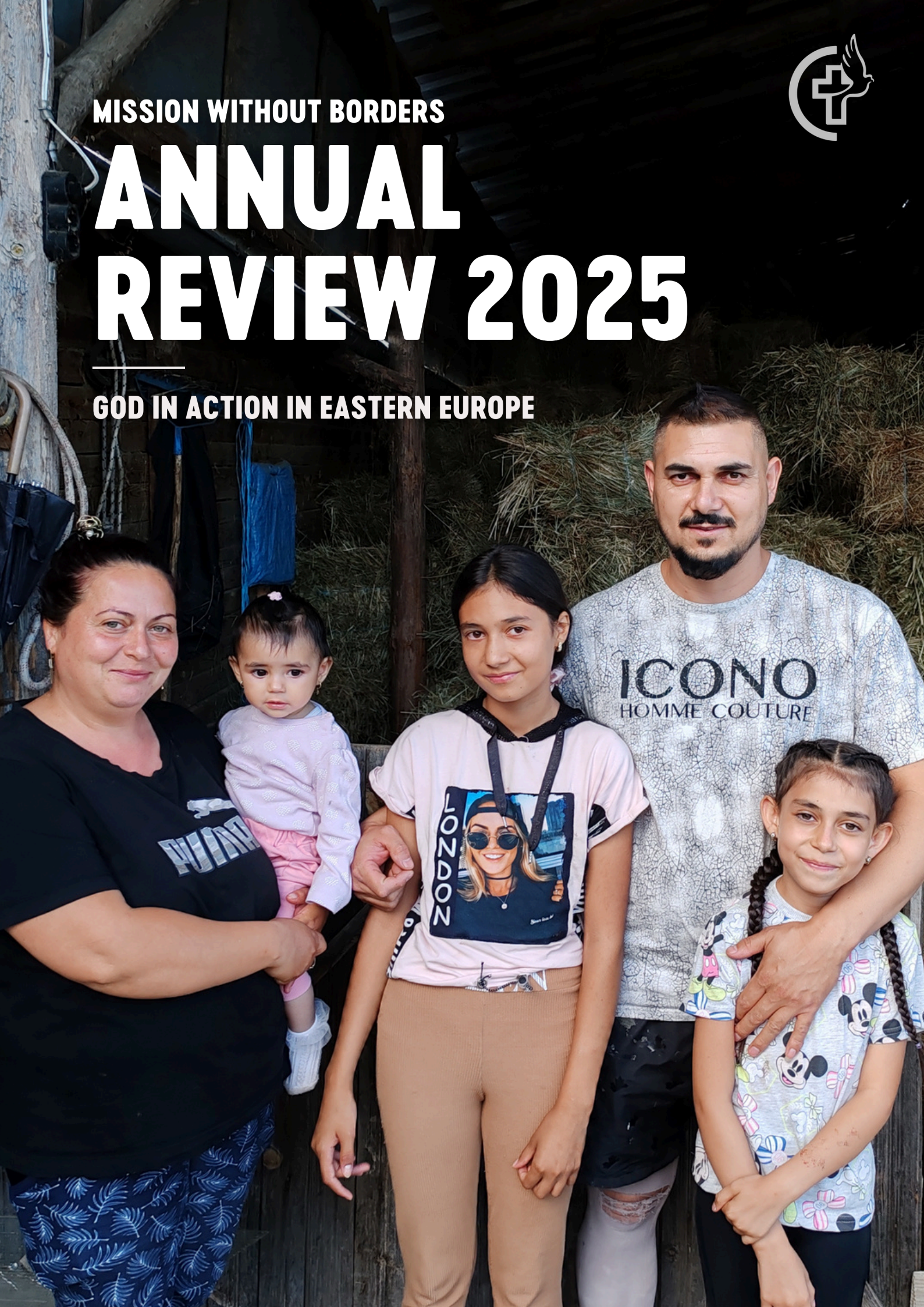
MISSION WITHOUT BORDERS

ANNUAL REVIEW 2025

GOD IN ACTION IN EASTERN EUROPE



2024 IMPACT

Over the course of 2024, Mission Without Borders has impacted more than 60,000 people. Through our programmes and projects we have been able to support families, children and vulnerable adults across Eastern Europe practically, spiritually, and emotionally. We carry out this work through local staff, and church partners in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

9,147
BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE STUDENTS

7,452
BACKPACKS DISTRIBUTED

6,638
CHILDREN ATTENDED SUMMER CAMPS

461
CHURCH PARTNERS

125,931
SOUP KITCHEN MEALS SERVED TO THOSE IN NEED

38,000
OPERATION CHRISTMAS LOVE BOXES DISTRIBUTED

190
STUDENTS PROVIDED WITH VOCATIONAL TRAINING

81,785
BIBLES AND CHRISTIAN LITERATURE DISTRIBUTED

193
ELDERLY INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED

25,942
STREET MERCY MEALS SERVED TO HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

473
STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED SCHOLARSHIPS

709
AFTER SCHOOL CHILDREN

173
COMMUNITIES SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL CEO

During 2024, here at Mission Without Borders, we have had the joy of seeing God in action across Eastern Europe. With your support and the faithful work of our staff on the ground, we have seen God bring peace and hope to people's hearts, and families take steps forwards out of poverty.

Even in dark circumstances, we have seen God in action, shining the light of his love. I think of 14-year-old Sasha, who had to flee her hometown in eastern Ukraine when it came under heavy shelling. At the Mission's summer camp last year, she told her group leader that she "finally found what she's been looking for: this peace, inner joy, and relationship with God."

Then there is Daniela, a mother in Albania, who felt trapped in poverty and hopelessness. After the Mission coordinator invited her to Bible studies, she accepted Jesus as her Lord and Saviour, saying, "When I met the Mission, things started to change day by day and I found myself smiling more and more."

I think of Sergiu, once enrolled on our family sponsorship programme and now a coordinator working for Mission Without Borders in Moldova; he shared, "When I was asked some years later to become a coordinator, what an honour it was! I try to show families that God knows them, cares for them, and is close to them."

We see God in action growing his church across Eastern Europe. In Moldova, new churches are being planted out from our partner churches. Boris, a coordinator in Cantemir, said, "Through our child programme, we reach families, and have seen parents thirst to know God too. This creates a need to plant new churches in these village. These new churches - through our children's clubs, youth gatherings, ang discipleship groups - contribute to their spiritual growth and maturity, and benefits the whole community."



Through our wonderful staff, church partners, and you as supporters, we continue to see God in action today and into the future. Thank you for all your support.

Stephen Young,
CEO of Mission Without Borders



Dina and her children

FRIENDSHIP IN ACTION

“There were moments when we had nothing. There were times when our fridge was empty and our electricity was cut off.”

Dina Jovovic, 32, lives in Sarajevo with her husband Darko, 41, and their three children. Like many families in Bosnia and Herzegovina, working hard offers no guarantee that the children will be fed and the bills will be paid. Many jobs pay low wages and offer no safety net.

Darko works as a stonemason and takes on other jobs – but he has no contract, and there is rarely any work in winter. “Darko works every single day, even on Sundays, when he should rest, in order to afford the basics for the family,” Dina said. “During some parts of the year we don’t have enough money to cover all our expenses. During the winter, we’re always late in paying the rent.”

When the couple had their third child, they hit crisis point. Because of their poor living conditions, at one point their baby was taken into care.

THEORY OF CHANGE

As a Mission our Theory of Change fuels and guides the work we do in supporting families, children and individuals living in poverty and sharing the gospel across Eastern Europe. Through building relationships, nurturing potential and investing time we want to be voices who advocate a hope that self-sufficiency, restoration and breaking free from poverty is possible.

Our holistic approach encompasses spiritual, emotional, educational, material, and social support. This support, delivered by our coordinators, volunteers and church partners, is based on mutual trust, journeying together, and being locally based.

183 Families receiving self-sufficiency support in 2024

3 New family communities in 2024

“Social services temporarily removed the baby because they wanted better living conditions,” said Sandra, who works as a coordinator for Mission Without Borders. “However, they didn’t offer any help so it was up to Darko and Dina to do everything on their own.”

Sandra is determined to help the family grow stronger and become more financially stable. The Jovovics have been enrolled on the Mission’s family sponsorship programme – and now receive regular material, emotional and spiritual support. In the future, Sandra hopes to help them explore ways of becoming self-sufficient.

For Dina, it has been the emotional support, seeing God’s kindness in action, that has meant the most. “A few days ago, I was having a conversation with Darko and he said, ‘Please come visit Dina more often because she really enjoys your visits and being able to talk to you,’” Sandra said.

“They are a bit isolated, living in a remote part of the city. Dina really likes when she’s able to talk to me and share her problems and concerns with me over a cup of coffee. The most important thing for me is to build a relationship with them. To be a person they can trust. To be a friend. To be someone they can share their problems with.”

Dina said, “Since we met Sandra, some of our worries have lessened. We can count on Sandra to come visit us. Before, we had no one else to rely on. Now we have that sense of security in our minds that someone will come and help us make it through.”

2,728 Families sponsored in 2024

HOPELESS TO FULFILLED

“My life has been filled with challenges and hardship. There’s been violence, abandonment, and everything you can think of. I have felt completely hopeless at times.”

Atlina, 40, lives on the outskirts of Durres, Albania. She has endured physical abuse, divorce, and the hardship of raising a daughter alone in poverty. Atlina and her daughter were enrolled on the family sponsorship programme, and after a few years, received self-sufficiency project support. She was provided with the equipment to open a fast food establishment in her community, which was a great success and gave her a regular income.

Atlina now volunteers for Mission Without Borders, at summer camps and family programme events. “When I joined the family programme, my life changed in the most profound way. Volunteering fills me with a deep sense of fulfilment and gives me so much spiritual nourishment.”


Atlina



Andrei (middle) with his siblings

ENCOURAGEMENT IN ACTION: HELPING CHILDREN DISCOVER THEIR WORTH AND VALUE

“He’s a very naughty boy. Andrei was always difficult to handle, but as time goes by, he gets worse.”

Sitting on the sofa in his home in Romania, Andrei, 15, bows his head and tries to hide his face behind his jacket as his mother speaks.

Mihaela, 48, believes that giving her children too many compliments will spoil them. Instead, she shares a stream of complaints and negative remarks about Andrei – as he sits close by and listens. “They need to know how hard life is and that things don’t come easy,” Michaela said.

Life certainly wasn’t easy for Michaela. She grew up in Communist Romania, and when she was only five years old, she was removed from her family and placed in an orphanage. In that setting, the children's behaviour was guided by the principle that if you were well-behaved, you'd have no problems with the educators, and Mihaela behaved as well as she could. What Mihaela learned during her time in the orphanage, she now strives to impart to her own children.

Andrei said, “I know everyone says I’m stubborn and bad. I don’t have anything to say about it. I don’t really know if I’m good at anything and to be honest, I’m not sure if I have any dreams.”

Due to the poverty the family lives in, Andrei has been enrolled on Mission Without Borders’ child sponsorship programme.

As a result, staff member Dani visits the family regularly, and Andrei has started going to local Christian youth meetings. “I love the activities there,” Andrei said. “I really enjoy being around the nice people there. They don’t judge me or think I’m not a good person.”

Dani said, “Under Communism, people were expected to suppress their emotions. And still today in Romania, many parents don’t realise the great impact of their negative words on their children’s development. To many of them, sharp criticism and cruel taunts are the expected approach when it comes to disciplining their children.

“While some children respond with bad behaviour, others withdraw themselves from the world around them, creating an even more negative environment for themselves. I think in a way that this is what Andrei does. While I’m sure he has many dreams and desires, struggles and achievements, he doesn’t even think they’re of any importance, and he wouldn’t want to share them, at least not when his family is around.”

In the meantime, both the youth meetings and being mentored by Dani provide Andrei with a safe space to experience God’s supporting care in action, and an opportunity to discover his identity and value in Christ.

Dani said, “Knowing the lack of encouragement Andrei gets at home, I make sure he knows that he’s able to do anything he sets his mind to and that he’s a fantastic teenage boy whose feelings matter, and I’m there to care about them. I do believe that the words I say to him are seeds that God can cause to bear fruit in time.”

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In line with our Theory of Change, the aim of our child sponsorship programme is to support vulnerable children spiritually, emotionally, educationally, materially, and socially; enabling them to have a better future and introducing them to the hope and love of Jesus. Sponsorship is more than regular monetary support. To the children we support, it is a source of encouragement and a tangible reminder that someone cares. Our long-term presence is making a lasting difference in their lives.

6,714 Children sponsored*

4,100 Children supported in institutions*

10 New child sponsorship communities*

*2024 figures



Dani (coordinator) and Andrei



WISDOM IN ACTION: PROVIDING AN EDUCATIONAL LIFELINE

Claudia

Claudia, 13, lives with her family in deep poverty in Nisporeni, Moldova. Her father is in prison for domestic abuse. She and her mother, brother and sister live in their grandparents' old house.

Because of her family's poverty, Claudia was rejected and bullied by her classmates, and came close to dropping out of school altogether. When Claudia and her siblings were invited along to Mission Without Borders' after school club, they began receiving help with their homework every day, as well as enjoying a hot meal and fun activities.

Viorel, who works for the Mission in Nisporeni, explained why educational support is so crucial in this community. "Of the families we work with, about 70% of them don't pay attention to their children's education or their progress at school. In many cases, the parents are struggling with alcoholism or they're just indifferent."

Claudia had fallen behind in her education and had a lot of challenges to overcome – but the Mission staff and volunteers were there to help her.

"I couldn't read until now," Claudia said. "I decided it was time to practice my reading and get better. This year I improved my grades in French, from 6.5, I got to 8. I also made a little progress In Romanian and History."

Claudia's teacher at school noted her improvements since joining after school club. "She's made some improvements in French; she solves math exercises, reads better, is able to retell stories. Before, she could hardly read or express herself. We hope that even if it's hard for her, she'll keep putting consistent effort into her work and will continue to improve." While Claudia isn't sure what she wants to do in the future, what she does know is that she wants to stay in school and finish well.

Mission staff member Aurica said, "Our wish is that the after school centre in Nisporeni will help raise healed, healthy children, who are well prepared for the future. We really want children from our community to excel in their education, so that one day they can choose a profession and ultimately have a better future than their parents."

RETIRED HEADMASTER TO AFTER SCHOOL VOLUNTEER

“We have many children from poor Roma families here in Danes, Romania, and school attendance was a big issue in the community. Many children dropped out of school because they couldn’t keep up with the work.

“We found a way to help them with an after school programme in the church, supported by volunteers. The school thanked us for our involvement. They saw that because of the after school programme, many more children were more interested in going to school. School attendance rose to an all-time high and fewer children dropped out.

“The school had to expand and there are now two classes in each grade, except one, and that’s because there are so many more children attending. This was such an encouragement for us.

“Some of the children who took part in the after school programme at the very beginning are members of the church today and they serve the Lord. We meet children from the community who have decided to continue their education and are now studying at a high school in the city. These results assure us that we made the right call when we started this project.”

Marius Tomulet, a retired headmaster based in Danes, Romania

FUTURE FOCUSED

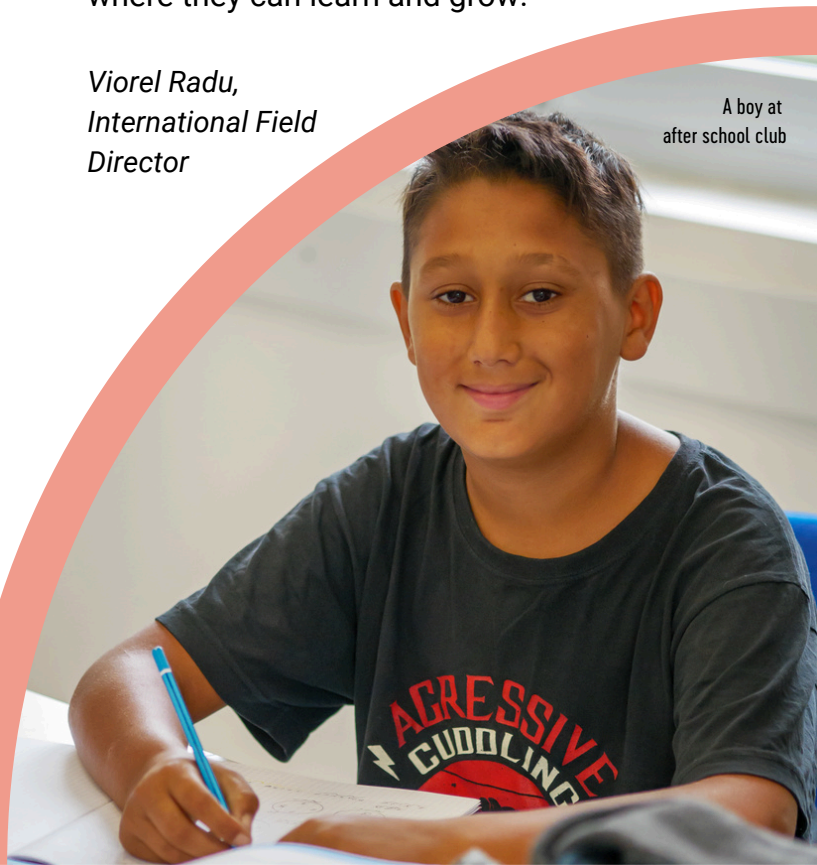
“Children living in vulnerable communities often fall behind at school for many reasons: poverty, a lack of support, a lack of confidence. Their grades are then poor and they become discouraged. Many drop out of school.

“Mission Without Borders’ after school clubs provide children with a place where they can come together, learn and work on their homework. They receive support from teachers and volunteers; they take part in fun activities; they enjoy a meal or snack.

“We see God in action through our teachers and volunteers. Their emotional support helps the children feel accepted, loved and encouraged. That God has a plan for their future.

“As the children make good progress and start to flourish at school, they grow in confidence and start to believe they can achieve their dreams. This is the beginning of the cycle of poverty being broken, as children are given the right environment where they can learn and grow.”

Viorel Radu, International Field Director



A boy at after school club



GOD'S STRENGTH IN ACTION: HELPING STUDENTS OVERCOME OBSTACLES

Alex

Born into poverty in Moldova, Alex, 22, grew up without a father, and his older brother has severe learning difficulties. When Alex was still a teenager, his mother was admitted to a psychiatric hospital, and he had to look after his older brother and his uncle for two years while she was a patient there.

Since he was a little boy, Alex has dreamed of becoming a teacher – but without Mission Without Borders' support, the overwhelming needs of his family, as well as the lack of financial support could have made that dream impossible.

Now Alex is a third-year student, studying to become a Maths and Computer teacher. Life is still tough: Alex is still his family's main carer as his mother has ongoing struggles with her mental health. Alex said, "Every day is different. I usually wake up early, around 6 or 7am and go to bed late around midnight... sometimes as late as 2am. During university term time, my days are very busy because I have classes until 3pm, and after classes I come home and help my mother with chores around the house. In the evening I get ready for lessons the next day."

Through all the challenges he's faced, Alex hasn't been alone. As a child he found a mentor in staff member Ion after being enrolled on Mission Without Borders' child sponsorship programme. He and Ion go to the same church, and Alex became a Christian. Now – as he studies to become a teacher – he has the financial support he needs from the Mission's scholarship programme.

"Brother Ion saw potential in me and he's encouraged and supported me since middle school," Alex said. Ion said, "I remember Alex as a small child, how hard it was for him and how happy he used to be when I visited his family. I'm glad to see Alex close to God now and going to university."

Alex said, "The Mission scholarship is a big blessing to me because many of my expenses are covered. I want to become a good teacher of maths and computer science and to be a good example to students, teaching many generations to change the world for the better."



KINDNESS IN ACTION: LIFEBLOOD OF THE MISSION

Oleksandr works for Mission Without Borders in Rivne, Ukraine, giving regular support to families displaced by war.

"I remember the first time I met Olena," Oleksandr said. "She was reserved and closed off, and so were her children." Olena and her daughters arrived in Rivne grieving and in shock after Olena's husband was killed in heavy shelling in eastern Ukraine. They had fled the city they'd always lived in, leaving everything behind.

"Over time, Olena began to trust more, and through the Mission we began to support them regularly," said Oleksander. And when Olena was diagnosed with cancer, Oleksandr was there for them.

"The news about the disease completely broke me," Olena said. "I was afraid to die, I was afraid for the future of my children. I am very grateful to Oleksandr and his wife, who supported and helped me so much. Now I look at my circumstances with different eyes. I still feel grief, my life is full of stress, but now I have a strong foundation and know that with God's help, I can overcome anything."

Oleksandr said, "Olena has come through denial, anger, depression, and is now in a state of finding realistic solutions and determining a way forward. Our task has been to walk this path together with Olena and to inspire her to seek support from the Lord. Please pray for the Mission's ministry as we support people affected by war. Together we are doing God's great work."

"Coordinators like Oleksandr are the lifeblood of the Mission. It is their support and visits that often have the greatest impact on the families we serve. We give families regular practical support, help them become financially stable and encourage them in their spiritual journey with God. So often, they tell us that what means the most to them is the love and care shown by the coordinator. Having someone who listens, who shares godly advice, who shows you you're not alone in your struggles, this is so often the key to positive change."

Viorel Radu, International Field Director



Maris

HEALING IN ACTION: LEARNING TO SMILE AGAIN

For Maris, seven, growing up in Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina, home did not always feel safe.

Her mother, Iva, went through a difficult time with her husband who is an addict, and her older son who is prone to violence. Iva is now separated from her husband, but she and Maris have been deeply affected by their experiences.

When home life is turbulent, it's easy for children to forget they are just a child, one who should be carefree and playful, free to grow and learn. Last summer, Maris had the opportunity to do just that. She was invited along to Mission Without Borders' summer camp, where there was fun and food in abundance, a happy, peaceful environment, and lots of other children ready to be friends. It was also Maris's first time going to the seaside.

Matea, who works for Mission Without Borders, said, "Summer camp brought many new things to Maris, most importantly, new friendships. Maris is a girl who rarely smiles, but at summer camp, I caught sight of many smiles on her face, smiles that came straight from her heart."

A few months after summer camp, Maris was placed in foster care. Mission Without Borders has stayed in contact with Maris and invited her to the children's meetings so she can see her friends from summer camp.

Matea said, "I'm glad that at summer camp, we were able to be there for Maris at a difficult time in her life. Here she had the chance to forget her troubles for a little while, hear about Jesus and all he's done for her. Summer camp is a really powerful way to communicate to children how valuable and how loved they are. We hope that Maris always remembers - and takes with her - the joy and peace she found here."

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION: VOLUNTEERS

"PEOPLE NEED TO TALK TO SOMEONE"



"The hours we spend together are very valuable, because people need to talk to someone, and most of the time, Sevda is alone. It is a true blessing for me to be able to serve Sevda and somehow brighten her day. Everything I do is out of love for the Lord, and it is from my whole heart."

Sonya, a Mission volunteer who regularly visits Sevda, an elderly woman who lives alone.

"WE SERVE JESUS CHRIST TOGETHER"



"Summer camp was extraordinary for me because on the last day there was a call to repentance, and I opened my heart to the Lord Jesus Christ and accepted him as my personal Saviour. It was the most important decision I have ever made. Since becoming a Christian, I pray to God every day and he gives me strength to live as a Christian. I also found really true friends in the other young Christians who are also volunteers, and we serve Jesus Christ together."

Bilyana, age 14, who volunteers at Mission Without Borders' summer camp.

"I HAVE A FAMILY HERE"



"It's been 20 years since I started volunteering, and I'm still here. I help with packaging, loading and unloading... I do everything that needs to be done around here with great pleasure. After all these years I feel like I have a family here, they make me feel welcome and part of a family. I needed help in the past and it was offered to me. Now it is my turn to try and help others, in the hope it will help them have a better life."

Adi Presecan, a volunteer in our warehouse in Romania. He grew up in an orphanage, receiving support from the Mission and is now part of the family.

FINANCIAL REPORT

79,254 DONORS IN **12** COUNTRIES

$16.4M Total cash income

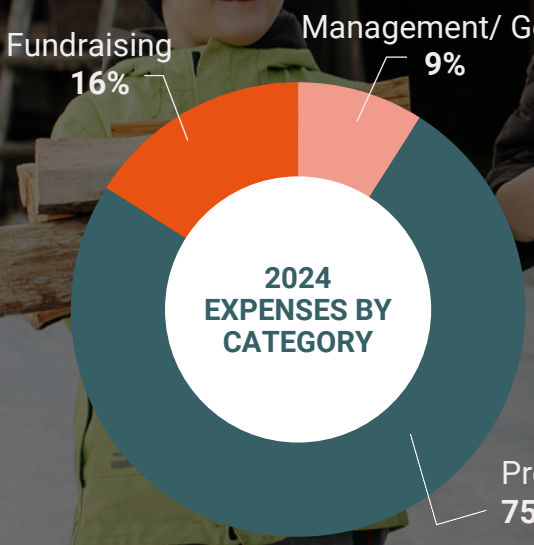
$9.6M Total value of donated goods

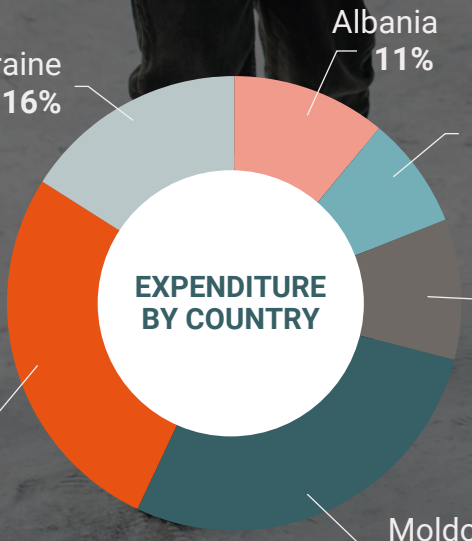
$26M Combined total

109 Staff across 12 fundraising countries

248 Staff across 6 field countries

1,378 Volunteers across the 6 field countries





Figures are all 2024 unaudited figures - cash and donated goods

MICHAEL THOMAS, CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD

It's a joy to be able to share with you some of the exciting ways that the people of Eastern Europe have been helped over the past year. I trust that you will also be encouraged as you read.

As I see how the Lord has led, I am reminded again how it has been a year of God in action. It's been our desire and mission to help people across Eastern Europe practically and to point to Jesus, as we work with closely with 461 local churches across the six countries. We rejoice that we know of over 400 people to whom God has revealed himself, who have found Christ as their personal Saviour, and there are probably many that we don't know about. Praise God!

We are so grateful to each of you for your faithful support in donations of money and practical gifts. Over 50 large container loads, valued at $9.6million, were shipped and distributed and, of course, joyfully received. This, along with the $16.4 million cash that you gave, has had great impact and influence in the lives of many. Without your precious support, encouragement and prayer, this could not take place.

We are over 350 people working together to share God's Love in Action and a further 1,300 volunteers who give generously of their time. We are grateful for the gifting of each one and their amazing contribution in giving practical help and spiritual input – as the Lord opens up the opportunities.

It is my prayer that you will be blessed in everything that you do in His name.

Thank you.

Michael Thomas,
Chairman of Mission Without Borders's International Board





HOPE IN ACTION

Maksym, displaced individual, Ukraine

As the large-scale war continues to bring devastation, we join with our colleagues and friends in Ukraine in hoping and praying for peace in 2025.

Volodymyr Brychuk, director of Mission Without Borders in Ukraine, said, “We are seeing more poverty, depression, widows, orphans and children without hope. Displaced people and others in need have told us that were it not for our support, they would be in a really difficult situation.”

In the midst of war, Mission Without Borders continues to run all programmes in Ukraine – from family sponsorship, to summer camps for children. In 2024, the Mission established six new children’s communities, in partnership with local churches, supporting 506 children directly.

New child sponsorship coordinator, Yaroslava Opalko, said, “I hope to build trusting relationships with the children so they know and realise that there's someone whose support and understanding they can always count on. As I share my faith with them, I hope that faith would be born in their small hearts too; that one day they would come to Christ and join the local church community.”

2024 also saw the retirement of our previous country director, Mykola Bogdanets, who founded Mission Without Borders Ukraine. “Looking back on my 30-year journey, I can boldly say that ‘the lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places’ (Psalm 16:6) because the Lord has always been with us. He has protected us, taught us and given us wise and God-fearing international leaders,” said Mykola.

As the Mission looks to Ukraine’s future, our hope is help restore and equip families and churches. Viorel Radu, Mission Without Borders International Field Director, said, “There is much work to be done, physically and emotionally, rebuilding that which has been destroyed. We hope to resume our work in Eastern Ukraine and establish more communities and after school clubs. We are so grateful for our generous supporters who haven’t forgotten us, who pray for us and who share what they have with us. Please continue to pray for us and the people we support, that God would go before us, heal and restore, and bring peace to our nation.”

RESTORATION IN ACTION

“After leaving home, I lost my friends and my everyday life. In a kind of a way, I lost a part of myself.”

Kia, 13, was ten years old when her hometown in the Donetsk region came under heavy shelling. The war in Ukraine has displaced more than half of all children, uprooting them from home, friendships, community and school. An estimated 1.5 million children in Ukraine are at risk of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health issues.

Kia and her family ended up in a rented house, 900km away, in the Sarny region, where she struggled to adjust. “My parents try to understand and support me and I’m glad about that. But I still felt lonely,” Kia said. “My world seemed to have turned upside down.”

One day, Kia’s dad heard about Mission Without Borders’ weekly meetings at a nearby community centre, where children enjoy activities, games and Bible teaching. Soon Kia and her brother were going along. Nina, a volunteer at the centre, said, “I’m very glad that Kira and her brother have made friends and have found a place where they can have fun and ask questions.”

Kira said, “The hardest thing for me was being far from home, far away from my friends and my school. I became very isolated. Attending the day centre became a kind of consolation. I understood that I’m not alone in my circumstances. There are people who can support me and give me advice. Also, I like to hear about God. The idea that Jesus knows me personally and wants to be a part of my life amazes me.”

Olena said, “I am so glad to see the difference in my daughter’s behaviour. Since the beginning of the war she became closed off. Now she’s more confident and cheerful. I think she found what had been missing in her life: new friends, acceptance, the opportunity to share her inner world. My mother’s heart is happy."

Nina added, “The community centre allows us to gather children together and have a place where they can enjoy being friends and receive the support that they need. We spread the gospel, have a positive impact on parents, develop relationships, and invite people to our church and to Sunday school.”

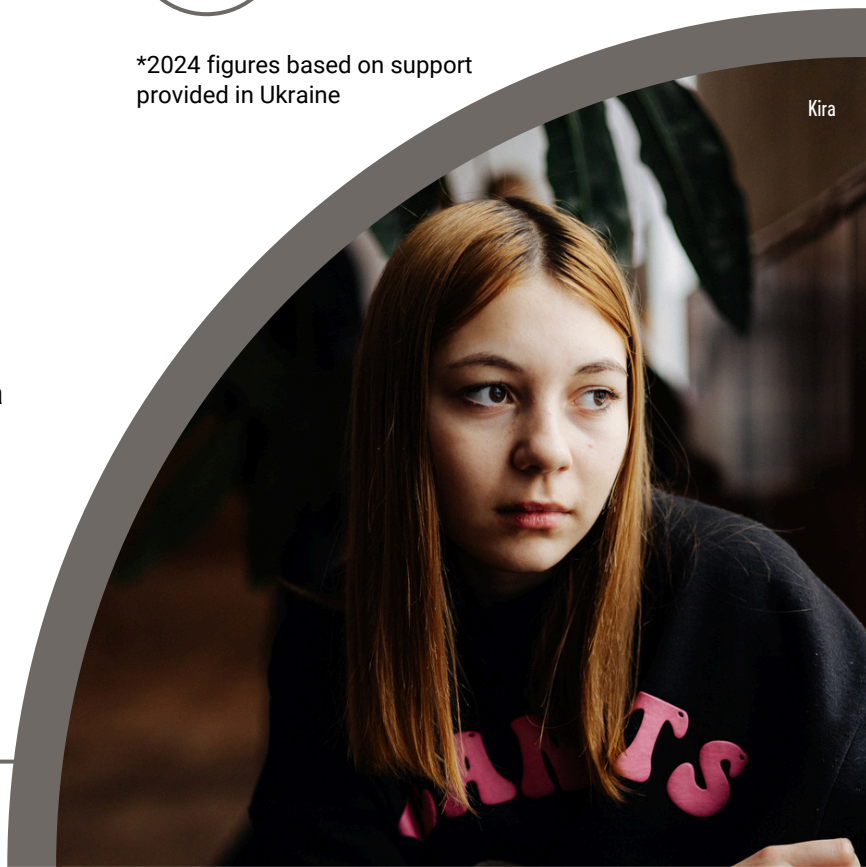
100 Displaced families receiving support*

800 Displaced people receiving donated goods*

400 Displaced people attending Christian meetings*

210 Displaced children attending summer camps*

*2024 figures based on support provided in Ukraine



Kira



GENEROSITY IN ACTION

Valensa, Isus (middle) and Fidanka, Bulgaria

PASSING ON THE BATON

For Gusti and Lavinia, being enrolled on the Mission's family sponsorship programme not only brought great relief for their family but also inspired them to volunteer and support their community in Danes, Romania.

"Of course, the material help we received is something we're deeply grateful for," Gusti said. "Yet what truly touched us in our journey with the Mission was the realisation that people from far away, who had never met us and didn't know us personally, chose to show us such kindness, love, and support.

"Their compassion really inspired us, and it's something we're determined to pass on within our community. We feel truly blessed, and it's a legacy of faith and service that we want to pass on to our children."

None of our work would be possible without our generous sponsors, donors and supporters. Their investments, prayers and communications not only help fuel our projects and programmes, enabling children and families to leave poverty behind, but also showcase God's love in action; providing those we support with a tangible reminder that they are not forgotten or alone.

For Isus, 12, from Bulgaria, sponsorship enabled him to go summer camp. Sharing about his time at camp, he said, "This week was unforgettable because for a few days, I was a regular, carefree child, not a boy living in poverty. How can I thank you? You have made me so happy."

Whilst there are many reasons why people choose to give, for Violet, a long-term sponsor from the UK, her reason was born from a place of gratitude and a desire to redistribute the blessings she'd received. "I am blessed to be a blessing. We are not meant to be reservoirs, we are meant to be channels. God blesses us and we should bless others. Sponsorship enables God to channel to others what He has given to me."



REDEEMING POWER IN ACTION

When Marinela's children persuaded her to attend the Christmas party at the local church in Casolt, she expected a routine service, with a few songs and maybe some Christmas gifts. But that day was different.

Nicu, a Mission Without Borders staff member, decided to share his testimony of how he became a Christian. Marinela said, "His story echoed my own struggles: trying to get everything together, only to fail, and always sensing that something was missing. I just stood there thinking about my own life, about the struggles and the weight I'd carried for so long and I just whispered a simple prayer. My heart changed, I felt different. I received the best Christmas gift ever… Jesus."

It has now been five years since Marinela gave her life to Christ. Having the church and the Mission in the village has been a true blessing for Marinela and her family – and for many others. "I now have a bigger family and many friends I can count on. Everything has come together in such a meaningful way," she said. "I have found the love and peace I always longed for but never knew how to get."

BEACON OF HOPE

Life moves slowly in Casolt, Romania. For its 1,070 residents life is simple but also challenging. Over the years, a small Baptist church has become a beacon of hope in the village. Alongside the Sunday services and community events, there is an after school club providing educational support to 20 children, run in partnership with the Mission, as well as an active family sponsorship programme.

Nicu, the coordinator for the area, said, "Having been in the community for the past seven years, I can see the remarkable difference in the church and families we work with."

Alexandru Danilenco, director of the Mission in Romania, said, "We are committed to working with, and strengthening the church. The church plays an important role in the spiritual growth and well-being of a community."



PROVISION IN ACTION

For Boyko (pictured), Vilma and their family (cover photo) their situation was desperate. Living in one room with their children was challenging and they couldn't see a way out of poverty.

As a young couple, Boyoko and Vilma moved to Ognyanovo, Bulgaria, living in a small, dilapidated house with one room. Over the years, with opportunities to work becoming more scare, the couple's situation worsened, and they and their young family found themselves facing extreme poverty. When they were struggling to make ends meet and barely had enough to survive, the family came into contact with Mission Without Borders and were enrolled onto the family sponsorship programme.

Since being part of the programme, the family have seen God in action through the material, emotional, spiritual, social and educational support they have received, helping them to feed their children, extend their home and deepen their faith. Furthermore, through the Mission's self-sufficiency support, providing the family with cattle and animal husbandry resources, they have been able to grow their income.

Reflecting on the change they've seen, Boyko shared, "I thank God that He always held us in His hand in the difficult moments, and there were many of them. He has always been by our side."

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