

Facts and figures

Context

Approx. 5.2 million people living in the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine

1.25 million registered internally displaced persons in Ukraine; number rising by approx. 8,000 people per week

801,000 registered refugees from Ukraine in neighbouring countries

(Source: OCHA, 01.05.2015)

SDC commitment

Activities in water, health, emergency aid (shelter, non-food items) and coordination of aid

Support for the following organisations:

WFP: CHF 1 million + monitoring and protection expert

UNHCR: CHF 750,000 + one expert for planning and implementation of projects for providing shelter for displaced persons in need (cash and vouchers)

ICRC: CHF 500,000

PIN: CHF 600,000

WHO: CHF 500,000

Local SDC presence

Kyiv Cooperation Office since 1999



On 15 May 2015 the Swiss Humanitarian Aid (SHA) sent 15 trucks carrying 300 tons of chemicals for the treatment of water from Dnipropetrovsk to Donetsk. © SDC

The SDC's response to the Ukraine crisis

- The Swiss Humanitarian Aid (SHA) organized a convoy of 15 truckloads carrying 300 tons of chemicals for the treatment of water. The truckloads arrived in Donetsk from Dnipropetrovsk. Under Swiss flags this humanitarian convoy is the first of its kind to cross the contact line which separates government controlled area (GCA) from non-government controlled area (NGCA).
- Previously SHA has sent three truckloads of hypochlorites of calcium to Krasnoarmeysk (GCA). The shipment was delivered to the regional water authority so as to ensure that at least a part of the population of the oblast will have safe drinking water for some time to come. The quality of the drinking water in the Donetsk area (GCA) and in the non-government controlled area (NGCA) no longer meets minimum standards as a result of a shortage of disinfectants.
- From 1 May 2015: emergency relief for up to 8,000 of the people most in need in the conflict zone; implementation through the Czech NGO "People in Need" (PIN).
- The focus of Swiss Humanitarian Aid in eastern Ukraine in 2014 was on providing funding and support staff for multilateral organisations, whether operating in areas controlled by the government or in those under the control of armed groups.
- With contributions totaling CHF 3 million in 2015, Switzerland ranks 7th among the donor countries.
- The situation of the population in the NGCAs is particularly worrisome. The health system is operational only thanks to humanitarian aid. People are suffering from malnutrition; drugs and consumables are virtually unobtainable; people with chronic illnesses are no longer able to receive proper treatment. Particularly vulnerable are the elderly, people with disabilities or chronic illnesses, and single women with children.

Context

Since November 2013 the crisis in Ukraine – particularly in the East – continues to generate human losses, refugee flows and significant damages despite multiple ceasefires. The safety of those who remained behind is threatened by increasing lawlessness (by mid-April 2015 the number of deaths had risen to over 6,225). The number of people who have fled the region continues to rise; Ukrainian officials estimate the number of internally displaced persons at 1.25 million; in addition, according to the UNCHR, some 801,000 refugees have left the country, mainly to neighbouring Russia, Belarus and Moldova. Their need for shelter, food and medical care is rising steadily. Basic services (electricity, gas, water, social services, mail, banking) are no longer available or very limited, particularly in the NGCAs.

In December 2014, international aid organisations estimated that a budget of just under CHF 189 million would be required in 2015 to provide assistance to the most vulnerable of those in need of help. Since that time, because of the rapid rise in the number of the needy, the budget has been increased to CHF 316 million. The primary focus of the strategic response plan (SRP) is on the following areas: protection of displaced persons and other people affected by the conflict; distribution of life-saving assistance and supplies to those most in need; providing displaced persons and other people affected by the conflict with improved access to reconstruction programmes, to basic services; repatriation and reconciliation.

The Switzerland's response to the crisis

Since 2014, SHA supports with financial and human means multilateral organisations which operate in eastern Ukraine on both sides of the contact line. For 2015, SHA allocated an additional budget of CHF 3 million intended for four action lines: coordination of aid, health, emergency aid and drinking water. From April 2015 on, SHA undertook direct actions in the health and water sectors.

Due to the lack of chemicals, the quality of the water in conflict-affected areas does not match the minimum standards. In April 2015 SHA organized a shipment of three trucks loaded with calcium hypochlorite and aluminum sulfate to Krasnoarmeysk in GCA. The shipment was delivered to the regional water authority so as to ensure that at least a part of the population of the oblast will have safe drinking water for some time to come.

Following this first shipment SHA organized a second convoy on 15 May 2015 with this time 15 trucks transporting 300 tons of chemicals for water treatment. The convoy departed from Dnipropetrovsk and in Donetsk. This will enable the 3.7 million inhabitants of the region on both sides of the contact line to have safe drinking water for this summer.

From 1 May 2015: SHA has also supported the Czech NGO "People in Need" (PIN) for emergency relief for up to 8,000 of the people most in need in the conflict zone.

To improve the coordination and efficiency of aid operations on the spot SHA deployed its experts from the SHA Unit to UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).


Beside humanitarian activities the SDC supports other project in the sector of local governance, peace promotion and

reform in the health sector. The SDC proceeded to a reorientation of its programmes based on the needs generated by the new context. Peace promotion is therefore a new priority. Dialogue and participatory processes will be reinforced in ongoing programmes. If possible, support will be brought to conflict-affected areas with a focus on the most vulnerable (sick persons, elderly men and women, single parent, etc.)



Further Information

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