

Ambulance for Ukraine

In January 2024 Codex Global set out to raise £7,500 to procure and deliver an ambulance as direct aid for Ukraine. We joined Operation Alex(ii) which was underpinned by the charity Help4Ukraine www.help4ukraine.charity

Through the generous support of Codex colleagues, clients and associated friends and family, by March 2024 we had achieved our funding goals, as such we would like to thank our main sponsors for their generosity:

NEXT



JEREMY HOUGHTON
THE ARTIST IN RESIDENCE



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Planning and preparation

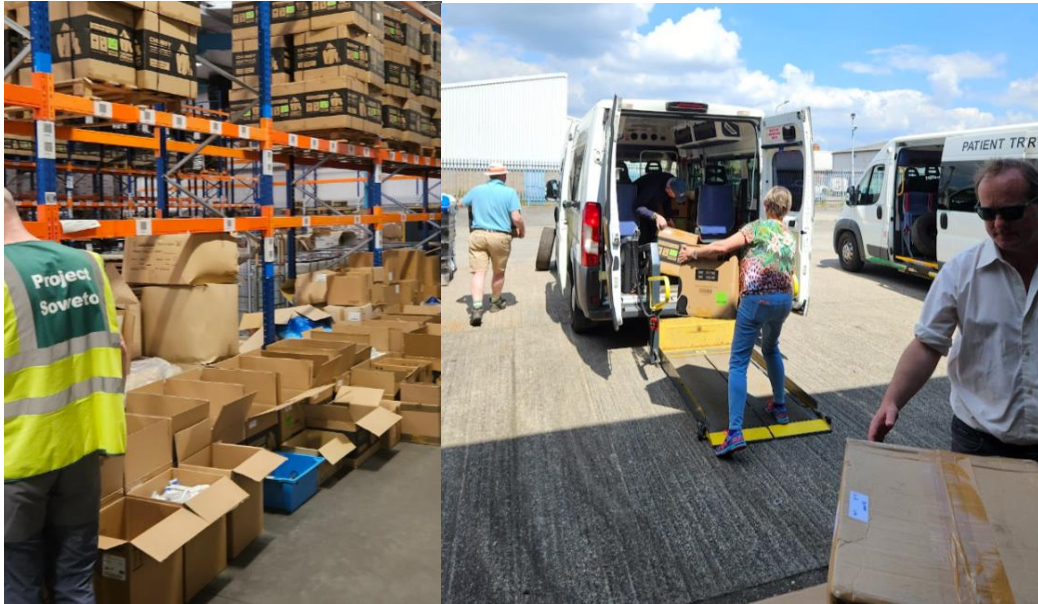
In many ways the procurement of our ambulance from Specialist Vehicle Solutions www.specialist-vehicle-solutions.co.uk was the simple bit, as a supporter of the charity they understood our requirements and had plenty of stock for us to choose from. The more complicated planning revolved around insurance of the vehicles, drivers and the medical supplies on board. The preparation of the vehicle documentation required to enter Europe in Rotterdam and the customs declarations needed by the Ukraine authorities, which included a full equipment manifest all translated into Ukrainian by Codex Global.

Op Alex comprised eight ambulances which demanded a great deal of logistical planning, two drivers per vehicle, the preparation of route maps and immediate action drills in the event of breakdown or accident, the ferry, accommodation bookings and management of costs within the budget.

For Codex, Op Alex became a reality on Tuesday **18 June** when Codex MD, Rupert Foster collected our ambulance from Tipton in the West Midlands, a smooth journey back to Yorkshire provided an opportunity for Rupert to familiarise himself with the vehicle and over the next few days the ambulance was thoroughly cleaned, disinfected, had a red cross added to its roof and was prepared for the road trip.



On Friday **21 June**, Richard Murray Wells and Rupert drove to the Project Soweto warehouses in Hull where we collected our portion of the medical supplies to be transported to Ukraine. In total the convoy delivered resources to the value of £2,000,000 with the inventory including everything from heated blankets for premature babies, through basic first aid equipment to specialist water purification chemicals –thank you Project Soweto for your support.



School visit - Yorkshire

The same afternoon, we visited Beswick & Watton school in East Yorkshire to collect friendship cards, letters and gifts from the pupils to be delivered to a reciprocal school in Lviv. This also provided an opportunity for the pupils, some of whom are Ukrainian, to write messages on the inside of the ambulance.



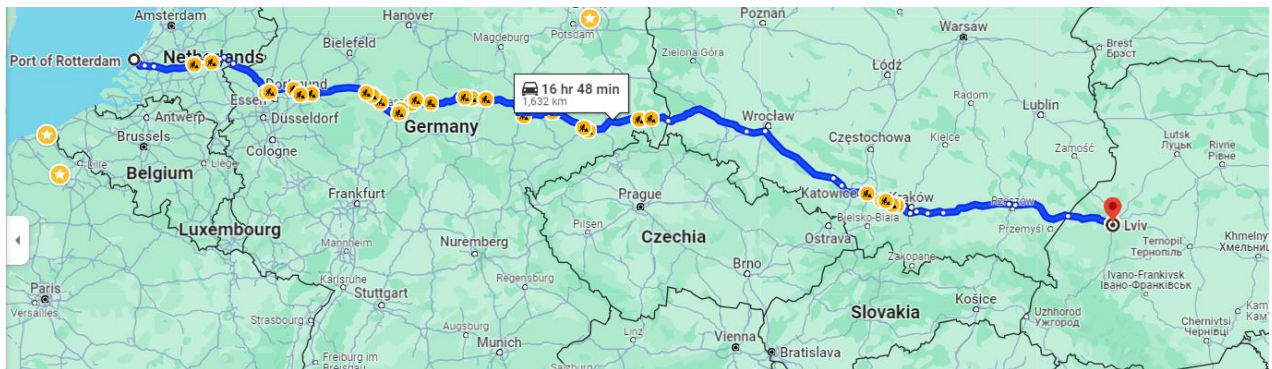
Departure day

Assembly of all the vehicles and crews was on the morning of Saturday **22 June** at the beautiful Watton Abbey. We attended a series of briefings and the detailed vehicle preparation continued. Lunch was traditional fare provided by local Ukrainian families, it was delicious and got us in the spirit of the mission. That night we sailed from Hull to Rotterdam.



The Route

From Rotterdam port we drove direct to Lviv with three overnight stops in Sangerhausen, Wroclaw and Jaroslaw.



All the vehicles performed well with no breakdowns on route.



Preparing to enter Ukraine

On arrival at the nighttime location in Jaroslaw on Tuesday **25 June**, we had to further prepare the vehicles for crossing the border and there were new briefings on the administration required to pass Ukraine customs the following morning.



Into Ukraine

Our coordinator in Ukraine recommended we used the main crossing on the E40/M10 as there had been no reports of delays. The road became noticeably quieter as we approached the crossing and he was right, it took less than two hours to pass out of Poland and into Ukraine. The process was bureaucratic but efficient and by 11:00 on Wednesday **26 June** we were bound for Lviv.



School visit - Lviv

In the outskirts of Lviv we visited a school which had been damaged by a hypersonic missile in the first year of the war. We were greeted with huge enthusiasm, met the head mistress, some of the pupils and we handed over the gifts and cards we had brought from the school in Yorkshire. We parked our ambulances outside the bomb-damaged part of the school!





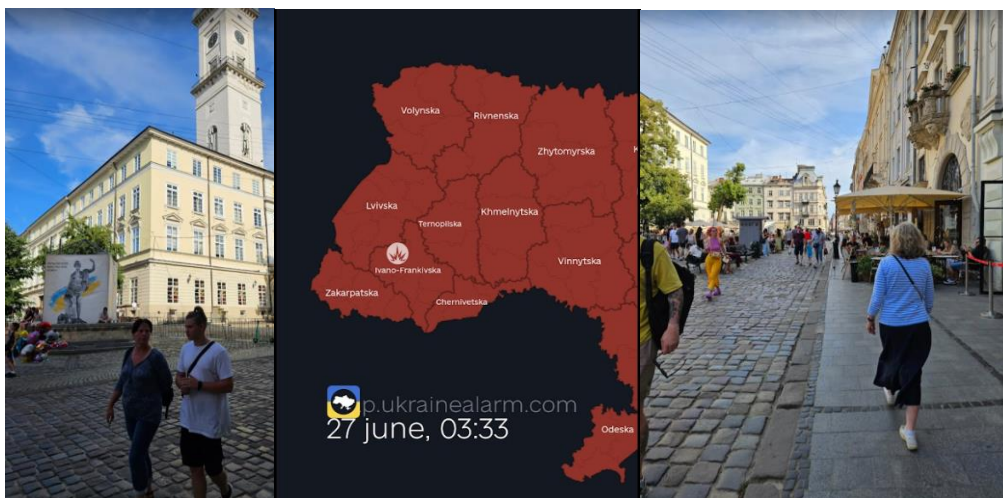
The Handover

This was soberingly swift, we parked on the street outside a barracks in Lviv and were met by a mixture of military and civilian personnel. A local coffee shop made us all drinks on arrival and before we had finished them, our donated ambulances were on the road to the frontline in Donetsk to help save lives.



Lviv

Was warm and welcoming, the city was functioning on generator power making the streets noisy but restaurants and bars were open and there were plenty of people about – many of them in uniform. That night **26/27 June** there was one air raid warning which sent us into the shelter in the early hours, the danger was a long way from our location. The main square was beautiful, but the statues had been encased in protective wire and hording in the event of a strike.



Mission complete – heading home

On Thursday **27 June** we were driven from central Lviv in two minibuses by UN personnel. We crossed back into Poland via a smaller customs post where unfortunately, the computers were down meaning they processed only one vehicle per hour! The result was we missed our flight from Krakow, finally making it home via Manchester at 05:00 on Friday **28 June**.

Eight ambulances, £2,000,000 of medical aid, 6 days, 1,200 miles, 26 hours of driving, a friendship visit to a bombed school and huge appreciation from Ukraine - **many thanks for your support.**

