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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Triangle G H is preparing an intervention in Ukraine *on both sides of the front line***

*Despite the two ceasefires signed in September 2014 and February 2015, the cycle of violence that has been affecting Ukraine since the end of 2013 continues. The intensity of the fighting has decreased, but it seems unlikely that the situation will significantly improve, as more than one million people are currently displaced within the country. The NGO Triangle G H went to Ukraine twice, in February and March 2015, in order to assess the humanitarian situation on both sides of the front line. Aid actors are not numerous.*

The most obvious deficiencies were identified in the separatist area, which is experiencing strong shortages: the banking system is at a standstill, the payment of pensions and social assistance to the poor is interrupted, and the payment of wages is the exceptional case. Basic products are scarce, inflation is spectacular, food and hygiene products became a major issue, especially in areas subject to sporadic shelling that keeps many people in basements or air raid shelters.

A first action of emergency food aid and basic necessities distribution is intended for 4,000 vulnerable people living near the front line in the Donetsk region, on the contact line between Petrovsky District and Pantelemonivka. These are unattached individuals, often elderly, or families with several dependent children, with no or almost no income.

In the area under government control, the number of registered IDPs exceeds 400,000. The most vulnerable, often elderly people with no financial means, live in collective centers (public buildings, train cars ...) providing precarious shelter. Many do not have the legal documents required to claim their rights. Alcohol consumption is important, and so is promiscuity, which induces protection issues, especially for isolated elderly persons, single women and out-of-school children kept in a very anxiety-producing environment.

We are planning administrative and legal assistance for these people, to enable them access assistance provided by the authorities, as well as cash assistance to the most vulnerable, along with psychological counseling and activities for children in the cities of Slavyansk, Kramatorsk and Artemivsk.

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