

**International House NY
Davis to Ukrainian Crisis**

Ariel Posner

Zahony-Chop (Hungary), Hungarian-Ukrainian Border

Description of Project

NPR estimates there are now at least 1,000,000 people in Ukraine who have fled the war and are displaced within their own country. The EU believes that figure could climb to seven million and that 18 million Ukrainians will be affected by the war. My project will be to provide Ukrainian refugees with a hub that will provide a) shelter to settle and b) an ability to help them continue keeping their livelihood. The Hungarian government officially declared Ukrainians eligible for temporary protection. Ukrainians can enter Hungary and travel to Hungary without a visa, however – unlike other refugees – they are not required to give notice of intention to submit an application for refugee status.

Ukrainians are trying to enter Hungary at all five crossings along its 140-kilometer long border with Ukraine. As one who has served for three years of national civil service, I am well seasoned with navigating different parties into one cause. Further, I am building a team of individuals from Columbia University with complementary strengths. Amit is a special forces medic who has experience in providing medical care to Syrian Refugees. Dani has three years of military and transnational experience consisting of logistical procurement and leading non-profit organizations. Collectively, I believe we are a well-equipped team that can utilize my family relationships to help provide unparalleled fit to the current challenges faced in the Záhony-Hungary border. Together, along with my family ties of individuals and local leaders in the region, we will be a self-sufficient group that can safely manage this turbulent terrain and reaffirms the Davis Project's commitment to world peace. And while I wish I could say we are able to address the root causes of conflict in this terrible situation, I can say with some certainty that we will be able to address its effects.

Proposed Actions

During my six-week stay in Hungary, my team will be working to secure a large accommodation that can host dozens of Ukrainian refugees fleeing into Hungary. Our budget will largely be invested on renting out on housing, food, and medical supplies for the Ukrainian people in need. The team's work on the border with refugees reaching Budapest will be multifaceted. The conflict is changing by the day, so we will need to be flexible and adjust our plans in order to best help the situation. The different areas of need will evolve, and our budget will likely evolve with them. Additionally, while we will be an independent operation, I aim to connect with community leaders who are struggling and to any extent possible help them reach more families to get humanitarian support. Our team will also help transport aid from donation centers within Budapest to Zahony-Chop (Hungarian border).

Results and Goals

For the past few days, I have been in constant contact with family in Kyiv, heads of various organizations, and Rabbis from various cities. I will continue the dialogue to help me get a better understanding of what the people need as the situation is in constant change.

Hungary and Ukraine share a 136.7 km border, roughly following the Tisza river across the Zakarpattia Lowland. The border has a single point of entry by passenger rail, between Chop and Záhony, and one point of entry that only serves freight rail, between Solovka and Eperjeske. This project will be focused and specific to this area to help the Ukrainian people who are escaping the Russian invasion by:

- a) Providing shelter and mental support to Ukrainians refugees in need
- b) Redistributing humanitarian aid via on-ground organizations
- c) Providing Ukrainians a space to restore their livelihood for those who can work remotely

My goal is to prove Davis Project for Peace's true commitment to its mission to address conflict. This prestigious initiative will show its long-lasting commitment to peace by supporting projects related to the outburst in Ukraine, a crisis that's costing thousands of lives. I cannot imagine a more pressing cause that would fit Kathryn W. Davis's goal of promoting peace than working to mitigate the effects of this conflict.

Indicators of Success

My first indicator of success will be measured by how many Ukrainian refugees we manage to provide shelter. My second indicator of success will be judged whether I can give mental support to those in need. My third indicator of success will be how well I can provide the resources needed to maintain their livelihood from remote. As the events unfold, I will recalculate my goals and indicators of success to better assess my progress throughout Davis' project, and those metrics will be shown in our final report and revised budget.

Projects for Peace Budget Template

Name: Ariel Posner
Project Name: Davis to Ukrainian Crisis
School: Columbia University

TOTAL FUNDS REMAINING:
\$0

Total Additional Funding:				

TOTAL EXPENDITURES:
\$10,000

Student Expenses					Project Expenses				
Travel (Including Airfare)	Lodging	Communications	Food (Biweekly)	Miscellaneous	Non-Student Travel and Lodging	Direct Equipment and Supplies	Marketing and Event Support	Staffing Costs	Miscellaneous
\$1,950		100	800	100	7000				50
Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total
\$1,950	\$0	100	800	100	7000	0	0	0	50

Total Student Expenses:
\$2,950

Total Project Expenses:
7050

This form should be used to prepare your final budget and submitted with your project's final report.