

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS ON PROTECTION, GENDER, INCLUSION AND SAFEGUARDING

in the Ukraine and Impacted Countries  
Emergency Appeal of the Red Cross Red  
Crescent Movement

Integrating PGI and safeguarding into emergency responses is essential for creating a **safe and inclusive environment**, **protecting** marginalized individuals, and ensuring a dignified humanitarian response.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

In total **238k people reached** with Protection, Gender and Inclusion activities



**2.4 million CHF** in funds were earmarked for PGI and Safeguarding activities, enabling the operation **to make PGI and Safeguarding a priority**

**Seven National Societies** (Bulgarian RC, Georgian RC, Hungarian RC, Lithuanian RC, Montenegro RC, Polish RC, and Ukrainian RC) have specialized PGI programming

**Establishment of the first PGI Network for Europe and Central Asia**, with 74 members and PGI focal points from 26 National Societies

**PGI related protocols and policies created in 9 National Societies**, reporting mechanisms under development or created in 7 National Societies



One of the **key successes** to the integration of PGI and Safeguarding into the response has been the Movement **wide collaboration** on PGI and Safeguarding in the response with the **Advisory Group** (Australian RC, British RC, Canadian RC, Irish RC, Netherlands RC and Swedish RC) and the IFRC.



### A PATHWAY TO SUCCESS: CREATING A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK with PGI Focal Points at National Society level

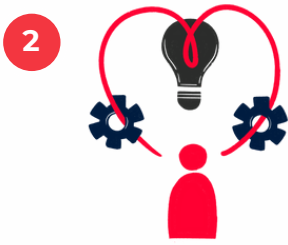
This strategy has been operationalized in the Regional PGI and Safeguarding Action Plan which focuses on **high-level activities**, and **links with the more detailed activities** found in country-level plans. The action plan enabled the PGI Regional team to demonstrate how PGI can be done in a **practical and strategic way**.



### THE STRATEGY IS BASED ON THREE PILLARS:



Building Institutional capacity, composition, and commitment to address violence, discrimination, and exclusion with a **Safeguarding focus**.



National Societies and the IFRC adopt a comprehensive **PGI approach** across all operations, programmes, and services.



Develop and improve **advocacy, partnerships**, and learning within the RCRC Movement and externally to support better PGI.

## TRAINING FOR TOMORROW

Strengthening Capacity  
for Future Success

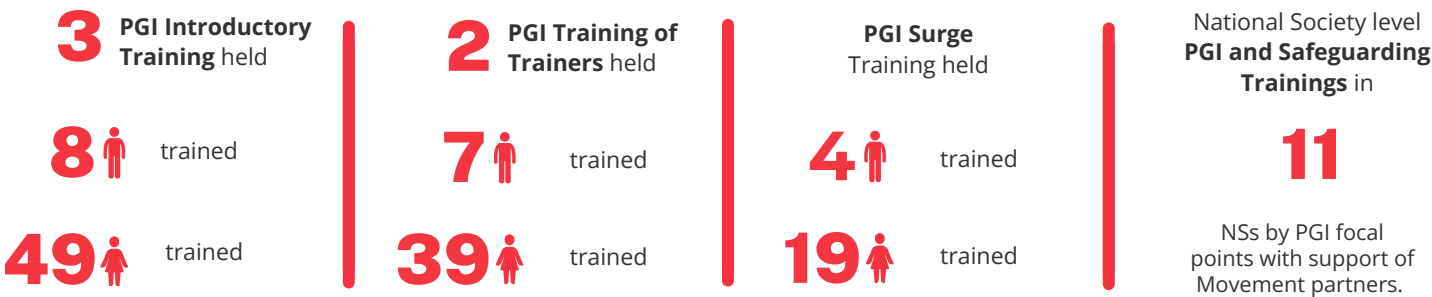
**AT THE BEGINNING OF THE RESPONSE**, there was limited awareness and understanding of **PGI and Safeguarding** within the majority of the Host National Societies involved in the response. This lack of understanding led to PGI and Safeguarding being seen as **too challenging to integrate** during emergencies. There was **low interest and resistance to PGI and Safeguarding activities**. In order to build awareness and acceptance, the **PGI Capacity Strengthening Plan for Ukraine and Impacted Countries** was developed.

In order to ensure a **strong base of PGI and Safeguarding knowledge** for a dignified, accessible, participatory and safe programmatic approach, a **Capacity Strengthening Plan for PGI** was created targeting National Society PGI Focal Points in the response.

The plan was successfully implemented:



**PGI CAPACITY STRENGTHENING PLAN WAS DEVELOPED**  
**STEPS OF THE PLAN:**



**NATIONAL SOCIETY LEVEL TRAININGS**

National Society PGI Focal Points from Croatian RC, the Red Cross of Montenegro and Kizilay were invited to co-facilitate regional level PGI trainings with the IFRC, marking **the first time that NS staff have co-delivered regional trainings with the IFRC on PGI.**

Trained **PGI Focal Points delivered specialized workshops** on PGI and Safeguarding for their Societies at Headquarters and Branch level in eleven National Societies

**696**

URCS staff and volunteers participated in **sensitization sessions** on PGI and Safeguarding

In only two months, trained focal points from the Bulgarian RC were able to **sensitize 128 volunteers on PGI**



**PGI NETWORK**

To ensure the ongoing support of PGI Focal Points in the region, a **PGI Network was co-created with focal points in the region.** The aim of the network is to **strengthen cooperation** in the response and to **better address PGI across the operation in a coordinated way.**



The PGI Network, which is **the first of its kind in Europe and Central Asia region** expanded to include NSs not in the response, **with 74 members from 26 National Societies.**

Polish RC and Georgian RC **have created their own National-Society level PGI Networks.**

**PUTTING PGI INTO ACTION**  
**The Results of a Strengthened Capacity**

**PGI SPECIFIC PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES**

● Provision of **child- friendly spaces** services, benefiting 58 children in Białystok and Wrocław branches In collaboration with Polish RC



● **Awareness-raising sessions in schools and branches** about positive parenting, hygiene promotion, domestic violence prevention, social networks, support for children with special needs, and inclusion with the involvement of 631 people in Poland including 53 people with disabilities.

● In only two months, Bulgarian Red Cross was able to support a total of **141 people from 33 vulnerable households** with their **Cash for Protection initiative**

● Organized **social inclusion activities**, recreational programs, language courses, and peer support sessions.

● The Hungarian Red Cross implemented the **Cash for Protection** project to empower marginalized groups, with a focus on the Roma community. By the end of the project, **3,083 people received cash assistance, and 641 Hungarian Red Cross staff and volunteers were trained on PGI.**



● The Red Cross of Montenegro implemented **Cash For Education**, to address the financial barriers to education for school-aged children. The program, which reached over **500 children**, empowered families to meet their individual needs, **promoting dignity and a sense of belonging and equality** in Montenegrin society.

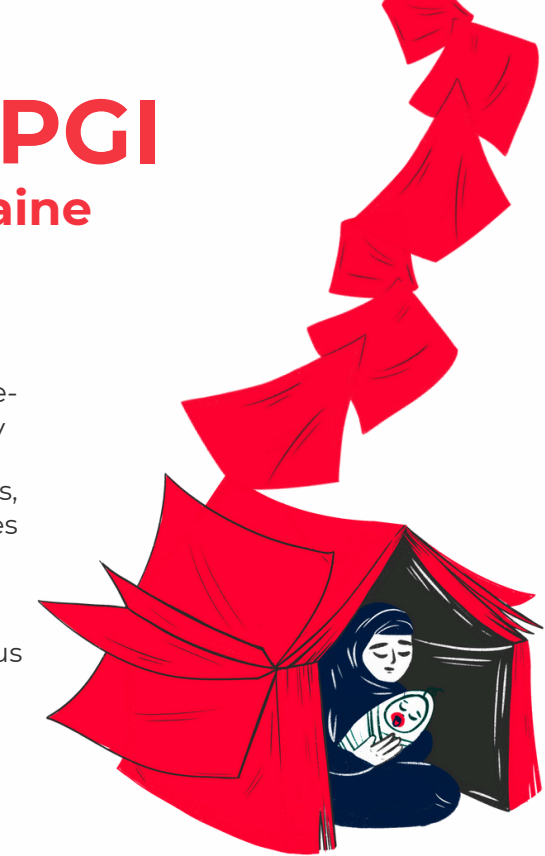




# CONTEXTUALIZING PGI

## Creating Tools to do the Work in Ukraine and Impacted Countries

- **Translation, and dissemination of key PGI documents** and e-learning materials adapted to the needs of each National Society
- Development of **GBV referral pathways**, information directories, and information leaflets for dissemination to affected communities in National Societies across the response
- Creation of **PGI Minimum Standard Checklists** for various programs like Mobile Health Units, Cash and Winterization
- **Creation of anti-trafficking awareness posters** for people on the move in key languages including Ukrainian and Polish
- **Cash** for PGI specific initiatives, including Cash for Protection (Hungarian RC and Bulgarian RC) and Cash for Education (Montenegro RC)
- Piloting of **Minimum Standards for PGI tool** at branch level In Slovak RC



- Creation of **campaigns** for 16 Days of **Action Against Sexual and Gender Based Violence** and **International Women's Day** at Regional level.

## WINTERIZATION



- Developed **child protection standards and guidelines** for MHPSS winter programme activity
- Winterization preparedness **PGI checklist** created for the operation
- **Accessibility** is now included in the scope of work of shelter reconstruction and renovation programs, including ramps in entrance ways and assistive devices within bathrooms

## A SPOTLIGHT ON POLICIES

9 National Societies in the response have developed Safeguarding Policies

- A **draft safeguarding policy** and policy on preventing and responding to sexual harassment
- Integration of PGI and Safeguarding into **20 sectoral plans** under the URCS One Plan
- With URCS, **updating of Child Protection Policy** and creation of **draft Safeguarding Policy**
- North Macedonian RC undertook a Safeguarding self-assessment, acting as a pilot NS for the new tool and is **in the process of creating their own Safeguarding Policies**.
- **Baltic Achievements:** Estonian RC, Latvian RC and Lithuanian RC have all **adapted Safeguarding policies** tailored to meet the needs of their National Societies.
- **First- ever draft PGI Policy** in URCS



**BY ALLOCATING SEVERAL RESOURCES, THE PGI IN EMERGENCIES (UKRAINE AND IMPACTED COUNTRIES) RESPONSE HAS BECOME A PGI AND SAFEGUARDING**



## SUCCESS STORY

## OVERCOMING CHALLENGES



- **Lack of understanding of PGI and Safeguarding was overcome** through the implementation of the Capacity Strengthening Plan and the establishment of PGI Focal Points
- Training on Safeguarding, the creation of contextualized Safeguarding awareness materials and collaboration with the OIAI team **challenged the culture in the region and increased levels of reporting of Safeguarding concerns.**



- The establishment of PGI Focal Points and the creation of an IFRC Regional PGI team has **built up the capacity of PGI enormously in the region**
- **Tools and strategies were adapted** to meet the unique needs of European urban and rural contexts

- **Lack of sector-wide referral pathways** created in impacted countries in the response lead to the need for **National Societies to create their own referral systems using a survivor-centered approach.**
- Initial lack of cross-sector collaboration, which was addressed through the **soft skills of PGI delegates** in the region to work together with sector leads



# LESSONS LEARNT FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

**Both PGI Delegates and Safeguarding Delegates are essential** to the impact of the operation. Establish clear roles and responsibilities for PGI and Safeguarding delegates engaged in the response

Embrace readiness to ensure that we **are able to act faster**

**The systematic collection of Sex, Age, Disability, and Diversity Disaggregated Data** is crucial for identifying who is being reached by the response. Thorough analysis of this data can highlight marginalized and overlooked groups, ensuring the response becomes more focused and inclusive of those who have been missed.

**Designing distribution methods** that address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of diverse groups and to ensure **eligibility criteria have been reviewed** with a gender lens have shown a better impact on marginalized groups

**Policies without SOP are not effective.** To enhance child safeguarding and PSEA the policy development should be accompanied hand by hand with the SOP. A **coordinated effort between PGI, Safeguarding, HR and XXX teams** are needed to ensure alignment and effectiveness.