



THE UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS  
AND THE CANADA-UKRAINE FOUNDATION  
UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL



September 8, 2022

The Honourable Harjit S. Sajjan  
Minister of International Development and Minister responsible for the Pacific Economic  
Development Agency of Canada  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0G2

Dear Minister Sajjan:

**Re: Humanitarian assistance for Ukraine**

On June 28 at the G7 Summit in Germany, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced \$75 million in humanitarian assistance funding to Ukraine, which is to “would be used to support humanitarian operations inside Ukraine, and in neighboring countries including the provision of in-kind food assistance, emergency cash and vouchers, protection, shelter and health services.”

On September 1, we met with officials from your Office, in our capacity as representatives of the Canada-Ukraine Foundation/Ukrainian Canadian Congress Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. We were dismayed to learn that not only had this \$75 million in promised assistance not been **disbursed** by the Government of Canada, but the Government has not even as yet **earmarked** any of this funding.

That is, in over two months since aid was promised, the Government of Canada has not even taken a decision as to what the financing will be provided **for**, let alone made any funding **available**.

In our view, Minister, this is an unacceptable delay in providing assistance to civilians who need this assistance now. Some 40% of Ukraine’s population of over 40 million people require humanitarian assistance, due to Russia’s genocidal war of aggression against Ukraine.

From June 28-September 1, the CUF/UCC Humanitarian Appeal disbursed or dedicated almost \$8 million in funding to humanitarian support, focusing on food security, medicines and medical treatment, firefighting and demining equipment and mental health and childrens' support programs. We have done so with the vast majority of work being done by dedicated volunteers, and with neither the resources, staff, nor the capacity available to government at our disposal.

This delay by our Government to provide much-needed relief is a source of frustration and disappointment for our community and the many thousands of volunteers and donors who are working hard across Canada to support the Ukrainian people in this time of need.

We urge you, Minister, to immediately earmark and disburse these funds. We ask that you ensure that this funding is disbursed to local organizations who are working on the ground in Ukraine, rather than to large, international organizations, whose efficacy in providing assistance to those who need it most in Ukraine has been found wanting.

As the report *Enabling the local response: Emerging humanitarian priorities in Ukraine March–May 2022*, published in June by the United Kingdom Humanitarian Innovation Hub stated,

Despite raising significant sums of money in the first days and weeks of the crisis, international organisations could not provide rapid infusions of resources to strengthen and expand the existing local response efforts while they ramped up their own programming. Instead, three months later, most of the money was still unused, sitting with international organisations that are constrained from funding by compliance requirements that are too heavy and time-consuming for small volunteer groups to meet.

The CUF/UCC Humanitarian Appeal has been working together with many local NGOs in Ukraine and in surrounding countries to where Ukrainian refugees have fled, to ensure timely, effective and efficient delivery of aid and humanitarian assistance.

**We would be most happy to provide your staff and the Government of Canada with a list of local organizations to whom the assistance Prime Minister Trudeau promised over two months ago can be immediately directed. In this way, aid and assistance can quickly get to those in Ukraine who need it most.**

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Victor Hetmanczuk, Chair  
CUF/UCC Humanitarian Relief Committee



Ihor Michalchyshyn, CEO  
Ukrainian Canadian Congress