

UKRAINE CRISIS

ICRC activities in February and March 2015



Providing food and essential household items

The ICRC distributed more than **2,700 tonnes** of aid to people affected by the conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Over **125,000 people** – residents and displaced – received hygiene items, blankets, tarpaulins and plastic sheeting. Around **120,000 people** received food, including more than **3,500 hospital patients**, children in orphanages and people living in homes for the elderly.

Improving living conditions

Almost **23,000 displaced people and residents** of Luhansk and Donetsk regions, on both sides of the front line, received construction materials such as cement, bricks, timber and roofing, so that their houses could be made waterproof and habitable following damage by shelling.

ICRC-donated equipment helped to repair a power distribution network, restoring electricity to **35 villages** on both sides of the front line.

Safeguarding health care

The ICRC donated medical supplies (such as dressing materials, medicines, sutures, infusions, insulin, consumables for haemodialysis and supplies for the treatment of people wounded in the hostilities) to **42 hospitals** in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, including **24 hospitals** in opposition-held areas.

Visiting detainees

The ICRC visited people held in connection with the conflict in places of detention under the control of the Ukrainian authorities in Zaporizhia, Odesa, Poltava, Kharkiv, Artemivsk, Starobilsk and Kyiv, to monitor the treatment they were receiving and the conditions in which they were being held. **55 people** detained in relation to the conflict were registered during **17 visits to 14 places of detention**.

The organization continued to visit people at penitentiary establishments in opposition-held areas, to assess the conditions of detention in those facilities. The ICRC provided hygiene items and food to around **16,000 detainees** held in **18 Penitentiary Service facilities**. At the request of detainees, the ICRC passed on more than **100 family news messages** to relatives, with the full knowledge of the detaining authorities.

Tracing missing persons

The ICRC has been working with the Ukrainian Red Cross to document missing persons, in response to more than **300 tracing requests** from family members.

At the request of both parties to the conflict, and in its role as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC took part as an observer in the hand-over of the bodies of Ukrainian soldiers and provided forensic support during the recovery of the bodies of deceased Ukrainian soldiers in Donetsk airport.

Dialogue with the parties to the conflict

The ICRC is maintaining contact with all parties to the conflict on the conduct of hostilities and on incidents, such as shelling, that can reduce the capacity of health facilities to serve the civilian population.

A training course on integrating international humanitarian law (IHL) into the decision-making process was held in Zhytomyr for **21 commanders, planners and legal advisors of the Armed Forces of Ukraine**. A similar course was held for **25 senior officers** in Dnipropetrovsk.

4 representatives of the Ukrainian Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs and of the Armed Forces of Ukraine participated in the fifth Regional Conference on IHL implementation held in Minsk from 18 to 20 March. The Conference, at which participants discussed progress on the implementation of IHL in their respective countries, was organized by the ICRC in cooperation with the Belarusian Ministry of Justice.

Protecting civilians from unexploded munitions

Following the ceasefire agreement that came into effect in February of this year, people have been returning to their homes. This, and the start of the farming season, led to a significant increase in the number of deaths and injuries related to mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW). The ICRC has therefore stepped up efforts to inform the population about how to stay safe, distributing **150,000 leaflets** and **3,000 posters** on safe behaviour in conflict-affected areas. At the same time, the ICRC trained Ukrainian Red Cross volunteers to educate others about the risks of mines and ERW.

Cooperation with the Ukrainian Red Cross

The ICRC worked closely with the Ukrainian Red Cross to distribute aid to displaced people and residents affected by the conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and provided financial and technical support for its tracing, communication and emergency response services.

In a nutshell:



Provided food to **118, 208 persons** in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, including in health care institutions and detention places



Provided construction material, such as cement, bricks and timber as well as roofing sheets for **22, 622 persons** in Donetsk and Luhansk regions to help repair damaged buildings



Provided hygiene and other items to **125, 994 persons** in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, including in health care institutions and detention places



Provided medical supplies to **42 hospitals** in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Donated **11,380 gloves**, **700 body bags** and **5 kits for 250 DNA tests** to forensic institutions



Visited **55 people** held in connection with the conflict under the control of the Ukrainian authorities and provided food and hygiene items to **15,711 detainees** held in **18 penitentiary institutions** under opposition control

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