

# Operational Update

June 2019

This year, UNHCR is piloting a project in which families living in dangerous areas near the 'contact line' are **voluntarily relocated** to safer cities. In June, UNHCR completed the relocation of four families with specific needs that have been carefully selected based on protection vulnerability criteria as well as security assessment of the cities in which they were relocated to.

20 June marked the celebration of **World Refugee Day**. In Ukraine, UNHCR organized a number of activities and events in different cities to celebrate the diversity and resilience of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine as well as its 2019 Theme: **#StepWithRefugees**. **See more in page 2.**

On 30 June, the process of disengagement of troops and military equipment near Stanytsia Luhanska was confirmed. Throughout June, UNHCR's humanitarian and protection support in the Stanytsia Luhanska area continued in various forms such as cash for protection, shelter repairs and peaceful coexistence projects.

## KEY INDICATORS

**11,578**

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other conflict-affected persons have received **legal assistance** from UNHCR partners in 2019.

**496**

IDPs and other conflict-affected persons have been selected to **receive cash for protection** through the individual protection assistance programme (IPA) in 2019.

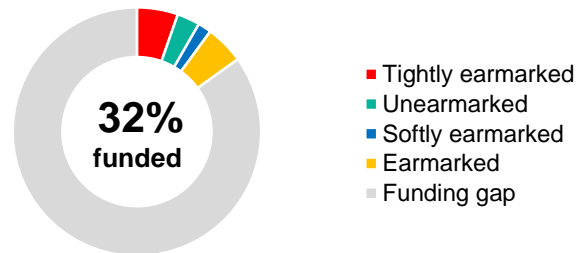
**507**

Households in eastern Ukraine have benefited from UNHCR **shelter assistance** in 2019.

## FUNDING (AS OF 19 JULY)

**USD 28.3 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2019



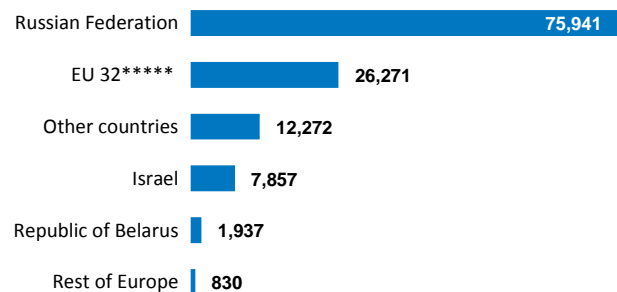
On 4 June, UNHCR supported an event devoted to International Children's Day in Luhansk by a local community centre for people with specific needs. In total, 21 children with specific needs, some of them wheelchair users, participated with their families in the event, which included sport and artistic activities. Photo by UNHCR.

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS)\* AND OTHER CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS\*\*

**1.5 million**\*\*\*

## REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM UKRAINE

**125,108**\*\*\*\*



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

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

\*\*\*Sources: 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), UNHCR

\*\*\*\*Source: UNHCR PopStats, December 2018

\*\*\*\*\*28 EU countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland

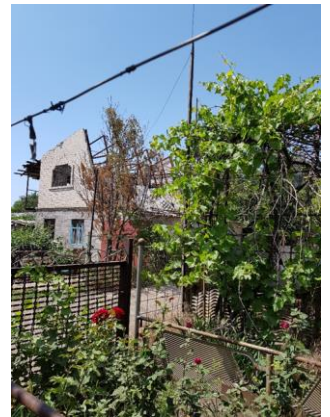
## Operational Highlights



During the reporting period, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Special Monitoring Mission (OSCE SMM) confirmed the process of disengagement of forces and military hardware of an area near the contact line in Stanytsia Luhanska as envisaged by the Minsk Agreements. This was the first of such move since the conflict in eastern Ukraine began in 2014. In June the OSCE SMM recorded approximately **29,300 cease-fire violations** and the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine recorded **32 conflict-related casualties (two persons were killed and 30 injured)**. This is the highest number of civilian casualties during the last 12 months. In this context, the Shelter Cluster reported that 111 civilians' homes were either damaged or destroyed on both sides of the contact line during the month of June, representing **a 32 per cent increase**,

as compared to May. *Photo: Vasyl from Novhorodske (Donetsk region) shows UNHCR partner's Proliska around his house, which had been damaged by shelling. Photo by Proliska.* For the month of June, the State Border Guard Services of Ukraine recorded **1,45 Million crossing of the contact line**, representing a 3% increase for the same period last year. Stanytsia Luhanska EECP demonstrated a 14% increase as compared with last year. At the same time, UNHCR's partner, *the Right to Protection (R2P)*, **surveyed 2,119 persons who crossed the 'contact line' in June**. R2P's surveys demonstrated that persons crossed mostly for physical identification related to pension payment (77%) as well as to avoid payment suspension (76%).

In response to protection and emergency needs, UNHCR and its NGO partners - **Proliska, Right to Protection (R2P), Slavic Heart, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), MOST and the Donbas Development Center (DDC)** - continued to provide internally displaced and conflict affected populations on both sides of the 'contact line' with protection and humanitarian assistance. In June, UNHCR together with its partners undertook **586 protection monitoring visits** to conflict-affected areas on both sides of the 'contact line'. In hard-to-reach areas of Donetsk Oblast, UNHCR's partner NGO DDC distributed **85 acute emergency shelter kits (AEKs)** assisting 198 individuals and NGO Mira completed **17 light repairs to houses** that had been destroyed by shelling. On 19 June, jointly with UNDSS, UNHCR travelled to the settlement of Vodiane, previously closed off to humanitarian actors, near the 'contact line', where 10 people of pension age still reside and experience shelling, mine contamination and lack of basic services such as water. UNHCR's partner Proliska discussed options of improving the water source with the military and Civil-Military Coordination and distributed **20 jerry cans** to support the residents with the transportation of water. *Photo: depicts a garden next to a destroyed house in Vodiane. All people living there, continue gardening and farming activities within the limits of their yards as much as possible in order to protect themselves from shelling. Photo by UNHCR.* On June 15, UNHCR's partner Proliska voluntarily relocated a family from Zolote-4 to an apartment in Lysychansk as part of a pilot project of relocating families living in dangerous areas near the 'contact line'. So far, **four families** have already been relocated out of a planned 20 for 2019. In June, Shelter experts of UNHCR selected additional apartments in Chasiv Yar, Bakhmut, Toretsk for families to move into.



Throughout the week of 17 to 24 June, UNHCR jointly with its partners organized numerous events across Ukraine to commemorate **World Refugee Day**. Highlights included an open-air public event in Kyiv's Taras Shevchenko Park organized by UNHCR's partner NGO Rokada (**click for a video here**). UNHCR also marked its presence in Kyiv's traditional 'Chestnut Run', where participants could sign up and participate in UNHCR's **2 billion kilometres to safety** campaign. In Kharkiv, UNHCR organized a dedicated running event as well. Other activities included tree-planting, *plogging* ("jogging" combined with "picking up trash") and drawing flags of UNHCR's donors by children in Sviatohirsk. In Sloviansk, a dedicated Protection Working Group meeting was organized where participants discussed how to better link humanitarian and development efforts aimed at finding durable solutions for IDPs. For more on WRD activities in Ukraine, read our **full article here**.



## Donor Relations

From 4 to 7 June 2019, UNHCR facilitated a mission of the **EU's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)** to Donbas. The mission's particular thematic focus was on **humanitarian access and protection delivery**. In Donetsk, the mission's representatives met with humanitarians working on the ground and visited beneficiaries of UNHCR's shelter repairs, recipients of acute emergency shelter kits in hard to reach areas, peaceful co-existence projects and other protection activities. The delegation also had an opportunity to observe the work of UNHCR's NGO partner MOST and DDC. In Luhansk the mission visited shelter beneficiaries as well as a peaceful co-existence project. *Photo: Iryna\* who lives in Luhansk shared her story with ECHO delegation, explaining her current challenges after the walls of woman's house crumbled, hitting her leg as a results of a shelling. Photo by UNHCR*



## Key Advocacy Messages for June

- As per findings of **UNHCR Ukraine 2019 Participatory Assessment**, access to adequate housing and sustainable housing solutions is of the highest importance for internally displaced persons. Ukraine lacks comprehensive approach to the housing policies for different categories of populations, including the internally displaced. Positively, there are separate programmes, such as "Affordable housing", where citizens pay 50% of the cost of an apartment, while the rest is paid from the state budget.
- However, large numbers of vulnerable IDPs, such as large families, families with persons with disabilities and elderly, cannot participate in alternative programmes due to limited income. UNHCR calls on the government and municipal authorities to elaborate effective and transparent mechanisms to access social and/or temporary housing, as well as diversify financial instruments available in the housing market to multiply affordable possibilities for different categories of conflict-affected persons.



### MULTI-SECTOR RESPONSE TO REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS

## Protection of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

- During the reporting period, **217 persons** benefited from Monthly Subsistence Allowance (MSA) for the period of June to September 2019 in Kyiv, Odesa and Kharkiv.
- In June, UNHCR and its partner R2P concluded working-level discussions of the first 10 articles of the draft Refugee Law with the State Migration Service of Ukraine. These consultations will run weekly through July with a draft law due to be submitted to the Parliament in early autumn.
- On 11 June, UNHCR's partner Rokada and the Red Cross organized a first aid training for **10 unaccompanied minor asylum-seekers** residing in the Social and Psychological Rehabilitation Center in Kyiv.
- On 20 June, UNHCR and R2P visited the Ombudsperson's Representative to the Migrant Custody Center (MCC) in Volyn region. This visit happened within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding between R2P and Ombudsperson's office.

# 1816

Legal consultations were provided to refugees and asylum seekers in Kyiv, Odesa and Zakarpattya regions in June

# 721

Social consultations were provided to refugees and asylum seekers in Kyiv, Odesa and Zakarpattya and Kharkiv regions in June

# 36

Refugees and asylum seekers received psychosocial assistance in June

# 57

Home visits undertaken to unaccompanied minors in June

## Livelihood Interventions for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

- Since the start of 2019, UNHCR has received 44 applications for support with business start-ups out of which **30 individuals** were shortlisted for interviews and further joint work on business plan developments. Our teams are in constant contact with grant recipients, providing them with follow-up support and needed assistance.

# 25

refugees were counselled on opportunities to receive self-reliance grants from UNHCR and its partners in June

# 73

refugees have started their own businesses with UNHCR self-reliance grants since launch of the program in 2018



Asylum seeker from Russia, Adlan\*, has been passionate about teaching children his favorite martial art and sport combat: jiu-jitsu and sambo. At first, he used his own resources to rent a small space and buy sport mats in order to provide training sessions for 30 children in Odesa. After receiving a self-reliance grant from UNHCR, Adlan was able to give a boost to his training school as well as actively engage in promoting children's achievements in social media. Children from the most vulnerable families – refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs – can attend his classes free of charge. Photo by UNHCR.

## Assistance to Stateless Persons and Persons at Risk of Statelessness

- On 3 June, UNHCR participated in the roundtable organized by its partner R2P with the Parliament *on current challenges of documentation of stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness in Ukraine*. During the event the representatives of the Parliament, Ombudsman, State Migration Service and civil society highlighted the importance of adoption of *the draft law 9123 on SDP*.

# 88

Stateless persons (or at risk of) were identified and provided with legal aid in Kyiv, Odesa and Zakarpattya regions in June

# 15

Persons received passports in June thanks to UNHCR and partners' support

# 28

Persons received duplicates of birth certificates in June thanks to UNHCR and partners' support

# 3

Persons obtained their birth certificates for the first time in June thanks to UNHCR and partners' support



"I stopped being invisible" – said 51-year-old Serhiy\* from Avdiivka, Donetsk region, after receiving his new national passport with the support of UNHCR and its partner Proliska. Serhiy lost all identity documents in a fire, caused by shelling that partly destroyed his house in 2015. He was also injured and lost his mobility and therefore was unable to leave his own house. Living alone, he works from home, offering kitchen appliance repair services. Along with legal assistance to get back his national passport, Proliska provided Serhiy with a walker. Reinstating in citizenship rights helped Serhiy claim social benefits from the state, including disability allowance. Photo: Proliska


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

- On 6 June, the Protection Cluster Coordinator participated in the CIVIC Protection of Civilians Advisory Group meeting, where focused discussions were held on the draft of the National Strategy on Protection of Civilians. Options for ensuring better exchange of data on civilian casualties were analyzed and future training and advocacy activities agreed.
- On 10 June, the Mine Action Sub-Cluster co-chaired a meeting with MinTOT, where humanitarian actors and representatives of key ministries discussed draft amendments to the newly adopted Mine Action Law and other related legislation in order to eliminate existing contradictions in law and to allow for the establishment of a National Mine Action Authority.
- On 14 June, the Protection Cluster participated in a mission to the entry-exit checkpoint (EECP) Stanytsia Luhanska organized by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), as a freedom of movement remains one of the key protection concerns. This is the only checkpoint in Luhansk region open to pedestrians and also the one with the largest number of crossings per month. Older people constitute 70% of those crossing the line by foot and this has a serious impact on their health. As the temperature rises, the number of people fainting while crossing the checkpoints has increased to 10 people per day, while access to healthcare is limited.
- On 20 June a Protection Working Group meeting was held in Sloviansk to discuss latest updates on the re-arrangements of the checkpoints, achievements and challenges in prevention and response to SGBV and situation of IDPs residing in collective centers. According to a survey, conducted by the NGO Right to Protection and UNHCR, 6,000 people are still residing in collective centers. 73% of households include people with specific needs and 40% of households do not have any members who are able to work, either due to age or disability. Therefore, targeted support and cooperation with development actors is needed to assist people with identifying suitable alternative accommodation so that IDPs can achieve durable solutions.


**UNHCR Protection Activities**

- **Eviction Negotiations:** On 14 June, UNHCR met with local authorities to find solutions for **137 IDPs (55 children)** that face eviction from the Collective Centre “Sanatorium Teteriv” in Zhytomyr oblast. As a result of the consultations, it was agreed that the Department of Social Protection will work individually with each IDP family on alternative housing solutions. UNHCR was also provided with the list of possible relocations in other regions of Ukraine.
- **Facilitating community access to services:** On 13 June, UNHCR together with its partner Proliska visited Chermalyk to facilitate access to potable water and a cemetery that was restricted due to active combat in close vicinity of the village. After meeting with stakeholders, including village council, representatives of the Greek society, director of ritual service, representatives of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the Ukrainian side in the JCCC, military-civil cooperation services, the Security Service of Ukraine, concrete procedures of accessing the services during day time only were agreed and put in place.



**Conflict prevention and mediation:** following the arising conflict situation, involving local population (former Ukrainian army combatants) and IDPs in town Novy Buh (Mykolaiv region) UNHCR's partner “Desyate Kvitnya” (Tenth of April) delivered a training on conflict prevention on 14 and 15 June. Participants, including IDP community, local authorities and former militaries learned about ways to establish effective communication, reduce and prevent bias towards each other and find common ground for understanding. *Photo by IDP NGO “Flox”*



**Advocacy for IDP communities:** a training on advocacy campaigns for communities of internally-displaced people in central and western Ukraine was conducted by UNHCR's partner Crimea SOS. 16 representatives benefited from the training and were provided with new instruments and skills, enabling them to advocate for their rights at the local level. *Photo by Crimea SOS.*



## Legal Assistance and Protection Counselling

# 2,211

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

# 3,598

Persons benefited from individual protection counselling in June

# 60

Group consultations on protection-related issues were provided to 734 persons (72% female, 28% male) in areas along the 'contact line' in June

### Social Accompaniment

In the month of June, UNHCR partners provided social accompaniment to **252 individuals** who needed support in obtaining personal documentation, accessing state services, or receiving authorization to cross check points, among other things. In some cases, individuals were supported with transportation to access public buildings and register for social services.



*59-years old Larysa\* from Stanytsia Luhanska will soon be able to travel to Kyiv for her medical treatment after UNHCR's partner Proliska negotiated a special coach, adapted for people with special needs, to be added to a train that connects Lysychansk and Kyiv. Because of her physical disabilities, Larysa cannot travel on an ordinary train and was unable to collect all the necessary documents needed to authorize a special coach for herself. Now, thanks to Proliska, she was able to do so. Photo by Proliska*



### Psychosocial assistance

# 178

84% Female | 16% Male  
**Persons received consultations in June**

During the reporting period, UNHCR partners Proliska and Most provided 178 vulnerable persons with psychological consultations to help conflict-affected people deal with symptoms of psychological trauma, domestic violence, grief, depression, anxiety, and psychological tension.

### Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

- On 18 June 2019 UNHCR Kharkiv together with a representative of the Charitable Foundation "Social Health" visited the workshop on GBV prevention and response among IDPs and other vulnerable categories in the premises of the Department of Social Protection in Lozova, Khmelnytskyi region. During the event, participants exchanged experience on how to better assist SGBV survivors.

## Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

# 75

IPA cash and in-kind beneficiaries selected in June

UNHCR continues identifying and providing vulnerable conflict-affected individuals in eastern Ukraine with **cash for protection**. In June 2019, the number of beneficiaries, selected for IPA programme was 75 persons. This number includes those individuals benefiting from IPA cash and in-kind. IPA in-kind are implemented in areas of Donetsk region where cash-based interventions are not possible to implement.



*Vira\*, 78, receives portable WASH product, delivered to her by UNHCR's partner Proliska. A woman with disabilities lives alone in the village Vilhova (Luhansk region). Allowances that she receives are hardly enough to buy food, medicines and pay charges. After assessment Vira was selected to benefit from Individual Protection Assistance Programme as one of the most vulnerable categories of the affected population. Photo credit: Proliska*



## Peaceful Coexistence Projects (PCPs)

# 49

Projects approved in 2019

UNHCR supports small to medium-scale infrastructure repairs proposed by communities or local authorities in eastern Ukraine. PCPs primarily support the creation of an atmosphere of peaceful co-existence between the displaced populations and host communities and contribute to the prevention of tension between displaced people and the host population. Since the beginning of 2019, UNHCR has initiated the implementation of **49 Peaceful Coexistence Projects (PCPs)** in eastern Ukraine.



*NGO Proliska with support of UNHCR have completed construction of water well in a village of Novohryhorivka in Donetsk region. The only source of potable water in this isolated area was heavily damaged during the years of conflict and the quality of water remained very poor. Now around 70 people, living in the area, including IDPs and host communities, will have access to good-quality potable water. Photo by Proliska*



## Community Support Initiatives (CSIs)

# 63

Initiative approved in 2019

UNHCR in Ukraine empowers communities of internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons throughout the territory. CSIs 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 as well as find durable solutions for their own protection. In June 2019 UNHCR completed its concept note on building capacity of conflict-affected communities with two types of trainings – on fundraising and social entrepreneurship. The first session is planned for September and another - for November 2019.



## SHELTER/NON-FOOD ITEMS

### Shelter and NFI Achievements, Impact, and Identified Needs

- In June, UNHCR and its partners MIRA and NRC completed repairs to 28 houses of vulnerable families in eastern Ukraine. Additionally, 6 households had shelter maintenance tools and materials provided.
- As of June, all 161 households in Luhansk region, who received construction materials under 2018 shelter project, have completed rehabilitation work by their own efforts. This information has been verified during field missions and confirmed by local administrations and beneficiaries themselves.

- During the reporting period, UNHCR held the technical assessment of 4 houses/apartments in Chasiv Yar, Bakhmut and Toretsk for voluntary relocation of PoCs living along the contact line.
- In June, UNHCR and NRC approved 8 households for heavy repairs, all representing families with high degree of vulnerabilities. In total, in 2019 16 heavy repair and 13 light and medium repair households have been approved and are in the process of implementation.

### Shelter/NFI Cluster

- During the reporting, the Shelter/NFI Cluster teams completed six field visits to Trokhizbenka (GCA of Luhansk region) in order to evaluate residual shelter needs. Three sessions of extensive winterization workshop were held by the Cluster in Donetsk, Luhansk and Sloviansk, aiming at collecting inputs and finalizing Shelter Cluster's Winterization Recommendations for 2019-2020 to be presented at the National Shelter Cluster meeting at the end of July.
- On 11 June 2019, UNHCR Shelter/NFI Cluster Coordinator based in Sloviansk and UNHCR Shelter Associate based in Kyiv conducted cluster consultations in respect of winterization activities for 2019-2020 with Donetsk-based organizations.

### 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 and Internally Displaced Persons](#). In the case of refugees and stateless persons, UNHCR cooperates closely with the [State Migration Services of Ukraine](#). UNHCR works together with [13 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 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 \$4,669,183 million**. 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** 90.4 million | **Norway** 44.5 million | **Netherlands** 37.5 million | **United Kingdom** 31.7 million | **Germany** 26.7 million | **Private donors Spain** 26.3 million | **Denmark** 24.4 million | **Switzerland** 15.1 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 13.8 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.

**United States of America** 9.8 million | **Private donors Australia** 6.1 million

#### EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS TO UKRAINE | USD

**United States of America** 2.8 million | **CERF** 0.93 million | **Japan** 0.84 million | **Canada** 0.57 million | **Sweden** 0.55 million | **Norway** 0.34 million | **Russian Federation** 0.25 million | **Estonia** 0.23 million | **Lithuania** 0.03 million | **Private donors** 0.03 million

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### Links

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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](http://www.unhcr.org/ua) or, contact us directly at [ukrkom@unhcr.org](mailto:ukrkom@unhcr.org).

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