Amid the spreading of the COVID-19 virus, the ICRC humanitarian work and support to the people affected by the conflict in Ukraine continues. It has been adapted to the overall measures taken to contain the virus.

These are difficult times for all affected peoples and countries around the globe, even more for those who are already suffering from the situations of conflicts and violence. They are hit the hardest.

In Ukraine, the conflict in the Donbas is ongoing amid the corona virus pandemic. Since the beginning of the COVID-19, 52 civilians have been wounded or killed in the crossfire.

Whilst the focus is on taking all the measures necessary to help contain the COVID-19, the ICRC also engages with all the concerned to remind of the obligation of all weapon bearers to take precautionary measures under international humanitarian law to spare civilians and key infrastructure objects while engaging in armed hostilities.

The ICRC is continuously supporting water facilities, which supply water to millions of people living on both sides of the contact line in the Donbas. Uninterrupted supply of the fresh water is key for implementation of the basic COVID-19 prevention measures, such as a frequent hand-washing. This is particularly concerning for the elderly who remain one of the categories of people the most affected by the conflict and living in the area of the contact line in the Donbas.

Amid the COVID-19 spread and the measures to contain it, the ICRC advocates and works to ensure peoples’ safety, provide basic livelihood, such as food and hygiene, fresh water and shelter.

Distribution of food and hygiene parcels to support people throughout the COVID-19 crisis.
Mykolaivka Druha, Donetsk region, May 5, 2020
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN UKRAINE

344 TONS OF WATER TREATMENT CHEMICALS AND BACKPACK SPRAYERS donated to Popusna District Waterboard. Aprons, gloves, goggles and rubber boots donated to the staff of Voda Donbasu at the waste water treatment plants.

80 KITS FOR DISINFECTION distributed to all 29 pre-trial detention facilities in GCA*.

15,000 MASKS AND RESPIRATORS donated to penitentiary facilities in GCA* as well as surgical gowns, gloves, medicines and hands disinfectants.

12,100 SOAPS AND 12,000 POSTERS, produced in cooperation with the URCS*, distributed to all of 121 detention places in GCA*.

6,000 LITERS OF SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE, 28 DISINFECTION SPRAYERS AND MASKS donated to SESU* in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. SESU* in Luhansk region also received: 1,000 gloves, 100 googles, 200 suites, 40 sprayers, 10 distant thermometers, etc. SESU* and a regional hospital in the Donetsk region CGA* also received disinfection material, tent, patient conveyor, suits, etc. worth of 45,000 CHF.

6,000 LITERS OF SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE and disinfection sets donated for disinfections of humanitarian convoys between GCA* and NGCA*.

AROUND 326 LITERS OF SANITIZER, 13,800 PIECES OF PPE* were purchased with the ICRC financial support for the Red Cross operations on both sides of the LoC*.

ICRC financially supported URCS* production of over 182,000 POSTERS and other printed materials, as well as three videos on COVID-19.

ICRC financially supported URCS’s 22 SERVICES OF TRANSPORTATION of the COVID-19 test samples from the hospitals of the Donetsk region to laboratories within the region and in Kyiv at request of the local authorities.

30 KG OF DISINFECTION MATERIAL, 500 MASKS, 30 SPRAYERS, 50 GOOGLES, SUITES AND RESPIRATORS, 80 RUBBER GLOVES, etc. donated to emergency management structures in Donetsk.

AROUND 34,000 PEOPLE from 133 LOCALITIES on both sides of the LoC* and an IDP collective centre received food and hygiene parcels. About 3,000 PEOPLE received additional hygiene items.

Also, 2,000 PEOPLE using services of 31 COLLECTIVE CENTRES, HOSPITALS AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS along the LoC* benefited from hygiene parcels, detergents, soaps and disinfectants donated to the facilities.

AROUND 35,000 MASKS AND RESPIRATORS donated to the medical facilities on both sides of the LoC*, as well as 11,500 pieces of PPE* and 100 non-contact thermometers.

26 HEALTHCARE FACILITIES in GCA* received disinfection kits and protective gear. Five of those institutions were also supported with items to partially improve water supply and washing machines. One medical institution received a back-up generator.

8 HOSPITALS in GCA* have or will have screening tents installed to preliminary check the people entering the facilities.

18 HEALTHCARE FACILITIES in Lugansk received three tons of chlorine, disinfection kits, washing machines and items for laundry as well as back-up water tanks and pumps.

3 FACILITIES — one healthcare and two forensic institutions — on both sides of the LoC* benefited from structural rehabilitation activities.

26 SCHOOLS along the LoC* received printers, paper and ink to print out material for children without access to online learning.

38 CHILDREN from families of missing persons and victims of mine incidents received laptops, tablets and annual internet subscription to access online learning.

10 SCHOOLS, 20 KINDERGARTENS AND ONE COLLEGE in NGCA* received sanitation kits. 11 KINDERGARTENS in NGCA* received bactericidal irradiators.

2,700 COPIES of the children story book about COVID-19 were distributed.