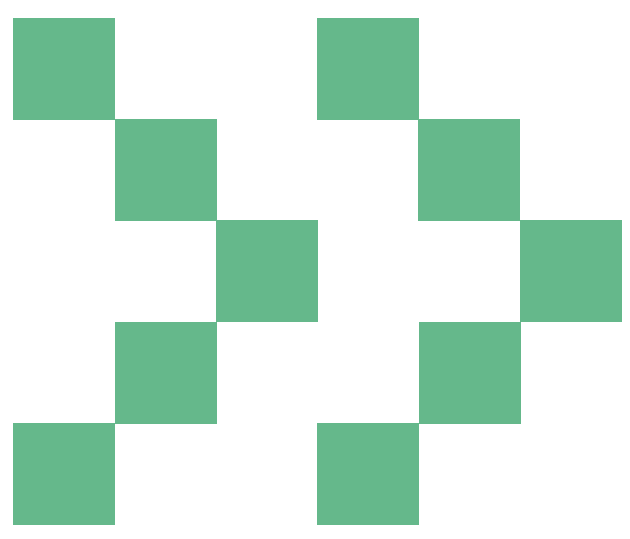


UKRAINE RAPID RESPONSE FUND

MARCH 16, 2023 – MARCH 16, 2024

YEAR TWO REPORT





Ukraine Rapid Response Fund

The Ukraine Rapid Response Fund (URRF) program was created to address immediate needs and enhance the resilience of Ukraine's government, civil society, and civilian population amidst Russia's full-scale invasion. The program started its work on March 16, 2022, and is **implemented by IREX with funding from the U.S. Department of State.**

On August 31, 2023, the URRF program was officially registered with the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as an international technical assistance program.

4 OBJECTIVES

01

Rapid response to the needs of civilian population, civil society, and government of Ukraine to mitigate the consequences of hostilities and increase resilience.

IREX provides support to the central and local government institutions, emergency response services, and NGOs to address the immediate needs of the civilian population created by war. For example, URRF equips IDP shelters with essential equipment, conducts training sessions on security in times of war for children and adults, provides psychological assistance to veterans, their families, and IDPs, and promotes access to information for persons with disabilities (PWD).

02

Enabling coordination between government, civil society, and external supporters for a more effective response to the challenges of war.

IREX intends to support the activities of working groups, composed of government and civil society representatives, to identify urgent needs and coordinate response.

03

Provision of safe, secure, and effective communication to mitigate the risks and consequences of work in conditions with unstable connection and a lack of Internet coverage.

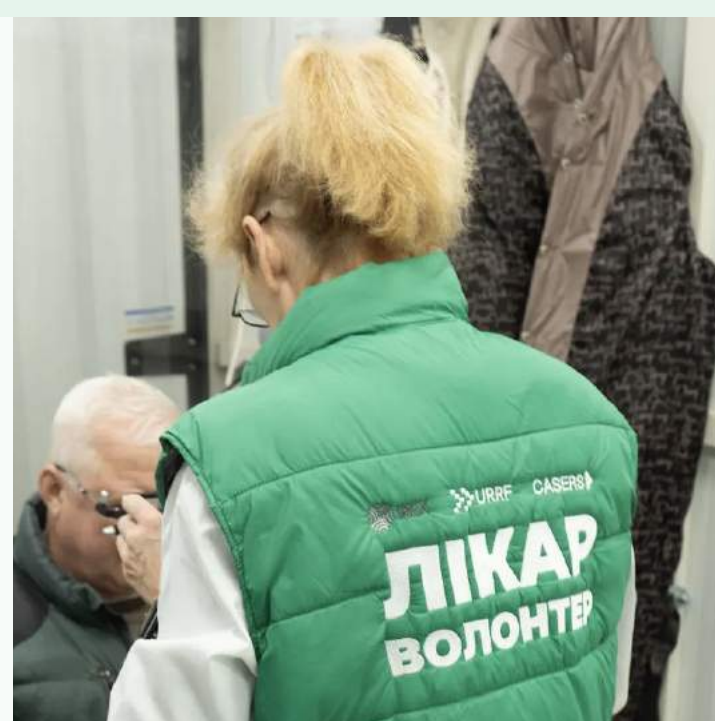
IREX provides dynamic assessments of safe communication requirements, establishes secure connection between key stakeholders, supplies necessary technical equipment, supports the activities of Ukraine's journalists, and conducts trainings on the basics of digital security.

04

Dissemination of conflict-related guidance to Ukrainian citizens.

The program establishes partnerships with media outlets to disseminate conflict-related guidance and information. Additionally, URRF helps local partners to end information blackouts in the frontline territories.

TWO YEARS OF URRF BY THE NUMBERS



26

Partnerships with government institutions established.



38

Non-governmental organizations supported.



225

Metric tons of non-consumable goods delivered to eight oblasts.

19,000+

People received skill-building trainings, psychological assistance, personal protective equipment, and technical assistance.

11,000,000+

People reached by information campaigns, and critical assistance.



SUPPORTING UKRAINE'S NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

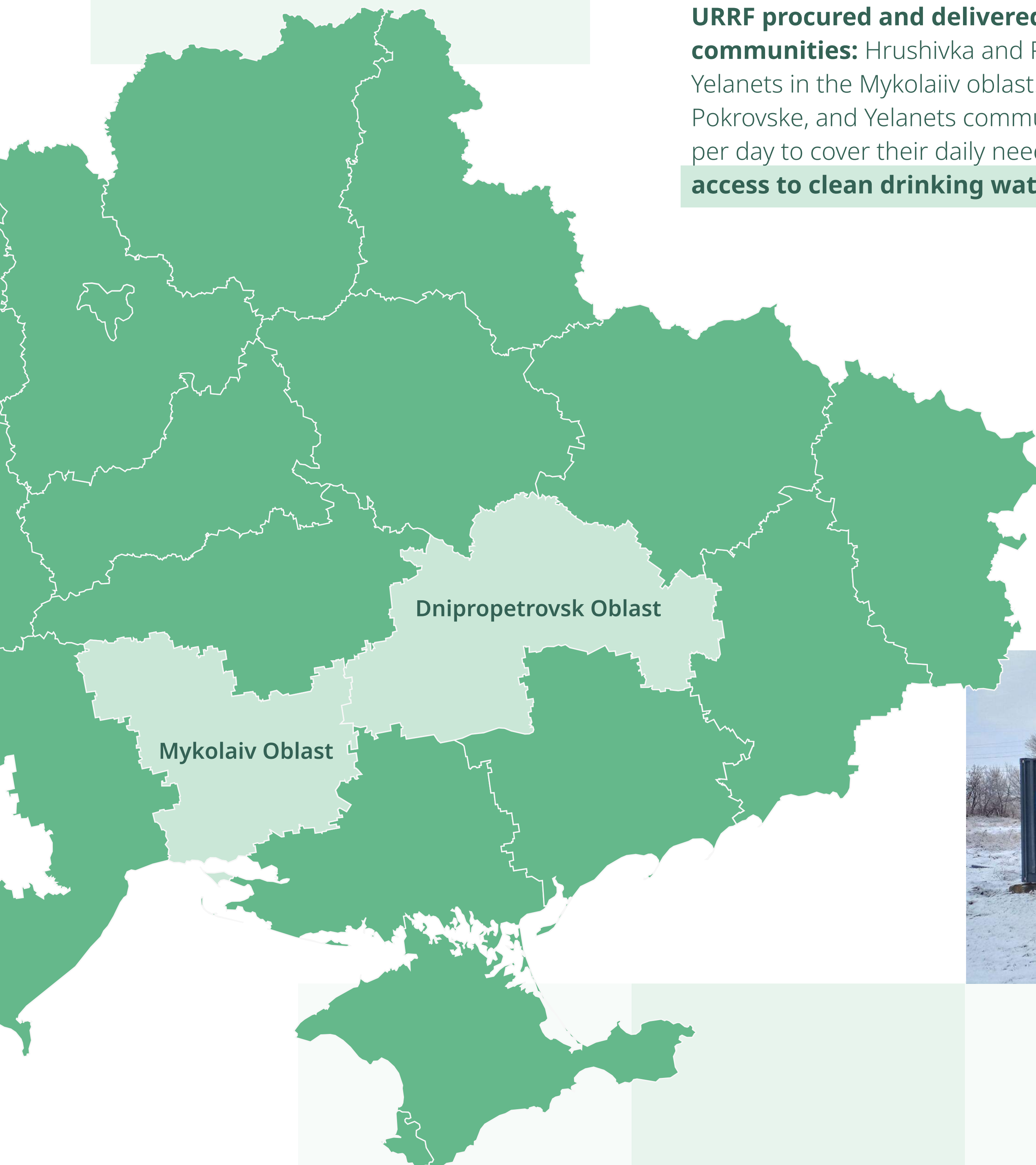
Ensuring Critical Water Supply in Response to the Kakhovka Dam Crisis

26,520
beneficiaries

On June 6, 2023, the explosion of the Kakhovka Dam resulted in significant flooding and a decrease in water levels within the Kakhovka reservoir. This explosion left approximately 700,000 individuals in the oblasts of Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv, and Kherson without access to their primary source of drinking water. Many communities in the affected region were disconnected from the water supply, while others relied solely on well water, requiring purification. The aftermath of the explosion created a humanitarian crisis for thousands of people.

URRF established cooperation with the Ministry of Infrastructure, two oblast administrations, and three of the affected communities to respond to the crisis caused by the explosion.

URRF procured and delivered water filtration systems to 3 communities: Hrushivka and Pokrovske in the Dnipropetrovsk oblast and Yelanets in the Mykolaiv oblast. On average, residents of Hrushivka, Pokrovske, and Yelanets communities use more than three tons of water per day to cover their daily needs. In total, all filtration systems **provided access to clean drinking water for 26,520 people** as of January 30, 2024.



Capacity Building and Cooperation

On December 20, 2023, IREX signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ukrainian Veterans Foundation (UVF) on behalf of its URRF and the Veteran Reintegration programs. The document signifies a shared commitment of both partners to contribute to the wellbeing and support of veterans.



URRF strengthened UVF and the Ministry of Veterans Affairs (MoVA) by contracting consultants as requested by both institutions to:

1

Formulate the "Draft Law on Veterans Entrepreneurship," designed to cultivate an enabling environment for the establishment and advancement of veteran entrepreneurship.

The primary objectives include enhancing the competitiveness of veteran-led businesses and addressing the challenges associated with veteran reintegration into civilian life. This draft law has been officially submitted for consideration to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Number 10258).

2

Develop project proposals including, "Developing Tools to Support the Employment of Veterans," "Development of the Project Aimed at the Popularization of Veteran Sports," "Development of the Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program," and "Development and Advocacy of the Draft Law on the Protection of Labor Rights of Veterans and their Family Members."

In total, nine project concepts were formulated, with three among them securing support. The endorsed projects are aimed at increasing the level of veteran employment and protecting veteran employment rights.

3

Draft documents to facilitate MoVA's activities in mine action and to assist in the transition from military service to civilian life.



“The uniqueness and importance of the professional contribution of experts, a lawyer and a program manager, to the development of the veteran community and the support of veteran business in Ukraine cannot be overestimated. The lawyer, through his exemplary professionalism, played a pivotal role in the development of the Draft Law on Veterans Entrepreneurship, which has emerged as a beacon of hope for the veteran community. This legislative initiative represents a long-awaited measure that veterans have been anticipating since 2014.

On the other hand, the program manager made a huge leap forward in the development and expansion of the Ukrainian Veterans Fund by developing strategically important programs. His capacity for innovation and strategic planning has allowed the foundation to not only effectively implement its current initiatives, but also to significantly expand its scope, opening new opportunities for support and development,“

Ruslana Velychko-Tryfoniuk, Acting Executive Director of UVF.

Increasing Access to Information in De-Occupied Territories

The collaboration between IREX, MinCIP, print media, and regional administrations of Kharkiv and Mykolaiv led to the printing and distribution of **three special print issues, totalling 9,000 copies of Mykolaiv News newspaper. This initiative has reached an audience of 18,000 people across five communities** in Mykolaiv.

Additionally, three special print issues, totalling 12,000 copies of Slobidskyi Krai newspaper were strategically distributed, reaching 36,000 people across 18 important communities in the Kharkiv region.

18,000 people

reached by Mykolaiv News newspaper initiative

36,000 people

across 18 communities in the Kharkiv region reached by Slobidskyi Krai newspaper initiative

“The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine extends its gratitude to IREX for its active cooperation. The support rendered in printing special issues of the "Slobidsky Krai" newspaper for the Kharkiv region and "Mykolaiv News" for the Mykolaiv region has provided the Kharkiv and Mykolaiv regional military administrations, along with the Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine, and other involved state authorities (comprising more than ten entities) with an additional and effective communication channel to reach the population of the temporarily occupied and frontline territories. Through the assistance provided by these newspapers, crucial information regarding mine safety, cybersecurity, fraud prevention, mental health support, protection of electronic devices, and other pertinent topics have been effectively communicated to the inhabitants of these regions, ”

Anna Krasnostup, Acting Director of the MinCIP Directorate of Information Policy and Information Security.

"Slobidsky Krai" and "Mykolaiv News" newspapers are crucial to safety of people on the temporarily occupied and frontline territories.



Addressing Informational Blackout

During the war, hundreds of thousands of people remained in the temporarily occupied territories. Those who stayed faced denial of basic services and complete information blackouts. In response to this situation, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Informational Policy (MinCIP), **URRF printed 45,000 copies of the informational leaflets "Ukraine is Here" and distributed them to the liberated regions of Kharkiv, Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson.**

These leaflets provided essential information on accessing financial or humanitarian aid, pension payments, evacuation process, procedures for locating missing persons, and guidelines for mine safety.

Additionally, following the Kakhovka Dam crisis, URRF, in partnership with MinCIP, printed and distributed **5,000 copies of informational leaflets specifically for residents of Kherson oblast.** These leaflets played a crucial role in informing citizens about the necessary measures to respond to imminent danger.

The impact of these efforts was significant, reaching more than 250,000 people across the affected regions.

250,000
people reached



Kharkiv, Donetsk,
Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia,
and Kherson regions

OBLAST MILITARY ADMINISTRATIONS

Digital Engagement Skills and Capacity-Building

“The training conducted for representatives of communication units from ten regional administrations, along with corresponding district administrations, focusing on social media management, proved to be both effective and practical. It enabled participants to enhance their social media management skills, thereby enhancing the State's communication capabilities. The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy expresses its gratitude to IREX for its contribution to enhancing Ukraine's government communication capabilities and is confident that through continued collaboration, even greater achievements can be realized in the future, ”

Oleksiy Tretyakov-Grodzevych, Chief Specialist of the Project Work and Monitoring Department of the Main Department of Information Policy of MinCIP.



Upon the Ministry's request, URRF trained 33 press office representatives from 10 frontline oblast administrations on social media management (SMM) skills, **enhancing their understanding of algorithms for post promotion across various platforms and improving audience engagement.**

“Thank you for the useful information in an easy-to-process format, ”

Anatoliy Anikiev, Bilovodsk village military administration in the Luhansk oblast.

As a part of program's capacity-building component, URRF conducted training sessions on mobile journalism techniques (MoJo) and the basics of SMM, **benefiting 20 participants from 17 media outlets.**

17

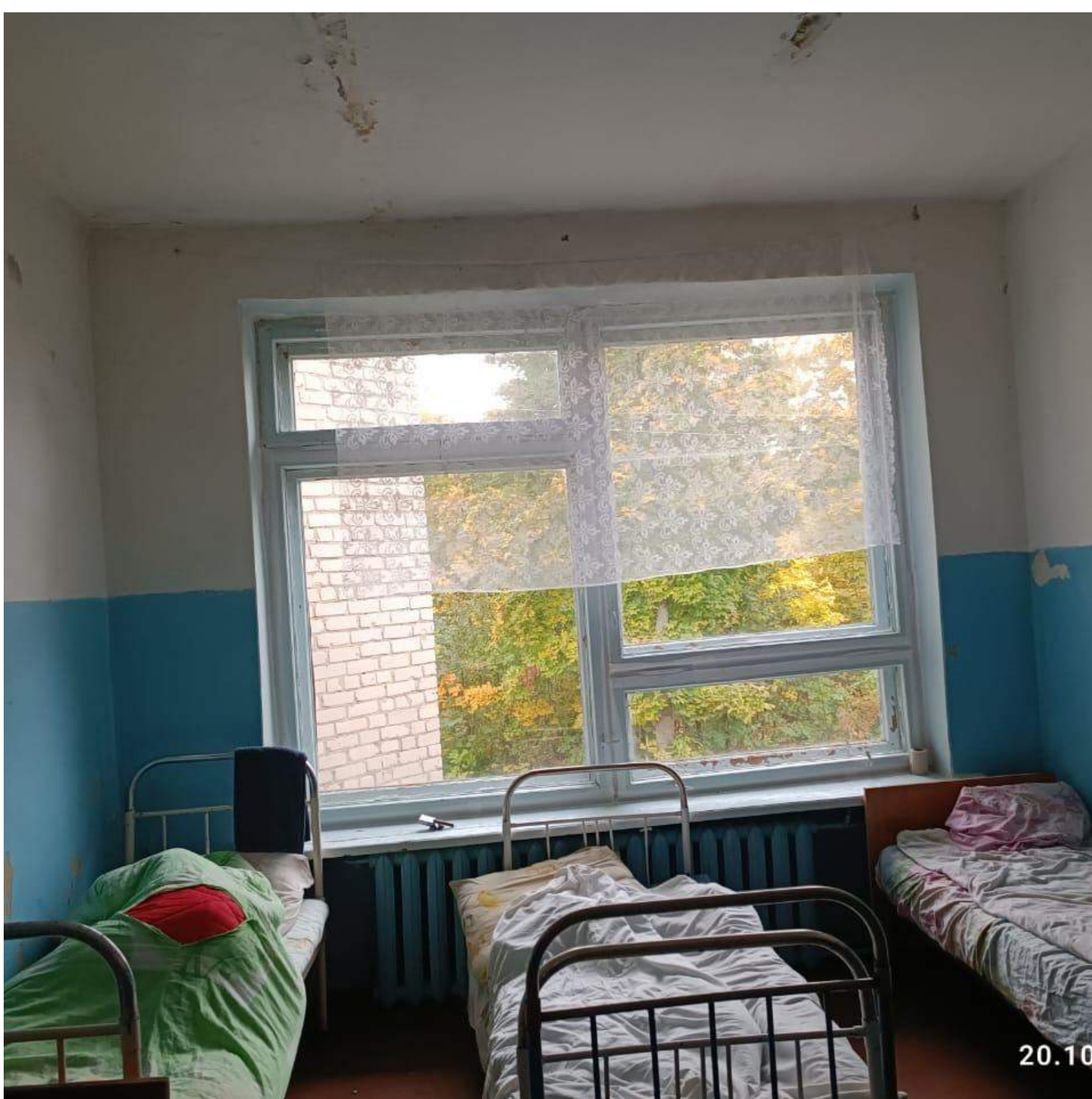
participating newsrooms underwent audits of their social media platforms and received recommendations for enhancements.

Assistance to Relocated Kharkiv Psychiatric Hospital

Kharkiv "Regional Clinical Psychiatric Hospital No. 3" houses 130 patients and employs 30 doctors, nurses, and other staff members. It relocated twice due to the war and active combat operations in Kharkiv. Initially, it was relocated to the Dnipropetrovsk oblast, and then to Krasnopavlivka, Kharkiv oblast. The current facility where the hospital operates was not previously equipped for specialized mental health treatment and, therefore, required the necessary equipment to provide care to patients. **URRF furnished the hospital with 20 operational beds to enhance the comfort of patients during their stay and to assist medical staff in delivering quality care.**

“ At the end of 2023, we contacted IREX to fulfil the needs of patients with mental disorders. In the shortest possible time, we received 20 mechanical medical functional beds from Ukraine Rapid Response Fund program. As a result, it was possible to improve the quality-of-care provided for patients with mental disorders. The replacement of old armored beds with new functional medical beds improved the comfort of inpatient treatment and increased the standard of the provided psychiatric care. Thank you for the cooperation and support of the citizens of Ukraine affected by the war, “

Mykhailo Kuznetsov, Head of the 19th General Psychiatric Department.



The beds in the hospital before the cooperation with URRF (October 2023).

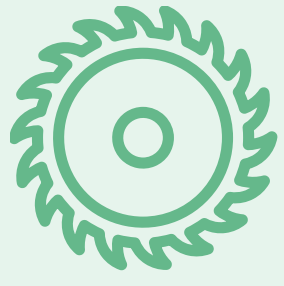


The beds in the hospital after the cooperation with URRF (April 2024).

HELPING THOSE WHO SAVE LIVES

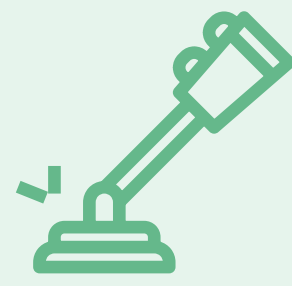


This year, SES made extensive use of the equipment supplied by URRF:



200 concrete cutters

to 14 regions of Ukraine.



118 metal detectors

to 6 regions of Ukraine.



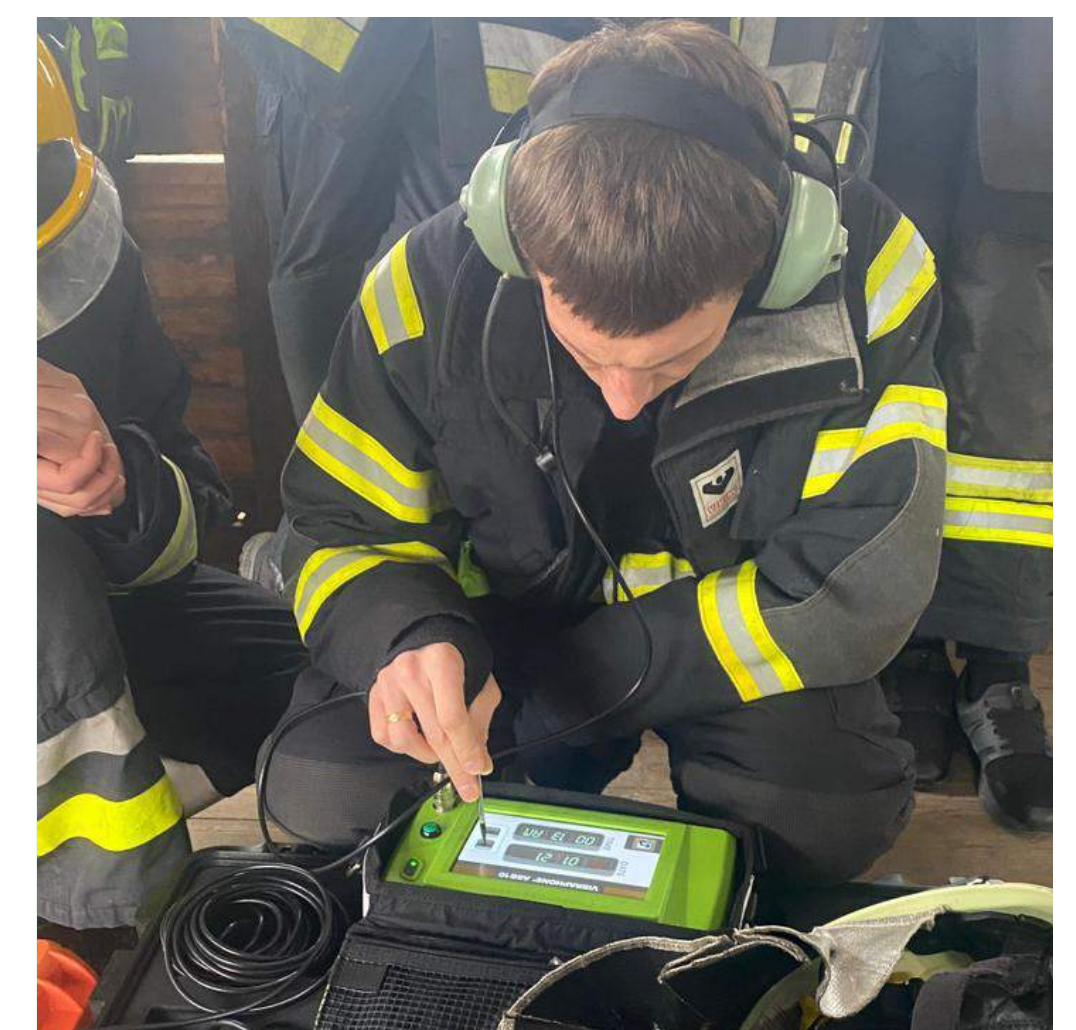
85 drones

to all 24 regions of Ukraine.

Life Detectors

Fifteen seismic life detectors were deployed to aid the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SES) personnel in locating and rescuing individuals trapped under rubble of collapsed buildings.

These detectors are assisting rescuers across 12 oblasts.



“In the face of ongoing missile strikes by the Russian Federation on residential buildings in Ukraine, there is a pervasive threat of partial and complete destruction of buildings of various heights. With the invaluable support of IREX’s URRF, we have adopted directional listening Vibraphones, a technology that significantly enhances our ability to locate survivors amidst the debris and behind obstacles. In the present circumstances, this equipment is of utmost importance for our operations, as it significantly improves our chances of saving human lives.”

Nazar Boryshkevych, Head of the SES Emergency Situations Prevention Planning Department.

Vests

URRF delivered **500 ballistic vests** to support the protective and educational efforts of SES employees in five regions of Ukraine.



Hydraulic Rescue Equipment

URRF delivered 45 units of hydraulic rescue equipment, including **15 cutters, 15 spreaders, and 15 ramrods** to SES employees. These tools are essential for rescuing Ukrainians trapped under the rubble during emergencies.



45

units of hydraulic rescue equipment



Washing Machines

10 industrial washing machines were provided to SES rescuers in 10 regional departments,

aiding in cleaning their specialized protective clothing utilized during search and rescue operations. This initiative aims to mitigate health risks for personnel by minimizing their exposure to harmful substances trapped in clothing.



There are dozens of stories about how the equipment was used, three of those stories are included below.

Equipment that Saves Lives



One Concrete Cutter Saves Eight Lives in Kyiv

In December 2023, Russia launched one of its biggest drone and missile attacks on Ukraine to date, firing 150 missiles and drones into Ukrainian territory. During intensive lifesaving work by SES rescuers, **they used concrete cutters provided by URRF to save the lives of eight people who were injured and trapped under rubble in Kyiv.**

Metal Detectors Unearth Over 100 Explosives in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Kherson, and Sumy Oblasts

In April 2023, the equipment provided by URRF to the SES Interregional Rapid Response Center in Sumy oblast **led to the detection of 102 explosive objects** in Kharkiv, Donetsk, Kherson, and Sumy oblasts **in just six days.**



Two Drones Helped Locate Seven People Trapped in Rubble in Lviv

In July 2023, a Russian missile hit a residential building in Lviv, killing ten people and injuring 48 more. Amidst this devastating situation, SES rescuers swiftly deployed two drones procured by URRF. **These devices allowed SES to monitor the situation from above and successfully locate and save 7 people trapped under the rubble.**

RAPID SUPPORT FOR UKRAINIAN VETERANS

Ukrainian Veterans Foundation: Crisis Support Hotline for Veterans and Their Families

URRF continued to support the UVF Hotline, implemented in collaboration with the NGO "Institute for Veterans." **The Hotline provides crisis assistance to veterans and their family members, as well as family members of fallen defenders, prisoners of war, and missing persons.** Hotline psychologists conduct more than 300 consultations weekly.

300 consultations

conducted by Hotline psychologists weekly

In 2023, the Hotline answered 15,536 calls. In January-February 2024, it already handled 2,861 calls. Since its establishment in March 2022, the Hotline has received a total of 24,427 calls.

24,427 calls

in total received by UVF Hotline

This vital service operates 24/7 and can be accessed toll-free by dialing: 0-800-33-20-29.

The Hotline consistently receives positive feedback, including:

“ Thank you. Our previous conversations were helpful, and I felt better. Now I have something to think about. I will call again! ”

“ Thank you for your compassion and for listening. Thank you to the person who created this helpline. We, who were there, need it so much. I just need you to listen to me. ”



**ВИ – НАШ ЗАХИСТ
МИ – ВАША ПІДТРИМКА**

0 800 33 20 29*
ГАРЯЧА ЛІНІЯ КРИЗОВОЇ ПІДТРИМКИ УКРАЇНСЬКОГО
ВЕТЕРАНСЬКОГО ФОНДУ ДЛЯ ВЕТЕРАНІВ І ЇХНІХ РОДИН

***ПРАЦЮЄ ЦІЛОДОБОВО І БЕЗОПЛАТНО**

НА ФОТО: ОЛЕКСАНДР ЧАМОРСОВ
ВЕТЕРАН, ГОЛОВНИЙ ПСИХОЛОГ ГАРЯЧОЇ ЛІНІЇ

МІНІСТЕРСТВО
У СПРАВАХ
ВЕТЕРАНІВ
УКРАЇНИ

URRF IREX

Photo: Oleksandr Chamorsov – veteran,
chief psychologist of UVF Hotline

Translation: “You - protect us. We - support you.”

0 800 33 20 29*

UVF crisis support Hotline for veterans and their families

*Hotline operates 24 hours a day and is free of charge

Trainings and Equipment for Prosthetics and Rehabilitation

UNBROKEN

42

patients received prosthesis during workshops

URRF supports the Unbroken Center in the implementation of the **"Prosthetics and Rehabilitation of Ukrainians in Ukraine"** project, which aims to strengthen the provision of prosthetics, rehabilitation services, and psychological support to civilians severely injured during Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The Unbroken Center held **four workshops for 35 prosthetists from eight regions of Ukraine**, involving 13 trainees specializing in prosthetics. Additionally, the Unbroken Center organized **two two-week educational sessions for 14 prosthetists** employed by the Unbroken Center, with help of German, Swedish, Danish, and Canadian experts.

During these workshops, participants studied highly intricate injuries and complex cases, enabling Ukrainian specialists to learn and master advanced techniques in the use of prosthetics for upper and lower amputations and sports prosthesis. During workshops, 42 patients received prosthesis.

Yuriy Yaskiv, one of the training participants who is a prosthetist-technician commented,

"I have been in the field of prosthetics for about 12 years, of course there is a need for training. We don't even have literature on prosthetics in Ukraine. We learn information through the Internet or during such courses."



"Indeed, the significance of acquiring such training is paramount, given the absence of formal training programs for prosthetists in Ukraine. Consequently, our reliance on expertise from professionals in other countries is imperative."

Oles, prosthetist from the Unbroken Center.

"It's super, so soft. I dreamed about such a prosthesis for a whole year. The former feelings that I had not felt for quite a long time returned to me."

patient Vadym shared after installing his prosthesis.



Unbroken conducted 2 workshops with an expert specialist from Sweden for 28 physical and ergo therapists on new rehabilitation techniques using modern equipment.



“ The trainer started from neurophysiology, pattern walking and, in general, what nervous processes accompany walking patterns. And continued to the moments of gait correction of these patients both from the prosthetist's side and from the physical therapist's side. That is, muscle strength, amplitude of movements and so on. It was a really inspiring experience ”

rehabilitator Yaroslav Zelizko, a training participant.

Current plans for the Unbroken Center include additional workshops with the support from psychotherapists and psychiatrists on modern protocols for treating mental disorders in patients with amputations.



The Unbroken Center procured **41 units of equipment** to furnish the state-of-the-art rehabilitation room. Procured equipment includes rehabilitation stairs, occupational therapy equipment, devices for passive extension of limbs and joints, treadmills, ceiling lifts, and rehabilitation tables. As a result, an average of **24 patients visits the rehabilitation room daily** to utilize the equipment and engage in mobility and flexibility exercises following injuries sustained on the battlefield, in the aftermath of missile strikes, or due to the detonation of mines.

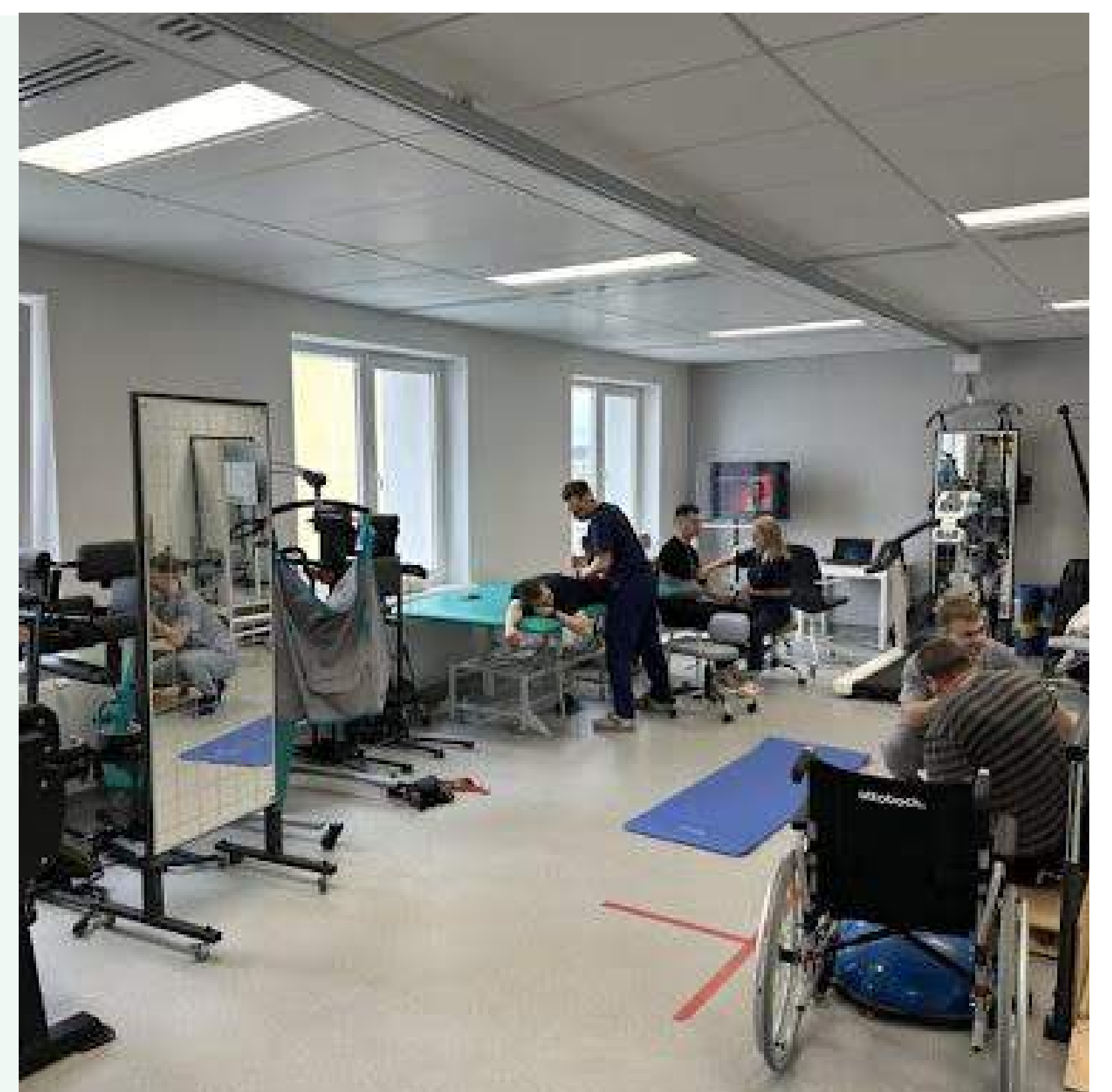


41
units of
equipment

24
patients visit the
rehabilitation
room every day

“ This equipment will not only help our specialists to rehabilitate more injured patients, but this rehabilitation room is also a great example for other rehabilitation centers all over Ukraine which shows how each unit of equipment should be characterized by a comprehensive and thoughtful assessment, aiming to maximize functionality and suitability for the intended purpose while ensuring a high degree of reliability and practicality, ”

Oleh Bilianskyi, Head of the Unbroken Center.



Peer-to-Peer Mentorship for Veterans with Disabilities

Under the social rehabilitation project "Unbroken" three mentors with disabilities supported and provided consultations to **130 patients, including 18 veterans and 49 internally displaced persons** (IDPs) of the Unbroken Center in Lviv. The mentors helped civilians and veterans who lost their limbs or injured their back understand how to accept their disability and their new body, and how to adapt to life with prosthetics or a wheelchair.

“After several operations, when I already felt better and started my rehabilitation, the mentors invited me to participate in the program. I was very surprised. Having worked in the medical field for an extended period, I am only now becoming aware of such a program. I, of course, agreed. The outcome revealed to me the critical importance of implementing such a project. Upon returning to work, I am committed to making every effort to introduce a similar program in our setting, “

a nurse from Poltava, who injured her left leg during an evacuation.

“People need people. Even just to be silent, drink coffee, cry, or laugh. You just need to feel that you are important again. Just to know that there are people who have gone through a similar experience and now they have prostheses or are in a wheelchair and they say, "I did it and you can do it, “

Ivan, a patient who lost his leg because of a mine explosion.



NGO Human Rights Center "Pryncyp"

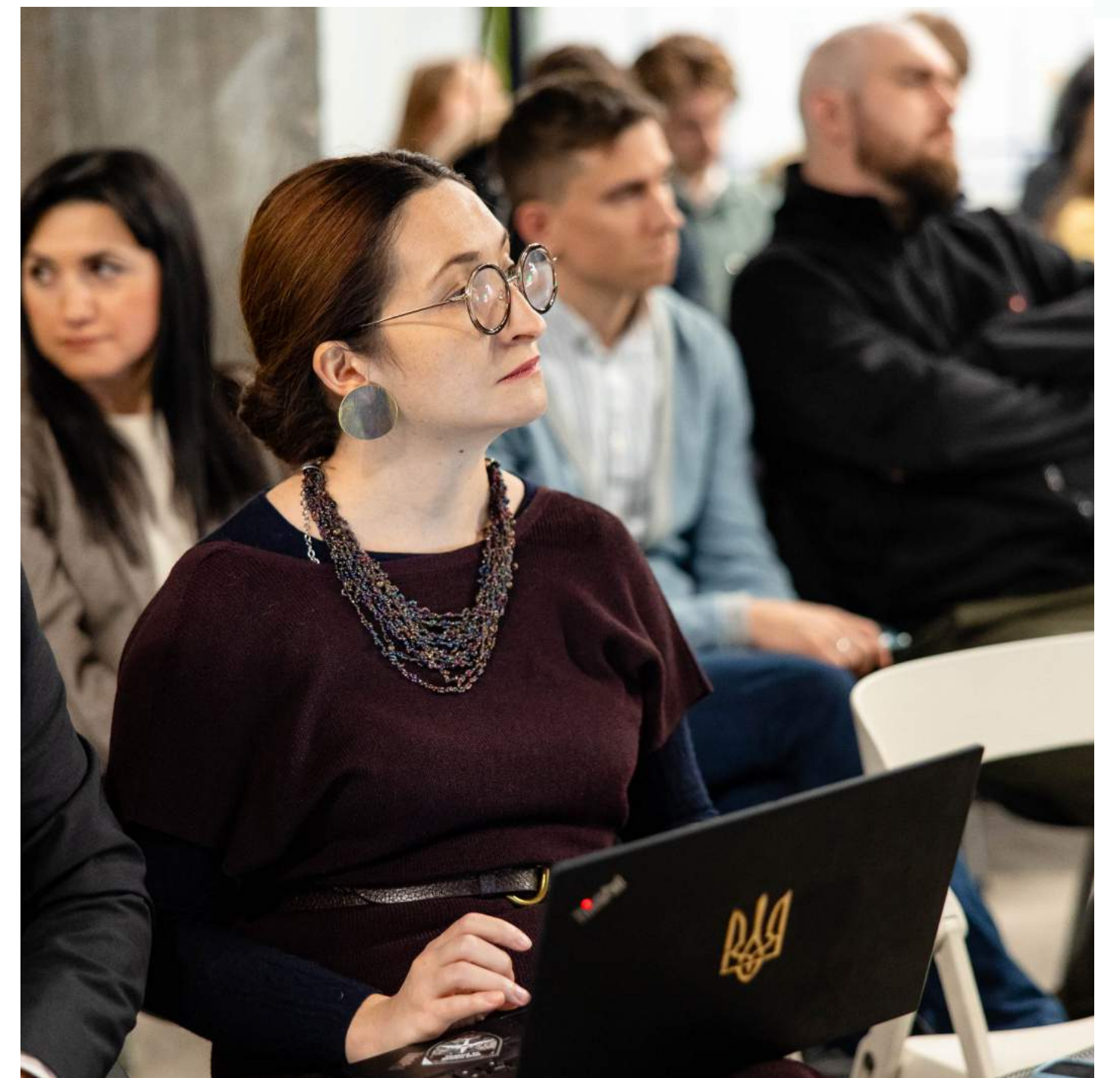
Принцип
правозахисний центр
для військовослужбовців

NGO "Pryncyp" focused its work on improving the procedure for acquiring registration, social protection, treatment, and rehabilitation of veterans, in cooperation with the NGO "Center for Society Research" (Cedos).

NGO "Pryncyp" has conducted and presented **unique research** aimed at enhancing the evaluation system for veterans' suitability for services and their transition to civilian life.

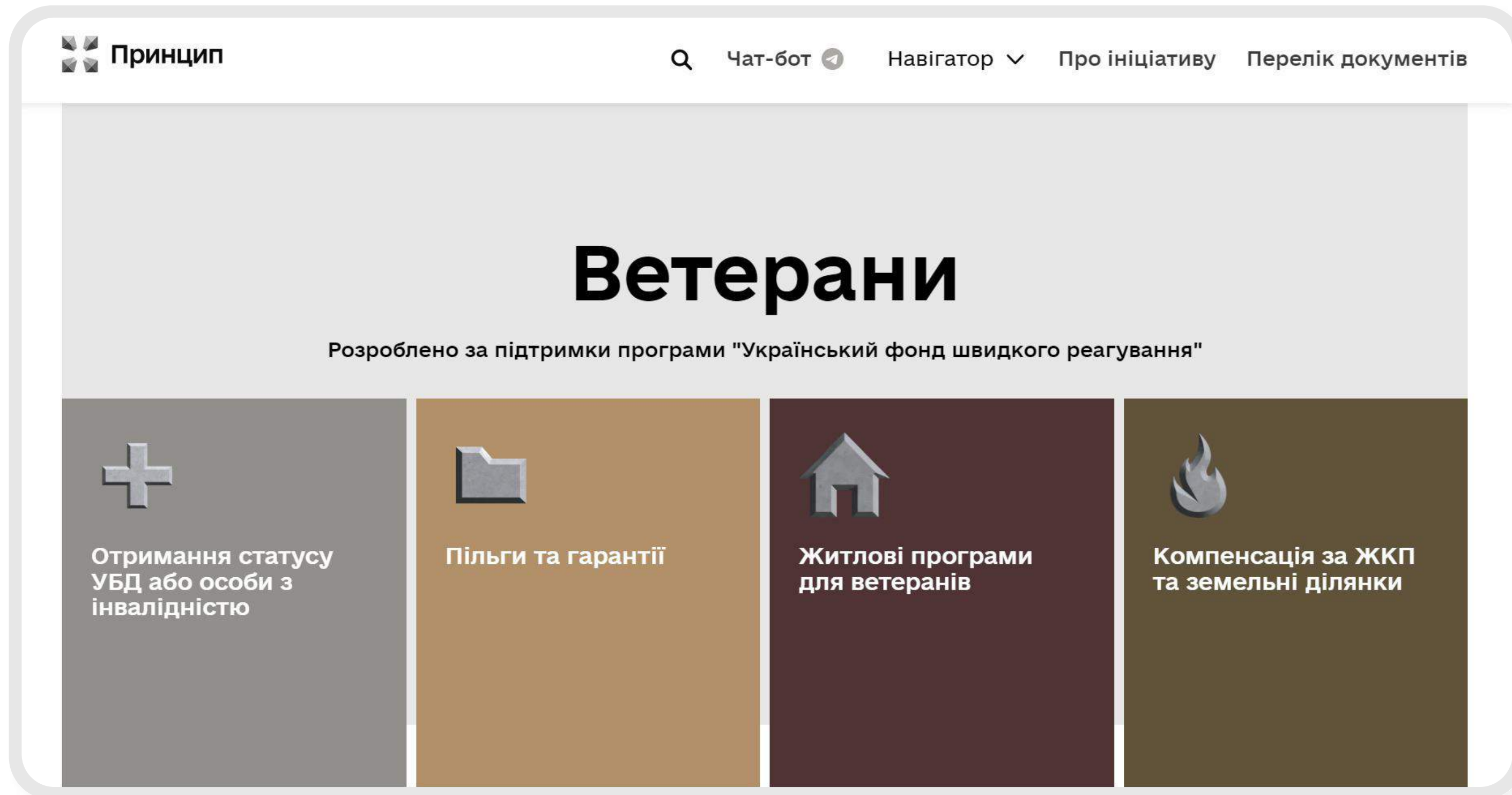


[Research link](#)



NGO "Pryncyp" successfully launched a new section for veterans on its "Legal Navigator" platform.

This dedicated veterans' section is an extensive resource, providing information on acquiring a veteran or a person with disability status. It includes details on benefits and guarantees, housing options for veterans, and compensation for utilities and land. Since its launch, the veterans' section has recorded 2,636 visits.



2,636
visits



NGO "Pryncyp" also successfully launched its chatbot, which enables users to receive personalized and simplified answers to their questions about veterans' rights, experiences, and benefits. Since the start of its operation, the chatbot has recorded 3,256 users.



Chat-bot



Legal navigator

3,256
users

“ Respect and thanks to Navigator, it is systematized, and everything is clearly described in it. The information about the Navigator should be told on all the channels, “

shared a user.



**RAISING AWARENESS,
SKILLS, AND ACCESS TO
MEDICAL SERVICES AMONG
CIVILIAN POPULATION**

NGO "Casers"

CASERS 

URRF supported NGO "Casers" in operating a mobile medical center to provide healthcare services to the civilians in remote areas of de-occupied and frontline territories. Since the beginning of the project in November 2023, medical professionals visited 24 villages in Kherson and Mykolaiv regions, extending assistance to 1,480 unique beneficiaries. These locations are 20-30 km from the frontline, with the nearest hospital 150-200 km away. Nearly one half (47 percent) of the recipients are age 60 and above.



A daughter of one of the patients who suffered a stroke and required transportation to the nearest hospital shared,

// Dad prays that the pain will go away, and God sends us people who help us get back on our feet. I can't even believe that this is indeed happening. //

1,480
unique beneficiaries

 Kherson and Mykolaiv regions



All Ukrainian NGO "All-Ukrainian Council of Reanimation (Resuscitation) and Emergency Medical Aid"



The NGO "All-Ukrainian Council of Reanimation (Resuscitation) and Emergency Medical Aid" **launched its First Aid in the Conditions of Hostilities/Martial Law training initiative.** As a part of this initiative, the NGO conducted six trainings in the cities of Kyiv, Lviv, Vinnytsia, Khmelnytskyi, and Zaporizhzhia.

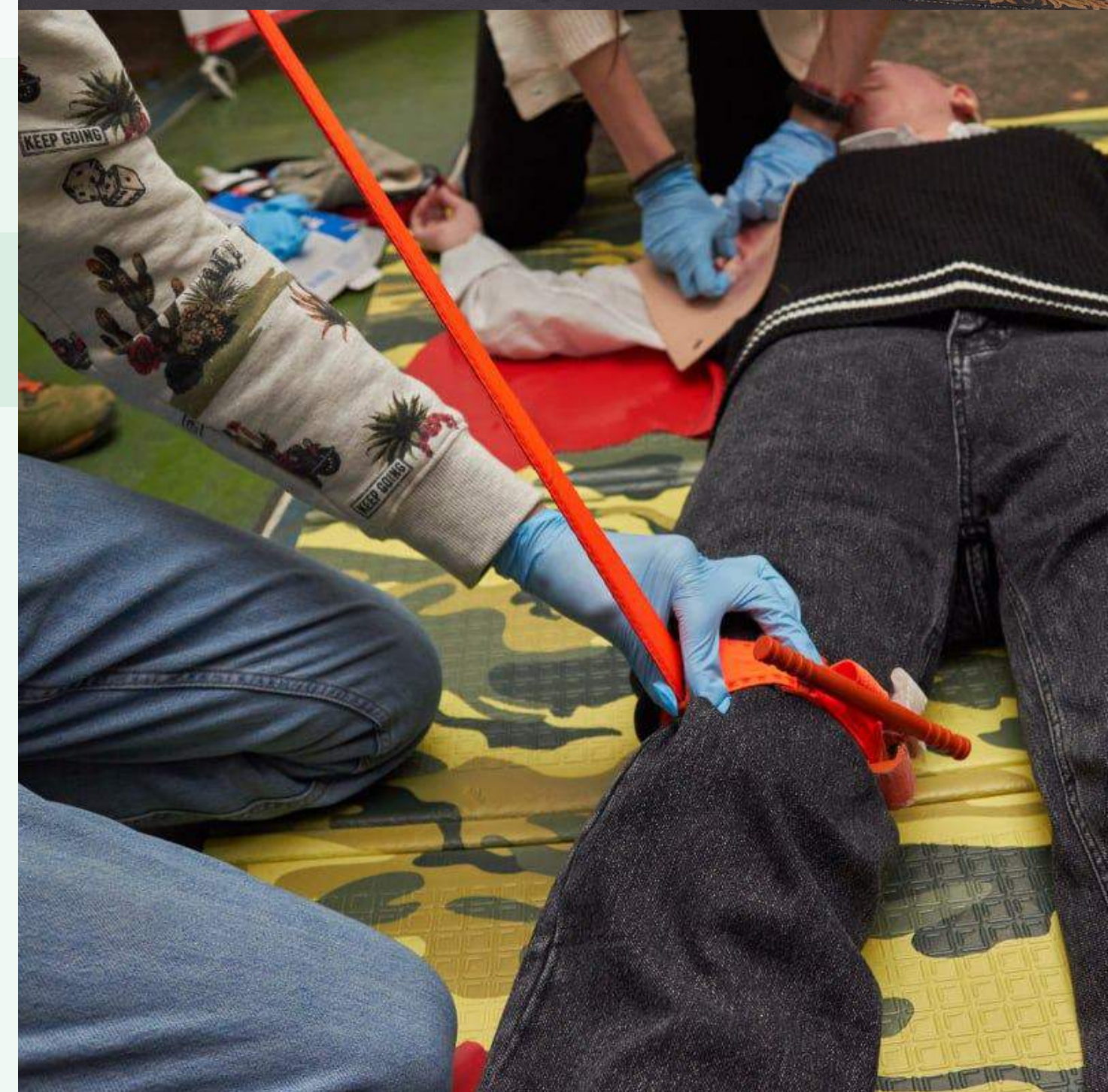


Kyiv, Lviv, Vinnytsia, Khmelnytskyi, and Zaporizhzhia cities

The NGO held 30 training sessions engaging 520 people. During the sessions, participants learned to identify life-threatening external bleeding and the techniques to stop it by tamping the wound, applying a compression bandage, and utilizing tourniquets. They also practiced how to respond in a scenario where a victim needs to be evacuated from the zone of potential threat and learned the cardiopulmonary resuscitation algorithm.

One of the students who participated in the training commented,

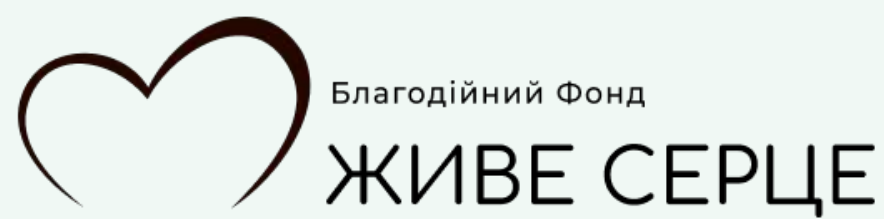
“ There once was a hit on my street and I witnessed how the medics were rescuing the wounded. The training gave me the confidence that if something like this happened again, I would be able to help and stay composed. ”



520
people engaged

30
training sessions

Charity Fund "Living Heart"



48
training
sessions

The Charity Fund "Living Heart" successfully completed the "Hold the Line" project in Kamianske city. This initiative aimed to provide essential knowledge and skills through 48 training sessions covering first aid, soft skills, professional orientation, career development, and personal safety. **The goal was to prepare teenagers and young individuals, including IDPs, to stay safe during challenging circumstances, both during wartime and in the post-war period.**



988
participants
actively engaged
in training sessions

Following the training, the Charity Fund received positive feedback from participants, with one person saying,

“ The training proved to be exceptionally valuable. We acquired essential knowledge on administering first aid in diverse situations, which can be of paramount importance. I now possess the ability to assist when necessary. Furthermore, I appreciated the hands-on practice with mannequins. ”



NGO Generation of Mothers "Lada"



The NGO Generation of Mothers "Lada" implemented the project "Nationwide Informational and Educational Program on First Aid Provision in Household and Emergency Situations for Children," referred to as "Zhyttievo." The NGO Generation of Mothers "Lada" developed a video course that instructed parents and individuals working with children on how to provide first aid. The course consisted of 19 videos which are available on [YouTube](#). 10,154 people registered for the video course.



19
training videos

 Lviv, Kyiv, and Dnipro

Furthermore, **9 offline training sessions were conducted in Lviv, Kyiv, and Dnipro for 211 participants.** These sessions focused on providing first aid in emergency situations of various scenarios, for parents and individuals involved in child-related activities, particularly with IDPs.

9
offline trainings

211
participants



One of the participants of the training shared,

// It is especially important that we worked out the theoretical material in practice, and considered all the nuances and remarks of the instructors... I would not like to check this in real life, but I think that in case of an emergency, I will be able to provide first aid to both a child and an adult without panic. //

NGO The First Female Veteran Space “ReHub”

Lviv and Lviv oblast



NGO First Female Veteran Space “ReHub,” reached a total of 518 beneficiaries.

With URRF support, the NGO implemented a project to enhance the resilience of vulnerable groups, primarily family members of Ukrainian servicemen and women, IDPs, and residents of the city of Lviv and the Lviv oblast.

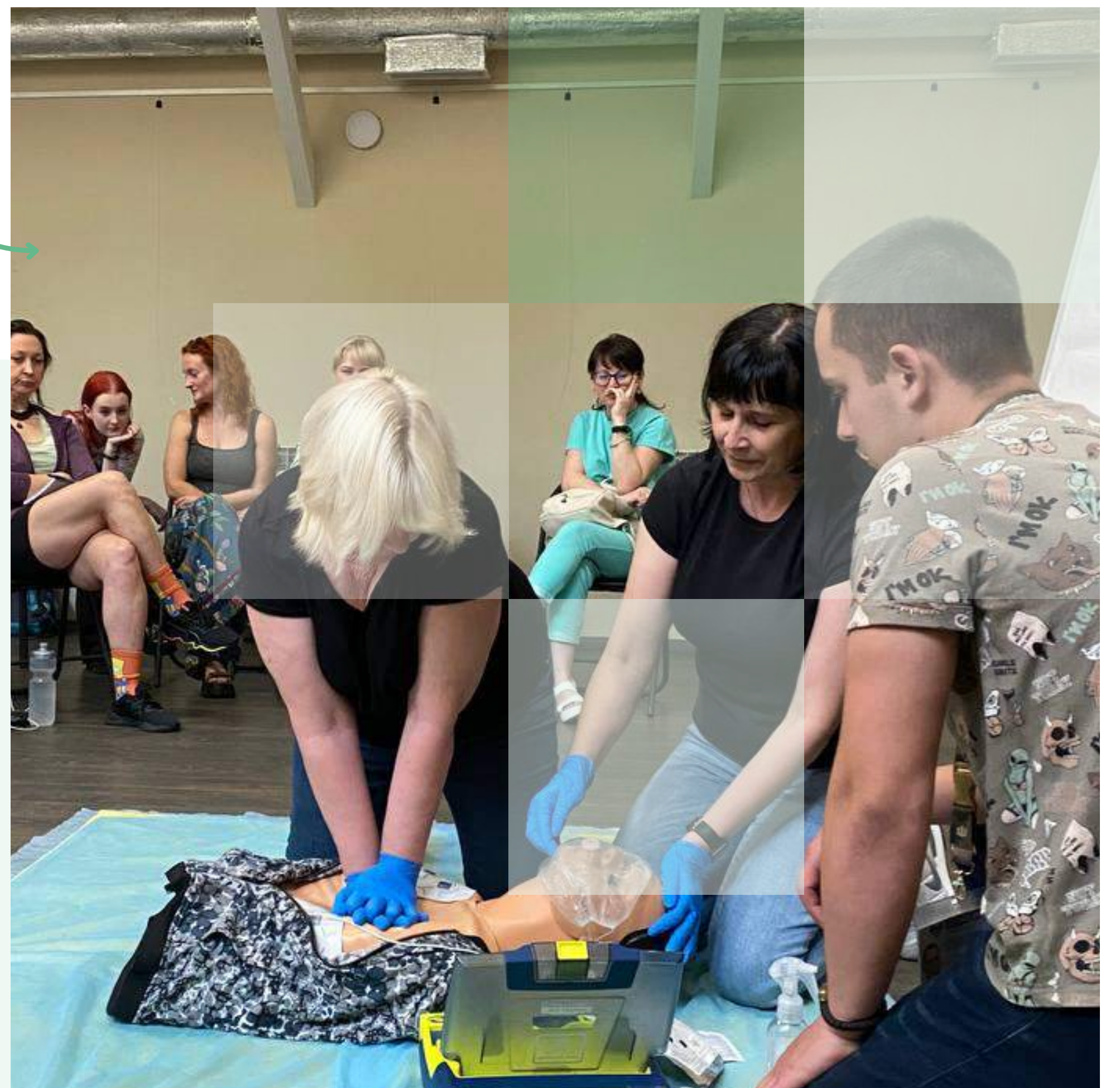
518 beneficiaries



There were three first aid training courses held for 50 people. One of those participants said:

“It is important for everyone to know how to provide first aid before the ambulance arrives. The trainers’ narrative was very understandable and interesting. They showed how to properly perform resuscitation actions. They also emphasized what actions to avoid during first aid in order not to harm a person, which is also very important. Thank you for the friendly atmosphere created by the organizers and for the opportunity to participate in such events!”

The NGO team conducted 3 personal safety training courses for 57 people



One participant commented,

“This training helped me acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively protect my family and myself. Thank you!”

10

psychological support groups set up for **135 people**



One participant commented:

“After participating in a group counselling session, I felt great relief and support during a difficult period of my life. Talking to peers has helped me navigate my emotional swings and find constructive ways to deal with these issues.”

4

art-therapy events conducted for **84 people**

65

individual legal consultations provided

127

individual psychological consultations



SUPPLYING CRITICAL EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION TO UKRAINIAN COMMUNITIES

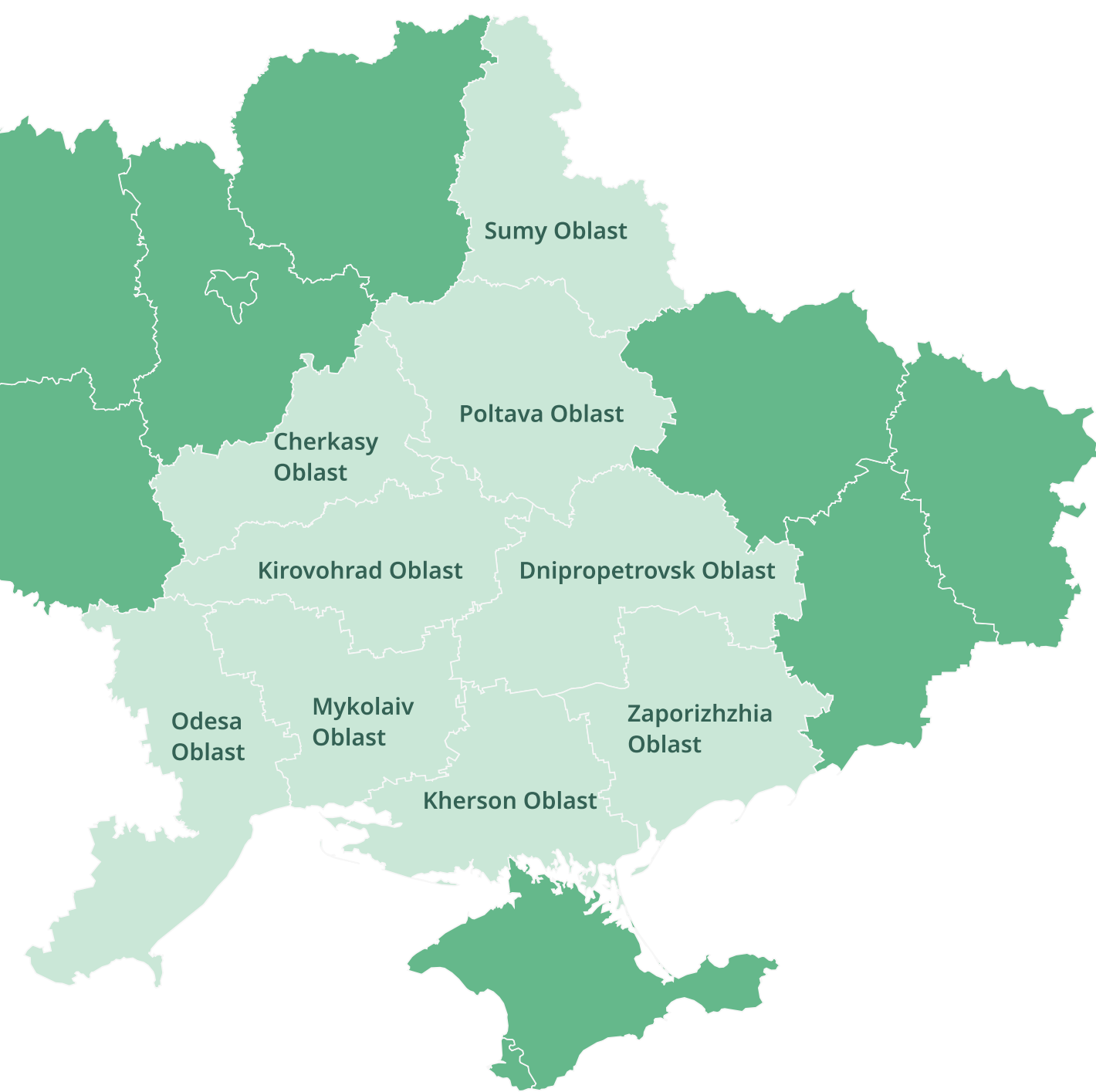


NGO Social and Rehabilitation Association of Disabled Persons and Persons with Special Needs "Dana Center"



With URRF's support, the NGO "Dana Center" bolstered the capacity of **25 communities across nine regions of Ukraine**, including Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kirovohrad, Mykolaiv, Poltava, Odesa, Sumy, Kherson, and Cherkasy oblasts. This was achieved under the **"Electricity Supply to Communities - SOS"** project. The NGO procured and delivered **499 units of equipment**.

These resources were distributed to **12 shelters for IDPs and 13 Invisibility Points**. **More than 12,000 people benefited from this essential equipment**.



499 units of equipment:

- 1 boiler for water heating
- 17 diesel generators,
- 10 chainsaws,
- 15 electric stoves
- 4 kitchen hoods
- 14 microwave ovens
- 13 refrigerators
- 10 washing machines with a dryer
- 17 autonomous solar power plants
- 40 electric kettles
- 36 extension cords
- 9 trash cans
- 80 tables
- 233 chairs

“ Many funds visited us, made requests, and promised to help, but nothing happened — we had to raise funds ourselves from the community to replace the roof and windows damaged by the explosions, because the facility had to be opened before the cold weather. We are very grateful to the URRF for responding to our request and supplying us with the equipment... The generator is super! A kettle is very useful – it keeps hot water for a long time, ”

Kalnysh Viktoriia, Head of the Educational Department of the Kushuhumska village council of Zaporizhzhia oblast.



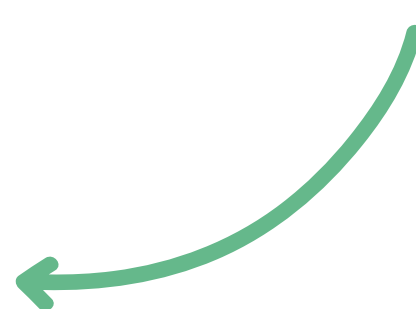
Recipients of the equipment in Smila community, Cherkasy oblast

499 units of equipment

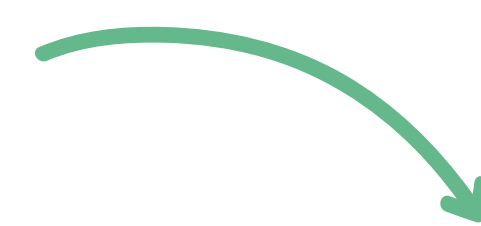
12,000+ people benefited



Chyhyrynska community,
Cherkasy oblast



Solonyanska community,
Dnipropetrovsk oblast



“ A solar panel was installed on the roof of the hospital, and outlets with extension cords were brought to public areas, including near the induction stove. During the power outage in October, the battery’s charge was enough to operate these devices. Refrigerators, an electric kettle, induction electric stoves, microwaves, tables, and chairs are in the kitchen area. Provided equipment improved the living conditions of people who were forced to suddenly leave their homes and seek refuge in other cities, ”

Ms. Iryna Grekova, Deputy Head of Solonianska village of Dnipropetrovsk region.



NGO "Siverian Institute of Regional Studies"



23

bomb shelters
equipped

Under the "Safety Locations for Civil Population of Pryluky Community of Chernihiv Region" project, the NGO "Siverian Institute of Regional Studies," **significantly improved the living conditions in 23 bomb shelters within Pryluky City, enhancing safety and preparedness.**

This was achieved by equipping the shelters with backup artificial lighting, primary fire extinguishing systems, first-aid kits, emergency communication devices, and a range of equipment to ensure compliance with safety standards.

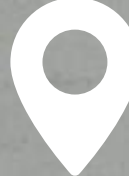


7,510+

residents benefited

The specific equipment provided includes:

- 1 diesel generator
- 23 solar panels
- 23 portable power stations
- 23 flashlights
- 23 radios
- 23 first-aid kits
- 23 fire extinguishers with attachments

 Pryluky City

Equipment delivered to the bomb shelter in Pryluky city.



The NGO conducted **two offline training courses for 31 representatives of local organizations** responsible for managing bomb shelters. The topics covered included "Using Primary Safety Equipment at Civil Protection Facilities" and "Using Backup Power Sources and Electrical Devices at Civil Protection Facilities."

Inna Avramenko, an employee of the communal Enterprise "Misksvitlo," shared her impressions after the training,

“These are useful and extremely relevant knowledge and skills for our time, which the trainer presented in an accessible and understandable way. For example, how to correctly and quickly perform an indirect heart massage in the first few minutes and stop bleeding to save a person's life.”

Dmytro Samozvan, Director of Lyceum No. 6 said,

“We are sincerely grateful to IREX's Ukraine Rapid Response Fund program for the equipment and tools provided. They will help to ensure the safety of the educational space. The charging station, solar panel, and first aid kit are very useful for our institution, given the number of children who study here and can be in the shelter at the same time. The availability of this equipment has increased our preparedness for situations involving emergency power outages, prolonged air alarms and the need to provide emergency assistance.”

31 representatives of local organizations

2 offline training courses

NGO "Siverian Institute of Regional Studies" printed **200 infographics and 1,000 flyers to highlight the services available at the 23 shelters in Pryluky City and the guidelines for staying in shelters.**

Materials were distributed among community organizations, bomb shelters, and during the seven meetings with residents. The NGO reached 21,071 people through its [Pryluky City Council](#) social networks.

21,071 people reached



"Using Backup Power Sources and Electrical Devices at Civil Protection Facilities" training session in Pryluky city council.

LOCAL MEDIA GRANTS

Supporting Access to Local News During Wartime

URRF supported **printing activities for 12 hyperlocal media outlets across seven frontline regions**, including Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Kherson, Odesa, and Poltava oblasts. Media partners from various regions, including *Nashe Slovo* and *Mayak* in Chernihiv, *Slobidskyi Krai* and *Obrii1919* in Kharkiv, *Vpered* (relocated from Bakhmut) in Donetsk, *Hryvnia* in Kherson, *Panorama* in Sumy, *Bilopilschyna* and *Nash Krai* in Sumy region, *Kremenchutskyi Telegram* in Poltava, and *Chornomorka* newspaper in Odesa, collaborated on this initiative. A total of **194 hyperlocal newspapers were printed and delivered free of charge to 48 hard-to-reach communities** in Kharkiv, Sumy, Chernihiv, Poltava, Kherson, and Odesa oblasts, reaching 513,300 people with 258,600 free copies.

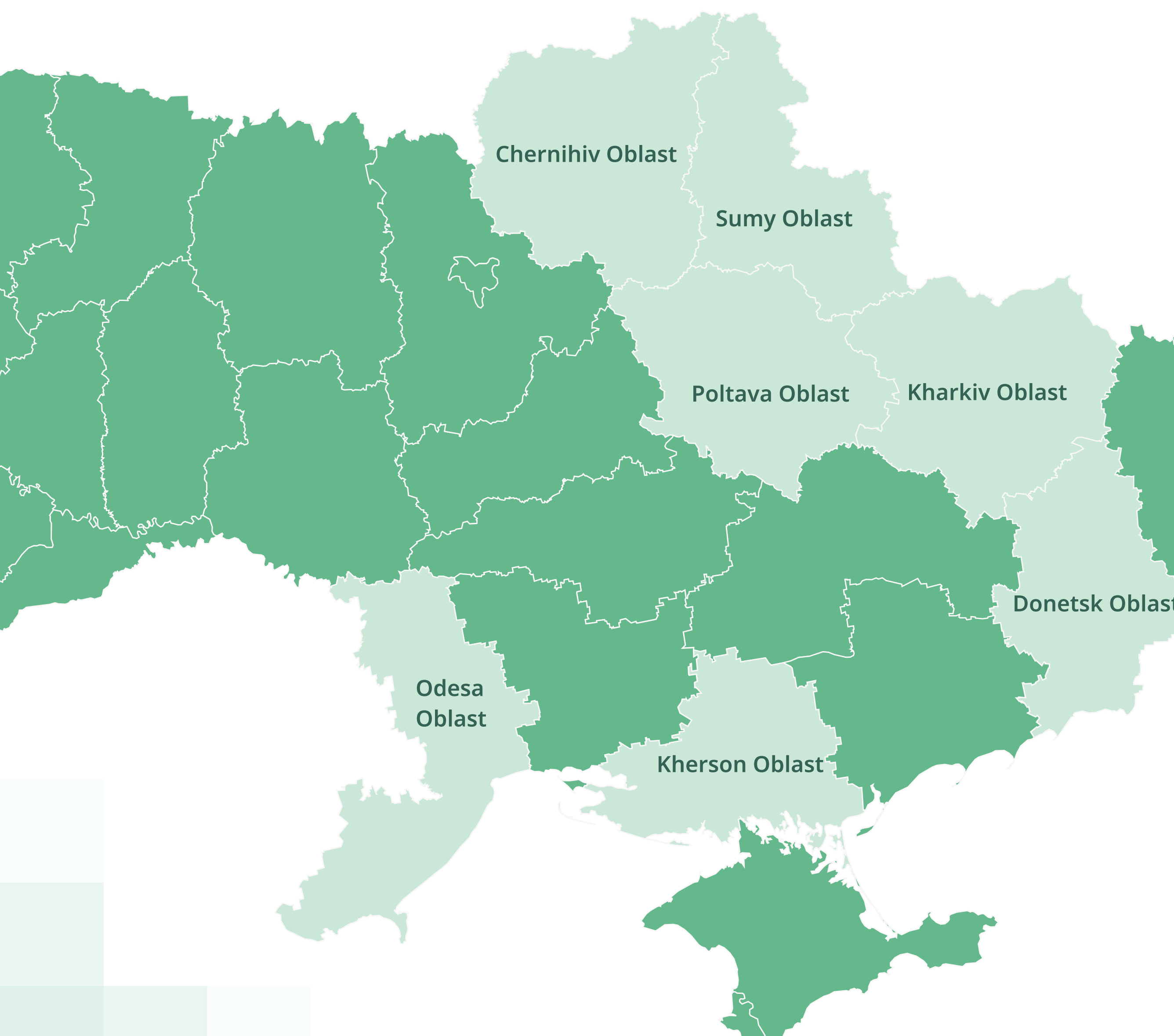
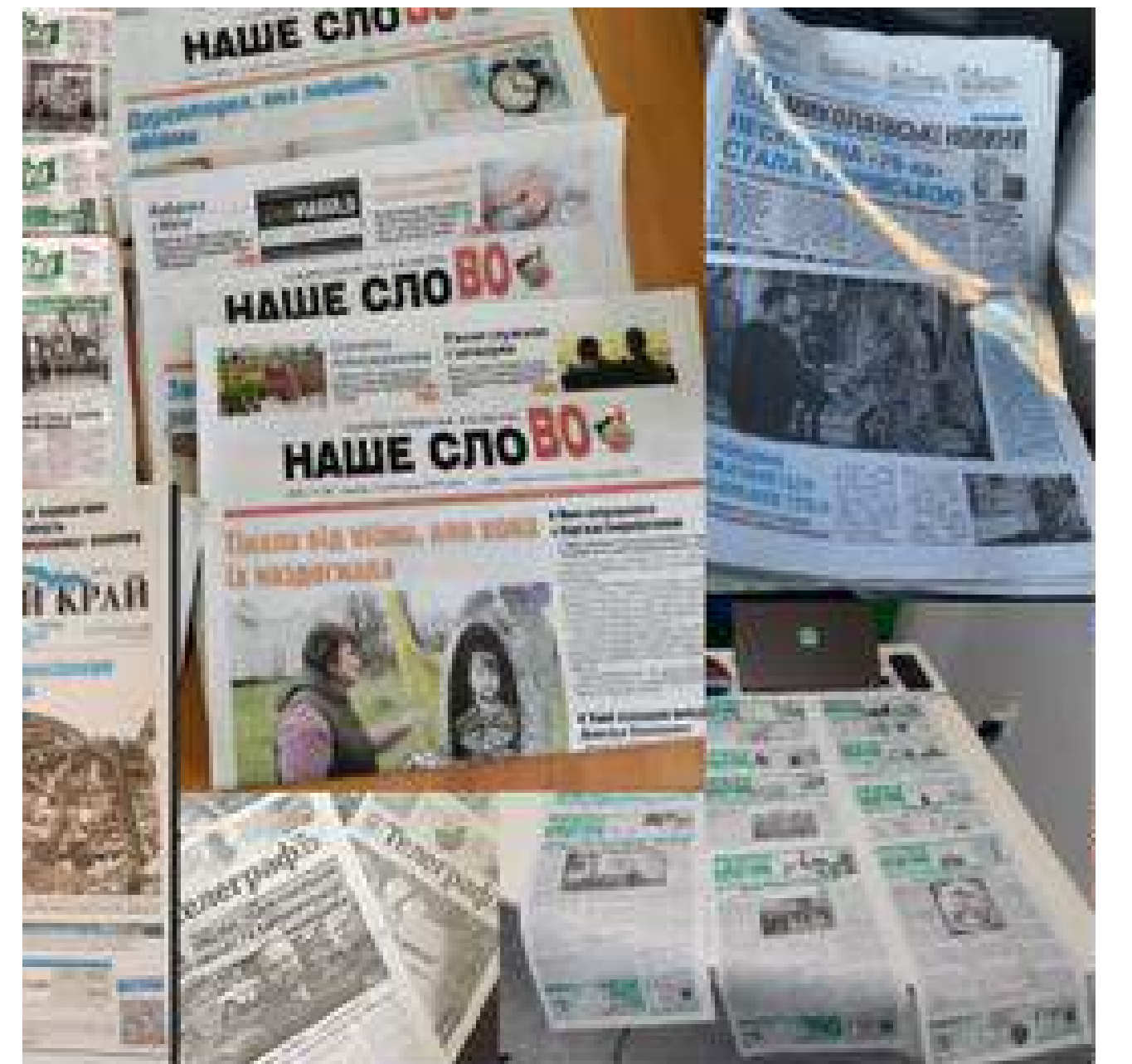


258,600

free copies of newspapers

513,300

people reached



Mr. Yury, who lives in the village of Graftske in the Vovchansk community, said about the Slobidskyi Krai newspaper,

“ We don't have Ukrainian broadcasters, but Russian broadcasters - as many as you like. The radio is blaring about the successes of the Russians. That's why we really look forward to every newspaper of SLOBIDSKY KRAI. It is like a breath of air. Our Ukrainian air. ”

Serhiy Ovsyannikov, a volunteer with the Vokzal hub in Kupyansk, said about the Slobidskyi Krai newspaper,

“ It's disheartening to hear about the challenges faced by the remaining residents, most of whom are elderly. With constant shelling, they find themselves confined to their homes. In such circumstances, they resort to listening to Russian radio as the signal of Ukrainian radio stations fails to reach them. Furthermore, the absence of telephone connections exacerbates their isolation. Therefore, the distribution of SLOBIDSKY KRAI with Ukrainian news becomes a vital source of information for them, providing a connection to the outside world amidst the turmoil. ”

Ivan Smaloha from Shishkivka village said,

“ I am thankful to the donor who puts people first: we feel that no one needs us. ”

A reader of the publishing house said,

“ Pryvatna Gazeta” said, “We have been waiting for so long that newspaper to be back, for us the return of the newspaper is the return to pre-war times especially happy that it's the print version that has its own readers which is non-online person. ”

"Slobidsky Krai" and "Mykolaiv News" newspapers are crucial to safety of people on the temporarily occupied and frontline territories.



NGO Vinnytsia City Organization for Social Development of Specific Categories of Vulnerable Youth "Parostok"



84,000 people reached

With the support of URRF, NGO "Parostok" successfully completed its project titled "Inclusion Ambassadors of the Civil Society of Ukraine," which aimed to cultivate a culture of inclusive service provision among NGO representatives and to unite their efforts in safeguarding the rights of people with disabilities during wartime crisis. As part of this initiative, NGO "Parostok" developed the course titled **"Ways for the Public Sector to Respond to Social and Humanitarian Crises,"** with an additional module on inclusion integrated into the educational platform "Learn Accessibly," with interpretation in Ukrainian sign language. The course was successfully completed by 77 representatives from various NGOs.



Video course

Furthermore, NGO "Parostok" developed a manual titled **"Engagement and Care for People with Different Types of Disabilities"** which covers practical skills to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities in both day-to-day and crisis situations.



Manual link

The NGO also organized the "Inclusion Ambassadors School" for 25 participants, where they instructed how to provide services to beneficiaries of their NGOs with an inclusive component.



“ During the program, I effectively applied the acquired skills in practical activities. With guidance from the project team, I formulated my own project idea and developed an action plan for its implementation. The project's goal is to help young people with disabilities adapt to independent community life. Through this experience, I gained insight into better assessing the needs of the target audience and effectively allocating resources, “

Mariia, Head of the Public Organization "Give Warmth" from Chernivtsi region.

Charity Association “Djerela” for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities



The Charity Association "Djerela," implemented the project, **“Accessible Services for Ukrainian Adults with Intellectual Disabilities and their Families During the War as Rapid Assistance to Maintain Ability to Live Independently,”** with the aim of mitigating the impacts of the sharp decrease in access to daily social and rehabilitation services for Ukrainian adults with intellectual disabilities and their families during wartime.

“Djerela” organized 50 offline mutual support group meetings, engaging 197 persons with disabilities from the Odesa, Kherson, Lviv, Kharkiv, Chernihiv, Rivne, Kirovohrad, Sumy, and Volyn oblasts.

50

offline group
meetings

197

persons
engaged

A mother of a child with intellectual disabilities shared her experience,

“Thanks to participation in these meetings, my son learned to overcome negative emotions, began to communicate more, and spends less time playing video games.”



The meeting of peer support group for persons with intellectual disabilities, Kherson Regional Association of Support to Children with Down Syndrome and their families “Sunny Children of Kherson Region.”

“Djerela” also conducted a five-day, online training for seven local coordinators-representatives of local NGOs and seven facilitators of mutual assistance groups and conducted 153 peer-to-peer individual consultations for caregivers of persons with intellectual disabilities.

Charity Association “Djerela” has also developed 49 video lessons for people with intellectual disabilities covering various topics, including "Theatrical Studio at Home," "Moving for Health," and "Cooking Together." These lessons aim to train participants’ skills for everyday life and cultivate new habits to promote independence.



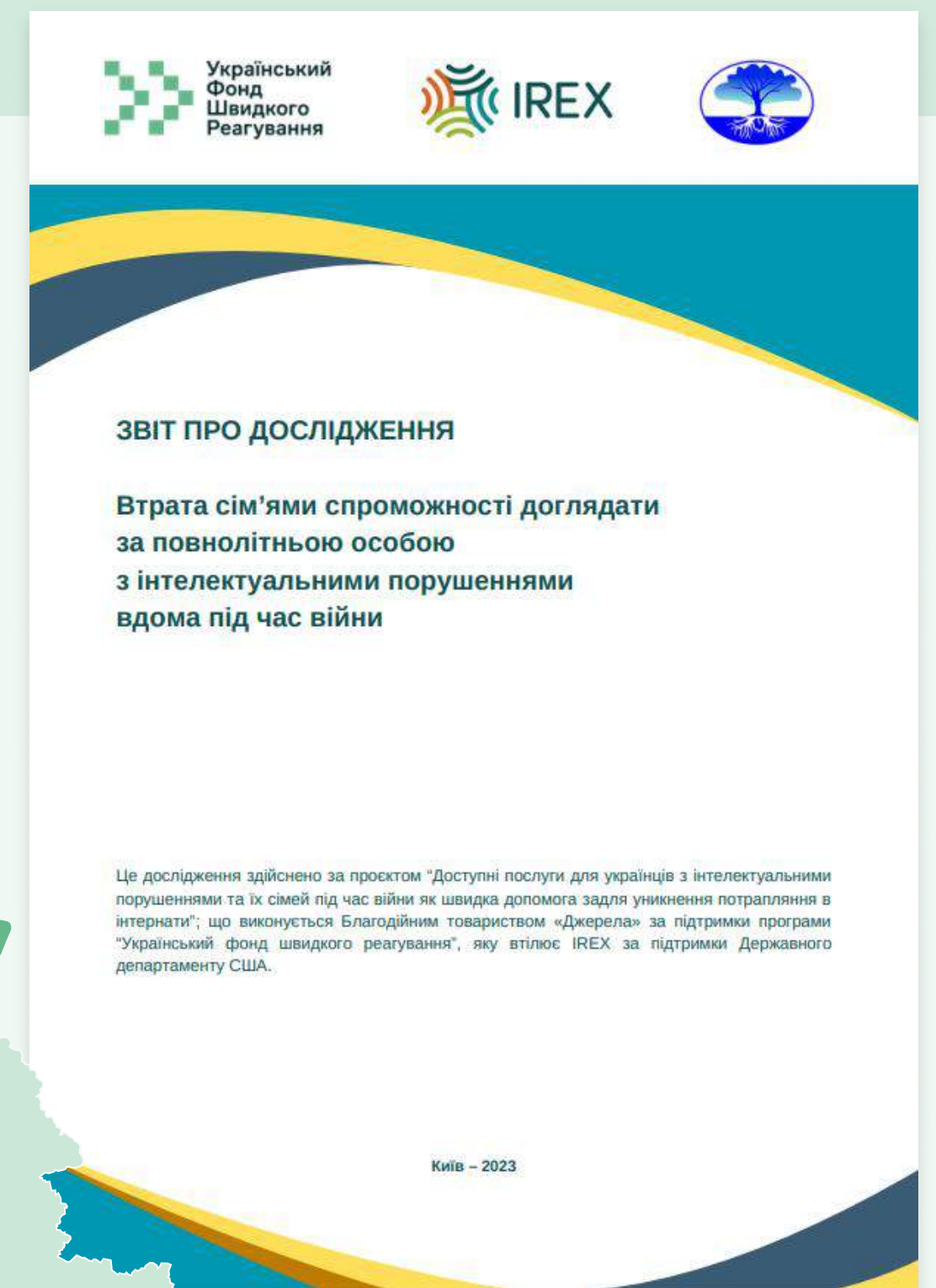
Link to video lessons

The team developed and distributed a report titled, **“Loss of Family Capacity to Care for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities During War.”** The document is designed for families, especially caregivers, to:

- Develop strategies for managing their own resources;
- Create a circle of support for adults with intellectual disabilities among relatives, friends, neighbors, and volunteers;
- Use humanitarian aid and not hesitate to ask for help;
- Focus on the happiness of adults with intellectual disabilities, instead of their achievements or perceived lack of achievements.

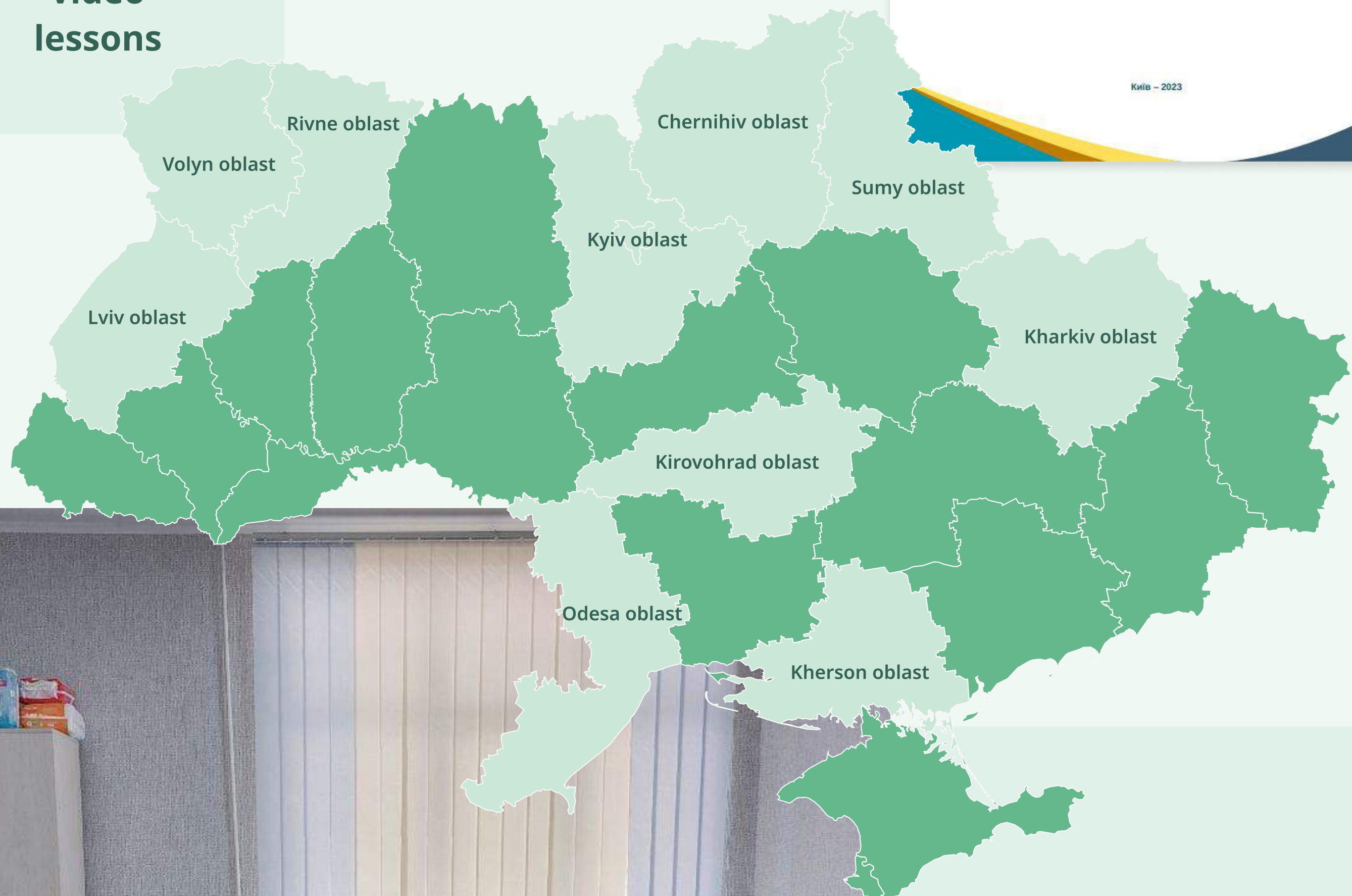


Research link



49 video lessons

153 peer-to-peer individual consultations



Kropyvnytskyi, Kirovohrad Region

Training for coordinators-representatives of local NGOs in Kirovohrad Regional NGO of the Mothers of Children and Adults with Disabilities “Mother’s Heart”

NGO Youth Communication Center "Positive Pavlograd"



NGO Youth Communication Center "Positive Pavlograd" implemented a project, "Providing Informational, Social, and Psychological Support to IDP Mothers." The team organized **six lectures each featuring an expert in various fields: a psychologist, a pediatrician, a lawyer, a career development specialist, and an information literacy expert.** 100 unique beneficiaries participated in the program. Among them were 50 mothers and 50 children, with 60% being IDPs. Additionally, the NGO **distributed 500 leaflets to ten social institutions in Pavlograd, Dnipropetrovsk oblast.** These leaflets contained essential information, including calming techniques, as well as contact numbers and addresses of social institutions in the area.

6
lectures



100
unique beneficiaries

One of the participants, a mother and IDP from Luhansk region, shared her success story with the project, remarking,

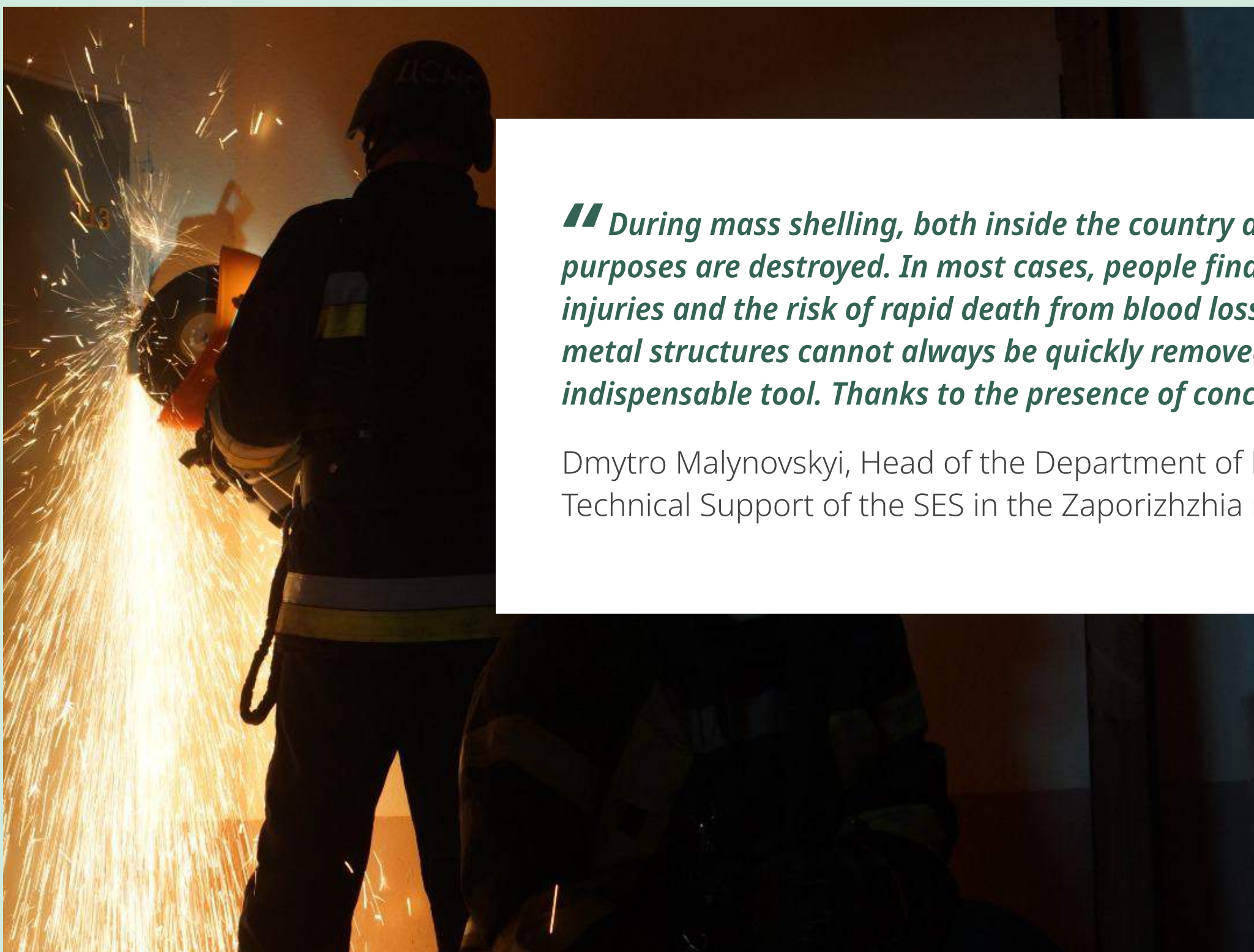
“ My journey within this project has enabled me to break free from a state of depression. It has inspired me to not wait for 'everything to be over' or postpone life to an uncertain future. Instead, I have learned the art of living for today and making the most of every moment. ”

500
distributed leaflets

 Pavlograd,
Dnipropetrovsk
oblast



Participants' Feedback and Reflections



“ During mass shelling, both inside the country and along the contact line, many buildings and structures of various purposes are destroyed. In most cases, people find themselves under the rubble of construction structures. With severe injuries and the risk of rapid death from blood loss, they need our help immediately. Massive, reinforced concrete and metal structures cannot always be quickly removed using heavy machinery. In this case, concrete cutters are an indispensable tool. Thanks to the presence of concrete cutters in our units, we have saved many human lives, “

Dmytro Malynovskyi, Head of the Department of Material and Technical Support of the SES in the Zaporizhzhia region.



“ Although it was already evening and it was pretty “loud” [Russian strikes], the doctors [from NGO Casers medical team] agreed to visit the additional village to provide the necessary assistance with no hesitation. Doctors examined the woman and recommended immediate hospitalization in the maternity hospital. The very next day, the woman gave birth to a girl, “

NGO “Casars” on their Facebook page.



“ It was fascinating. Theory is different, it’s dry. Practice is more interesting. Here we got two in one. This is great! “

Oleh Bykovets, Prosthetist doctor from Poltava regarding the “Unbroken” training.



“ I’ve gained insights on recognizing potential dangers, responding to emergencies, and ensuring the safety of both myself and others. The information provided was highly valuable and I believe it’s knowledge that everyone should have, “

Charity Fund “Living Heart” training participant.



“ Thank you for your humanity and for listening. Thanks to those who created this phone number. We, who were there [at war], need it so much. I just need to be listened to, “

a veteran undergoing rehabilitation and using the UVF hotline.



“ There once was a missile that hit my street and I witnessed how the medics were rescuing the wounded. The training gave me the confidence that if something like this happened again, I would be able to help and stay composed, “

Taisia, student from Zaporizhzhya Polytechnic, activist, participant of the first aid training conducted by All-Ukrainian Council of Reanimation (Resuscitation) and Emergency Medical Aid.



Participants' Feedback and Reflections

“ I am happy to participate in the mentoring project. Here I found a person who helped me complete all the rehabilitation process, my mentor... That there are people who have gone through a similar experience and now they are near you with prostheses or in a wheelchair and say: "You can do it!" ”

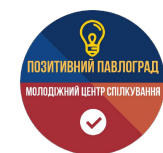
an “Unbroken” Rehabilitation Center patient, mentorship program participant by CO CF “Medical Innovations.”

UNBROKEN



“ My journey within this project has enabled me to break free from a state of depression. It has inspired me to not wait for 'everything to be over' or postpone life to an uncertain future. Instead, I have learned the art of living for today and making the most of every moment, ”

Yulia, a mother and IDP from Luhansk region, NGO “Positive Pavlograd” training participant.



“ Thanks to the IREX's Ukraine Rapid Response Fund, we received equipment that is much needed for our shelter. We will use the equipment to react to different extraordinary situations, to create safe conditions for our employees and pupils to stay in the shelter, ”

civil protection facility employee in Pryluky, Chernihiv region about the project of NGO “Siverian Institute.”



“ Thanks to consultations, I applied for social security benefits for a child with a disability. It was a very difficult procedure and I do not know how I would have dealt with it without the help of a consultant, ”

a mom of a child with a disability from Chernihiv about “Djerela” Charity Association.



“ Deminers with metal detectors constantly work because there are a lot of mined areas. They (metal detectors, — ed.) are often used in the Kherson region's de-occupied territories. Just yesterday, three of our crew members came back from rotation. One more crew is still there, ”

Oleksandr Vinnytskyi, Chief of the Pyrotechnic and Emergency Rescue Department of the Special Emergency Rescue Squad at the Zaporizhzhia region.



Participants' Feedback and Reflections

// We are very grateful for the equipment and devices. We need everything. Especially thank you for the washing machines - we do not have enough of them, only two, so people have to wait in line to do laundry... And here are washing machines with dryers! //

the Head of the IDP shelter that was equipped with URRF support in Cherkasy region by NGO "Dana Center."



// I have two children: the eldest son is 14 years old, and the youngest daughter is 1.5 years old. I saw an advertisement for your free course on Instagram. I wanted to take such training even when my eldest son was little, but at that time there were very few such courses, they were difficult to find and very expensive... 95% of the information I heard today is something new for me that I have not come across before. Sincerely - my feedback is only positive, //

Hanna, NGO "Lada" training participant.



// Thank you. I feel a lot of support and care from you. You care, and it is not just a job for you. I have hope now, because I had no hope before, //

a mother of a veteran using the UVF hotline.



// Great course. The information is clearly explained and easy to understand. Thank you for your work. This is very important knowledge that I will use in the future, //

a participant of the NGO "Parostok" course.



// The training was very interesting. I liked that the trainer explained in an accessible way what to do if you find yourself under rubble, how to make a mask to breathe, what one should not do. It was especially interesting to learn that you should not just take Iodine, //

NGO "ReHub" personal safety training participant in Lviv.



// We have been waiting for so long that newspaper will be back; for us the return of the newspaper is the return to pre-war times; especially happy that it's the print version that has its own readers who are non-online people, //

reader of the Newspaper "Kremenchutskyi Telegraf."

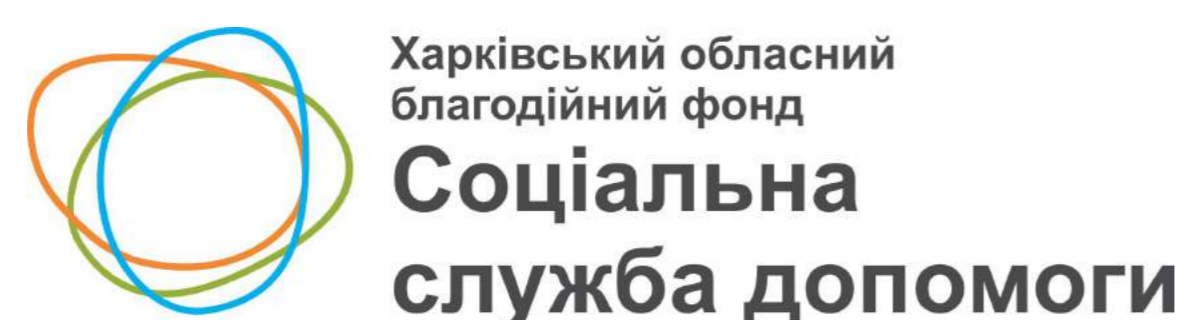
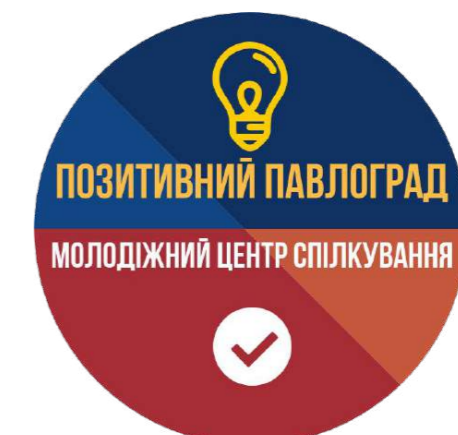


GRATITUDE TO OUR PARTNERS

Government partners



Local organizations



About















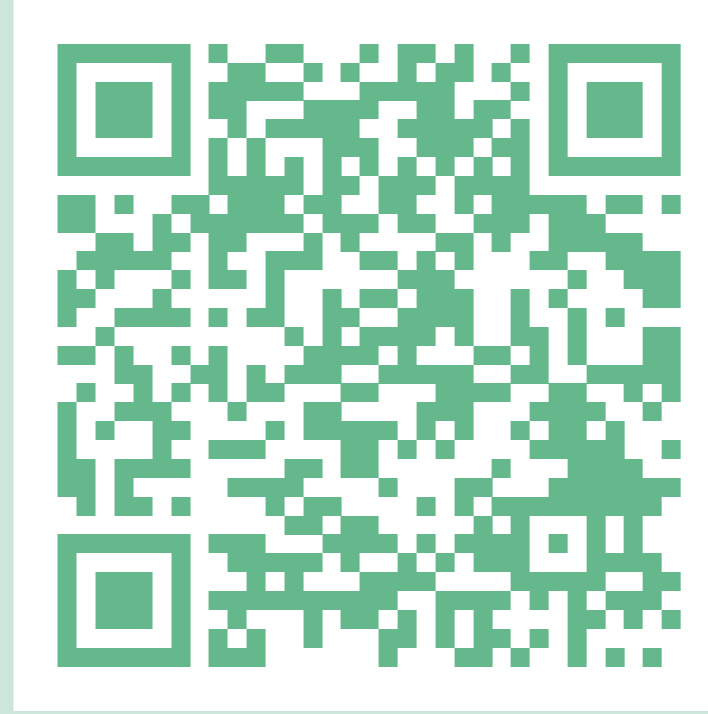
The International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) is an independent nonprofit organization dedicated to building a more just, prosperous, and inclusive societies in four areas essential to progress: **empowering youth, cultivating leaders, strengthening institutions, and extending access to quality education and information.**

Founded in 1968, IREX has experience implementing programs and providing consulting expertise in more than 100 countries.

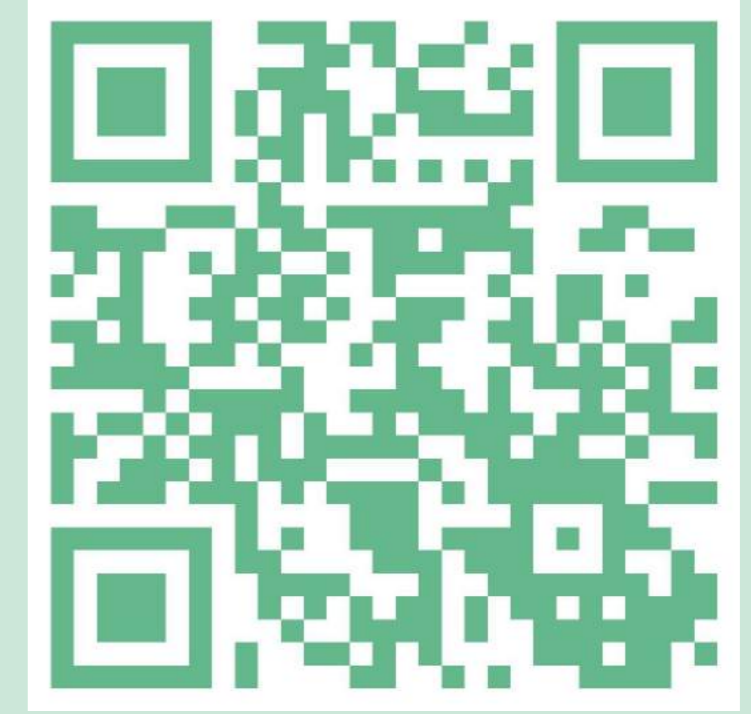
IREX'S REACH IN UKRAINE

The programs IREX has implemented in Ukraine cover the following topics:

-  Improving the quality of and access to services available to Ukraine's veterans.
-  Fostering social cohesion between IDPs and host community members.
-  Empowering youth and cultivating the future generation of leaders.
-  Implementing rapid response initiatives.
-  Integrating media literacy in Ukraine's education system.
-  Strengthening independent media.
-  Providing grants to NGOs.
-  Working with local and national government institutions.
-  Supporting U.S. public diplomacy in Ukraine by operating America Houses.
-  Fostered citizen engagement with reformed branches of national police.
-  Modernized 3,500+ libraries.
-  Supported Ukraine's decentralization reform.



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Please do not hesitate
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about URRF at



[FACEBOOK](#)

The "Ukraine Rapid Response Fund" program is implemented by IREX with the support of the U.S. Department of state.