



# PRELIMINARY EMERGENCY APPEAL

## Europe | Ukraine and impacted countries crisis



A Ukrainian Red Cross volunteer is giving First Aid to a person injured during the conflict. Photo: Ukrainian Red Cross

Appeal №: <b>MGR65002</b>	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: <b>CHF 100 million</b>	
	Federation-wide Funding requirements: <b>TBD</b>	
Glide №: <b>OT-2022-000157-UKR</b>	People affected: <b>Up to 18 million as per existing scenarios, to be updated as situation evolves</b>	People to be assisted: <b>Initial 2 million people</b>
DREF allocation: <b>CHF 1M</b>  (incl. CHF 218,638 on 5 February to support the Ukrainian Red Cross Society in its preparedness efforts)	Appeal launched: <b>28/02/2022</b>	Appeal ends: <b>29/02/2024</b>

# SITUATION OVERVIEW



## SITUATION OVERVIEW UKRAINE AS OF 28 FEBRUARY 2022



On 24 February, a new phase in the armed conflict in Ukraine started with the intensification and spread of the hostilities that are now affecting most parts of the country and causing major concern for the protection of civilians and essential civilian infrastructure. This comes after months of rising political and military tensions and eight years of conflict in and around Eastern Ukraine where an estimated 2.9 million people were already in need of humanitarian assistance and 1.4 million were internally displaced.

With the onset of hostilities, hundreds of thousands of people in Ukraine have left their homes, with more than 160,000 people reportedly internally displaced and as of 28 February, over 360,000 having crossed the borders into the neighbouring countries of Poland (over 200,000), Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Belarus –within just four days since the start of intensified hostilities.

More than 120,000 people were also evacuated to Russia from eastern Ukraine in the day before the hostilities intensified.

This rapid evolution of the situation on Ukraine's borders and ongoing active military action inside Ukraine does not allow the humanitarian community to have much clarity on existing and immediate needs, particularly inside Ukraine. However, the needs are expected to be massive and to affect all regions of Ukraine, neighbouring countries and beyond. Current estimates and scenarios indicate that as many as five million people can be displaced as the situation evolves, with many more impacted, including those already in need and displaced in Eastern Ukraine at the onset of this ongoing escalation.

In the meantime, the COVID-19 pandemic and high transmissibility of the Omicron variant is still a serious concern. Ukraine and many

neighbouring countries have low vaccination rates. Sanitary restrictions are still enforced and will need to be coped with, even in the midst of this large-scale armed conflict and mass-displacements in neighbouring countries.

The current situation in Ukraine is governed by the four 1949 Geneva Conventions, its First Additional Protocol from 1977 and customary international humanitarian law. The International Red Cross Red Crescent

Movement (the Movement) calls upon concerned authorities to support and facilitate the humanitarian response of Movement partners, including by ensuring that any restrictive measures contain effective protection of the humanitarian space, by managing any support to the parties responsibly as well as supporting the parties in fulfilling their responsibilities under International Humanitarian Law.

## TARGETING

In view of the scale of needs, the Movement is coordinating its response in and outside Ukraine. **The IFRC will be supporting** – in close coordination with the ICRC - **the response of Red Cross National Societies**, as major local humanitarian actors in their own countries, and increase their organizational capacities. The total number of people affected in this context is not yet known, due to the ongoing development of the situation inside Ukraine and in the neighbouring countries, as well as current lack of data, access, and assessments. However, based on estimation figures provided by the authorities and National Societies, **the total number of people affected by the conflict can be estimated to be up to 18 million**, thereof up to 5 million displaced internally or fleeing the country. **This Preliminary Emergency Appeal aims to assist an initial 2 million people**, reflecting that in all countries the National Societies are uniquely positioned in their response as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. While the situation remains developing, in many of the contexts the Red Cross has exclusive access and is currently the only actor who can deliver humanitarian assistance at scale.

The initial 2 million people targeted fall into two categories:

- 1) **people inside Ukraine** affected by the conflict which the Ukrainian Red Cross can reach, including people displaced and host communities and
- 2) **people reaching neighbouring countries and host communities when appropriate.** Consideration will also be given to people from Ukraine temporarily stranded in foreign countries and supported by Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies upon request of authorities.

Among all these groups, a special focus will be on vulnerable individuals, including unaccompanied minors, single women with children, elderly, and people with disabilities.

The needs are informed by ongoing access to information from Ukraine, and activities from neighbouring National Societies supporting people on the move with various services. For people on the borders and on the move, the general immediate life-saving needs are clear, while longer-term needs and activities will be amended depending on the evolution of the situation in the different countries.

Due to the nature of the situation and the developing crisis, the number of the countries included in this Preliminary Emergency Appeal might evolve from covering Ukraine and neighbouring countries to including secondary destination countries as well. The Operational Strategy to be released soon will be regularly updated to inform on country-level action and overall geographical coverage.

## PLANNED OPERATIONS

People in Ukraine, in the neighbouring countries and on the move will be provided by Red Cross National Societies with integrated support, as broad as possible given their circumstances.



Health & Care including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)  
(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health)



Integrated assistance  
(Shelter, Livelihoods and Multi-purpose Cash,)



Protection and Prevention  
(Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Migration and displacement,  
Longer-term: Disaster Risk Reduction, Environmental Sustainability)

The specific vulnerabilities linked to displacement will be given due attention, including through setting up **Red Cross Humanitarian Service Points**<sup>1</sup> at the borders with Ukraine to ensure access to essential services for people on the move. National Societies will be supported in employing a people-centered approach, in line with the IFRC practice and commitments. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) will be a critical component of the operation, to ensure that support is based on people's diverse needs. It will be also crucial to keep people safe and away from harm, leave no one out or behind and neglect no protection risk. It is essential to assess risks, needs, vulnerabilities and capacities related to protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) and ensure robust and trustworthy safeguarding mechanisms to avoid exploitation, abuse and violence.

## Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:



Coordination and partnerships



IFRC Secretariat services



National Society Strengthening

<sup>1</sup> Red Cross Red Crescent Humanitarian Service Points are safe, welcoming and strategically located spaces where migrating and displaced people can access reliable support.

The operation will ensure National Societies' ability to react to shifts in the context, if and as needed, and to continue to build their capacity and readiness to operate now and in the future. Large investments in all National Societies impacted are envisioned, to allow for providing immediate humanitarian services and longer-term sustainable solutions, and for increased readiness to respond to evolving and future shocks. Given the sensitivities in the situation, the operations will also ensure enhanced support to the National Societies in humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of launch of this Preliminary Emergency Appeal. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the upcoming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation Wide approach which includes response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

## RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT



### Ukrainian Red Cross Society

Core areas of operation	
Number of staff:	<b>535</b>

Number of volunteers:	<b>2720</b>
Number of branches	<b>224</b>

*The aim of the URCS, founded in 1918, is to ensure human life protection and to prevent and mitigate human suffering during armed conflicts and natural disasters. The URCS also supports medical services of the armed forces and public healthcare services, assisting public authorities of Ukraine in their humanitarian activities. Since 2014, URCS responds to the needs of persons affected by the conflict in the Donbass.*

Since 24 February, more than 30,000 people have been assisted with URCS emergency stocks. Trained Emergency Response volunteers (ERT) have been activated and are working with emergency services to respond. URCS teams have so far saved over 50 lives. URCS Staff and volunteers are helping people to relocate to safer areas. Over 1,000 people have received first aid training conducted in shelters and online while over 1,000 new volunteers have registered at URCS offices, and a Reserve Volunteer mechanism has been established. A hotline is providing mental health and psychosocial support to all URCS staff and volunteers.

URCS branches are coordinating with local authorities to provide assistance to internally displaced people. Reception centres are being established in schools and other community buildings to accommodate a growing number of displaced people. URCS is as well providing assistance to people queuing at the border.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in impacted countries

**According to the nature of the situation and the developing crisis, the number of the National Societies in primary and secondary destinations for people leaving Ukraine or who were abroad and remain stranded cannot be clearly defined at this point, with preparedness and response ongoing in many countries.**

### **National Societies in neighbouring countries**

Red Cross National Societies in all neighbouring countries invested in preparedness and have now mobilized thousands of volunteers and staff, in particular at border crossings and train stations. Red Cross volunteers of local branches are distributing in-kind assistance, provide information to people in need and an important reassuring presence in the midst of confusion. The National Societies are closely coordinating with their authorities in supporting people arriving from Ukraine, some having been responding recently to other situations of population movement in the region<sup>2</sup> and gained increased capacity to face new influxes. National Societies are receiving large amounts of local in-kind donations out of solidarity, which create pressure on their logistical capacities.

A DREF allocation has been made for Russian Red Cross (RRC) to support their humanitarian operations to evacuees in Rostov Region. RRC has launched a national appeal on 21 February and will continue to support its operations primarily with the involvement of domestic resources at this point in time.

### **IFRC membership and Movement coordination:**

The IFRC categorized the current crisis as a Red emergency in view of the severity and scale of the ongoing events. This implies that the situation is considered critical and that the highest level of attention is required from all parts of the membership.

Given the nature of the current context, strong and constant coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is also ensured at all levels to maximize the impact of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in this multi-country crisis. This Preliminary Emergency Appeal is part of a Movement-wide approach, based on the response priorities of the relevant National Societies and in consultation with all Federation members contributing to the response, and the ICRC. The Preliminary Emergency Appeal will ensure linkages between all response activities (including bilateral activities and activities funded domestically) and assist to leverage the capacities of all members of the Federation in the countries and ensure a work complementary with ICRC to maximize the collective humanitarian impact.

In Ukraine Movement Partners - URCS, ICRC, IFRC and several Partner National Societies have a long-standing partnership, reflecting a complementarity approach. The IFRC has been supporting URCS, through its Country Delegation in Ukraine and its Regional Office for Europe, has been providing technical support to URCS and mobilizing international aid to programmes and operations led by the National Society in the areas of COVID-19 response, climate change and livelihoods. On 5 February, IFRC released 218,638 Swiss Francs from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Ukrainian Red Cross ensure the safety and wellbeing of its staff and volunteers through preparatory actions and maintain operational readiness to assist people affected in case the situation changes.

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<sup>2</sup> Including through the IFRC Belarus and neighbouring countries [Emergency Appeal](#) launched in November 2021

IFRC also supports all National Societies in the region through its regional office based in Budapest on wide range of institutional, policy and programmatic issues

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) expanded its presence in Ukraine in 2014, to help protect and assist conflict-affected people in the eastern part of the country. It is now scaling up its operations in response to the current situation, primarily in Ukraine but also in affected neighbouring countries in close coordination with the National Societies and the IFRC. It is working closely with concerned partners/members of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Movement coordination mechanisms have been established on the current crisis in Ukraine, and coordination meetings conducted since February, initially for Ukraine, and now being expanded to other impacted countries. In addition to country-level coordination, overall strategic guidance to the Movement collective response is ensured through convening regional and global coordination. The ICRC will convene the global and regional discussions on Ukraine, while IFRC and ICRC will co-convene for neighbouring countries in view of the fluid situation. The primary responsibility of the convening role is to facilitate a coordinated and inclusive approach, bringing around the table all the Movement components that wish to contribute to the collective response to the overall crisis as per their available resources and know-how. In addition, strategic coordination between the two international components remains a priority at all levels of operational implementation, at country, regional and headquarters levels.

#### **External engagement:**

IFRC is engaged in inter-agency coordination that includes all relevant UN agencies and International Non-governmental agencies since the start of the situation. IFRC is also engaged at the global leadership level under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) structures. Liaison function with the EU, including the EU Civil Protection mechanism, is being set up as well as for civil-military relations.

The National Societies provide humanitarian services in close cooperation with external stakeholders in the respective countries, including the relevant national agencies, national and international humanitarian aid organizations and local as well as central departments of relevant ministries.

This preliminary Emergency Appeal will also help IFRC in supporting the National Societies to further enhance their auxiliary role and ensure strong partnership with key external organizations that also helps building the capacity of the National Societies.

IFRC welcomes further and ongoing cooperation with Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, government donors, the United Nations system, the European Union, the Multilateral Development Banks and other intergovernmental partners, and the Private Sector on resourcing this preliminary Emergency Appeal.

## Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

### In the IFRC

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### For Resource Mobilization and pledges support:

- Regional Office for Europe Head of Partnerships and Resource Development: **Andrej Naricyn**, [andrej.naricyn@ifrc.org](mailto:andrej.naricyn@ifrc.org)

### For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:

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#### Reference ↘

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