



Press Release

Trogen, 02.03.2022

Pestalozzi Children's Village prepares to welcome refugees

The situation in Ukraine is getting worse day by day. The conflict poses a grave danger, especially to the civilian population. The Pestalozzi Children's Foundation (PCF) is stepping up its support on the ground and is preparing to take in refugees at the Children's Village.

Military conflict threatens the lives and well-being of the population and inflicts long-term damage on the development and education of children and young people. Civic facilities such as schools and educational institutions have already been damaged in the hostilities. The refugee agency UNHCR estimates that more than 660,000 people have already fled their homes. Thousands of people have crossed the borders to seek safety in neighbouring countries. There is no end in sight to the fighting.

Delivering aid on the ground and accepting refugees in Switzerland

The Pestalozzi Children's Foundation, which was established in 1946 as a humanitarian gesture by the Swiss population in response to the suffering of war orphans in Europe, is stepping up its support in the affected area to protect refugees. The Foundation has been active in Eastern Europe for the last 30 years. Its activities and collaboration with local partner organisations extend as far as Ukraine, Poland and Moldova, where the foundation has a local office and pursues long-term partnerships to support the region's development.

Martin Bachofner, CEO of the PCF, emphasises that "due to the scale of the situation and the number of people affected, the PCF is ready to expand its support in neighbouring countries and respond to the escalating needs. We are expecting refugees to arrive in Switzerland over the coming days and weeks. We are ready to welcome them into our Children's Village and make our support structure available to them. The first refugees should move into our Children's Village as early as this week. We are also exploring other options."

The PCF has already extended offers of support and collaboration to representatives of the federal authorities in Bern, the canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden and other partners, and is working with them to explore the various needs and options.

Call for donations to Swiss Solidarity

Swiss Solidarity has launched an appeal for donations. The PCF has links with Swiss Solidarity and is supporting the charity's appeal for donations. The PCF is submitting an application for project funds to its partners and the authorities in order to finance its own efforts.

Please contact the Pestalozzi Children's Village if you have any questions, would like more information or would like to arrange a visit:

Contact information

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