



ICRC

# Ukraine: Current Response to Harsh Temperatures

## Winter Season 2020-2021



VALENTYNA ANDRIVNA FROM TRAVNEVE, DONETSK REGION, LIGHTS HER STOVE WITH BRIQUETTES.

KARINE MATEVOSIAN/ICRC

It has been more than six years since the start of the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Many people's incomes have been either lost or severely reduced due to the conflict and they still rely on humanitarian assistance. This is compounded by the accrued damage to physical infrastructure, disintegration of public services and diminished resources affecting livelihoods. The situation worsens during winter when households struggle to ensure adequate heating. Not only has the cost of utilities risen but in remote localities it can even be problematic to purchase heating materials on the local market.

In Autumn 2020, several hundred families in the Luhansk region faced additional difficulties when devastating wildfires left them without shelter ahead of winter.

The ICRC's response ahead the 2020-2021 winter in eastern Ukraine includes the following key activities:

- Cash assistance to ensure that vulnerable households can cover their needs in heating fuel and pay gas and electricity bills during the winter period.
- Distribution of heating fuel (coal and wooden briquettes).
- Provision of animal feed to allow beneficiaries to restore and develop their livelihood practices during and beyond the winter season.
- Improvement of living conditions through insulation of houses of people living close to the line of contact.
- Support to families whose houses were destroyed or damaged in the wildfires in the form of cash and stoves.
- Improving the conditions for civilians crossing the line of contact in either direction by running heating points in cooperation with the local Red Cross, where people receive hot drinks and warm shelter.

**7,200**

families received around 17,500 tonnes of coal and briquettes for heating of their houses.

**6,100**

families in GCA\* received cash to cover their expenses for heating of their homes.

**140**

stoves were donated to 42 detention facilities in GCA\*.

**50**

families and an IDP\* collective center received heaters, radiators or stoves.

**1,400**

families on either side of the LoC\* improved the energy efficiency of their houses through the installation of PVC double glazing windows and doors. Of them 500 families had their roof rehabilitated/reconstructed.

**720**

families received insulation kits to protect their houses from heat loss.

**58,000**

people, including 3,300 people with special needs and children, warmed up at each of the two heating/cooling points on either side of the LoC\* at the EEC\* in Stanytsia Luhanska. Some 125,000 hot drinks were served.

**1**

new heating/cooling point was installed and equipped by the ICRC in December to replace the one destroyed in the wildfires early October. The point was supported with heating briquettes.

**450**

people benefited from donation of heating briquettes to five social institutions.

**330**

families in NGCA\* received animal fodder to maintain their livestock.

**5,050**

people on either side of the LoC\* benefited from the improvement of heating systems at 19 educational, forensic and health facilities, as well as detention institutions.

**630**

families affected by wildfires in the Luhansk region received cash support, additionally 120 families were supported with stoves.

Acronyms: EEC\* – entry-exit crossing point, GCA – government-controlled areas, IDP – internally displaced person, LoC – line of contact, NGCA – non-Ukrainian government-controlled areas. ©ICRC 2020 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.