



**Bibliothèques
Sans Frontières**
Libraries Without Borders

UKRAINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

**ACTION PLAN & FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE BIBLIOTHÈQUES SANS FRONTIÈRES NETWORK
TO RESPOND TO THE EMERGENCY**



The rapidly deteriorating security situation in Ukraine following the Russian offensive is leading to massive population displacements within the country and beyond its borders. In the short term, protection, guidance, information, and psychosocial support for these people - mainly women and children - are high priorities along with their primary needs. In the long term, the reception and integration of the millions of refugees in European countries will also be an immense challenge.

The Bibliothèques sans Frontières (Libraries Without Borders) network in Europe, which consists of BSF France, BSF Belgium, BSF Italy, and BSF Switzerland, is mobilizing to deploy emergency reception and integration solutions for the Ukrainian refugee population.

ACTION PLAN	
EMERGENCY RECEPTION, INFORMATION, AND PROTECTION	EDUCATION AND INTEGRATION
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Create 10 Ideas Box hubs for emergency information, protection, and psychosocial support at the borders of Ukraine2. Open emergency libraries in reception and accommodation centers in France, Belgium, and Italy	<ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Provide a tutoring program for refugee children4. Develop a French language-learning app for Ukrainian and Russian speakers

To help us fund the action plan, donate here:

bibliosansfrontieres.org/ukraineemergencyresponse

I. EMERGENCY RECEPTION, INFORMATION, AND PROTECTION

1. CREATE 10 IDEAS BOX HUBS FOR EMERGENCY INFORMATION, PROTECTION, AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AT THE BORDERS OF UKRAINE

Countries	# of people targeted	Financial need
POLAND ROMANIA + HUNGARY MOLDOVA SLOVAKIA	100,000 (within 3 months)	€ 1.4M

Millions of people are currently crossing Ukraine's borders. Based on a model developed in Greece and Italy in 2015 and 2016 for Syrian refugees, BSF will deploy a first batch of **10 Ideas Box** at strategic crossing and transit points along the border in the coming weeks, with an initial focus in Poland and Romania (and later in Hungary, Moldova, and Slovakia). To make full use of the deployment, mobility, and outreach potential of these Ideas Box, the areas that are the least equipped with reception facilities will be considered first.

The Ideas Box is an effective tool in emergency contexts to quickly provide secure information and protected spaces that offer:

- Internet access, tablets, and phone charging stations.
- Access to verified information, updated daily on the procedures for asylum application in Europe and on transit and reception conditions
- A space for children with psychosocial, cultural, and recreational activities to temporarily escape from the harsh reality of their situation
- Relays and referrals to partner organizations for special cases and complex situations.
- Access to educational and self-training resources (especially language learning).

The first Ideas Box left on Thursday, March 10 from Ile-de-France to Poland with a trained team from BSF and began operating on Monday, March 14. Curation of informational and cultural content with our Ukrainian and Polish partners is under way as well as an exploratory mission to identify the most pertinent locations for the hubs.



The remaining 9 Ideas Box are ready to be mobilized and deployed immediately subject to obtaining the necessary funding.

→ In total, an Ideas Box can assist more than 100 people per day, i.e. around 100,000 people in the next 3 months.

2. OPEN EMERGENCY LIBRARIES IN RECEPTION AND ACCOMMODATION CENTERS IN FRANCE, BELGIUM, AND ITALY

Countries	# of people targeted	Financial need
FRANCE BELGIUM ITALY + SWITZERLAND	25,000 (20 libraries)	€ 350k

BSF is already working with its partners in France, in particular France Terre d'Asile, on the deployment of emergency libraries in the recently opened centers for Ukrainian refugees.

In recent years, BSF has implemented similar responses in Italy and France, most notably in emergency reception of Afghan refugees.



These emergency libraries consist of books, games, and a multimedia kit (offline internet Ideas Cube server, internet connection, and tablets filled with content). They are places of relaxation, decompression, access to information, and a first step towards learning more about the host country.

Subject to securing the necessary funding, BSF aims to deploy 20 emergency libraries in the coming months in France, Belgium, and Italy. These libraries may also be deployed in Switzerland.

II. EDUCATION IN EMERGENCY, TRAINING, AND INTEGRATION

3. PROVIDE A REMOTE TUTORING PROGRAM FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN

Countries	# of people targeted	Financial need
FRANCE ITALY BELGIUM SWITZERLAND + POLAND HUNGARY ROMANIA MOLDOVA SLOVAKIA	5,000 children	TBC / IN PROGRESS

During the first COVID-19 lockdown in the spring of 2020, BSF set up a tutoring program for more than 300 refugee children living in social housing in Ile-de- France. Within three months, more than 20,000 hours of tutoring had been provided on the phone or via Whatsapp by a formidable network of volunteers.

The program had a strong impact with regard to the children's education (no retention in school, no school dropouts) **but above all, to their psychosocial wellbeing** (support for children and their families, link with the outside world and the host country, etc).



BSF aims to reactivate this system at the European level, especially in the countries where its connections are already established (France, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland), but also in the countries bordering Ukraine through Ideas Box' networks and partner associations.

Concretely, this means that it is necessary to mass recruit volunteer tutors in these countries (with a proficient English level and, if possible, Ukrainian and/or Russian) who will each monitor 4 children on average. Exchanges with the children and their families are done by phone (Whatsapp as a priority to be able to send quality media content) through daily sessions of around 30 minutes and, if possible, collective follow-ups with the group once a week. Each child will receive, on average, **2h30 of individual support per week and 2h of collective lessons** with a total of **4h30 of accompaniment per week**.

BSF will provide coordination (educational resources, guidelines, session criterias, etc.) and support for tutors.

→ We aim to provide more than 100,000 hours of tutoring for 5,000 children by the end of June by mobilizing a network of 1,000 tutors. The cost assessment for the project is in progress. Please contact us directly for more details.

4. DEVELOP AND LAUNCH A FRENCH LANGUAGE-LEARNING APP FOR UKRAINIAN AND RUSSIAN SPEAKERS

Countries	# of people targeted	Financial need
FRANCE BELGIUM SWITZERLAND	100,000 In 2022	€ 250k

BSF has been working for several months on the development of an innovative French learning solution for allophone populations. These R&D activities are conducted in partnership with FLE (French as a foreign language) teachers who work with Russian and Ukrainian speakers. Faced with the scale of the crisis and future need of Ukrainian refugees for integration in French-speaking countries, we wish to accelerate the development and launch of this learning solution, which is currently at the proof of concept phase.

This involves developing a mobile application (Android and iOS) with an interactive library containing French language-learning modules for Ukrainian and Russian speakers. Based on innovative language-learning methodologies, such as gamified approaches, immediate feedback, and rapid memorization techniques, this application offers short videos and interactive exercises to help the users quickly acquire everyday vocabulary and fundamentals of oral communication in French and thus facilitate the integration of Ukrainian refugees in France, Belgium, and Switzerland. With a user-centered design approach, the application, its content, and its ergonomics are designed for learners who need to quickly master the language and incorporates offline operation, short modules, possibility of acquiring basic language proficiency, writing, etc.

→ Subject to obtaining the necessary funding, we wish to deploy a first operational version of the app in early May. With its launch, it could support more than 100,000 Ukrainian refugees this year in learning French.

To help us fund the action plan, donate here:

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ABOUT BIBLIOTHÈQUES SANS FRONTIÈRES

Bibliothèques sans Frontières (Libraries Without Borders) is an international non-governmental organization. Since 2007, BSF has been working in more than 30 countries to provide access to education, information, and culture for marginalized populations. Through the development of efficient and mobile tools (Ideas Box, Ideas Cube, Kajou cards), the selection of tailored content, and the training and support of actors in the field, BSF aims to allow anyone, in all circumstances, to live in dignity thanks to better access to information, education, and culture.

In the contexts of emergency and population displacement, BSF deploys its tools and expertise as quickly as possible in coordination with the humanitarian community in order to provide distressed populations access to reliable sources of information and content in their language, edutainment spaces for children, etc.

Bibliothèques sans Frontières is an international network composed of 5 organizations (BSF France, BSF Belgium, BSF Italy, BSF Switzerland, Libraries without Borders US) and is active in Europe, Africa, Middle East, and Asia.