

JDC update on Eastern Ukraine

February 2017

Over the past 10 days there has been an escalation in the violence in Eastern Ukraine, in the Donetsk region. This is the worst escalation in violence in two years. Below is a link to a recent update on the situation from Newsweek:

<http://europe.newsweek.com/nolan-peterson-trump-distracted-putin-pounds-ukraine-551570>

JDC is continuously monitoring the situation on the ground that may be impacting the network of Hesed welfare organizations that JDC supports and which provide services to clients in Eastern Ukraine. What follows are specific updates on events from the past few days.

In the front line town of Avdiivka there are two Hesed clients, who recently received money via bank card and bought food. There is a store not far from them, it has its own generator and is open.

Additional locations which are closest to Avdiivka and were under fire are Gorlovka and Yenakiyevo, where Hesed branches are located. Hesed staff are constantly in touch with clients. Sounds of firing can be heard in these two towns, but people continue to live their regular life. According to reports that we received there is no panic among the population.

Another city, Makeyevka, was under constant fire of heavy weapons. A water filter station was damaged, which resulted in the suspension of water supply to almost all the districts of Donetsk and Makeyevka. Local transportation in the Kiev district of Donetsk was stopped.

The water supply in Donetsk has been restored, there is already running water in the center of the city and several other districts. The supply of electricity and gas has been partially renewed in locations on the front line, though not running water.

JDC's office in the region has reported that the clients are in a calm and stable condition, and that thankfully no client has been killed or wounded during this past week of violence. The home of a Jewish family in Donetsk, Hesed clients, was damaged by a blast. The Hesed staff is providing them with support.

In 2016, the Heseds in the conflict zone, Heseds Donetsk and Lugansk, provided assistance to 5,300 clients; and in 2016, JDC provided support for 2,511 Internally Displaced Persons.

JDC is continuously monitoring the situation.