

QUARTERLY DIGEST

JANUARY – APRIL 2024

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to **2024's first edition of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society's (URCS) digest!** This publication is designed to **keep our partners and stakeholders informed about our activities and plans** in the fields of humanitarian operations and diplomacy.

As the **international armed conflict in Ukraine enters its third year**, the focus and funding are gradually moving from **immediate humanitarian needs to recovery and reconstruction efforts**. URCS is strengthening its operations and advocacy efforts to **guarantee a sustainable response**, with a particular emphasis on aiding the **most vulnerable populations and reaching remote areas** in territories under Ukrainian government control. URCS continues to contribute to building a robust civil society and resilient communities throughout Ukraine, bridging humanitarian services with recovery and development efforts.

OPERATION IN UKRAINE



KEY ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS FROM 24.02.2022 AS OF DECEMBER 2023



- 2 000** EMPLOYEES
- 8 000** VOLUNTEERS
- 200** LOCAL BRANCHES OF THE URCS
23 offices are damaged or destroyed



More than 12 500 000 people
received assistance from the URCS

SOCIAL HELPERS

- Operate on **676** locations in **23** regions
- 1 083** employees support **6 011** lonely people



22

AREAS IN WHICH MOBILE HEALTH UNITS WORK

- 126** mobile health units
- 622 263** consultations provided

310 931
people were evacuated

94 546
people were informed on mine danger

541 397
people received psychosocial support

185 524
people were trained in first aid

The information center received

852 121 calls

MODULAR HOUSES

Construction of modular houses with an area of **12 170 m²** for more than **910** IDPs in:

- Kyiv region
- Chernihiv region
- Zhytomyr region
- Zakarpattia region

SHELTER

With a total area of **1 300 m²** for more than **100** pregnant IDPs women in Lviv.

HEATING STOVES

More than **29 000** of heating stoves were given to people.

HYGIENE CENTERS

6 hygiene centers for IDPs were opened: in Kamianets-Podilskyi, Pottava, Chernivtsi, Volyn, Cherkasy and Zhytomyr region.

HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY SPOTLIGHT

URCS EXHIBITION AT FOREIGN, COMMONWEALTH & DEVELOPMENT OFFICE | DIPLOMATIC VISIT TO LONDON

In early February, the Ukrainian Red Cross conducted a diplomatic visit in London with one of its key strategic partners, the **British Red Cross**.

The delegation, led by General Director Maksym Dotsenko, **focused on a series of public and private dialogues to highlight existing and future support of humanitarian needs for Ukrainians and contributing to the country's recovery.**

One of the key events during the visit was the opening of an exhibition showcasing URCS activities in the Dunbar Court of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. The delegation also participated in a panel discussion with official representatives and diplomats of the FCDO, focusing on the humanitarian landscape in Ukraine around this second-year. The exhibition stayed in FCDO all of February, providing visitors and staff with a better understanding of the humanitarian challenges that humanitarian staff and volunteers face in Ukraine.

Drawing international attention to Ukraine's needs was crucial, especially in the rapidly changing geopolitical context at that time. Therefore, in addition to meetings with government officials, the team also strengthened relations with the academic community at Oxford University, which addressed Ukraine's issues through the lens of international humanitarian and human rights law, and held several high-profile interviews with the UK media.

URCS exhibition in the Dunbar Court of the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, February 2024, London



EUROPEAN HUMANITARIAN FORUM

On 18 and 19 March Ukrainian Red Cross delegation joined the European Humanitarian Forum, where URCS Director General participated at the panel discussion on the **impact of the Russia's war on healthcare provision in Ukraine.**

Supporting the healthcare system has been a historical role for URCS. Since 2014, and especially after 2022, the organisation's primary areas of focus has been to complement and strengthen social and health services in the country, for example through medical support in remote locations, home-based care, public health protection, and renovation medical infrastructure renovation. Since 2022, the Ukrainian Red Cross has provided medical services to more than 1.1 million people, including mobile health unit consultations, psychosocial support, and home-based care.

During the meeting, Mr. Dotsenko emphasized critical advocacy messages regarding access to hard-to-reach areas for primary medical services and possible solutions. He focused on the needs of the most vulnerable populations.



NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS TOWARD THE LOCALISATION OF HUMANITARIAN AID

The Ukrainian Red Cross is an active member and co-founder of the **Alliance of Ukrainian Civil Society Organizations (Alliance UA CSO)**, a network dedicated to **uniting nationally registered civil society organizations in Ukraine.** The Alliance was officially launched in September 2023 and currently consists of 16 founding organizations. In March, the URCS supported the Alliance's strategy development and co-hosted a localization dialogue in Brussels.

On March 14-15, the Alliance of Ukrainian Civil Society Organizations convened a pivotal conference dedicated to crafting a **National Localization Strategy.** This strategy aims to foster local leadership in addressing humanitarian crises and lays the groundwork for Ukraine's locally-led recovery.

It embodies the Alliance's overarching aim of reshaping the humanitarian landscape in Ukraine, cohesively empowering Civil Society and bolstering community resilience.

The formulation of this strategy involved extensive consultations with a diverse array of stakeholders, including 100 organizations and institutions spanning international NGOs, donors, and UN agencies.

During the conference, **the Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine and Minister of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Areas, Iryna Vereshchuk**, expressed her support for the Strategy and its importance for the national government. During the conference, the Alliance also received a letter of support from President Zelensky, recognizing the importance of civil society work and cohesion.

Following the successful Kyiv workshop, the Alliance, in cooperation with the Mission of Ukraine to the EU in Brussels, hosted a dialogue-themed **"Locally Led Response – the Unique Ukrainian Experience."**

This event took place directly after the conclusion of the 2024 European Humanitarian Forum on 20 March and brought together Ukrainian local civil society actors with EU institutions representatives. Attendees were presented with the roadmap of the Localization Strategy, which was a critical advancement towards its implementation.



CONFERENCE ON PROTRACTED DISPLACEMENT

Supporting the sustainability and eventual recovery of human capital is at the core of URCS strategic planning and operations in 2024 and beyond. Therefore, since April 2023, URCS, in collaboration with International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), the German Red Cross, and the Belgian Red Cross, has supported monthly surveys of **Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) conducted by IMPACT Initiatives.** These surveys aim to understand people's mobility patterns, needs, integration trajectories, intentions to return or relocate, and how these evolve over time.

Having collected a significant pool of data, on 3 April, the Ukrainian Red Cross and IMPACT held a conference on the **"Current situation and prospects of refugees from Ukraine: from emergency response to return and (re)integration"**, which served as a platform for key government agencies, non-government organisations, and experts specialising in socio-economic and humanitarian policy to discuss strategies and initiatives towards refugees and returnees.

The conference sought to examine how data-driven insights can be used to better **understand and respond to the specific challenges faced by refugees abroad and returnees in Ukraine**. In particular, the conference and the findings explored the balance between the need to protect refugees abroad on one hand, and different intentions and motivations to return and reintegrate, as well as the priorities and current programmes of state and non-state stakeholders for the protection of refugees, returns, and (re)integration.

More information of surveys results and methodology via the [link](#).

SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING | NAVIGATING UKRAINE'S RELIEF TO RECOVERY

Ukrainian Red Cross Deputy Director General participated in the Fourth Humanitarian Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Ukraine hosted by the European Commission on 16 April in Brussels.

The meeting convened key humanitarian actors, donors, and Ukrainian institutions, with a focus on the challenges of effective aid delivery amidst the ongoing conflict. Discussions centred on transitioning from immediate humanitarian relief efforts to long-term recovery and reconstruction.

During the meeting, the Deputy Director General of the URCS, Illya Kletskevsky, highlighted the Ukrainian Red Cross Society's commitment and ongoing practices of bridging humanitarian response with development initiatives. He stressed the importance of strengthening local civil society organizations to enhance long-term community resilience and cohesion, citing the Alliance of Ukrainian Civil Society Organizations as a prime example of collaborative efforts.

Ukrainian Red Cross Deputy Director General participated in the Fourth Humanitarian Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Ukraine hosted by the European Commission. April 2024, Brussels.



MOVEMENT PARTNERSHIP – BEST PRACTICES

Swedish Red Cross

Swedish RC supported the IFRC appeal for Ukraine between 2014 and 2019. Since the conflict escalation in Ukraine in 2022, through the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Ukrainian Red Cross has received a total of SEK 75 million in direct support from the Swedish government with the aim of saving lives, alleviating human suffering and maintaining human dignity. **Swedish Red Cross' engagement intensified with contributions of funding, human resources, and expertise to the emergency response operations in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, in multilateral and bilateral partnerships.** This includes some twenty delegates having joined up with colleagues in impacted areas to contribute with their expertise in various fields. In mutual commitment to meet the vast humanitarian needs in Ukraine, URCS and SRC agreed to form a closer partnership in 2022 which was formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the national societies covering 2022-2025. Since then, SRC have intensified its engagement in support of URCS, including with the establishment of in-country presence in Ukraine and a long-term strategy for this engagement. At the same time, opportunities have been sought for mutual **learning between SRC and URCS on areas of specific interest, including in the planning for disaster management and our respective auxiliary roles to national authorities.** During the recent visit of the URCS delegation to Stockholm, the MoU was extended until 2030, extending mutual cooperation within identified areas.

Diplomatic visit to Sweden

The URCS' delegation visit to Swedish Red Cross in Stockholm from 15-18 of April provided an opportunity for external actors to highlight the current context of the conflict in Ukraine. While promoting the need for ongoing international attention and support to Ukraine, the value of the response efforts of the RCRC Movement, as well as recovery and rehabilitation were addressed, with particular attention to the fact that the URCS is the largest humanitarian organization in Ukraine operating throughout the country. The discussions between the URCS and SRC Leadership focused on mutual learning and on strengthening the response to the needs. Extending the MoU with Swedish Red Cross until 2030 further solidified willingness of both parties to continue a close and fruitful collaboration.

Humanity, recovery and reconstruction were front and center at the Swedish Red Cross seminar "Through Ukrainian Eyes" hosted by the Photography Museum in Stockholm on 17 April. Organized by Swedish Red Cross, the seminar was dedicated to diverse aspects of the war in Ukraine, namely humanitarian needs, reconstruction and the road to peace, the protection of journalists, mental health, the effects of the war on the environment and future prospects.



Maksym Dotsenko, Director General of the Ukrainian Red Cross at “Through Ukrainian Eyes” seminar. April 2024, Stockholm. Credits: Tomas Ärlemo, Swedish Red Cross.

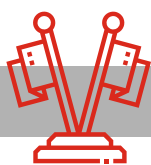
The opening remarks were delivered by the Minister for International Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade, Johan Forssell, who underlined the importance of continued support for Ukraine. One of the panels discussed how different business sectors can contribute to increase the common benefit, build trust and sustainability within civil society organizations, need for investments in internal accounting, transparency, accountability and digitization. Fredrik Löjdquist, Director of the Stockholm Center for East European Studies at the Institute for Foreign Policy, stressed that countries supporting Ukraine lack an overall, coherent strategy, and Ukraine policy needs three main components: EU rapprochement and reconstruction, which are mutually necessary prerequisites for Ukraine to succeed, as well as Ukraine's security which prevails over the first two. Per Ohlsson Fridh, Director General at the Folke Bernadotte Academy, has been commissioned by the government to implement Sweden's strategy for development and reform cooperation with Ukraine for the years 2023-27, together with Sida and the Swedish Institute. He emphasized that development in Ukraine is not a linear process, everything must take place in parallel. The EU accession process is a peace process, a direction towards change, but it is important to ensure that today's various processes for building economic development, socially important infrastructure, and the social aspects of democratic governance do not take place in silos.



Representatives of the Ukrainian Red Cross and the Swedish Red Cross at "Through Ukrainian Eyes" seminar. April 2024, Stockholm. Credits: Tomas Ärlemo, Swedish Red Cross.

The seminar was also attended by the Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, representatives of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, the Folke Bernadotte Academy, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, national media Sveriges Television, Volvo and Electrolux companies.

UPCOMING ADVOCACY-RELATED EVENTS



Ukrainian Red Cross Conference on Rehabilitation v.2.0 in Lviv from 21-23 May.



Conference "Ukraine's Social Recovery – a local approach" in Berlin on June 10, 2024.



URCS' delegation visits to the Korean Red Cross and to the Japanese Red Cross in the second half of June 2024.