

OPERATION OVERVIEW AUSTRIAN RED CROSS

Ukraine and neighbouring countries



Operation update	Reporting period: March - April 2022
Funding (in Euro): 27 million (Secured funding: 9 million; soft pledges: 18 million)	People estimated to be reached by 2023: 420,000



March 30, 2022 - At the Red Cross city branch in Uzhhorod, Ukrainian Red Cross volunteers and staff, IFRC and Austrian Red Cross are supporting a hygiene kit distribution to internally displaced people. These kits were donated by the Austrian Red Cross with logistical support from the IFRC. Each kit contains laundry detergent, toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, disposable razors and hygienic pads. Credits: Marko Kokic, IFRC.

Summary of current response



138,000 relief items processed including blankets, hygiene kits and food parcels



799 people reached through AutRC- funded health activities implemented by URCS



Ongoing technical support for CVA, WASH and Health



20 staff deployed bilaterally or through ICRC/IFRC

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Collaboration with URCS to date

The Austrian Red Cross (AutRC) and the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) intensified their cooperation in 2014 and have since implemented several projects in the areas of health and social services, cash and voucher assistance (CVA), and disaster preparedness, primarily focusing on the Eastern region. Up until the escalation of the conflict on February 24 2022, AutRC supported URCS remotely with institutional funding and in their organisational development. Since the onset of the current crisis, AutRC has established an in-country presence and expanded its activities, supporting the efforts of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement in the Ukraine and neighbouring countries with the following approach:

- **Procurement and transport of relief goods** through - or coordinated with - the established IFRC pipeline;
- **Contribution of experts** in the area of WASH, IT&Telecom, Health and Coordination for the humanitarian response in Ukraine and impacted countries through secondment of personnel to RCRC Movement partners;
- **Financial contributions** to support the operations of the ICRC and URCS;
- **Scale up of humanitarian programmes** in the Ukraine through the establishment of an AutRC presence in Lviv and Uzhhorod for humanitarian support on the ground and to ensure optimized coordination.

Aims and Strategic approach

The overall aim of our operations is to provide **effective humanitarian assistance for people in need due to Ukraine crisis** through the following approaches:

- **Strengthen the URCS support to people in Ukraine** by complementing and capacitating its immediate response, and with mid-term and long-term activities sustaining a continued partnership over the coming years and after the crisis.
- **Maximize the RCRC movement response** by contributing to a fast and effectively coordinated use of the movements' strengths and resources via actively seeking coordination and cooperation at all levels.
- **Starting fast, scaling up:** based on humanitarian access and resources available programs will be designed for adapting to changing needs and scaling up in size and in geographical area.
- **Technical focus:** based on Austrian RC domestic capacity and international programming, we focus on CVA programming, Health and WASH, welcoming partner's expertise to complement our capacities. In addition, we mainstream Community, Engagement and Accountability and Protection, Gender and Inclusion elements in our humanitarian interventions.
- **Regional focus:** Starting from the current set-up with ongoing activities in the west of Ukraine the operation will expand and move as safe enough access and resources allow and based on in-country agreement within the RCRC movement coordination.
- In **partnerships**, with URCS as well as in consortia, AutRC seeks active engagement and implementation cooperation, combining competencies and resources to achieve best overall results.



Austrian Red Cross presence in Ukraine

Austrian Red Cross is currently present with two teams on the ground and strong remote cooperation with URCS HQ:

1. **In Lviv** to ensure close coordination and cooperation with RCRC Movement partners, and to kick-start operational support to URCS' humanitarian activities to the Lviv branch activities, which can be scaled in size and geographic location according to conflict scenarios, needs and access. Current AutRC team composition in Lviv consists of the Austrian Red Cross Representative and a Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Delegate
2. **In Uzhhorod** to operationally support the URCS branch in its ongoing response as needed - with the option to scale up. The current AutRC team consists of two delegates with a strong WASH and Branch development focus, and CEA and PGI background, as well as one CVA delegate.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

1. Relief & In-kind support

Procurement and transport of relief goods were done through and/or coordinated with the IFRC pipeline. Following an agreement with URCS and IFRC, a part of the goods was picked up by the AutRC Uzhhorod team from the IFRC warehouse in Debrecen to directly supply URCS Usghorod branch, supporting the distribution of items to 5,500 families.

In total, around 2.5 million Euro of Non-Food Items (NFIs) have been allocated so far, with more than 138,000 relief items processed:

- More than 50,000 hygiene kits for approx. 250,000 people have been processed;
- 10,000 blankets have been delivered to Uzhhorod branch and another 63,000 are in delivery to IFRC hubs;
- An additional 5,500 families will be targeted with Family kits in Uzhhorod, planned for April/May, the kits include a hygiene and a food component;
- Additional kitchen sets and field-cots are currently in transit.



Shipment of 4200 hygiene kits delivered to the Ukrainian Red Cross warehouse in Chop. Credits: IFRC.

2. Personnel

Contribution of experts has been a priority in the past month. AutRC has deployed 18 staff in the area of WASH, IT&Telecom, CVA, Health and Coordination for the humanitarian response in the Ukraine and impacted countries through secondment of personnel to RCRC Movement partners. This includes:

- 3 secondments to IFRC including two WASH experts and one liaison to Brussels.
- 2 secondments to ICRC including one for Water&Habitat to Moldova and one for ICT to Debrecen/Vinnitsya
- 10 bilateral deployments to Ukraine: two rotations of deployments to Lviv and Uzhhorod to date, including the functions of Country representative, WASH delegate and CVA delegate for Lviv; and emergency branch support and CVA for Uzhhorod.
- 3 bilateral deployments to Hungary providing medical support at the Hungarian border in collaboration with the Hungarian Red Cross (2 persons), and one IT & Telecom expert to support IFRC in the ERO Office.
- 2 secondments from Finnish Red Cross in the areas of health and communication.

3. Technical support & sectoral engagement



Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

Based on the successful cooperation of URCS and AutRC in CVA implementation in Eastern Ukraine since 2014, AutRC is supporting URCS in scaling up its organisational CVA capacity on local and national level, and considering CVA support for crisis affected people in the fields of shelter, livelihood, food security, health and basic needs. So far, the AutRC Cash focal point has been involved in the coordination with movement partners, while the AutRC CVA delegate in Lviv has supported the initial coordination efforts on the ground. Further planning will consider URCS operational strategic priorities as well as coordinated approaches within the RCRC-Movement and Cluster working groups. In addition, AutRC will support URCS in its ongoing efforts to align with Social Protection systems in country.



Health & Care

Despite the challenging circumstances, AutRC and URCS continue supporting the conflict affected population in Ukraine through mobile health services to ensure that urgent healthcare and psychosocial needs are addressed. The health activities of an ongoing URCS and AutRC project (which started in Dec. 2021) have been adapted to meet the changing situation. In Eastern Ukraine, nurses have been visiting older people who are often unable to leave their homes and provide medical, but also psychosocial and day-to-day support. In cases where access is limited for security reasons, the patients were contacted and attended to via phone. To date, 799 people have been reached through health activities in February and March both in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, including 226 men and 573 women. Mobile Health Units (MHUs), which were originally planned to service the conflict affected population along the Line of Contact in the East, are currently being set up for Kyiv oblast. The MHUs consist of a doctor, nurses and a driver and will provide healthcare and PSS services to the conflict affected population. Since access to hospitals is limited and the needs are high, these teams will fill a gap in the provision of much needed medical care.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The main focus so far has been on the sanitation and hygiene situation in IDP shelters. AutRC together with ICRC and URCS started conducting a WASH assessment in Lviv oblast, focusing on how to best support the general well-being of IDP and host communities. Joint teams have started to provide shelter cleaning kits sufficient for 1 month to IDP shelters visited. So far, 23 shelters have been assessed. The needs identified are being followed-up immediately, including for example the procurement of hardware but also required repairs.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion / Community Engagement and Accountability

All outgoing and incoming delegates from AutRC have received Inclusion, Gender and Diversity (IDG) and CEA briefings. These have included current information on Rapid Gender Assessments and Assessments on the situation of older people in conflict affected areas. They have also highlighted the importance of working together with women's, older people's and disabled people's organisations. AutRC will work in coordination with URCS to include affected communities in their planning and execution of WASH, CVA and health activities.

Contact information

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Sectoral focal points

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