



28 April 2022

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For approval by

2 May 2022

### Ukraine Crisis: Aotearoa New Zealand Humanitarian Support through NGO Partners

**BRIEFING** Decision Submission

**PURPOSE** We recommend you approve NZ\$2 million in funding to Aotearoa New Zealand NGOs to provide humanitarian assistance in Ukraine's neighbouring countries.

### Tukunga tūtohua – Recommended referrals

Prime Minister

For information by

3 May 2022

Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs

For information by

3 May 2022

### Taipitopito whakapā – Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
s9(2)(g)(ii)	Divisional Manager	Partnerships, Humanitarian and Multilateral	s9(2)(a)
	Divisional Manager	Europe Division	

### Mā te Tari Minita e whakakī – Minister's Office to complete

Approved

Noted

Referred

Needs amendment

Declined

Withdrawn

Overtaken by events

See Minister's notes

**Comments**

## Ukraine Crisis: Aotearoa New Zealand Humanitarian Support through NGO Partners

### Pito matua – Key points

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- The humanitarian consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine have continued to worsen significantly in recent weeks and there is now a strong case for additional Aotearoa New Zealand support.
- On 26 April the United Nations (UN) released revised humanitarian response plans to meet the needs of people in Ukraine and refugees in neighbouring countries over the coming months. The UN is now projecting that a total of 24 million Ukrainians will need assistance, including 8.3 million refugees.
- Latest information from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs indicates the regional refugee response is not as well funded as the humanitarian response inside Ukraine. We have therefore prioritised support for the regional refugee response in this round of assistance.
- We recommend a contribution of NZ\$2 million from the humanitarian allocation to launch a contestable New Zealand Disaster Response Partnership (NZDRP) funding round. This round will fund Aotearoa New Zealand non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that MFAT has accredited for receipt of New Zealand Government humanitarian funding to provide a range of protection and assistance for displaced communities in Ukraine's neighbouring countries through their local partners.
- NZDRP partners have raised over NZ\$3.5 million from the public and the proposed funding round will enable the Government to match a significant proportion of those donations. The recommended support will not only assist refugees, it will also assist countries neighbouring Ukraine with hosting refugees. MFAT will select proposals that best meet needs articulated in the UN Refugee Response Plan and allocate funding across a spread of countries hosting refugees.
- NZDRP partners are well placed to deliver effective and accountable humanitarian assistance to refugees, in line with international humanitarian standards and best practice. The key risk related to this funding is if the war expands beyond Ukraine's borders and threatens the safety and security of NGO partner staff and their ability to continue providing humanitarian support. In this event we would work with our NGO partners to revise funded activities to account for the changed security context.
- The additional NZ\$2 million will bring our total humanitarian support for the Ukraine crisis to NZ\$8 million. This contribution is affordable at this time, given the case to retain humanitarian funds for any new Pacific emergencies this financial year, and to contribute to other major global crises where needs are also severe (refer to Annex 2 for current and planned humanitarian contributions through to 30 June 2022).
- If you agree, we will seek to announce the additional support at a pledging event that Poland and Sweden are hosting on 5 May. We will coordinate with your office on media statements.



Andrew Needs  
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## Ukraine Crisis: Aotearoa New Zealand Humanitarian Support through NGO Partners

### Tūtohu – Recommendations

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It is recommended that you:

- |   |  |          |
|---|--|----------|
| 1 | <b>Approve</b> the release of up to \$2 million from the Humanitarian allocation for a New Zealand Disaster Response Partnership round that will fund humanitarian assistance in Ukraine's neighbouring countries. | Yes / No |
| 2 | <b>Note</b> New Zealand plans to announce this contribution at the High Level International Donors' Conference for Ukraine on 5 May.   | Yes / No |
| 3 | <b>Refer</b> a copy of this submission to the Prime Minister and the Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs.  | Yes / No |

Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Minister of Foreign Affairs / Minita Take Aorere

Date:        /        /

## Ukraine Crisis: Aotearoa New Zealand Humanitarian Support through NGO Partners

### Pūrongo – Report

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Humanitarian needs in Ukraine and neighbouring countries continue to spike

1. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has led to a dramatic spike in humanitarian need in Ukraine and its neighbouring countries this year. The latest United Nations (UN) figures indicate 24 million Ukrainians will need some form of humanitarian assistance in the coming period. This includes 15.7 million people inside Ukraine and a projected refugee population of 8.3 million – the largest and fastest growing refugee crisis in recent history.

And there is a strong case for further Aotearoa New Zealand support

2. An additional humanitarian contribution is warranted at this time. Latest figures confirm that the Ukraine crisis is now among the most severe humanitarian crises globally. The intensity of the conflict means civilians facing multiple acute protection risks. In Aotearoa New Zealand there is significant and sustained public interest in the crisis.
3. Recently revised UN funding targets indicate there is a clear need for additional donor funds to sustain the growing humanitarian response. The UN is now appealing for:
  - US\$2.25 billion to fund the humanitarian response inside Ukraine until the end of August 2022 (an increase of approximately US\$1 billion);
  - US\$1.85 billion to fund its Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) in other countries until the end of December 2022 (an increase of approximately US\$1.3 billion).
4. We recommend the next phase of Aotearoa New Zealand's humanitarian support target the regional refugee response because it is not as well funded as the response inside Ukraine. The revised RRRP is currently 16.2% funded, whereas the revised Flash Appeal for the response inside Ukraine is currently 44.3% funded.

We recommend partnering with Aotearoa NGOs for this contribution

5. We recommend you approve an envelope of NZ\$2 million to fund humanitarian response activities with New Zealand NGOs via the New Zealand Disaster Response Partnership (NZDRP).
6. The NZDRP is our primary mechanism for partnering with New Zealand NGOs in humanitarian settings. Fourteen New Zealand NGOs are currently accredited with the NZDRP for humanitarian funding from the Government. These NGOs have a track record of delivering international humanitarian assistance, and have been assessed by MFAT as meeting financial accountability and humanitarian standards.
7. We will ask NZDRP partners to submit proposals that are aligned to the UN-led regional refugee response in order to ensure New Zealand continues to support a well-coordinated and effective international response. We will allocate funding across a spread of countries hosting refugees.
8. Our NZDRP partners have raised over NZ\$3.5 million from the public for the Ukraine response and, together with their local partners in Europe, are already mobilising humanitarian assistance for affected Ukrainian communities.

## Ukraine Crisis: Aotearoa New Zealand Humanitarian Support through NGO Partners

9. Nine NZDRP partners have indicated interest in submitting proposals for an NZDRP round for activities in Ukraine's neighbouring countries. We normally have a maximum grant amount of \$250,000 per NZDRP partner.
10. An NZDRP round will be a highly visible mechanism of support amongst NGO supporters here in Aotearoa. NZDRP partners will match New Zealand Government funding on a 50-50 basis using funds raised from their supporters.
11. An NZDRP funding round will complement Aotearoa New Zealand's earlier Ukraine response contributions to the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund for their response efforts inside Ukraine, and our contribution to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for its regional refugee response work.
12. In considering potential alternative options for humanitarian support we have not been able to identify a strong bilateral mechanism at this time. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
13. We are confident that support through NZDRP partners, as well as our prior support through multilateral humanitarian partners, will assist Ukraine's neighbouring countries to host refugees and will be well received by them.
14. <sup>s6(a)</sup>  
order to have confidence that a new partner would utilise Aotearoa New Zealand funding appropriately and effectively we would need to conduct robust due diligence before recommending a contribution, which we are not well placed to undertake.
15. We would not recommend an NZDRP round for activities inside Ukraine. The current security environment presents extreme health and safety risks and funding NGOs to implement specific activities in Ukraine would create legal risks under New Zealand's Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 that would be difficult to manage.

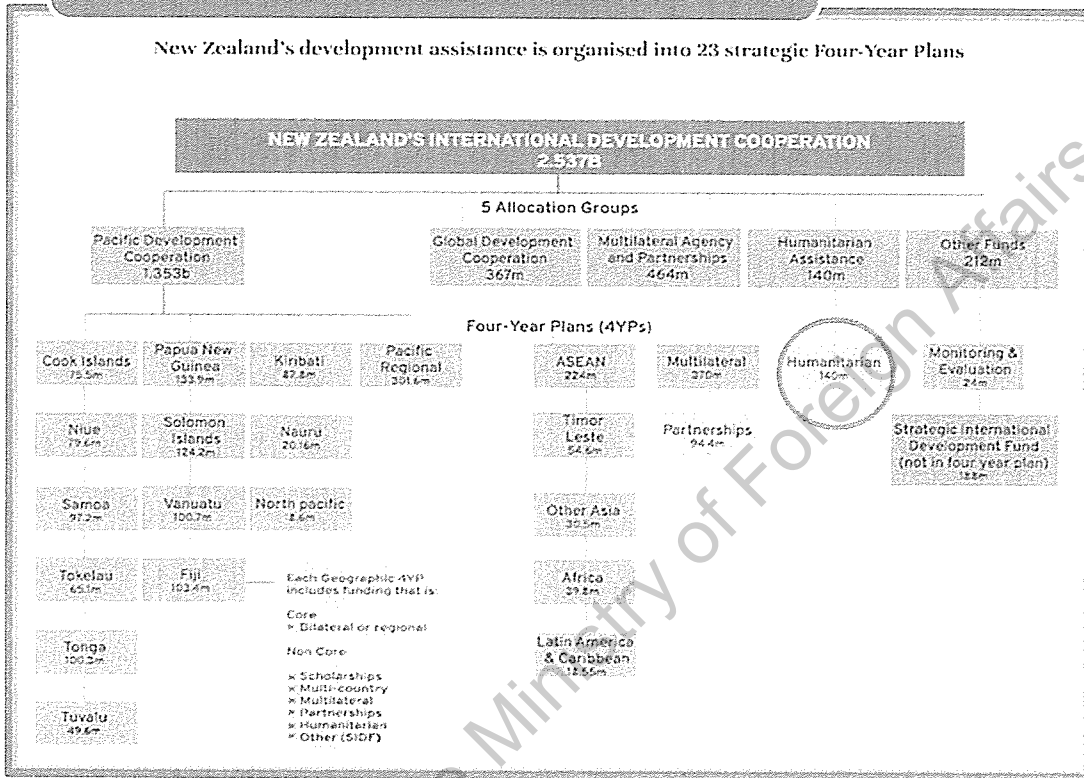
### The NZ\$8 million in humanitarian support is proportionate given constraints

16. The proposed funding brings Aotearoa New Zealand's total humanitarian support to the Ukraine humanitarian response to NZ\$8m this year. This is a proportionate response given the scale of need in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, needs in other significant humanitarian crises, and the funds currently available in New Zealand's humanitarian allocation.
17. Further contributions to the Ukraine response within the existing humanitarian allocation this financial year would compromise Aotearoa New Zealand's ability to respond credibly to other large humanitarian crises where we also have significant interests. We provide a table with existing and planned contributions to priority global crises in Annex 2. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has had negative impacts in other humanitarian crises by driving up the cost of key food assistance inputs including grains and cooking oil, and worsening funding gaps.
18. We are also retaining some contingency in the humanitarian allocation for any new Pacific emergencies that may occur before the end of the financial year.

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Annex 1: Other Key Information

Funding for these contributions comes from the Humanitarian programme:



**Resilience:** This activity meets basic humanitarian needs by supporting humanitarian protection and assistance, thereby contributing to social resilience in Ukraine's neighbouring countries.

**Impact:** This activity will allow our New Zealand NGO partners to provide life-saving protection and assistance support for crisis affected Ukrainians.

**Measuring impact:** We will measure the impact of this activity through monitoring and assessment of our humanitarian partners' responses and considering the extent to which they are meeting the humanitarian needs of crisis-affected Ukrainian populations. We will seek gender disaggregated data on beneficiaries to help assess how women and girls have benefitted.

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Page 7 of 7

Ukraine Crisis: Aotearoa New Zealand Humanitarian Support through  
NGO Partners

Annex 2: Aotearoa New Zealand contributions to protracted crises outside the Pacific  
in the 2021/22 Financial Year

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Proactively released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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