

INDIVIDUAL PROTECTION ASSISTANCE (IN-KIND)

February 2020



Varvara*, 79, lives by herself in a conflict-affected neighborhood of Donetsk city. Like many other people of her age, she was forced to remain in a conflict-affected area, despite regular shelling and other challenges, as she has no family members left to turn to for help. Due to the continued conflict near her home in 2019, Varvara's delicate health condition degraded due to stress and lack of medical facilities. She was eventually diagnosed with cancer and has since survived no less than three surgeries. During a protection home visit, UNHCR and its NGO partner, the Donbas Development Centre (DDC), together with Varvara, identified the most pressing basic items she would need for a more dignified life. As a result, Varvara was provided with a walker, a blood pressure measuring device, an orthopedic mattress, a pillow and a blanket. This meant a significant improvement of living conditions for Varvara who has been unable to travel to the government-controlled side of the 'contact line' in eastern Ukraine to claim her pension. Photo by DDC.

Individual protection assistance 'in-kind' is provided by UNHCR and its NGO partners to internally displaced and conflict-affected persons in eastern Ukraine as part of UNHCR's Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) programme. Similar to the 'cash for protection' individual assistance on the government-controlled side of the 'contact line', 'in-kind' assistance is used exclusively on the non-government controlled side. The assistance is decided together with the beneficiary and is provided to cover different types of protection needs. The assistance can range from winterization assistance, to livelihood, assistive and medical items. This one-time 'in-kind' assistance aims at preventing the exposure of conflict-affected persons to continued protection risks and harm. Examples of this one-time 'in-kind' assistance includes household items, clothing, medical and/or other equipment to meet protection needs and ensure an adequate standard of living. Such assistance is distributed directly by UNHCR and its partners. In 2019, the assistance included various dignity enhancing items such as specialized disability assistance equipment, cushions for wheelchairs, blood glucose monitoring equipment, various furniture items, fridges to preserve food, winter clothing, warm blankets, blood pressure measurement devices, school equipment for children and radiators against the cold. In 2019, 595 persons benefitted from UNHCR's IPA in-kind assistance.



IPA
in-kind

595

Persons received
IPA-kind in 2019



74%
Female



26%
Male



37%
People with
disabilities

Individual Protection Assistance (in-kind) Impact

Tetyana, 35*, lives with her husband and two sons in the **city of Donetsk**. In 2014, at the onset of the conflict, the family fled and sought refuge in the Russian Federation. However, as they faced different challenges such as finding a proper job, the family thought it was better to return to their home in conflict-affected Donetsk. Upon their return, they found that their house had been slightly damaged by the conflict and needed some minor repairs to prevent from getting cold in winter. Tetyana's husband has a disability and is unable to provide for their family. A large proportion of the family's income is spent on food and hygiene products for their one-year-old son Maksym*. This means that they had no additional funds to repair their home and for other pressing needs, such as clothes for their elder son to go to school or to purchase basic home appliances. Therefore, an **individual protection 'in-kind' assistance** in the form of **bed linen, warm blankets, children winter clothes and shoes** was provided. These items allowed for their oldest child, Denys*, to access education and for the family to invest their limited savings in repairing their home. *Photo by UNHCR NGO partner.*



Oleksandra*, 90, lives by herself in the city of Donetsk and has no relatives to rely on for support. The continuous stress experienced during the years of conflict has severely degraded her health. Unfortunately, she lives in an area where there is very little health care support. Also, because of her low mobility, she is unable to access her pension which is distributed on the government-controlled side. Like Oleksandra, persons who live in the non-government controlled side are required to travel back to the government-controlled side every three months in order to undergo a regular identification procedure and access pension. During UNHCR's home visit, Oleksandra explained her most pressing needs. As a result, she received a **blood pressure measuring device, bed linen and towels, hygiene products and an electrical kettle**. Thanks to these items, she is now able to monitor her overall health and keep herself warm during the cold winters. *Photo by UNHCR's NGO partner.*



Svitlana*, 76, from the city of Donetsk, was diagnosed with diabetes two years ago and is now fully insulin-dependent. In 2019, her health further deteriorated, and she underwent a complex hip surgery. Therefore, Svitalana needed support in receiving a certificate that confirms her disability status, and regular medical assistance. However, because of her mobility-related challenges, she was unable to travel to GCA for her regular identification procedure, which is required to confirm her identity every three months in order to receive a state pension. Thus, she was practically left without any source of income. To make matters worse, she no longer has any family in Donetsk to support her. Therefore, UNHCR and its NGO partner provided individual protection 'in-kind' assistance to Svitalana in the form of a **wheelchair**, which has increased her mobility and has enabled her to become more autonomous. Today, Svitalana is able to move around her neighborhood in order to purchase small goods and to participate in community life. *Photo by UNHCR's NGO partner.*



**Please note that the names of persons who appear in this report have been changed for their protection.*

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