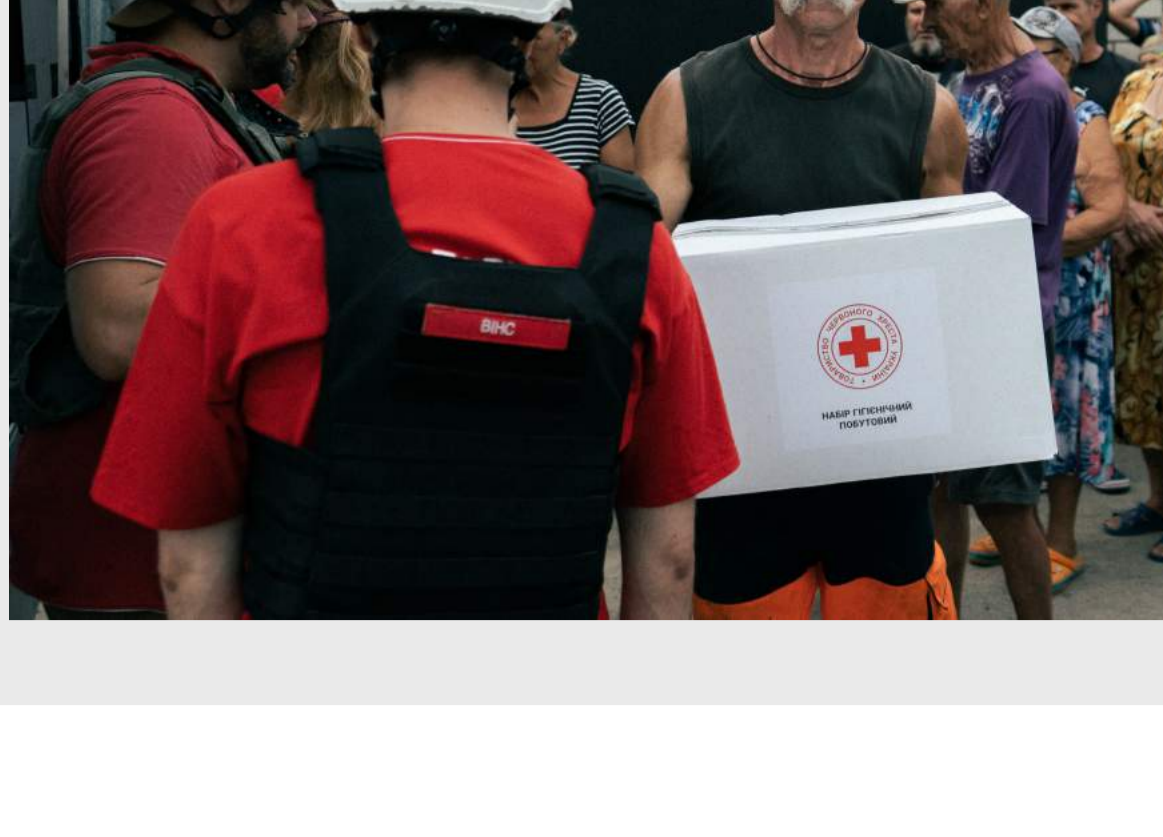


QUARTERLY DIGEST (JULY – SEPTEMBER 2023)

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the **third edition of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society's (URCS) quarterly digest** (July – September 2023), designed to keep the Ukrainian Red Cross Society's partners and stakeholders informed about its current work and plans in the field of humanitarian advocacy and diplomacy in Ukraine and globally.

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society is the **largest voluntary humanitarian organisation in Ukraine**. With its network of over 200 local branches, 1,500 staff members, and 8,000 volunteers, it has an unmatched coverage in the areas controlled by the Ukrainian government. Since the escalation of the conflict, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society has worked in close partnership with ICRC, IFRC, and Participating National Societies (PNS) to directly assist more than 12.5 million people.

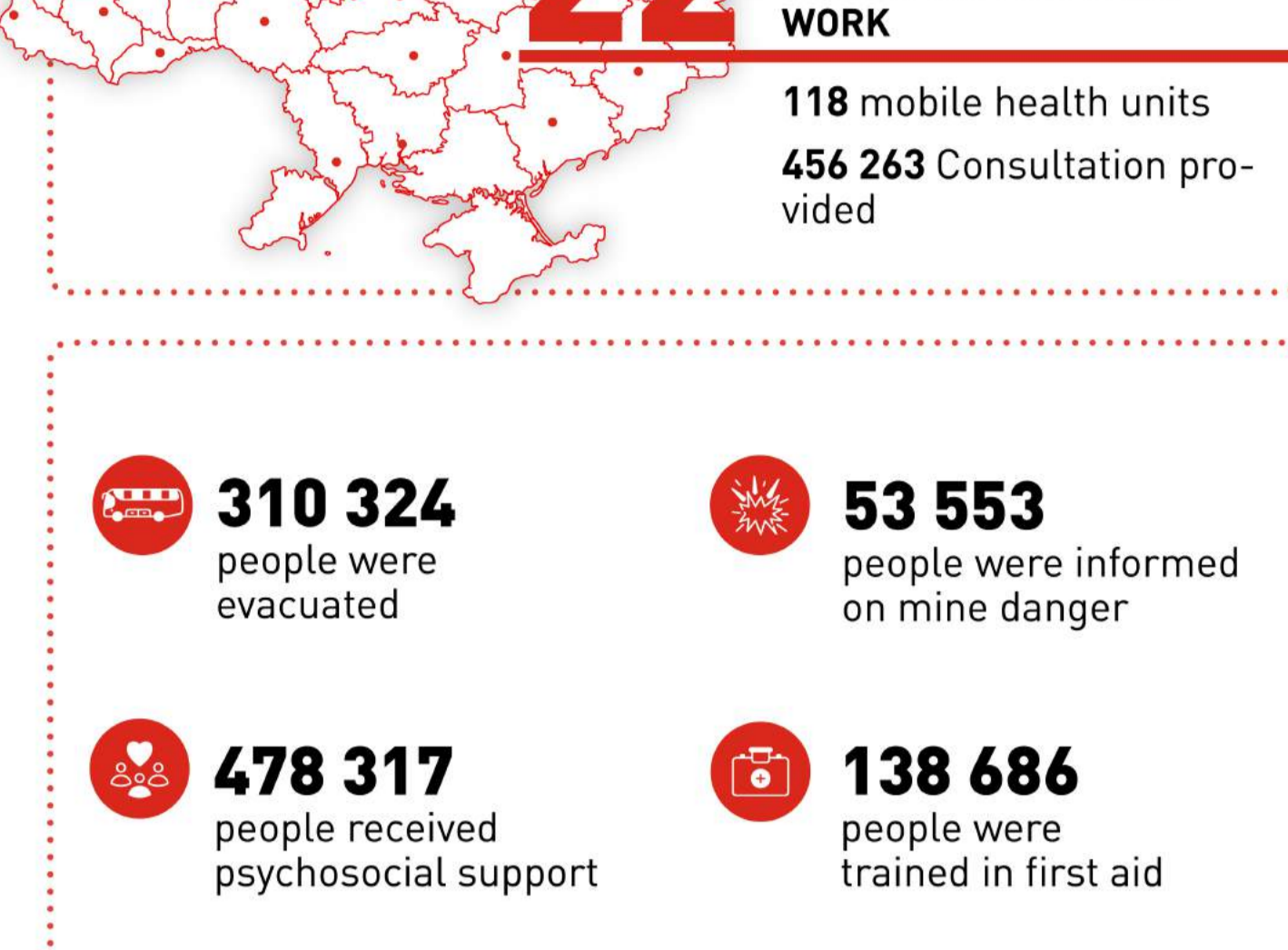


KEY NUMBER OF HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

KEY ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS FROM 24.02.2022

AS OF 01.08.2023

- 1 500 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 584 locations in 24 regions
943 employees support 5 183 lonely people



The information center received **792 845 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 25 000 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 | III QUARTER 2023

URCS IHL Summer School

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society organised its first ever IHL Summer School in Lviv (17th-21st July) aimed at Ukrainian civil servants and IHL practitioners, with the support of the British Red Cross and the Danish Red Cross. The summer school brought together Ukrainian as well as international experts from the civil service, armed forces, academia and the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, to provide a general understanding of IHL as well as cover the principles and rules and their practical application.

"I want to thank the Ukrainian Red Cross for the fruitful work we are doing side by side. **I wish the participants of the Summer School of the Ukrainian Red Cross on International Humanitarian Law to acquire and successfully apply the acquired knowledge.**" said Iryna Vereshchuk, Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories, congratulating the participants at the opening of the online event.



UK dialogue on localisation

URCS attended the localisation dialogue hosted by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) on the 7th of September in London, in collaboration with the British Red Cross and CAFOD. Its objective was to reflect on and inform the UK's evolving approach to locally led humanitarian action by drawing from three humanitarian responses – Northwest Syria, Myanmar and Ukraine. It brought together stakeholders from local and national organisations in these three contexts, as well as international NGOs, and UK government, including embassy officials. The purpose of the event was to evidence and build on examples of good practice to localise aid that FCDO is or has been supporting at the local and national level, as well as exploring good practices beyond FCDO. The discussions will be used to inform the policy thinking that the FCDO will continue to develop further going forward, and URCS looks forward to supporting these efforts.

Creation of the Alliance of Ukrainian Civil Society Organisations

URCS, in collaboration with national and local NGOs, has officially launched the **Alliance of Ukrainian Civil Society Organisations (AU CSOs)** by endorsing the Manifesto in Kyiv on the 22nd of September. Presently, 13 civil society organisations have joined forces to **confront the consequences of the international armed conflict and address the humanitarian crisis**. Members of the Alliance have identified several areas of common interest, including **the establishment of a unified and influential presence for Ukrainian civil society on the global stage, facilitating access to information and funding for Ukrainian CSOs, establishing partnerships with the Ukrainian government, and bridging the gap between national and local organisations in Ukraine**. In the near future, the Alliance plans to undergo structural development and make its presence felt in the humanitarian arena of Ukraine.

Third Senior Officials Meeting on Ukraine

On the 26th of September, the European Union and Norway hosted the **Third Senior Officials Meeting on Ukraine**, bringing together key humanitarian partners, donors, and institutions operating in Ukraine. The meeting focused on enhancing the effectiveness of humanitarian aid for the most vulnerable affected by the conflict. **The Director General of URCS participated as a speaker**, emphasizing the importance of key donors and stakeholders in Ukraine, the role of local partners, and the shift towards localization. He highlighted **the need for long-term, predictable, and flexible funding, with a continued focus on the most vulnerable populations in the conflict-affected eastern regions, stressing the importance of addressing both immediate and longer-term needs**.

International Humanitarian Diplomacy Visits

In the third quarter, **the leadership team of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) embarked on a crucial humanitarian diplomacy mission to several European countries, including Sweden, Norway, Bulgaria, and Austria**.

During their visits, the URCS team in cooperation with partner National Societies engaged in high-level meetings with various stakeholders, including Ukrainian Embassies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives, parliament members, and key development and commercial donors.



Visit of the URCS leadership to Bulgaria

The URCS team's primary objectives were to increase awareness about the **critical humanitarian needs and the ongoing situation in Ukraine**, emphasizing the significant challenges faced on the ground. Simultaneously, they aimed to cultivate stronger collaborations with partnering states and organisations, advocating for sustained, **long-term humanitarian support**.

MOVEMENT PARTNERSHIP – BEST PRACTICE

Collaboration with Norwegian Red Cross

Since April 2022, Norwegian Red Cross (NorCross) **provides comprehensive support** to Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS), with a focus on improving access to quality primary health, holding first aid trainings, social welfare and strengthening the URCS emergency response and financial management capacities. Initially launched in Ternopil and Khmelnytskyi oblasts, the project was expanded in October 2022 in the Dnipropetrovsk oblast.

So far, Mobile Health Units (MHUs) have provided critical health services to over 75,675 beneficiaries between January and September 2023, **including specialised care for vulnerable groups and mental health support**. URCS Emergency Response Teams (ERT) have demonstrated exceptional responsiveness and efficiency in addressing acute needs arising from the conflict, having assisted IDPs and locals throughout the last 9 months. The First Aid program has extended its reach, offering high-quality aid and training to various sectors and in total 5,814 people have learnt first aid skills in all 3 regions of NorCross support. The Home-Based Care (HBC) program has brought essential healthcare and social support to the doorstep of almost half a thousand affected individuals thanks to the work of 76 URCS social helpers in 36 settlements. Additionally, URCS's financial management has improved, enhancing efficiency, control, and accountability.

In 2023, the Norwegian Parliament approved a 5-year allocation of NOK 75 billion for Ukraine, known as the **"Nansen Support Program"**. This will enable the channelling of humanitarian assistance through the UN, RCRC, and civil society organisations. The Norwegian and Ukrainian Red Cross Societies will **collaborate closely to ensure that the Norwegian humanitarian support addresses the needs of the most vulnerable populations in Ukraine**.

In September 2023, the Norwegian Red Cross organised strategic meetings between the leadership of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society and various governmental and private partners, including the entities responsible for the "Nansen Support Program". On top of that, the URCS Director General had a productive meeting with Prime Minister of Norway Jonas Gahr Støre. These meetings presented a **valuable opportunity to highlight the voices of local communities, amplify key humanitarian challenges in Ukraine to the Norwegian government, and strengthen future cooperation with Movement actors working in Ukraine**.



URCS Director General Maksym Dotsenko and Jonas Gahr Støre, Oslo 25.09.23

Collaboration with Austrian RC

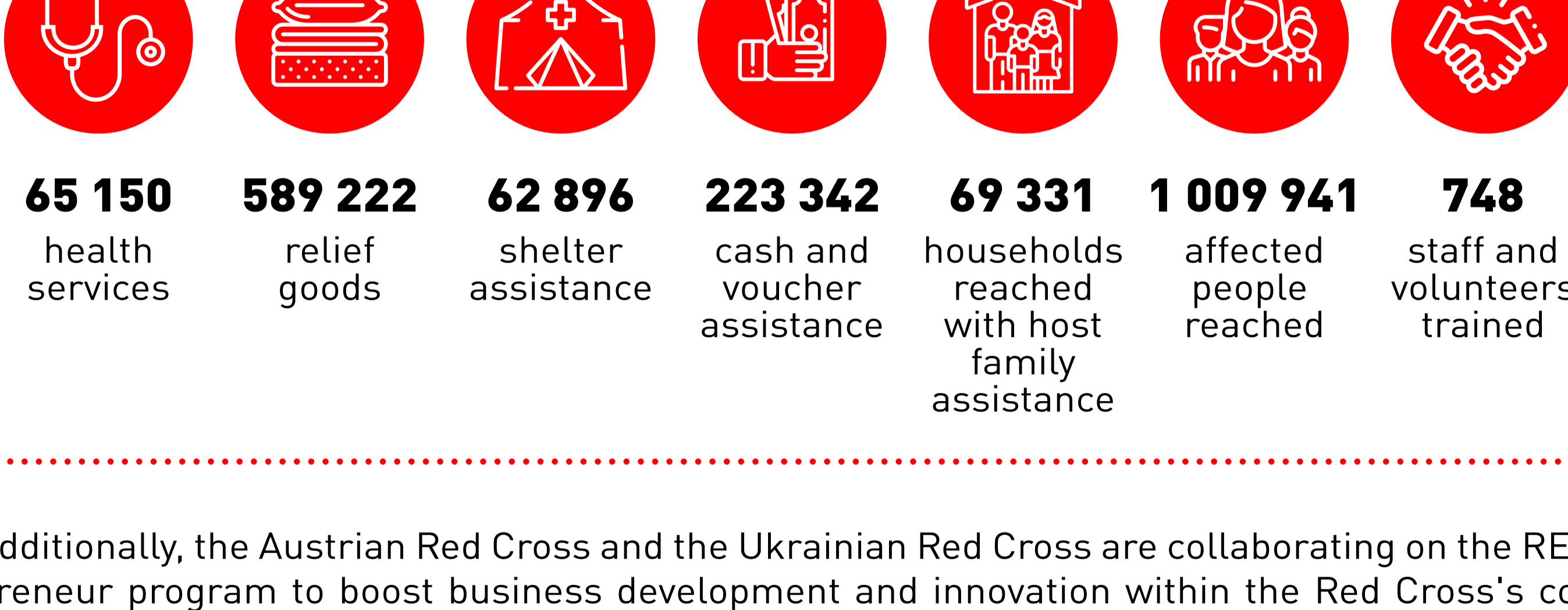
Since 2014, AutRC has supported URCS in the Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts in providing winterization and multi-sectoral assistance to cover urgent shelter, food, and health needs.

Since the escalation of the conflict in 2022, AutRC has been scaling up its support for operations in Ukraine and has a delegation located in Kyiv, with sub-delegations in Uzhhorod and Lviv. Currently, there are **10 joint projects between AutRC and URCS, focusing on critical sectors** such as Home-Based Care, Mobile Health Units, Shelter and Settlements, Relief, Cash and Voucher assistance. AutRC supports activities in the West in Zakarpattia and Lviv oblasts, and activities in the North in Kyiv and Chernihiv Oblasts. **It also supports activities in Southern and Eastern regions, which have been particularly affected by the international armed conflict**, such as Kherson, Luhansk, Donetsk, and Mykolaiv.



Austrian Red Cross has been offering health expertise to URCS in further developing its pre-hospital care services – on the one hand the operation of MHUs, on the other to diversify the services sustainably. The Kakhovka dam destruction and the URCS call for Movement WASH assistance has resulted in IFRC WASH capacities in form of an Emergency Response Unit with AutRC in the lead.

Conflict affected people reached through AutRC support since February 2022



Additionally, the Austrian Red Cross and the Ukrainian Red Cross are collaborating on the REDpreneur program to boost business development and innovation within the Red Cross's core areas. This partnership aims to create financially sustainable URCS core services and implement innovative solutions for complex social problems.

URCS is participating in the global REDpreneur 2.0 program, which began in September 2023, with a Ukrainian cohort consisting of 50 participants focusing on health care, First Aid, and other innovative ideas. Further, a long-term tailor-made Business Development Program for Ukraine is in the planning stages, set to launch in 2024, **focusing on capacity development and seed funding for URCS social services and local social enterprises**.



URCS visit to REDpreneur IMPACT HUB, 13.09.23

Upcoming Advocacy Related Events

Capacity building is a vital aspect of sustainable development for local actors, especially given the significant humanitarian response and operations expected. **URCS is planning to enhance its training program with workshops on humanitarian Diplomacy and Advocacy for local branches**. The goal is to empower local branches with the skills and knowledge needed to actively participate in national and strategic decisions regarding recovery and reconstruction, thus ensuring their effective engagement in these critical processes.

Exhibition at the Innovation in Humanitarian Habitat Conference

At the **upcoming Innovation in Humanitarian Habitat Conference on Innovation in Luxembourg**, URCS and the Luxembourg Red Cross will co-present an exhibition highlighting the Red Cross's response efforts in Ukraine as well as reflect on shelter future perspective in the context of Ukraine's recovery and reconstruction.

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

