

Activity Report

2024

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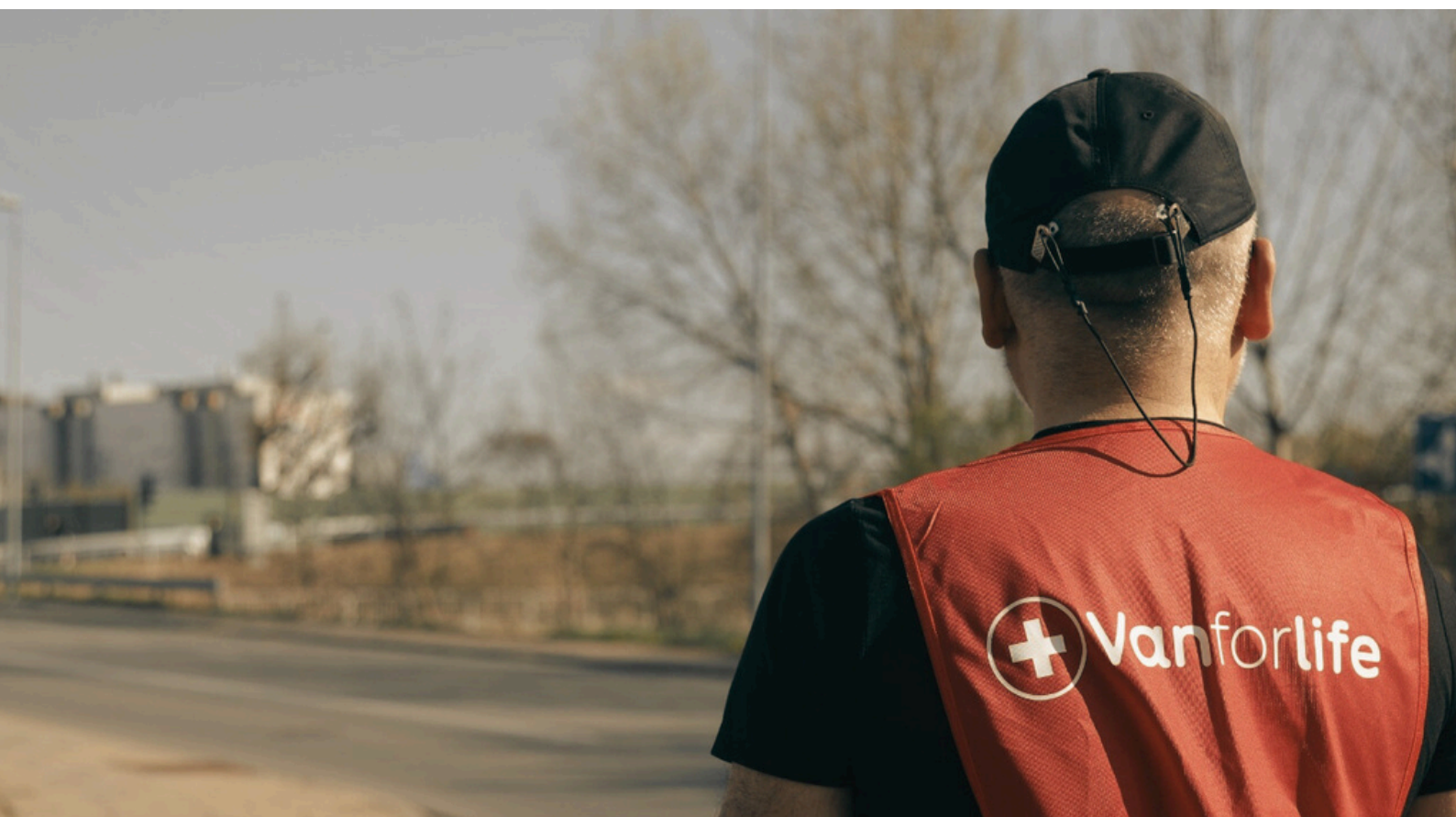
A propos

Van for Life is a **non-profit organization** based in Geneva, mainly composed of **citizen volunteers**, who decided to set up a **direct humanitarian response** in support of victims of **forced displacement**, regardless of any political, religious, or ethnic considerations.

Our organization provides **first-response aid** following conflict or other major crises, with **particular attention given to the most vulnerable** (women, minors, children).



Whether in their own country, along the routes of exile, or in a host country, our primary goal is to **preserve the basic physical and psychological** integrity of individuals, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



Our values

We always keep in mind the founding approach of our actions : going into direct contact along the routes of exile, engaging in dialogue, and thereby defining and providing **direct, mobile, and targeted support**.

The principle is simple: to establish a **chain of solidarity** linking our logistical expertise with people in urgent need of humanitarian aid.

We work with local non-governmental organizations to **optimize and coordinate** our actions, making them even more effective.

With a spirit of **holistic support**, we assist people whose migration path has brought them to Switzerland, and we promote their reception and integration.



Our mission

1

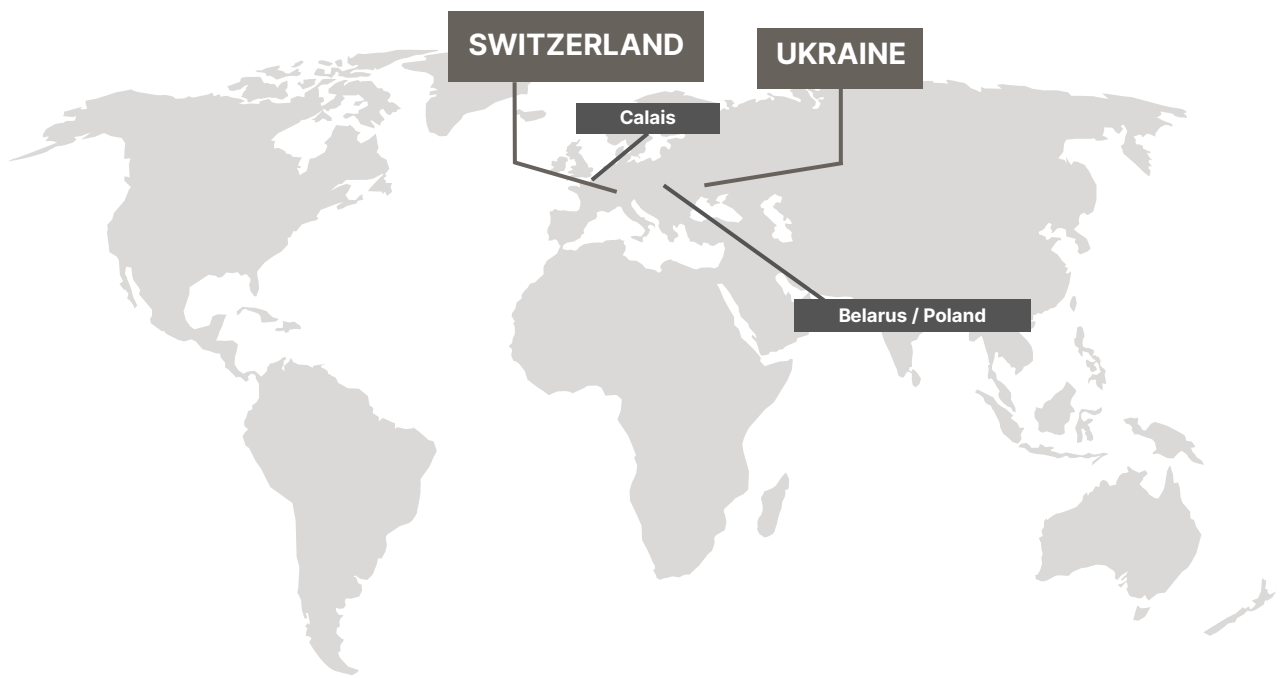
In the country of origin facing crisis: provide **direct assistance to vulnerable people**.

2

Along the **routes of exile**: deliver **targeted aid efficiently to victims** of forced displacement.

3

In the **host country**: support the **social and professional integration** of displaced individuals.



Our areas of action



In **Ukraine** : Van For Life has been delivering and distributing emergency **humanitarian aid** since 2022. Including essential goods, demining equipment, and the evacuation of civilians.

Migration hotspots : by providing occasional support to local associations along **high-pressure migration routes**, addressing the most **urgent humanitarian needs**.

In the short term, the NGO aims to **expand** its areas of operation to **Greece, southern Spain, and Switzerland (2025)**, as well as the **Balkans (2026)**.

Our principles

Direct contact

We believe that direct contact with people is essential.

Through genuine exchange, we can **better understand needs and priorities**, delivering **flexible and targeted aid** while keeping **humanity at the heart** of our action.

An approach without intermediaries

To **maximize** the impact of our actions and resources, we deliver humanitarian aid **personally and directly** to those affected by the conflict.

Control of the distribution chain

We have developed **our own distribution network** and **use our vehicles** directly in the field.

Thanks to **close relationships with local communities**, we are able to monitor and adapt the entire distribution chain from start to finish.

A civilian & independent action

We operate with complete **independence, free from any political, religious, or ethnic affiliation.**



Our team

Comittee



Dimitri Montanini
President



Guilherme Cintra Januario
Treasurer



Alma Montanini
Secretary

Board

	Dimitri Montanini	Head of Operations
	Alex Montanini	Global Project Coordination & Emergency Actions
	Julien Pesse	Fundraising & Administration
	Tandra Gunawan	Communication & Medias
	Jesse Anton	IT Coordinator
	Nadia Radwan	Editing & Translation

Field

	Coordination
	Logistics
	Distribution

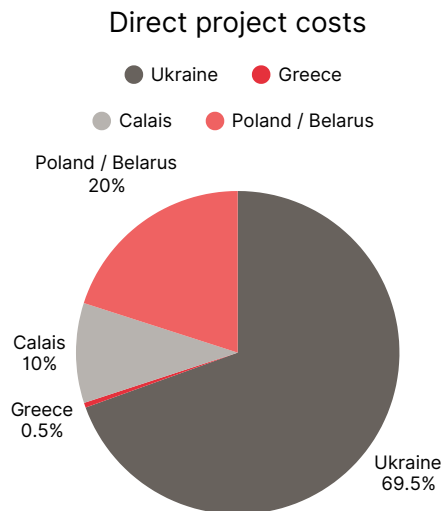
The identities of those involved in the field are not mentioned in order to protect their safety

Volunteers

More than 70 volunteers are involved throughout the year, at every level, both in Switzerland and abroad. Their commitment enables us to carry out our missions successfully. **We warmly thank them for their invaluable support!**

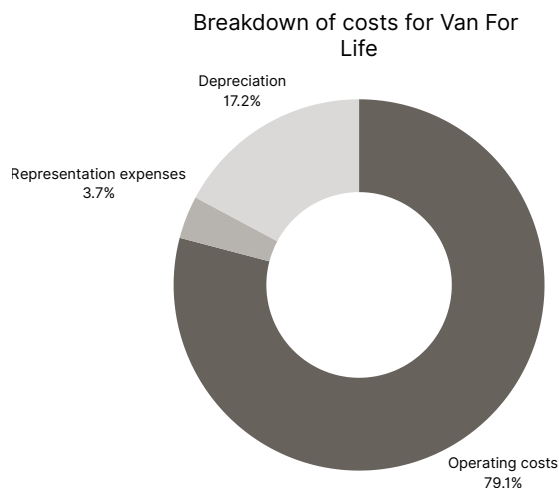
Financial report

Charges 2024



The breakdown of direct expenses by project shows that in 2024, **our flagship project remains Ukraine**, accounting for 70% of total spending. **One-off actions** (Calais, Poland/Belarus border) **represent nearly one-third of direct costs**, while the 0.5% allocated to Greece corresponds to an **exploratory mission** carried out prior to establishing a **long-term operation**.

This allocation reflects a **strategic choice driven by the urgency** of humanitarian needs in Ukraine, while also developing a **growing engagement along Europe's borders**.



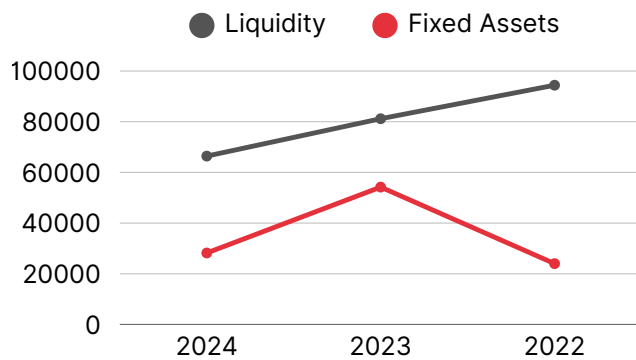
Operating costs linked to field projects absorb the vast majority of expenses (79.1%), followed by **depreciation** (17.2%) and representation costs (3.7%).

The main expense item by far is **vehicle management**, essential tools for our operations **focused on mobility, flexibility, and rapid action**.

Our fixed costs (administration, premises, staff) remain reduced to the bare minimum, largely thanks to the massive contribution of volunteers. **This operationally centered allocation aims to maximize the impact of resources in the field.**

Assets & Liabilities

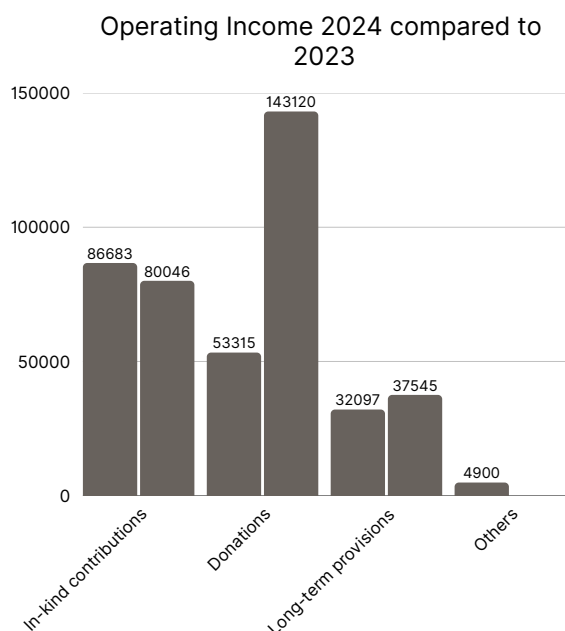
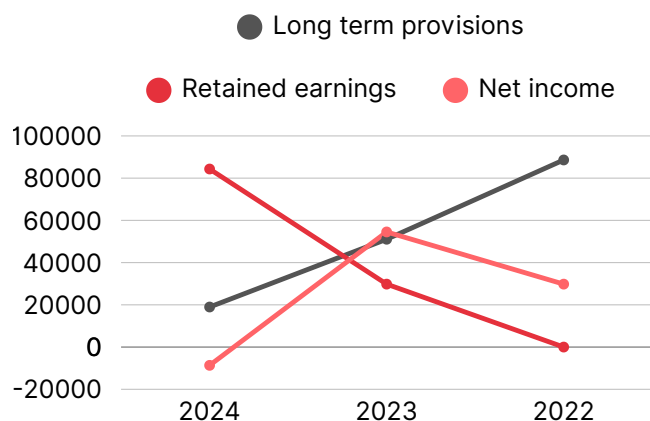
Asset growth



Since 2022, total assets have shown a **downward trend**, primarily due to reduced cash reserves resulting from the **swift mobilization of resources to address multiple humanitarian emergencies**.

As for liabilities, results have gradually decreased, largely reflecting the intensity of humanitarian needs and the scale of resources deployed. The management of liabilities therefore illustrates a **balance, albeit a fragile one, between immediate response and long-term financial sustainability**.

Evolution of liabilities



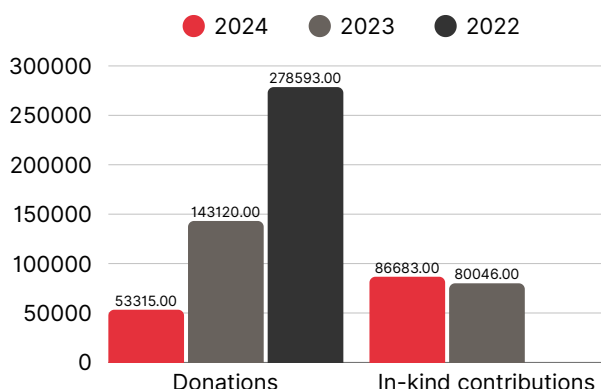
In 2024, the balanced composition of operating income shows a better distribution of resources compared to the previous year, reflecting a strong effort toward **financial stabilization** and a solid capacity to **diversify funding sources**.

In-kind contributions, once again this year, **remain essential resources for Van For Life's operations**, made possible through private partnerships.

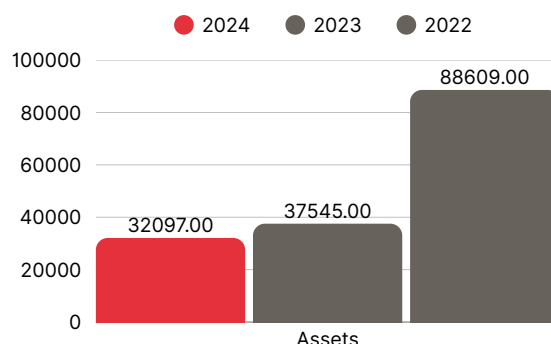
Financial report

Income & emergency fund

Evolution of donations & in-kind contributions



Evolution of the Emergency Fund



In 2024, Van For Life once again experienced a **sharp decline in monetary donations (-62.75%)**, which forced the organization to draw on part of its emergency fund in order to avoid a significant reduction in activities. It will therefore be essential in 2025 to **reinvigorate fundraising efforts, and considerable work will be undertaken in this regard.**

In-kind contributions remain fundamental to the success of our operations.

These complement direct financial resources, allowing us to continue **providing concrete and immediate assistance** while building **lasting partnerships**. However, they offer limited flexibility for direct reallocation within projects and do not cover future salaries, making it difficult to secure long-term staff positions. Recognizing in-kind contributions in our financial statements enables us to present a **full and transparent picture of the resources truly mobilized by Van For Life, as well as the gaps that must be addressed moving forward.**

With the primary objective of **supporting** local structures when emergencies arise, it is **our duty to be able to respond swiftly and effectively**. This is why we not only maintain **two emergency vehicles** in Geneva ready for deployment, but also a **financial reserve** that allows us to deliver essential goods and/or equipment to high-tension areas as needed.

Key moments 2024

JUNE

Switzerland

First **UMNR action** and
establishment of host families

SEPTEMBER

Calais, France

Provision of **emergency aid** and
assessment for the establishment
of a field mission

MAY

Switzerland - Ukraine

Delivery of **1 semi-trailer** of school
supplies

JULY

Belarus / Poland

First **support** to our partner EGALA
1 equipped van for rescue operations

NOVEMBER

Ukraine

Delivery of the **2nd demining
machine** (CHF 1'200'000)



Ukraine

2022 - 2025



Humanitarian assistance

Context

After more than three years of war, the **humanitarian situation** in Ukraine remains critical. Civilian infrastructure (hospitals, schools, energy networks, etc.) continues to be targeted, leading to severe shortages of essential goods.

UNHCR and OCHA estimate that **in 2025, 12.7 million people, around one-third of the population will be in urgent need of assistance.** Nearly 70% of Ukrainians lack access to basic resources such as water, food, and medicine, while more than 65% are affected by frequent power outages impacting water, heating, and electricity.

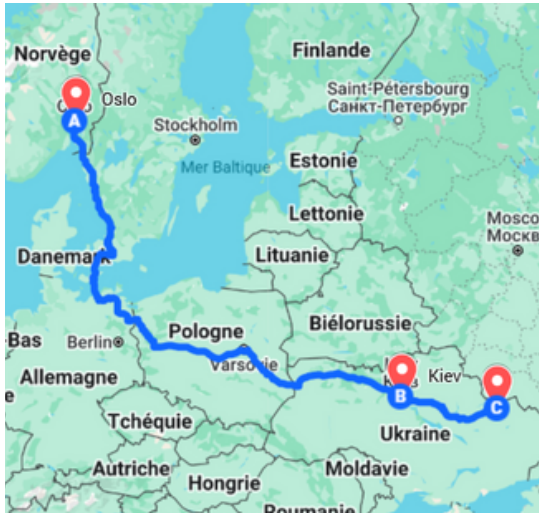
Finally, the most recent data indicate around 3.7 million internally displaced people within Ukraine and 6.4 million outside the country.

Since March 2022, Van For Life has been delivering emergency humanitarian aid, mainly food and medical supplies, and carrying out **evacuations of people in high-risk areas.** Thanks to various international and local partnerships, our volunteer teams, and our own fleet of vehicles, **aid is distributed in a targeted and efficient way, reaching the most isolated regions** of the country where needs are greatest.



Our activities

Supply chain



Frequency : **1x** per month

📍 NORWAY

- Partnership with a **group of associations and government institutions.**
- **Donation and loading of humanitarian supplies:**
 - 70% medical equipment
 - 30% food and other supplies

📍 KYIV / KHARKIV / DNI PRO

- Sorting by **field teams** in **Van For Life warehouses.**
- **Direct distribution**, supervised and coordinated by a **Ukrainian doctor who took refuge in Geneva.**
- A total of **4 vans and 1 truck** were used to deliver aid to hospitals, rural clinics, and medical stabilization centers.

Humanitarian assistance in Ukraine



Emergency aid delivered to victims



Support for **hospitals & rural clinics**



Evacuation & civilian support in conflict areas



Demining & risk prevention



Our activities

Humanitarian assistance in Switzerland



Evacuation & transport of refugees to Switzerland (2022), support for return to Ukraine (current)



Administrative assistance & integration (housing, education...)



Connection with **local structures & NGOs**



Demining operations

Context

Since the outbreak of the conflict, contaminated areas (mines, cluster bombs, explosive remnants, etc.) have increased dramatically, posing a **direct threat** to the civilian population. Today, **Ukraine is considered the most heavily mined country in the world**, with one-third of its territory contaminated. Every month, **hundreds of incidents involving explosive devices, many of them fatal**, are recorded. In response to this situation, Switzerland has **decided to commit to humanitarian demining**, allocating 100 million Swiss francs to this effort.

Choice of Partner

The **Digger Foundation**, under its registered brand **Digger DTR**, is a Swiss organization that **designs, manufactures, and markets demining machines**. These machines significantly increase the efficiency of deminers, reduce risks, and make this technology accessible.

They have already been deployed in more than **16 countries across 4 continents**, with recognized humanitarian impact and worldwide efficiency.

We collaborate on demining projects in isolated rural areas in order to **improve civilian safety**.



Our collaboration

1

SFDD / The Swiss Confederation

The support provided included, in addition to the **demining machine**, a **trailer truck** as well as a **set of spare parts** for three years, for a total amount of **CHF 1.2 million**. It also supported the **training of civil authorities** in humanitarian demining.

2

The Digger Foundation

Digger's **longstanding expertise** in manufacturing demining machines helps accelerate the process thanks to **cutting-edge technologies**, while ensuring **safety**. This work is part of Switzerland's long humanitarian tradition.

3

Van For Life

The Van For Life teams handled the essential aspects of **equipment delivery and logistics**. Our permanent presence, network, and operational experience have made us a **recognized and trusted partner**



2024 Results



5 vehicles in **Ukraine**
2 vehicles in **Switzerland**



Over **150.000 km**
travelled by our vans



12 humanitarian **convoys**



Over **50 volunteers**
directly involved



Over **CHF 150'000**
dedicated to fieldwork



Over **20.000** direct
beneficiaries



Over **400 tonnes** of
equipment distributed



1 mine clearance machine
delivered



Upcoming project

Rural Resettlement of Displaced Populations

As part of the Ukraine **Reconstruction Program supported by Switzerland**, Van For Life is implementing a pilot project aimed at providing sustainable **rural housing** for displaced populations in **central** and **western** Ukraine.

Assessment

The issue of resettlement has become **central** for internally displaced people. Cities are **overcrowded**, while rural populations are often reluctant to relocate, despite the risks of remaining near conflict zones. The reason is simple: they cannot imagine leaving their land without an **equivalent alternative**.

Van For Life has therefore conducted a study to **develop sustainable strategies** specifically addressing the needs of rural populations.

Principle

This project aims to identify and rehabilitate vacant houses in villages located in safe regions away from the front line, areas affected by rural exodus, and to **repopulate them through internal migration**. Each home is accompanied by a plot of agricultural land, allowing for **self-sufficiency** through the cultivation of essential crops.

The project targets displaced families originally from rural areas and also includes **community initiatives** designed to encourage integration and revitalize **local social and economic life**.



Next steps

Rural Housing Rehabilitation



Identification & acquisition (**local** sales)



Renovation & upgrading (**local** companies)

Access to land & self-sufficiency

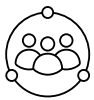


Agricultural plots **included with each property**



Support & community initiative

Strengthening local communities



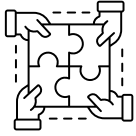
Promoting social and economic **integration**
Direct positive impact on the local economy



Implementation cost: **75% lower** than standard prefabricated housing with land access included



Next steps



Collaboration with local authorities :

- **Identification** of vacant housing
- **Promotion of the initiative within local communities**
- **Facilitation of administrative procedures**



Mobilization of Swiss NGOs and companies:

- **Transfer of knowledge** in renovation, sustainable agriculture, and rural development
- Establishing **connections** with Swiss companies



Partnerships with the agri-industrial sector :

- **Training programs** for beneficiaries
- **Professional integration** within companies
- **Facilitation of access** to agricultural products (seeds, equipment, organic inputs, etc.)



Funding from various sources :

- **Reconstruction Program supported by Switzerland**
- **National and international aid**
- Corporate **sponsorship**

This project combines **reconstruction and the revitalization** of rural areas, offering a **sustainable solution** to the challenges of internal displacement.

By relying on existing structures, it quickly provides **decent and lasting housing** to thousands of families, while ensuring **autonomy** and **restoring social and economic dignity**.

Preliminary assessments pave the way for the **rapid implementation** of a pilot project aimed at **resettling 10 families** in the short term.

The **cost** of our solution is approximately **four times lower** than current alternatives, such as temporary prefabricated housing, which do not include cultivable land or infrastructure upgrades.

Objectives 2025

Sustain

Our **distribution network** and the **regularity** of our operations, while continuing to **support internally displaced populations** and **local aid organizations**.

Develop

Long-term solutions such as **sustainable resettlement** and **demining operations** in rural areas.

Optimize

Financial support and **communication** around our activities.



Our needs



Funding for emergency operations

To **continue our activities and meet needs** in the field, we rely on support for:

- The **delivery and distribution** of aid
- **Targeted evacuations** of people to safe areas

Funding for long-term projects

- **Sustainable resettlement** solutions
- **Risk prevention and demining** in rural areas

Field priorities

Support for the displaced civilian population

There are currently nearly 4 million internally displaced people in Ukraine. The conflict shows no sign of easing, uncertainty is growing, and the lack of resources is worsening:

- Provide **basic emergency assistance** to displaced civilians
- Support **medical infrastructures**
- Prevent a new **wave of forced displacement**



Emergency support



Sporadic activities

Logistical capacity and operational responsiveness

In Geneva, two emergency vehicles are ready to be deployed across Europe, strengthening our responsiveness and ability to intervene directly in critical areas. To achieve this, we rely on emergency funds — essential to make our deployments possible and to respond to unforeseen situations without delay.

Emergency humanitarian support

Van For Life also provides ad hoc support to local partner organizations operating in other critical contexts, according to identified emergencies and available resources.

Geneva & Switzerland

- **First initiative in support of UMNRs** (Unaccompanied Minor Refugees) housed in a reception center in Geneva. The objective was to initiate the development of a broader integration program in 2025, in collaboration with the relevant authorities (host family system, extra-institutional contacts, etc.).
- **Duration** : 6 months (June-December 2024)
- **Nature of aid** : material (TVs, computers, clothing), socio-professional support
- **People involved** : 6 Van For Life volunteers
- **Reference structure** : Hospice Général de Genève
- **Beneficiaries** : 42



Sporadic activities

Calais & region

- **Assessment and material support** for refugees waiting to cross to the United Kingdom, living in extreme precariousness and facing repression. Contact was made with local associations and field priorities were assessed with a view to establishing a regular mission.
 - **Duration** : 5 days (24-28 September 2024)
 - **Type of aid** : food, underwear, medicines (purchases)
 - **Quantity** : approx. 700 kg
 - **Allocated budget** : CHF 3'500 CHF
 - **People involved** : 1 Van For Life volunteer + 1 On Borders member
 - **Reference structures** : Auberge des Migrants, Utopia56
 - **Beneficiaries** : approx. 150



Sporadic activities

Belarus / Poland border

- Logistical support in the Bialowieza Forest (Poland), assisting refugees trapped in a militarized and isolated area under extreme climatic conditions and a harsh political context.
 - **Duration** : 4 months (July–October 2024)
 - **Type of aid** : 1 off-road van, specially equipped for refugee rescue operations
 - **Quantity** : 1 vehicle loan
 - **Allocated budget (including transport costs)** : CHF 7,500 (pro rata vehicle and travel costs)
 - **People involved** : 3 Van For Life volunteers
 - **Reference association** : EGALA Association (Hajnówka, Poland)
 - **Beneficiaries** : several hundreds



*Emergencies strike without warning. Our dedicated funds are the **safety net** that keeps us moving. Even a brief action can **change everything**.*

Looking ahead to 2025

Mobile Medical Unit in Greece

Context

For years, Greece has been one of the **main migratory hotspots** in Europe. By land or by sea, thousands of people arrive each year and are forced to remain in **refugee camps** while awaiting the outcome of their asylum applications or transfer. Many stay there for months, even years. Living conditions are often **unbearable**, and **access to healthcare is severely limited** due to the isolation of camps, shortage of doctors and interpreters, treatment costs, and fear of denunciation.

Partnership & Commitment

Following an exploratory mission, we have decided to collaborate in 2025 with the French NGO **Med'Equali Team**. With extensive experience supporting refugees in Greece, Poland, and Libya, the organization provides **free, professional, and high-quality medical care**. Its mission is to bridge critical gaps in **healthcare access**.

Given the growing urgency on the

ground, we aim to mobilize our logistical resources to strengthen the existing system and significantly improve access to healthcare where it is most fragile.

In addition to logistical coordination, Van For Life will provide one of its vehicles to establish a permanent **mobile medical unit**, enabling medical teams to **reach vulnerable populations directly** in the field.

Supported activities

The medical team is made up of volunteer **healthcare professionals** and field coordinators, supervised by the project director, who is herself a general practitioner. They provide **free medical consultations and treatments**, assisted by **interpreters**.

In addition, a **Health Education Program** has been developed for **vulnerable populations and local NGOs**. Through **First Aid Training** and **Health Education Sessions**, the program aims to strengthen local capacities and empower beneficiaries on key topics such as mental health, women's health, and best hygiene practices.

Looking ahead to 2025

Integration Project for UMNRs in Switzerland

Context

The one-off initiative carried out this year in collaboration with the Hospice Général de Genève highlighted **major needs regarding the integration of refugees in Switzerland**. Indeed, stronger and more personalized support appears essential to ensure **successful integration**.

Each year, hundreds of Unaccompanied Minor Refugees (UMNRs) arrive alone in Switzerland after experiencing traumatic journeys along migration routes. **Existing care systems** face **numerous challenges**, including overload, lack of human and financial resources, and limited specialized training.

Highly vulnerable, these young people face **social isolation and the challenge of integration**. Cultural gaps, language barriers, prejudice, and long interruptions in schooling are just some of the obstacles they must overcome.

Upcoming project

To help UMNRs overcome these challenges, we are developing a project

designed to complement existing support systems.

Creating social connections also helps **raise awareness among the local population** about the **mutual benefits** of successful integration. Van For Life's expertise fits perfectly within this approach, bringing **real added value**, particularly through its logistical and mobility capacity.

We aim to organize **regular outings** in Switzerland to promote the **socio-professional integration** of young refugees. These activities will take place outside the institutional educational framework, focusing on language practice, cultural and professional discovery, and the creation of social bonds.

The **volunteer host-family network** will also be strengthened to encourage long-term relationships : supporting job and internship searches, administrative assistance, or simply sharing meaningful moments that are so essential to integration.

We are therefore **actively seeking funding to ensure the sustainability of these future activities**.

Acknowledgements

We **warmly thank** our technical and financial **partners**, along with **all our donors and volunteers**, whose continued support makes our work possible every day.



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Your support - Our action

Supporting Van For Life means taking real action.

Van For Life was born from a citizen movement, from women and men who **refused to remain spectators in the face of humanitarian emergencies**. Since our first convoys to Ukraine, and through all our expanding operations in other countries where people are suffering, every action has been made possible thanks to this **collective commitment**.

Your support is our strength: it allows us to act quickly, to go where others do not, and to respond where needs are greatest.

Make a donation: every contribution, no matter how small, has a direct impact on those who have lost everything.

Together, we prove that another way of taking action is possible.

We do it for them.

We do it with you.



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Support us



Vanforlife