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BRIGHTER TOGETHER

Support for URAN — Lessons Learnt

Humanitarian Support in the Community Programme

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TNC25 Community Hub

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Introduction

- Ukrainian NREN URAN has operated under war for over three years.
- The GÉANT community's support has been vital.
- We share lessons learnt and explore a new humanitarian support initiative for NRENs in crises.





“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.”

- Helen Keller

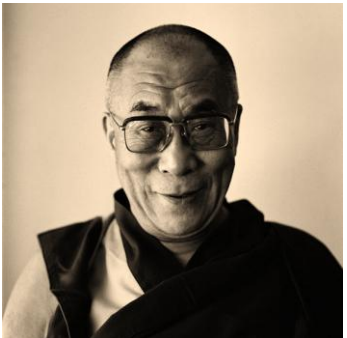
American author, disability rights advocate, and political activist



“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for anyone else.”

- Charles Dickens

English novelist and social critic



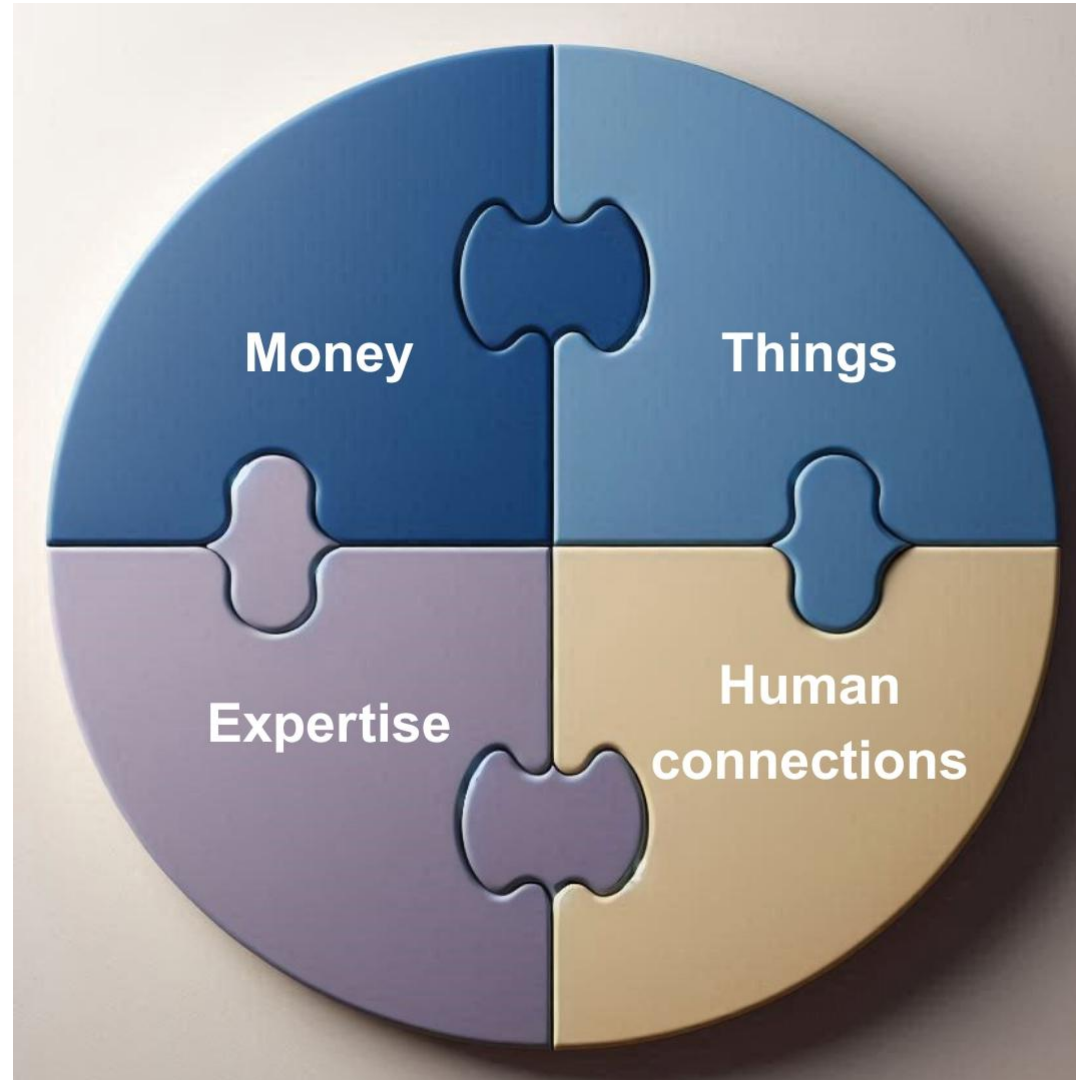
“It is not enough to be compassionate – you must act.”

- Dalai Lama XIV

Spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism and Nobel Peace Prize laureate

Lesson 1: There are various categories of help needed

Four
main categories:



Category 1: Financial support (Money)

Funding cuts during crises reduce income; expenses rise.

Emergency Relief Fund:

- operational expenses;
- essential equipment (laptops, generators);
- energy independence (power units, fuel).



💡 URAN example - financial initiative by GÉANT and Vietsch Foundation

Category 2: Material support (Things)

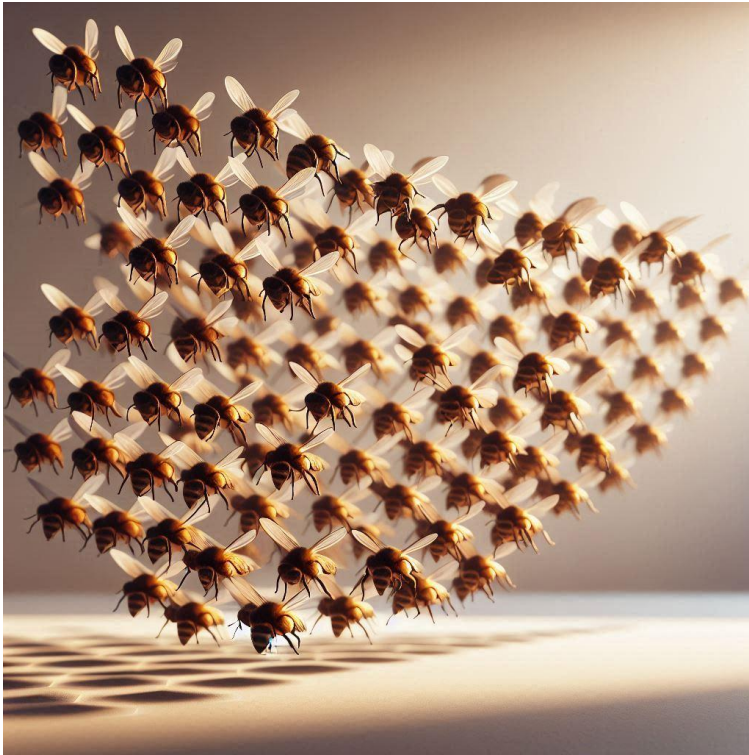
Any material resources gathered and distributed to a NREN in crisis (depending on the type of crisis):

- equipment (laptops, generators);
- medical kits, first aid materials, hygiene products;
- solar panels, portable chargers or alternative energy systems;
- ready-to-eat meals or clean drinking water;
- clothes.

♥ UРАН examples: laptops from Computer Aid, generator from PSNC



Category 3: Expertise support



Remote help to a NREN facing staff shortages due to crises:

- crisis management and response strategies;
- trainings & workshops;
- remote IT support for infrastructure maintenance.

🗣️ Examples: CLAW, TALON exercises, IT software (like NMaaS)

Category 4: Human Connection

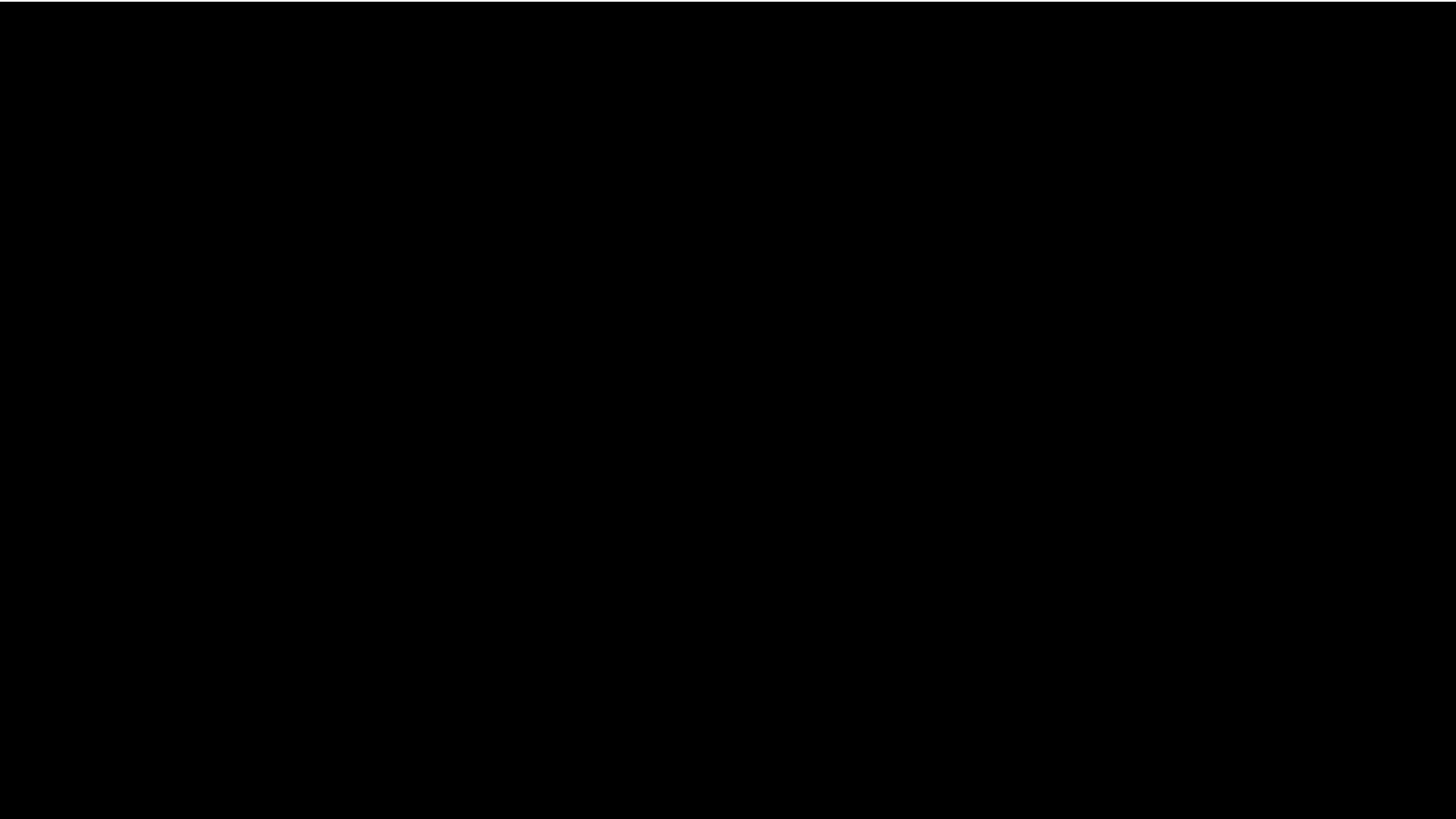
When you find yourself in a crisis your moral suffers a lot.

What can help:

- virtual coffee breaks and events to boost morale;
- kind messages;
- emotional support to overcome isolation;
- care parcels.

 URAN examples: Christmas parcels and letters, personal messages and e-mails





Lesson 2: Support must match current needs

Needs evolve over time.

It is important to provide the support that is needed right now.

Examples from URAN:



🕒 Stay in touch, **respond to current needs**

Lesson 3: Beware of bureaucracy



Support efforts can be blocked by legal frameworks. Customs clearance can delay and complicate aid delivery.

Example: Christmas parcels blocked due to legal entity status: books = “potential goods”

👉 Always:

Before sending aid, coordinate with recipient

Prepare documents **together**

Lesson 4: The power of community

URAN survived because of you

The crisis continues, and ongoing help remains crucial

Together, NRENs can overcome any challenge

 Let's prepare to help others



Proposal for a new initiative: Humanitarian Support Group

Goal:

Support NRENs in crises

Financial support

Collect funds for targeted crisis initiatives

Material support

Gather and distribute critical equipment and supplies

Expert support

Provide expertise and remote assistance during staff shortages

Psychological support

Maintain morale and productivity in difficult times

Mentimeter

Join at menti.com | use code 1653 2122

 Mentimeter

Instructions

Go to
www.menti.com

Enter the code

1653 2122



Or use QR code



Discussion

Is the group a good idea?

Is it feasible?

Would you join?

🔍 What should we consider when creating it?



Thank you

Any questions?

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