



Child-friendly space at a Polish Red Cross cash distribution centre. © IFRC

# PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION (PGI) AND SAFEGUARDING OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Ukraine and Impacted Countries Emergency Appeal (28/02/2022 - 31/12/2025)

Through its Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), and Safeguarding work, IFRC aims to prevent and respond to issues of violence, discrimination and exclusion, while ensuring that people are safe from harm, respected and their rights are guaranteed.

- **Protection** means addressing violence and keeping people safe from harm.
- **Gender and diversity** are about addressing discrimination and understanding people's different needs, risks, and capacities.
- **Inclusion** means actively addressing exclusion by meaningfully involving and engaging excluded people in our work.
- **Safeguarding** refers to our responsibility to keep people safe from any form of harm caused by the misuse of power by making sure that our staff, volunteers, programmes, and communications do no harm to children and adults, nor expose them to abuse or exploitation.

**IN TIMES OF CONFLICT**, there are increased risks of conflict-related sexual violence, trafficking for sexual exploitation, sexual exploitation and abuse of vulnerable groups, and pre-existing and increased displacement-related risks of violence.

More than 90% of the people that have fled Ukraine are women, children, older people, people with disabilities, and other groups facing different vulnerabilities and risks. Discriminatory practices and barriers to accessing services have also been identified, especially for refugees without protection status, third country nationals, and groups such as Roma, persons with disabilities and people of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions (SOGIESC).

Within Ukraine, increased risks have also been identified, perhaps more notably among children. The conflict has severely weakened the protective environment around children, making them even further vulnerable to violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.



## IFRC'S PGI AND SAFEGUARDING STRATEGIC PILLARS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS :

### STRATEGIC PILLAR 1

**Institutional capacity, composition, and commitment to address violence, discrimination, and exclusion (Safeguarding focus):**

- Strengthen National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (National Societies) Safeguarding capacities (including, among others, through development of policies, strategies, training of staff and volunteers)
- Develop and/or strengthen Safeguarding mechanisms
- Establish Safeguarding focal points at regional, national, and local levels

### STRATEGIC PILLAR 2

**National Societies and the IFRC adopt a comprehensive Protection, Gender, and Inclusion approach across all operations, programmes, and services (PGI focus):**

- Inclusion approach across all operations, programmes, and services
- Strengthen National Societies PGI capacities (including, among others, through development of policies, strategies, training of staff and volunteers)
- Establish PGI focal points at regional, national, and local levels
- Mainstreaming of PGI across all sectors in the operation
- Community-based PGI programming (for example, around violence prevention, economic empowerment, and child protection)

### STRATEGIC PILLAR 3

**Develop and improve advocacy, partnerships, and learning within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and externally to support better protection, gender, and inclusion Actions:**

- IFRC and National Societies continue to advocate for the rights of those most at risk of violence, discrimination and exclusion
- IFRC strengthens and maintains partnerships with internal Movement actors and external partners to strengthen PGI work.
- IFRC and National Societies contribute to safeguarding and PGI-related learning in the IFRC network and the wider sector



*The Italian Red Cross organized transportation for people with special vulnerabilities to be evacuated to Italy. © IFRC*



## WHERE ARE WE WORKING?



Bulgaria,  
Hungary,  
Croatia,  
Ukraine,  
Lithuania,  
Russia,  
Belarus,  
Romania,  
Montenegro,  
Greece,  
Georgia,  
Macedonia,  
Poland,  
Slovakia,  
Moldova



## CASE FOR SUPPORT

While the ongoing crisis in Ukraine has drawn extraordinary levels of support inside and outside the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, additional capacity and resources are necessary to ensure that the National Societies and the communities will receive the needed support. The operational budget will facilitate the establishment of the necessary HR structure at national, sub-regional and regional levels. It will also include workshops, capacity building activities for staff and volunteers, compilation, socialization and development of tools and protocols, among other activities.

### Contact us

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While this strategy is intended to guide IFRC's sectoral response throughout the duration of the Ukraine and Impacted Countries operation, we will remain flexible and adaptable, which means adjustments to the strategy may be made if deemed necessary to best meet changing and evolving needs in this protracted crisis.