

Operational Update

September 2020

In September, the Government of Ukraine adopted Decree #947, providing a long-advocated administrative mechanism for the compensation of property destroyed as a result of the conflict. UNHCR will monitor this process and provide necessary support to those entitled to compensations. See *UNHCR Ukraine's Advocacy Messages on page 3*.

UNHCR resumed its shelter activities in the non-government controlled areas (NGCA) in Luhansk. This became possible after UNHCR delivered a humanitarian convoy with over 90 metric tons of shelter materials across the 'contact line'. *More operational highlights on page 2*.

With support from the Embassies of Norway and Switzerland, UNHCR organized an online ceremony to hand over the Europe Regional Winner of the Nansen Refugee Award to Ukrainian human rights activist Tetiana Barantsova. She was selected for this prestigious award for her efforts helping IDPs and conflict-affected persons with disabilities in Ukraine. *More on page 4*.

KEY INDICATORS

10,643

Internally displaced (IDPs) and other conflict-affected persons have received **legal assistance** from UNHCR's NGO partners in 2020.

438

Shelters have been repaired in conflict-affected areas on both sides of the 'contact line'.

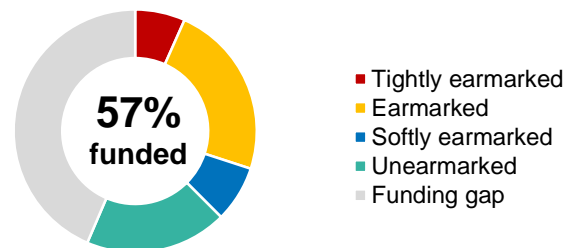
1,397

IDPs and other conflict-affected persons have benefited from **psychosocial support** in 2020.

FUNDING (AS OF 7 OCTOBER 2020)

USD 29.8 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2020



Tetiana Barantsova fell and broke her spine while doing gymnastics at school when she was just 10 years old. She managed to turn her disability into her strength and has become a powerful advocate for persons with disabilities in Ukraine. Since 2014, an IDP herself, Tetiana helped over 5,000 displaced persons with disabilities who had to flee their homes in eastern Ukraine. In September, Tetiana was selected as Europe Regional Winner of the Nansen Refugee Award. Read her story and get a glimpse of the award ceremony [here](#).

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS)*

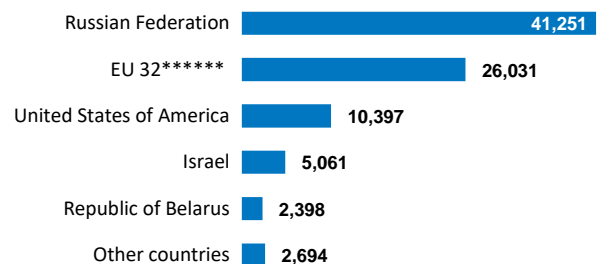
734,000**

OTHER CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS***

1,68 million****

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS FROM UKRAINE

87,832*****



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

**Source: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)

***Vulnerable, conflict-affected persons living along the 'contact line' in GCA and non-government controlled areas (NGCA)


****Sources: Protection Cluster, UNHCR, 2020

*****Source: UNHCR's Refugee Population Statistics, December 2019

*****27 EU countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom

Operational Highlights

In September, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)'s Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) recorded 669 ceasefire violations in eastern Ukraine. This represents a 14 per cent increase, as compared to August. During the reporting period, the UNHCR-led Shelter/NFI Cluster reported about 15 civilian houses that had been damaged or destroyed as a result of the conflict. These were the first damages recorded by the Cluster since the renewed commitment to the ceasefire came into effect in July 2020.

 **UNHCR's Convoy with Shelter Materials reached Luhansk NGCA:** On 10 September, UNHCR delivered a humanitarian convoy carrying construction materials for its shelter programme in Luhansk NGCA. This was the first time that UNHCR was able to deliver a humanitarian convoy to Luhansk NGCA through Donetsk NGCA since COVID-19 movement restrictions were imposed in March. In total, ten trucks transferred over 90 metric tons of materials for house repairs. With the arrival of the convoy, UNHCR resumed its shelter activities implemented through a private contractor in Luhansk NGCA (for more, see page 10). *Photo by UNHCR on the right.*



UNHCR's Response to COVID-19: In September, the Ministry of Health recorded a significant increase in COVID-19 cases throughout Ukraine. In conflict-affected Donetska and Luhanska oblasts, 2,835 new cases were reported, or a 164 per cent increase, as compared to August. During the reporting month, UNHCR distributed 90 bottles (5L each) of alcohol-based cleaning liquid to the Social Centres for Youth, Children and Families in Popasna, Stanytsia Luhanska and Novoaidar districts and Sievierodonetsk city in Luhanska oblast in order to support efforts aimed at maintaining proper hygiene conditions. In total, since the start of the pandemic, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partners launched 50 Peaceful Coexistence Projects (PCPs) and Quick Impact Projects (QIPs), as well as 47

Community Support Initiatives (CSIs) to improve the preparedness of medical facilities and social services providers on both sides of the 'contact line'. *Photo by Proliska on the left.*



Supporting Families Affected by the Wildfires in Luhanska oblast:

In September, massive wildfires in Luhanska oblast caused significant damages in localities along the 'contact line'. By the end of the reporting period, four persons had died and several hundred were evacuated from the affected areas. Approximately two hundred houses were damaged by fires, including homes of persons displaced as a result of the conflict. After the fires spread to the areas near the Entry-Exit Checkpoint (EECP) in Stanytsia Luhanska, the operation of the checkpoint was suspended from 30 September to 5 October. UNHCR is involved in assessing the needs of affected persons. As an initial response, UNHCR and its NGO partner Proliska provided 50 thermal blankets, hygiene items, food and water, as well as psychosocial support to persons who lost their homes. *Photo by Proliska on the right.*



Situation at the EECPs and UNHCR Response:

During the reporting period, the State Border Guards Service of Ukraine (SGBS) recorded 85,799 crossings across the 'contact line' in eastern Ukraine (see UNHCR's dashboard "Checkpoint Crossing" here). This represents a 6 per cent increase compared to August. At the same time, the number of crossings remains significantly lower compared to the same period in 2019 (a 93 per cent decrease). Of the five EECPs in eastern Ukraine, only two checkpoints in Stanytsia Luhanska (Luhanska oblast) and Novotroitske/Olenivka (Donetska oblast) were able to function with restrictions. At the Novotroitske/Olenivka EECP, eight "humanitarian corridors" were authorized by the de facto authorities according to pre-approved lists allowing for 2,557 persons to cross the 'contact line' in both directions. Since 18 September, people waiting for permission to cross through this EECP, were no longer staying overnight in the tents of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU). The Donetsk Oblast Administration accommodated them in a social centre in the town of Druzhkivka. Throughout the reporting period, UNHCR advocated with the state and regional authorities for allocation of funds to ensure the provision of food at the health facility in Hostre which serves as an observation point for those who crossed from NGCA. Currently, these needs are covered by humanitarian actors who can provide food and in-kind assistance until October. At the Stanytsia Luhanska EECP, 83,202 crossings were recorded in September. Of them, 16,147 individuals were transported by two electric cars operated by UNHCR and its NGO partner Proliska to help persons with specific needs to cross an 800-metres long passage between the two sides of the checkpoint. As there were no vacant places in the observation facilities in Luhanska oblast, on average three persons stayed under the shed overnight at the neutral area at this EECP daily.

Legal Highlights

- On 4 September 2020, UNHCR submitted to the [State Migration Service \(SMS\)](#) its comments on the [draft by-law on Statelessness Determination Procedure \(SDP\)](#). In the document, UNHCR reinforced the importance of ensuring that applications are not rejected without issuing a written decision by the relevant authorities. UNHCR also urged the SMS to share the final draft of the by-law prior to its submission to the Government and the vote in Parliament due to take place in October, as envisaged by the SDP law.
- On 14 September, the Government registered in the Parliament [draft law #4000](#) introducing amendments to the [Law on the State Budget](#). Most [housing solutions for IDPs](#) budgeted in previous years (affordable housing, “housing for IDP” project, accommodation of formerly deported people) are not foreseen in the draft 2021 budget. The only remaining option is [housing for displaced Anti-Terrorist Operation \(ATO\)/Joint Forces Operation \(JFO\) participants](#). On the positive side, the Ministry for Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories has increased the [funding for subventions to conflict-affected territories](#) (125,000 UAH in comparison with currently assigned 20,000 UAH). The funding of [compensation for destroyed housing has been also increased](#) by 5.7 times (114,000 UAH in comparison with currently assigned 20,000 UAH). Furthermore, new budget lines to ensure proper conditions for crossing through the EECPs and elaborate systems/databases on reintegration and development of rural infrastructure in Luhanska oblast have been included.
- On the same day, the Government registered in Parliament the draft law ["On the passport of a citizen of Ukraine in the form of a booklet"](#) which envisages a [mandatory exchange of national IDs \(passports\) in the form of a booklet for plastic biometric ID-cards](#). The draft law stipulates that when a citizen of Ukraine needs to paste a new photo (upon reaching the age of 25 or 45 years), the passport in the form of a booklet will be replaced by a plastic, biometric ID card.
- On 21 September, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signed [Decree #398/2020](#) aimed at [preventing domestic and gender-based violence \(GBV\)](#). This step comes after Ukraine acceded to the [Biarritz Partnership](#) programme launched by the G7 leaders to consolidate international efforts for achieving gender equality. The decree instructs the Government to develop a programme for the prevention of domestic and GBV for the period until 2025. The decree also envisages an increase of funding and staffing for support services, improving the procedure for children who seek help, in addition to implementing non-violent and non-discriminatory principles into the education processes in schools in order to develop tolerant behaviours.

Key Advocacy Messages for September

- On 5 September, the Government of Ukraine adopted [Decree #947](#) providing an [administrative mechanism for the compensation of property destroyed as a result of the conflict](#). This has long been advocated for by UNHCR, OHCHR, IOM and NGOs (Right to Protection [R2P], DRC, Donbas SOS and NRC). The resolution expects that [damage assessment](#) (inspection of the level of destruction) will be conducted locally, while consideration of individual cases and decision on compensation will be implemented regionally (at the level of two conflict-affected Donetska and Luhanska oblasts). [The Ministry for the Reintegration of Temporary Occupied Territories](#) will be a budget holder for this mechanism. In 2020, [UAH 20 million](#) have been budgeted for compensation of destroyed housing. The [maximum amount to be compensated is 300 thousand UAH per household](#) (approximately USD 10,700 under the current exchange rate). UNHCR welcomes the long-awaited adoption of the mechanism and will monitor developments, strengthening its advocacy for [the 2021 budget allocation](#) enabling to carry out compensations to persons who lost their housing.
- On 28 September, UNHCR used its key advocacy messages on [access to pensions for residents of NGCA](#) residents in light of the COVID-19 pandemic during a [round table “Social Protection of Elderly”](#) hosted by the [Parliamentary Social Policy Committee](#). UNHCR urged the authorities to consider [lifting a requirement of self-isolation/observation for elderly](#) crossing from NGCA to GCA to access banking or other administrative services. The members of the Parliament preliminarily agreed to support the suggested changes vis-à-vis pensioners by paying a short-term visit to GCA.

UNHCR'S AND UNHCR-LED CLUSTER'S RECENT REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS:

[ONE-PAGER] LATEST INFORMATION PRODUCTS: This one-page factsheet includes UNHCR Ukraine's recent products, reports, thematic factsheets, dashboards and UNHCR-led Clusters' reports.

[SNAPSHOT] CROSSING THE CONTACT LINE (SEPTEMBER 2020): This joint UNHCR/R2P thematic update presents key developments at the EECPs in eastern Ukraine in September.

[ADVOCACY] KEY ADVOCACY MESSAGES ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT: These messages reinforce UNHCR Ukraine's advocacy on pensions for residents of NGCA and also includes several points related to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on IDPs conflict-affected persons in Ukraine.



Humanitarian Development Nexus

- Mobilizing Communities along the 'Contact Line':** In September, UNHCR jointly with UNDP launched a second phase of the [Training of Trainers initiative](#) focused on community mobilization along the 'contact line'. Three webinars covering various aspects of project management were held from 29 September to 1 October. The individual coaching is planned for mid-October and will have as an outcome the development of project proposals for enhanced community cohesion.
- Free Legal Aid (FLA) Volunteers" Project in eastern Ukraine:** Throughout September, UNHCR coordinated the implementation of the joint [UNHCR-UNDP-Council of Europe-FLAC FLA Volunteer Project](#) in eastern Ukraine. [Five webinars](#) were organized to train the future legal volunteers on access to free legal assistance, personal documentation, pensions and social benefits, in addition to issues related to internal displacement and military conflict. In total, [31 persons participate in the project](#).



Donor Relations

- On 21 September, during an online ceremony, UNHCR handed over the [Europe Regional Winner of the Nansen Refugee Award](#) certificate to [Ukrainian human rights activist Tetiana Barantsova](#). She was selected for this regional award due to her efforts in supporting [internally displaced persons, especially children and families with disabilities](#), affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine since 2014. The Ambassadors of Norway and Switzerland attended the ceremony and extended their heartfelt congratulations to the winner (Watch the full ceremony [here](#).) *Photo by UNHCR on the right.*
- On 29-30 September, [the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator, Osnat Lubrani](#), visited [Zakarpattia oblast](#). During her mission, she visited UN projects and met with humanitarian actors working with the Roma population in the region. [UNHCR's NGO partner NEEKA](#) participated in the visit and informed Ms. Lubrani about activities implemented to facilitate [access to free legal assistance for undocumented Roma](#).



MULTI-SECTOR RESPONSE TO REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS

Protection of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers



- Distribution of Hygiene Items in TACs for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers:** In September, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partners [distributed 3,000 pieces of bar soap, generously donated by Unilever, and 40 bottles of cleaning liquid](#) to the Temporary Accommodation Centres (TACs) for asylum-seekers in Odesa, Kyiv and Zakarpattia oblasts. This assistance was provided to support the TACs in maintaining [hygiene standards during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). Hygiene items were also delivered to shelters for [unaccompanied and separated asylum-seeking children in Kyiv and Odesa](#). *Photo by the Tenth of April on the left shows distribution at the TAC in Odesa.*
- Cash Assistance for Families with Specific Needs:** In September, UNHCR provided [cash assistance to 82 refugee and asylum-seeking families](#) to support them with expenses for a [new school year](#). In total, [149 children benefited from this financial assistance](#) which was used to buy school-related items and digital tools required to ensure access to e-learning during the COVID-19 restrictions. UNHCR also approved cases of [96 refugees and asylum-seekers](#) with specific needs to be provided with the [Monthly Subsistence Allowance \(MSA\)](#). It covers four months and will help households to cover basic needs such as shelter, food and clothing.

- World Cleanup Day:** On 19 September, a [refugee youth initiative group](#) in Kyiv organized cleaning activities in one of the central parks to observe [World Cleanup Day](#). The initiative had a positive impact, sending a strong message to the host community that refugees can contribute to the improvement of environmental conditions. *Photo by UNHCR on the right.*



- Draft Law on Granting Protection to Foreigners and Stateless Persons:** On 17 September, UNHCR joined a meeting organized by the [Civil Council on Migration Issues](#) created within the [Ombudsperson's Office](#). Participants discussed the [Draft Law on Granting Protection to Foreigners and Stateless Persons](#) (registered in the Parliament under #3387). Several key amendments based primarily on [UNHCR's official comments](#) were agreed by participants and will be sent to the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee.

- Round table on Asylum Applications:** On 3 September, UNHCR and its NGO partners R2P and NEEKA participated in a [round table on asylum procedures organized by the Ombudsperson's Office](#). The key focus was placed on issues related to [access to international protection at the borders during the COVID-19 pandemic](#), as well as the [submission of applications from the SGBS to the Temporary Holding Facilities](#). R2P suggested amending the current legislation to ensure applications are passed from the SGBS to the SMS.

664

Persons received Legal Assistance

(including refugees and asylum-seekers) in Kyiv, Odesa, Zakarpattya and Kharkiv regions in September

66

Persons provided with language training for livelihood purposes

(including refugees and asylum-seekers) thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support in September

33

Persons received Psychosocial Assistance

(including refugees and asylum-seekers) thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support in September

225

Persons were assisted in accessing healthcare

(including refugees and asylum-seekers) thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support in September

Livelihood Interventions for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- During the reporting period, UNHCR longlisted 50 applications out of 106 that have been received for the [2020 round of self-reliance grants provided to support livelihoods projects of refugees in Ukraine](#). The applicants will be advised on the development of their business ideas, with these to be later presented for evaluation by the [Livelihoods Grants Committee](#). Since the launch of this project in 2018, [73 refugees have started their own businesses thanks to this one-time assistance provided by UNHCR](#).
- On 17 September, UNHCR met with [SoftServe IT](#) company to discuss cooperation aimed at providing [employment and training opportunities](#) for refugees and asylum-seekers who benefited from UNHCR's vocational training grants. SoftServe agreed to conduct [individual interviews with IT course graduates](#) and provide further guidance on [internships and employment](#).

Assistance to Stateless Persons and Persons at Risk of Statelessness

- On 28 September, UNHCR met with the [Head of the State Statistics Service of Ukraine](#) to discuss the [identification of stateless persons through the next census](#) and the development of a systemic approach to document them. The participants agreed to include questions related to statelessness in the questionnaire for the next nationwide census (postponed to 2022). The most recent and only official census was held in Ukraine in 2001.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partner, [The Tenth of April \(TTA\)](#), assisted [minor Roma PoCs in their admission to educational institutions](#). Three children from a Roma community in Odesa whose birth was registered with TTA assistance managed to attend, whilst another child was admitted to school without a birth certificate. Concerning the latter, TTA provided a letter of support and will complete the birth registration in the following months.

18

Stateless persons (or at risk of) (28% female, 72% male) obtained a passport or other document certifying nationality

in September thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support

338

Stateless persons (or at risk of) (39% female, 61% male) received advice on the acquisition or confirmation of nationality

in September thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support

22

Persons obtained their birth certificates for the first time

in September thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support

**PROTECTION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND OTHER CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS****UNHCR-led Clusters****Protection Cluster**

- On 15 and 22 September, the Protection Cluster chaired two Protection Working Group meetings in [Sivierodonetsk and Sloviansk](#). Key protection concerns for the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), the operational response in Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts, as well as preparations for the opening of the EECs in [Zolote and Shchastia in Luhanska oblast](#) were at the focus of discussion.
- On 17 September, the Protection Cluster joined a meeting of the [Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group](#) which was focused on the recent study of the [behavioural insights related to the COVID-19 pandemic in Ukraine](#). The study found that COVID-19 risk perception is low among the majority of the population and that people are greatly concerned about the economic impact of the restrictions on their livelihoods.
- On 30 September, the Protection Cluster participated in the [Age, Gender and Diversity Technical Working Group meetings in Sloviansk and Sievierodonetsk](#). Partners discussed the humanitarian needs of older women and men in GCA on the basis of [HelpAge Needs Assessment Analysis](#), the 2020 International Day of Older Persons, ageism in the time of COVID-19 and how to better challenge discriminatory attitudes.
- The Protection Cluster provided inputs to the [REACH questionnaire for the upcoming 2020 multi-sector needs assessment in NGCA](#) due to be conducted to inform humanitarian programming.

Protection Cluster and Shelter/NFI Cluster

- On 7 September, the Protection and Shelter/NFI Clusters co-chaired the [Housing, Land and Property Technical Working Group](#) meeting to discuss the adoption of amendments to [Decree #947 which provides a legal framework for compensation for property destroyed](#) as a result of the conflict. The ongoing protection concerns include limited access to isolated areas in the conflict zone which hampers damage assessment needed to determine compensation. Another concern is the loss of the place of registration as a result of the termination of property rights following compensation for destroyed property. This may limit access to basic services for owners who were registered in the damaged property database.
- During the reporting period, the Protection Cluster, the Shelter/NFI Cluster and UNHCR worked on [finalizing the Joint Intersectoral Analysis Framework](#) and the severity thresholds for the indicators feeding the 2021 HNO.

**UNHCR Protection Activities**

- Access to Pensions for Residents in NGCA:** On 24 September, UNHCR participated in a meeting of the [Humanitarian Country Team sub-working groups on freedom of movement and pensions](#). Several action points were agreed upon, including preparation of a [draft note on linkages between access to pensions for residents in NGCA and freedom of movement](#). UNHCR is leading the work preparing the first draft of the note.
- Compensation for Damaged Houses:** On the same day, UNHCR met with the [Deputy Minister for Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories](#) to discuss the launch of the compensation mechanism for the property destroyed as a result of the conflict. UNHCR expressed its readiness to support state and regional authorities in this process, most notable by facilitating access of the designated commissions that will assess the damages at the local level. UNHCR's NGO partners, R2P and Proliska, confirmed their interest to join these bodies.

- Community-Based Protection Initiatives:** On 24 September, UNHCR participated in the online launch of the [social entrepreneurship project “Light Bulb”](#) implemented by the IDP-led NGO “Peace of the palm” in the city of Zhytomyr. The NGO created a “networking café” to support co-working opportunities, educational events, workshops and exhibitions. UNHCR supported this NGO by providing capacity building training on social entrepreneurship which enabled activists to develop a project proposal.



COVID-19 related Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

51

persons received
‘cash for protection’
since July

In July, UNHCR exceptionally introduced this financial assistance to support IDPs with specific needs and help them better cope with the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The IPA is provided to displaced persons living in different regions of Ukraine and not only in locations along the ‘contact line’.

Yevheniya, 47, and her daughter Tetiana, 25, were displaced as a result of the conflict. In 2014, they fled from the town of Antratsyt in Donetsk NGCA and started a new life in Sumy oblast. Tetiana was born with a disability, but this did not prevent her from gaining advanced knowledge and skills within the information technologies field. After being displaced, it was Tetiana who found a job in a scientific research institute and became the primary breadwinner for the family. Moreover, she inspired her mother to complete IT training herself which ultimately led to Yevheniya also being recruited by the same institute. 2019 brought new challenges for the displaced family: Tetiana’s health deteriorated, especially her eyesight. Therefore, medical expenses became a priority for the family. The COVID-19 pandemic had a devastating impact on the family: their salaries had been cut off and have still not been reinstated. UNHCR jointly with its NGO partner Crimea SOS provided Yevheniya and her daughter with “cash for protection”, intended to help displaced families who were the most affected by COVID-19 related measures. With this assistance, both women are able to cover medical expenses, and also learn new skills which will broad employment opportunities for them, allowing to again become self-sufficient. Tetiana is also planning to repair her laptop and she is getting ready to study at an IT academy which has provided her with an internship opportunity. Photo by Crimea SOS.



Legal Assistance and Protection Counselling

1,090

Internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons (70% female, 30% male) received legal assistance from UNHCR and its partners in September

2,832

Persons (71% female, 29% male) benefited from individual protection counselling in September

10

Group consultations on protection-related issues were provided to 122 persons (87% female, 13% male) in areas along the ‘contact line’ in September



Social Accompaniment

- In September, UNHCR’s NGO partners provided social accompaniment to **527 individuals** (8,3 per cent of them were persons with disabilities) who needed support in, inter alia, obtaining personal documentation, accessing administrative and other essential services, and receiving authorization to cross checkpoints. During the reporting month, UNHCR’s NGO partner Proliska supported 31 residents of NGCA who faced challenges while crossing the ‘contact line’ due to the restricted freedom of movement.



Hanna*, 91, is one of thousands of pensioners who live in NGCA and are required to travel to GCA in order to access banking and other administrative services. Since the outbreak of COVID-19 which severely impacted the freedom of movement across the 'contact line', these critical journeys have become even more arduous for elderly persons. Hanna managed to travel to GCA and had her banking card for pension payments reissued. She also spent some time with her daughter's family. Before she had to return to NGCA, Hanna's fragile health deteriorated and she called UNHCR's NGO partner Proliska's hotline to request social accompaniment at the Stanytsia Luhanska EECP. Proliska's team was on the ground and assisted Hanna with crossing procedures. They also helped her to reach the electric car operating at this checkpoint. Hanna was able to return home to the town of Alchevsk where she is being taken care of by her family. Photo by Proliska.



Psychosocial assistance

164

74% female | 26% male
Persons received consultations in September

During the reporting period, UNHCR's NGO partners provided **164 vulnerable persons** with psychological consultations. These sessions help conflict-affected persons deal with symptoms of psychological trauma, domestic violence, grief, depression, anxiety, and psychological tension, including the effects caused by the quarantine restrictions.

This number represents a **35 per cent increase** compared to August due to the fact that many people needed support after being **affected by the wildfires in Luhanska oblast**.



Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

- In September, UNHCR carried out the final monitoring of the activities implemented by its NGO partner, **Slavic Heart**, whose partnership agreement was concluded in June. The case management of **ten SGBV survivors** was finalized. Eight more persons continue receiving legal assistance and psychosocial support.
- On 24 September, UNHCR participated in the **GBV sub-Cluster meeting** and informed the members of the UNHCR-funded SGBV projects and services through Proliska and R2P, including prioritization of the SGBV survivors for IPA cash programme.



Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

666 336

IPA cash IPA in-kind

beneficiaries selected in 2020

In September, UNHCR continued to identify and provide the most vulnerable conflict-affected individuals in eastern Ukraine with 'cash for protection'. This assistance is used to cover different types of needs, ranging from winterization and livelihood items to medical examinations and procedures. In areas where state services are not accessible, UNHCR and its NGO partners provide **Individual Protection Assistance in-kind**. In September, UNHCR approved the provision of 'cash for protection' to **60 persons**. In addition, **57 persons with specific needs** were supported with 'in-kind' assistance.



Luidmyla is 94 and at this age, she can no longer take care of herself, especially as she lives close to the ‘contact line’ in Donetsk NGCA. For the last ten years, she has been gradually losing her eyesight. Since the start of the conflict, her house came under shelling several times, resulting in damages to the roof and windows, which her children were able to repair by themselves. However, concerned for the safety of her mother and in order to provide regular care, Luidmyla’s elderly daughter convinced her mother to move in with her. “I used to sleep on the same mattress all my life as we did not have enough resources to buy a new one”, the woman said, admitting that her back pain made using old bedding items unbearable. UNHCR jointly with its NGO partner DDC provided a new orthopaedic mattress, a pillow, a blanket and bed linen to Luidmyla. Upon receiving this assistance, she smiled and said that she had never expected to receive such “presents”. Photo by DDC.*



Peaceful Coexistence Projects (PCPs) and Quick Impacts Projects (QIPs)

68

Projects
(50 COVID-19 related)
approved in 2020

UNHCR supports small to medium-scale infrastructure repairs proposed by communities or local authorities in eastern Ukraine. These Peaceful Coexistence Projects (PCPs) aim to create an atmosphere of peaceful co-existence between displaced populations and host communities and to complement the resilience of IDPs and affected communities. Since the outbreak of **COVID-19**, UNHCR has also relaunched **Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)** intended to provide a rapid response to the pandemic by **strengthening the capacities of the local health care system and supporting social services providers.**



A new playground is almost ready to be opened at a school in the town of Novoazovsk. UNHCR jointly with its NGO partner DDC supported the rehabilitation of this facility and also provided sports equipment, such as horizontal bars, a gymnastic wall and other machines for exercises. This PCP was initiated to promote a healthy lifestyle and facilitate the social cohesion in the local community which hosted many IDPs and conflict-affected persons. In total, over 200 children will benefit from outdoor activities organized at this playground. Plans are in place to hold various sport events engaging students from other schools in the town. These activities will also contribute to the psychosocial recovery of children who experience the impact of the armed conflict on their lives on a daily basis. Photo by DDC.



Community Support Initiatives (CSIs)

65

Initiatives
(47 COVID-19 related)
approved in 2020

UNHCR in Ukraine empowers communities of internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons throughout the country. Community Support Initiatives (CSIs) are implemented using a **Community-Based Protection** approach and include a range of activities designed to mobilize and empower communities, strengthen their ability to organize emergency responses and self-advocate with local and national authorities in order to find durable solutions for their own protection.



In September, communities in the villages of Dacha and Zhovanka in Donetsk oblast received 19 fire extinguishers to keep their houses safe from the wildfires that heavily affected the region this year. UNHCR and its NGO Proliska supported this CSI by providing the equipment and also facilitating the training on the use of the fire extinguishers and safety measures which was delivered by the experts of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU). Both communities live in isolated localities along the 'contact line' where the fires not only threaten their households but also create additional protection risks due to the fact that these villages are located close to the areas contaminated with mines and explosive remnants of war. With these fire extinguishers, local communities will be better prepared to respond to emergencies. Photo by Proliska.



SHELTER / NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)

Shelter and NFI Achievements, Impact, and Identified Needs

- During the reporting month, repairs of **84 houses** were completed in GCA as part of UNHCR's shelter programme. UNHCR implemented this activity after taking it over from its NGO partner, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), whose partnership agreement was concluded in June. The repair of **100 houses** (including **19 heavy repairs**) is ongoing.



- In September, UNHCR launched the **distribution of construction items** to conflict-affected households in Luhansk NGCA. **Eleven families** have already received the materials and will complete **the light repairs** by themselves. In total, this assistance will be provided to **100 conflict-affected households**. Photo by UNHCR on the left.

- During the reporting period, UNHCR and its NGO partner, the Donbas Development Centre (DDC), **replaced windows** at the houses of **150 families** in Donetsk NGCA. As part of UNHCR's light shelter repairs, another 181 families have been already supported with this assistance in 2020.



Voluntary Relocation

6

Conflict-affected families
(18 persons) relocated
to safer homes
in 2020

In 2019, with the conflict in Ukraine stretching into its sixth year and with many families with specific needs still living under very difficult conditions in affected locations, UNHCR initiated a **pilot project of voluntarily relocating families** who live **in dangerous areas along the 'contact line'**. Persons who benefit from this project are carefully selected based on **protection vulnerability criteria** and a **security assessment** of the settlements where they are relocated to.

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, UNHCR has signed a Letter of Understanding with the **Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories**. In the case of refugees and stateless persons, UNHCR cooperates closely with the **State Migration Service of Ukraine**. UNHCR works together with **eight NGO partners**. UNHCR leads the **Protection Cluster** and **Shelter/Non-food Items (NFI) Cluster**. UNHCR together with OCHA also co-leads the Logistics Working Group that is mainly responsible for facilitating humanitarian convoys to eastern Ukraine.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for critical financial support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programs with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds. The indicative level of funding for the operation is **US \$12,929,030**. This figure is based on contributions earmarked to Ukraine, the indicative allocation of flexible funds and adjustments.

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the Major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Sweden 76.4 million | **Private Donors Spain** 59.9 million | **Norway** 41.4 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **United Kingdom** 31.7 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 30.6 million | **Germany** 25.9 million | **Japan** 23.8 million | **Private donors Japan** 21 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Private donors Italy** | 14 million **France** 14 million | **Private donors Sweden** 11.7 million | **Italy** 10.6 million

SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region.

Germany 62.7 million | **United States of America** 34.3 million | **United Kingdom** 24.8 million | **Denmark** 14.6 million | **Canada** 8.7 million | **Private donors Australia** 8.4 million | **Private donors USA** 7.7 million | **Private donors Japan** 4.4 million | **Spain** 3.4 million | **Ireland** 3.3 million | **Sweden** 3 million | **Private donors Germany** 2.3 million | **Private donors United Kingdom** 2.3 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 2.1 million

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 5.6 million | **European Union** 1.8 million | **Canada** 0.436 million | **Sweden** 0.415 million | **Japan** 0.273 million | **Russian Federation** 0.25 million | **Norway** 0.241 million | **Estonia** 0.218 million | **Slovakia** 0.054 million | **United Nations Foundation** 0.2 million | **UN Programme On HIV/AIDS** 0.03 million

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Please note that this report attempts to highlight the main activities implemented by UNHCR and its NGO partners within the selected reporting period. Please note that it is by no means exhaustive. For additional details about our work, do not hesitate to check www.unhcr.org/ua or, contact us directly at ukrkom@unhcr.org.

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