

OCTOBER 2022



POLISH RED CROSS ACTIVITY REPORT



#napomocUkrainie

About Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the largest humanitarian network in the world, with over 15 million volunteers. It is composed of: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and 192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The role of the Movement is to bring humanitarian aid wherever is needed, with the ICRC focusing on the challenges related to armed conflicts, where the scope of its activities and its mandate are determined by the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols; the IFRC coordinating and supporting the work of National Societies before, during and after disasters in order to cover the

needs and improve the lives of those who have suffered.

All Red Cross organizations are guided in their activities by 7 fundamental principles: **humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.**

We are one International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, in which each National Society – including the Polish Red Cross (PRC) – carries out its activities that enable for mutual complementation and cooperation to alleviate suffering of people in the most difficult situations. The greatest value of the Movement is a combination of local and global activities.



„All that we want is to get back home.”

*8 months since the beginning
of an armed conflict in Ukraine*

Since the beginning of an armed conflict in Ukraine, over 13 million people have had to leave their homes to seek safety. Many families have been still living in regions where fights have been taking place.

The consequence of conflict is huge suffering of all those who had to leave their legacy and separate with family members.

Thousands of volunteers and staff of the Red Cross support affected population in Ukraine and neighbouring countries like in: Poland, Slovakia, Romania, Belarus, Hungary, Moldova oraz Russia. In total, over 48 National Societies, IFRC and ICRC have been involved in helping them in recent months.

Currently, there are over 8 200 people (including 505 persons from Ukraine), who implement and support projects dedicated to migrants.

In recent months, the Polish Red Cross has supported over 800 000 people affected in an armed conflict in Ukraine. From the very beginning the PRC has been providing humanitarian aid in a form of food, water, hygienic kits and other non-food items, as well as medical, psychological and financial support.

PRC, together with the IFRC, ICRC, Partner National Societies and others, helps the migrants seeking safety to reorganize their life.



**Over 48 National Societies
involved in aid for Ukraine**



**Over 100 000 volunteers
supporting in different
countries**



**Over 8 200 staff and volunteers
of the PRC supporting in Poland,
including 505 people from Ukraine**





How do we help:



financial support
(cash and vouchers)



relief aid
(food, hygiene kits, clothes,
school items, etc.)



tracing people
- „Restoring Family Links” program



integration activities
and long-term projects

„I am grateful. When you have nothing, even the smallest thing may help.”

Lidia, the shelter who, with her mother and brother, found a shelter in northern Poland.

1.

HUMANITARIAN AID AND CARE

Since the beginning of an armed conflict the PRC has been providing an assistance to migrants from Ukraine. They can ask for relief aid in its Branches across the country.

Volunteers and employees prepare food parcels, hygiene and sanitary kits, toys and care products for children. In many cities there are special aid points for migrants which are similar to self-service stores. Everyone in need can come and select necessary items.



So far aid has been
delivered to
817 995 people.

Aid is delivered also to temporary shelter for migrants and other facilities run by the PRC, i.a.: in Mszana Dolna, Łódź and Stargard.

Polish Red Cross has distributed:



286 107
hygiene kits



333 668
food parcels

In total, PRC has distributed:



7 892 ton
humanitarian aid



The story of Alena

On February 24, me and my family woke up due to an explosion next to our house. We were living near the airport in the city of Mykolayiv. We got away to Poland.

In April, I found out that the PRC in Łódź was distributing relief aid for migrants. My family needed some support that time as we lost everything during one day and had to move. We had literally nothing.

We came to the PRC office and met nice employees and volunteers there. We received a food parcel, various household items and bedding.

Then, I asked one of the employees if they need volunteers there. I had been a volunteer at the border before and my basic knowledge of Polish was very useful in such situation. ...We came to help for one day, second, third one... Several weeks passed. All that time we spent on distributing food, we had different trainings and we met wonderful people. After that, the financial support project for migrants was launched.

We were very much involved in it and since then we were present in the office every day. During this project I was asked to work in the PRC. Since that time I have had a wonderful job, excellent team and lots of different friends and new opportunities.

PRC Rescue Teams and Humanitarian Aid Centers

Until the end of March, in Podkarpacki region the PRC Rescue Teams were on duty at 5 reception points where the group of migrants was the biggest (in Medyka, Przemyśl, Korczowa, Krościenko and Budomierz). Rescuers were providing medical and humanitarian aid.

At medical points, rescuers worked over 12 000 man-hours and provided assistance to over 8 500 people.

At the same time, in larger cities in Poland Rescue Teams supported the functioning of temporary shelters, as well as transportation of migrants in the move across the country, i.e.: there were information points at railway stations in Kielce and Kraków where rescuers were on duty 24/7.

In Lublin, Humanitarian Aid Center was established. It coordinates distribution of food and non-food items, transports of items in Poland and to Ukraine, in a close collaboration with Ukrainian Red Cross. These activities are supported by Humanitarian Aid Group of the PRC.

In Przemyśl, based on the agreement with the local authorities, the PRC runs Humanitarian Aid Center for migrants who can stay there for two days while traveling to their final destination. They receive food, clothes and can use other services available in the Center. Almost all regional Branches of the PRC run humanitarian aid points or support temporary shelter in cooperation with local authorities and other organizations.





Helpline

PRC, together with the IFRC and with the support of American Red Cross, launched helpline for migrants from Ukraine, so they can quickly and easily obtain information about support they can receive.

Over **10 080 calls** have been answered.
Average, helpline **handles 155 calls** per day.

Main topics are: financial support, restoring family links and relief aid.

PRC also launched information service for migrants, available in 4 languages (PL, UA, RU, EN), under the link www.napomocUkrainie.pck.pl, where people in need can find out what kind of help they can get in Poland.



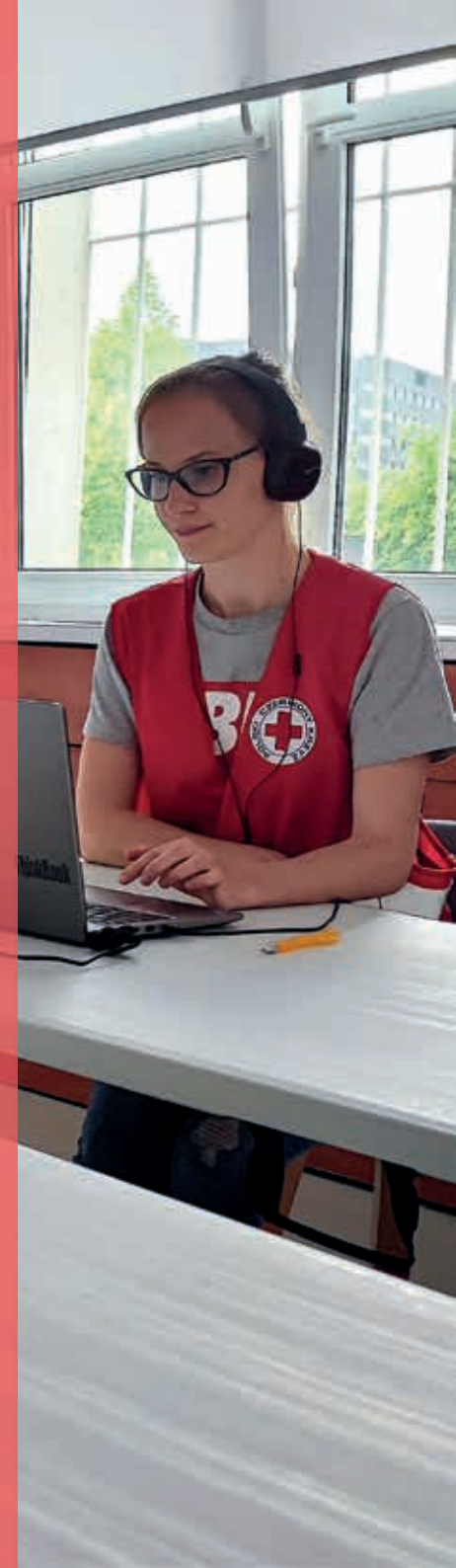
Free number for people calling
from a Polish number

+48 800 088 136



Free number for people calling
from a foreign number

+48 221 520 620





Financial support

Polish Red Cross, with the help of the IFRC, launched cash support in the form of pre-paid cards for beneficiaries. Migrants from Ukraine can rely on 4-month financial support which enable them to organize a safe place to live in Poland.

In Poland, since April 17 899 households have got financial support. In total, it is more than 100 000 000 PLN. So far, this program was directed to migrants staying in Warsaw and Mazovian region, Łódź and Bydgoszcz. In October it is also launched in Kielce.

Cash and vouchers are one of the way to provide help to the most affected population. It is a quick and dignified way enabling people to buy the most needed items in a short period of time. Therefore, the PRC supports local market and allows migrants to make their own decisions how to spend the money.

Additionally, thanks to funding from EEA from Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway the PRC handed over to migrants 45 000 Sodexo vouchers, with a total value of 4 500 000 PLN.

This initiative was done by District and Local Branches of the PRC in 9 regions: dolnośląskie, lubuskie, małopolskie, podkarpackie, podlaskie, śląskie, świętokrzyskie, warmińsko-mazurskie and wielkopolskie. Each of the families eligibled for the program received vouchers with the total amount of 500 PLN.

As a part of support for migrants, the PRC handed over 40 000 vouchers from KIK chain of stores, with a total amount of 4 000 000 PLN. People could buy clothes and household items.

„Poles are very generous. After all, finally we have place to sleep and something to eat.”

Irina together with her daughter Anastasia are one of the first women who received financial support from the PRC and IFRC.



Restoring Family Links

PRC has employees and volunteers trained in searching for relatives and family reunification.

During the first weeks of the conflict, PRC volunteers were present at the border crossing-points, enabling migrants to contact their families who stayed in Ukraine.

PRC searches for missing people, with whom their loved ones lost contacts. Searching for military personnel constitutes the largest number of inquiries. Among them, there are requests about those who are probably in captivity. Currently, PRC is also searching for arrested civilians whose arrest reasons are not clear but families have no contact with them. Cases of the graves' location of those who have been killed are noticed, too.

From the very beginning of an armed conflict in Ukraine, activities of the Tracing Office in Poland are supported by the ICRC.



350 cases were submitted to the Tracing Office of the Polish Red Cross. 5 people have been found.

Humanitarian aid transports for Ukraine

One of the humanitarian aid forms the PRC has been providing since the beginning of the conflict are humanitarian convoys to Ukraine.

Ukrainian Red Cross is the main partner who knows the current needs, relocates and distributes the PRC's delivery. There are mainly: food (including for children), water, medical kits (first aid kits, special bandages), hygiene kits, blankets and sleeping bags, as well as professional medical equipment for hospitals.

PRC's transports went to Kharkiv, Zhytomyr, Kiev, Zaporizhzhya, Poltava, Mykolayiv,

Borodyans'kyy, Okhtyrs'kyy, and also after their liberation to citizens of Bucha and Irpin.

In order to support humanitarian aid operation, PRC expanded its logistic infrastructure to ensure regular transports to Ukraine and effective distribution of relief items in Poland.

In the peak of operation the PRC had 16 multi-functional warehouses with a total area of 25 000 sq m. and 67 additional warehouses.



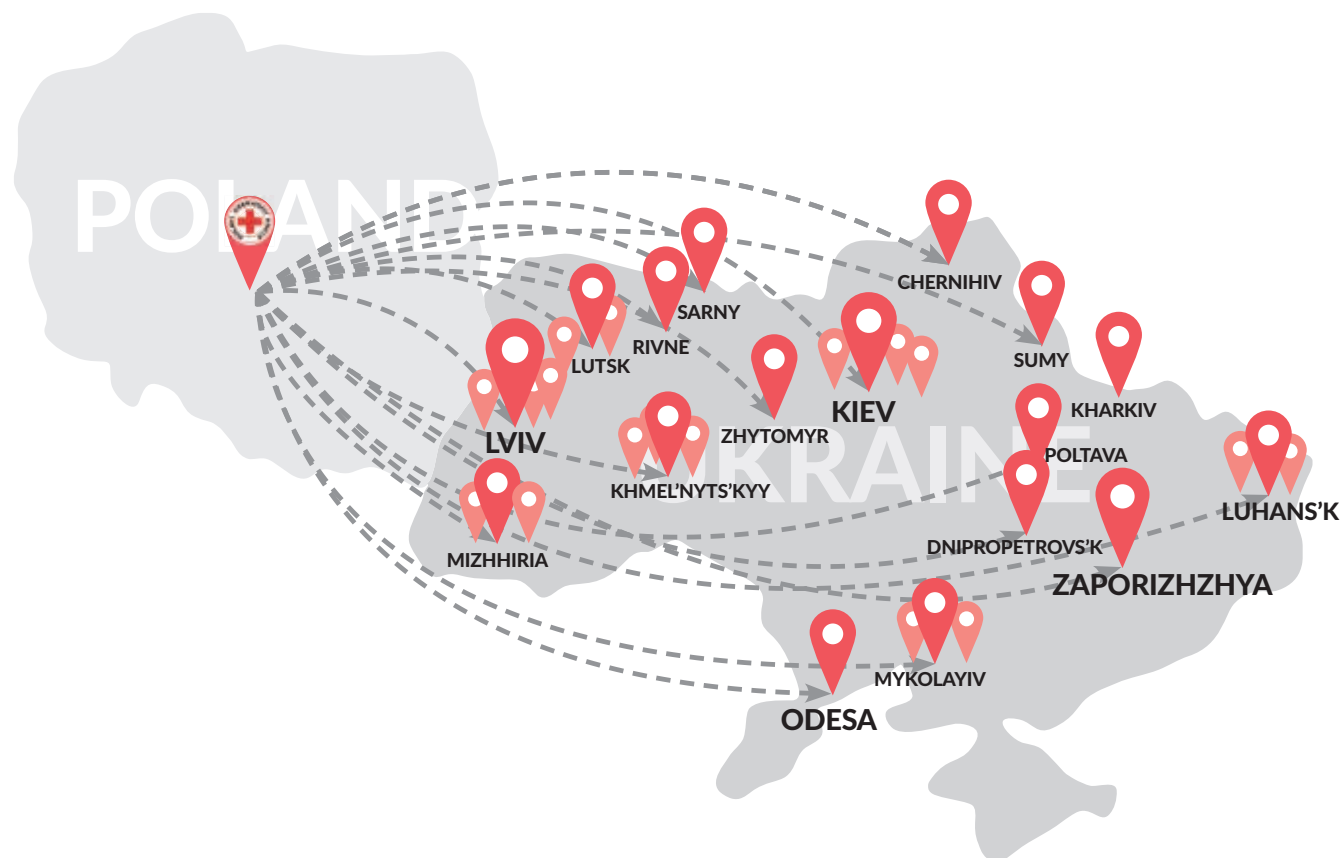
Thanks to cooperation with business partners Polish Red Cross sent over 600 transports to Ukraine, which is about 5 220 tons of humanitarian aid.



Countries from which PRC received humanitarian aid to transport it to Ukraine:

- ⊙ Andorra
- ⊙ Belgium
- ⊙ Canada
- ⊙ Croatia
- ⊙ Denmark
- ⊙ Estonia
- ⊙ Finland
- ⊙ France
- ⊙ Germany
- ⊙ Italy
- ⊙ Kuwait
- ⊙ Netherlands
- ⊙ Norway
- ⊙ Portugal
- ⊙ Spain
- ⊙ South Korea
- ⊙ Switzerland
- ⊙ United Arab Emirates
- ⊙ United Kingdom
- ⊙ United States of America

Locations in Ukraine where humanitarian aid from the PRC was directed:



2.

HEALTH

Polish Red Cross does activities aimed at medical and psychological support.

PRC joined a group of non-governmental donors' project **Health4Ukraine**.

The contribution of the PRC is **3 500 000 PLN** which enabled to distribute **7 000 electronic codes, 500 PLN each**, to be used in 2022 for shopping in all pharmacies in Poland. These codes can be used for prescribed and non-prescribed medicines, including hygienic products and modified milk for children.



Medical transports

One of the tasks done by the PRC' Rescue Teams was to support medical evacuations of patients suffering from cancer. It was carried out in cooperation with central government and local governments, as well as other rescue services. Rescuers from Kielce supported transports of little patients from Ukrainian hospitals six times. They came to Kielce by special sanitary trains.



... The story of Valentyna and Oksana

Ms. Valentyna and Ms. Oksana are the two foster families for 17 children aged 3-17. Most children are disabled, including mental disabilities. When an armed conflict started, they dressed the children up in the warmest clothes and moved towards Germany, where Ms. Oksana's daughter lives. They had only a bottle of water and a bag with a few loaves of bread with them. Soon after crossing the Ukrainian-Polish border they stopped at a roadside inn to rest for a night. Unfortunately, like all facilities of this type at that time, this one was also overcrowded, so there was no possibility to accommodate such a big group. The owner of the inn suggested his single-family house in Lublin. They live in this house until now without any payment.

PRC in Lublin have taken care of these families. The house has been equipped in furniture and necessary household items: desks, wardrobes, plastic boxes for storing clothes, bookcase and lamps. Although several months have passed since that event, PRC has been in touch with Ms. Valentyna, Ms. Oksana and the children. Families are invited to integration events. The children participated in a summer camp and received school equipment. PRC volunteers make sure of their well-being therefore the children and their mums are very grateful for the support.

... The story of Ulitenko family

Ulitenko family came to the PRC Center in Mszana Dolna at the beginning of March. Unfortunately, a month later Mr. Ulitenko got a stroke and was hospitalized staying in a very serious health condition. After a hospital treatment, he came back to the PRC where his wife and mother-in-law were taking care of him. In order to help the family, District Branch of the Polish Red Cross in Małopolska provided a special rehabilitation bed, covered the costs of medicines, special hygiene products and the physiotherapy. Thanks to medical help and the one offered to the family, Mr. Oleksandr has been recovering although still needs to be supported in everyday activities.

3.

INTEGRATION

Polish Red Cross, monitoring current needs of migrants, launched projects supported their integration into local communities.

PRC organizes meeting places, various workshops and trainings to integrate Ukrainian migrants with Poles. **So far, over 100 000 people have taken part in integration programmes.**

Children from Ukraine participate in classes in integration clubs. **Almost 2 000 of them were on summer camps or participated in Polish classes** during summer season, and in September they got school items.

This year the PRC prepared 87 000 school backpacks with school items, over 60 % of which were handed over to children from Ukraine.



Among the people in need from Ukraine 90 % are women, who are looking for a job to ensure stable living conditions for their families.

PRC supports migrants organizing vocational courses and Polish classes.

It develops professional qualifications and skills of migrants, i.a.: in Kraków, on so called „Red Cross sister” training, which allows to work in the future as a carer of elderly people.



The story of Natalia

Natalia is mother who came to Poland with her baby. Her husband has been fighting at the front. Natalia was travelling hundreds of kilometers to escape the falling bombs to protect her child and herself. Wielkopolski Branch of the PRC gave her necessary child care products, including diapers, as well as a stroller. Natalia is very brave and, while waiting for her husband, she tries to cope on her own.



„I love the atmosphere and the spirit of the Red Cross. They help everyone and this is what I also want to do. When I came to Poland, immediately I realized I cannot just stay at my friend's apartment, I also have to help”.

Daria



The story of Daria

Daria is 24 years old and is an Ukrainian migrant who became a volunteer in the Polish Red Cross. She speaks Ukrainian, Polish and English, supports interpretations, as well as helps in packing and distributing relief aid. She fled the city of Dnieper in Ukraine shortly after the outbreak of an armed conflict.

We look into the future and develop long-term projects

We do not know how long an armed conflict in Ukraine will last and what new needs will arise in the near or distant future. What is certain is that this protracted crisis will cause effects felt over the years. This situation requires from humanitarian organizations, states, as well as donors to support the suffering people for days, months and years.

The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine has shown how important are local actions based on experience and knowledge of people involved in helping the others.

Thanks to the fact that the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement acts globally and locally, it can efficiently and quickly respond to the current needs of people affected in different crisis.

PRC is preparing activities related to the expected next wave of migrants and winter season, for both people from Ukraine and Poles. It will continue long-term integration projects enabling people to become more independent.

Polish Red Cross will be continuing its activities for affected population in an armed conflict in Ukraine in coming days, months, years.

Thanks to generosity of the donors, as well as the work of hundreds of volunteers and employees, the PRC will be there wherever is needed.

**Thank you
that you help
us to help!**

#napomocUkrainie





#napomocUkrainie

www.pck.pl