



BULLETIN: TOP-15 NEWS OF 2017 – START OF 2018 Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS)



More information about
Partnership Meeting

The partners of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, who are actively taking part in the operations of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society: the Austrian Red Cross, the American Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Finnish Red Cross, the French Red Cross, the Swedish Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross, the Red Cross of Luxembourg, the Czech Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross, the Turkish Red Crescent, the Qatar Red Crescent, the Polish Red Cross, the Chinese Red Cross, the Red Cross of Latvia, the Red Cross of Estonia, the Red Cross of Lithuania. The Secretariat of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (the ICRC) are working closely with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society.



January 2017

To help internally displaced persons in purchasing essentials, the German Red Cross in the cooperation with the Kharkiv regional branch of the URCS support 5000 the most vulnerable persons among IDPs with food vouchers (of 600 UAH) and pharmaceutical vouchers (of 300 USD) for 10 months. Most of these 5,000 beneficiaries are single mothers, children and elderly people. This project is a continuation of a similar project implemented in 2015, which provided assistance to 6380 IDPs for 7 months (in total 44,000 food vouchers were given). Federal Foreign Office of Germany is a donor of the Project. The project is on-going in 2018.



February 2017

On the night of January 30th to 31st, the city of Avdiivka (Donetsk region) was fired by heavy artillery. The city's infrastructure was badly affected: the supply of heat and water to residential buildings had stopped, food supplies had been decreasing. From 3rd to 6-8th February, the collective emergency response team (ERT) of the URCS 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.



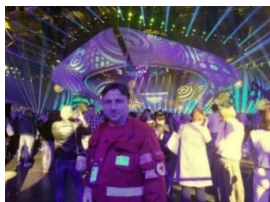
March 2017

On 23rd of March in Balakliya city, Kharkiv region the evacuation of about 20 thousand people after explosions at arms depots began. A few hours later 11 members of emergency response teams of Kharkiv regional branch of the URCS on 3 cars went to place. 24 of March they were joined by staff and volunteers of the National Committee. Members of emergency response teams evacuated lying people, provided first aid to the victims and participated in the delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid purchased by the Society to meet the needs of evacuees. In general, victims were given about 7 tons of drinking water, 700 blankets, 1,050 kg of food for \$ 25 thousand UAH, including instant food. Given the difficult situation with the provision of medicines inhabitants of this and surrounding area, URCS sent 10,784 medical units to various pharmacological groups to the area.



April 2017

From the 20th of March till 20th of April, under the slogan «Providing the essentials» the traditional Month of the Red Cross took place in Ukraine. Its goal was to draw public attention to the problems of vulnerable population, internally displaced persons (IDPs), single disabled elderly, I/WW and labor veterans, disabled people, large and single-parent families, orphans, people with HIV / AIDS and tuberculosis, and to form public opinion in favor of mercy. Volunteers and staff were collecting funds, food, clothing, shoes, household items, medicines, things for IDPs and patients, especially those who cannot move independently - school supplies, toys, etc., and organized numerous events aimed to help vulnerable population.



May 2017

From May 7 to May 13, Eurovision-2017 was held in Kiev. 44 volunteers and URCS' staff supported the event - they were on duty at several locations of the event and provided first aid to those in need. A total of 456 requests for first aid were recorded. In addition, prior to the start of the Eurovision, the URCS' representatives conducted first aid training in the Kyiv City State Administration for Kyiv volunteers (named «ambassadors») who helped guests of the song contest.



June 2017

From the 2nd of June to 5th of June, the first phase of the "International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Trainer" project took place in Zaporozhye - a training on IHL and the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as on the development of coaching skills. The participants of the training were employees and volunteers from eastern regions of Ukraine. The training was conducted by the representatives of the URCS, the International Committee of the Red Cross (the ICRC) and the Finnish Red Cross. Participants learned about the basic principles and sources of IHL, the protection of civilians and objects during armed conflict, the protection of the emblems of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Crystal, the concept of safer access framework and the methodology of teaching IHL. The trainers will disseminate IHL in Ukraine, which is intended to protect civilians and non-combatants from the consequences of an armed

conflict. In the fall of 2017, IHL trainers continued their training, and in 2018 a new training course will begin. Out of all the trainers, two have become certified IHL trainers and master trainers.



July 2017

For 3 weeks in July, the team of the international organization «RED NOSES Clowndoctors International» worked in Ukraine, supporting the beneficiaries of the National Society and training its volunteers and employees at the invitation of the IFRC in coordination with the URCS. The organization, RED NOSES Clowndoctors International, operates in 10 countries and has 326 clowns in total who work in hospitals with chronically and severely ill children, in homes for the elderly, with people with mental and other disorders. A team of four professional clowns: Paly, Alla, Juste and Jan from different countries of Europe visited Ukraine. During these 3 weeks they worked in Kyiv, Pryluky and Poltava.



September 2017

In honor of the World First Aid Day, which was celebrated on the 9th of September, thematic events and workshops were held by The Red Cross in all regions of the country. For instance, volunteers and employees of the Zaporizhya regional branch of the URCS took an opinion poll among the citizens on first aid skills. With the help of makeup and by improvising, volunteers mimicked the most common injuries and asked people to administer first aid and then showed them how to do it correctly. The URCS's training center "First Aid School" operates in Ukraine. First aid trainings are carried out both at a fee (for corporate sector, individuals), and free of charge (for vulnerable population, residents of villages along the conflict line, schoolchildren, etc.).



October 2017

Mobile health units of the URCS is a unique team composed of professionals who provide medical aid to people affected by military conflict and located in regions with limited medical access to medical and diagnostic services. A highly-qualified doctor, two nurses and a driver deliver necessary medical aid to the settlements in which people do not have sufficient medical service. Due to this, thousands of patients receive a quick access to a full range of the therapeutic examinations, including electrocardiograms, glucometry, and even ultrasound diagnosis in rural clinics. The activities of the mobile health units were made possible because of the support of the Finnish Red Cross, the Austrian Red Cross, the IFRC and a stable support and coordination by the ICRC.



November 2017

The VII National Youth Assembly of the URCS was held in Kharkiv from November 23rd to 27th, bringing together about 100 representatives of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement from around the world. At the Assembly, participants and trainers, studied international humanitarian law, volunteer management, methods of psychosocial support and the processes of social cohesion. They defined the role of volunteers in the activities of the URCS (especially during emergencies) and acquired the skills of effective communication while analyzing the experience of foreign colleagues and exchanging their own. During the Assembly, the results of volunteering activities for 2017 and the «Best volunteer of the URCS in 2017» competition were summed up.



December 2017

The URCS' Strategy for 2018-2020 was approved on December. The organization will go through a reform that involves ensuring development of the main areas of activities and services that meet today's challenges; the introduction of modern technologies, especially in the field of communication and accounting; the development of human resources and the development of volunteering in URCS as a basis for ensuring the integrity of the Red Cross in Ukraine. You can read the text of the Strategy by following this link.



In 2017, the URCS celebrated the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Tracing Service. On the 11th – 13th of December, a meeting was held between some URCS employees from 15 regional branches, the Tracing Service and the Protection Department of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to sum up the results of the RFL activities in 2017 and to discuss a joint plan of action on tracing and RFL for 2018. The participants of the meeting identified the priorities for further work of the All-Ukrainian RFL Red Cross Network. Analyzing the results of the work in 2017, it should be noted that the URCS, within the framework of its mandate and statutory tasks, meets the needs of the country's citizens in the tracing and RFL. Every year, following the requests from citizens of Ukraine and requests from partner tracing services

from abroad, work begins on thousands of new tracing cases. This activity of the Tracing Service is not duplicated by any of the state structures in Ukraine.



January 2018

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society has a new membership concept that started at the beginning of 2018. A membership card with an individual number, which will be valid for 1 year, has been introduced this year in place of the previous system. This card will not only confirm the fact of payment for membership but will be a document confirming membership of a particular person in the organization. The membership fee for 2018 is: preferential - 50 UAH, standard - 200 UAH, privileged - 500 UAH. Collective and corporate membership options are also available.

February 2018

The URCS is the most trusted and recognizable organization among domestic nongovernment and charity organizations, according to CoreStone and GFK Ukraine research. The URCS is the most well-known organization that collects donations - 46% of respondents know it. Most of those who know about the Society trust it. In general, 74% of respondents trust the URCS, and among those who made money or real donations the level of trust is 78% of respondents. The main motivating factors of donations are the belief that the money will reach people in need, personal acquaintance with people in need, the severity of the social problem, the transparency of the activities and accountability of the organization. Also, URCS is one of the three leaders of Ukraine's charitable organizations in terms of trust, along with the International Committee of the Red Cross and Rinat Akhmetov's Foundation «Development of Ukraine». Vitaly important that URCS is in top-3

regarding the participation of Ukrainians in volunteering. Most volunteers (43%) volunteered independently or as part of a group that is not a permanent organization, and 2% of volunteers in the country are volunteers of the URCS.



March 2018

In March, the project «Winterization 2017», being implemented by URCS since December 2017 with the support of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, will be completed. One of the examples of activities within the framework of the project is a charity event of the Kyiv City branch for the St. Valentine's Day. The campaign was aimed at helping the wounded demobilized servicemen, treated in military hospitals, IDPs and other residents of Kyiv, living in difficult conditions. Indifferent people brought cups with postcards and sweets to the branch. On February 15, staff and volunteers visited the wounded demobilized hospitalized servicemen to give them "Cups of Love".

