

DRC

UHF Ukraine Humanitarian Fund

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF ROMANIA

Sweden Sverige

MINISTÈRE DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

THE HOWARD G. BUFFETT FOUNDATION

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

співпраця з НЕМІСЬЧИНОЮ

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft Confédération suisse Confederazione Svizzera Confederaziun svizra Swiss Confederation

UKaid

United States of America
Funded by the American people

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Funded by the European Union

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Newsletter: DRC Ukraine August 2023 | [View this email in your browser](#)



©DRC Ukraine, Sumy, August 2023

A strong, well-supported and community-based humanitarian response is critical in times of crises. And being a part of a humanitarian society is a commitment and an honour – and equally important to acknowledge that it requires courage, resilience, and compassion. We serve as beacons of hope and help in times of conflict, providing essential and tangible aid, as well as psychosocial support and advocacy for those who suffer. Selfless dedication and unwavering commitment make a profound difference in the lives of people affected by the war in Ukraine. As humanitarian workers, we face numerous challenges in navigating conflict zones, often working in dangerous and volatile environments, risking our safety to provide aid and support. We witness first-hand the devastating consequences of conflicts, including displacement, loss of loved ones, and the destruction of communities.

On World Humanitarian Day, I want to wish all of us strength and resilience as we navigate the challenges and complexities to help people in need. Let us continue to find motivation and inspiration in the lives we touch and the positive impact we are luckily able to make on communities around the world.

May our voices be heard as we advocate for the rights and well-being of the most vulnerable populations. Thank you all for your unwavering commitment to humanity

Roman Kyt
Base Manager, Sumy
DRC Ukraine



Protection



©DRC Ukraine, Zaporizhzhia, July 2023.

Viktor*, a twice-displaced man originally from Crimea, was forced to leave his home, losing everything that was dear to him. Now, he lives in Zaporizhzhia and has to begin his life anew.

Having lost his job at a steel production facility due to the impacts of the war, Viktor was unable to provide for himself, and his health deteriorated due to stress and uncertainty. Unfortunately, due to eyesight issues, he could not find a new job for a long time.

DRC helped Viktor to purchase glasses and he regained not only eyesight but also hope. Soon, he was hired as a cabinet furniture assembler in Zaporizhzhia and has started

gaining a stable income. When DRC spoke to Victor again, we learnt he had met a woman, who herself was also once internally displaced. Now, they reside together and plan to create a family.

Thanks to funding from the European Union through its Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, DRC continues to provide timely and targeted Individual Protection Assistance to people in need.

**Names were changed for confidentiality purposes.*

By Vadym Ivanov,
DRC Ukraine Protection Officer
Dnipro



Protection: Legal Aid



©DRC Ukraine, Dnipro, July 2023.

An employer's obligation to ensure remuneration is unquestionable, but in Ihor's* case, the company neglected its duties both before and after February 2022.

Ihor is from Luhansk Oblast in eastern Ukraine but due to ongoing hostilities had to relocate to nearby Dnipro, where he approached DRC's Legal Aid Team. During the consultation, he told DRC lawyers that the company he worked for had always been paying wages with a lengthy delay, and in February 2022, this stopped entirely. Even though Ihor was standby to resume work and tried to communicate with his employer, the management offered nothing in return - but did not dismiss their staff either.

DRC lawyers provided practical assistance to help defend the labour rights of Ihor, as these remain fundamental rights also during internal displacement. The DRC Legal Aid team drafted inquiries, prepared a claim to the court, and explained the peculiarities of the court process so that Ihor could defend his rights without a legal representative.

The court satisfied Ihor's claims in full. The DRC lawyers also provided support to enforce the decision and in close cooperation with the state enforcement officer, the employer compulsorily complied with the decision. The company fully repaid the existing debt to Ihor in July 2023.

Funding from the European Union through its Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations made provision of free legal aid to those in need possible.

**Names were changed for confidentiality purposes.*

*By Oksana Chekmeniova,
DRC Ukraine Protection Officer,
Kyiv*



Protection: Capacity Building



©DRC Ukraine, Kyiv, August 2023.

To promote a community-led response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine and empower local actors, DRC's Capacity Building Programme work to enhance skills, knowledge, and systems for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) through national and international expertise, research, and equitable partnerships.

For one year - between July 2022 and June 2023 - DRC was engaged in building capacities of 12 CSOs. The project piloted Psychosocial Support (PSS) and Mentoring Support to CSO staff as well as provided training and workshops. Whilst PSS and Mentoring Services were considered unique opportunities to benefit from by the CSOs, they also participated in humanitarian-focused and general organisational development training and experience-sharing events.

“Individual and organisational support provided by the project was extremely helpful and of a good quality. It was great to receive such support from DRC as and rare among the projects we are involved in,” said the leader of one of the participating CSOs.

With the funding from the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF), DRC will continue to support CSOs in developing their response capacity focusing on operational and sector-specific skills to contribute to the localisation agenda and empower grass-roots level actors.

By Mariia Kuzmychova

DRC Ukraine Capacity Development Project Officer

Kyiv



Economic Recovery



©DRC Ukraine, Varivsk, Kyiv Oblast, August 2023.

Ivankiv Hromada in Kyiv Oblast was heavily affected by shelling during spring 2022. Many houses were destroyed, and hectares of land contaminated with mines and other explosive ordnance.

Vasyl* is one of the residents there. He currently lives in a small shed in the yard as his house was no longer inhabitable.

DRC provides comprehensive support to the local community in the area. Along with humanitarian mine action, residents are supported with grants to develop local economic activity.

“With a grant from DRC, Vasyl was able to buy a two-wheel tractor. First, he has already managed to collect firewood for the winter. And recently, Vasyl made a wagon out of scrap materials and bought a plough, so the tractor now also enables him to cultivate the land and make farming easier,” says Dmytro, DRC Economic Recovery Officer.

Thanks to funding from the European Union, DRC was able to provide grant support to more than 90 households in Ivankiv Hromada.

**Names were changed for confidentiality purposes.*

*By Anna Popsui,
DRC Ukraine Communications Assistant,
Kyiv*



Humanitarian Disarmament & Peacebuilding



©DRC Ukraine, Kyiv, August 2023.

On 11 August 2023, the third coordination roundtable "Providing Assistance to Victims of Explosive Ordnance (EO) in Ukraine" took place in Kyiv, convening representatives of

governmental departments, UN agencies, and various international and local non-governmental organisations, both in-person and online.

The main purpose was to delve into two prioritised matters concerning assistance to victims of Explosive Ordnance by the members of the Victim Assistance Working Group, co-chaired by DRC: Victim Assistance Service Directory and Victim Assistance Advocacy Campaign in the Mass Media.

The participants reached a common understanding that addressing these challenges requires joint efforts and a synchronised approach. A crucial step was the discussion on more effective data collection and its processing to better understand impact and scale of Explosive Ordnance/Mine Victim Assistance, aimed at a more cohesive methodology for the development of the Victim Assistance Service Directory. Furthermore, there was a collective commitment to formulate a strategy for the conception and advancement of an advocacy media campaign, aimed at the promotion and protection of EO victims' rights in Ukraine.

DRC and Handicap International – Humanity & Inclusion, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, made such an important event in the realm of humanitarian aid and cooperation possible.

*By Vitalina Burlaka,
DRC Ukraine Humanitarian Disarmament & Peacebuilding Project Officer,
Kyiv*

