



## Report on church relief aid to people affected by hostilities in Kursk and Belgorod regions as of August 13, 2024



**DECR Communication service, August 14, 2024.**

On August 13, 2024, the Synodal Department for Charity's hotline 8-800-70-70-222 received 46 inquiries from the Kursk region. Of these, 27 offered their assistance, while 19 sought help. Many of those who reached out have already found housing and are in need of humanitarian aid, hoping to return home soon. Hotline operators provide information to callers about receiving assistance at the church humanitarian aid center based at the Youth Department of the Kursk Diocese, located at: Kursk, Tuskarnaya Street, building 1, and that a church center for helping people will soon open at the territory of the Holy Trinity Convent in Kursk. Since August 7, 2024, the hotline has received a total of 324 inquiries from the Kursk region.

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Compared to the previous day, the number of families contacting the Moscow Refugee Assistance Headquarters at the Synodal Department for Charity has decreased. Over the course of the day, 4 families (15 individuals) from the Kursk region reached out to the Moscow Refugee Assistance

Headquarters. Almost all of them arrived at relatives or friends' homes. All families that contacted the Headquarters have received humanitarian aid (food, hygiene products, household chemicals). Additionally, upon request, pillows, bedding, blankets, and beds were provided to refugees. One family received assistance with accommodation for the following week. Throughout the day, the Moscow Headquarters received 138 deliveries of aid from churches and concerned residents of Moscow. Since August 6, 2024, a total of 34 families (97 individuals) from the Kursk region have contacted the Moscow Refugee Assistance Headquarters, with 324 deliveries of aid received.

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Throughout the day, the church headquarters for refugee assistance in Belgorod, located in the Marfo-Mariinsky Monastery, received inquiries from 51 families. Another 5 families evacuated from Shebekino and Krasnaya Yaruga reached out to the hotline. Humanitarian aid (food, hygiene products, bedding, pillows, blankets, clothing) was provided to 114 individuals: 62 from Belgorod, Belgorod Region, and border areas; 25 from the Kharkov direction; 18 from the Shebekino district; 6 from the Kursk region; and 3 from the Donetsk People's Republic.

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On August 13, a meeting took place between representatives of the Synodal Department for Charity and the head of the Youth Department of the Kursk Diocese, Priest Vladimir Shilin, along with volunteers from the refugee assistance center established at the diocesan youth department. After the meeting, representatives of the Synodal Department for Charity delivered 70 food packages collected by volunteers from the church in honor of St. Dimitri of Thessalonica. Throughout the day, volunteers collected 425 food packages.

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The Kazan Diocese has raised about 2 million rubles to assist those affected in the Kursk region. On August 14, Olga Varganova, head of the "Mercy Kazan" service, will travel to Kursk with a GAZelle van loaded with humanitarian aid.

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On August 14, a GAZelle van with humanitarian aid will arrive in Kursk from Optina Monastery. The humanitarian cargo includes mattresses, bedding, pillows, and hygiene products.

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Throughout the day, work was underway at the Holy Trinity Monastery in Kursk to organize a comprehensive church center for assisting displaced persons. Information about recruiting volunteers and staff for the opening center has been communicated to parish groups and chats in Kursk through the diocese's press service, reports diakonia.ru.