ICRC DELEGATION IN UKRAINE

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: JANUARY – DECEMBER 2024

REPORT

ICRC

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF ICRC DELEGATION IN UKRAINE

Two years into my mission, I reflect on the challenges of 2024 and the immense suffering endured by civilians, service personnel, and their families. The war continues to bear a devastating toll on communities, with new pains layered over the unresolved wounds of past years. It continues to claim lives and separate families, leaving countless individuals in uncertainty and grief.

This year, again, as I travelled to Kharkiv, Sumy, and Kherson, I was stricken by the resilience of those living along the frontlines. Elderly couples bracing for the winter without electricity or adequate heating, parents left in agonizing limbo as they await news of their son on the battlefield. I felt humbled by the courage of emergency responders from the Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) or the State Emergency Service of Ukraine. I also think of men and women on the battlefield: service personnel bear the heaviest burden – thousands killed, injured, or captured – while their families endure the pain of absence and unanswered questions.

In response, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) worked alongside the URCS and other Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners to support vulnerable communities living close to the frontline, but also to support utility providers, health facilities and local authorities in delivering essential health, water, and heating services. Beyond relief support, we facilitated the return and two-way border crossing of vulnerable civilians and children between Russia and Ukraine, we worked with the Ukrainian Armed Forces to build a recovery pathway for the released prisoners of war and ex-combatants, we launched a physical rehabilitation project at Kharkiv Medical University Hospital to support weapon-wounded patients in their long-term recovery.

The plight of those still held in captivity and their families living in anguish weighs heavily on our efforts. We continue to pursue all avenues to gain full and unimpeded access to prisoners of war (PoWs) and people deprived of their liberty, in line with our mandate. We also call on the High Contracting Parties to use their influence while we continue supporting their families through their pain and anguish.

Our commitment to those affected by the conflict remains steadfast. As we move into 2025, we continue the critical review of our work. Together with our partners, we remain determined to stand by those most in need.

Jürg Eglin

Head of the ICRC's Delegation in Ukraine

The international armed conflict (IAC) between the Russian Federation and Ukraine is affecting the lives of millions of people. Present in Ukraine since 1993, the ICRC reinforced its operations in 2014 and massively scaled up its response after February 2022. With seven operational structures on both sides of the frontline and over 900 staff across Ukraine and through the coordinated efforts of its Delegations in Kyiv and Moscow, the ICRC engaged with parties on their obligations under international humanitarian law (IHL), particularly their duty to protect civilians, prisoners of war (PoWs) and combatants hors-de-combat and delivered vital humanitarian assistance to people in need.

While the evolution of the conflict remains uncertain, the humanitarian consequences shaping the ICRC's response are likely to persist at a similar scale in the coming year, regardless of whether the conflict continues at the same intensity or de-escalates.

In 2025, the ICRC will continue to seek unimpeded access to prisoners and protected civilians detained in relation to the IAC on both sides, clarify the fate of missing persons, restore family links, and support the families of missing people and PoWs. Through its multidisciplinary response, the ICRC will continue to address the consequences of acute emergencies but also support the authorities and utility providers to ensure continuous delivery of essential services, as well as focus on addressing some of the longer-term physical and mental rehabilitation needs amongst the population.

PROTECTION OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY

In 2024, the ICRC remained the only international organization able to visit PoWs held both in Ukraine and the Russian Federation, mainly Russian PoWs in Ukraine. We will continue to call for full and unimpeded access to all PoWs and protected civilians in custody in relation to the international armed conflict. We also count on States party to the Geneva Conventions to use the means at their disposal to ensure respect for IHL and facilitate the ICRC's access to persons deprived of their liberty.

> *It is very hard to keep waiting for him every day. He is the only one left in my life. It is very painful for those who have relatives in captivity to live through this, but we are holding on," says Olena who is looking for her son to return*

Visits carried out by ICRC teams allowed for much-anticipated news to be shared between the PoWs and their families through written and oral messages collected during visits.

In its statutory role in an IAC, the ICRC also ensured the transmission of information on "protected persons in the hands of the adverse Party," including PoWs from the detaining powers (see section on Central Tracing Agency). The quality and consistency of the information transmitted by the parties have improved, allowing families to receive updates more quickly. However, much work still needs to be done.

The ICRC also worked to promote and improve the Geneva Conventions correspondence system and to facilitate the collection of letters from PoWs by the detaining authorities on both sides. In its role as neutral intermediary, the ICRC facilitated the exchange of 21,400 letters between the parties, enabling the exchange of news between PoWs and their families. This is not enough, and the ICRC will continue to advocate for the system to be more efficient. The option of electronic transmission can reduce the processing time by weeks, but families may still choose to send physical correspondences, if they prefer.

Visits to places of detention in Ukraine

In support of, and collaboration with, the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War and the Ministry of Justice, the ICRC continued visiting places of detention in Ukraine to monitor the conditions and treatment of Russian PoWs and other detainees.

The ICRC provided infrastructural support to the Department for Execution of Criminal Punishment (DECP) to rehabilitate some areas of four out of the five PoW camps, focusing on improving heating for the winter period. The ICRC also supported renovation projects in five places of pre-trial detention, leading to improved conditions of detention for Ukrainian security and common law detainees.

This infrastructural engineering support was complemented by distributions of in-kind assistance to different detention facilities, as well as several donations of generators, disinfection chambers, greenhouses and open-field kits. The ICRC also assisted PoWs with summer and winter clothing.

Parcel exchange operation

The ICRC continued to actively support the Health Care Centre of the State Penal Service of Ukraine. Over 12,000 detainees and PoWs received drugs and medical items on a regular basis, along with additional ad hoc support. The ICRC also distributed wheelchairs, crutches and other medical equipment, and donated emergency response medical materials.

To complement the in-kind assistance, the ICRC held training sessions on IHL and the Third Geneva Convention on prisoners of war for 40 DECP staff members in PoW camps.

KEY FIGURES

12,000+

PoWs and **detainees** received winter clothing and medical items.

7,000+

PoWs and **detainees** benefited from improved detention conditions in 18 places of detention.

The spirit of the Geneva Conventions is to preserve humanity during wartime. At the request and with the support of the Offices of the Ombudspersons of Ukraine and Russia, the ICRC facilitated the exchange of 3,000 parcels, containing warm clothing for PoWs on both sides over the Christmas and New Year period. Letters from families were also exchanged for distribution to PoWs on both sides. While gaining full and unimpeded access to all PoWs continues to be our top priority, these parcels and letters are an important means of providing some physical and mental well-being to prisoners, at a time of the year that holds deep meaning for many.

THE SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSONS AND SUPPORT TO THEIR FAMILIES

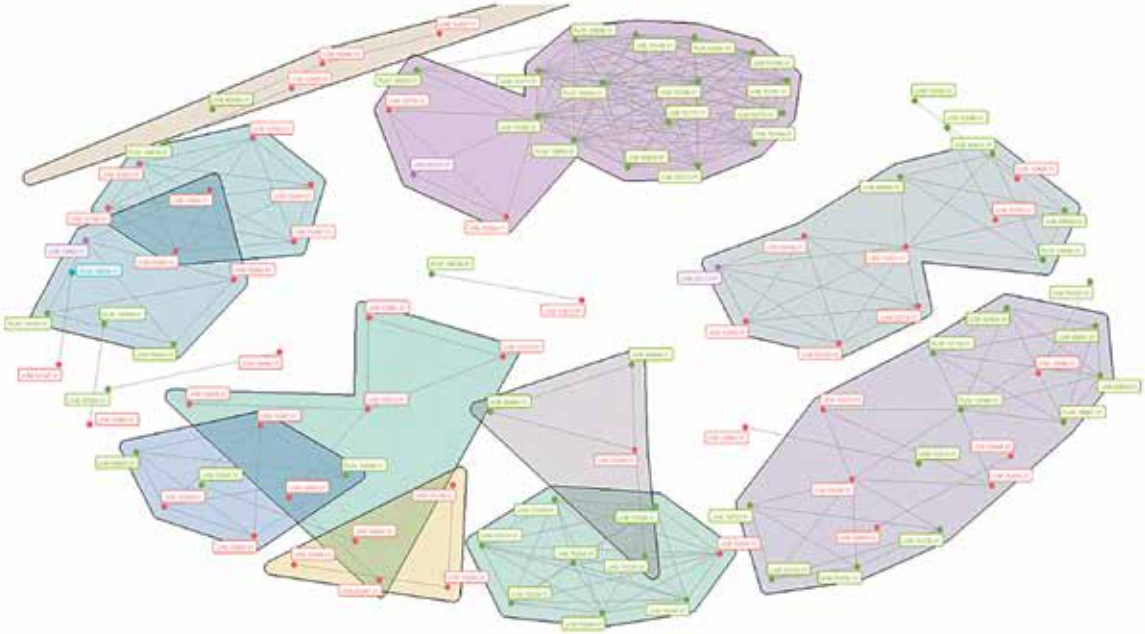
Daunting questions torment tens of thousands of families on both sides of the frontline, as they endure the relentless anguish of not knowing the fate of their loved ones in captivity. They wonder whether they are treated well, eating sufficiently and staying in good health. Families who have not received any confirmation concerning their loved ones in captivity wonder whether their husbands, sons or daughters are alive. If they are not, families question if and when they will be able to give their loved ones a dignified burial.

As of December 2024, more than 10,800 families have received information from the ICRC regarding the fate of their missing loved ones, based on information provided by both parties. However, the fate of nearly 43,000 missing persons remains uncertain, most of whom are missing-in-action military personnel.

In an international armed conflict, each party is obligated to account for "enemy protected persons" in their custody. The ICRC's Central Tracing Agency Bureau (CTA-B) centralizes information collected from the National Information Bureaus of Ukraine and Russia. This information is then transmitted to the other party and to families of those affected. Safeguarding information about persons captured or deceased in the hands of the adversary also allows the ICRC's CTA to continuously analyse the data. The CTA-B cross-checks and triangulates information from various other sources to gather as many details as possible regarding the circumstances or location of the disappearance of the sought persons and clarify their fate and whereabouts, whether they are dead or alive.

Additionally, the ICRC maintains contact with families of PoWs and missing persons, as well as dozens of family associations. We listen to their frustrations while addressing their queries. Our support to families and family associations also includes cash grants, mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS), referral for legal advice, and training.

Example of complex network analysis based on information collected from different sources:



QR code to open a Tracing Request:

KEY FIGURES As of December 2024:

43,000

open cases of sought persons have been recorded by the CTA bureau

10,800

families have received information from the ICRC and partner national societies on the fate of their missing loved ones.

The ICRC and national societies have directly delivered **more than 11,000 personal messages** (written and oral messages) between PoWs and their families.

In its role of neutral intermediary, the CTA bureau facilitated the transmission, between the parties to the conflict, of **21,400 letters** from and to PoWs and their families.

A total of **50 Red Cross / Red Crescent national societies and 28 ICRC delegations** (including the CTA bureau) work together to help bring families news of their loved ones.

Families have contacted the ICRC **approximately 297,000 times by phone, online, or in person** for information about their loved ones.

Family reunification and cross-border passages

In 2023-2024, acting as a neutral intermediary and leveraging its operational presence in Ukraine, Russia, and neighbouring countries, the ICRC facilitated the cross-border passage of close to 300 civilians, including children, between Russia and Ukraine, in both directions. These efforts were carried out in coordination with relevant authorities and other actors, including, at times, third-party states.

The ICRC's involvement in operations can vary based on specific cases, requests from authorities and the available humanitarian space. This involvement may include meeting with children and vulnerable individuals and their legal guardians before travel to understand their personal circumstances, health status, personal wishes and concerns, liaising with the relevant authorities in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus and the other actors involved in the reintegration process, facilitating travel documents, and the logistical support aspect of transportation.

DIGNIFIED TREATMENT OF THE DEAD AND PREVENTION OF DISAPEARANCE

While civilians are heavily affected by the hostilities, the majority of those killed are combatants, with a high number of casualties on both sides. The staggering number of the dead clearly overwhelms the medico-legal system.

To ensure the dignified collection, handling and identification of human remains, as well as prevent disappearance and bring closure to families, the ICRC actively supports over 20 medico-legal structures in Ukraine and search-and-recovery teams.

In 2024, the ICRC provided significant material support (refrigerated containers and trucks, recovery equipment, examination equipment, infrastructural work notably on DNA laboratories). The ICRC trained over 400 forensic practitioners of the Armed Forces of Ukraine (UAF), the National Police, the Medico-Legal Bureaus, the State Scientific Research Forensic Centre, the Commissioner for Missing Persons, the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) and the URCS. For the prevention of missing in action, the ICRC donated kits for the collection of DNA samples of military personnel prior to deployment.

The ICRC also participates as a neutral intermediary in operations for the repatriation of fallen military personnel between Ukraine and the Russian Federation.

IHL REFERENCE

The remains of the dead must be respected and be disposed of in a respectful manner. The parties to the conflict must identify and facilitate the return of the human remains, together with the personal effects of the deceased. The graves must be respected and properly maintained.

KEY FIGURES

260,250

DNA collection kits were provided to armed forces and Ministry of Internal Affairs for the prevention of missing in action.

Nearly 200

forensic practitioners were trained in the dignified management and identification of the dead.

39

forensic institutions and search-and-recovery teams under the UAF were supported with engineering infrastructure support, vehicles, equipment, and materials for their work in the search, recovery, storage, examination, and identification of human remains.

18

refrigerated containers for the temporary storage of dead bodies were provided.

Kyiv's main medico-legal bureau DNA laboratory was constructed by the ICRC.

260,000

DNA kits donated to support authorities to prevent missing in action.

13

operations of repatriation of human remains of military personnel were supported and monitored by ICRC in 2024 (44 since 2022).

ENSURING CONTINUUM OF CARE TO THE WOUNDED AND SICK

The conflict has placed immense pressure on Ukraine's health system, with a surge of wounded combatants suffering from complex trauma and requiring long-term care. In addition, elderly individuals and patients with chronic conditions and disabilities struggle to access adequate health care, especially near the frontline. The ICRC seeks to strengthen the continuum of care, from emergency and prehospital services to tertiary care for long-term physical and mental trauma.

To enhance emergency services' capacity to manage mass casualty incidents notably caused by shelling, the ICRC provides specialized training ranging from advanced first aid for non-medical responders (police and SESU personnel), Blast Trauma Care courses for explosive ordnance disposal personnel, demining teams, and military medics, as well as specialized programs for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), frontline medics, and hospital staff.

In 2024, the ICRC provided monthly support to 21 hospitals receiving wounded combatants, including military hospitals in Kyiv, Odesa, and Dnipro and 9 Primary Health-Care Centres. Nearly 70 additional health facilities received emergency or ad hoc assistance. The ICRC also supplied vehicles, ambulances, and first aid materials to support the transport of the wounded from frontline areas.

In partnership with the British Red Cross, the ICRC supports the Kyiv Clinical Hospital burns centre, enhancing its capacity to treat complex burn injuries.

KEY FIGURES

30

hospitals and primary health care facilities close to the frontline and three mobile health units received regular donations of medical equipment, drugs, and consumables.

10

health facilities received infrastructural engineer support such as rehabilitation of heating system.

More than 16,000

war wounded were treated across supported hospitals with over 180,000 emergency department consultations and over 45,000 surgeries performed.

More than 750

patients were treated at the Kyiv Burns Centre.

Over 250,000

consultations were registered in ICRC-supported primary health-care centres and mobile health units.

375

training sessions were held, and more than 5,000 participants trained by the ICRC and/or URCS in first aid / pre-hospital emergency care. The ICRC supported 214 feldshers to upskill to paramedics.

RECOVERY

Physical rehabilitation

The number of people living with long-term disabilities and requiring physical rehabilitation will weigh on Ukraine's health system for decades. The ICRC has made a long-term commitment to support the Ministry of Health in building Ukraine's capacities in the field of prosthesis, orthosis, and physiotherapy, increase the quality of post-acute care as well as long-term rehabilitation services, in partnership and in complementarity with the URCS and other actors.

In 2024, the ICRC launched a physical rehabilitation project at Kharkiv University Hospital, with ambitions to open a new project at the Kyiv Regional Hospital in 2025 incorporating mental health and psychosocial support.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO), plans are underway to develop a professional workforce through the establishment of a bachelor's degree program in Prosthetics and Orthotics (P&O) to foster local expertise.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

The ICRC's MHPSS approach focuses on strengthening the capacities of mental health workers and emergency responders to address diverse mental health issues affecting civilians, ex-combatants, released PoWs, families of the missing, war-wounded individuals, and people with physical disabilities.

The ICRC supports military hospitals in Kyiv and Odesa in delivering quality mental health care to injured soldiers and ex-combatants experiencing psychological distress from prolonged battlefield exposure. It also supports Kherson and Kharkiv University Hospitals in providing mental health care, including pain management, for injured patients and those requiring prosthetic or orthotic interventions.

Since 2023, the ICRC has partnered with the Ukrainian Armed Forces (UAF) personnel recovery centre, offering training and recommendations to support released PoWs during their decompression and stabilization phase. The program also addresses long-term reintegration challenges, such as anxiety, vicarious trauma, suicide prevention, and substance abuse. In 2025, the ICRC will further expand support to released PoWs and ex-combatants through the Recovery Pathway Project.

The ICRC strengthens the capacities of community actors, including the police, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), URCS, and SESU, to provide immediate psychological support in emergencies, particularly in areas with limited mental health services including psychosocial interventions for children. The ICRC also provides "help the helper" psychological care sessions to help strengthen the resilience of frontline and emergency workers.

Additionally, the ICRC assists families of missing persons by offering sessions on ambiguous loss and facilitating access to individual counselling in collaboration with partner organizations, including the URCS.

PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE OF THE CIVILIAN POPULATION

IHL REFERENCE

Civilians and civilian objects, including critical civilian infrastructure, as well as objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs and drinking water infrastructure, may under no circumstances be attacked. It is prohibited to use anti-personnel mines. Any use of cluster munitions is unacceptable, given their well-known and entirely foreseeable indiscriminate effects.

MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF THE CONDUCT OF HOSTILITIES ON CIVILIANS

As the guardian of IHL, the ICRC documents patterns of IHL violations during the conduct of hostilities and seeks to understand the humanitarian effects of the warfare in order to influence the behaviour of the Parties to the conflict and to offer its support to relevant authorities to implement corrective actions to minimize consequences for civilians.

This can only be achieved by establishing a 'safe space' for discussions. ICRC's confidential dialogue with the parties – sometimes misconstrued as silence or inaction – is designed to build trust with the belligerents and foster a direct and frank dialogue shielded from politicization.

Promoting compliance with IHL and seeking corrective actions from the parties is an essential part of the ICRC's efforts to minimize unnecessary suffering among those affected by the conflict. This approach takes time; its results are neither immediate nor always fully effective.

In 2024, the ICRC continued to offer its expertise and practical experience of conflicts to influence legislation, support the armed forces and authorities through training, and provide legal guidance on complex IHL issues and contemporary challenges (autonomous weapons, AI and cyber warfare…, etc).

KEY FIGURES

1,000+

UAF and national police staff received training on IHL, international human rights law (IHRL), law enforcement operations, protection of PoWs and work on the missing and detained.

134

staff members of the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine participated in introduction courses on IHL and the ICRC's mandate.

78

prosecutors and investigators in Kyiv, Chernihiv and Kharkiv received IHL training with emphasis on judicial guarantees and combatant privileges.

ASSISTING THE MOST VULNERABLE, CLOSE TO THE FRONTLINE

Tens of thousands of people, including many elderly, bedridden, sick, and vulnerable people, continue to live in frontline areas on both sides, where access to essential services, markets, and heating supplies is limited or non-existent.

Focusing our efforts on communities living in hard-to-reach areas, the ICRC has provided emergency assistance, including food parcels, hygiene parcels, water and other essential items to close to 110,000 people.

In addition to emergency cash support, the ICRC also supported the food production of 6,700 families in areas close to the frontline by providing them with agricultural and livestock supplies, greenhouses and tools (both in the form of cash and in-kind) while sensitizing them to the risks of unexploded ordnance in highly contaminated areas.

Ahead of the winter, the ICRC provided 80,000 people across 250 rural settlements with 14,000 tonnes of solid fuel, briquettes, firewood, or cash to survive the cold months.

KEY FIGURES

125,000+

vulnerable people received hygiene supplies, essential household items, (blankets, solar lamps, kitchen sets) and solid fuel for the winter.

88,000+

vulnerable people were supported with food parcels.

66,000+

people received a total of UAH 847 million (CHF 18 million) in cash assistance for the winter period and to cover their emergency needs.

6,800+

families were supported with cash grants and agronomical supplies to improve food production and income generation.

300+

institutions were supported with briquettes and heating stoves, to strengthen their capacity to provide essential services to local populations.

STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE

In 2024, critical energy infrastructures continued to suffer from strikes, reducing Ukraine's energy generation and transmission capacity. The interdependence of systems further exacerbated disruptions to electricity, heating, water, and other essential services.

Through its urban resilience programs, the ICRC focuses on strengthening the resilience of electricity, water, and heating systems and their capacity to withstand and recover from shocks related to the hostilities. To do so, the ICRC supports local authorities and utility providers (particularly water boards and Voda Donbasu, as well as selected heating and electricity companies) developing risk-reduction strategies and boost their emergency preparedness in order to help them ensure the continuous delivery of essential services to the population, including health-care services.

Additionally, the ICRC provides cross-departmental support to health, physical rehabilitation, forensics, and detention rehabilitation programs. Other efforts address housing and some public facilities, reinforcing community resilience and infrastructure stability.

Decentralizing heating network in Kharkiv

In 2024, aerial strikes on Kharkiv have resulted in considerable damage to the heat network infrastructure, impacting an estimated 1.2 million residents. In response, the ICRC supported the Kharkiv heat network rehabilitate 13 modular boiler houses to supply heat to 72,000 people during the harsh winter.

Developing humanitarian master plan with the Mykolaiv water board and Voda Donbasu, the water board in northern Donetsk Region

Since 2022, the ICRC has helped the Mykolaiv water board cope with the disruption of access to fresh water. Complementing its emergency support with more durable projects, the ICRC has also developed a humanitarian master plan to guide and influence other actors involved in the short-term or long-term response.

KEY FIGURES

2,700,000+
people have improved access to essential services through the ICRC's support to utility service providers.

450,000
people in Mykolaiv have more resilient access to water supply and sewage.

80,000+
people regained access to water and sewerage services in Kherson city.

330,000
people in Chernihiv have a more secure access to electricity and heating.

Over one million
of Kharkiv city's residents have a more secure access to water.

Protecting communities from the risks of weapon contamination

The civilian population continues to suffer from the widespread and complex contamination resulting from the conflict. The concentration of explosive remnants of war along the frontline and the sheer scale and variety of modern weaponry deployed pose immediate and long-term life-threatening, environmental and health risks.

Seeking to mitigate the risk from both conventional and non-conventional hazards, the ICRC, together with the URCS, conducted sessions on Risk Awareness and Safer Behaviour (RASB). Additionally, the ICRC supported the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU), the State Special Transport Service (SSTS) and the Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) police in their efforts through equipment and training.

KEY FIGURES

187,904

civilians received risk awareness and safer behaviour (RASB) education from the URCS, while **5,595 people** were directly provided with risk awareness and safer behaviour (RASB) education by the ICRC.

145

demining personnel have received specialist equipment and training for the clearance of explosive remnants of war.

13,000

demining tools and equipment, and 170,000 mine warning signs were donated to SESU, the UAF, SST and the EoD police.

400

SESU, SSTS and EOD Police demining staff have been trained in bespoke blast trauma care and equipped with both individual and team blast trauma care first aid packs.

180

SESU chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) staff have received specialist mass casualty decontamination training.

13

CBRN mass casualty decontamination centers have been donated to SESU.

CHILDREN IN AFFECTED AREAS

The international armed conflict has severely disrupted access to education for millions of Ukrainian children. In 2024, the ICRC maintained its focus on access to education, engaging high-level stakeholders and directly reaching out to affected populations (children, parents, and teachers) to understand their needs.

KEY FIGURES

200+

children from most vulnerable households have been supported by the ICRC with access to essential school supplies.

Priority locations

have been identified to provide back-to-learning school kits for the academic year 2024-2025.

The ICRC continues to sit as an observer

in education working groups focused on digital access to learning and the rehabilitation of educational facilities.

ICRC IN TERRITORIES UNDER RUSSIAN CONTROL

The humanitarian situation in the areas of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson Regions under Russian control remains dire, with infrastructure severely damaged by 10 years of conflict, disrupted access to essential services, and extensive weapon contamination. Thousands of families continue to suffer from separation, missing relatives, or detained loved ones.

In 2024, the ICRC remained the only international humanitarian organization with an official operational presence in Donetsk and Luhansk (circa 150 staff). After a challenging period during which the ICRC adapted its modus operandi to new administrative realities, its operational footprint in Donetsk and Luhansk significantly increased in 2024. Working closely with the local Red Cross entities in Donetsk and Luhansk, the ICRC focused on assisting internally displaced and vulnerable communities with search for missing persons services, food parcels, hygiene parcels, and drinking water, and providing emergency repair materials to restore homes damaged by the hostilities. Health-care facilities and search-and-rescue services were supported with medical items and forensic equipment.

KEY FIGURES (Donetsk)

Circa 7,000

persons received emergency materials to repair homes damaged by shelling.

Approximately 34,500

food parcels and 25,000 hygiene parcels were distributed to conflict-affected individuals, including displaced persons.

Close to 1,000

tons of construction materials were distributed to residents living near the frontline to repair their houses damaged by the hostilities.

Seven

hospitals in and around Donetsk received medical and non-medical items.

10 **social institutions in Mariupol** and five other settlements, assisting approximately **3,600 individuals**, received essential items to enhance service delivery for the vulnerable population.

KEY FIGURES (Luhansk)

Over 5,000
food and hygiene parcels distributed to vulnerable people.

ONE
Bryanka hospital supported with biomedical equipment for its intensive care unit.

Luhansk perinatal centre supported with medical equipment for its operation theatre.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Since February 2022, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement) massively scaled up its operations in Ukraine and neighbouring countries affected by the international armed conflict.

In Ukraine, the Movement includes the URCS, the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and 13 partner National Societies, with many more contributing to the Movement's collective response from abroad. Each component has a specific mandate and works closely with the others based on their shared Fundamental Principles.

The URCS is Ukraine's largest local humanitarian actor, with its 20,000 staff and volunteers active in all the regions under the Ukrainian government control. As an auxiliary to the authorities in the humanitarian field, the URCS acts as a first responder during emergencies and provides relief, health, social, and other essential services to people affected by the conflict and other vulnerable communities. The URCS also contributes to the promotion of IHL in Ukraine and the restoration of family links between people separated by the conflict.

The URCS is the ICRC's primary partner in Ukraine. Together, we address the needs of those most affected by the international armed conflict, particularly in the regions close to the frontline. In 2024, the URCS and the ICRC jointly reviewed their decade-long partnership to further strengthen the quality, efficiency, and sustainability of their joint work in favour of the people affected by the conflict in Ukraine.

As part of our commitment to strengthening localization in Ukraine, the ICRC contributes to the development and strengthening of the URCS' organizational capacity in areas of finance development, risk management, branch and volunteer development. This support is closely coordinated with other Movement partners.

KEY FIGURES

8,964

deployments, including 332 to shelled sites, were carried out by the URCS Emergency Response Service (ERS).

13,323

civilians evacuated and over 4,000 individuals transported by the ERS from various locations and frontline areas in seven (7) regions supported by the ICRC – Kharkiv, Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, Sumy, Mykolaiv, and Chernihiv.

186,638

beneficiaries were reached through information sessions, carried out by the URCS as part of ICRC-supported RASB program aimed to reduce incidents related to weapon contamination.

70+

staff and volunteers from the URCS' ERS teams in Kharkiv, Sumy and Poltava received trauma first aid training to strengthen their ability to respond effectively to life-threatening emergencies.

1,270

beneficiaries of educational communities (children, parents and teachers) completed the URCS-delivered basic first aid training.

The ICRC helps people around the world affected by armed conflict and other violence, doing everything it can to protect their lives and dignity and to relieve their suffering, often with its Red Cross and Red Crescent partners. The organization also seeks to prevent hardship by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and championing universal humanitarian principles.

blogs.icrc.org/ua
facebook.com/ICRCUA
twitter.com/ICRC_ua
t.me/ICRCinUkraine

ICRC

International Committee
of the Red Cross
6 Velyka Vasylkivska st. Building O
Kyiv 01004, Ukraine
© ICRC, March 2025

03.2025 250 Cover photo: ICRC