthy in the womb, which is dependent on many factors including the mother's mental and physical well being.

When a baby arrives, under normal circumstances, everything is in place to assist the transition from a dependant to a relatively independent human being.

Sometimes circumstances surrounding the pregnancy as well as the moments of delivery make that transition challenging.

In Ukraine there has been major disruption to the delivery of routine health care including antenatal care.

Pregnancy in war conditions is less than ideal for the development of healthy babies in the womb.

Those war conditions are continuing to place additional challenges to women who become pregnant, which may in itself have long term adverse effects.

THE NEED - several months ago, I became concerned about the status of maternity care in Ukraine because of this war. I was surprised to learn this was an area not in the list of priorities for many large humanitarian agencies. Preliminary discussions with colleagues revealed a worrying picture.

Specialists in Ukraine shared data with us confirming that the war was having a wide-ranging detrimental effect on antenatal and maternity care.

Some Ukrainian doctors suggested they were seeing more premature and under-weight babies.

LONG TERM IMPACT - The most worrying thing we learnt was that the number of babies suffering oxygen deprivation in the critical early moments of their lives, was excessively high.

2.6% of new-borns had some degree of oxygen deprivation

There are multiple consequences of this including a long term mental or physical disability or even death.

That figure is very high compared to other countries which are much closer to just 0.2%.

IRFHP is collaborating with 37 hospitals in Ukraine - some in the conflict areas - to provide the means to the specialists to do everything possible to reduce such risks.

OUR AIM

SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE NUMBER OF BABIES SUFFERING OXYGEN DEPRIVATION AT BIRTH

With the help of the Association of Neonatologists and Association of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, in Ukraine, the Canadian Neonatal Foundation, and the UK based charity Maternal and Child Health Advocacy International, we agreed a protocol for an **ambitious one-year programme in 37 hospitals** to help create a safe environment for pregnant women to give birth and for the new borns to have the best chance of survival. Some of these hospitals are in conflict areas which adds even more complexity in helping to address the needs.

The programme is designed to reduce maternal and neonatal complications and is the first of its kind in Ukraine.

EVALUATION AND EXPANSION - The specialists in the 37 participating hospitals have agreed to monitor the impact of the intervention with us. IRFHP will support them during the year ahead as we evaluate the outcomes from this programme. If proven successful we are committed to expanding this programme, with any necessary modifications from the experiences in this initial phase, to other hospitals across Ukraine.

It has been approved by the Ukraine's Ministry of Health.

At the heart of this innovative intervention is the use by pregnant mothers of hand held, battery operated,



scanners showing their baby's heartbeat. When involved in monitoring the welfare of their own babies mothers are remarkably astute in detecting potential danger signs and alerting the attending clinicians. The use of a simple pictorial chart helps them understand when help is needed.

By the specialists being alerted at an early stage they can determine quickly if medical intervention is required. The IRFHP have also supplied further equipment to help in this to each of the 37 hospitals. The deliveries have been tailored to the anticipated level of baby deliveries at each of those hospitals



This includes KIWI Vacuum pumps which will help deliver babies safely.

The hospitals also have access to medications to reduce the risk of haemorrhage, and testing devices to monitor the adequacy of oxygenation of the babies.



The mums may also be provided with special wraps to encourage body to body contact to maintain the new-borns' body temperature - a critical factor in the first few minutes of babies' lives.

THANK YOU