

UKRAINE



⊕ ICRC delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation ◆ ICRC mission + ICRC office

The boundaries, names and designations used in this report do not imply official endorsement, nor express a political opinion on the part of the ICRC, and are without prejudice to claims of sovereignty over the territories mentioned.

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2015

- ▶ Dialogue with the parties to the conflict emphasized their obligation to protect people not or no longer taking part in the fighting and to ensure these people's access to essential services, including health care.
- ▶ Conflict-affected people met their needs with ICRC-supplied food, household/hygiene items and/or cash. They had access to water/electricity/gas after the ICRC provided materials for repairing utility networks.
- ▶ Health facilities on both sides of the front line treated the weapon-wounded and the chronically ill, with material assistance from the ICRC. Doctors/surgeons boosted their skills through ICRC training.
- ▶ People detained at facilities supervised by the authorities received ICRC visits on an ad hoc basis, pending the signing of a formal agreement. Some detainees were registered and followed up individually.
- ▶ With comprehensive ICRC support, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society developed its capacities to deliver humanitarian services, particularly first aid and restoring family links.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	5,874
Assistance	39,570
Prevention	2,592
Cooperation with National Societies	1,636
General	52
Total	49,723
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	3,033

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	68%
---------------------------	-----

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	81
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	206

In 2014, the ICRC significantly expanded its presence in Ukraine in order to help protect and assist conflict-affected people in the eastern part of the country. 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 their 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 **HIGH**

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	13
RCMs distributed	47
Phone calls facilitated between family members	2
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	264
People reunited with their families	3
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
ICRC visits	
Detainees visited	23,596
Detainees visited and monitored individually	618
Number of visits carried out	97
Number of places of detention visited	35
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	94
RCMs distributed	40
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative	314

ASSISTANCE	2015 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries 98,000	351,031
Essential household items	Beneficiaries 98,000	365,145
Cash	Beneficiaries	15,901
Vouchers	Beneficiaries 43,890	
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries 51,000	2,061,223
Health		
Health centres supported	Structures	7
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Hospitals		
Hospitals supported	Structures 60	89
Water and habitat		
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	2,658

CONTEXT

Hostilities between government troops and opposition forces in eastern Ukraine intensified in January and February, and again in August, then largely abated after a ceasefire agreement – the third since the beginning of the conflict – that took effect on 1 September.

The armed conflict wreaked havoc on civilian life. The UN estimates that some 1.5 million people were internally displaced, 1.1 million fled abroad, 20,000 were injured and over 9,000 were killed. Damage to infrastructure, including utility networks, was extensive. Weapon contamination made repairs hazardous and disrupted the livelihoods of farmers, miners and factory workers. Basic services, including health care, were interrupted in many areas.

Public institutions in opposition-controlled territory, including prisons and hospitals, struggled to obtain essential supplies after a government directive, issued in late 2014, discontinued State funding to opposition-held areas. A second directive issued in January 2015 placed restrictions on the passage of people and goods between government- and opposition-controlled territory.

Crimea remained the subject of a political and territorial dispute between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC continued to address the humanitarian needs of people affected by the Ukraine crisis. Following the renewal of hostilities early in the year, the ICRC shifted from its initial focus on aiding IDPs to helping the most vulnerable communities near the frontline. The ICRC pursued dialogue with the parties to the conflict to remind them of their obligation to protect people not or no longer taking part in the fighting, to ensure that these people had access to essential services, including health care, and to comply with IHL in the conduct of hostilities. Together with the regional delegation in Moscow, the Ukraine delegation launched a budget extension appeal in April to address the increased humanitarian needs of people affected by the conflict.

The ICRC continued to gather information on the situation of civilians and to make confidential representations to the pertinent parties about alleged IHL violations: for instance, incidents of violence or undue restrictions affecting people seeking/providing medical treatment. Discussions with weapon bearers enabled the ICRC, in some cases, to gain safer access to people in need.

Conflict-affected people met their immediate needs with the help of ICRC-supplied food, household/hygiene items and/or cash. Some 2 million people had access to basic utilities after the ICRC provided materials for repairing water/electricity/gas networks.

The ICRC strove to develop dialogue with the authorities and the opposition on the issue of persons missing in relation to the conflict. With ICRC technical assistance, the parties concerned worked towards establishing national/local mechanisms to address the issue.

Local groups/agencies involved in managing human remains developed their capacities with ICRC assistance, which included provision of equipment to recovery teams and morgues, DNA

kits and reference materials to forensic laboratories, and technical advice/training to local authorities and forensic specialists.

People wounded during the conflict, or suffering from chronic illnesses, were treated at health facilities that received ICRC support in the form of medical supplies/equipment and/or repairs to infrastructure. Doctors/surgeons treating the weapon-wounded boosted their skills through ICRC training.

Detainees held by the authorities received ICRC visits on an ad hoc basis, as discussions continued regarding an agreement to formalize the ICRC's access to detainees under its purview.

The ICRC pursued dialogue with the opposition regarding access to people held in connection with the conflict. Several people received an ad hoc visit.

Ordinary detainees, at facilities formerly under government supervision, located in areas now under opposition control, were visited by the ICRC and provided with food and household/hygiene essentials; this lasted until July, when access was withheld. The ICRC pursued dialogue with the opposition about regaining access.

On two occasions, the ICRC participated as a neutral intermediary in the simultaneous release and transfer of people held by the parties to the conflict.

In August, the ICRC was asked by the opposition to suspend activities in Donetsk and Lugansk until it had completed certain administrative procedures. These procedures were completed and, in September, the ICRC resumed its activities in opposition-held areas; it was unable, however, to resume visits to ordinary detainees at facilities in opposition-controlled territory.

At ICRC dissemination sessions, commanders of the Ukrainian armed forces added to their knowledge of IHL and its application in military planning. Government and military officials learnt more about IHL implementation at a regional conference. The Ukrainian Red Cross Society and the ICRC met with the defence ministry to promote better implementation of the law on the emblem, and took part in several sessions of the national IHL committee.

The National Society received comprehensive support for strengthening its ability to deliver humanitarian services, including first aid and restoring family links. Running costs for the local Red Cross branches in Donetsk and Lugansk were covered by the ICRC, enabling them to continue their operations.

CIVILIANS

Dialogue emphasizes the need to protect/assist civilians

The ICRC pursued dialogue with the parties to the conflict to remind them of their obligation to protect people not or no longer taking part in the fighting, to ensure these people's access to medical/humanitarian aid, and to comply with IHL during the conduct of hostilities. Discussions with weapon bearers enabled the ICRC to gain safer access to people in need (see *Actors of influence*).

The ICRC continued to gather information on the situation of civilians, including allegations of IHL violations, and to make confidential representations to the parties concerned. Oral/written

representations submitted to local/regional/national authorities described the humanitarian impact of movement restrictions.

Lack of security guarantees prevents the evacuation of civilians

The absence of security guarantees meant that large numbers of people could not be evacuated from conflict-affected areas. The ICRC assisted in transferring some people to safer locations. The remains of 61 persons – 59 combatants and 2 civilians – were transferred with ICRC assistance. Twelve people made use of travel documents issued by the ICRC at the request of other organizations.

Schools deal with the threat to their safety

In September, when their new term began, schools near the front line started, with ICRC assistance, to manage the threat to their safety posed by the fighting. Preparations were made for teachers/students to carry out evacuation drills and train in first aid, and for school basements to be equipped as emergency shelters.

Through an ICRC project, teachers, first-aiders and health-care staff in front-line villages learnt how to address psychosocial needs in their communities and among themselves.

Communities are safer following weapon-clearance activities

Local teams on both sides of the front line conducted weapon-clearance activities with technical/material assistance from the ICRC. People in areas affected by weapon contamination – including schoolteachers/schoolchildren and workers repairing water infrastructure – learnt safe practices through mine/ERW-risk education sessions and posters/leaflets; National Society volunteers were trained to conduct such sessions.

People waiting to pass through front-line checkpoints were at lesser risk from mines/ERW after the ICRC installed warning signs and latrines.

People learn the fate of missing relatives

While most people stayed in touch with their families through mobile phones and the internet, some needed help in tracing missing relatives. The fates/whereabouts of some 260 people were ascertained and relayed to their families by the National Society/ICRC.

The Ukrainian Red Cross maintained regular coordination with the ICRC and received comprehensive support to strengthen its family-links services. To increase public awareness of Movement family-links services, the ICRC published cards describing these services in Russian and Ukrainian and distributed them among potential beneficiaries.

The ICRC strove to develop dialogue with the pertinent parties regarding the issue of persons missing in relation to the conflict. With ICRC technical assistance, the parties worked towards establishing national/local mechanisms to address the issue.

Conflict-affected people meet their most pressing needs

Vulnerable people – including those affected by government directives discontinuing State funding to services in opposition-controlled territory and restricting movement between government- and opposition-held areas, and those unable to earn income as a result of displacement, weapon contamination or other effects of the conflict – met their immediate needs with ICRC aid. As fighting had disrupted the functioning of markets

in some areas, the ICRC cancelled its plans to distribute vouchers, and provided food and household/hygiene essentials directly.

Some 351,000 people living close to the front line supplemented their diet with ICRC-provided food. These included around 1,000 displaced households (2,500 people) in Lisychansk, Rubezhnoe and Severodonetsk who received bread daily, and about 12,400 persons in 56 institutions – such as medical/psychiatric facilities, orphanages and homes for the elderly – in opposition-controlled territory.

Some 365,000 people – including around 15,300 housed in 83 institutions in opposition-held areas – improved their living conditions with the help of ICRC-provided household/hygiene items. Among them were some 1,500 particularly vulnerable households (4,600 people) who used ICRC-supplied heating fuel to keep their homes warm in the winter.

More than 15,000 people, many of them unemployed IDPs, covered their basic expenses with ICRC cash assistance. These included 95 people who participated in cash-for-work projects to rebuild houses, which provided supplementary income for their families.

Needs-assessment training for National Society staff was postponed, as the ICRC focused on training newly hired resident staff.

Over 2 million people benefit from ICRC water and habitat activities

More than 2 million people regained/maintained their access to essential utilities following ICRC donations of water-treatment chemicals and materials for repairing water/electricity/gas networks. Over 130,000 people repaired their houses with ICRC-provided construction materials. Nearly 4,000 schoolchildren had safer and warmer surroundings after the ICRC installed protective infrastructure at their schools/kindergartens and donated radiators. Some 170 IDPs found shelter at two temporary accommodation centres that the ICRC provided with insulation/roofing materials.

Local actors strengthen their capacities in the management of human remains

Local groups/agencies involved in managing human remains received various forms of ICRC support. For instance, the remains of some combatants were recovered with the ICRC acting as a neutral intermediary and providing technical assistance. Teams recovering human remains, and 15 morgues on both sides of the front line, worked more effectively using ICRC-supplied protective equipment, specialized tools and body bags. Two forensic laboratories received DNA kits and up-to-date reference materials to assist them in identifying human remains. The Donetsk regional forensic bureau increased its storage capacity following ICRC-funded repairs to its refrigeration trucks.

Local authorities and forensic specialists, on both sides of the front line, participated in ICRC-organized round-tables/seminars at which major challenges were identified. They subsequently received technical advice/training in line with IHL and forensic best practices.

IHL provisions on the management of human remains were incorporated in dissemination sessions for military units responsible for recovering the bodies of those killed during the fighting.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees receive ICRC visits and restore/maintain family links

As discussions continued regarding an agreement to formalize the ICRC's access to people detained by the authorities, detainees received ICRC visits on an ad hoc basis. Visits were conducted in accordance with standard ICRC procedures. Some 11,500 detainees in facilities under the authorities' supervision received visits; 594 were registered and followed up individually. The detainees visited included people held in places of pre-trial detention under the supervision of the State Penitentiary Services of Ukraine, which the ICRC began to visit in January.

Following visits, the authorities received confidential feedback and, where necessary, recommendations to improve detention conditions.

Some detainees got in touch with their relatives through short oral messages relayed by ICRC delegates. At the request of several people, their embassies/UNHCR were notified of their detention.

The ICRC pursued dialogue with the opposition regarding access to people held in connection with the conflict. Four of these people received an ad hoc visit.

In the first half of the year, ordinary detainees held at facilities formerly under government supervision, located in areas now under opposition control, were visited by the ICRC. Some detainees restored/maintained contact with their relatives in government-held areas using RCMs. Access to these detainees was withheld in July. The ICRC pursued dialogue with the opposition about regaining access.

On two occasions, the ICRC participated as a neutral intermediary in the simultaneous release and transfer of people held by the parties to the conflict. A total of 34 people were released/transferred.

Ordinary detainees have improved living conditions

Before access to them was withheld in July, some 12,000 ordinary detainees in facilities formerly under government supervision, located in areas now under opposition control, sustained themselves with ICRC-supplied food; more than 10,000 inmates benefited from the provision of household/hygiene essentials. Some 1,900 detainees at three facilities had improved living conditions after the ICRC provided materials for repairing infrastructure.

Detained migrants restore/maintain family links

Detained migrants in Chernihiv, Transcarpathia and Volyn reconnected with their relatives using mobile phone credit provided by the National Society, with ICRC support. At a regional meeting in May, the Ukrainian Red Cross and other National Societies in the region discussed their experiences in assisting detained migrants (see *Moscow*).

WOUNDED AND SICK

Dialogue focuses on respect for people seeking/providing health care

Dialogue with the parties to the conflict, and dissemination sessions for weapon bearers (see *Actors of influence*), emphasized the need to respect and protect people seeking/providing medical treatment. The ICRC made confidential representations to the

pertinent parties about allegations of violence or undue restrictions affecting patients and medical personnel/facilities.

Local health facilities reinforce their capacities

Despite damage to buildings/infrastructure and impediments to the delivery of supplies, 141 health facilities (52 first-aid posts and 89 hospitals) resumed/continued treatment for patients, including the weapon-wounded, with ICRC assistance.

These included 82 health facilities in opposition-held areas that used ICRC-provided materials to carry out life-saving procedures for people with chronic illnesses – such as blood transfusion, haemodialysis and the administration of insulin or oxygen. Three clinics – one in government-controlled territory and two in opposition-held areas – received ad hoc donations of medical supplies.

While the ICRC stood ready to assist in referring/transferring people requiring medical treatment, patients were able to reach health facilities on their own.

Thirteen health facilities resumed/continued operations following infrastructure repairs conducted by the ICRC, or by others using ICRC-donated materials or equipment.

Doctors boost their skills and learn about IHL provisions related to health care

More than 70 doctors/surgeons from 16 hospitals enhanced their skills at an ICRC seminar on war surgery and at two courses in managing emergency-room trauma. The protection afforded by IHL to medical personnel/facilities and patients was discussed at these events.

With a view to beginning assistance to disabled people, the ICRC met with prosthesis/orthosis manufacturers in Donetsk and Lugansk.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Dialogue emphasizes the importance of humanitarian action

Dialogue with the parties to the conflict focused on their obligation to protect people not or no longer taking part in the conflict and to ensure their access to medical/humanitarian aid (see *Civilians and Wounded and sick*). This dialogue included high-level meetings between the president and senior officials of Ukraine and the ICRC president, during the latter's visit to Kyiv in February. Given the polarized and politicized nature of the conflict, the ICRC president stressed the importance of neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action.

Discussions with weapon bearers facilitate safer humanitarian access

Dialogue with weapon bearers enabled the ICRC, in some cases, to gain safer access to people in need. For instance, discussions with the Ukrainian armed/security forces in Kyiv helped improve procedures for notifying them of the ICRC's activities and enabled the ICRC to maintain access to the field even amid uncertain security conditions. Meetings with field commanders of volunteer battalions deployed in remote areas facilitated the ICRC's access to those areas.

ICRC dissemination sessions enabled more than 300 commanders of the Ukrainian armed forces to enhance their knowledge of IHL and its application in military planning.

The general public learns more about the ICRC's activities in Ukraine

Public opinion on the Ukraine crisis was highly polarized, including in neighbouring countries; strengthening the ICRC's positioning as a neutral humanitarian actor was vitally important. To this end, the Ukraine delegation began work on a communication strategy to raise awareness of the ICRC's mandate and activities.

Drawing on ICRC news releases/briefings, the media highlighted the ICRC's work for people affected by the conflict. People became more familiar with the ICRC through television/radio coverage of ICRC activities, interviews of ICRC delegates, and the organization's website updates and social-media posts. In government-controlled areas of Lugansk region, two news websites published information on the ICRC's cash assistance programme and encouraged potential beneficiaries to sign up.

The ICRC met with local authorities in several areas and briefed them about its activities; it handed out leaflets about the organization and/or conducted dissemination sessions during distributions of assistance. Public-communication materials were prepared in both Russian and Ukrainian.

Government officials add to their knowledge of IHL implementation

Officials from the foreign affairs and justice ministries, and two military officers, strengthened their knowledge of IHL implementation at a regional conference in Minsk, Belarus (see *Moscow*). The National Society and the ICRC participated in three sessions of the national IHL committee; the ICRC advocated for, *inter alia*, unimpeded humanitarian access and the ratification of the Rome Statute.

Ukraine acceded to the Convention on Enforced Disappearance.

At a meeting with the National Society and the ICRC, the defence ministry reaffirmed its commitment to monitoring the use of the emblem in accordance with national legislation (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*).

At a university conference, academics furthered their understanding of those aspects of IHL governing the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Society strengthens its ability to deliver humanitarian services

With ICRC support, the Ukrainian Red Cross developed its institutional/operational capacities to address increasing humanitarian needs. It broadened its reach with ICRC-donated vehicles and pre-positioned relief goods at two warehouses refurbished by the ICRC. National Society staff/volunteers underwent ICRC training in first aid, restoring family links, communication and the Safer Access Framework. The National Society increased the number of its emergency-response teams, provided team members with training and adopted new regulations for their activities.

National Society officials strove to strengthen their management structure, with support from an ICRC delegate assigned full-time to the task. Headquarters staff trained in project management. The ICRC covered the salaries of key headquarters personnel.

The National Society and the ICRC pursued dialogue with the defence ministry to promote better implementation of the law on the emblem, and participated in three sessions of the national IHL committee (see *Actors of influence*). The National Society also refined its rules for using the emblem in a uniform manner.

With ICRC support, the Ukrainian Red Cross coordinated with Movement partners to maximize the impact of assistance activities. Movement partners active in eastern Ukraine benefited from periodic ICRC security assessments.

Red Cross branches in conflict-affected areas continue their operations

Owing to the prevailing situation, the local Red Cross branches in the opposition-controlled areas of Donetsk and Lugansk were no longer able to raise funds from local communities. With the ICRC covering their operational costs and the salaries of their 193 personnel, they were able to continue their work. Their personnel included 101 nurses who visited vulnerable people, such as the disabled and the elderly, under a Ukrainian Red Cross programme; before the conflict, the programme had been funded by the Ukrainian government.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SC*		
RCMs collected		13	2		
RCMs distributed		47	1		
Phone calls facilitated between family members		2			
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People reunited with their families		3			
	<i>including people registered by another delegation</i>	4			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		418	30	2	7
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	24			
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		264			
	<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)		414	22		2
	<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>	30			
UAMs/SC*, including demobilized child soldiers			Girls		Demobilized children
UAM/SC cases still being handled by the ICRC/National Society at the end of the reporting period		1			
Documents					
People to whom travel documents were issued		12			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
ICRC visits			Women	Minors	
Detainees visited		23,596	1,119	161	
			Women	Girls	Boys
Detainees visited and monitored individually		618	50	1	7
Detainees newly registered		578	47	1	7
Number of visits carried out		97			
Number of places of detention visited		35			
Restoring family links					
RCMs collected		94			
RCMs distributed		40			
Phone calls made to families to inform them of the whereabouts of a detained relative		314			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		6			

*Unaccompanied minors/separated children

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	351,031	39%	21%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	52,294		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	365,145	40%	21%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	40,441		
Cash	Beneficiaries	15,901	40%	24%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	15,771		
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	2,061,223	28%	35%
Health				
Health centres supported	Structures	7		
Average catchment population		63,072		
Consultations	Patients	55,985		
	<i>of which curative</i>		29,104	10,634
	<i>of which ante/post-natal</i>		20	
Immunizations	Doses	4,761		
Referrals to a second level of care	Patients	29		
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	16,770		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	16,728		
Cash	Beneficiaries	24		
Water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries	1,907		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	89		
	<i>of which provided data</i>	11		
Admissions	Patients	1,275	397	
	<i>of which weapon-wounded</i>	1,275	397	
Outpatient consultations	Patients	68,178		
	<i>of which internal medicine and paediatric</i>	68,178		
First aid				
First-aid posts supported	Structures	52		
Water and habitat				
Water and habitat activities	Number of beds	2,658		