

Operational Update

August 2018

UNHCR coordinated the delivery of humanitarian convoys. In total, **ten** trucks with shelter material reached Donetsk region. The materials will be used for the repair of 110 damaged houses.

UNHCR partners have conducted **643 protection monitoring visits in seven regions.** UNHCR focused most of its visits to conflict affected villages located along the 'Contact Line' in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Since 2015, **150,000 displaced and conflict affected persons** have benefited from support provided by **79 community centres** that have either been repaired, constructed or reconstructed by UNHCR in different regions of Ukraine.

KEY INDICATORS

13,080

IDPs and other conflict-affected persons received legal assistance from UNHCR partners in first 8 months of 2018.

597

Vulnerable IDPs or conflict-affected persons have been selected to receive individual protection assistance through cash assistance (IPA) in 2018.

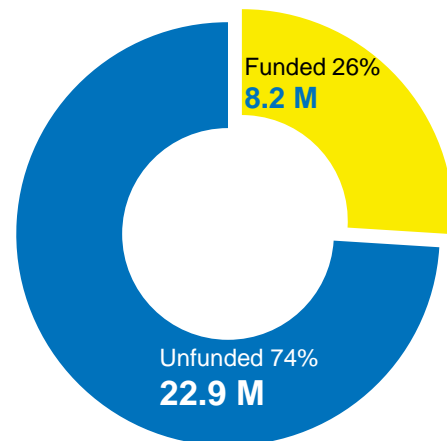
467

Households in eastern Ukraine have had their homes repaired or reconstructed (including other

FUNDING (AS OF 11 SEPTEMBER)

USD 31.1 M

requested for Ukraine

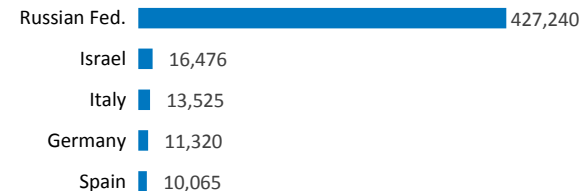


UNHCR supported a summer camp for children with disabilities in Karapyshy village (south of Kyiv). In total, 450 children, many of them displaced from the crisis in eastern Ukraine, took part, 136 of them with disabilities. Photo: UNHCR.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDP)* AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS**

1.8 million***

ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM UKRAINE****



* Residing more permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA).

** Estimated number of conflict-affected persons living along the line of contact in GCAs and non-government controlled areas (NGCA).

*** Source: 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

**** Source (external displacement): Russian Federation (as of December 2016), Israel (as of July 2018): respective government authorities, UNHCR. EU Countries: EUROSTAT (as of July 2018).

External displacement data refers to the total number of asylum applications by Ukrainians (first time applications) in the top five receiving countries since the beginning of the Ukraine situation in January 2014.

Operational Highlights

On 22 August 2018, the 'harvest ceasefire' was replaced by the 'school ceasefire' negotiated at the Trilateral Contact Group meeting in Minsk. Overall, the summer of 2018 has seen the least number of ceasefire violations since the beginning of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, according to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM). Nevertheless, there was an escalation at the end of August that resulted in casualties and damages to private houses, especially in the villages of Krasnohorivka, Myronivsky, Marinka, Verkhniotoretske and Vrubivka. UNHCR has been continuously monitoring the situation, including with onsite visits. In **Vrubivka**, where 47 houses were damaged and one civilian killed, UNHCR and partners responded with emergency shelter assistance to affected families as well as protection advocacy. Although the village of Vrubivka has been affected by the conflict, it is not considered by the authorities as qualifying for conflict-related benefits for its population. Therefore, UNHCR NGO partner Proliska has been advocating for Vrubivka and other five villages in close proximity to the 'Contact Line' to be included in the list of settlements that are affected by conflict so that the residents are also eligible for financial support from the authorities. The other five villages include Loskutivka, Novozvanivka, Bila Gora, Pravdivka and Novotroitske.

Additionally, UNHCR has visited the village of **Novooleksandrivka**, which is located along the 'Contact Line' and returned to Ukrainian control in January this year. However, because of the absence of state services, fewer than 20 people remain there out of a population of 120+ in the beginning of the year. The village also has possible mine and UXO contamination due to its proximity to the 'Contact Line'. UNHCR has also been advocating with authorities for access to be provided to other actors, such as NGO partner Proliska, as well as resumption of pension payments. Since January 2018, UNHCR and Proliska have been able to deliver NFI kits to its residents. UNHCR has also assisted two elderly women with disabilities to access their pensions.

UNHCR's protection presence and monitoring in eastern Ukraine has also allowed for the identification of potential **Peaceful Coexistence Projects (PCP)**. PCPs cover various areas of assistance to conflict-affected communities, including facilitation of access to health services, psychosocial support, safe access to education, peacebuilding and social cohesion, community mobilization as well as access to and registration for pensions and social payments. Since 2015, UNHCR has finalized **79 community projects** and more are planned for this year. For instance in the village of Novhorodske, where the population of 12,600 people has welcomed around 1,000 IDPs, UNHCR has started a PCP located in the premises of the town council that will facilitate the access to a wide variety of social services, including for persons with disabilities.



Although the government restored control in the village of Novooleksandrivka 7 months ago, there are still no social services available. UNHCR humanitarian aid in settlements like this is particularly crucial.

UNHCR Ukraine's Information Management Products' links

- [Registration of Internal Displacement in Ukraine](#)
- [Checkpoint crossing along the 'Contact Line' on a monthly basis](#)
- [UNHCR Ukraine Shelter and Non-Food Items activities follow up in 2018](#)
- [UNHCR Ukraine NGO partners](#)

Empowering displaced young persons: “Youth Empowerment Seminar”

On 28 to 31 August 2018, in cooperation with the Council of Europe, UNHCR organized in Kyiv region a seminar for refugee, IDP and Ukrainian youth entitled “*Youth Empowerment Seminar: Building Community Initiatives*”. 46 young participants from nine nationalities took part and learned new skill sets aimed at making them active participants in their local communities across Ukraine and construct a more cohesive and tolerant society. The event was a continuation of the *Youth Empowerment Week-*



end organized in Kyiv in 2017, which has already yielded positive results, such as the establishment of an NGO in Odessa by a young refugee from Afghanistan.

Photo to the left: The event included non-formal education methodologies that combined peer-to-peer learning, group discussions, debates and presentations. This enabled the young participants seen here to acquire knowledge on human rights and inclusion, as well as how to conduct needs analysis and develop community projects aimed at facilitating local integration.

Joint BPRM-USAID Mission to eastern Ukraine

On 6 August 2018, UNHCR facilitated a visit of PRM’s Regional Refugee Coordinator (Mr. Jonathan Leif Hayes), together with PRM Desk Officer covering Ukraine (Mr. Srdan Sadikovic) and USAID OFDA (Mr. Bryan Schaaf) to eastern Ukraine to monitor projects supported by U.S. funding and meet with UNHCR Partners in the cities of Sviatohirsk, Sloviansk and Kramatorsk. The delegation learned about the concerns of the IDPs who are forced to live in poor conditions in collective centres, which includes elderly people and persons with disabilities. PRM also met with UNHCR’s protection partners Proliska, R2P and Slavic Heart.



In the town of Sviatohirsk, BPRM delegation met with the staff of UNHCR Partner Slavic Heart. Along with 4,500 local population, there are around 6,000 IDPs residing in Sviatohirsk. The U.S. officials learned that worsening of psycho-emotional state of IDPs and local population is the concern of growing importance, as employment opportunities are scarce while the town is deprived of any social services, pension fund and proper medical facilities. The only social service available in the town is the community centre created with the support of UNHCR.

Ukraine’s new UN RC/HC visits UNHCR activities and persons of concern

On 1 August, the new UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian (RC/HC), Ms. Osnat Lubrani, visited an IDP community centre in Irpin’ (Kyiv region) rehabilitated by UNHCR in 2015 where she held discussions with IDP women. Ms. Lubrani learned from IDPs about the positive impact of their Community Centre; their challenges on accessing housing; IDPs who are returning to NGCA because of financial difficulties in their hosting areas as well as challenges with voting rights. IDPs also explained that they feel like “foreigners” in their own country as they do not enjoy the same rights as other Ukrainian citizens. On 23 August 2018, the RC/HC visited eastern Ukraine with UNHCR and visited the Maiorsk entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) and the Community centre “KvARTal”, a “Quick Impact



Project” implemented by UNHCR in Bakhmut in 2017, which provides a wide range of social services and boosts cohesion between IDPs and host community.



REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS

Protection of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

- UNHCR facilitated a **protection intervention** which annulled a court decision regarding an asylum-seeker that was going to be forcibly returned to a country where his life may have been at risk.
- UNHCR expressed concern to various state authorities regarding the **overcrowding of Migrant Custody Centres** (MCC) in Chernihivska, Volynska and Mykolaivska where sanitary conditions have strongly deteriorated.
- Within the framework of collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on the project the “*New Face of the Border*”, UNHCR partner Tenth of April **trained 13 police officers in Odesa** on refugee and asylum related issues.
- 118 asylum seekers and refugees** who have children starting the school year in Kyiv, Odesa, Zakarpattya and Kharkiv regions received financial support by UNHCR for purchasing school uniforms.

700

Protection counselling sessions were provided to persons of concern in Kyiv, Odesa and Zakarpattya regions

800

Legal consultations provided to persons of concern in Kyiv, Odesa and Zakarpattya regions

19

Home Visits to unaccompanied minors living in child care facilities and foster families

3

Cases of extremely vulnerable refugees departed Ukraine on resettlement

One

refugee has been selected to participate in the German-funded DAFI scholarship programme

Livelihoods of Refugees and Asylum

- On 6 August 2018, some **30 refugee youth** benefitted from **motivational training courses by MBA Kids** in partnership with UNHCR and Charitable Foundation Rokada. The training involved courses by successful Ukrainian business leaders and included the development of entrepreneurial

87

Refugees and asylum seekers received counselling on self-reliance grants by UNHCR partner Caritas

9

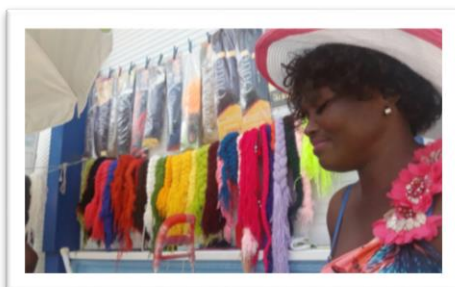
Refugees found jobs thanks to job-matching efforts by UNHCR partner Caritas

20

Refugees started business thanks to UNHCR self-reliance grants

10

Refugees started language courses online thanks to volunteers



Meet Odette, one of the **20 refugees** who have received a self-reliance grant for starting their own business. Originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Odette has found in Ukraine a home and started her own beauty parlour in a small resort town in southern Ukraine where she does African hair braiding for tourists.

Assistance to Stateless Persons and Persons at Risk of Statelessness

- UNHCR's partner, NEEKA undertook **12 visits** to Roma camps in Mukachevo and Berehove districts of Zakarpattia region. During these visits, **39 persons** at risk of statelessness were counselled on a number of issues, including access to civil documentation. UNHCR prioritizes assistance to undocumented people. The absence of a birth certificate prevents one from accessing social services or obtain a passport.



Meet Ludwig, father of Matilda, a 12 year old daughter who had not been registered at birth and lacked a birth certificate. Thanks to UNHCR's partner R2P, the stateless situation of Matilda has been resolved and here Ludwig can be seen receiving his daughter's birth certificate. Now, Ludwig can file an application to the State Migration Service for his daughter to obtain a Ukrainian passport and live life as a fully-fledged citizen.



Protection and assistance to internally displaced and conflict-affected persons

Protection

Protection Cluster

- The protection situation for conflict-affected and displaced people in Ukraine continues to be serious with ongoing armed conflict, restrictions on freedom of movement, continued trade blockade between government-controlled and non-government controlled territory and suspension of social benefits. A recent assessment found that 71% of households applied negative coping strategies in NGCA and 78% of households in GCA – the highest level since April 2016.
- Risk of statelessness constitutes another protection concern, with an estimated 57% of births in NGCA not registered in GCA. Only 477,000 IDPs continued to receive pensions as of July 2018, which is a 40% decrease from April 2017. Nearly 30,000 people reside in villages in GCA where there are restrictions on the freedom of movement.
- Psychosocial distress is widely reported among all age groups in both GCA and NGCA, while assistance is limited and lack of MHPSS services remains one of the key protection gaps in areas along the 'Contact Line' and in NGCA.

Protection Monitoring

- In August, UNHCR partner R2P conducted **85 monitoring visits** to five entry-exit checkpoints (EECPs) and surveyed and counselled **2,506 people** crossing the 'Contact Line'. Over 50 percent of respondents were over the age of 60. The full report can be found [here](#).

Legal Assistance/Protection Counselling

- UNHCR legal partner R2P conducted **three** interventions at the national level regarding **access to social and economic rights of IDPs**.
- In Mariupol, R2P prepared **100 documents** on pre-trial matters and 27 court appeals. R2P resolved 28 court cases with a positive outcome. Most of the cases involved reestablishing social payments and pensions and ascertaining facts of birth and death registered of persons residing in NGCA.

1,849

Legal assistance

Provided to IDPs and conflict affected persons, 50% of those are elderly.

3,155

Persons provided with complex consultations, 52% of those are elderly.

SGBV

- In August, UNHCR provided psychological support for **two SGBV survivors**. As these are IDPs, both persons will also receive IPA.

Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

488

IPA Cash Beneficiaries

During the month of August, UNHCR transferred individual protection assistance in the form of cash to 488 beneficiaries to Ukrposhta (state post office), through which these people receive their individual financial support.



Meet Victor a beneficiary of UNHCR's IPA cash programme who suffers from a heart disease and his daughter, from cerebral palsy. Victor has worked in mining rescue and has saved around 500 miners during his 50 year career. Victor is an IDP from Donetsk city where his house was heavily damaged by shelling. Every day, despite his heart conditions, Victor regularly rides his motorbike to the only grocery store in a faraway village to bring back supplies to his family. Victor will use the cash received by UNHCR to do a medical check on his heart, which he has scheduled for the coming days.

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter and NFIs Cluster

- During the reporting period, the Shelter/NFI Cluster ran consultations among partners for the finalisation of the Shelter/NFI part of the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), preparatory to the launch of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The document

stipulates that shelter needs in GCA may be completely covered by the end of 2019, while complete coverage of shelter needs in NGCA will require at least five more years. The document also suggests limiting NFI needs to emergency kits and helping authorities to respond to conflict-related emergencies. It also identifies winterization assistance as the largest life-saving activity in the country.

- **House-damage tracking:** The Cluster continues to track new damages to residential premises. In July and August 2018, 111 houses were reported damaged as a consequence of military activities. The month of July - with a total of 25 houses damaged - was the calmest month of 2018 (after January), August - with 86 - marked a significant increase. However, the total number of damages registered in the first 8 months of the year still represents only around 1/6 of the estimated damages in the correspondent period of 2017 (631 vs 3,750).

Shelter and NFI Achievements, Impact, and Identified Needs

- In 2018, UNHCR has repaired [467 houses](#) of vulnerable families in eastern Ukraine. For more details, please, check our updated [dashboard](#).

Working in partnership

The humanitarian response to displacement in Ukraine is a coordinated effort by the Government, international organizations, national and international NGOs. In providing support to persons of concern, UNHCR works closely with the Government of Ukraine. In the case of IDPs, on 10 October 2016, UNHCR signed a Letter of Understanding with the [Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons](#). UNHCR works together with [14 NGO partners](#). UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and Shelter/Non-food Item (NFI), Cluster, the latter being co-chaired together with [People in Need](#).

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical financial support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and un-earmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS TO UKRAINE | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 8.2 million**.

United States of America 2.2 million | European Union 2.1 million | Sweden 1.3 million | CERF 0.8 million | Japan 0.7 million | Canada 0.6 million | Russian Federation 0.2 million | Estonia 0.2 million | Private donors

BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation, or to the region or sub-region.

United States of America 28.7 million | Private donors Australia 8.6 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Sweden 98.2 million | Private donors Spain 52.0 million | Norway 42.5 million | Netherlands 39.1 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Denmark 25.5 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 25.4 million |

Switzerland 15.2 million | France 14 million | Germany 13.7 million | Private donors Italy 13.5 |
Private donors Japan 13 million | Italy 11.2 million

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