

UKRAINE

Situation update No.1 as of 22 May 2015



OCHA



This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period of 9 - 22 May 2015, unless otherwise noted. The next report will be published on or around 29 May.

Highlights¹

- Sporadic fighting continue in the areas of Donetsk airport, Shyrokyne, Avdiivka and Shastia: many civilians continue to seek refuge in underground shelters there.
- One civilian was killed by a landmine on 14 May near Mariinka in government-controlled areas in Donetsk oblast.
- The Luhanska oblast Governor issued an order further constraining civilian movements across the line of contact and their access to some basic services.
- Funding for humanitarian operations remains low: only 27.5 percent of US\$316 required for Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2015 is funded or pledged.

Key figures:



Situation Overview

Fighting and artillery shelling continued in a number of locations along the so called 'contact line'. These include areas around Donetsk airport, and near Shyrokyne, 20km east of Mariupol, Peski, Opytnoe, and Avdiivka in Donetsk oblast (province). In Luhanska oblast, fighting and shelling was reported from the locations of Shastiya, Stanytsa Luhanska, Trokhizbenka and Zolotoe. Violence continues to trigger additional humanitarian suffering and poses significant threat to the lives of civilians who continue to seek refuge in bomb shelters or cellars of their dwellings for extended period of time. Between 8 and 12 May, heavy shelling was reported near Kurakhove and Marriinka. The Kurakhove route is the only entry point for humanitarian aid and personnel to non-government controlled areas in Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts. As a result, the checkpoint was closed on several occasions, and this affected civilians and humanitarian organization movements.



A boy holding the remnant of a shell in Papasna, Luhanska oblast © UNICEF

Casualties continued to be reported almost daily. Between mid-April 2014 and 14 May 2015, at least 6,334 people have been documented as killed and 15,752 as wounded in the conflict zone of eastern Ukraine.² Unexploded ordnances (UXOs) and landmines in conflict-affected area continue to threaten the lives of civilians. On 14 May,

¹The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Internal Displacement data was provided by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine as of 6 April 2015.

²This is a conservative estimate of the UN Human Rights Mission in Ukraine (HRMU) and the World Health Organization based on available official data: casualties of the Ukrainian armed forces as reported by the Ukrainian authorities; 298 people from flight MH-17; and casualties reported by medical establishments of Donetsk and Luhanska Oblasts: civilians and some members of the armed groups. The HRMU and WHO believe that the actual numbers of fatalities are considerably higher.

one civilian was killed after a landmine explosion hit a civilian vehicle near the village of Mariinka in government-controlled areas of Donetsk oblast.

By 21 May, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) registered by the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) reached 1,299,770 people. This is an increase of about 44,000 people over the past three weeks. Overall, the number of registered IDPs nearly doubled compared to early January 2015, according to MoSP. Ukraine has the ninth largest IDP population in the world, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).

Meanwhile, the number of Ukrainian nationals who have fled to neighbouring countries is also on the rise. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), by 21 May about 857,000 Ukrainians had sought asylum, residence permits or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries – an increase of about 23,000 people over the past two weeks. This includes 708,800 individuals in Russia, 81,100 individuals in Belarus and another 53,800 individuals in Poland. The number of Ukrainian nationals who had sought asylum, residence permits or other forms of legal stay in Russia increased by about 20,000 people over the past two weeks. The number of Ukrainians applying for international protection in the European Union increased from about 9,000 people by the end of October 2014 to over 13,000 by the end of April 2015, according to the UNHCR.

Freedom of movement for civilians across the contact line between government forces and armed movements in eastern Ukraine remains a major concern. Following an order issued by the Governor of Luhanska on 12 May, movements across the contact line in the oblast are restricted, with only pedestrians and humanitarian cargo allowed to pass to non-government controlled areas. Most of humanitarian aid is being delivered to non-government controlled areas in Luhanska oblast through Donetsk. In Starobelsk, in the government-controlled areas of Luhanska oblast, civilians have to wait in queues for a long time both for submitting the documents and receiving the passes to cross the contact line. It was reported that people have to come to the relevant government offices for getting passes several times as no information is available whether the pass is ready. This takes time and financial resources of those who applied for passes. Protection cluster has raised concern, particularly, about the plight of civilians in insecure areas who may want to flee, but for whom passes are still a mandatory requirement.

Access to healthcare services is severely constrained across the east, and in non-government controlled areas in particular because of lack of medicines, medical equipment. There is an increased burden over healthcare facilities due to the influx of IDPs.

Flow of food commodities from government-controlled territories is constrained, and food prices remain high in non-government controlled areas, where fuel supplies are scarce and many petrol stations have stopped selling petrol and diesel. By 4 May, in Donetsk oblast, food security cluster distributed 8,600 food vouchers in government-controlled areas (GCA) and 7,390 food parcels in non-government controlled areas (NGCAs). In GCAs, IDPs living with host families and in collective shelters remain the most vulnerable groups in terms of food shortages.

Funding

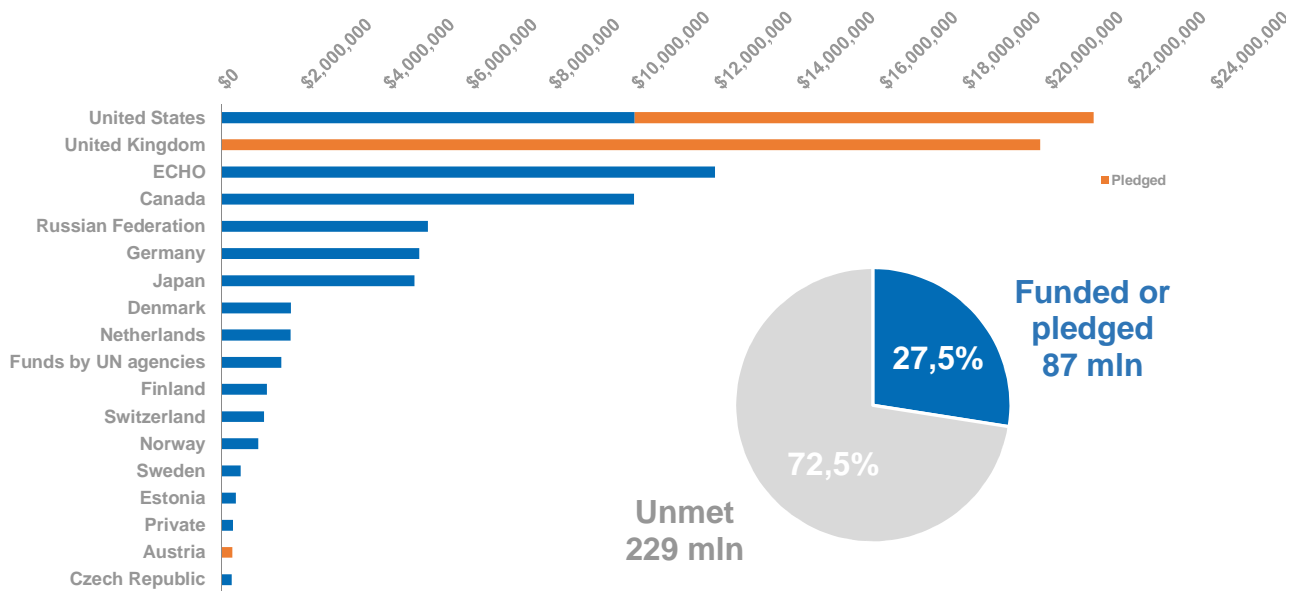
Following the launch of the revised HRP 2015 for Ukraine on 25 February, which appeals to the generosity of the international community to fund life-saving activities targeting 3.2 million people across Ukraine, as of 22 May donors funded or pledged around US\$87 million, or 27.5 percent of the \$316 million required. This includes \$55.7 million (17.6 per cent) that has been disbursed by donors, while another \$31.1 million has been pledged (9.9 per cent), but not yet disbursed. Inadequate funding coupled with the limited number of partners on the ground prevents many cluster partners from expanding their activities to meet the needs of thousands of people.

On 11 May, Norway announced its contribution of 40 million Norwegian Kroner (about US\$5.5 million) to humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. Special priority is being given to humanitarian protection of civilians and schooling for children affected by the crisis.

On 15 May, Switzerland sent a convoy carrying 300 metric tonnes (MT) of chemical water treatment products to eastern Ukraine to supply approximately 3.5 million people in need in the Donetsk region (both GCA and NGCA) with clean drinking water.

On 14 May, a convoy of 50 vehicles from the Russian Federation arrived in areas beyond Government control to deliver aid. On 21 May, another convoy of 51 vehicles from the Russian Federation arrived in the areas beyond Government control to deliver aid.

OCHA records all humanitarian contributions through its Financial Tracking Service (FTS). Please register your contributions by emailing fts@un.org or through the online contribution form at fts.unocha.org.



Source: Financial Tracking System (FTS)

Humanitarian Response website (<http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/ukraine>) aims to strengthen information sharing among the humanitarian community in Ukraine and beyond. It is easy to navigate and provides useful overview of contacts, events/meetings, key documents, maps and infographics, statistics and other operational data. Each cluster has a dedicated page to upload cluster-specific information.

For further information, please contact:

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OCHA Ukraine situation updates and other reports are available at: <http://reliefweb.int/country/ukr>
 To be added or removed from this situation update mailing list, please e-mail: Kutsel@un.org, kalinina@un.org