

UKRAINE SITUATION

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

18 November – 1 December 2015

WINTERIZATION PLAN

57,300

beneficiaries

USD 6.1 million

total budget

116,400

NFIs

34,100

tonnes of heating coal or m³ wood

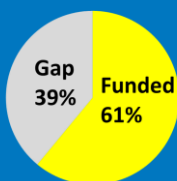
USD 1.75 million

winterization cash assistance

FUNDING

USD 41.5 million

requested for the operation in 2015



PRIORITIES

- As part of the UN Humanitarian Response Plan, to lead protection, shelter and NFI clusters to help those forcibly displaced from their homes.
- Support Government in efforts to establish a central authority to deal with IDPs.
- Work with the Government to improve registration system, specifically procedures relating to pensioners and access to social assistance.
- Promote freedom of movement and humanitarian access.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Situational overview:** The security situation in eastern Ukraine has deteriorated during the past month after a period of improved conditions following the ceasefire on 1 September.
- Protection concerns:** Freedom of movement across the line of contact remains a primary concern. Access to adequate housing for internally displaced people (IDPs) is also an ongoing concern.
- Legislation update:** The President did not endorse a law adopted by Parliament amending the IDP Law improving conditions for IDP registration and registration renewal.
- Assistance provided:** Since 18 November, UNHCR provided non-food items (NFIs) and emergency shelter assistance to more than 3,100 people.



On 28 November, the fourth UNHCR convoy arrived in non-government controlled Luhansk since UNHCR was 'registered' by de facto authorities. The convoy carried shelter materials for repairs to damaged homes, with four trucks going directly to the villages of Khryashchuvate and Novosvitlivka, which were heavily damaged in summer 2014. In the past few months around 50 per cent of the villagers have returned, with many staying in damaged houses or with neighbours and relatives. While providing shelter material, UNHCR also distributed NFIs as part of the winterization plan. Photo: UNHCR/Luhansk Logistics Hub/November 2015

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The security situation in eastern Ukraine has deteriorated during the past month after a period of improved conditions following the ceasefire on 1 September. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission [reports](#) increased ceasefire violations on the line of contact, particularly in Donetsk region. While the fighting remains localized on the line of contact, the overall situation is volatile and tense. Freedom of movement across the line of contact between the non-government and government controlled area remains limited due to security measures and the continued blockade against the non-government controlled area against the non-government controlled area by the Government. Long queues of cars are observed in both directions at checkpoints on the line of contact, with reports of people waiting many hours and sometimes overnight to cross.

The first snow of the year has fallen in Ukraine underscoring the urgency to finalize winterization. The resurgence of fighting on the line of contact line means that humanitarian access to communities living on or near the line of contact in so-called 'grey areas' and where needs are greatest is particularly difficult. Humanitarian access in non-government controlled Donetsk region remains limited for UN agencies while the issue of 'registration' is still pending, though UNHCR is able to operate to some degree through partners such as People in Need (PiN). Two UNHCR convoys carrying roofing material, timber and glass arrived in Donetsk. The supplies were handed over to PiN for the repair of 117 homes in Donetsk city and 87 homes in Horlivka, in northern Donetsk. In non-government controlled Luhansk, UNHCR began an intensive shelter program immediately after being 'registered' by de facto authorities on 23 October. So far four convoys have travelled to the area carrying shelter materials and NFIs. UNHCR conducts damage assessments in the area in coordination with the heads of village councils and the local Red Cross. In the absence of 'registered' partners in Luhansk, UNHCR carries out all implementation directly. The first targeted villages are Novosvitlivka and Khyryshchuvate, which were heavily damaged in summer 2014. Around 50 per cent of the population of these villages returned during the summer with many staying in damaged houses or with neighbours and relatives.

As the displacement situation in Ukraine becomes more protracted, long-term housing solutions for IDPs are difficult to find. The majority of the people of concern stay with host families, volunteers and in private accommodation, though in many cases affordable private accommodation is in poor condition. Others stay in collective centres intended as short-term transit accommodation. Some IDPs in collective centres face eviction as they stay longer than anticipated or are unable to pay utility bills, sometimes leading to involuntary return. Those staying in collective centres tend to be the most vulnerable with limited financial means and who are unable to afford private accommodation. Livelihood opportunities for IDPs are very restricted due to the difficult economic situation facing Ukraine and discrimination by employers. UNHCR is working closely with authorities and civil society to address the needs of IDPs remaining in collective centres and to find longer-term housing solutions.

External Displacement

UNHCR continues to monitor the refugee situation in neighbouring countries. According to government sources in receiving countries, the total number of people seeking asylum or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries now stands at 1,093,100, with the majority going to the Russian Federation (858,400) and Belarus (127,300).

The OSCE Observer Mission monitoring the Gukovo and Donetsk checkpoints on the Russia-Ukraine border inform that the situation remains calm. Total cross-border traffic increased at both checkpoints during the reporting period, with daily averages increasing from 11,038 to 11,367. The daily average net flow indicated 373 people going to the Russian Federation from Ukraine, continuing the recent trend of more people leaving Ukraine.

As of 1 December, since the beginning of the crisis, in the top five receiving countries in the European Union and in neighbouring countries there were 6,540 applications for international protection in Germany, 4,359 in Poland, 5,289 in Italy, 2,532 in Sweden, 2,637 in France, 250 in Moldova, 70 in Romania, 60 in Hungary and 30 in Slovakia according to government sources in receiving countries.

Data source: Respective national asylum authorities

Achievements



Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster co-led by UNHCR and OHCHR, together with the Child Protection, Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) and Mine Action sub-clusters developed its operational response plan for the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), including key activities, priority areas and targeted population. The Protection Cluster received 61 protection projects proposals from local and international NGOs and UN agencies under the HRP. 39 projects were approved by the Cluster vetting committee for further consideration by donors to fund the selected projects.
- The Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Working Group chaired by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) under the umbrella of the Protection and Shelter and NFI Clusters met on 25 November to discuss HLP rights of IDPs and conflict affected communities following research commissioned by NRC. Guidance for shelter actors is being developed as well as next steps to document and tackle HLP rights violations (risk of eviction, security of tenure etc).
- The Global Protection Cluster organized a teleconference briefing on Ukraine attended by representatives of embassies, donor countries, international organizations and NGOs based in Geneva. The Protection Cluster, together with the three sub-clusters gave a detailed presentation on current protection challenges in Ukraine and the main priorities of protection actors. Key messages relating to humanitarian space and protection, especially in the non-government controlled area, funding for protection projects and encouragement for non-protection actors to use a protection lens when designing projects were shared with participants.
- More information can be found in the [October](#) factsheet.

Achievements, Impact and Identified Needs

- Following the adoption by Parliament of Law no. 2166 amending the IDP Law on 3 November, the President did not sign the law as the amendments do not assign the state body responsible for verifying IDP absence from the place of displacement and their movements within Ukraine. On 26 November the President returned the Law to Parliament requesting that the problems are resolved. Under parliamentary rules, the Human Rights Committee has 30 days to adopt the Presidential proposals or 300 Members of Parliament must vote against the proposals.
- UNHCR is providing support to displaced Roma as part of UNHCR's assistance to vulnerable IDPs. UNHCR is supporting Roma Resource Centers in the cities of Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia through a Project Partnership Agreement with NGO Gorenje. The agency has also provided targeted NFI distributions to Roma IDPs.
- UNHCR continues to provide in-kind support to vulnerable IDPs facing specific difficulties on a case-by-case basis. As of 25 November, 82 cases have been approved for assistance. Beneficiaries include caregivers in large families, single parents, people with specific needs and newly arrived families, whose problems were exacerbated by difficult financial situations or urgent healthcare needs.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR partner Stantia Kharkiv provided 927 general consultations, 266 legal consultations and 105 psychosocial consultations. UNHCR's new partner, Slavic Heart, provided 975 general consultations, 422 legal consultations and 183 psychological consultations. Main concerns were access to humanitarian assistance, initial IDP registration, the voucher programme, IDP rights, social counseling, social assistance, crossing the line of contact, housing, employment, children, social adaptation, anxiety and depression. Between 1 and 15 November, UNHCR partner Crimea SOS provided consultations to 920 people, of which 605 were social consultations and 315 were legal consultations. The most frequently raised concerns included the crossing of the line of contact, civil documentation, pensions, winterization assistance, medical assistance and property. Between 8 and 22 November, UNHCR partners the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and the Right to Protection (R2P) conducted 274 protection monitoring visits to over 2,000 IDPs and referred 23 cases to legal counseling providers. Main concerns raised included: freedom of movement, employment, social assistance, accommodation, medical assistance, education, IDP registration and discrimination against IDPs.
- UNHCR is providing assistance to government crisis centers in Kyiv and in Kherson helping families and people with special needs and SGBV survivors. The Kyiv center is being supported with playground equipment for children. The Kherson center is supported through repair work and the supply of furniture. UNHCR has also provided construction

¹ [International Protection Considerations Related to the Developments in Ukraine – Update III](http://www.refworld.org/docid/56017e034.html)
<http://www.refworld.org/docid/56017e034.html>

materials for repairs to the Rehabilitation Center for Blind People in Kyiv and furniture to the Psychiatric Center in Kyiv region.

- UNHCR is beginning a cash assistance program for Kyiv city. The overall goal of the programme is to ensure that vulnerable IDPs, as determined by protection monitoring, have access to adequate housing and basic essential items through the provision of one-time multi-purpose stabilization grants, so that high-risk coping strategies such as secondary displacement and returns to unsafe areas are avoided.



NGO Gorenje conducted needs assessment visits to Roma settlements in Dnipropetrovsk, Novomoskovsk, Pavlograd in Dnipropetrovsk region and Andriivka, Berdyansk, Burchak and Melitopol in Zaporizhzhia region. During the visits, the team promoted the work of the UNHCR supported Roma Resource Centres in Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia. Following the assessment and as part of UNHCR's targeted assistance for the most vulnerable internally displaced people, UNHCR provided non-food items to 56 Roma households in the villages of Pavlograd and Melitopol. Photo: UNHCR/D. Karp/November 2015

Shelter and Non Food Items (NFIs)

Emergency Shelter and NFIs Cluster

- The Shelter NFI cluster led by UNHCR, worked intensively in preparing the Humanitarian Response Plan in collaboration with inter-cluster and shelter partners. The final version of HRP will be included in the global appeal planned for release on 7 December.
- During the HRP drafting process, 19 projects were approved by the vetting committee which met on 17 November, reflecting the strong involvement of shelter partners in the Ukraine response through an increased number of registered partners at national level (33) and also at sub-national level (50). So far, 67 per cent of the 2015 HRP has been implemented despite various restrictions including lack of access to the non-government controlled area.
- On 25 November the national and sub-national cluster conducted a workshop in Slovyansk for engineering and field technical teams with the participation of ADRA, DRC, the Luxembourg Red Cross, NRC and People in Need as well as a representative of the Donetsk regional building department. The results of the workshop will be drafted as guidelines for structural repair and durable shelter solutions for release by the end of December.

Achievements, Impact and Identified Needs

- During the reporting period, UNHCR NFI and shelter materials were provided to over 3,100 people. In the government controlled area, UNHCR partners distributed bedding sets (consisting of a blanket, bed linen and towels) and other NFIs to over 500 people in the Mariupol area. UNHCR provided 856 roofing panels to DRC for emergency shelter repairs in the area. UNHCR's Field Office in Sievierodonetsk provided a further 809m² of glass was delivered to Shchastya, Luhansk for continued repairs to 942 homes undertaken in cooperation with the Local Development Agency. In northern Donetsk, UNHCR partner ADRA carried out repairs to 11 homes and provided repair materials for a further 13 homes. UNHCR supplied ADRA with 1,143 sheets of plywood and timber beams for further repairs. UNHCR partner People in Need completed medium repairs on 67 homes and provided emergency shelter materials to a further 32 homes.
- In the non-government controlled areas, UNHCR provided 200m² of plastic tarpaulin sheeting for emergency shelter repairs to five households in Dokuchaivsk, Donetsk region.

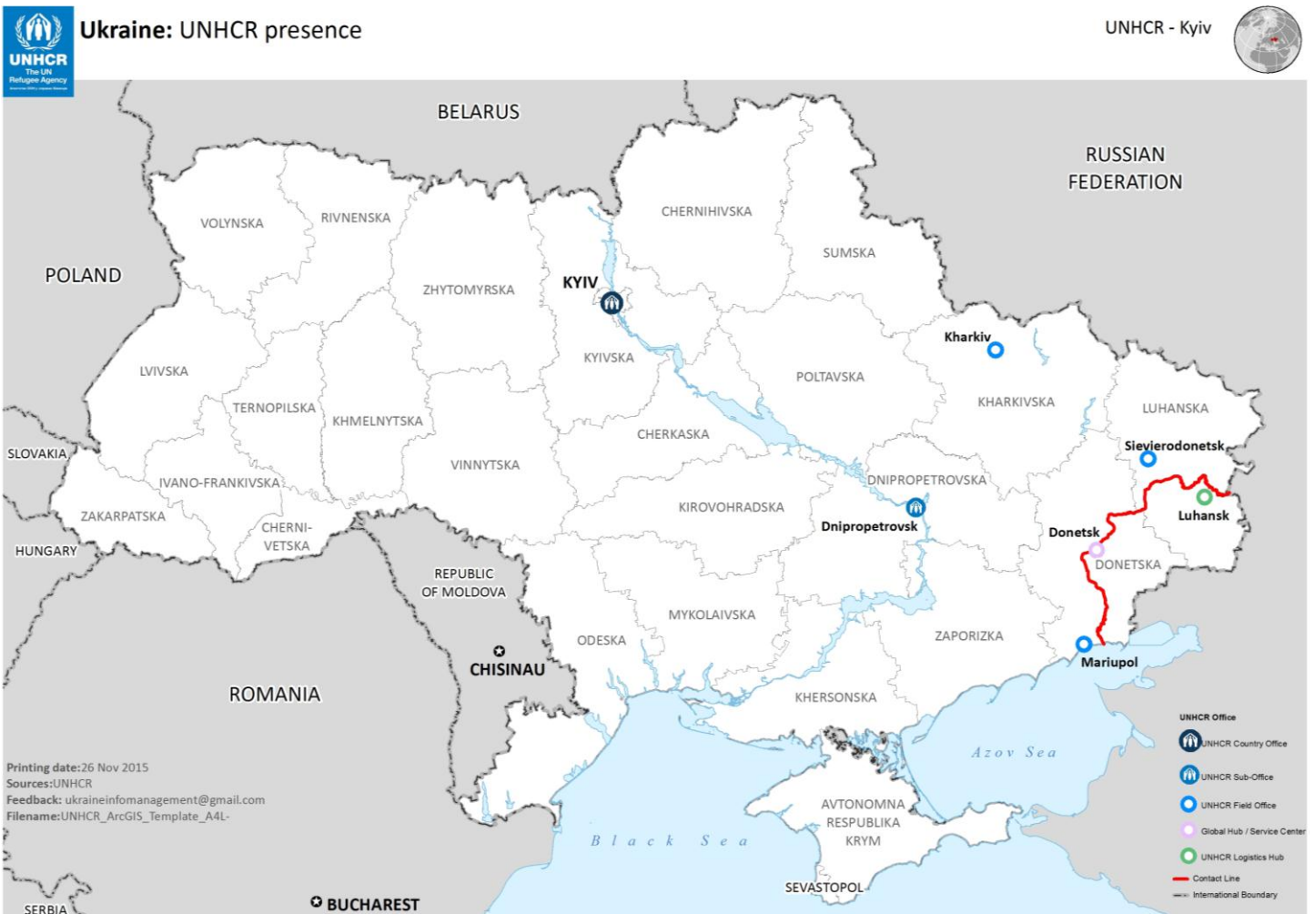
UNHCR winterization

The village of Opytnoe is located 2 km from the much fought over Donetsk Airport, on the line of contact. The heaviest fighting took place in August 2015, though continuous small arms fire can still be heard in the distance. Only 100 mostly elderly residents remain in the village. People survive on water from a single well and “social bread” baked by the community. The nearest market where residents collect food and pensions is a 6-8 km walk away.

People remain in Opytnoe because they refuse to give up their property for which they have worked hard to acquire and maintain. They have no other options to permanently relocate and lack of livelihoods and affordable housing elsewhere make displacement an unappealing alternative. Winter in the village is difficult without wood for heating and cooking and without adequate clothing. UNHCR is one of few humanitarian agencies to come to the village in recent months. During the visit, UNHCR provided wood to the villagers and conducted protection monitoring. UNHCR continues to prioritize interventions in ‘grey areas’, near the line of contact.



Photo: UNHCR/D. Karp/November 2015



Working in partnership

UNHCR and the University of Kharkiv is holding a Civil Society Forum in Kharkiv on 3-4 December bringing together more than 100 community-based organisations, authorities, UN, media, donors and academia. The event will provide a space for stakeholders to network and discuss community-based responses to forced displacement and the current crisis, as well as reflect on next steps. Following the event, a list of recommendations, advocacy messages and identified areas for further research will be compiled. Organizations and individuals wishing to participate can register [here](#).

The humanitarian response to the internal displacement situation in Ukraine is a coordinated effort by international organizations, the Government, local and international NGOs. UNHCR works with seven implementing partners and other partners providing assistance to internally displaced people through protection and legal assistance, policy development and capacity building and the distribution of emergency shelter materials and non-food items. UNHCR leads the Shelter and Non-food Item Cluster and co-leads the Protection Cluster.

UNHCR implementing partners (IDP operation): [Adventist Development and Relief Agency](#) | [Crimea SOS](#) | [Danish Refugee Council](#) | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | [People in Need](#) | [Slavic Heart](#) | [Stantia Kharkiv](#)

Key Shelter and Non Food Items Cluster partners: [Adventist Development and Relief Agency](#) | [Caritas Ukraine](#) | [Chesna i Svyata Kraina](#) | [Crimea SOS](#) | [Danish Refugee Council](#) | [Donbas reconstruction and development agency](#) | [Dopomoga Dnipra](#) | [HIA Hungary](#) | [IOM](#) | [Mercy Corps](#) | [Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Communal Living](#) | [Ministry of Social Policy](#) | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | [People in Need](#) | [Save the Children UK](#) | [Save Ukraine Organization](#) | [State Emergency Service](#) | [Ukrainian Red Cross Society](#) | [UNDP](#) | [Vostok SOS](#) | [World Jewish Relief](#)

Key Protection Cluster partners: [Danish Refugee Council](#) | [Crimea SOS](#) | [Crimean Diaspora](#) | [HelpAge](#) | [IOM](#) | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | [OHCHR \(HRMMU\)](#) | [OSCE](#) | [People in Need](#) | [The Right to Protection](#) | [Save the Children](#) | [The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights](#) | [UNICEF](#) | [UNDP](#) | [UNFPA](#) | [Vostok SOS](#)

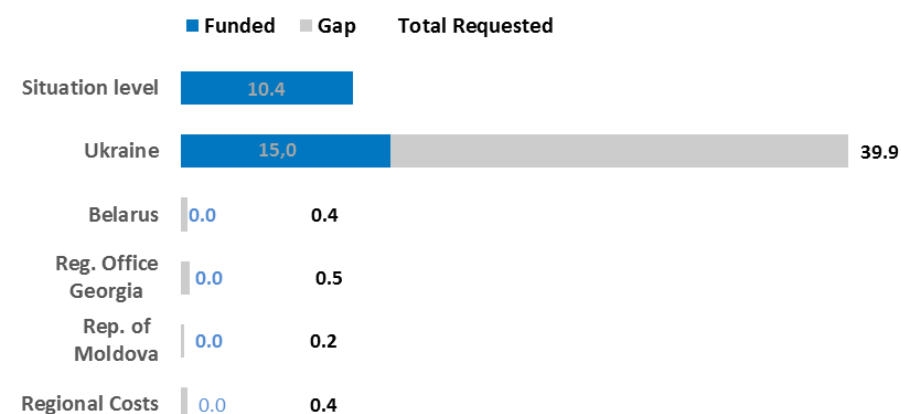
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have already indicated a contribution to UNHCR's 2015 activities in Ukraine with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds. UNHCR's total financial requirement in 2015 for the Ukraine situation is **US\$ 41.5 million**, as presented in the [Supplementary Appeal](#). This covers UNHCR's financial needs for providing protection and assistance to those displaced by the conflict inside Ukraine, as well as those externally displaced in Belarus and the Republic of Moldova as well as in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, countries covered by the Regional Office in Georgia. Contributions recorded so far represented **61 per cent** of the total financial requirements.

Donors who have contributed: Funding (in million USD)

- Canada
- Denmark
- Estonia
- European Union
- Finland
- Georgia
- Germany
- Greece
- Italy
- Japan
- Norway
- Portugal
- Private Donors
- Republic of Korea
- Russian Federation
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

A total of **25.5 million** has been contributed



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