



# Responding to the Ukraine crisis

12-month Impact Report



Photo: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## As the gruelling escalation of conflict in Ukraine enters its second year, the devastation of the last 12 months has affected every aspect of the lives of millions of people.

During this time, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) has delivered one of the largest humanitarian operations in its history. Globally, 59 National Societies and 6,526 local branches have rallied together to deliver crucial emergency and humanitarian support to millions of people in Ukraine and beyond.

This report details the Movement's activities since February 2022, supported by a remarkable international community of donors and volunteers. It describes the achievements of the Movement as a whole, including highlighting the work that protects the dignity and safety of those seeking support, and provides a snapshot of activities supported by Australian Red Cross in Ukraine and surrounding countries.

Collectively, the Movement reached millions in the early months with what people needed most – cash relief, supplies, first aid and health care. The work continues as more people move within and across borders, navigating difficult decisions in the new cultures, languages and communities hosting them. This is the story of countless people trying to survive and rebuild their lives in the face of an ongoing crisis. The Movement will stand alongside them, now and into the future.

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24 February 2023



### The challenge

In Ukraine and other countries impacted by the conflict, there are:



**18 million** people in need of humanitarian assistance



**7.9 million** individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe



**17,994+** civilian casualties  
- 6,919 killed  
- 11,075 injured



**14.5 million** people in need of health assistance (Ukraine)



**9.3 million** people in need of livelihood assistance (Ukraine)



**5.9 million +** people internally displaced (Ukraine)

### The response

In response, the Movement has provided:



humanitarian assistance to **14.5 million** people



cash assistance and grants worth **199 million** Swiss Francs (AUD 310 million) to people affected by the conflict



access to clean water for **10.6 million** people



health interventions for **1.1 million** people



accommodation and shelter support for **1.8 million** people

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# Together, as one movement, we meet the needs on the ground

The International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) works to coordinate and support the work of National Societies, acting before, during and after emergencies to meet the needs and improve the lives of people in vulnerable situations.

The International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) is an independent, neutral and impartial organisation ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for those impacted by armed conflict and other situations of violence.

Australian Red Cross supports IFRC and ICRC activities, as well as National Societies delivering humanitarian assistance across the globe.

## One of the largest humanitarian operations in the Movement's history

Over the last 12 months, thousands of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement staff and volunteers have delivered basic humanitarian assistance to millions of people across Ukraine, in neighbouring countries and in places that are supporting people displaced by the conflict.

This assistance includes:

- health care, including mental health support
- cash and voucher assistance
- water and sanitation services
- evacuations from areas impacted by armed conflict.

## Ukrainian Red Cross Society is leading the local response

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society (UCRS) is the country's largest humanitarian organisation with an extensive network of 1,500 employees and 8,000 volunteers across 283 branches.

The URCS is leading the local response to the conflict, which includes the provision of psychosocial support, first aid, mobile medical support and medical evacuations to people in Ukraine. UCRS teams are also responsible for distributing emergency supplies, including essential medicines, food and water, hygiene items and multi-purpose vouchers that help people maintain their basic health and wellbeing.

Since 24 February 2022, the URCS has:

- provided humanitarian assistance to over 10 million people
- delivered 8,015,403 food and hygiene kits to regions across Ukraine
- provided transport and evacuation assistance to around 307,679 people
- trained 96,316 people in first aid
- provided health consultations to over 152,844 people through 93 mobile health units
- supplied up to 470 tonnes of medicines.

The URCS is working tirelessly to support affected communities, but this dedication to humanitarianism also comes with great risk: sadly, two URCS volunteers were killed by shelling in December 2022.

# How your support impacts the people of Ukraine

Photo: Ukrainian Red Cross



In the face of ongoing attacks, URCS rapid response teams work around the clock, distributing humanitarian aid and providing first aid and other critical support alongside state emergency services.

In July, a rocket attack on the city of Vinnytsia badly damaged more than 800 residential apartments, many housing socially vulnerable people. URCS visited this woman's home in November to carry out repairs in preparation for the coming winter.



Photo: Ukrainian Red Cross

Photo: Tetyana Kolesnichenko/Ukrainian Red Cross



URCS volunteers evacuate a woman from Ukraine's besieged Kherson region in December. She's one of hundreds of older people URCS emergency response teams evacuate every day. "My dears! You are risking so much!" she tells them.

# Australian Red Cross: local actions with a global impact



Photo: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Since the early days of the Ukraine conflict, Australian Red Cross has been supporting the Movement through the provision of funding and human resources support, both overseas and at home.

On 27 February 2022, we launched the Ukraine Crisis Appeal, an emergency fundraising initiative to support the delivery of humanitarian activities in the conflict zone and beyond. The appeal received strong support from the Australian public: as of 13 February 2023, our incredible donors have given \$16.155 million to support relief efforts in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

Australian Red Cross also received \$2 million from the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This grant was in addition to significant funds that the Australian Government provided directly to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).



**\$16.155 million**

Donations to the Ukraine Crisis Appeal

**\$2 million**

Grant funding from Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to support IFRC operation

# Here's where your donations go

Photo: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies



Australian funds have helped provide emergency relief and longer-term humanitarian support to people and communities affected by the crisis, enabling Red Cross and Red Crescent partners to address immediate and longer term needs in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, including to people who are displaced.

These services include:

- emergency relief assistance, such as the provision of
  - shelter and accommodation
  - health care
  - access to clean water and sanitation
  - cash payments
- deploying technical specialists from Australia to support the operation on the ground
- helping people restore contact with family members separated by the crisis
- monitoring and evaluation of the activities supported by donor funds.

## Deploying specialist, Australian aid workers to support the humanitarian response

Responding to requests from Red Cross teams on the ground, Australian Red Cross deployed 17 delegates to support the humanitarian operation. Funded by the Ukraine Crisis Appeal, these specialist aid workers bring expertise in key areas such as health, water and sanitation, logistics and protection to Ukraine and surrounding countries.



## 17 total deployments

- 4 delegates deployed to the ICRC operation
- 13 delegates deployed to the IFRC operation



Australian Red Cross delegate Jess Letch helps distribute hygiene kits in Uzhhorod.

## Jess Letch, Deputy Head of Operations IFRC for the Ukraine operation

“National [Red Cross and Red Crescent] Societies are present in nearly every country in the world and region. That structure meant we were ready to mobilise in what was the largest movement of people since World War II.

“Local volunteers and donated goods were initially activated, [and] then we [rapidly scaled up] to provide cash, sustainable shelter, protection and gender and inclusion, food assistance and more.

“This was a crisis of movement of women and children. We needed to be flexible and adapt quickly to ensure children had safe spaces and women had mental health support at a time when they didn’t know the fate of partners, fathers and brothers.

“I’m proud to have been part of [a] team [that arrived] in the first days of that crisis response. Guiding the operation as it grew day by day, it was amazing to harness the outpouring of goodwill and international support. I wish we could see that level of support for all people displaced by conflict.”

## Welcoming and establishing new migrants onto Australian soil

In addition to supporting emergency relief and long-term humanitarian efforts in Ukraine, the Australian Red Cross is leading a series of migration support programs here in Australia.

These programs provide social, financial and other assistance for people who arrived in Australia after fleeing the conflict.

They include:

- the Humanitarian Settlement Program, which supports people impacted by the conflict to build new lives in WA, the ACT and parts of regional NSW
- the Restoring Family Links Program, which re-connects people who have lost contact with loved ones as a result of the conflict
- the Connected Women Program, which connects migrant women in NSW, WA, the NT and Tasmania to make friends, practice English and build their networks in Australia
- emergency relief for people on temporary visas in Australia as a result of the conflict who have no access to other mainstream social supports.



Photo: Amelia Wong/Australian Red Cross

Olena at the Connected Women's group in Darwin.

## Olena's story

Olena was forced to flee a good life when shelling began in her home city of Zaporizhzhia. Since arriving in Darwin, she has re-established herself with the help of the local Red Cross Connected Women Program.

Her daughter Yuliia, who lives in Darwin, says that when Olena left behind her life and everything she knew, she lost her identity, self-confidence, and independence.

"She lost the rhythm of her life," says Yuliia.

“That’s how we found Red Cross. They’ve given mum friendship, support and understanding. They’ve helped her find herself again as she starts over.”

Olena enjoys taking part in the local Connected Women group, which over the past 5 years has supported over 500 migrant women from 45 countries in Darwin.

It’s a warm, welcoming space for women to learn new skills, practice English, connect with new friends and build networks, which often leads to training and employment.

# Spotlight: Protection, Gender and Inclusion



Photo: Ukraine Red Cross Society

Conflict brings with it increased risks of sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse. Scaling up Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) programs has been key to the Movement's response in Ukraine and surrounding countries, supported in part by dedicated funding from the Australian Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal.

Through its PGI work, the Movement seeks to protect the dignity and safety of those seeking support in the face of conflict. In Ukraine, this means prioritising groups of people who struggle to access support or who face exclusion or discrimination.

These include:

- women
- children
- persons with disabilities
- minority ethnic groups
- people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions.

In response to the conflict in Ukraine, this PGI work has included:

- reconnecting families who have been separated
- providing child-friendly spaces
- providing support for persons with disabilities
- providing referrals to specialist services
- providing specialist kits such as family hygiene kits
- providing PGI training for Red Cross and Red Crescent personnel
- raising awareness about how to get help
- establishing feedback channels to ensure safeguarding for people affected by the conflict.

# Upholding humanitarian law: the unique position of Red Cross and Red Crescent during conflict

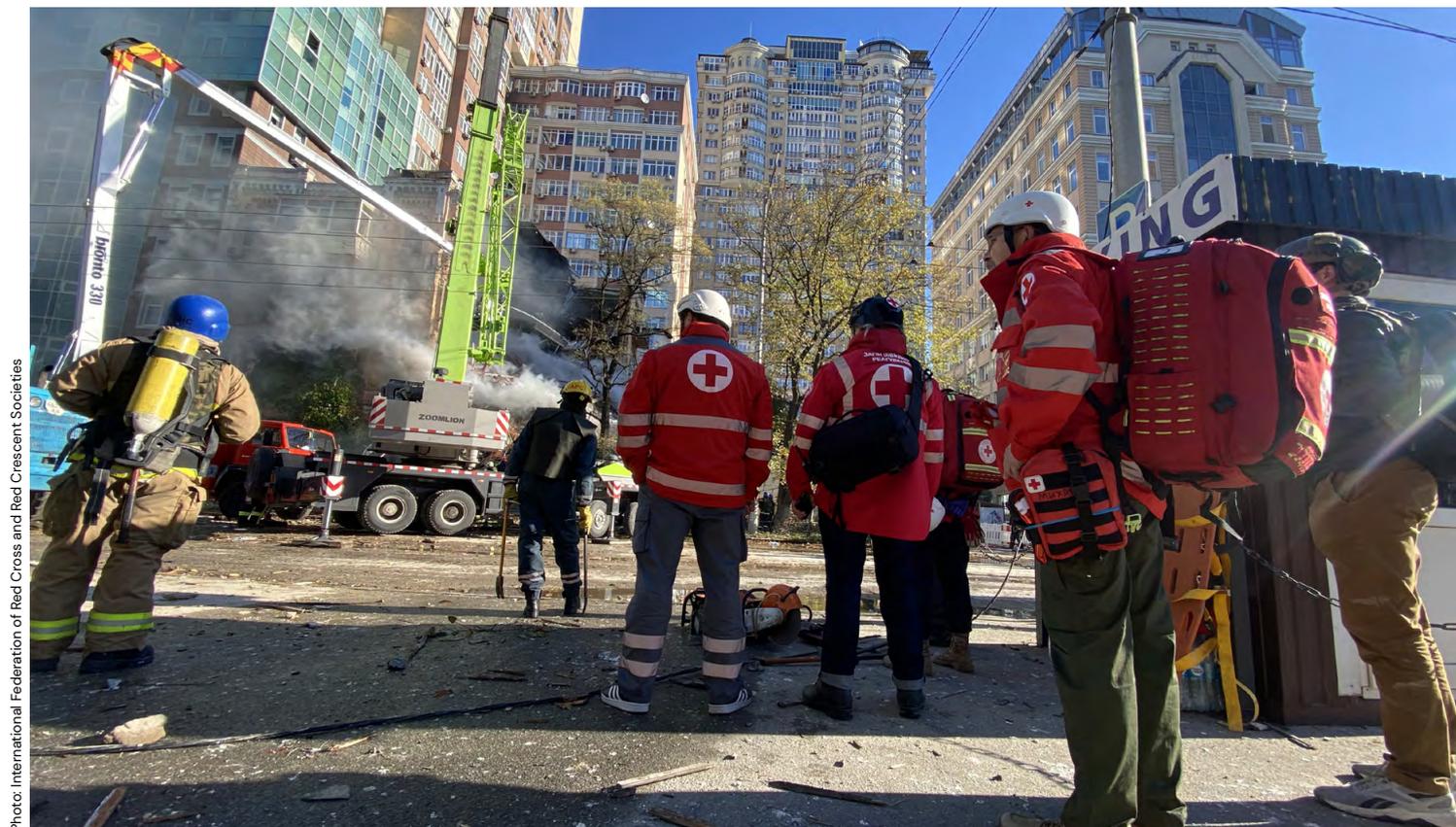


Photo: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

National Societies and the ICRC have distinct mandates to carry out humanitarian activities in international armed conflicts. These mandates are provided under international humanitarian law (a set of international laws that protect people who are not or who are no longer participating in hostilities and also restrict the means and methods of warfare), as well as national laws and resolutions of International Red Cross Red Crescent Conferences. Under these laws, parties to an armed conflict are legally required to allow and facilitate the rapid and unimpeded passage of impartial humanitarian relief for civilians in need.

As key humanitarian actors, National Societies and the ICRC work in partnership with international and local stakeholders to deliver safe access to humanitarian services, adhering to the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence to preserve dignity and save lives.

Their remit includes:

- **delivering impartial aid and other humanitarian services** to civilians in need, the wounded and sick, and other victims of armed conflict
- the ICRC **visiting prisoners of war and civilian internees**, wherever they are held, to assess their treatment and conditions of detention and to reassure their families
- **reuniting families** who have been separated or providing information about missing loved ones
- **clearing mines and unexploded ordnances** in Ukraine to make areas safer and sharing information about mine safety and awareness
- **acting as a neutral and impartial intermediary** to support voluntary safe passage out of active conflict areas in agreement with the parties to the conflict and with strictly humanitarian terms.

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# Thank you for acting for humanity by helping those in need



The generosity of our donors has enabled us to reach millions of people with vital aid in Ukraine and surrounding countries, and to support those displaced by the conflict who have arrived on Australian shores. We thank our supporters for giving generously to those in need.

The ongoing impacts of the conflict continue to reverberate far beyond Ukraine, and growing economic pressures across Europe and the world are creating increasing humanitarian needs in many countries, especially those hosting large numbers of refugees.

In the coming weeks and months, millions of people will continue to need assistance, including shelter, cash, health care and support settling into a new country or within Ukraine. The Movement, which includes Australian Red Cross, continues to work in communities worldwide to ensure that people who need this extra support can access it, whoever and wherever they are.

For more information about the Ukraine Crisis Appeal, or to make a donation, visit [redcross.org.au/ukraine](https://redcross.org.au/ukraine)

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