

## UKRAINE CRISIS

### ICRC activities in August 2015



#### Providing food and essential household items

In August, the ICRC has distributed around 640 metric tonnes of food and 20 tonnes of other items to more than 56,000 people affected by the conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk regions on both sides of the front line. Over 24,000 people – both residents and displaced – received hygiene items, blankets, tarpaulins and plastic sheeting. Around 32,300 people received food, including 855 hospital patients, children in orphanages and people living in homes for the elderly.

#### Improving living conditions

More than 10,000 displaced persons 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. Around 190 kits, comprised of roofing material and construction tools, each of them allowing to repair 10 houses in average, has been delivered to villages and towns across the frontline, which then were distributed among the residents whose houses need repair. In addition, ICRC-donated equipment was used to repair water supply systems and sewage treatment plants, in heavily-affected areas of Luhansk and Donetsk regions, supplying water to more than 1, 6 million people living in conflict affected areas.

#### Safeguarding health care

In the course of the month, ICRC provided medicine and dressing material to 13 hospitals and health posts in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Forty surgeons and anesthetists from the areas affected by the conflict, improved their skills in the diagnostics and emergency treatment of those suffering from wartime trauma by participating in two specially tailored courses organized by the ICRC in Lugansk and Dnipropetrovsk.

Since January 2015, medical supplies to the value of nearly 1'757'000 CHF have been donated to 83 hospitals and 37 first aid posts in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, including 51 hospitals in opposition-held areas. This included dressing materials, different drugs, sutures, infusions, insulins, as well as consumables for hemodialysis and supplies for the treatment of people wounded in the hostilities.

#### Visiting detainees and tracing missing persons

The ICRC visited people held in connection with the conflict in places of detention under the control of the Ukrainian authorities in Kharkiv, Artemivsk, Kyiv and Odesa, to monitor the treatment they were receiving and the conditions in which they were being held. ICRC delegates visited for the first time and registered 34 people detained in relation to the conflict during five visits to four places of detention.

The ICRC offered its expert support and services to all parties to the conflict to help to provide answers to the families of missing people. Much more than 1,000 people are still missing in relation to the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Upon receiving a request from the family, the organization works to find out about the fate and whereabouts of the person being sought. In August, ICRC received ten more requests from the families to trace their missing relatives. As of now, ICRC and the Ukrainian Red Cross Society are working to shed light on the fate of more than 380 people who are unaccounted for.

In addition, the ICRC has been particularly active in supporting forensic institutions and NGOs involved in searching, recovery and identification of human remains on both sides of the frontline providing training and technical assistance. In August, ICRC helped to organize a burial of 57 unknown servicemen of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in Zaporizhia.

## Dialogue with the parties to the conflict

The ICRC is maintaining contact with the parties to the conflict to draw their attention to the consequences of hostilities on the civilians and to the rules of international humanitarian law (IHL). Special emphasis is put on the prevention of incidents that could affect medical facilities, transport and health personnel, or cause damage to essential infrastructure, such as water supplies and power networks and schools.

On August 21, the ICRC and the Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) Directorate of the Armed Forces of Ukraine organized an information session on the basics of IHL. The session brought together 39 high ranking CIMIC officers who had been involved into a pre-deployment training prior to be sent to the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine.

## Protecting civilians from unexploded munitions

The number of deaths and injuries related to mines and explosive remnants of war continues to grow. The ICRC stepped up efforts to inform the population about how to stay safe. Following the distribution of 150,000 leaflets and 3,000 posters on safe behavior in conflict-affected areas, the ICRC provided the emergency services on both sides of the front line with 4,000 marking signs and 40 km of marking tape to designate dangerous areas. The ICRC also 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 humanitarian 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, including mine risk education.

### In a nutshell, during August 2015 the ICRC:



Provided food to more than **30,000 people** in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, including those in health care institutions



Provided medical supplies, such as medicine and dressing material to **13 hospitals and health posts** in Donetsk and Luhansk regions



Provided construction material, such as cement, bricks and timber as well as roofing sheets for more than **10,000 people** in Donetsk and Luhansk regions to help repair damaged buildings



Visited and registered **34 people** held in connection with the conflict in detention places under the control of the Ukrainian authorities



Provided hygiene and other items to **over 24,000 persons** in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, including in health care institutions



Donated **120 body bags** for the dignified burial of **57 unknown servicemen** of the Ukrainian Armed Forces in Zaporizhia

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