

DRC

UHF
Ukrainian
Humanitarian
Fund



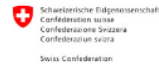
Ole Kirk's Fond



Sweden
Sverige



novo
nordisk
fonden



Newsletter: January 2023 | [View this email in your browser](#)



©DRC Ukraine, 2022, Chernihiv Oblast.

I applied for the job of Emergency Programme Manager for DRC Ukraine in the days right after the conflict erupted on 24 February 2022. Having been in Ukraine before, and with the experiences I had accumulated in previous jobs, it made a lot of sense for me to be part of the emergency response and to support and be part of the team. Everything was uncertain and evolving rapidly and it was impossible to foresee or imagine what the next months would look like. Now, it is sadly nearly one year ago with massive displacement, suffering and loss among Ukrainians – and at the same time, I am amazed by witnessing the human capacity, and ability to adjust and cope and I admire the growth I have been able to witness, and to the best of my abilities, also help.

Ukraine in many ways has a solid foundation to mobilise and master an efficient humanitarian response at an extremely difficult time: qualified and motivated staff, an

active and progressive civil society, funding and engaged donors, functional markets, strong administrative systems, and an overall challenging context.

I am grateful for having been able to be with our teams throughout 2022 and remain committed to supporting DRC Ukraine's Emergency Response.

Bárbara Scoralick Villela
Emergency Programme Manager
DRC Ukraine



Protection



©DRC Ukraine, January 2022, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.

In April 2022, a missile hit Yurii's house in Luhansk Oblast and his family was evacuated by local authorities. Volunteers helped them get to Zhovti Vody, Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, and find a house where they could stay, only paying for the utility bills.

Due to the shelling, Yurii's hearing and health deteriorated. He could also not find a job being in a new town. He was examined by a doctor who prescribed buying a special hearing aid device that the family could not afford. DRC covered the costs of the device, an additional visit to the audiologist, and the tickets to another town where such service was

available.

A week later, when DRC visited the family again, Yurii was in a better mood and could take an active part in conversations. “It’s a remarkable support. I’m truly grateful that you helped me restore my ability to hear,” he said.

The support to Yurii was provided by DRC through funding from the European Union through its Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.

By Vadym Ivanov, DRC Protection Assistant, Dnipro



Protection: Legal Assistance



©DRC Ukraine, December 2022, Chernihiv Oblast.

A Bank tried to illegally evict Denis, Anna and their son from their apartment in Chernihiv Oblast due to debt. Oleksandr, a lawyer from the local NGO Mart, a partner of the DRC, helped to deal with the situation.

The lawyer collected documents that confirmed that each of the family members does not own or use any other residential premises. Then he prepared a written response to the bank's lawsuit.

The main emphasis was made on the fact that the family's apartment was not purchased with bank loans, therefore, according to the Housing Code of Ukraine, in the event of an eviction, the family must be provided with another home.

The court in Chernihiv also decided that there are no grounds for eviction if the bank does not provide the family with other housing. Eventually, the bank's claim was not satisfied.

"I advise you never to despair, even when, at first glance, the circumstances in the case did not turn out in your favour. It is better to use the help of a legal specialist who can look at the case from the other perspective," says Oleksandr.

The legal aid was provided thanks to the financial support of the European Union through its Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.

By NGO Mart, Chernihiv



Capacity Building



©DRC Ukraine, December 2022, Zakarpattia Oblast.

Five mobile teams of mediators and psychologists completed their work in western Ukraine. From June to December 2022, they operated in more than 30 shelters for internally displaced persons (IDPs), helping more than 4000 people and running over 1700 activities.

The teams provided IDPs and host communities with conflict-related and psychological counselling, including mediation, art therapy, awareness-raising sessions, and social and legal consultations. We received lots of positive feedback mentioning the activities as timely and in demand.

"We finally felt that we could support each other," said Maryana during the mediation session. Her family left home in Mykolaiv Oblast due to hostilities and their relationship worsened. "Thanks to the mediator's work, the couple frankly discussed their problems for the first time since after February 24, 2022. The mediator helped to create the safe space for such communication," a mobile team member highlighted.

Considering existing tensions between IDPs and host communities, mobile teams' interventions are vital and advisable as they contribute to social cohesion and conflict prevention in communities affected by the war and migration flows. The lessons learnt from the mobile teams' work were summarised in an analytical paper and discussed during an online meeting with the Ukrainian peacebuilding community to improve emergency response to the crisis.

By Yuliia Demchuk, DRC Project Peacebuilding Coordinator, Kyiv



Economic Recovery



©DRC Ukraine, November 2022, Lviv.

Prior to 24 February 2022, the Rubizhne Hosiery Manufacturer was one of the largest in Ukraine. Having production in eastern Ukraine, the company produced not only socks but also women's and children's tights, gaiters, etc. In total, there were more than 200 types of products. However, due to hostilities, production stopped.

"One of the most difficult challenges was related to deciding whether to start everything from scratch as we could not rescue machines, equipment or materials. But international funds and partners helped restore the operation of the enterprise in western Ukraine," says Olga, Commercial Director of Rubizhne Hosiery Manufacturer.

With funding from the governments of Switzerland and the United Kingdom, DRC was among the organisations that helped the production to start up again. Step by step, the company plans to become self-sufficient, having established work in several shifts. Previous business customers are ready to load production with orders at 100%. The company plans to restore a full range of its three brands and promote a new brand of sports socks.

By Volodymyr Malynka, DRC Communications Officer, Kyiv



Humanitarian Disarmament & Peacebuilding



©DRC Ukraine, November 2022, Kyiv.

DRC is committed to investment in the localisation and capacity building of national organisations engaged in Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA). This is an important pathway towards enhancing outreach as well as one of the eventual exit strategies for international organisations such as DRC.

Thus far, DRC has trained five Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) through a series of three-day-long Training of Trainers (TOT). During the TOT, the participants learnt about the explosive ordnance contamination in Ukraine and its impacts. They were also introduced to the field of HMA, International Mine Action Standards, behavioural change, the pedagogy of providing EORE to children, adolescents, and adults, as well as data collection and reporting.

The trained organisations operate in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast and across western Ukraine, mainly targeting children and adolescents. While adults are the most at risk from accidents with explosive ordnance, the children of today are the adults of tomorrow. That is why DRC's EORE strategy in Ukraine continues to be generational. Since the successful completion of the training, the five NGOs have already reached 7,686 people with EORE sessions. These activities are possible thanks to the funding of the European Union through its Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.

By Nick Vovk, DRC Humanitarian Disarmament and Peacebuilding Programme Manager, Kyiv

