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National Committee of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS)

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On February, 6, the Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Ukrainian Red Cross Society on the dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Fundamental Principles of the International Movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent and teaching courses on "skills in first aid" in secondary schools. Ukraine, as State Member of the Geneva Conventions of 1949, Additional Protocols and other international agreements in the field of IHL, actively implements rules of IHL at the national level. The dissemination of IHL in society is an important step aimed at ensuring the implementation of contractual obligations of Ukraine and strengthening of mutual understanding and cooperation in the protection of humanitarian values - health, life and human dignity.



On February, 20, the delegation of the Danish Red Cross led by the General Secretary Anders Ladekarl and Nelima Lassen, head of the European region, has arrived in Ukraine. The purpose of the visit of delegates is the discussion of prospects of cooperation between the Society and the Danish Red Cross as well as to monitor the implementation of joint projects, to assess the current situation in Ukraine, including in the eastern regions, to communicate with volunteers and beneficiaries. The Danish Red Cross is actively involved in the activities of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, supporting mainly the following areas of work as Youth movement and psychosocial support. At the meeting with the leadership of the National Committee, the President of the URCS Ivan Usichenko thanked Anders Ladekarl for his support and highlighted the importance of the teamwork.



On January, 31, a working meeting on the program "Restoring family links (RFL)" was held with the participation of delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Marina Hauhdal, The Head of RFL Department of the URCS Iryna Tsariuk, employees of the ICRC Protection Department and employees of the RFL of the URCS. During the meeting the work on the RFL in 2016 was summarized and organizational issues concerning planning in 2017 were discussed. This year the URCS's RFL celebrates 25 years of activity. It was pointed that the activities of URCS in restoration and maintaining of family links should always be covered in the media, as family members requiring assistance should be aware of these possibilities.



From 3rd to 6-8th February, the collective emergency response team (ERT) of the URCS composed of 2 employees and 5 volunteers worked in Avdiivka (Donetsk region). The team worked in close coordination with the local administration, civil military cooperation «CIMIC», State Emergency Service of Ukraine. On the 2nd of February from Kyiv to Donetsk region the URCS's vehicles were departed. The Red Cross volunteers and staff carried with them the humanitarian aid: 1050 blankets, 700 sets of bedding, warm clothes, food and equipment for the installation of 3 heating points. Regional branches also formed and delivered humanitarian aid from their stocks, as well as the aid provided by the local population.



On January, 30, 5000 doses of Quinine dihydrochloride produced in Renadin Laboratory, France, was received by the Ukrainian Red Cross Society from the French Red Cross. On February, 3, the Society transferred antimalarial medications to the state enterprise "Ukrvaksina" of Ministry of Health of Ukraine". This work was carried out regarding the request of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine to consider the possibility of providing humanitarian aid through the International Movement of Red Cross and Red Crescent including in the form of antimalarial medicines. In the request was noted that in Ukraine a critical situation with the import of medicines of limited use has formed because the cost of registration in Ukraine significantly exceeds the volume of their consumption.



February, 5-10, the URCS hosted a delegation of the Japanese Red Cross. The aim of the visit was to conduct monitoring of the conduct of the project activities and the impact on the beneficiaries as well as to provide technical support to the Ukrainian Red Cross Society in the implementation of the project "Support for long-term social stability in Ukraine". This project is funded by the Government of Japan through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and aims to support the social reintegration of vulnerable internally displaced women and children, and demobilized soldiers and their families.

Poltava branch



On February, 7, the volunteers of Poltava regional branch of the URCS in cooperation with the students of the Poltava's medical college at the Regional Science Library named after Kotlyarevsky, held a lecture, dedicated to the World Cancer Day, which is on February 4th. At the event, young people also raised funds to support children who are treated in Oncology hematology department of Poltava City Children's Hospital.

Luhansk branch



On February, 19, on the basis of Rubizhne school №8, the first stage of the competition of young rescuers of Luhansk Region was held. Young people came to compete in the ability to act in emergency situations. These young people are members of the Ukrainian children's social movement "School Safety". The competition was attended by 6 teams from cities Starobilsk, Kreminna, Severodonetsk, Lysychansk and Rubizhne. The participants passed 3 sections, which were consisted of the stage "medicine (theory)" and two practical steps: "the rescue work in natural environment and in the infected area of technogenic disaster". The members of the ERT of Luhansk regional branch (the commander Petr Kostyrya) judged at the stages and at the end held a workshop for all those present at the event.

Zaporizhia branch



French Ambassador to Ukraine, Mme Isabelle Dumont, and representatives of French Business community in Ukraine have visited activities of Ukrainian and French Red Cross in Zaporizhia region at the end of 2016. The visit has been conducted within the program of humanitarian aid provision to displaced families in the Zaporizhia region supported by French CDC, French Embassy and French business community in Ukraine. During the visit, French Business community has donated additional 300 000 UAH to support food voucher program in Zaporizhia region. As well, at the end of 2016, within joint Ukrainian-Finnish-French Red Cross project, second distribution of pharmacy vouchers to chronically ill people among displaced population.

Zakarpattia branch



In the night from 2 to 3 February in Transcarpathian region there was a freshet that flooded households and building of residents of nine districts of the region. The regional branch of the URCS responded to the request of Bronka's head of the village that is located on the banks of rivers Borzhava and Bronka. On February, 9, a cargo with humanitarian aid arrived in the village where the URCS's employees gave targeted assistance to beneficiaries. 30 families received food packages, blankets, water filters, and three families, whose houses were destroyed, received additional folding beds, mattresses, bedding, pillows for each family member. The humanitarian mission of assistance to victims of floods in the Carpathian region is on-going.