



It has been five years since the start of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Since the beginning of the conflict, the lives of people in the Donbas have changed completely. Long hours waiting in the cold or heat to go to the nearest town, lack of water, power and heating, and shelling are the new norm.

Many people have lost their income due to the conflict and rely on humanitarian assistance. The situation worsens when the winter comes, which is compounded with the accrued damage to physical infrastructure, disintegration of public services and diminished resources affecting livelihoods, due to continuing hostilities. Monthly payment for utilities has risen and it can be problematic to even purchase heating materials in some areas.

The ICRC's response to the harsh winter conditions in Ukraine includes the following key activities:

- Cash assistance to ensure that vulnerable beneficiaries are able to cover their domestic needs of fuel, wood, gas and electricity bills during the winter period.
- In-kind assistance with coal, firewood, wooden briquettes and radiators.
- Support with animal feed to allow the local population to restore and develop their livelihood practices during and beyond the winter season.
- Improvement of the living conditions through insulation of houses of people living by the contact line.
- Improving the conditions for those waiting in long queues to cross the contact line from both sides by running heating points in cooperation with the local Red Cross, where people receive hot drinks and warm shelter.

