



Drozдов & Partners are re-purposing large public buildings like sports halls for refugees | Photo source Drozдов & Partners

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## COMMUNITY BUILDINGS REPURPOSED AS MULTI-USE SHELTERS FOR WAR REFUGEES

 PROPERTY & CONSTRUCTION

### Separate bays and communal kitchens provide privacy and respite for individuals and families

**Spotted:** With so much destruction already blighting the country, Ukrainian architecture company Drozдов & Partners focuses on using recycled, recyclable, and modular designs for temporary shelters for internally displaced persons. As well as providing private spaces for each individual or family, the shelters include easy-to-assemble and mobile kitchens. Being able to cook as a family brings a semblance of routine to the painful challenge of living as a refugee.

Working with partners Replus Bureau and Ponomarenko Bureau, the company repurposes schools, gymnasiums, and other large community buildings for the shelters. Already equipped with sinks and toilets, and sometimes showers, the open spaces within the structures are divided into small cubicles, giving each individual and group some privacy.

Designed for ease of assembly and use, the shelters use cardboard piping to form each room, while metal shelving, cabinets, and countertops are used in the kitchens. The modular metal pieces make it easy to transport the kitchens to various locations and are sturdy enough for long-term use, ideally by other organisations after the shelter is no longer needed. To date, the company has set up fifteen shelters and is seeking funds to build more elsewhere in the country.

As well as Ukrainians, citizens from several African and South Asian countries have been displaced this year by either conflict or severe weather, making innovations centred around displaced persons ever more important, as a diversity of experiences requires varying levels of support. Recent examples include a [language learning platform](#) that connects refugees with prospective digital

employers, and [cooking classes](#) that connect asylum seekers and refugees with their host communities.

Written by: Keely Khoury

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Email: [lika@drozdov-partners.com](mailto:lika@drozdov-partners.com)

Website: [drozdov-partners.com/en](https://drozdov-partners.com/en)

## Takeaway:

By May 2022, the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide reached 100 million for the first time ever. The UN Refugee Agency ([UNHCR](#)) called it 'sobering and alarming in equal measure'. While conflict and violence are the main causes of displacement, weather-related emergencies are increasingly forcing ever greater numbers of people from their homes. Creators and innovators are doing what they can to help people finding themselves forced out of their communities, yet the challenges continue to grow, so much so that the UN created a [High-level Panel on Internal Displacement](#) to push governments for sustainable solutions. Drozdov & Partners provide an excellent example of how innovation can help displaced people manage their way through periods of crisis.