

ADVOCACY DIGEST

JULY – OCTOBER 2025

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the third 2025 edition of the Ukrainian Red Cross (URC) quarterly **digest**, aimed at keeping our partners and stakeholders up to date on our humanitarian operations and diplomatic efforts. **This edition highlights our key operational performances, movement partnership and advocacy highlights from July to October 2025.** This quarter the URC held the 2nd Youth Diplomatic Forum aimed to create an environment for nurturing a new generation of Ukrainian diplomats capable of representing Ukraine with integrity on the international stage and contributing to the resolution of humanitarian crises.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN UKRAINE

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

The programme **operates in 23 regions and in Kyiv city.**

8 PSS centres have been opened

(Irpina, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Poltava, Uzhgorod, Khmelnytskyi, Kamianets-Podilskyi, and Ternopil)



1 000 699

people received support



648 705

children are involved in psychosocial support activities



MOVEMENT PARTNERSHIP – BEST PRACTICES

URC VISITS TO THE SPANISH RED CROSS

URC and Spanish Red Cross (SpRC) are collaborating since the escalation of the conflict in 2022. Recent URC visits to Spain show the commitment and cooperation between the two National Societies. The ongoing collaboration between URC and SpRC focuses on three main areas: National Society Development (NSD) & Volunteering, Socio-Economic Recovery (REBOOT Programme), and Emergencies & Disaster Management (ERT/DM).

More information can be found on the [REBOOT Dashboard](#).

Institutional Visit of the Ukrainian Red Cross to Spain

From 2 to 7 October 2025, URC conducted a high-level institutional visit to SpRC HQ, led by Director General Maksym Dotsenko and Deputy Director General Illya Kletskovskyy. The visit was designed to strengthen bilateral cooperation, deepen strategic dialogue, and explore sustainable humanitarian models adapted to the Ukrainian context.

The URC delegation engaged in detailed discussions with SpRC leadership on organizational transformation, strategic planning, the integration of services and partnerships into the governance framework. A key moment was the session on the humanitarian context in Ukraine, presented by Maksym Dotsenko and moderated by Daniel Fernández, Deputy General Coordinator of SpRC. This session allowed URC to share its current priorities, operational challenges, and vision for the future, while fostering a rich exchange on how governance structures can support effective humanitarian action in complex environments.

The visit also included meetings with the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), where URC explored donor engagement strategies and mechanisms for international cooperation. In the second phase of the visit, the delegation travelled to the Basque Country, where they visited the provincial office in Bizkaia, the Vocational Training Centre, and the Romo Activity Centre. These visits provided valuable insights into SpRC's territorial implementation, particularly in employment training, youth engagement, and support for vulnerable groups such as the elderly and those facing extreme social difficulties. The delegation also participated in a practical shelter setup exercise and held an institutional meeting with the Basque Government, reinforcing the role of local authorities and preparedness in humanitarian response.

This visit provided both National Societies with a comprehensive understanding and exchange of each other's governance and operational models. It reaffirmed the shared commitment of both to innovation, strategic cooperation, and impactful humanitarian action.

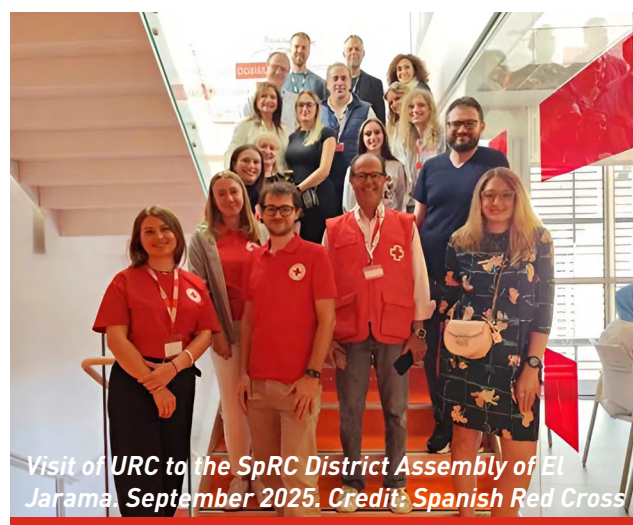


National Society Development milestones & URC Visit

Between 22 and 25 September, a delegation from URC, led by Olena Stokoz, Deputy Director General for Organizational Development, visited the Spanish Red Cross (SpRC) Headquarters in Madrid. The visit was designed to foster mutual learning and deepen technical cooperation between the two National Societies, with a focus on organizational development, volunteering, youth engagement, and community-based programming.

The agenda included a rich series of thematic sessions and field visits, the delegation explored SpRC's volunteering model, including recruitment, motivation, retention, and the participatory processes used to develop and implement strategic plans.

Digital tools such as IMAP (Framework of Attention to People) and the Volunteer Platform were showcased, offering practical insights into how SpRC manages beneficiary care and volunteer coordination. URC and SpRC also exchanged training systems for staff and volunteers, and its approach to social inclusion, including programs for children, elderly people, women in vulnerable situations, and individuals facing extreme hardship.



A highlight of the visit was the field trip to the District Assembly of El Jarama, where URC participants observed local-level coordination, territorial development methodologies, and volunteer engagement in action. The visit concluded with an internal workshop where URC reflected on key learnings and discussed how selected practices could be adapted to the Ukrainian context. These were then shared with SpRC colleagues to identify next steps for continued collaboration. This visit marked a significant milestone in strengthening ties between URC and SpRC, reinforcing their shared commitment to humanitarian values, innovation, and capacity building across the Movement.

HUMANITARIAN DIPLOMACY SPOTLIGHT

VISIT TO THE SINGAPORE RED CROSS AND REPRESENTATION OF UKRAINE AT THE 10TH SINGAPORE HUMANITARIAN CONFERENCE

Maksym Dotsenko, Director General of the URC, and Illya Kletskevskyy, Deputy Director General, have been on a working visit to Singapore. They took part in an event titled “United by Humanity: Dialogue with the Ukrainian Red Cross”, organised by the Singapore Red Cross. The event was attended by Benjamin William, Secretary General of the Singapore Red Cross, and Kateryna Zelenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Republic of Singapore.



Visit of URC to the Singapore Red Cross. September 2025. Credit: Singapore Red Cross.

During the meeting, participants underscored the critical importance of humanitarian action and relief efforts, exchanged shared humanitarian goals, and gained direct insights into the challenges and experiences faced by the URC during the ongoing war. The URC leaders spoke about the implementation of new programmes, the advancement of key focus areas, and their experience managing operations during the times of war, including emergency response initiatives.

The event served as an important platform for fostering mutual understanding and solidarity, bringing together the global humanitarian community.

Maksym Dotsenko, Director General of the URC, and Illya Kletskovskyy, Deputy Director General, also took part in the 10th Singapore Humanitarian Conference. The event convened the representatives from humanitarian organisations, academics, government bodies, and civil society, fostering dialogue and collaboration on pressing global humanitarian issues.



At the conference, they called on the international community to recognise the urgent humanitarian needs in Ukraine, drawing attention to the daily struggles faced by civilians — including recent relentless shelling of cities. They highlighted the vital role of the URC in responding to the full-scale war, showcasing the organisation's key achievements and the tangible impact of its humanitarian work on the lives of those affected.

VISIT TO THE AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

From 4 to 8 September 2025, Maksym Dotsenko, Director General of the URC, and Illya Kletskovskyy, Deputy Director General, carried out an important advocacy and partnership mission to Australia.



In Canberra, the delegation met with members of the Parliamentary Friends of the Australian Red Cross and Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Matt Thistlethwaite. The discussions centered on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine, the pressing humanitarian challenges confronting the URC in providing life-saving assistance, and joint efforts to enhance collaboration with Australian partners in support of the people of Ukraine.



URC leadership with representatives of the Australian Red Cross. September 2025. Credit: Australian Red Cross.

URC HELD SEVERAL WORKING MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRENCH RED CROSS

The President of the URC, Mykola Polishchuk, and the Director General, Maksym Dotsenko, engaged in a series of working meetings with a delegation from the French Red Cross during their official visit to Kyiv.



URC leadership with representatives of the French Red Cross. September 2025. Credit: Ukrainian Red Cross.

During the meetings, the parties explored key avenues for collaboration, including the establishment of a URC nursing school, the development of social projects and initiatives, strengthening response capacity to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis challenges caused by the war. They also addressed the provision of essential humanitarian aid, alongside public awareness and training programmes designed to support the affected communities. In addition, both sides examined opportunities for sustained support from the French Red Cross to amplify the impact of the URC life-saving work.



HIGH-LEVEL SEMINAR IN ESTONIA

A delegation from the URC, led by Director General Maksym Dotsenko, participated in the high-level seminar **“Red Cross Support for People in Times of Crisis — Ukraine’s Experience, Estonia’s Preparedness”**, held in Tallin, Estonia, in October 2025.

The Director General of the URC delivered a keynote address highlighting the challenges faced during the war in Ukraine, the organisation’s experience in responding to the humanitarian crisis, and the future development of humanitarian action in the country.



The event aimed to enhance preparedness, resilience, and collaboration between governments and the National Societies of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, ensuring more effective crisis response.

Participants discussed the mandate of National Societies within the Movement, their role in society, and opportunities for collaboration between Estonian government institutions and the Estonian Red Cross in areas such as civil protection, healthcare, social services, and humanitarian assistance.

THE 2ND YOUTH DIPLOMATIC FORUM

On 22–23 October, the 2nd Youth Diplomatic Forum brought together over 100 participants, including representatives of international organisations, experts in humanitarian law, and volunteers and students from across Ukraine committed to contributing to the development of a humane and resilient society.



*Senior Research Fellow at the University of Oxford Hugo Slim at the 2nd Youth Diplomatic Forum. October 2025.
Credit: Ukrainian Red Cross.*



*The 2nd Youth Diplomatic Forum. October 2025.
Credit: Ukrainian Red Cross.*

The forum aimed to create an environment for nurturing a new generation of Ukrainian diplomats capable of representing Ukraine with integrity on the international stage and contributing to the resolution of humanitarian crises.

Over two days, participants engaged in panel discussions on the role of youth in humanitarian diplomacy, contemporary global challenges, and cooperation between state and civil society actors. They explored how humanitarian principles can help build dialogue even in the most complex situations. Through workshops and simulation exercises, participants developed skills in negotiation, crisis communication, public speaking, and defending humanitarian principles.

UPCOMING ADVOCACY-RELATED EVENTS:



Visit to the Swedish Red Cross, November 2025



Visit to the Luxembourg Red Cross, December 2025



High-Level Roundtable on EU Preparedness Union Strategy – Lessons Learned from Ukraine, January 2026



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