

UKRAINE



In 2014, the ICRC expanded its presence in Ukraine, including by upgrading its Kyiv office into a delegation; it helps protect and assist conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine. It responds to emergency needs, particularly in terms of providing basic relief assistance, facilitating access to medical care and other essential services, and restoring family links. The ICRC seeks access to all persons deprived of freedom. In dialogue with all parties to the conflict, it encourages compliance with IHL and humanitarian principles. The ICRC supports the Ukrainian Red Cross Society in improving its emergency preparedness and its delivery of humanitarian assistance.

YEARLY RESULTS

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

MEDIUM

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS

In 2014:

- ▶ people wounded in the fighting received emergency treatment at ICRC-supported first-aid posts and from Ukrainian Red Cross Society teams, who benefited from training and psychosocial support
- ▶ hospitals treated the weapon-wounded with the help of ICRC-provided equipment and supplies, and over 200 doctors strengthened their skills at war-surgery seminars
- ▶ tens of thousands of conflict-affected people met their immediate needs with food, household/hygiene items and shelter materials, but many others were out of the ICRC's reach owing to security and access constraints
- ▶ while formal agreement from the authorities remained pending, some detainees received visits from the ICRC and stayed in touch with their families through short oral messages

EXPENDITURE (in KCHF)

See Moscow (regional)

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

See Moscow (regional)

PERSONNEL

See Moscow (regional)

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Red Cross messages (RCMs)	
RCMs collected	5
RCMs distributed	1
Phone calls facilitated between family members	122
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	225
People reunited with their families	1
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	155
Detainees visited and monitored individually	155
Number of visits carried out	21
Number of places of detention visited	10
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	1
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	53

ASSISTANCE	2014 Targets (up to) ¹	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	46,113
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	44,295
Vouchers	Beneficiaries	35,480
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	390,282
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Hospitals		
Hospitals supported	Structures	45
Water and habitat		
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	2,190

1. The targeted figures for Ukraine are presented in the table for the Moscow (regional) delegation, which was covering Ukraine when the targets were set in late 2013.

CONTEXT

Violent demonstrations that began in late 2013 in Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine escalated in February, causing hundreds of casualties. An interim government was formed in March after the National Assembly's dismissal of the president.

Against the backdrop of the events in Kyiv, a referendum organized by the Crimean parliament in March resulted in a vote in favour of joining the Russian Federation, and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (hereafter Crimea) declared independence from Ukraine. The Russian parliament ratified the accession of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol to the Russian Federation. The status of Crimea remained the subject of a political and territorial dispute between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

In eastern and southern Ukraine, clashes took place between government forces and armed groups. The armed groups organized referendums in May, which indicated support for self-governance in the areas they controlled; the results were disputed by the Ukrainian authorities.

Amid the instability, a new president was elected in May and took office in June. Parliamentary elections took place in October.

Despite ceasefire agreements in September and December, fighting continued throughout the year, causing thousands of deaths and injuries, widespread displacement, the destruction of property and infrastructure, and weapon contamination.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In 2014, the ICRC sought to respond to the immediate needs of people affected by the prevailing circumstances. Earlier in the year, it focused on supporting the Ukrainian Red Cross Society in its emergency-response activities during the clashes and demonstrations. The ICRC's increased presence in the country – which included the upgrading of its Kyiv office to a delegation and the opening of offices in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Lugansk, Mariupol, Odessa and Severodonetsk – enabled it to expand its efforts to directly provide assistance to people affected, particularly after hostilities broke out in the east.

However, lack of security guarantees limited the organization's access; engagement with the authorities and weapon bearers became even more crucial as a result. After a delegate was killed when a shell landed near the ICRC's Donetsk office in October, the ICRC reduced its activities in the east until end-November, when the authorities and armed groups reiterated their acceptance for its activities.

The ICRC built or reinforced contact with these actors to urge them to heed their obligations under IHL to respect and protect those not or no longer taking part in the hostilities and to facilitate their access to medical and other humanitarian aid; it conducted dissemination sessions on the ICRC and its work. It also conducted training sessions for the Ukrainian armed forces on incorporating IHL in operational planning.

People injured in the protests and clashes in Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine from February to April, and those wounded in the fighting between government forces and armed groups in eastern Ukraine during the rest of the year, received emergency treatment from ICRC-backed first-aid posts and National Society teams.

National Society volunteers benefited from training and psychosocial support, including peer support.

Health structures in conflict-affected areas, including the medical service of one armed group, received equipment and supplies to help them treat patients. At ICRC-backed training sessions, doctors and other health personnel enhanced their ability to care for the wounded.

The ICRC supported local actors in managing human remains and dealing with weapon contamination. An NGO recovering human remains from the front line was provided with body bags and personal protective equipment; its volunteers received basic training in forensic identification and human remains management. The authorities conducted weapon-clearance activities with ICRC-supplied demining equipment, and communities learnt about safe practices from ICRC communication materials.

With National Society/ICRC assistance, tens of thousands of people affected by the fighting met their immediate needs using cash vouchers and, in areas where the flow of money and goods had been disrupted, food and household/hygiene items. Those whose homes had been damaged by the fighting prepared for the winter with ICRC-supplied shelter and construction materials. Temporary accommodation centres for displaced people and health facilities were repaired with ICRC support. Conflict-affected people restored/maintained contact with their relatives through ICRC family-links services.

The ICRC submitted an offer of services to the Ukrainian authorities to visit people detained in connection with the ongoing situation. While the authorities' formal acceptance of the offer remained pending, the ICRC was able to conduct ad hoc visits and offer family-links services to detainees.

The ICRC kept the general public informed about its activities for people affected by the prevailing circumstances, including through social media. National and international media drew on ICRC materials to highlight humanitarian issues.

The National Society built its operational capacities, particularly in emergency response, with comprehensive support from the International Federation, the ICRC and other Movement partners. With ICRC assistance, the National Society set up a system for coordinating with Movement partners to maximize the impact of assistance efforts and prevent duplication.

CIVILIANS

Dialogue with the authorities and weapon bearers emphasizes respect for civilians

Although the ICRC had increased its presence in the country (see *ICRC action and results*), the lack of security guarantees restricted its access to many areas. To mitigate security risks, a system was put in place for notifying the Ukrainian security services, as well as armed groups, of ICRC activities.

The ICRC's dialogue with the authorities and weapon bearers emphasized their obligations under IHL to respect and protect those not or no longer taking part in hostilities and to facilitate their access to medical and other humanitarian aid. On the basis of documented allegations of violations, the ICRC issued general reminders and written representations to the parties to the conflict, urging them to ensure that their operations were in line with IHL and that other applicable norms were respected at all times.

People affected by fighting meet their immediate needs

Although ICRC assistance reached fewer people than initially targeted, it enabled thousands of particularly vulnerable people to meet their immediate needs.

Some 11,690 displaced households (35,070 people) in Kharkiv and Mariupol covered their basic expenses through vouchers. In conflict-affected areas where the flow of money and goods was severely disrupted, 16,161 resident and displaced households (46,113 people) supplemented their diets with food rations, distributed in coordination with the National Society or the authorities. Among these beneficiaries were 446 resident and displaced households (1,064 people) in Lysychansk whose homes had been damaged by the fighting, 636 bedridden elderly people in Donetsk, 60 households (177 people) staying at public facilities that had been converted into bomb shelters, and 41 people at an orphanage in Makiyivka. A bakery in Lugansk region was given wheat flour, which it used to bake loaves of bread for 806 vulnerable households (2,133 people) in Lysychansk, Rubezhnoye and Severodonetsk. Some 15,800 resident and displaced households (44,300 people), many of whom also received food, dealt with their harsh conditions with the help of household/hygiene items. The beneficiaries included disabled IDPs housed in sanatoriums in Odessa, where living conditions were poor.

Conflict-affected communities prepare for the winter

Over 390,000 people living close to the front line or in other areas affected by fighting had continued access to water and/or shelter, thanks in part to ICRC support. For instance, the water authorities in Lugansk received equipment and chemicals for water treatment, enabling them to maintain the supply for 270,000 residents; in Donetsk, a total of 107,200 people benefited from repairs made to public infrastructure using ICRC-provided building material.

Some 1,200 people used ICRC-supplied construction materials to repair their homes, which had been damaged by shelling, and prevented further damage to their roofs and windows with the help of donated tarpaulins and plastic sheeting. Around 2,900 people stayed warm in winter after their heating and water systems were maintained using ICRC equipment/supplies.

Over 180 people found shelter at two accommodation centres, which had been repaired with ICRC assistance. A blood bank continued its operations, benefiting 140 people, following ICRC-supported repairs.

Vulnerable people restore/maintain family links

People in areas affected by the fighting sent “safe and well” messages to their relatives. In Odessa, 273 displaced households (410 people) staying at temporary accommodation centres restored/maintained family links using ICRC-provided mobile phone credit. With ICRC assistance, one elderly person rejoined relatives in the Russian Federation; the remains of one Russian national were repatriated. The National Society developed its capacities in providing family-links services with financial and training support from the ICRC.

Families of people missing in connection with the current situation approached the ICRC for help in locating their relatives. The ICRC pursued dialogue with all parties to the conflict regarding such inquiries.

With ICRC assistance, local actors built their capacities in the management of human remains. An NGO recovering human

remains from the front line was provided with personal protective equipment and 100 body bags. Some 30 volunteers from the NGO, as well as five National Society staff members and two local forensic experts, learnt more about forensic identification, human remains management and weapon-contamination risks at an ICRC training session. Morgues in conflict-affected areas received material assistance, including body bags, gloves and disinfectant.

Communities reduce weapon-contamination risks following weapon-clearance activities

People living in or passing through weapon-contaminated areas were safer after the Ukrainian authorities carried out weapon-clearance activities using ICRC-provided demining equipment. ICRC-produced leaflets on mine risks were distributed to people living in areas affected; similar messages were incorporated in the training of volunteers involved in recovering human remains (see above). An ICRC assessment of weapon-contamination risks in conflict-affected areas helped guide the planning of activities for 2015.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees receive ICRC visits

Through dialogue with the authorities and armed groups, the ICRC sought access to people held in connection with the ongoing situation. In April, it submitted to the Ukrainian authorities an offer of services to visit detainees under its purview; while no formal agreement was signed, the ICRC obtained the preliminary agreement of the Ukrainian security and penitentiary services to conduct visits to detainees. The ICRC also began dialogue with representatives of armed groups regarding access to places of detention.

The ICRC visited 155 detainees – all of whom it registered for individual follow-up – at 10 facilities. Some detainees got in touch with their families through short oral messages delivered by ICRC delegates. Three weapon-wounded detainees benefited from the provision of medical materials.

WOUNDED AND SICK

The wounded receive medical aid

People injured during the protests in Kyiv and other parts of Ukraine, or wounded in the fighting in eastern regions, received first aid from Ukrainian Red Cross emergency response teams supported by the International Federation and the ICRC. The National Society conducted first-aid training for volunteers in violence-affected areas. Through ICRC-supported train-the-trainers workshops, over 100 first-aiders in Donetsk, Kharkiv and Lugansk improved their teaching skills. National Society volunteers also received psychosocial support and were trained to provide such support to each other.

Forty-five public and military hospitals received drugs and supplies for treating patients with diabetes and/or on haemodialysis. Over 2,100 people benefited from the ICRC-backed repair of several hospitals. Medical facilities in Donetsk, Lysychansk and Slovyansk boosted their ability to treat patients following the receipt of surgical equipment; health structures in Donetsk, including the medical service of one armed group, received ad hoc donations of medical supplies.

With the agreement of the military’s medical structures and civilian hospitals, 200 doctors enhanced their skills at war-surgery seminars in Donetsk, Lugansk, Mariupol and Slovyansk. Health personnel learnt more about anaesthesia for the weapon-wounded at training sessions in Donetsk and Makiyivka.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Dialogue fosters acceptance for the ICRC's activities

The ICRC's dialogue with the authorities and all weapon bearers focused on building understanding of and acceptance for its mandate and work, gaining humanitarian access to vulnerable groups, and obtaining security guarantees for its personnel and activities (see *Civilians*); for instance, the authorities and armed groups in the east assured the ICRC of their acceptance for its activities, enabling the organization to resume some of its activities there (see *ICRC action and results*). To these ends, the ICRC reinforced contact with the Ministries of Defence, Health, Foreign Affairs and Interior, the armed forces and the security services.

Through ICRC dissemination sessions, the Ukrainian armed forces, including commanders and legal advisers, as well as senior police officers, learnt more about incorporating IHL in operational planning. However, owing to the volatile situation, plans to facilitate the participation of senior officers in IHL courses abroad fell through.

Public communication promotes awareness of humanitarian action

The general public learnt about the Movement's humanitarian activities in the current situation through National Society/ICRC communication activities, including website updates, social media posts and press conferences. National and international media drew on ICRC materials, and interviews with ICRC personnel, to highlight humanitarian issues. Potential beneficiaries, as well as influential actors, received leaflets describing the ICRC's work in Ukraine and around the world. Communication materials were produced in both Ukrainian and Russian, making them accessible to speakers of both languages. The National Society received financial and technical support to strengthen its capacities in operational communication, for instance, through the hiring of a communication specialist.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Society enhances its ability to assist vulnerable people

With financial, technical and training support from the International Federation and the ICRC, the Ukrainian Red Cross delivered humanitarian services to people affected by the ongoing situation and worked to strengthen its capacities, particularly in emergency response, including first aid (see *Wounded and sick*), and operational communication (see *Actors of influence*). It also launched information campaigns on the red cross emblem.

The National Society trained and equipped over 300 volunteers, who were organized in emergency-response teams in various regions. These teams administered first aid to some 1,500 people injured in clashes in Kyiv and in eastern and southern Ukraine. In June, following an ICRC assessment of National Society capacities, some 70 volunteers attended a training session on the Safer Access Framework. In November, 65 young volunteers learnt more about first aid, communication and volunteer management at an ICRC-supported assembly.

The National Society received ICRC support for paying the salaries of key headquarters personnel and of its staff in Donetsk and Lugansk. It boosted its assistance capacities after the ICRC provided it with four vehicles and funded the repair of one of its warehouses in preparation for winter.

With ICRC assistance, the National Society set up a system for coordinating with Movement partners to maximize the impact of aid efforts and prevent duplication.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Red Cross messages (RCMs)					
			UAMs/SCs *		
RCMs collected		5			
RCMs distributed		1			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		122			
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People reunited with their families		1			
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	1			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons					
			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		459	29	7	1
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	18			
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		225			
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	9			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		233	10	3	1
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	9			
UAMs/SCs*, including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers					
			Girls		Demobilized children
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC/National Society		1			
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		1			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits					
			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		155	10		
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		155	10		
Detainees newly registered		155	10		
Number of visits carried out		21			
Number of places of detention visited		10			
Restoring family links					
RCMs collected		1			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		53			

* Unaccompanied minors/separated children

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	46,113	42%	24%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries		
		13,216		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	44,295	42%	24%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries		
		11,125		
Vouchers	Beneficiaries	35,480	47%	13%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries		
		35,480		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	390,282	40%	20%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	Beneficiaries		
		27,473		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	3		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	45		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	Structures		
		6		
Admissions	Patients	550		
	<i>of whom weapon-wounded</i>	Patients		
		550		
First aid				
First-aid posts supported	Structures	7		
Water and habitat				
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	2,190		