THE RESPONSE
OF THE ITALIAN RED CROSS
JULY 31ST 2022
Index

1. The emergency context and the humanitarian role of the Red Cross Movement
2. Funds raised, goods collected and use of donations
3. Field operations, assistance and shelter programs
4. The essential commitment of volunteers in Italy and abroad
The emergency context and the humanitarian role of the Red Cross Movement

On February 24th a large-scale military intervention began in Ukraine, where due to a rapid and violent escalation of hostilities between the parties, one of the worst humanitarian crises since the last post-war period is being recorded. Despite the difficulties of having evidence of the real numbers, OCHA has so far counted - net of armed forces and civilians who have enlisted - 5,237 civilian deaths, including 348 children, and 7,035 wounded, although the actual number is most likely much higher.

Fighting has intensified in the last few weeks, particularly in the eastern parts of the country, despite on the diplomatic side the parties recently signed agreements aimed at reopening port facilities to resume grain exports.

From a military point of view, some international bodies denounce a repeated violation of international humanitarian law: since the beginning of the conflict, 414 healthcare facilities and 2,188 school buildings have been hit of heavy military incursions. Houses, schools, hospitals and other strategical infrastructures have been destroyed, as further vital services. Many of those remaining are the elderly and vulnerable, including people with chronic diseases who do not have access to their care.

Due to the conflict, there has been an unprecedented exodus of the population: according to UNHCR, more than 9.9 million refugees have crossed the borders from Ukraine looking for safety (mainly directed to Poland, Russian Federation and Hungary). Internally, according to the IOM, there are more than 6.2 million internally displaced: people who have lost the use and possession of their homes (continuously decreasing statistic since last April). Within this framework, the Italian Ministry of the Interior stated 150,791 refugees who have been received in Italy and, of these, around 84% are women and children.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement guided by its Seven Fundamental Principles was immediately activated to provide assistance to the affected population. In fact, the specific mandates of the organizations that compose it make the Movement one of the few entities qualified to access and intervene in the territory of operations: up to July 31th, 36 National Societies are involved in supporting the emergency response and 302 operators are deployed on the ground of operations and coordinated by the IFRC / ICRC. Overall, more than 4.5 million people have been reached by the action of the Movement and the intervention of more than 106,000 Volunteers involved in operations (e.g. distribution of essential goods, psychosocial activities, etc.).

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has launched an emergency appeal with which 282.9 million Swiss francs have been collected in response to the crisis. The role of the Federation - according to its specific mandate - focuses mainly on coordinating the action of the National Societies and facilitating their interventions in relation to emerging needs, in order to ensure an overall response as synergistic as possible. So far, there is a financial support program in place for the distribution of monetary vouchers amounting to more than 17 million Swiss francs, the shelters set up of temporary housing for more than 165,000 people, and the installation of 362 humanitarian access points for displaced and refugees.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which has been present in Ukraine since 2014, is currently particularly focused in facilitating the activation of humanitarian corridors, through constant dialogue with the parties, and in promoting the application of international humanitarian law. ICRC’s staff members are, in fact, active on the front lines for civilian evacuation operations, humanitarian aid distribution and family reunification activities. Over the past month, ICRC has reported circumstances of violations of the principles set by the Geneva Conventions, such as attacks on facilities housing prisoners of war in Olenivka.

Throughout the country, the Ukrainian Red Cross (URC) was immediately mobilized to intervene immediately activating its volunteers. From the beginning of the conflict to July 14th, the URC reported almost 5.5 million people reached, more than 220,000 people assisted during evacuation operations and delivered 19,815 tons of food aid delivered.
2- Funds raised, goods collected and use of donations

The **Italian Red Cross** (ItRC), in response to the immense generosity and solidarity shown by the citizenship, since the end of February 2022 has activated official channels to collect funds and goods to be allocated to the emergency in Ukraine, underlining the importance of a coordinated fundraising that allows to intervene in a targeted way in response to the needs expressed by the Ukrainian population. In this regard, the main donation channels put in place are the national campaign in collaboration with UNHCR and UNICEF, the official fundraising of the ItRC and corporate fundraising activities, which involves organizations and companies.

Until 31st July, 86.5% of the donations recorded by the ItRC were *cash*, made by organisations and individuals, while the remaining 13.5% refers to the donations of goods (*in-kind*) which are delivered to Ukraine through the continue dispatch of humanitarian convoys. As for *cash* donations made by organisations and individuals, 51.6% of them relates to the official fundraising channels activated by ItRC, while the remaining 48.4% refers to the support granted by companies and organisations through corporate donations. The following table shows the incoming money flows trend:

![Money Flows Trend Graph](image)

**44.6% FROM FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**

**41.9% OF CORPORATE DONATIONS (CASH)**

**13.5% OF IN-KIND DONATIONS (GOODS)**

Thanks to the collaboration of several companies willing to support the initiatives promoted by the ItRC, 1,164 pallets of goods have been received in donation by ItRC. Of these, more than 90% have already been delivered to Ukraine through the organized humanitarian convoys: in fact, from the receipt of the goods to their dispatch it takes an average of 8 days (including 4 days of travel). It was decided to collect only priority goods (medicines, food, clothing, pet food, etc.). All the goods are collected in the ItRC logistics hubs of storage and distributed based on a needs assessment, carried out by the Ukrainian Red Cross and the ItRC.

The chart above shows the type of donations of goods received by the ItRC since 31st July.

All donations related to the emergency in Ukraine are being used by the Association to support the emergency response activities described in the following pages. As of 31st July, 80% of the donations received have already been allocated to the above activities: the percentage allocation of funds by geographical area of intervention is represented graphically below:

![Geographical Allocation Graph](image)

**THE ITALIAN RED CROSS’S RESPONSE IN UKRAINE** 77.4%

**THE SUPPORT EFFORTS IN NEIGHBORING AREAS** 12.4%

**THE RESPONSE STRATEGY IN ITALY** 10.2%
Field operations, assistance and shelter programs

The Italian Red Cross has promptly mobilized in order to support the population affected by the conflict and has activated its National Crisis Unit to coordinate all the necessary measures and to ensure a continuous humanitarian bridge. The programs and operations are structured based on the specificities, needs and requirements that emerged from the assessments conducted by the operators in the field and concern both the immediate response and the programmatic intervention in the medium/long term.

While the map below summarizes the contribution of the Italian Red Cross in the field of operations, the following pages illustrate the classification of the IRC’s efforts in emergency response according to a criterion of territoriality. The humanitarian activities represented are continually evolving and expanding and are carried out mainly through the donations received for the current emergency.
**Convoys for the humanitarian aids supply**

Until the end of July, there were 32 international operations for the delivery of humanitarian aid. A total of 230 ItRC operators were activated by the National Operations Room, who - with the dispatch of 113 vehicles deployed in mobile columns - delivered a total of 989.3 tons of humanitarian goods to the Red Cross of Ukraine (especially medicines, clothing and food). Although most of the delivered goods came from donations granted, some instrumental resources of extreme necessity were purchased (often on-site), such as electric generators, self-heating meals and hygienic material.

**Operations of civilian’s evacuation**

So far, the ItRC has evacuated 240 fragile persons, suffering from physical and mental diseases, gathered by the Red Cross of Ukraine. The ItRC has managed 3 international evacuation operations, involving 204 operators and 68 vehicles. Through the Italian systems of assistance and civil protection, the refugees were transferred to protected facilities, including some ItRC’s shelters. Furthermore, according to the Municipality of Roma, CRI managed the transportation of 36 children from Lviv (round-trip) who were part of a summer social project.

**Deployment of Mobile Health Units**

Since the month of July, the ItRC has been working to develop a system of mobile health clinics (MHUs) and access to primary care in Vinnytsia and Zhytomyr Oblasts, following the Ukrainian Red Cross’ at national and local guidelines. After an initial preparatory phase, the ItRC is currently transferring the necessary assets for the deployment of 20 multi-professional mobile health units formed by doctors, nurses and drivers, in order to deliver the necessary specialized health care services (including diagnostic screening interventions towards the population) over the most remote areas of the two Oblasts.

**Shelter assistance project for family units**

Following recent coordination meetings with the Ukrainian Red Cross, a long-term project aimed at the deployment and construction of 250-seat temporary housing modules (MAP) in the area north of Kiev (capable of housing around 100 families) has been concerted. The intervention is tailored to host and to take care of displaced persons or refugees returning to the country, if they do not have the possibility of being housed. The project will take place in Černihiv (on the border with Belarus) and equipment transfer is ongoing to start logistical operations.

**Strengthening the response capacity of the Ukrainian Red Cross Society**

In this context, it is essential to support those who are engaged on the front line of operations. For this reason, the ItRC is providing for the procurement of some equipment and instrumental supplies to be destined to the Ukrainian Red Cross: 11 ambulances and 1 medical car have already been delivered. In addition, the ItRC is ensuring the contribution of its human resources: 2 Operation Managers, 2 Field Coordinators and 2 field experts are deployed in Kiev and Vinnytsia to support the URC and the structuring of a national operations room. Moreover, an intervention for the development of Emergency Relief Teams (ERTs) has been started in synergy with the Ukrainian Civil Defense as well as with the EU-funded project ‘PPRD East 3’.

**Contribution to the coordinated action of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**

The ItRC is responding to the IFRC’s emergency appeal in order to support the major humanitarian response operations carried out by the Ukrainian Red Cross and its Sister Societies in neighboring countries. Specifically, this initiative also contributes to strengthening the organizational development of the RRCC National Societies (such as Ukraine and Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Hungary) and enhancing their preparedness and response capabilities, in particular by improving volunteer management and technical knowledge.
Supporting the international humanitarian coordination and the European system of civil protection

In addition to first mentioned operations, the Italian Red Cross is also active in terms of international coordination in the humanitarian field, in accordance with its role of auxiliary to public authorities and as a member of the International Red Cross Movement. For these reasons, 25 ItRC’ operators have been supporting the IFRC in Hungary, Poland, Romania and Ukraine. Furthermore, with the Italian Department of Civil Protection, the ItRC delivered 200 tents to Prochowice (Poland), equipped to accommodate 1,000 people, while other 41 ItRC’ operators have been deployed for monitoring the migration flow (Przemysl and Ugodzica) for MedEvac operations (urgent medical transport of Ukrainian patients) in Rzeszow and for logistical support to IFRC (trucking and warehouse management).

Advanced operational hub in Romania (FOB)

More than two months ago, the ItRC completed the deployment of a logistics hub in the city of Suceava - on the Ukrainian border. This includes the establishment of a consolidation warehouse for the goods storage (with a capacity of about 700 pallets of goods, equivalent to over 20 trucks), an operational coordination center, staff training activities, accommodation and food services for 12 operators. So far, 40 ItRC’ operators have been activated at the hub, which is part of the cooperation between ItRC and the Romanian Red Cross as well as an interchange point with the operating RRCC National Societies and local authorities.

Supporting the Red Cross National Societies in neighboring areas

The ItRC (as a member of its international network) decided to support the RRCC Movement’s intervention in Romania and Hungary following some assessments with National Societies operating in these countries. Such support will focus on logistics capacity building and organizational development; in addition, a new ItRC’ delegation in Chisinau (Moldova) has just been opened in mid-June to support the Red Cross in the field of volunteering management in emergency situations.

Pilot program of sheltering vulnerable people escaped from Ukraine

Part of the funds raised are destined to the creation of equipped spaces to welcome and assist arriving refugees in the Italian territory, to respond to their basic needs and to create individual intervention plans aimed at guaranteeing adequate social-health assistance or educational activities, school, social and work integration. The first activities are taking place in the ItRC’ Centers “T. Fenoglio” in Settimo Torinese, “Villa Besler” in Levico (Trento) and “CODAM” in Marina di Massa (Tuscany) which implemented programmes for 120 people with physical and cognitive disabilities, evacuated by the ItRC and coming from the Ukrainian region of Donbass.

Work and social inclusion project for Ukrainian citizens

The Italian Red Cross will soon start a path of placement - or reintegration - into the job market for at least 100 people who, due to the conflict, fled from Ukraine and as of today are living in Italy. The initiative will involve 5 ItRC’ Local Branches that will plan and implement training activities, alphabetization programs, professionalizing courses, mentoring activities and liaison with companies.

The ItRC’ national response plan

Besides the operations, the ItRC has immediately activated the following support services: (i) the ItRC’ National Response Center (first-entry channel), which has registered over 6,000 contacts; (ii) a specialized support channel managed by migration experts (with over 1,000 requests, mainly from private parties); (iii) a psychological first aid telephone service, available in two languages and free of charge; (iv) the RFL (Restoring Family Links) service, in order to restore and maintain family contacts interrupted during the conflict, which took over 38 cases and involved 9 RFL’ Regional Offices.
4. The essential commitment of volunteers in Italy and abroad

One of the main strengths of the Italian Red Cross is its capillarity presence among the communities: in this emergency context, the contribution of the volunteers is essential. To date July 31st, 624 ItRC Volunteers have responded to the call of the National Operations Room giving their availability to be employed in emergency operations related to the crisis in Ukraine: 396 ItRC Volunteers belonging to this cluster have already been activated in missions in Italy and abroad. The chart below shows the professional qualifications and specializations of the volunteers involved in the operations.

Moreover, on March 10th, the ItRC reactivated its temporary volunteer program, thus allowing anyone who wishes to join and who meets certain essential requirements, to acquire the status of volunteer for a limited time and for specific purposes in support of the intervention of the Italian Red Cross. So far, 1,197 temporary volunteers have become available: a strong adhesion was recorded in the Regions of Lombardy, Lazio, Piedmont and Tuscany. They are mainly interpreters, nurses, surgeons and psychologists.

Since the arrival of the first displaced persons, the Italian Red Cross has increasingly involved its assistance activities, guaranteeing an effective and efficient response: so far, 141 ItRC Local Branches have been involved in delivering services and activities related to the emergency in Ukraine.

The chart beside describes the mapping of interventions with the territorial incidence of the most active ItRC Local Branches (darker colour).

Until July 31st, considerable volunteer services have been carried out in the areas of health care, people transfer and first arrival hubs. Below there is the graphic representation indicating the kind of services carried out by the ItRC Local Branches throughout the Italian country.
The Italian Red Cross would like to thank all the people, organizations, companies and those who are showing great generosity by supporting the activities of the Association in response to the emergency in Ukraine. Such participation is essential in order to ensure a continuous humanitarian relief bridge and to contribute to alleviate the suffering of people affected by the conflict.

Dona.cri.it/emergenzaucraina

Ukraine Emergency