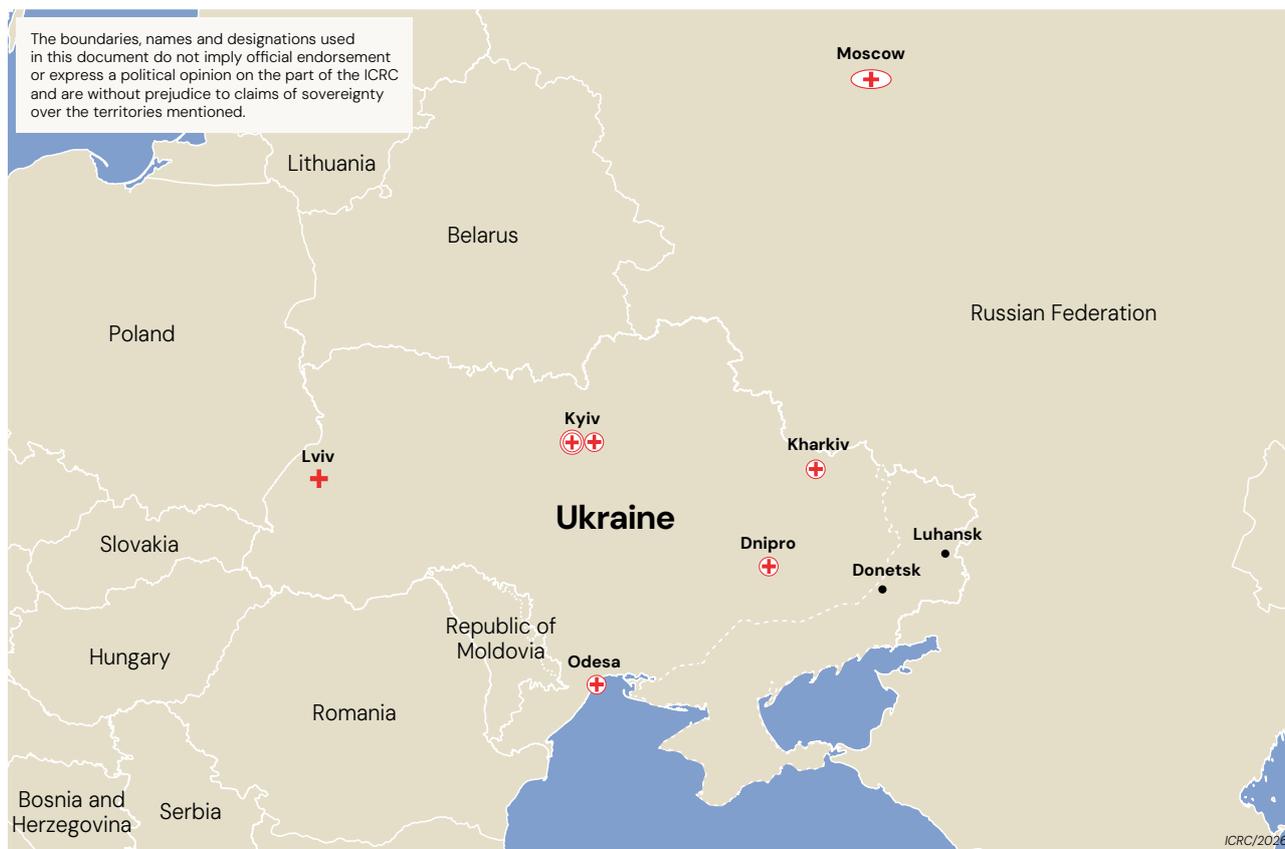


Ukraine



⊕ ICRC regional delegation
 ⊕ ICRC delegation
 ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation
 + ICRC office/presence
 • The ICRC has activities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Executive summary

The international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine has caused large-scale displacement; disrupted livelihoods and access to basic services; and separated families and severed family links. It has done harm, physical and psychological, on a massive scale. In 2026, the ICRC will continue to assist people in front-line or hard-to-reach areas in meeting their immediate needs for food and adequate living conditions, among others; it will also address their long-term needs by bolstering critical infrastructure related to health care, water, electricity and other essential services. It will also work to increase protection, enshrined in IHL, for civilians, POWs and other protected persons, and enable people to receive news from relatives separated from them.

Personnel

Mobile staff	150
Resident staff	751

Budget in KCHF

Protection	23,489
Assistance	109,695
Prevention	8,244
Cooperation with National Societies	13,488
General	592
Total budget	155,509

Of which: Overheads **9,491**

Context

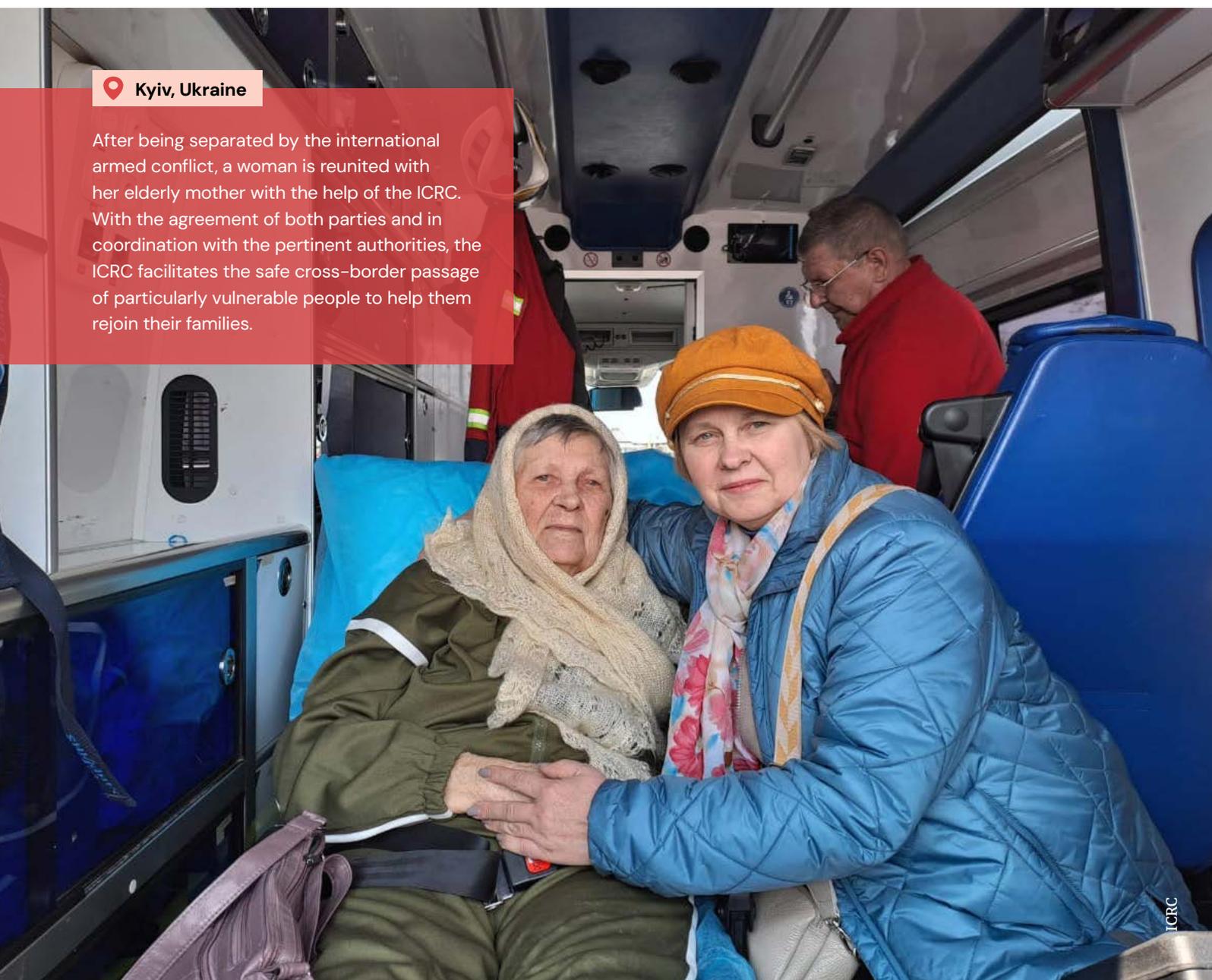
Hostilities between the Russian Federation and Ukraine continue unabated (see *Moscow*). Both parties have captured soldiers and detained/interned civilians. According to UN estimates at the time of writing, about 3.7 million people remain displaced within Ukraine and around 5.6 million Ukrainian refugees have been registered globally. Thousands of combatants and civilians have been wounded and killed or are unaccounted for. Extensive damage to critical infrastructure has disrupted basic services in many communities. Displaced families endure poor living conditions. The harsh Ukrainian winter adds another layer of acute suffering for families with inadequate heating.

The number of people reported missing in connection with the international armed conflict continues to increase. The ICRC has resolved thousands of cases since 2022, when hostilities intensified, and seeks to clarify the fate of over 190,000 others, most of them military personnel; the figure includes initial registrations and more detailed tracing cases. Forensic services struggle with limited resources and increased deaths among soldiers. Recovering human remains safely, and identifying them, is further complicated by the prevailing insecurity. Mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are widely scattered and are an ever-present threat to public safety.

The ICRC, which has been working in Ukraine since 1993, reinforced its operations in the country in 2014 and massively scaled up its activities in 2022. The Ukrainian Red Cross Society convenes, while the ICRC co-convenes, the Movement's activities in Ukraine. The ICRC works with local operational partners in Donetsk and Luhansk. Delivery of aid is hampered by the uncertain security conditions. Attacks against humanitarian workers and facilities continue, and have wounded or killed people. Harmful narratives about the ICRC's work threaten its ability to fulfil its mandate safely.

Kyiv, Ukraine

After being separated by the international armed conflict, a woman is reunited with her elderly mother with the help of the ICRC. With the agreement of both parties and in coordination with the pertinent authorities, the ICRC facilitates the safe cross-border passage of particularly vulnerable people to help them rejoin their families.



ICRC operational priorities

In 2026, the ICRC's main priorities in this context will be to:



ensure that protected persons under IHL are accounted for and that families receive news of their loved ones; develop local forensic capacities, engage with national mechanisms, missing people's families and others, and work closely together with neighbouring ICRC delegations and National Societies in addressing protection concerns;



maintain efforts to increase respect for IHL and other applicable law among the parties to the international armed conflict; urge them to ensure protection for civilians, POWs, medical workers and others; continue to act as a neutral intermediary between the parties whenever requested and foster support for the ICRC's mandate and mission;



consolidate initiatives to mitigate the disruption of water, electricity, education and other basic services; streamline activities to help people meet their urgent needs and to limit their exposure to mines/ERW; focus on helping people in front-line areas and people whose needs are not met by other actors;



strengthen support for the continuum of care to ensure the availability of timely medical attention of good quality;



ensure unimpeded and repeated access to POWs, civilian internees and all others held in connection with the international armed conflict; help authorities ensure that people in their custody can restore and maintain contact with their families, obtain health and other basic services, and are treated in line with IHL and other norms; and



co-convene, together with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, the Movement's response to the international armed conflict; continue to help the National Society develop its capacities; reinforce coordination with all Movement partners in Ukraine.



Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine

With ICRC support, families affected by hostilities strengthened their self-sufficiency and financial independence. Such support included the delivery of irrigation systems and greenhouses as well as the provision of financial support.



ICRC objectives and plans of action

Protection

Reminding the parties to respect IHL and ensure protection for civilians

The ICRC will continue to urge both parties to the international armed conflict to fulfil their obligations under IHL and other applicable norms, particularly to do the following: ensure protection for people who are not or are no longer participating in hostilities; refrain from using explosive weapons in densely populated areas and damaging water, electrical, educational and other civilian infrastructure; prevent people from going missing, notably by accounting more effectively for persons protected under IHL (e.g. POWs and civilian internees); facilitate access to basic services and humanitarian aid; and safeguard the provision of health services.

The ICRC will seek to garner support from both parties for its neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian work, with a view to ensuring both its proximity to the people whom it seeks to assist and the safety of its staff. It will continue to interact directly with people affected by hostilities to understand their needs and concerns more fully and respond accordingly.

The ICRC's key activities will be to:

- monitor the consequences of the conduct of hostilities, particularly for civilians and other protected persons under IHL; document their needs and protection-related concerns; draw these matters to the attention of the parties concerned – through confidential bilateral dialogue, including oral and written representations – and support their efforts at corrective or preventive action; and
- maintain a community contact centre to communicate with people affected by hostilities, document their concerns and what they think of the ICRC's activities, and tell them about the humanitarian services available to them.

Restoring contact between members of separated families and helping them reunite

The ICRC delegation in Ukraine will continue to work closely with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society; ICRC delegations and National Societies in neighbouring countries; the Central Tracing Agency (CTA) bureau for the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine (see *Central Tracing Agency bureau for the international armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine*); and the national information bureau (NIB) and other pertinent agencies in Ukraine. Through those efforts, it will help the authorities to account for protected persons under IHL, clarify the fate and/or whereabouts of missing people, and restore contact among members of divided families – thus enabling people to get news of their loved ones, including soldiers reported missing in action and POWs.

The ICRC will continue to raise awareness, among the parties, of the issue of missing people and the plight of their families. It will continue to strengthen capacities among those involved in searching for missing people and addressing their families' needs. It will also help the relevant national mechanisms – the NIB, the Coordination Headquarters for the Treatment of Prisoners of War and the Commissioner for Missing Persons Under Special Circumstances – to coordinate their efforts to resolve missing-persons cases.

The ICRC will help members of separated families to get back in touch with each other and/or to return to their countries of origin. It will pay particular attention to separated and unaccompanied children, older people and people with physical disabilities or other medical conditions, and – circumstances permitting – help them rejoin their families.

The ICRC's key activities will be to:

- provide family-links services – RCMs and phone calls – to people separated from their relatives; collect requests from families to locate missing relatives and keep them informed of developments in their cases, including via the community contact centre; issue emergency travel documents or attestations of arrest/detention;
- with the agreement of both parties, and on strictly humanitarian grounds, act as a neutral intermediary in facilitating safe cross-border passage for particularly vulnerable civilians, transferring official documents across borders, and passing information on missing-persons cases between the NIB in Ukraine and its Russian counterpart; and
- organize discussions, meetings, round tables and other events regularly for the NIB and others involved in handling missing-persons and POW cases.

Developing local capacities in managing human remains

The ICRC will continue to help build forensic capacities in managing and identifying human remains, with a view to ascertaining the fate and/or whereabouts of missing people and informing their families. It will reiterate to both parties the necessity of fulfilling their obligations under IHL towards the dead and the missing, and their families, and will offer the pertinent authorities assistance to these ends.

The ICRC's key activities will be to:

- give first responders, forensic professionals and others the supplies and equipment necessary to do their work safely; renovate forensic facilities in front-line areas (see *Assistance*);
- act as a neutral observer in searching for, recovering and repatriating the remains of dead soldiers; provide materials and equipment or technical assistance to those carrying out these activities; and
- develop capacities among authorities, first responders, staff of DNA laboratories and others involved in managing and identifying human remains or in setting up medico-legal frameworks.

Visiting people held in connection with the international armed conflict

The ICRC has been able to visit POWs, mainly in Ukraine, since the escalation of the international armed conflict in 2022. It will continue to seek access to everyone held in connection with the international armed conflict, in order to help ensure that the treatment and living conditions of people deprived of their liberty are in accordance with IHL and other applicable norms.

The ICRC's key activities will be to:

- call on both parties to ensure protection for POWs, civilian internees and others deprived of their liberty and respect their judicial guarantees and the principle of *non-refoulement*;
- urge the pertinent authorities – through confidential bilateral dialogue, written representations and other means – to ensure unimpeded and repeated access for the ICRC to POWs, civilian internees and others deprived of their liberty;
- visit people deprived of their liberty in accordance with its standard procedures, registering them and urging authorities to notify their families of their detention/internment; interview them individually to assess their treatment and living conditions, and understand and address their medical and other needs to the fullest extent possible;
- communicate findings from its visits, and recommendations for addressing systemic issues, confidentially to the authorities; guide them in implementing, monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the ICRC's recommendations; offer to train or instruct them in managing detention/internment facilities in line with IHL and other norms;
- provide family-links services, such as RCMs and oral messages, for people deprived of their liberty; help to arrange phone calls for people taken into custody and propose other means for them to contact their families; and
- with the consent of both parties, act as a neutral intermediary in repatriating POWs and civilian internees; offer to debrief them and help to meet these people's needs after their release.

Assistance

The ICRC will continue to take a multidisciplinary approach to tackling the humanitarian needs created by the international armed conflict. It will prioritize helping communities in hard-to-reach areas, on both sides of the front-line, and meeting needs not covered by other actors. It will continue to address both short- and long-term needs, while streamlining its assistance activities and focusing on those that deliver the most impact.

Helping civilians most affected by hostilities to cope with their situation

The ICRC will continue to help IDPs, host communities and other people affected by hostilities to meet their immediate needs and build their resilience. It will help particularly vulnerable households – such as those from which people have gone missing – to start or resume farming, preserve or increase their income and meet the various demands on their financial resources (e.g. household expenses, funeral costs, medical bills). It will help different local institutions to continue serving communities affected by hostilities.



Economic security targets

Civilians

- **Food consumption: 28,500 people**
- **Food production: 12,925 people**
- **Income support: 11,625 people**
- **Living conditions: 150,450 people**
- **Capacity-building: 20 people**

The ICRC's key activities will be to:

- provide up to 150,450 people with hygiene kits and other household essentials, materials for making repairs to their homes, or cash or vouchers for buying these items;
- distribute food parcels and/or ready-to-eat meals to up to 28,500 people;
- give particularly vulnerable households (up to 11,625 people) multipurpose cash grants, vouchers and/or vocational training to help them preserve or supplement their income;
- donate greenhouses, poultry kits and other supplies and equipment for producing food, or cash for buying them, to farming households (up to 12,925 people); and
- provide up to 66 different institutions (e.g. IDP centres, retirement homes, orphanages, veterinary clinics) with the supplies and equipment they need to serve their communities; organize training for up to 20 social workers.

Ensuring the continuum of care for people suffering physical and/or psychological trauma

The ICRC will work with authorities, Movement partners and other stakeholders to develop a comprehensive, multisectoral response to the health needs of people harmed physically and/or psychologically by the international armed conflict.

Particularly vulnerable people – women, children, older people and people with chronic health conditions – will be able to obtain preventive and curative treatment and referrals to secondary care at ICRC-supported primary-health-care centres. The ICRC will continue to help enlarge the pool of first responders capable of stabilizing the condition of critically ill or wounded people and transferring them to hospitals in a timely manner. It will give hospitals the support they need to continue functioning, and to prepare for and to respond to sudden mass-casualty events and other emergencies. It will develop hospital staff capacities in war surgery, burns treatment, and infection prevention and control. The ICRC will also help build local capacities in mental-health and psychosocial support.

The ICRC will track incidents of violence against health services and will remind the parties of their obligation under IHL to safeguard the provision of health services. It will help health facilities to strengthen their measures to protect health workers and patients during hostilities.

People with physical disabilities will be able to obtain rehabilitative care and advance their social inclusion, through various ICRC initiatives. The ICRC will continue to help strengthen the sustainability of the physical rehabilitation sector.



Health targets

Primary health care

- **39 health centres supported**

Hospital care

- **67 hospitals supported**

Physical rehabilitation

- **6 projects supported**

Mental health and psychosocial support

People who will receive direct support

- **Civilians: 763 people**
- **Wounded and sick: 122 people**



Water and habitat targets

Wounded and sick

- **Water and habitat activities: 8 structures**

The ICRC's key activities will be to:

- supply medicines, consumables and equipment regularly to up to 15 health centres; be prepared to make such donations to up to 24 other centres during disease outbreaks, sudden displacement and other emergencies, or for vaccination campaigns; refer patients for secondary or outpatient care;
- at up to 23 hospitals, donate medical supplies and equipment, organize training for their staff, and arrange visits and technical guidance from ICRC health teams; be prepared to donate medical supplies and equipment to up to 44 other hospitals dealing with influxes of patients or other emergencies;
- provide mental-health and psychosocial support to up to 763 civilians – including relatives of people who are missing or were killed in action, ex-POWs and front-line workers – and up to 122 people who are wounded or physically disabled; train community-based volunteers, health workers and National Society staff providing such services;
- donate mobility aids, or tools, equipment and raw materials for making them, and other supplies to up to six providers of physical rehabilitation services, to benefit some 750 people with physical disabilities; organize training for their staff in physiotherapy, assistive technology, effective stock management and other areas; in addition:
 - ▶ help to cover transport, accommodation and/or treatment costs for patients, and their caregivers, who are poor or from remote areas;
 - ▶ enable some patients to advance their social inclusion through sports and microeconomic initiatives;
- upgrade water, sanitation, electrical and other facilities at up to eight hospitals and physical rehabilitation centres; and
- guide the health ministry in strengthening national policies and strategies for physical rehabilitation; sponsor prosthetists/orthotists to attend courses and events to advance their professional development; assist local professional associations to organize capacity-building events for rehabilitation professionals.

Helping to strengthen essential services and infrastructure

The ICRC will continue to give public utilities and local service providers support for ensuring that communities across Ukraine have clean water, electricity and other basic services. It will work with them to prevent or mitigate disruption of these services and, whenever possible, to develop climate-resilient initiatives. It will also continue to assist in renovating or making repairs to houses and communal facilities that have been damaged by the fighting.



Water and habitat targets

Civilians

- **Water and habitat activities: 1,841,150 people**

The ICRC's key activities will be to:

- for the benefit of approximately 1,841,000 people:
 - ▶ provide utility companies with comprehensive support to sustain their provision of water, electricity, heating and other basic services;
 - ▶ supply potable water in areas experiencing shortages and work with local actors to develop sustainable solutions;
 - ▶ give people materials and equipment, or cash to buy them, to make repairs to their houses; and
- restore or renovate critical infrastructure (e.g. medico-legal, health, educational, cultural).

Helping people to mitigate the threat of weapon contamination

People living in or passing through weapon-contaminated areas will know more about the threat of mines/ERW, and will be able to protect themselves more effectively, with the help of various efforts undertaken by the National Society and the ICRC and its local partners. The ICRC will give mine-action personnel, forensic professionals, humanitarian workers and other front-line personnel the support necessary to protect the general population, and themselves, from the threat of weapon contamination. The ICRC will make the authorities aware of the human cost of the use of certain weapons, and the legal restrictions on their use (see *Protection*), and help them to implement different arms treaties (see *Prevention*).

The ICRC's key activities will be to:

- provide the National Society and local operational partners with training, and supplies and equipment, to promote safe practices in weapon-contaminated areas; disseminate key messages as widely as possible through social and print media, radio spots and other means;
- provide safety briefings, specialized training, supplies (e.g. protective equipment, marking materials) and technical guidance for mine-action personnel, forensic professionals, humanitarian workers and other front-line personnel; and
- help survey and monitor areas contaminated by mines/ERW and document the risks to public safety; incorporate this information in the ICRC's protection dialogue and efforts to promote IHL.

Helping to improve living conditions for people deprived of their liberty

The ICRC will help the authorities to ensure the availability of basic necessities and health care of good quality for POWs, civilian internees and others deprived of their liberty.

The ICRC's key activities will be to:

- through individual interviews and monitoring visits, check on the health of people deprived of their liberty, and on their access to systematic medical screening upon arrival, the treatment they need, and referrals for secondary care; enable people who need specialized care (e.g. those with severe mental disorders) to get it;
- give authorities and health staff supplies and equipment to provide health care for people deprived of their liberty; instruct them in primary and emergency care, mental-health and psychosocial support, and basic medical ethics;
- donate hygiene kits and other essentials for people deprived of their liberty; provide cash to those who have been released recently or to financially vulnerable families of people deprived of their liberty; and
- carry out repairs or upgrades to key facilities (e.g. water, heating) at places of detention/internment; organize workshops for the authorities on managing these places and bringing living conditions up to internationally recognized standards.

Prevention

Fostering respect for IHL and broadening awareness of humanitarian issues

The ICRC will seek to make a broad range of actors in Ukraine – government officials, weapon bearers, members of the diplomatic community, community leaders and others – more familiar with its work and accepting of it. It will seek also to strengthen their grasp of IHL and other applicable norms, and encourage their compliance. It will cultivate dialogue with them on issues of common interest, such the protection afforded by IHL to civilians, POWs and other protected persons and the human cost of using digital technologies in armed conflict. It will encourage the Ukrainian military and law-enforcement agencies to integrate IHL, international policing standards and other applicable norms into their training and operations. It will also continue to counter harmful narratives against the ICRC's principled humanitarian action.

The ICRC will keep up efforts to advance implementation of IHL instruments and incorporation of key provisions in domestic law. These instruments include treaties that regulate or prohibit the use of certain weapons. The ICRC will also draw the authorities' attention to a number of contemporary IHL issues, such as the increasing use of new technologies in warfare.

The ICRC's key activities will be to:

- organize meetings and other events with key Ukrainian government ministries, military officials and other influential actors to advance their understanding and broaden their acceptance of the mission and activities of the ICRC and the Movement; arrange round tables, briefings and other events for them on humanitarian issues of common interest;
- provide technical guidance and other support for military and law-enforcement agencies to integrate IHL, international policing standards and other applicable norms into their training and operations, and for government officials and members of the national IHL committee to implement IHL or incorporate key provisions of it in domestic law;
- produce and disseminate reference materials, in Ukrainian, on IHL; organize briefings, workshops, competitions and other events on IHL for political and community leaders, prosecutors, journalists, academics, students and others; urge relevant authorities to take part in events related to the Global IHL Initiative; and
- produce content for traditional and social media on the humanitarian situation in Ukraine and the ICRC's response to it; coordinate public communication with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society and other Movement partners.

Cooperation with National Societies

Working with Movement partners present in Ukraine

As per the Seville Agreement 2.0, the Ukrainian Red Cross Society convenes, and the ICRC co-convenes, the Movement's response to the needs of people affected by the international armed conflict. As the ICRC's main partner in Ukraine, the National Society will continue to receive comprehensive support to carry out its humanitarian activities – in line with the Safer Access Framework – and strengthen its capacities in key areas (see below). The National Society, the ICRC, the IFRC and other members of the Movement present in Ukraine will continue to work closely together to mount an effective response to humanitarian needs.

The ICRC's key activities will be to:

- meet with the National Society and other Movement components in Ukraine regularly and develop partnership or cooperation agreements to ensure strategic, coherent and complementary responses to needs; and
- provide the National Society with financial, technical and staffing support, and materials, to develop its capacities in various areas, such as emergency preparedness and response, public communication, risk and security management and strategic development.



Kharkiv, Ukraine

"We water every evening. I'm already picking cucumbers, and carrots and cabbages are growing," says Olena. She received a drip irrigation system from the ICRC, which enabled her to grow fruits and vegetables in her own garden during the dry summer season. She also received a cash grant, which she used to buy chickens and household essentials. This support helped her and her family to stay self-sufficient amid the challenges they are facing in connection with the hostilities.