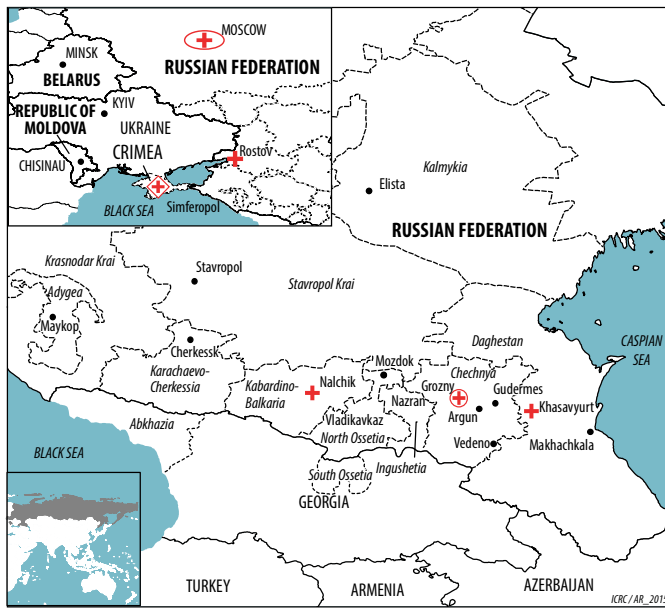


MOSCOW (regional)

COVERING: Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation



⊕ ICRC regional delegation ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation ⊕ ICRC mission ⊕ ICRC office

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.

Opened in 1992, the Moscow delegation combines operational functions in the Russian Federation with regional functions. It supports families of missing persons and, with the Russian Red Cross Society, works to protect and assist vulnerable conflict- and violence-affected populations, including people displaced from eastern Ukraine. It helps build the capacities of the region's National Societies, particularly in the fields of emergency preparedness and restoring family links. In the countries covered, it promotes implementation of IHL and other norms relevant to the use of force, and fosters understanding of the ICRC's mandate and work.

KEY RESULTS/CONSTRAINTS IN 2015

- ▶ People displaced by the conflict in eastern Ukraine to Belarus, south-western Russia and Crimea met their basic needs with food and household/hygiene items or vouchers provided by the National Societies/ICRC.
- ▶ Family members separated by migration or detention reconnected through National Society/ICRC family-links services. Migrants obtained legal and other aid at a Russian Red Cross Society centre.
- ▶ The Russian military conducted advanced courses in IHL for senior officers, with ICRC assistance, and included elements of IHL in the training of its personnel.
- ▶ The Collective Security Treaty Organization and the ICRC held their first headquarters-level staff talks. They discussed, *inter alia*, the humanitarian situation in Ukraine and in other contexts of common concern.
- ▶ The ICRC monitored the humanitarian situation in the northern Caucasus. Vulnerable people benefited from psychosocial support provided by the Russian Red Cross, with help from the ICRC.
- ▶ The region's National Societies, with comprehensive assistance from the ICRC and other Movement partners, strengthened their ability to respond to emergencies and to aid people affected by the Ukraine crisis.

EXPENDITURE IN KCHF

Protection	2,774
Assistance	7,250
Prevention	2,751
Cooperation with National Societies	2,604
General	68
Total	15,448
<i>Of which: Overheads</i>	943

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	83%
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PERSONNEL

Mobile staff	19
Resident staff (daily workers not included)	147

YEARLY RESULTS

Level of achievement of ICRC yearly objectives/plans of action

MEDIUM

PROTECTION	Total
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	14
RCMs distributed	22
Phone calls facilitated between family members	9
People located (tracing cases closed positively)	18
People reunited with their families	4
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
Restoring family links	
RCMs collected	4
RCMs distributed	5

ASSISTANCE	2015 Targets (up to)	Achieved
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)		
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)		
Food commodities	Beneficiaries 35,500	41,440
Essential household items	Beneficiaries 35,500	42,134
Cash	Beneficiaries 4,500	
Vouchers	Beneficiaries 23,500	12,215
WOUNDED AND SICK		
Hospitals		
Hospitals supported	Structures 25	15

CONTEXT

The Russian Federation continued to play a prominent role in international affairs, particularly as a permanent member of the UN Security Council. It also maintained its influence through regional mechanisms such as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and its Interparliamentary Assembly (IPA), and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). In September, the Russian Aerospace Forces began operations against the Islamic State group in the Syrian Arab Republic (hereafter Syria).

Crimea remained the subject of a political and territorial dispute between the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

People displaced by the Ukraine crisis found their way to Belarus, south-western Russia and Crimea. The Belarusian and Russian governments strove to assist those who signed up for resettlement programmes in rural areas; people who had not registered in such programmes required help to meet their basic needs.

Communities in the northern Caucasus continued to deal with the consequences of past conflicts – such as weapon contamination and the issue of missing persons – and with the psychological effects of violence.

In the Republic of Moldova (hereafter Moldova), a political crisis culminated in the parliament's dismissal of the prime minister and the cabinet in October.

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

The ICRC regional delegation in Moscow continued to engage the Russian and regional authorities in dialogue on issues of humanitarian concern in the region and around the world. It kept up its efforts to address the needs of people affected by armed conflict or other situations of violence. Together with the Ukraine delegation, it launched a budget extension appeal in April to address the increased humanitarian needs of people affected by the Ukraine crisis.

Working with the Russian Red Cross Society in Krasnodar Krai and the Republic of Adygea, and with the local authorities in Rostov Oblast, the ICRC provided food and hygiene items to people displaced from Ukraine to south-western Russia. People arriving in Crimea received similar assistance from the local Red Cross branches and the ICRC. In Belarus, the ICRC worked with the Red Cross Society of Belarus to provide vouchers to people displaced from Ukraine, enabling them to obtain essential supplies.

Movement family-links services helped people in Belarus and the Russian Federation get back in touch with relatives in Ukraine. People with relatives who had gone missing in Ukraine made use of National Society/ICRC tracing services.

Vulnerable migrants, including people from Ukraine, received legal/other aid at an ICRC-supported Russian Red Cross centre in St Petersburg. The ICRC's Moscow and Ukraine delegations and the National Societies of Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine met in May to discuss family-links services for migrants.

People travelling to and from Ukraine learnt more about protecting themselves from mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) through leaflets distributed by the Russian Red Cross. In

Moldova, plans to conduct joint weapon-clearance activities with the authorities were put on hold owing to the political situation and the Ukraine crisis.

The ICRC continued to monitor the humanitarian situation in the northern Caucasus, amid difficulties of contact with the authorities there. People affected by past conflicts benefited from ICRC-supported National Society activities, which included an accompaniment programme that provided psychosocial support for families of missing persons.

People held in relation to the prevailing situation in the northern Caucasus restored/maintained contact with their relatives through ICRC family-links services. Migrants detained in Belarus contacted their families through phone calls facilitated by the Belarus Red Cross.

Doctors from the northern Caucasus, Crimea and Sevastopol reinforced their skills through courses organized/sponsored by the ICRC. Several doctors/nurses displaced from Ukraine obtained employment after acquiring local certification with ICRC assistance.

The first CSTO-ICRC staff talks, involving headquarters-level discussions between the two organizations, were held in October. The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and Ukraine, and in other contexts of common concern, was among the topics discussed.

High-level dialogue – including discussions between the president and senior officials of the Russian Federation and the ICRC president during the latter's visit to Moscow, and side meetings between Russian government officials and ICRC representatives during the CSTO-ICRC staff talks – emphasized the importance of humanitarian action. The ICRC had discussions with the Russian government, including high-level dialogue with the armed forces, on the humanitarian consequences of the conflict in Syria and the need for all parties to reduce the impact of warfare on civilians and civilian objects, in line with their obligations under IHL.

The Russian military conducted advanced courses in IHL for its senior officers, with ICRC assistance, and included elements of IHL in the training of its personnel, including those deployed in Syria.

The ICRC's visibility as a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organization increased through media coverage of its activities for people affected by the Ukraine crisis.

The region's National Societies, with comprehensive support from Movement partners, strengthened their capacity to respond to emergencies and deliver humanitarian services.

CIVILIANS

People affected by the Ukraine crisis meet their immediate needs

More than 22,800 people (7,600 households) displaced by the Ukraine crisis to south-western Russia met their most pressing needs through the ICRC's monthly provision of household/hygiene items and of food parcels that enabled them to eat at least three meals a day. These items were distributed in coordination with the Russian Red Cross in Krasnodar Krai and the Republic of Adygea, and with the local authorities in Rostov Oblast. The ICRC cancelled its plans to provide income support to host households

in south-western Russia in order to scale up its aid to the displaced. Cash assistance for households newly arrived in the northern Caucasus, or about to return to Ukraine – also in the ICRC's plans – was found not to be necessary.

In Crimea, over 19,000 displaced people (5,500 households) covered their basic needs with food and household/hygiene items provided by the ICRC and distributed by the local Red Cross branches. Diapers for 700 children were also distributed.

In both Crimea and south-western Russia, the ICRC continued to refine its beneficiary criteria, on the basis of assessments, to ensure that aid reached those in greatest need.

In Belarus, some 5,000 people displaced from Ukraine obtained food, clothes, shoes and other essentials with vouchers provided by the Belarus Red Cross in the first half of the year; nearly 7,200 people bought food and other supplies for the winter after a second round of voucher distributions in November and December. The ICRC provided funding for this activity, and for the salary of an officer to monitor the project; it also posted a delegate to Belarus to support the National Society. Owing to logistical constraints, fewer people than planned were assisted. Temporary accommodation for people newly arrived from Ukraine, which the ICRC had planned to fund, was found not to be necessary.

Vulnerable people in the northern Caucasus obtain psychosocial support

In Chechnya, 510 families of missing persons benefited from psychosocial support through the accompaniment programme of the Russian Red Cross, which received technical/financial assistance from the ICRC. National Society volunteers involved in the accompaniment programme also benefited from debriefings, conducted at their request, that helped them manage the stress associated with their work.

Vulnerable children improved their well-being at ICRC-funded playrooms in Chechnya and Ingushetia and at a National Society psychosocial-support centre in North Ossetia. Hundreds of elderly people received home visits from nurses under a Russian Red Cross programme in its final year of ICRC funding.

Sponsored by the ICRC, psychology professors from the northern Caucasus, and one Russian Red Cross staff member working in the accompaniment programme, participated in a regional conference on ambiguous loss and the needs of the families of missing persons (see *Georgia*), and strengthened their ability to provide psychosocial support to these families.

The ICRC continued to monitor the humanitarian situation in the northern Caucasus, amid difficulties of contact with the authorities there. Possibilities for cooperation were discussed with a local NGO working on the issue of missing persons.

People reconnect with relatives abroad

People in Belarus and the Russian Federation got in touch with relatives in Ukraine through RCMs and ICRC-facilitated phone calls. Some received 'safe and well' messages from relatives detained in Ukraine. People whose relatives had gone missing in Ukraine availed themselves of National Society/ICRC tracing services.

Several people rejoined their families, with ICRC assistance. For instance, one ailing elderly man, evacuated from a conflict-affected

area in Ukraine, was reunited with his family in the Russian Federation.

The National Societies of Belarus and the Russian Federation received comprehensive support, including training, that strengthened their capacity to provide family-links services for people affected by the Ukraine crisis. The ICRC delegation in Moscow organized a regional coordination meeting in Minsk, Belarus, on restoring family links among people separated by migration. The ICRC delegation in Ukraine and the National Societies of Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine participated in the meeting; they discussed experiences, best practices and plans for further cooperation.

Vulnerable migrants obtain legal assistance

Some 13,000 migrants, including asylum seekers and refugees – among them people displaced by the Ukraine crisis – availed themselves of free legal consultations at a temporary accommodation centre run by the St Petersburg branch of the Russian Red Cross with ICRC support (see *Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement*); over 900 obtained similar assistance through the branch's hotline service. Some particularly vulnerable migrants received ad hoc aid, such as hygiene items and school supplies.

Several asylum seekers and refugees in Belarus and the Russian Federation were issued travel documents by the ICRC at the request of IOM and UNHCR.

People displaced by the Ukraine crisis learn more about mine/ERW risks

Through leaflets distributed by Russian Red Cross branches in south-western Russia, in cooperation with the Russian Ministry of Emergency Situations and the ICRC, people learnt more about protecting themselves from mines/ERW when travelling to/from Ukraine.

ICRC-trained volunteers from the Russian Red Cross branch in Chechnya completed a multi-year project to collect data on the needs of mine/ERW victims. The families of two victims repaired their homes with the help of an ad hoc donation of construction materials from the ICRC.

In Moldova, plans to conduct joint weapon-clearance activities with the authorities were put on hold owing to the political situation and the Ukraine crisis.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

People detained far from their homes receive visits from their relatives

People held in relation to the prevailing situation in the northern Caucasus, in penal colonies across the Russian Federation, restored/maintained contact with their relatives through ICRC-facilitated family visits and parcel deliveries. Some 380 detainees were visited by relatives. Around 350 detainees received food parcels, and 120 inmates received household/hygiene essentials, from their families. Several detainees got in touch with their relatives using RCMs or 'safe and well' messages.

Migrants held in Belarus communicate with their families

Detained migrants across Belarus, including asylum seekers and refugees, restored/maintained contact with their relatives via phone services run by the Belarus Red Cross, with ICRC support. Particularly vulnerable migrants were provided with food, clothes

and hygiene items by the National Society. Following discussions with the interior ministry and the ICRC, the National Society received authorization to begin visiting migrants held in Mogilev, in eastern Belarus, in December.

Aid for detained migrants was among the topics discussed at the regional National Society/ICRC coordination meeting in Minsk (see *Civilians*).

WOUNDED AND SICK

Doctors boost their skills through ICRC-supported training

Health professionals reinforced their ability to treat weapon-wounded and mine/ERW victims through ICRC-supported training. For instance, 40 doctors from the northern Caucasus and Crimea strengthened their skills at two ICRC-organized emergency room trauma courses. Some 30 doctors from 19 hospitals in the northern Caucasus, Crimea and Sevastopol – including anaesthesiologists, paediatricians, surgeons and trauma specialists – obtained advanced training at Russian clinics and institutes; the ICRC covered their training fees and/or travel costs.

Five medical schools in the northern Caucasus, and one in Crimea, improved their students' training with the help of ICRC-provided equipment.

After acquiring local certification with ICRC assistance, 11 health professionals displaced from Ukraine obtained employment at eight hospitals in Rostov Oblast and Sevastopol, and bolstered these hospitals' ability to tend to people displaced by the Ukraine crisis.

Hospitals ease patients' recovery with ICRC-donated supplies

In Rostov Oblast, 14 hospitals treating people displaced from Ukraine, some of them weapon-wounded, made their patients more comfortable with bed linen donated by the ICRC following a request from the Russian health ministry.

At one hospital in Rostov Oblast, the pharmacy increased its storage capacity with ICRC-provided refrigerators.

ACTORS OF INFLUENCE

High-level meetings emphasize the need to protect/assist civilians

The ICRC president visited Moscow in February and met with the president and senior officials of the Russian Federation. He emphasized the importance of neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian action in behalf of conflict-affected people from Ukraine.

The first CSTO-ICRC staff talks were held in October; these involved headquarters-level interaction between the two organizations. Representatives of the CSTO working bodies, envoys from CSTO member States and ICRC officials discussed, *inter alia*, the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and Ukraine, and in other contexts of common concern. Side meetings between Russian government officials and ICRC representatives focused on the need for humanitarian action around the world.

The ICRC had discussions with the Russian government, including high-level dialogue with the armed forces, on the humanitarian consequences of the conflict in Syria and the need for all parties to reduce the impact of warfare on civilians/civilian objects, in line with their obligations under IHL.

Media raise public awareness of humanitarian issues

The ICRC's visibility as a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian organization increased as a result of the coverage, by traditional/social media, of its activities for people affected by the Ukraine crisis. Journalists drew on ICRC communication materials, and interviewed the ICRC president and other officials, to highlight humanitarian concerns, particularly in connection with the situations in Syria and Yemen. The Moscow delegation began to work towards setting up a centre for humanitarian communication.

Over 50 journalists working in crisis areas learnt more about the ICRC's mandate/work by participating in ICRC activities, some of which were organized jointly with the Russian Union of Journalists and a local NGO. The work done by the ICRC to trace missing persons after World War II, and ICRC activities for civilians in Afghanistan, were featured on Russian television programmes.

With ICRC financial/technical assistance, the region's National Societies bolstered their ability to raise awareness of humanitarian issues and the Movement's work.

Public communication in the northern Caucasus was put on hold in the second half of the year following difficulties of contact with the authorities there.

Regional/national military bodies strengthen their knowledge of IHL and the ICRC's work

The Russian Ground Forces, with ICRC assistance, conducted advanced training in IHL for senior officers and members of its legal and psychological services. The Russian military also included elements of IHL in the training of its personnel, including those deployed in Syria. Officials from the Belarusian defence ministry and the ICRC discussed the incorporation of IHL in military training/operations. Representatives from the Belarusian and Moldovan armed forces, the CSTO and the CIS Council of Defence Ministers participated in an IHL course in San Remo; the ICRC sponsored their participation.

During CSTO Joint Staff training, in which the ICRC took part, senior military officers discussed the applicability of specific instruments of international law to non-international armed conflict and counter-terrorism measures/legislation. At a coordination meeting organized by the CIS Council of Defence Ministers and the ICRC, military lawyers from CIS member States discussed the incorporation of IHL in these countries' military doctrine, training and sanctions systems.

One of the ICRC's vice presidents participated in the Fourth Moscow International Conference on Security, organized by the Russian defence ministry and attended by representatives of 60 countries and of international/regional organizations. The ICRC presented its efforts to tackle weapon contamination at a conference organized by the Russian defence ministry's International Mine Action Centre.

Government officials learn more about implementing IHL

At an ICRC-organized regional seminar on IHL implementation in Minsk, representatives of 14 countries, the CSTO and the Belarus Red Cross, and several legal experts from the region, discussed legal frameworks for missing persons, recent developments in IHL implementation and other topics.

Academics from the region contributed to the development of IHL, for instance, through the Martens Readings International Conference in May. At a conference in November, representatives of leading Belarusian, Moldovan and Russian law schools adopted ICRC recommendations for incorporating IHL in their curricula. With ICRC sponsorship, Russian academics participated in IHL-related events in Belgium and Switzerland, and Belarusian, Moldovan and Russian students attended a seminar on IHL and cyber-warfare organized by the International Law Association in Belarus.

Moldova ratified the Arms Trade Treaty in September. The national IHL committees in Belarus and Moldova prepared for the 32nd International Conference in December; the ICRC provided technical assistance.

The IPA CIS Permanent Commission on Social Policy and Human Rights approved a set of ICRC-drafted recommendations for implementing legal frameworks related to the goals of the Health Care in Danger project.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

National Societies in the region boost their operational capacities

Through ICRC training, staff from Russian Red Cross branches in the northern Caucasus and south-western Russia, and from the local Red Cross branches in Crimea, learnt more about assessing beneficiaries' economic needs, and about financial reporting. Personnel from Russian Red Cross branches in the northern Caucasus and St Petersburg received training in providing psychosocial support, conducted by the Danish Red Cross and the International Federation, and funded by the ICRC.

Russian Red Cross branches in the northern Caucasus expanded their assessment/planning capacities through a Safer Access Framework exercise, and trained some 1,500 people in first aid. In Crimea, the local Red Cross branches provided first-aid training to students/teachers, airport employees and public servants. The Belarus Red Cross set up a first-aid training centre and organized a disaster-management course attended by personnel from nine other National Societies. The Red Cross Society of Moldova, which signed a partnership framework agreement with the ICRC in April, bolstered its first-aid training structure and hired a first-aid coordinator.

The St Petersburg branch of the Russian Red Cross ran, with ICRC support, a temporary accommodation centre for migrants (see *Civilians*).

Russian Red Cross takes steps to strengthen the legal base for its activities

With technical support from the International Federation/ICRC, the Russian Red Cross finalized a draft law governing its legal status and the use of the emblem and submitted it to the Russian parliament.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: PROTECTION		Total			
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)					
Red Cross messages (RCMs)			UAMs/SC*		
RCMs collected		14			
RCMs distributed		22			
Phone calls facilitated between family members		9			
Reunifications, transfers and repatriations					
People reunited with their families		4			
Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons			Women	Girls	Boys
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered		40	3		1
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		5			
People located (tracing cases closed positively)		18			
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		5			
Tracing cases still being handled at the end of the reporting period (people)		2,486	90	12	76
<i>including people for whom tracing requests were registered by another delegation</i>		13			
Documents					
People to whom travel documents were issued		10			
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)					
Restoring family links					
RCMs collected		4			
RCMs distributed		5			
Detainees visited by their relatives with ICRC/National Society support		383			
People to whom a detention attestation was issued		1			

*Unaccompanied minors/separated children

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS: ASSISTANCE		Total	Women	Children
CIVILIANS (residents, IDPs, returnees, etc.)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection or cooperation programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	41,440	42%	39%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	58		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	42,134	42%	40%
	<i>of whom IDPs</i>	58		
Vouchers	Beneficiaries	12,215	47%	30%
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)				
Economic security (in some cases provided within a protection programme)				
Food commodities	Beneficiaries	354		
Essential household items	Beneficiaries	122		
WOUNDED AND SICK				
Hospitals				
Hospitals supported	Structures	15		