

# ADVOCACY DIGEST

## AUGUST – NOVEMBER 2024

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to **2024's third edition of the Ukrainian Red Cross (URC) digest!** This publication is designed to provide comprehensive understanding about our activities and plans in the fields of humanitarian operations and diplomacy. This edition highlights URC's **international involvement** and **broader context of its activities**, as well as provides both depth and breadth to the challenges Ukraine currently faces.

Ukrainian Red Cross expands its **humanitarian outreach across the country**, advocating for locally led assistance and the interests of vulnerable people. Its core advocacy efforts focus on **securing greater compliance with international humanitarian law, promoting human dignity, and mitigating the human cost of war**. As an integral part of the Movement, Ukrainian Red Cross fosters partnerships with National Societies, leveraging their experience and expertise to **enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian response**.

## URC HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN UKRAINE

### DIRECTIONS AND WORK RESULTS FROM 24.02.2022 AS OF JULY 2024



**200**

LOCAL BRANCHES OF THE URCS  
*23 offices were damaged or destroyed*

**5 000**

employees

**8 000**

volunteers

The information center received

**941 305**

calls



**12 500 000**  
people

WERE PROVIDED WITH  
ASSISTANCE FROM THE URCS



**316 281**  
people were  
evacuated



**198 140**  
people were informed  
on mine risk



**780 126**  
people received  
psychosocial support



**264 626**  
people were  
trained in first aid

# HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY SPOTLIGHT

## 34TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT

The Ukrainian Red Cross delegation, headed by Director General Maksym Dotsenko, participated in the 34th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (34 International Conference). The Conference serves as a platform for principled humanitarian action and dialogue among the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and States party to the Geneva Conventions. The quadrennial event brings together 191 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and 196 States Parties to the Geneva Conventions, along with representatives from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Observers.



*34 International Conference. October 2024, Geneva. Credits: IFRC, Ukrainian Red Cross.*

Prior to the Conference, the Ukrainian Red Cross attended the plenary sessions of the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Council of Delegates of the International Movement, held from 22 to 27 October. In collaboration with **the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**, URC held a joint event titled **“More than Food Aid: National Societies as Leaders in Early Recovery”**. Representatives from the Ukrainian Red Cross, American Red Cross, Turkish Red Crescent, and Syrian Arab Red Crescent shared insights on how humanitarian crises have shaped and influenced their recovery plans.

During the Conference, which took place from 28 to 31 October, representatives of the Ukrainian Red Cross participated in the Drafting Committee and spoke in support of the International Movement's resolutions on **“War in Cities”**, **“Toward a Universal Culture of Compliance with International Humanitarian Law”**, **“Weapons and International Humanitarian Law”**, and **“Empowering Local Leadership, Capacity, and Delivery in Principled Humanitarian Action and Strengthening Resilience”**.

## ALONGSIDE THE MAIN AGENDA, THE URC DELEGATION:



Held 26 bilateral meetings with representatives of National Societies



Delivered statements at 7 side events



Participated in 2 agreement-signing ceremonies



Gave 2 interviews

## MOVEMENT PARTNERSHIP – BEST PRACTICES

### CANADIAN RED CROSS

Since February 2022, the Canadian Red Cross has actively participated in Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement efforts led by the Ukrainian Red Cross to deliver essential humanitarian assistance to the people of Ukraine. The URC, with support from the Canadian Red Cross, continues to lead response efforts on the ground. Through the support of people living in Canada and the Government of Canada, the Canadian Red Cross has contributed to response efforts led by URC, with key highlights including:

- Provision of more than **422,000** emergency relief items
- Funding of more than **69,000** primary healthcare consultations through **11** Mobile Health Units
- Providing funding and expertise for the renovation or rehabilitation of **43** social infrastructures including **27** collective centres
- Deployment of **59** highly trained humanitarian experts

### URC DIPLOMATIC VISIT TO CANADA

From 14 to 20 September 2024, the Canadian Red Cross welcomed the Ukrainian Red Cross delegation to Canada for the first time. This visit provided an opportunity to strengthen partnership by exchanging learnings, reflecting on Canadian Red Cross support in response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, discussing future collaboration, sharing stories from the field, and engaging with donors, Ukrainian diaspora, media, youth and government representatives. In Toronto, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce hosted a **charity event** titled "**Partners in Humanity: An Evening with the Ukrainian Red Cross**", featuring representatives from the Ukrainian World Congress, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, and the Canada-Ukraine Foundation.





**Charity event "Partners in Humanity: An Evening with the Ukrainian Red Cross». September 2024, Toronto.**

*Credits: Canadian Red Cross, Ukrainian Red Cross.*

Maksym Dotsenko, Director General of the Ukrainian Red Cross, Conrad Sauvé, President and CEO of the Canadian Red Cross, and Yuliya Kovaliv, Ambassador of Ukraine to Canada, addressed the ongoing conflict and humanitarian situation in Ukraine. They also discussed the challenges posed by the fast-approaching winter, which are amplified by constant hostilities, especially those on energy infrastructure. The URC and Canadian Red Cross expressed their appreciation to the Ukrainian diaspora in Canada for their support and facilitating that event and appealed for a coordinated continuous response to the most pressing humanitarian needs in Ukraine.

The team was also invited to North America's largest Toronto Ukrainian Festival and was able to engage on the existing humanitarian challenges faced by communities in Ukraine, discuss gaps and potential partnership avenues with Canadian stakeholders and representatives from Canadian Ukrainian diaspora groups.



**URC Director General Maksym Dotsenko and CRC Head of the European Region Askar Umarbekov at the Toronto Ukrainian Festival. September 2024, Toronto.**

*Credits: Ukrainian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross.*

After leaving Toronto, the visit continued to Canada's capital city, Ottawa, where the Ukrainian Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross leadership teams had the opportunity to meet with the Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Canada's Minister of International Development, and other members from the Canadian Government to discuss the importance of local response teams and the ongoing Canadian Red Cross support to response and recovery efforts



**Representatives of the URC and CRC at the meeting with Canada's Minister of International Development. September 2024, Ottawa.**

*Credits: Global Affairs Canada.*

On 19 September, with the aim of raising the profile the work of URC humanitarian response in Ukraine, at the invitation of Canadian Senators Omidvar, Kutcher and Dasko, a Parliamentary breakfast was held with the participation of federal government representatives, including 5 members of Parliament and 11 senators, specifically those engaged in foreign affairs, international development and response in Ukraine.



**Representatives of the URC and CRC at the meeting with Canada's Minister of International Development. September 2024, Ottawa.**

*Credits: Global Affairs Canada.*

Later in the day, the URC team delivered a lecture at Carleton University's Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies to students, faculty, and staff on the humanitarian response in Ukraine. Following the lecture, the UCR team, students, faculty and staff toured a photo exhibition, which featured a collection of impactful images of support provided to those impacted in Ukraine.





**Representatives of the URC and CRC at Carleton University. September 2024, Ottawa.**

*Credits: Canadian Red Cross.*

During their time in Ottawa, URC management also had the opportunity to visit the Canadian Red Cross headquarters where they could meet with staff and volunteers and learn about local and international Canadian Red Cross programs.

## **SPANISH RED CROSS**

Since the conflict's escalation in February 2022, the Spanish Red Cross (SpRC) has been a key partner to the Ukrainian Red Cross, providing financial and technical support across Livelihoods, National Development (NSD) & Volunteering, and Emergencies. SpRC's expertise has helped URC tackle immediate challenges while building resilience for the long term.

### **Livelihoods: expanding opportunities through the REBOOT Programme**

Ukrainian Red Cross, with the support of Spanish Red Cross, launched the REBOOT Programme, establishing Service Points in five regions (Cherkasy, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, Ternopil, and Vinnytsia) until November 2023 to provide employment counselling, vocational training, and support for micro-businesses.

This initiative has already yielded significant results, helping individuals rebuild their lives. With additional support from the Red Cross Movement, and the technical assistance from SpRC, the program will expand to five more regions (Ivano-Frankivsk, Khmelnytskyi, Lviv, Kyiv, and Dnipro) by the end of 2024. Encouraged by this success, URC aims for nationwide coverage, integrating social services into Ukraine's recovery strategy. Additionally, a complementary REBOOT Online Service ensures hard-to-reach areas have access to employment tools.

### **NSD/Volunteering: strengthening organizational capacities**

SpRC plays an important role in enhancing URC's organizational capacity, with an accent on volunteer management and youth engagement, across six key areas: Volunteer & Youth Unit development, Training Models, Institutional Participation, Youth Involvement, transitioning to new forms of volunteering, and Digitalization. In September 2024, an institutional visit to SpRC's headquarters in Madrid allowed both National Societies to exchange strategies on volunteer integration, resource

mobilization, and youth involvement. For URC, it was an opportunity to observe first-hand how SpRC integrates volunteers into every aspect of its operations and to take valuable lessons back to Ukraine.



*URC delegation during the visit to the SRC Headquarters. September 2024, Madrid.*

*Credits: Spanish Red Cross.*

## **Emergencies: ongoing support for URC Emergency Response Teams**

SpRC has continuously supported URC's emergency response efforts, contributing significantly to appeals and strengthening URC's Emergency Response Teams (ERT). Recently, SpRC representatives participated in the "Ten Years Together" International ERT Volunteer Training, gathering over 100 URC members to exchange best practices and gain new skills, with a view to enhancing their response capabilities.

## **An integrated approach for a stronger response**

The cooperation between URC and SpRC showcases a holistic approach to humanitarian aid, addressing immediate needs and longer-term recovery. Together, URC and SpRC are restoring livelihoods, enhancing volunteer networks, and improving emergency response to support Ukraine's most vulnerable communities during these challenging times.

## OTHER DIPLOMATIC VISITS AND HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS:

1-3 October, 2024, Deputy Director General Illya Kletskovskyy represented the Ukrainian Red Cross at the **Nordic-Baltic plus forum**. The forum was focused on exploring diverse strategies for **enhancing** network and cooperation, **improving** humanitarian response and **greater reach** to support affected populations better.

On the 20th of September, Deputy Director General of the Ukrainian Red Cross made a speech at **the EU Council IPCR (Integrated Political Crisis Response) Meeting**. This strategic meeting aimed at coordinating the European Union's response to emergencies was attended by the Members of the European Commission, the Council of the EU, and representatives of the Permanent Representations to the EU. Deputy Director General outlined the **Ukrainian Red Cross's response to the energy crisis** and presented **the organisation's Strategy for Winter Preparedness 2024-2025**.

23-25 September, 2024, International Advocacy Officer of the Ukrainian Red Cross Kateryna Nakvatska attended **training on humanitarian diplomacy towards the European Union** organized by the Red Cross EU Office in Brussels. The training was followed by a row of meetings with the representatives of the Red Cross EU Office, paving the way for further cooperation regarding **the Temporary Protection Directive**, which ensures protection for Ukrainian refugees in the EU.

In early October, **the delegation of the Ukrainian Red Cross**, led by President Mykola Polishchuk, visited **Norway** for **joint exercises** and **an exchange of experience** with the Norwegian Red Cross. The delegation also met with representatives of the Nordic Red Cross Integration Network and held important meetings, including one with Siri Hatlen, the President of the Norwegian Red Cross.



*URC delegation visit to the Norwegian Red Cross. October 2024, Oslo.*

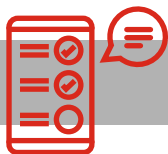
*Credits: Norwegian Red Cross.*



## UPCOMING ADVOCACY-RELATED PUBLICATIONS:



**URC Humanitarian Advocacy Digest Q4:  
review of the year 2024.**



**Education Digest v.3: Movement Structure  
and RCRC Conference.**



**Information leaflet about the International Red Cross  
and Red Crescent Movement and activities  
of the Red Cross of Ukraine.**

## UPCOMING ADVOCACY-RELATED EVENTS:



**Youth Diplomatic Forum on Ukrainian humanitarian  
diplomacy in Kyiv, on 18-19 November, 2024.**



**Photo exhibition on URC humanitarian response  
at la Gaîté Lyrique, Paris, on 10 December, 2024.**



 **FACEBOOK**

 **YOUTUBE**

 **TELEGRAM**

 **TIKTOK**

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