



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the **Ukraine Red Cross Society's (URCS) quarterly digest**, designed to keep URCS' partners and stakeholders informed about its current work and plans in the field of humanitarian advocacy and diplomacy, in Ukraine as well as globally.

As Ukraine's largest and oldest humanitarian organization, the URCS is committed to providing assistance to those in need and advancing the fundamental humanitarian principles. In Ukraine, the Red Cross Movement is comprised of the ICRC, the IFRC and fourteen partnering national societies that work in close partnership and complementarity with the Ukraine Red Cross Society.

In this digest, we will highlight our efforts to advocate on behalf of the vulnerable populations who have been most affected by the escalation of the international armed conflict since the 24th of February 2022, both inside Ukraine and globally.

This digest will showcase the humanitarian diplomacy activities the URCS is undertaking, what its priorities are, and some of the partnerships that have been developed to achieve these goals.

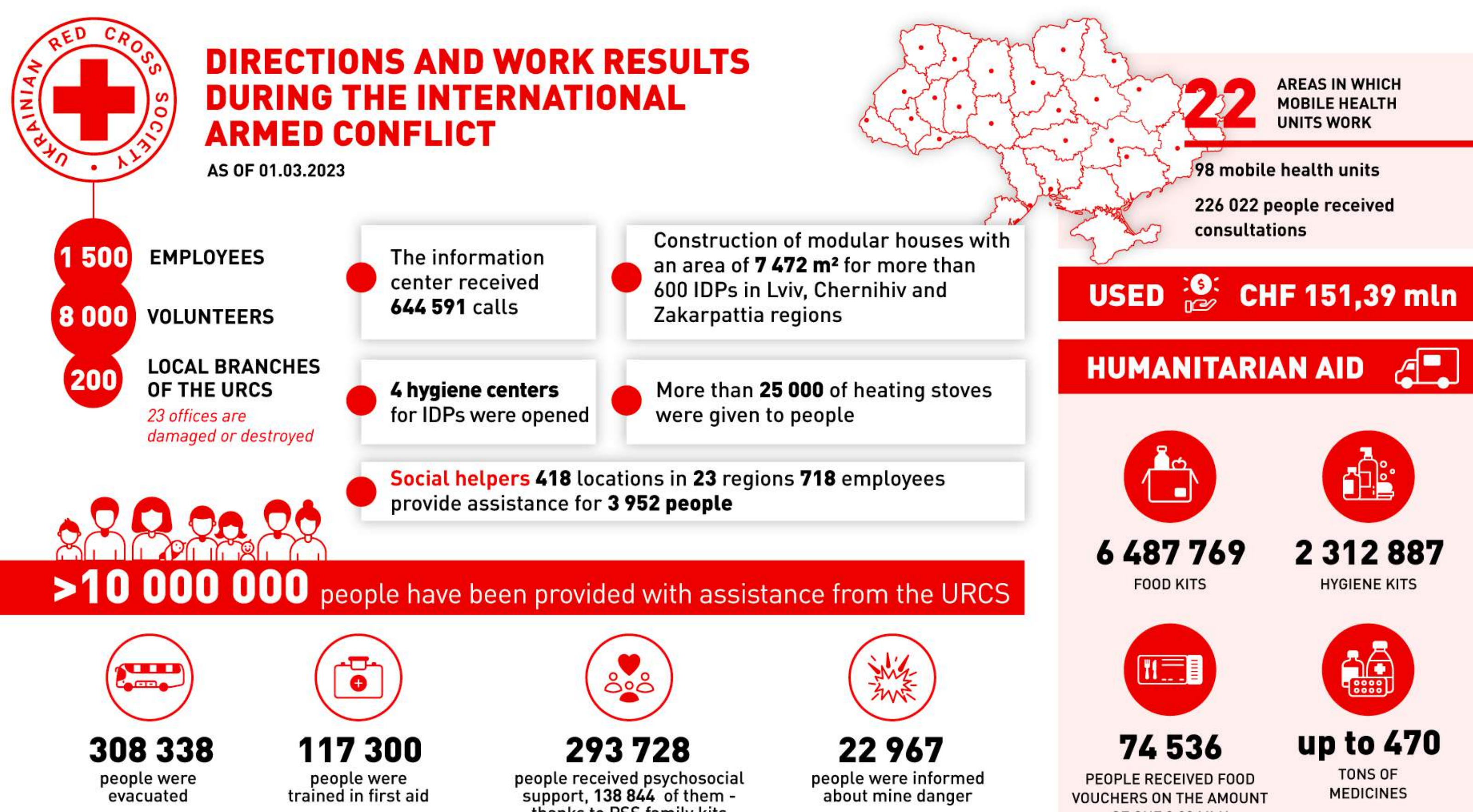


OPERATION IN UKRAINE

The **Ukraine Red Cross Society** is the largest voluntary humanitarian organization in Ukraine. With its network of over 200 local branches, around 1,500 staff members and 8,000 volunteers it has an unmatched coverage in the areas controlled by the Ukrainian government.

Since the beginning of the conflict, the URCS has worked in close partnership with ICRC, IFRC, and PNS to directly assist more than 10 million people, support the safe evacuation of 300,000, and deliver 8 million food and hygiene kits.

The infographic below describes key features of Movements' response between February 2022 and March 2023.



HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY SPOTLIGHT

In addition to managing an unprecedented humanitarian response in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society has also been prioritizing humanitarian diplomacy efforts to ensure that its work is sustainable, effective and reaches those who need it the most.

In the first quarter of 2023, some of URCS' humanitarian diplomacy highlights include:

Release of the One Plan: URCS, with the support of its Partner National Societies (PNSs), the IFRC Secretariat and ICRC, developed and released its One Plan for 2023-2025. This locally designed and nationwide plan sets out URCS' priorities and showcases the importance of URCS' auxiliary role to its public authorities in tackling Ukraine's future humanitarian and recovery challenges. The One Plan is aligned with the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and is fully endorsed by the UN in Ukraine.

Localization Position Paper: URCS published its position paper on localization, which looks at URCS' unique position amongst local humanitarian organizations as an auxiliary to its public authorities. It details how, as the country's largest and oldest humanitarian actor, the URCS is developing strategic partnerships with local NGOs, INGOs and UN actors to improve locally-led humanitarian coordination, and to engage with local humanitarian actors and provide its own capacity-building expertise.

Diplomatic Round table. On the 2nd of March 2023 the URCS, together with the IFRC, ICRC, and various National Red Cross Societies, convened a high-level Diplomatic Round Table in Kyiv. The event brought together the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and several Embassies of countries contributing to the humanitarian response in Ukraine; and it was an opportunity for URCS to present its One Plan and Localization position paper to key representatives of Ukraine's diplomatic community.

European Humanitarian Forum. On 20-22 March in Brussels, a URCS delegation participated in the European Humanitarian Forum and participated in high-level panels where they advocated for the humanitarian needs of people in Ukraine, and the importance of supporting and strengthening local actors. The delegation also had the opportunity to carry these issues in meetings with representatives from various countries, including Ukraine, Denmark, and Sweden; and representatives from the European Commission.

MOVEMENT PARTNERSHIPS – BEST PRACTICES

In each quarterly digest, URCS will showcase some examples of strong collaborations with Movement partners, highlighting operational and humanitarian diplomacy activities in Ukraine, and globally. In this edition, the URCS is proud to present recent updates on its work with the Danish Red Cross and the German Red Cross.

DANISH RED CROSS

Danish Red Cross has been collaborating with URCS since 2014 through a strategic partnership with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which has increased in support during 2022. This collaboration has facilitated direct humanitarian assistance, engaged the Red Cross in dialogue with Danish authorities, and led to a seat in the reference group for the newly established Ukraine Fund. Danish Red Cross has also engaged with MPs and Danish private foundations and companies active in Ukraine to share updates and policy recommendations.

The main focuses of the Danish Red Cross's cooperation with the Ukrainian Red Cross are the development of mental health rehabilitation and recovery workstream, international humanitarian law education, and youth and advocacy capacity building.

In Denmark, Danish Red Cross has supported over 30,000 Ukrainians seeking refuge from the conflict and collaborated with state, regional, municipal actors, and civil society organizations to find solutions. An evaluation report published in February 2023 shows how volunteer initiatives significantly contribute to Ukrainians' settlement in Denmark, and the recommendations have been widely shared with policymakers to improve the Danish reception and integration system for refugees and strengthen recognition of civil society volunteer initiatives.



GERMAN RED CROSS

The German Red Cross has been working in partnership with the URCS since 2014. As of February 2022, the German Red Cross has extended its support by strategically contributing to the development of mobile medical unit workstreams. Through the establishment of 20 mobile medical units, the organization has successfully treated over 118,000 patients in Ukraine within a year, along with providing training for psychosocial care and home visit and care services.

More than 7,000 heating stoves, 200 generators, and 22 mobile fuel tanks provided to URCS. In Poland, 1.3 million euros in cash assistance is being provided to over 2,800 Ukrainian refugees. The German government has provided 10.5 million aid in Ukraine and its neighboring countries.



In January 2023, the GRC organized strategic meetings in Berlin between the Ukrainian Red Cross Society leadership and various governmental and private partners, including senior officials of the German Foreign Office, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and the German Parliament.

The Ukrainian Red Cross delegation presented innovative solutions to address the humanitarian and long-term challenges in Ukraine, with a focus on the localization and efficiency of aid.

The meetings also highlighted the growing gap between needs and available resources, and members of the German Parliament explored ways to enhance the impact of the humanitarian response in solidarity with URCS.

GRC's corporate partners, such as Dell Technologies, were presented with URCS' work and discussed how they could help with financial and skill contributions. These exchanges resulted in additional financial and in-kind contributions from several private sector partners to support GRC and URCS in Ukraine.

UPCOMING ADVOCACY PLANS AND PRIORITIES

International Rehabilitation Forum in Lviv: On the 12th and 13th of April, the URCS and the Lviv City Administration are co-hosting the International Rehabilitation Forum in Lviv, a key platform for the rehabilitation needs of Ukraine and exchanging best practices in mental, social, and physical rehabilitation. The forum brings together government officials, international and national humanitarian organizations, RCRC Movement parties; and provide insights that can feed into major donor platforms on Ukraine's recovery, such as the London 2023 Ukraine Recovery Conference. The conference also resulted in the Lviv Call to Action, focusing on addressing the mental and physical rehabilitation needs in Ukraine.



Ukraine Recovery Conference in London (URC 2023): The UK and Ukraine will host the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2023 in London on 21-22 June. This annual event follows the last edition in Lugano, Switzerland, which introduced the Lugano Principles, the foundation for Ukraine's reconstruction efforts. Since then, emergency assistance has been pledged, but greater mobilization of public and private sectors is necessary to meet Ukraine's recovery needs. The URC 2023 aims to mobilize international support for Ukraine's economic and social recovery, including emergency assistance and private sector participation.



Red Cross response overview and recommendations in the context of Temporary Protection Directive Implementation in Europe: With the support of the Red Cross EU Office, the URCS surveyed National Red Cross Societies in the EU to assess the directive's impact on people displaced from Ukraine. The soon-to-be published report will present critical recommendations and insights from a humanitarian perspective to ensure that the needs and rights of displaced people are met under the TPD.



FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have questions, would like to be signed up to the quarterly digest, or if you would like to get in touch, please email

international@redcross.org.ua

