

A photograph of a woman with brown hair, wearing a blue and white patterned top, holding a young child with light brown hair. The child is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt with a cartoon character and blue pants. To the right of the woman stands a teenage boy with short brown hair, wearing a black t-shirt with 'Cam Sport' and 'FASHION SPORT WEAR' printed on it. They are standing outdoors in a garden with green foliage and trees in the background.

International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Ukraine

The war in Ukraine has affected the lives of millions of people, driving 10 million out of their homes, and creating unprecedented humanitarian needs inside the country. To date, 14.6 million people need urgent humanitarian assistance. The IRC has been present in Ukraine since February 2022, working hand in hand with local partners to provide vital support to conflict-affected people to help them survive, recover and regain control of their future.

WHO ARE WE?

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is an international humanitarian organization founded on Albert Einstein's call in 1933. The IRC's mission is to help people whose lives and livelihoods have been destroyed by conflict or natural disasters to survive, recover, and take control of their future. The IRC is currently working in more than 50 crisis-affected countries. The IRC has been working in Europe since 2015, when it responded to the migration humanitarian crisis in Greece.

The IRC has been working in Ukraine since February 2022. Together with Ukrainian partners, we strive to best serve people affected by the war. The IRC works in Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Kherson, Zaporizhia, and Donetsk regions, supporting communities in both major cities and hard-to-reach rural areas closer to frontlines.

Together with our local partners, we distribute essential basic items, provide cash assistance to families in need, and ensure that children, vulnerable groups and people with special needs are protected. Our health activities include the provision of basic medical help to people in remote locations, the provision of psychological and mental health assistance and the rehabilitation and resupply of local hospitals and health facilities.

The IRC is continuing its efforts in Europe and the US to match the growing scale of needs. We have emergency programmes in Poland, and are also supporting Ukrainian refugees in Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Czechia, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Greece, and the UK.

WHAT DOES THE IRC DO IN UKRAINE?

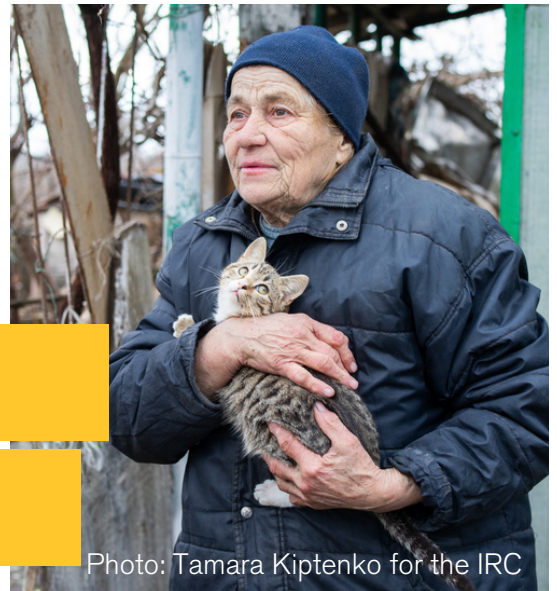


Photo: Tamara Kiptenko for the IRC



“There is nothing good in war. We experienced such things. Killing the elderly and children...I just want to live a little more in peace and harmony”, says Vira who lived in Kherson during the occupation and flooding. She received a gas stove and gas cylinder from the IRC for heating her home during the winter.

Cash

Cash is an effective emergency aid for Ukrainians to meet their basic needs with dignity and choice. The IRC is focusing on financially supporting people in the southern and eastern regions. In particular, most recently, people from Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Dnipro regions have received financial assistance.

Basic Needs

The IRC, together with our local partners, provides people with basic hygiene products, dignity kits for women and teenage girls, and psychosocial support kits for children. To help people survive cold winter months without heating and electricity, the IRC together with our partners has distributed power banks, blankets, sleeping bags and winter clothes. We have also installed solid-fuel stoves in remote areas and insulated homes damaged by fighting with wooden boards. Our winter response has focused in the eastern and southeastern regions, where due to constant shelling and extensive destruction, money transfers were suspended, ATMs often lacked cash, and shops remained empty or closed.

Health



Photo: Oleksandr Rupeta for the IRC

Valentyna, 67, a patient of IRC Mobile Medical Unit, during an appointment with Dr. Oleg

The IRC provides mobile clinic consultations and distributes essential medicines to people living in remote settlements of the Kharkiv region. Also, our local partners support affected people with medical assistance. Together, our teams help more than 7,000 patients every month, striving to restore access to primary health care in the areas heavily affected by hostilities. The IRC also equips medical facilities in the southern and eastern regions with lifesaving medical items, equipment and pharmaceuticals, and one local partner helped restore nine hospitals in the eastern and southeast parts of Ukraine where the fighting is currently the heaviest and where the level of needs is greatest.

Protection

The IRC's protection programmes include protection monitoring, case management for children and adults most at risk, psychosocial support services and GBV survivor care, targeting all conflict-affected people – those displaced from their homes, those living close to front lines, and host communities. Together with our local partner we provide the most affected communities with mine risk education sessions. In Safe Healing and Learning Spaces, children learn to be children again. Also, we provide other child protection activities like primarily Psychosocial Support with our partners.

Our women's center in Dnipro provides displaced women with a sense of community and a space where they can learn new skills. We also offer parenting sessions to displaced families. Our partners focus on individual counseling and GBV prevention sessions. The IRC's Protection and Rule of Law team provides legal advice and information sessions for people who have lost their documents or who need help accessing services. Free services are provided in person and through a hotline.



IRC is the first humanitarian organization that works with kids in the Novyi Burluk village, Kharkiv region. The village's House of Culture and school were destroyed. All fields and forests are mined. Therefore, kids don't have a place where to gather and socialize with each other.

Photo: Oleksandr Rupeta for the IRC

Our partners

The IRC collaborates with numerous partners in Ukraine, including local charitable and volunteer organizations. Together, we strive to provide support to the populations in the most severely affected and inaccessible areas. We work with **Ukrainian Deminers Association, Right To Protection, Peaceful Sky of Kharkiv, East-SOS, Stellar Ukraine, Martin Club, Green-Landiya, I AM KHERSON, Faith Hope Love, Pomogaem, and Foundation Unity for the Future.**

All IRC services are free of charge



"Our team has touched the lives of over 530,000 clients through psychosocial support sessions, women's centers, and medical check-ups from our mobile units. Over 190,000 individuals in distress have received shelter kits, including materials for household repairs, gas stoves, cylinders, blankets, and essential hygiene items. Additionally, we've facilitated cash assistance for 130,000 clients, empowering them to address pressing needs such as bills, clothing for their children, and other necessities. The needs of Ukrainian communities affected by the full scale invasion remain substantial, and our dedicated teams and partners on the ground continue to provide vital assistance to those living near the frontlines," shared Scott Lea, the IRC's Country Director in Ukraine




Photo: Jack Hewson for the IRC

Art class at the IRC Women Protection and Empowerment center in Dnipro. For many of the participants this is the first time in their lives they took up art as a hobby. It gives a chance to step out of the stress of war.

For any questions about IRC assistance in Ukraine, please contact our country team at:

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