

Field Unit CO Kyiv



Introduction

UNHCR Kyiv IDP Field Unit together with partner organizations CrimeaSOS (since 2014), Tenth of April (since 2016) and Right to Protection (R2P, since April 2018) work to protect the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in central and western Ukraine. In 2018, activities include protection and community work with the displaced and the local population in 19 regions of central and western Ukraine; legal and individual assistance; advocacy at various levels of government, and other relevant actors on protecting rights of IDPs.

Protection

Providing protection and humanitarian assistance to the displaced population is based on advocating for the rights of IDPs, monitoring their situation, the related legislation, and addressing their protection concerns through individual and community work. UNHCR's main principle is to ensure the participation of various age groups, gender, and diversity (vulnerable groups and ethnic/religious minorities) in all of its activities.

Advocacy: UNHCR understands advocacy as a deliberate process to directly or indirectly influence decision makers, stakeholders, and relevant audiences to support the implementation of policies and legislation to improve the protection environment for persons of concern. Advocacy work is based on specific expertise in international law, mainstreaming age, gender, and diversity, while being underpinned by rights-based and community-based approaches. UNHCR conducts advocacy in coordination with its partners R2P and Tenth of April. The main concerns jointly addressed through advocacy work by the UNHCR Kyiv Country Office, as well as the Sub and Field Offices, relate to freedom of movement, payment of pensions and social assistance, Housing Land and Property rights, and achieving durable solutions.

Legal assistance: UNHCR's partners in central and western Ukraine, R2P and Tenth of April, provide primary and secondary legal assistance, court representation, and when necessary, assist with the payment of court fees for the most vulnerable IDPs. Currently, UNHCR is working

on strengthening collaboration with state funded Free Legal Aid Centres across Ukraine to improve access to legal assistance to its persons of concern.

Protection monitoring is an activity to monitor the situation of displaced populations regularly. The objective is to identify widespread patterns of protection concerns to be addressed through advocacy, legal and/or individual assistance or community mobilization. Findings of the monitoring reports are also shared with wider audiences, such as donors, operational partners, and the public. Main needs of IDPs are access to social benefits, adequate living conditions, and medical assistance to the vulnerable groups.

Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) is provided in the form of cash or material assistance to vulnerable IDPs in need of urgent help or finding themselves in life-threatening situations. The decision to assist the selected beneficiaries is taken by a committee comprised of UNHCR and partner staff, and is based on IPA Standard Operating Procedures. Examples include a family newly displaced from Crimea to Kherson without any family or community support in need of urgent accommodation for their first days of their displacement; an IDP who needs a sudden cash assistance in the absence of social payments or other income, or until legal assistance can restore their social assistance payments or other income.

Community work: UNHCR and partners continuously work with IDP communities to empower individuals and communities. The main goal is to emphasize communities' self-determination and strengthen their capacity to address protection concerns and resolve issues directly and jointly with local authorities. Examples of such initiatives educational activities for children and elderly members of the community, improve physical access of persons with disabilities to their residential premises, youth community centers fighting against HIV and other types of discrimination.

Capacity building: UNHCR values continuous learning and encourages strengthening the capacity of all actors involved in protecting the rights of IDPs, including by training or enabling training opportunities for relevant government actors and partner organizations. The aim is to build on their knowledge and skills in order to improve their capacity to deliver assistance to persons of concern. Examples include training for staff of the local departments of social policy and pension funds, Free Legal Aid Centres.

Priority needs and main gaps

IDPs face numerous challenges in their place of displacement, some of which are related to access to social benefits, adequate living, and medical assistance.

Access to social benefits: The verification of the place of residence of IDPs is ongoing and the payment of pensions and social assistance remains suspended or denied for a number of people. Reinstatement of pensions and social assistance remains a lengthy process due to a large number of persons undergoing the verification procedure and the lack of capacity of regional Department of Social Protection offices. The regulations do not provide for specific treatment for the most vulnerable.

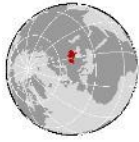
Access to adequate living: The majority of IDPs in central and western Ukraine continuously struggle to find adequate and affordable accommodation. This becomes particularly problematic for vulnerable IDPs, such as those with disabilities and older persons. Knowing these challenges, some of the IDPs living in collective centres refuse to move out of these centres, even though conditions in many of the facilities do not meet necessary basic requirements and do not meet long-term needs.

CONTACTS

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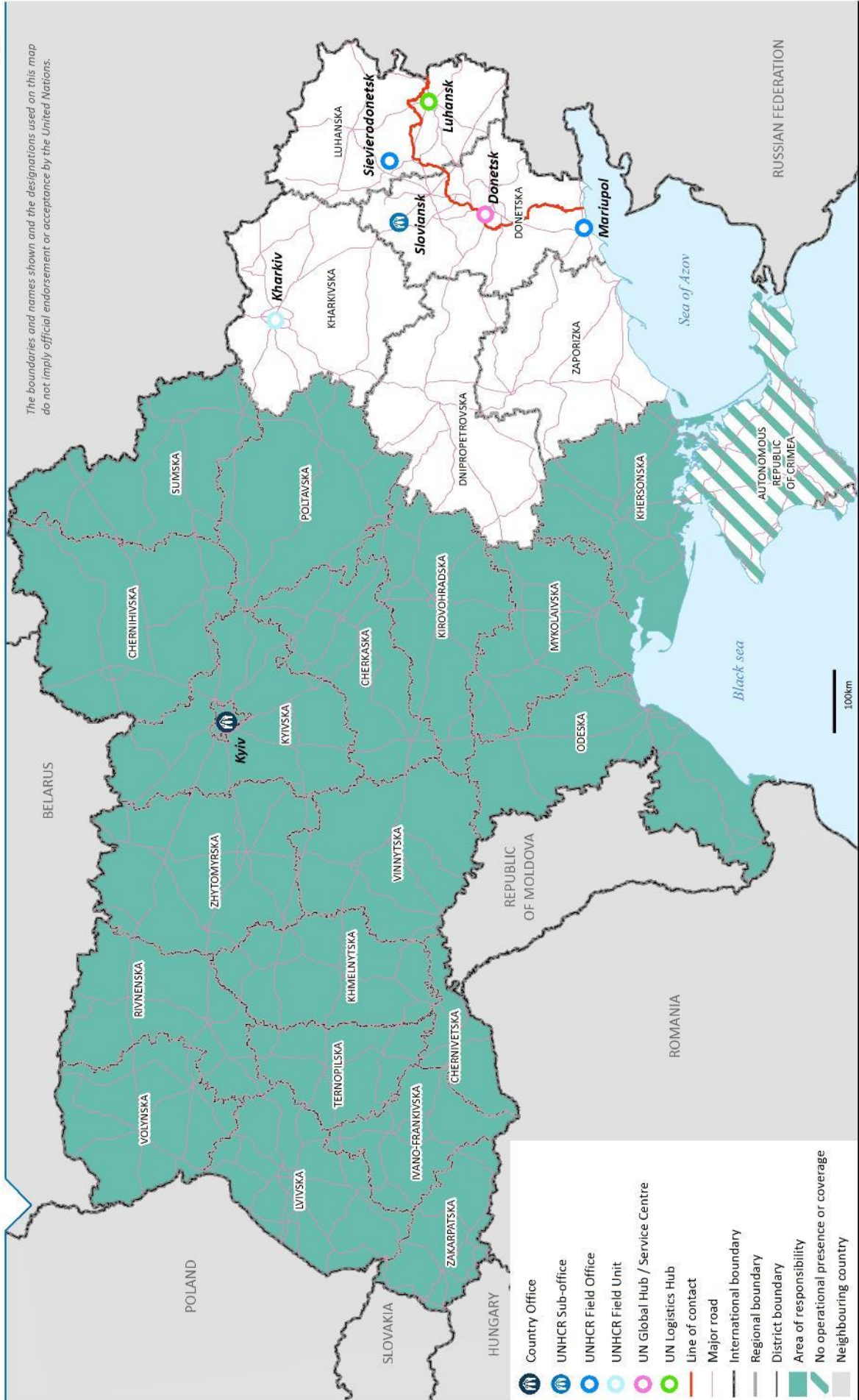
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Ukraine: Area of responsibility of Kyiv IDP Field Unit

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



- Country Office
- UNHCR Sub-office
- UNHCR Field Office
- UNHCR Field Unit
- UN Global Hub / Service Centre
- UN Logistics Hub
- Line of contact
- Major road
- International boundary
- Regional boundary
- District boundary
- Area of responsibility
- No operational presence or coverage
- Neighbouring country

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