

UKRAINE

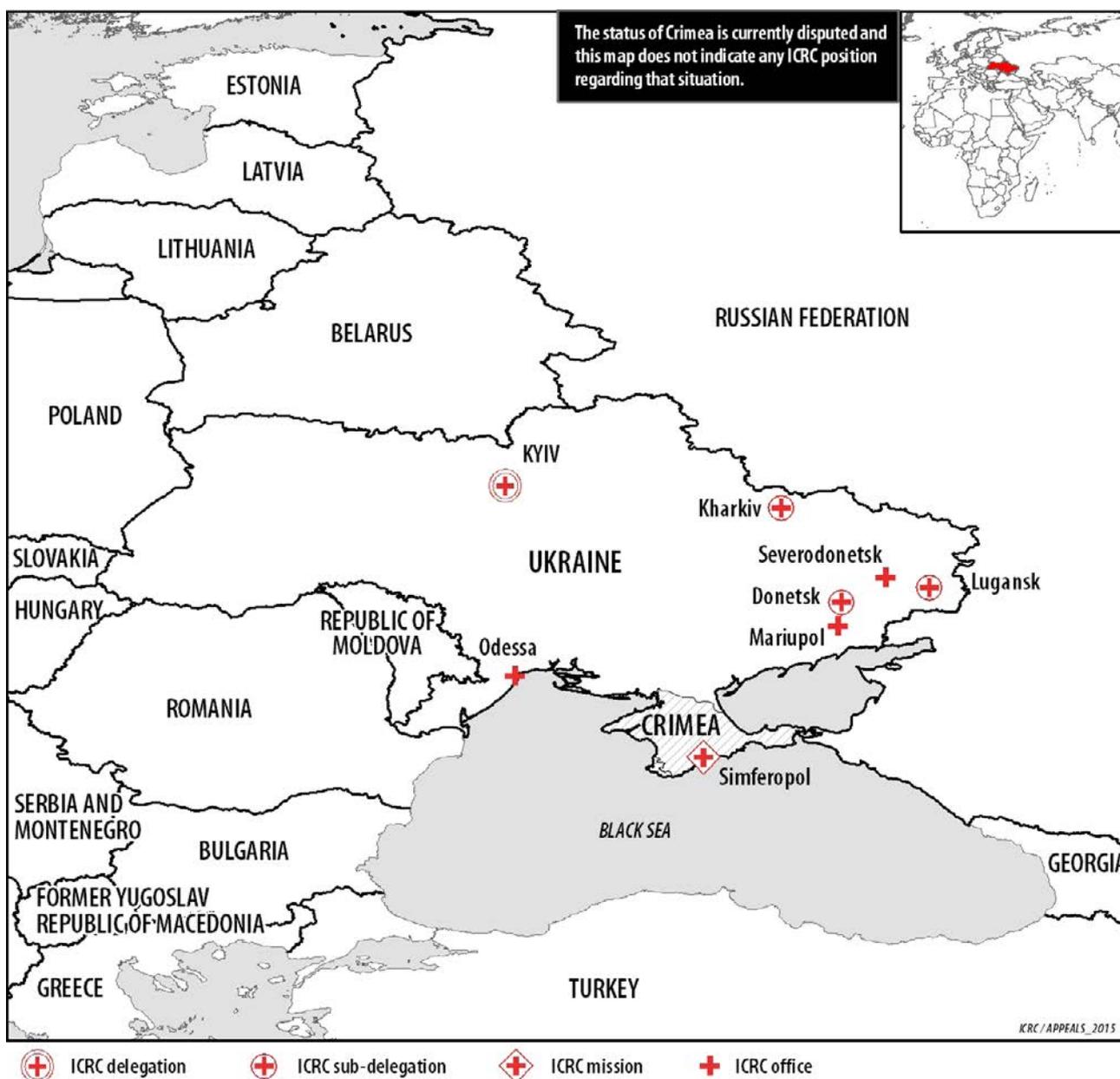
In 2014, the ICRC expanded its presence in Ukraine, including by upgrading its Kyiv office into a delegation; it helps protect and assist conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine. It responds to emergency needs, particularly in terms of providing basic relief assistance; facilitating access to medical 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.

BUDGET IN KCHF

Protection	5,486
Assistance	37,196
Prevention	2,621
Cooperation with National Societies	1,497
General	76
Total	46,877
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	2,861

PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	62
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	175



MAIN TARGETS FOR 2015

- ▶ the authorities take steps to ensure that residents and displaced people have adequate conditions, with access to basic services, and their rights – including freedom of movement and ownership of property – are respected
- ▶ thanks to Ukrainian Red Cross Society/ICRC family-links services, people stay in touch with their relatives, including those in detention, and/or learn the fates of unaccounted for family members
- ▶ people held by the authorities and by armed groups benefit from ICRC visits to monitor their treatment and living conditions and from improvements made by the authorities on the basis of feedback given them
- ▶ the Ukrainian Red Cross strengthens its capacities to provide humanitarian assistance to people affected by conflict, and is able to operate effectively in sensitive environments

ASSISTANCE		Targets (up to)	
CIVILIANS (RESIDENTS, IDPs, RETURNEES, ETC.)			
Economic security, water and habitat (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)			
Food commodities	Beneficiaries		90,000
Essential household items	Beneficiaries		90,000
Vouchers	Beneficiaries		43,890
Water and habitat activities	Beneficiaries		17,000

CONTEXT

Following the election of a new president in June, parliamentary elections were held in October. Tensions with the Russian Federation on a number of issues persist, giving rise to instability, mainly in eastern Ukraine. A ceasefire agreement between the government and armed groups, signed in September, has not halted the incidence of death, injury, displacement and destruction of property and infrastructure. Thus, access to basic services is periodically disrupted and humanitarian activities are limited by the dangers faced by aid workers, as underscored by the killing of an ICRC delegate in Donetsk.

The status of Crimea remains the subject of a political and territorial dispute between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

In 2015, the ICRC delegation in Ukraine, having expanded its set-up in the country, will pursue dialogue with the authorities at all levels and weapon bearers on all sides to ensure that vulnerable people are protected from the effects of armed conflict and other situations of violence in accordance with IHL and other applicable norms. It will also seek to improve its access to people deprived of their freedom in connection with the current situation.

Acting as a neutral intermediary, the ICRC will facilitate the transfer/evacuation of vulnerable people, their repatriation and/or, if requested, their reunification with their families. It will also assist in the return/repatriation of former detainees and the remains of those who lost their lives in the violence. The ICRC, working with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, will help separated family members stay in touch.

The ICRC will also continue to visit people held by the authorities and seek to formalize its access to detainees within its purview. In addition, it will seek to visit people held by armed groups. During these visits, ICRC delegates will monitor detainees' treatment and living conditions, and offer them means to restore/maintain contact with their families. After the visits, the ICRC will communicate its findings confidentially to the authorities or armed groups and, where necessary, will make recommendations for improvements. The ICRC will also support the National Society's family-links services for detained migrants.

The National Society/ICRC will help violence-affected people meet their immediate needs by providing cash transfers or vouchers enabling them to obtain food and household/hygiene items. In areas where the supply of goods is hampered by fighting, the ICRC will provide these items directly. It will stand ready to provide additional households with such support, as well as assistance to help them cope with harsh winter conditions, in the event of armed clashes or other emergencies. To help vulnerable households strengthen their resilience to the effects of the violence, the ICRC will provide them with cash grants to acquire livelihood assets/training and resume income-generating activities.

The ICRC will help reduce the risks to communities from mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) by supporting the authorities' weapon-clearance activities. The National Society/ICRC will conduct dissemination sessions to increase awareness of mine/ERW risks among the communities affected, including among people travelling back to their places of origin, and help them adopt safer practices.

To improve the availability and quality of health care for the weapon-wounded, particularly in eastern Ukraine, the ICRC will help health facilities strengthen their capacities to provide appropriate surgical care. Local surgeons will enhance their skills through ICRC war-surgery seminars. The ICRC will also support the National Society in building its capacities to train first-aiders and help people requiring medical/surgical treatment to reach health facilities safely and in a timely manner.

To increase awareness of and acceptance for its mandate and work, the ICRC will encourage the media to cover its activities, and will support the participation in IHL-related events of journalists, academics, NGOs and other opinion-makers. The ICRC will promote respect for IHL and other applicable norms by organizing training sessions in IHL and international human rights law for armed/security forces, backing the authorities' participation in regional seminars/workshops and obtaining the support of academics and law/policy experts for the development of legal frameworks applicable to the current situation.

With ICRC support, the National Society will build its capacities to provide humanitarian assistance and operate effectively in sensitive environments. It will coordinate with Movement partners to scale up operations during emergencies, and will work towards ensuring the sustainability of its programmes.

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES AND ICRC OBJECTIVES

CIVILIANS

Civilians are suffering the effects of the armed conflict and other situations of violence in Ukraine. The fighting has caused casualties and displacement, hampered people's access to essential goods and services, and disrupted livelihoods and the payment of social benefits. Those who are unable to flee – such as children, orphans, the sick/disabled and the elderly – are particularly vulnerable, while those who have been displaced risk finding themselves in unsafe conditions and losing their livelihood assets and other property. Some people are reportedly being held by the authorities or by armed groups in connection with the current situation (see *People deprived of their freedom*); their families are left unaware of their fate or whereabouts.

Given the interruption of basic services in some areas and the significant number of people killed in the fighting, the management of human remains is a major concern.

Weapon contamination caused by conflict poses risks to the communities affected and to IDPs travelling back to their places of origin.

Objective

People affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence meet their needs and have access to basic services. Separated family members are able to restore/maintain contact and reunite.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ pursue confidential dialogue with the authorities, armed/security forces and other armed groups on the protection afforded by IHL and other applicable norms to civilians, including wounded/sick people and medical workers, and on the need to facilitate people's access to essential goods and services; urge the authorities and weapon bearers to address alleged IHL violations and implement preventive measures
- ▶ urge the authorities and weapon bearers to take all measures to prevent people from becoming displaced in the areas under their control and to ensure that they mitigate the restrictions on civilians' movement
- ▶ to address the needs of people already displaced, encourage the authorities to:
 - register them, to facilitate monitoring of their situation and provision of assistance
 - ensure that they are received and hosted in safe surroundings and have access to basic services, and that their property rights are respected in their places of origin and of refuge
 - extend support to those who wish to return to their places of origin, and provide alternatives to those unwilling or unable to return

Restoring family links

- ▶ through technical, material and financial support, help the Ukrainian Red Cross build its capacities to provide family-links services to violence-affected people, in coordination with Movement partners

With the National Society:

- ▶ help conflict-affected people restore/maintain contact with relatives in Ukraine or abroad, particularly through National Society/ICRC tracing services; promote the use of the ICRC's family-links website (familylinks.icrc.org)
- ▶ acting as a neutral intermediary, and at their request, facilitate the transfer/evacuation of vulnerable people – including children, orphans, sick/disabled people and the elderly – to safer places, their repatriation/return and/or reunification with their families; facilitate the return/repatriation of former detainees and of human remains
- ▶ raise awareness among potential beneficiaries, through broadcast and social media, of the family-links services available to them

Assistance

- ▶ provide the National Society with training and financial support to help it strengthen its capacities to assess the needs of vulnerable people, including IDPs, and to design/manage activities benefiting them

With the National Society:

Economic security

- ▶ help up to 30,000 resident and displaced households (90,000 people) in areas affected by fighting meet their basic needs by supplying food and household/hygiene items for up to six months
- ▶ provide up to 14,430 households (43,290 people) with vouchers so that they can obtain food and household/hygiene items; provide up to 2,150 of these households (6,450 people) with additional support, helping them meet other essential needs
- ▶ provide conditional grants for up to 200 households (600 people) to enable them to increase their household income to 70% of its pre-crisis level

Water and habitat

- ▶ repair up to 10 collective centres to help some 1,500 displaced people cope with harsh winter conditions
- ▶ assist some 170 households (500 people), who have returned to their places of origin following displacement, in repairing their residences
- ▶ work with local authorities to ensure that some 13,000 people living in insecure areas maintain access to water, electricity and other basic services, including by donating the material necessary to maintain facilities and infrastructure

Weapon contamination

- ▶ provide the authorities with training and technical assistance to help them clear weapon-contaminated areas and reduce the risks to people, including those passing through these areas
- ▶ with the National Society, conduct dissemination activities to increase communities' awareness of mine/ERW risks and help them adopt safer practices; collect data on mine/ERW-related incidents and on victims' needs, to help in the planning of further activities

Forensics

- ▶ provide the authorities with training, equipment and technical expertise to help them ensure that the remains of those who died during the violence are handled properly, and to allow for future identification efforts

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People are held in relation to the armed conflict and other situations of violence by the Ukrainian authorities and by armed groups. Some people are said to be held in undisclosed places of detention.

Many migrants are arrested and held in retention centres; they receive visits from National Society personnel.

Objective

People deprived of their freedom are afforded treatment and living conditions that meet internationally recognized standards. They are able to restore/maintain contact with their relatives.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection

- ▶ while seeking to formalize, through a written agreement, access to detainees held by the authorities, continue ad hoc visits to detainees according to standard ICRC procedures and, through dialogue, seek to visit people held by armed groups; monitor the treatment and living conditions of all people deprived of their freedom, including respect for judicial guarantees or procedural safeguards; provide the authorities or weapon bearers holding them with confidential feedback and, where necessary, recommendations to improve detainees' treatment and living conditions
- ▶ pursue/maintain dialogue with the authorities and weapon bearers regarding the importance of holding people in disclosed places of detention; urge them to address allegations of arrest and to ensure that families are informed of the arrest, transfer, illness or other changes in the situations of people in their custody

Restoring family links

- ▶ offer detainees family-links services so that they may maintain contact with their relatives; help the National Society strengthen its capacities to provide similar services, as well as ad hoc assistance, to detained migrants

WOUNDED AND SICK

The fighting in Donetsk and Lugansk causes casualties and hampers the delivery of medical supplies and the transfer of patients. Health facilities have been damaged; medical workers and ambulances have been attacked or threatened.

Owing to security constraints, the ICRC and other aid organizations have limited access to the areas affected. To the extent permitted by hostilities, National Society volunteers administer first aid to the wounded and assist in the transfer of patients.

Objective

Wounded and sick people receive appropriate medical and surgical care.

Plan of action and indicators

Protection and assistance

- ▶ collect allegations of incidents affecting medical services and make confidential representations to the authorities or weapon bearers concerned; urge them to take preventive/corrective action (see *Civilians*)

Assistance

- ▶ offer the National Society support to enhance its ability to train first-aid providers and ensure the sustainability of its first-aid programme

With the National Society:

- ▶ during emergencies, help improve the likelihood that people receive prompt medical treatment, by:
 - providing up to 6 health facilities with equipment and supplies, enabling them to treat the wounded; offering similar support to hospitals, allowing them to treat up to 1,500 wounded/sick people
 - help people requiring medical/surgical treatment reach health facilities safely and in a timely manner, by providing ambulance services and National Society volunteers with first-aid supplies and financial assistance, respectively
- ▶ support local surgeons in honing their skills to treat the weapon-wounded by organizing two seminars on conducting war surgery

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

Humanitarian aid can be delivered to people affected by the current situation only when security guarantees are provided by the Ukrainian authorities and by the armed groups in control of some cities in the east.

The media, academics and NGOs are influential in shaping public opinion.

The national IHL committee, which has been largely inactive because of the political instability in the country, has nevertheless adopted a plan of action for 2015.

In recent months, the National Society has launched information campaigns to promote respect for the red cross emblem and for humanitarian/medical workers.

Objective

The authorities and weapon bearers understand and respect IHL and other fundamental rules protecting people in armed conflict and other situations of violence, and incorporate these into their decision-making processes. The media, academics and other opinion-makers help foster awareness of humanitarian issues and IHL among key decision-makers and in the wider public, thus securing greater respect for human dignity. All actors understand the ICRC's mandate and support the Movement's work.

Plan of action and indicators

Prevention

- ▶ to boost awareness and acceptance for the ICRC's mandate and work:
 - pursue/maintain dialogue with the authorities and weapon bearers on the National Society/ICRC's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action, particularly in relation to IHL and first aid
 - promote the ICRC's activities among potential beneficiaries and enable them to learn about the humanitarian aid available to them
 - with the National Society, encourage the media to cover Movement activities and provide them with information on humanitarian issues; support the par-

participation of journalists, academics, NGOs and other opinion-makers in IHL-related events

- ▶ cultivate respect for IHL/international human rights law by:
 - organizing training sessions on IHL/international human rights law for armed/security forces; enabling the authorities' participation in regional seminars/workshops
 - enlisting the support of academics and law/policy experts for developing legal frameworks applicable to the current situation, especially in connection with humanitarian access and the plight of violence-affected people
 - working with the National Society to advocate for the national IHL committee to resume its work

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The National Society provides first aid and emergency relief to people affected by the current situation (see *Civilians and Wounded and sick*), and promotes IHL and respect for the emblem and for medical services (see *Actors of influence*). At times, volunteers risk their safety to reach people in need.

The National Society requires support to carry out its activities and to ensure the sustainability of its programmes.

Objective

The National Society has a strong legal basis for independent action. It carries out its main activities effectively. The activities of all components of the Movement are coordinated.

Plan of action and indicators

Cooperation

- ▶ provide the National Society with technical, training and financial support to help it ensure effective delivery of humanitarian services, particularly in:
 - enhancing its institutional/organizational capacities, including in financial management and fundraising
 - formulating/implementing policies and procedures to strengthen risk assessment and accountability
 - operating effectively in sensitive environments using the Safer Access Framework
 - scaling up operations in response to emergencies, in coordination with Movement partners
- ▶ define the scope and partnership/cooperation with the National Society, particularly to help it carry out the aforementioned activities