

Press Release

Ukraine: one year of conflict, endless suffering

Luxembourg-Kiev, 22 February 2023 - One year after the start of the conflict in Ukraine, the number of victims continues to rise: more than 18,000 civilians injured or killed and 13 million of people displaced according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Luxembourg has welcomed more than 5,000 people who have lost everything. Every day, the teams of the Luxembourg Red Cross come to their aid.

In Ukraine, the suffering is never-ending

"When the first air strikes hit in February, we immediately contacted our teams who have been working alongside our Ukrainian Red Cross colleagues in Donbas for the past eight years to make sure they were all safe and sound before deciding how best to help the victims," recalls Myriam Jacoby, project leader for Ukraine at the Luxembourg Red Cross. Our presence on the ground and our long-standing partnership with the Ukrainian Red Cross allowed us to be immediately operational and effective in our assistance from the very first hours of the conflict.

Our teams, who have been working in the Donetsk region for more than 30 years, are now working on the rehabilitation of health centres, as there were not enough infrastructures to meet the needs of the population, which was then affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. They also distributed briquettes to help civilians keep warm in order to face the severe weather conditions.

"Then the attacks were repeated, including against medical facilities, leaving thousands of dead and wounded, and making it extremely difficult to treat the injured." After rehabilitating many health centres in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, the Luxembourg Red Cross teams completed the rehabilitation of the Irpine hospital in December and worked in the Kiev Functional Rehabilitation Centre.

"The scale of the violence and the long-term damage is terrifying," Myriam Jacoby continues. In addition to supporting health centres in Ukraine, her teams have also distributed medical equipment, heating equipment, food and hygiene kits. They have also supported the reconstruction of energy centres (access to water and electricity), which has helped more than 820,000 people in Ukraine and Moldova. Indeed, the Luxembourg Red Cross also opened a mission in Moldova to support the reception of Ukrainian refugees.

Helping refugee families in Luxembourg

In the weeks following the military strikes, families left to seek refuge in neighbouring countries, which were quickly submerged, and further afield, as far as the Grand Duchy.

An exile that many believe to be temporary. *"Many families have housed people from Ukraine, and solidarity has been very strong"* says Frederik Noël, Head of the *Cellule Logement Encadrement Solidaire* (CLES) at the Luxembourg Red Cross.

"But in the long term, this model is complicated for both the host families and for the host families. The value of an individual home for someone who has to rebuild is inestimable." At the end of 2022, the Luxembourg Red Cross called on landlords to support its beneficiaries by renting out their homes, notably through the Social Rental Guarantee scheme.

For the time being, landlords are very satisfied with the guarantees provided, but the number of homes remains largely insufficient.

"Our teams are constantly working to provide comprehensive support to refugees," explains Nadine Conrardy, Director of the Social Action and Health Department (*Action et Santé Sociales*) of the Luxembourg Red Cross. The Red Cross provides administrative support, integration support, social and psychological support for those who need it and finally, specialised support for children who come from migratory backgrounds.

Let's keep helping together

While humanitarian needs continue unabated in Luxembourg, Ukraine and Moldova, the Luxembourg Red Cross has been able to help more than 820 000 people affected by this armed conflict.

"Without the support of Luxembourg residents, we would never have been able to provide aid on such a big scale, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts," says Luc Scheer, member of the Luxembourg Red Cross' Board of Directors and Head of Fundraising.

"We must not forget that the needs remain great for hundreds of refugee families in Luxembourg and millions of people in Ukraine." People wishing to support the Luxembourg Red Cross can do so online (<https://donate.croix-rouge.lu/conflitenUkraine>), or via bank transfer (IBAN LU52 1111 0000 1111 0000; Reference: One year Ukraine).

A concert for the benefit of the Luxembourg Red Cross is also organised in cooperation with the Philharmonie de Luxembourg. The concert will take place on 30 March 2023, under the High Patronage of HRH the Grand Duchess. The proceeds will go to all those affected by the armed conflict in Ukraine.

Press contact

Communication Department
Caroline Fréchar / Vincent Ruck / Tina Noroschadt
+352 27 55-2100
media@croix-rouge.lu