



U-SAVED

# ANNUAL REPORT

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2022

# S T I Z E T I N O C



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# About Us

At the start of the war in Ukraine, U-Saved founder, François DUPAQUIER, is leading an evaluation and emergency mission for an international humanitarian NGO. For the past 20 years, he has been evaluating the programs and systems of NGOs, donors and international organizations with the consultancy firm he runs. He visits groups of volunteers all over the country and as close as possible to the conflict zones. There he discovers the exceptional solidarity of the population, which mobilizes everywhere to distribute humanitarian aid through a unique network of volunteers implementing mastered project management systems. Together with professionals in humanitarian project management and financial auditing, he founds U-Saved France and U-Saved Ukraine, two sister organizations committed to more efficiency and localisation in humanitarian aid.

**U-**SAVED** FEDERATION/FRANCE:** It is not a headquarter, but it is gathering in a federation our local partners to help them getting the necessary competences in project and financial management, fundraising, advocacy, and also through innovative approaches.

**U-**SAVED** UA** is an Ukrainian charitable foundation which gathers its local organizations and implements humanitarian programs while connecting the international donors and humanitarian pipeline to local stakeholders.





# Linking the giver and the receiver

We put the beneficiaries of humanitarian actions back at the center of the program. We want to support a humanitarian approach linked to the objectives of the Grand Bargain and to improve the effectiveness of our actions through digital procedures and localization of our aid by building the capacity of local humanitarian actors.

Closer to the field, with a better knowledge of the context and the population, with more flexibility, the aim is to renew with the efficiency of humanitarian aid for more support arriving to the most vulnerable with the necessary accountability to donors and beneficiaries, and the greater humanitarian impact.



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## Our Mission

**1**

To provide assistance and humanitarian aid, and to carry out actions of solidarity and charity, to vulnerable populations as a result of political, ethnic, economic or social oppression, war, disaster, ecological threat or any other situation of crisis, emergency or underdevelopment.

**2**

To support the improvement of processes aimed at bringing aid to populations in need.

**3**

To bring people together by any means, including digital means, to enable exchanges to create and strengthen solidarity.

**4**

To collect and disseminate information on the situations encountered to the public, the media, decision-makers and those involved in solidarity, using various means of expression and initiatives.

# An observation: the need to reform the humanitarian sector

Since February 2022, the Ukrainian population has impressed us all with the exceptional solidarity it has immediately shown by mobilizing to support humanitarian assistance through a unique network of volunteers. In each town, networks were set up to receive, classify, store and distribute donations. Perfectly mastered logistics systems were set up to monitor stocks and supply needs.

At the same time, convoys of lorries loaded with donations from all over Europe quickly arrived in Ukraine. Voluntary citizens picked up refugees at the borders and took them where they wanted to go. Meanwhile, international NGOs responded to calls for projects from the main funders, obtained millions of euros and took weeks to distribute basic necessities. Yet most of these NGOs are considered responsive and operational organizations in the modern humanitarian system.

In recent years, NGOs have seen their institution funding increase exponentially. The procedures imposed by donors, mainly on administrative and financial aspects, have become incredibly strict and place constraints on NGOs. The professionalization of the humanitarian sector, and the financial attraction it represents, has swept away the initial altruistic commitment, and has led people to choose a humanitarian career out of opportunism.

As a result, there has been a race for funding, amplified by competition between NGOs. Priority is no longer given to programmes aimed at beneficiaries but to accountability to donors. The effectiveness of humanitarian NGOs is now measured more by quantitative and financial indicators, particularly in terms of the financial volume generated. NGO head offices have become technocratic monsters, with ever-increasing fixed costs, necessitating an ever-greater need for growth.



**MORE  
SOLIDARITY  
AND  
MORE  
EFFECTIVE AID**

# The emergence of U-Saved

Humanitarian aid is increasingly constrained by administrative processes which limit its capacity to intervene. However, there is still room for the creation of new NGOs with innovative models.

U-Saved is first and foremost a network that aims to federate solidarity actions in order to bring together those who give and those who receive. It is organized around two international NGOs, one French and the other Ukrainian, which were set up in the first few weeks after the outbreak of the conflict and bring together different volunteer movements to help the civilian populations affected by the war. U-Saved was born out of a meeting between humanitarian professionals and Ukrainians who shared a desire to act quickly and effectively in the humanitarian emergency facing the country. It is also the fruit of the impetus with which Ukrainians have organized themselves to face up to the horrors of war. U-Saved catalyzes and deploys this incredible energy as close as possible to humanitarian needs.

U-Saved UA is a Ukrainian humanitarian NGO providing emergency aid and protection to the most vulnerable. U-Saved manages its own teams of volunteers when necessary, but is first and foremost a consortium of various volunteer groups active in the regions most affected by the war in Ukraine. We work with a localized approach, supporting the logistics and human resources of OSCs, promoting the Grand Bargain resolutions and believing in the need for a new link between humanitarianism, development and peace.

U-Saved UA is responsible for the implementation of all projects, but is supported by U-Saved Federation (or France), its sister organization, which aims to build the capacity of its local partners in terms of project and budget management, including MEAL.

**No peace tomorrow without the support of  
Ukrainian civil society today**



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## Map of all our activities

**SPACE OF  
INITIATIVE**



**Rescue  
NOW** ua

**STUDENTSTVO  
DNIPRO**



  
**volonterska**



 **SIGMA**  
Software

**VSE BUDE DOBRE  
UKRAYINA**

**Supported by our local partners, our groups of  
volunteers**

# Our programmes



**U-SAVED**



## SUMMARY OF PROJECTS FOR 2022

### Bread distribution:

Since the start of its activities, U-Saved has been distributing bread on a daily basis to people living in the regions worst affected by the war. These distributions not only provide moral support for the people concerned, but also help to provide them with essential food aid. Thanks to partnerships with local bakeries, 272,47 loaves of bread were distributed to the population in 2022 to cover their daily loaves of bread were distributed to the population in 2022 to cover their daily needs.needs.



### Evacuations:

U-Saved has been carrying out evacuation activities since July 2022. 6,796 people were evacuated in 2022. Our teams of volunteers respond to the needs of people wishing to flee the areas worst affected by the conflict. In addition to its own evacuation service, U-Saved supports a number of volunteers logistically, financially and materially in their efforts to get out into the field and help people.



### Water and food packages:

U-Saved organized the delivery of individual food parcels and drinking water to the following volunteer groups: Rescue Now, Sprouts of Hope and Edelweiss. In total, 4,980 parcels and 41,120L of water were distributed thanks to the volunteers supported by U-Saved.



# Supporting food assistance



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## The facts:

The war has led to a nationwide cut in supplies of everything from basic necessities to medicines. Producers have closed factories, and suppliers have done the same with their warehouses. Some infrastructures have been caught up in the fighting.

It is in the east of the country, closest to the war zones, that the most vulnerable people are to be found: families with no means of escape, isolated and disabled people, and many elderly people. At first, these people found themselves without resources, without access to healthcare, food or essential goods. The Kharkiv, Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts have been the areas hardest hit by the fighting in Ukraine. These regions have recorded the most of all incidents reported in Ukraine since the war began on 24 February 2022.

During the first months of the war, the volunteers first worked, exhausting their personal resources, as well as those of their families. The living conditions of all these volunteers were particularly precarious. They did not always have adequate resources to work. They were dependent on the maintenance of their vehicles and the availability of fuel, and had few resources to ensure their safety.

## Daily bread distributions:

Based on these observations, we decided to support the basic food aid provided by volunteer groups and medical and social structures for particularly vulnerable people in the Donbass and Kharkiv region, in particular by distributing bread on a daily basis. Bread is the mainstay of the Ukrainian diet.

This activity received strong support from the local population and volunteers. The distribution of bread has had an impact on local morale. We reached some very isolated villages, such as Adiiivka, on the front line. These distributions complemented the other food distributions carried out by groups of volunteers on the ground.







Public Donations  
56464



**Number of loaves by donors between  
May and December 2022**

To meet people's needs in terms of bread, we have based ourselves on a nutritional requirement of 120 grams of bread per person per day. As a result, between May and December 2022, **272,147 loaves of bread were distributed** to the most vulnerable people in the worst-affected areas, equivalent to 164 tonnes of bread or the daily bread requirement of almost one million people. The main beneficiaries of these distributions are women, who represent **71,28%** of our beneficiaries, and people aged over 60, who represent **61,2%** of them.

**FONDATION  
JM.BRUNEAU**  
SOUS L'ÉGIDE DE LA  
FONDATION DE FRANCE

**FONDATION  
DE  
FRANCE**

**pah**  
Polish Humanitarian Action

The distribution of bread was supported by several donors over these 8 months: the JM Bruneau Foundation, the Fondation de France and, finally, the NGO Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH).

These donors also made it possible to open a warehouse, which also enabled other humanitarian supplies to be received and logistics to be organized. In addition to the distribution of bread, 1,600 weekly food rations, **4,980 food parcels** (for **5,611 beneficiaries**) and **41,120 liters of drinking water** were distributed to the most vulnerable sections of the population. The parcels and water were also distributed during the emergency evacuations from the Donbass to people in the most need and closest to the combat zones. On some occasions, food parcels were left in the shelters of the villages to be evacuated, pending a new opportunity to evacuate the people.

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# Evacuations in figures

For U-Saved, evacuations of vulnerable people from areas affected by the conflict are a key element of our humanitarian action and cooperation with local volunteer groups. Evacuation requests closely follow developments in the line of contact. For example, the liberation of the Kharkivska region in September and the liberation of the town of Kherson in November 2022, combined with the onset of winter, have led to new waves of displacement between these areas and the central and western Oblasts. In September 2022, the number of evacuations tended to decrease, following the recapture of vast territories by Ukrainian forces, particularly in the Oblasts of Kharkivska and Sumska. However, the humanitarian situation remained critical, with very limited access to electricity, water and the mobile phone network, as well as intense shelling, leading to a resurgence in demand for evacuation. From December the region of Bakhmut, and in general the entire front line of the Donbass, was the focus of the most intense military activity in the country, with intense clashes.

## Example of support for a group of volunteers

Despite the strong demand for evacuation on the part of the population, the resources devoted by the international community to supporting this activity have remained very limited. For U-Saved, it was very important to support these activities by providing support to the volunteer groups on the ground, who were becoming increasingly tired and working in extreme and dangerous conditions. U-Saved decided to support the work of volunteer groups such as Rescue Now. Rescue Now had set up a hotline system to gather information on the needs and whereabouts of people to be evacuated. The volunteers then liaised with the local authorities or civil society members active in the villages in question, in order to prepare the safest route for organizing the evacuations. For each evacuation, the Rescue Now volunteers brought packets of food to be left in the shelters for people who had not yet been evacuated.



Since May 2022, U-Saved's objective has been to expand its evacuation activities through its local partners, in particular by supporting volunteer groups with the payment of more than **64,098L of fuel**, vehicle repairs, allowances for certain volunteers, but also by creating its own evacuation service, in particular by providing a new truck for front-line evacuations. Investing in this vehicle has improved the working conditions and safety of the U-Saved teams. In order to evacuate people from the most dangerous areas, close to the front line, or from new de-occupied territories, to safe areas, groups of volunteers and U-Saved teams travelled **267,075km**.

The demographics of the beneficiaries changed during 2022. Between March and September, evacuees were mainly elderly people and families. From August 2022, it was mainly adults who decided to evacuate (40% were aged between 19 and 60). Then, from November onwards, it was once again the elderly (37,97% aged over 60 in November, compared with 12,28% between August and October), but also children (35,13% aged between 0 and 18, compared with 8,54% between August and October), who were evacuated, no doubt prompted by the arrival of winter and its harsh conditions, as well as the intensification of fighting and bombing in the Donetsk Oblast.



We would like to thank the **Elephant company** for its help in producing a video clip, and the **Rotary Club Biarritz, Anglet, Bayonne, Côte Basque** for its donation of €1,000 to fund the purchase of a truck for U-Saved's evacuation activities.



**6,796 people evacuated from 58 localities in 4 months**



The evacuations, starting in August 2022, were funded by the NGO PAH. Between August and December 2022, a total of **6,796 people were evacuated** by U-Saved teams from **58 different locations** in Donbass and Kharkiv region. The main evacuation sites in Donbass were Chasiv Yar, Kostyantynivka, Mykolaivka, Pokrovsk, Sivers'k, Slovyansk, Bakhmut and Soledar. Of these evacuees, 3,724 were women, representing 59% of beneficiaries.

# Preparing for winter and improving living conditions

In December 2022, U-Saved signed a contract with the NGO Stichting Vluchteling to protect the most vulnerable people, particularly at the onset of winter.

OCHA estimated that 1.7 million people are in need of a rapid winter response across the country for 2022-2023. Early planning was necessary to ensure warm, safe and dignified living conditions for vulnerable populations. Priority was initially given to cash for shelter and heating, food aid for the winter months and livelihood interventions to better protect crops. More specifically, there was an urgent need for basic winter items such as thermal blankets, winter clothing, heating appliances and solid fuels, as well as repairs to collective centres offering shelter to displaced people and damaged houses in isolated rural areas. Indeed, with the unprecedented displacement across the country, the destruction of homes, property and productive assets and the loss of jobs, millions of people found themselves in a situation where they could no longer meet their needs.

These challenges have particularly affected rural communities. Shortages of materials and skills have severely hampered self-recovery efforts. Approximately 44 million square meters of housing were damaged by the end of 2022, representing a sum of 39 billion dollars for the housing sector nationwide.

As a result, the priority populations are mainly people living in remote and rural areas, displaced people in collective centres, as well as people living in war-damaged areas, particularly vulnerable people living isolated from the main energy and heating infrastructures. According to the government, at the end of 2022, there were more than 950,000 displaced people living in 5,670 collective centres. A significant proportion of these centres need some form of repair to prepare them for the colder weather.







All displaced and conflict-affected communities are vulnerable, but the elderly and disabled are particularly at risk due to their limited ability to provide for their own physical and financial security. By 2022, electricity and fuel shortages were predicted across Ukraine, adversely affecting the population as a whole. Functional markets for solid fuels, stoves, winter clothing and other essential winter items were extremely difficult to access for many affected communities. As a result, winterisation activities were prioritized in the Western and Central Oblasts, where most collective centres are located, and in the Central and Eastern Oblasts, which are return areas, isolated places with difficult access to services and markets, and damaged individual houses.

U-Saved aimed to fill the gaps in the overall shelter and winterisation response implemented by the main humanitarian actors thanks to its large network of volunteers and its access capacity in the areas most affected by the war. With winter approaching, U-Saved wanted to **respond to the urgent winterization needs** of the most vulnerable people in line with the recommendations of the Shelter and NFI, Food Security, WASH clusters, by procuring and distributing non-food items and food, and rehabilitating damaged or inadequate IDP collective centres to ensure an immediate and vital response in conflict-affected communities. The project involved rehabilitating shelters and basements and distributing winter items.

With U-Saved's activities already underway, the interventions for this project were to prioritize the elderly, the disabled and single-headed households (in most cases headed by a woman)



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## The organization of the supply chain:

For this project, it was difficult to organize Ukrainian suppliers due to the problems experienced by local markets as a result of the war. After an extensive analysis of local and international markets for the goods required for this project, U-Saved chose to build a partnership with **Bioport and Atlas Logistic** for the transport, storage and export of goods from Western Europe to Ukraine. The effective control of merchants and the security of transport and delivery were also important factors to consider in order to ensure the arrival of goods in Eastern Ukraine, close to the frontline. These partners agreed to deliver throughout Ukraine, including in the riskiest areas.

As a result, at the end of 2022, an agreement was signed with these partners and the goods designed to improve the winter living conditions of U-Saved beneficiaries (**thermoses, powerbanks, blankets, headlamps**) were delivered to Dnipro at the beginning of 2023, enabling these items to be distributed from the first few months. **Wood stoves, generators and electric cookers** have also been installed to give more people access to electricity and heating. At the same time, discussions were taking place on the possibility of **rehabilitating some of the houses and collective centres** affected by the conflict in order to improve living conditions for the population, particularly during the winter, by setting up mobile rehabilitation teams in the Ukrainian territories.







# U-MADE IN FIGURES

**272 147**

The number of loaves of bread distributed to vulnerable populations in 2022 by U-Made teams, the equivalent of 164 tonnes.

**1 088 591**

The number of beneficiaries whose daily bread needs have been covered.

**37 427**

The number of beneficiaries covered by U-Made activities other than bread distributions.

**61,2%**

A majority of people aged over 60 covered by U-Made's activities.

**71,28%**

The percentage of women benefiting from our food distribution programmes.

**6 796**

The number of people evacuated in 2022 by U-Made volunteer groups, using more than 64,098 liters of fuel.

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# CONCLUSION

U-Saved's principles are based on the commitments made at the 2016 Grand Bargain. The "New Way of Working" initiative is part of this search for new models that are better adapted to the sector, including the formation of alliances between like-minded organizations and the use of participatory funding.

U-Saved places this participatory and collaborative approach at the heart of its action policy, with the networking of several types of players and capacity-building for local volunteer groups. In this way, we aim to **improve the effectiveness of humanitarian aid, through more localized aid, with fewer intermediaries and closer to needs.**



## An inspiration

The exceptional solidarity shown by Ukrainian society through a unique network of volunteers

## An observation

These initiatives, supported by a group of volunteers from all over the world, have proved to be unequalled in their effectiveness and, above all, indispensable to Ukrainians



## An objective

To act as a catalyst for solidarity by creating a link between those who give and those who receive, with concrete projects decided with the people in need and the volunteers, ensuring that the aid reaches their hands quickly, effectively and cost-effectively.

This increase in efficacy is also due to its unique operating mode: the desire for dematerialisation, and therefore the speed of processes. This quest for efficiency and transparency is an integral part of our *modus operandi*. Our aim is to **restore confidence in humanitarian aid**. To ensure compliance with international law and humanitarian principles, we systematically include awareness on these key issues to ensure the protection of our partners in war zones and the conflict sensitivity of our projects.

## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2022 ACTIVITIES U-SAVED FRANCE

<b>INCOME STATEMENT</b>	<b>Financial year 2022</b>	<b>Ukraine Bread Project</b>	<b>Fondation de France Project</b>	<b>PAH Evacuation Project</b>
	Net	Net	Net	NET
Contributions	29110	29 110		
Public donations	9000	9 000		
Sponsorship		3 000		
• <b>Including Fondation Bruneau</b>		5 000		
• Including Frontview		1 000		
• Including Rotary				
Project grants	139 661		92 395	47 266
Write-backs of depreciation, impairment, provisions and expense transfers	4 000			4 000
Dedicated funds				
Other products				
<b>INCOME AND GRANTS</b>	<b>181 771</b>	<b>38 110</b>	<b>92 395</b>	<b>51 266</b>
Expenses incurred directly by U-Saved France	-53 265	-22 520	-23 285	-7 460
Expenses incurred by our partners in Ukraine (U-Saved UA, Rescue Now)	-123 657	-14 741	69 110	-39 806
Transit vehicle depreciation	-4 000			-4 000
<b>EXPENSES INCURRED IN THE FIELD</b>	<b>-180 922</b>	<b>-37 261</b>	<b>-92 395</b>	<b>-51 266</b>
Flate-rate administrative costs	12 548		9 239	3 309
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>13 397</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>9 239</b>	<b>3 309</b>

Months	Travel in the field	Bread purchases	Total
April	97		97
May	465	3 689	4 147
June	170	7 002	7 173
July	691	5 682	6 372
August		3 829	3 829
September	598	3 685	4 283
October	304	3 685	3 989
November		3 685	3 695
December		3 685	3 385
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>2 325</b>	<b>34 937</b>	<b>37 261</b>



		Assets 12/31/2022	Expected outcome	
U-Saved France assets	Transit Vehicle Treasury	8 250 625 440	-4 000	Vehicle value: 4 250 euros
Expected expenses and repayments in 2023	SV Project PAH Project Advance F. Dupaquier			Settled cash balance 2023: 9 147 euros
Additional payments	U-Saved Ukraine Fondation de France		4 000 21 634	
		633 690	-620 293	13 397

Surplus 2023