

UKRAINE COVID-19 Response



UNHCR's NGO partner Proliska noticed the presence of children in a village where they were distributing Protective Face Masks to local villagers. Therefore, they surprised the children by also distributing teddy bears. Photo by Proliska.



This week, Vodafone Ukraine stepped in to support vulnerable elderly persons residing near the contact line by providing them with free phone credits. Read more below. Photo by Proliska.



UNHCR jointly with its NGO partners distributed sanitizing hygiene products to collective centres for persons that had been displaced by the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Photo by UNHCR



Partnership with Vodafone: This week, Vodafone Ukraine has demonstrated solidarity with elderly persons residing in isolated villages in east Ukraine by providing them with free cellular credits. Because of quarantine restrictions, public transportation has been cancelled leaving many without access to larger towns where phone credits were normally purchased. Thanks to these phone credits, these persons with specific needs are now able to reach their family doctors, order life-saving medicine and/or order food. The beneficiaries were selected and the phone numbers collected by UNHCR and its NGO partner Proliska.



Supporting local authorities to deliver critical protection services safely

- **Support to collective centres hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs):** UNHCR and its NGO partners the Right to Protection (R2P) and Slavic Heart distributed 132 kits of sanitizing hygiene products to 43 collective centres hosting IDPs in five regions of Ukraine - Zaporizhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkivska, Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts. In total, approximately 4,000 persons displaced by the conflict in eastern Ukraine currently reside in these centres.
- **Support to Departments of Social Protection (DoSP):** UNHCR and its NGO partners provided sanitizing hygiene products to the DoSP in Marinka and Volnovaha districts in Donetsk oblasts and Popasna district in Luhanska oblast. These will be used by the DoSP social workers who are supporting persons with specific needs in isolated settlements along the 'contact line'.
- **Support to social institutions in Donetsk non-government controlled areas (NGCA):** On 4 May, UNHCR and its NGO partner the Donbas Development Centre (DDC) started the distribution of sanitizing hygiene products to social institutions in Donetsk NGCA. In total, UNHCR will distribute these products to 32 territorial centres and 33 collective centres for displaced and conflict-affected persons in Donetsk NGCA.



Convoys and supply to NGCA: Jointly with OCHA, UNHCR co-leads the Logistics Working Group responsible for humanitarian convoys into NGCA. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, two UN convoys have crossed into NGCA Donetsk. However, those were limited to medical, hygiene, food and COVID-19-related items. Therefore, UNHCR has **not** been unable to send supplies related to its regular programmes such as materials for shelter repairs and Peaceful Coexistence Projects. Furthermore, humanitarian convoys have **not** been permitted to reach NGCA Luhansk. In a positive twist, starting on 4 May, the warehouse of UNHCR's NGO partner the *Donbas Development Centre* is no longer blocked, allowing for the distribution sanitizers, paper towels, liquid soap for social institutions located in Donetsk NGCA.



Cash-Based Interventions for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

454

families of refugees and asylum-seekers supported with cash assistance in May

UNHCR will provide a next tranche of one-time emergency cash assistance to an additional **454 refugees and asylum-seekers families**. Among them are vulnerable households, including those who lost their primary source of income due to quarantine measures, serious medical conditions and at risk of homelessness. They will receive on average of UAH 3,500 (approximately USD 130) to cover their most urgent needs.