

# Banki Żywności



## SUPPORT UKRAINE

AID ACTIVITIES  
FOOD BANKS IN POLAND  
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Food Banks in Poland have been saving food from wasting and distributing it to the most needy for 25 years. We have facilities, recognizable brand and experience in organizing support for victims of natural disasters. Additionally we have at our disposal trained groups of volunteers and knowledge of how to organize systematic and long-term support. In the face of war that broke out in Ukraine as a result of aggression by Russia, Food Banks and numerous aid organizations all over Poland have been put to a hard test during the first three weeks. The Polish-Ukrainian border was crossed by over 1.43 million refugees from Ukraine - according to information from the Border Guard. Moreover, the Organization of United Nations estimates that in the result of the war, more than 5 million Ukrainians may seek refuge in others countries, including Poland. Providing all these people with decent living conditions is the most significant challenge we face. We need food products clothes and basic necessities. The enthusiasm of Poles is huge, but as experts in effective help, we must underline two risks: providing help in an unorganized manner, which may result in wasting effort and resources, and glossing over this dramatic situation after cooling down emotions.

As the Federation of Polish Food Banks, we conduct an on-line financial fundraising charity action: [shopbiorkazywnosci.pl](http://shopbiorkazywnosci.pl) to collect funds for meals for refugees. In this report, we present, in detail, activities undertaken by Food Banks.

Beata Ciepla, President of Federation of Polish Food Banks

The Food Banks Federation consists of 32 local Banks, which have been involved in humanitarian aid since the first day of the war. Assistance was provided by Food Banks to a greater or lesser extent depending on the region and demand. Federation of Polish Food Banks organized range of charity activities: fundraising actions on the Internet, food collection, collection of donations from companies, donations of products to aid organizations, as well as transport of humanitarian shipments abroad.

## Online Food Collections

Federation of Polish Food Banks: <https://zbiorkazywnosci.pl/>

Three Food Banks manage additional online food collections :

Olsztyn: <https://olsztyn.bankizywnosci.pl/przekaz-darowizne/>

Warsaw: <https://bzsos.pl/przekaz-darowizne/>

Tri-City: <https://bztrojmiasto.pl/pomagam/#wplaty>





## FOOD COLLECTIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Federation of Polish Food Banks organized together with the largest retail chains - Biedronka, Lidl and Auchan – product collections for refugees from Ukraine. The collections took place in shops. Food producers also donate the products to the Federation of Polish Food Banks. Donations are sent to the warehouses of 32 Food Banks and in the second phase of logistics process they are transported to aid organizations.

**Till now Federation of Polish Food Banks collected 182 tons of food and transferred it to local Food Banks.**

Additionally, local Food Banks engage local stores of other chains - for example Kaufland in Kielce, Lewiatan in Wrocław or Netto in Tri-City. Thanks to the commitment and work of many people, wide stream of help comes from various sources.

Food Banks also organize collection points in cities - the SOS Food Bank in Warsaw joined the collection on Bank Square in Warsaw and took part in three collections in Warsaw companies. In the result the Bank gathered 5 tons of products.



Food Collection organized by SOS Food Bank in Warsaw

In the Tri-City, more than 50 entities (institutions - schools, restaurants, hotels and private companies) joined the collection released by the local Food Bank.



Delivery to the social shop in Gdynia in Tri-City

In Konin, there are collection points in the city, as well as in 30 communes in the area.



Delivery of food aid by Food Bank in Konin



In turn, the Food Bank in Olsztyn is the official storehouse of food donations, hygienic and basic medical articles, and to a limited extent clothing for Olsztyn and the Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship. Representatives of various environments join in the assistance. The example of cooperation are two initiatives described below. Food Bank in Olsztyn together with the city and the Municipal Cultural Center organized a concert „Olsztyn Solidarity with Ukraine” during which PLN 61,000 was collected. On the other hand, to-



Concert „Olsztyn Solidarity with Ukraine”

gether with the fans of Stomil Olsztyn, Food Bank in Olsztyn also conducted a collection of gifts just before the match with Widzew Łódź. The result of the initiative was 500 kilos of gifts received. In many cities collections are being continued and more products are coming to Food Banks.



Reception of food delivered by Food Bank in Wrocław

## GIVING HELP

Food Banks provide aid both locally - they send transports to reception centers and to the border with Ukraine, as well as they organize humanitarian transports.



Aid provided by Food Banks comes from all over Poland to Kiev, Kharkiv, Hrubieszow, Lviv, Lutsk, Nowożyńska and many other cities in Ukraine.

The Food Bank in Konin sent the transport to border in Budomierz, to the organization which cooks meals and delivers them to the Ukrainian side. Transport of food and goods to Chernivtsi is also being prepared, as Chernivtsi is the partner city of Food Bank in Konin. In turn, the Food Bank in Ciechanów organized 10 transports, including: to Hrubieszów, Kiev or Chełmno.

The Food Bank in Poznań has already sent 10 transports to Reception Points. It also delivered 0.5 tons of products to prepare hot meals for 500 refugees every day.

**62 tons** of products were donated to crisis teams, aid organizations or in the form of humanitarian transports.



The Team of Food Bank in Ciechanów preparing transport

**Food Banks organize a central warehouse located in the region near Food Bank in Kielce, from which the aid will be distributed throughout Poland, depending on the demand.**



## COMMITTED BANKS

Food Banks are involved in various actions and initiatives aimed at supporting refugees from Ukraine. Our activities go beyond logistics, collections of food or goods and transport of parcels - we reach every group and every person, who needs our support.

Employees of the Food Bank in Ciechanów were involved in the preparation of night seats in the sports hall owned by the city. They received from a partner organization city bed linen and towels and shared it with the city.

The Teams of Food Bank in Tri-City prepares in the warehouse parcels with basic products, which are delivered to Social Stores in Gdynia and Gdańsk. Food Bank in Tri-City together with Municipal Social Welfare Centers in Gdynia extended opening days and hours of Social Store in Gdynia-Orłowo in order to be able to serve individual refugees who live in private apartments and with families.



Food Bank in Poznań delivered food to accommodation place for refugees



Oksana, Daria, Katia, Sasha and Masha. These are women who came from Żyto-  
mierz and volunteered to help in the warehouse of the Food Bank in Konin

The Food Bank in Olsztyn has additional Social Organization called "Social Forge". It owns the hostel, in which 40 refugees live right now. They benefit from the premises of the Food Bank, as well as from the meals they receive in hostel's restaurant.



The Food Bank in Wrocław puts a lot of its effort to provide local post-management organizations with public support points in crisis. It also supports initiatives community and kindergarten activities for refugees being children.



Beneficiaries of Food Aid in Wrocław



Sorting of food in warehouse of Food Bank in Kraków

The Food Bank in Kraków supports over 3,000 refugees and 30 organizations. Bank employees and volunteers in cooperation with local organizations donate food for sandwiches to the information point, they prepare packages for families, cook meals.

## CHANGING NEEDS

At present (after addressing the needs related to clothes) the share of food in the demand is increasing. Along with the increase in the number of refugees in Poland, this demand will continue to grow - mainly for long-term household cooking products (cereals, pasta, flour, etc.). The significant challenge is the lack of food products for the youngest.

Help will be needed for much longer time than only right now. Only by acting together we can successfully face these challenges.



A drawing found in a gift package. Food Bank in Tri-City

## COOPERATION

Local Food Banks cooperate with voivodeship offices, marshal offices and city offices. Throughout Poland, local government authorities take advantage of the experience of Food Banks in bringing help. That is why local Food Banks get involved into the operations of crisis teams. Support centers, social organizations and informal groups providing help for refugees benefit from Food Banks' humanitarian aid. The good example is the Food Bank in Wrocław, which received 40 applications for assistance, as the organizations are running low on food supplies.

The Federation of Polish Food Banks, in turn, cooperates with retail chains, logistics companies and with food producers in order to coordinate the receipt of gifts.



As part of their social involvement, individuals and various companies contact with local Food Banks companies and individuals who want to provide support in transport, collections, helping refugees and also by offering various services such as: hair-dressing or organization and time management for children.

