



*The Slovak Red Cross is meeting with displaced families who are being hosted by Slovak families to better understand their needs and identify how to support them as they settle into life in Slovakia. Victoria Chedaeva fled their home in Pavlohrad, Ukraine, with her son Mark and daughter Nicole. They are being hosted by the mother of a local police officer who offered to help her when she reached the border. © IFRC*

# SHELTER, HOUSING AND SETTLEMENTS OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

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

Millions of people have been displaced by the conflict in Ukraine. Most of these displaced people are staying with host families or have rented accommodation such as hotels and apartments. For those renting and those with host families, these situations may not be sustainable given the limited resources of both displaced and host families. Many others are passing through and temporarily staying in reception/collective centers. These reception/collective sites are often insufficiently prepared, and there is a need to support the authorities to improve the conditions for people in communal settings, supporting short-term settings, and exploring medium- and long-term solutions. Family situations and collective centers may not always meet shelter adequacy standards and afford adequate conditions for dignity and safety. Furthermore, the drop in temperatures during winter will make accommodation in collective centers without heating very challenging.

Through a combination of emergency and early recovery assistance, IFRC seeks to support communities in crisis-affected areas to restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery employing tailored shelter and settlement solutions. Beyond delivery of the services described below, through this operation IFRC also seeks to strengthen the National Societies' capacities in the design and implementation of shelter support initiatives such as the host family support programme, with the intent that these new skills and strategies will remain in-country for future localised actions.

**DAMAGE TO HOUSING IN UKRAINE** is a major concern, as many could be left without proper heating in the colder months. It is estimated that at least 135,800 housing units had been damaged or destroyed as of late September. Even minor damage such as a broken window can have a major impact in cold weather.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Kyiv School of Economics - [KSE Institute's infrastructural damage report as of September 2022](#)



## IFRC'S SHELTER, HOUSING AND SETTLEMENTS STRATEGIC PILLARS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS:



*In the Ukrainian region of Ivano-Frankivsk, the local Red Cross branch provides temporary accommodation with food and hygiene items, beds and linens, electronic appliances and help support the upgrading of washrooms and other facilities. © IFRC*

### STRATEGIC PILLAR 2

#### **Refugees and displaced persons have their emergency/early recovery housing and accommodation needs covered:**

Provision of rental support or host family support to cover the emergency/early recovery accommodation needs of refugees and displaced persons.

In Ukraine, this includes :

- Utility payments at collective centres through a Cash-for-Shelter programme
- Improvement of facilities used as collective accommodation
- Provision of modular houses for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- Support to host families
- Light to medium repair of damaged infrastructure/houses
- Technical assistance and Housing, Land and Property (HLP) support
- Settlement planning support to oblast authorities

In transit and destination countries, this includes:

- Support to hosting arrangements (to cover extra utility costs, purchase of essential items or food)
- Short-term rental assistance through conditional Cash and Voucher Assistance
- Support to short-term accommodation in transit centres/Refugee Accommodation Centres to upgrade shelter adequacy e.g., privacy, screening/ partitioning, or for long-term more substantial upgrades

### STRATEGIC PILLAR 1

#### **Refugees and displaced persons have their basic shelter needs covered through the provision of essential household items during the emergency phase of the response:**

Provision of emergency assistance and essential household items to refugees and displaced persons to cover their basic shelter needs.

### STRATEGIC PILLAR 3

#### **Refugees and displaced persons have their medium- to longer-term housing and accommodation needs covered:**

Provision of tailored temporary shelter solutions to cover medium-term accommodation needs.

In Ukraine, this includes:

- Repair/retrofitting and Reconstruction support using settlement-based approach when context allows. It will include technical support and quality assurance, capacity building for skilled and un-skilled labour, and provision of materials or CVA as required
- Information dissemination regarding HLP and property restitution issues tailored to Ukrainian Red Cross Society's (URCS) capacity and interest
- Infrastructure rehabilitation, including network repairs, restoration of services and provision of equipment

In transit and destination countries, this includes:

- Support to facilitate the integration of the displaced families into the receiving new communities through host family support and rental assistance while the context does not allow families to return



### **CASH FOR SHELTER:**

IFRC is providing cash-for-shelter support so people can rebuild their home, rent a home, or contribute to a household that is hosting them. Cash support contributes to the local economy as well, an important part of supporting host communities.

*Ukrainian Red Cross provides building materials for the reconstruction of civilian houses damaged by shelling in the town of Kuhari. © Ukrainian Red Cross*



## **CASE FOR SUPPORT**

While the ongoing crisis in Ukraine has drawn extraordinary levels of support from 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 adequate shelter support in this protracted context. The operational budget will facilitate the establishment of the necessary HR structure at national, sub-regional and regional levels to provide the services and support described above.

## **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.