

Operational Update

June 2020

In June, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted a **law on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning Recognition as a Stateless Person**. It establishes a statelessness determination procedure, which provides a pathway to citizenship for those firstly recognized as stateless. *More on page 3.*

UNHCR and its NGO partner the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) concluded a long-lasting partnership which repaired over **5,000 houses** in conflict-affected **Donetska and Luhanska** oblasts since 2015. UNHCR is grateful for this cooperation which resulted in durable solutions for persons affected by the ongoing conflict. *More on page 8.*

In June, to observe **World Refugee Day**, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partners organized a series of events to celebrate the diversity and resilience of displaced persons in Ukraine. Two live shows streamed online on social media were the highlights of the day. *More on page 2.*

KEY INDICATORS

7,570

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

69

IDPs and other conflict-affected persons have been counselled on **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) related issues** in 2020.

866

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

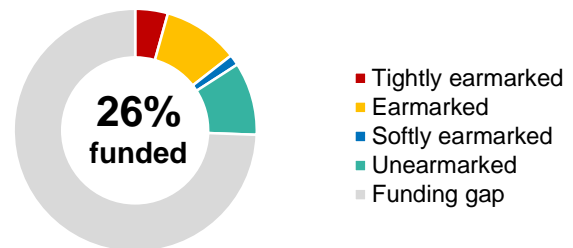


*In June, this flower bed started "blooming" in the centre of Kyiv near a well-known and visible governmental quarter. The installation featuring UNHCR's logo and a special logo to mark both anniversaries - UNHCR's 70th anniversary globally and 25th anniversary of its presence in Ukraine - was created by UNHCR in partnership with the city of Kyiv. UNHCR has planned a number of activities and events to celebrate the double anniversary. To learn more about UNHCR's history in Ukraine, read the article **"Double anniversary: 70 years of UNHCR founding and 25 years of its presence in Ukraine in 25 photos."***

FUNDING (AS OF 1 JULY 2020)

USD 29.8 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2020



INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS)*

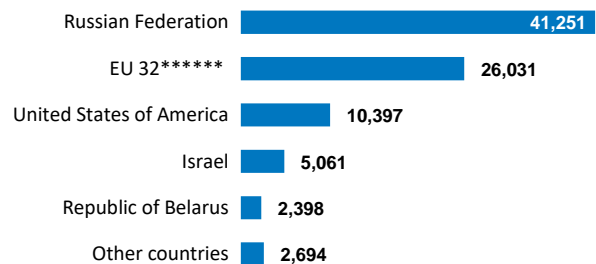
734,000**

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

During the reporting period, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)'s Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) recorded 15,500 ceasefire violations in eastern Ukraine, representing a 24 per cent decrease as compared to the previous month. In June, the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine reported 16 conflict-related civilian casualties (four killed and 12 injured) and the UNHCR-led Shelter Cluster recorded 36 new civilian houses that were damaged or destroyed by shelling on both sides of the 'contact line'. This represents a decrease of 71 per cent compared to May.



UNHCR's Response to COVID-19: In June, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partners delivered critical Non-Food Items (NFIs) to 16 medical facilities along the 'contact line' in the conflict-affected localities in Luhanska oblast. Each health care centre received medical couches, disposable bed sheets and sanitisers. This assistance was distributed as part of UNHCR's Peaceful Coexistence Projects, aimed at increasing capacities of frontline health care centres who are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in areas where medical infrastructure has been weakened by the conflict. *Photo by UNHCR.*



Humanitarian convoy to Donetsk NGCA: On 4 June, UNHCR jointly with OCHA facilitated the delivery of a third humanitarian convoy between government-controlled (GCA) and non-government controlled areas (NGCA) in Donetsk since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. The convoy reached Donetsk city with humanitarian and medical assistance from the WHO and Polish Humanitarian Action. It also included materials for UNHCR's Peaceful Coexistence Projects. This was the first convoy which transferred to NGCA materials related to non-COVID-19 response programmes after the movement across the 'contact line' was restricted in late March. *Photo by UNHCR on the left.*



In-kind assistance to students from NGCA and stateless persons: During the reporting period, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partner R2P distributed food and hygiene items to 195 students who were stranded in their dormitories on the GCA side since they could not return home to NGCA due to the limited opening of the Entry-Exit Checkpoints (EECPs). Similar assistance was also delivered to 26 households of stateless persons in Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts.



UNHCR's Response at the EECPs (Entry-Exit Checkpoints): In June, freedom of movement across the 'contact line' remained limited by restrictions. Positive developments have been observed at the only Entry-Exit Checkpoint (EECP) in Luhanska oblast in Stanytsia Luhanska. Since 19 June, the civilian movement at this EECP was authorized in both directions. However, the entry into Luhansk NGCA was allowed only to those who reside there or were included in a designated list. In June, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS) recorded 10,839 crossings at the Stanytsia Luhanska EECP, which represents a 96 per cent decrease compared to the same period in 2019 (see UNHCR's dashboard "Checkpoint Crossing" [here](#)). The uncoordinated attempts to re-open another EECP Novotroitske/Olenivka in Donetsk oblast between 22-27 June led to dozens of persons becoming stranded between two sides of the 'contact line' in the so-called 'grey zone' for several days. The main concern observed by UNHCR was the inability of some people who moved from NGCA into GCA to install the mobile app which allows monitoring their self-isolation as was required by Ukrainian authorities for entering GCA. UNHCR and its NGO partners maintained a presence on both sides of this checkpoint, delivering food, water, essential items and providing affected persons with legal and psychosocial counselling (*Photo by Proliska third on the right*). On 26 June, as a result of UNHCR's advocacy the Donetsk Regional Oblast administration decided to move those stranded to observation points near the EECP Novotroitske, on the GCA side, where they were tested for COVID-19. For more on UNHCR's response at the EECPs, read this [UNHCR Flash info](#).



World Refugee Day (WRD) observed across Ukraine: On 19-20 June, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partners organized a series of events throughout Ukraine to observe the World Refugee Day. This included the planting of trees by IDPs communities, the opening of a photo exhibition in a local university in Sieverodonetsk, and launching a social media campaign which resulted in the publishing of twelve stories about refugees and IDPs in Ukraine. Main highlights of the WRD were two live shows organized in Kyiv and Sloviansk during which refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs performed songs celebrating the resilience of forcibly displaced persons. One of the songs was a composition "A Paper Plane" written by a refugee musician, Aryan King, which was performed by the well-known Afro-Ukrainian singer Gaitana. *Photo by UNHCR on the left.*

Legal Highlights

- During the reporting period, the [European Court of Human Rights \(ECtHR\)](#) issued a decision (entitled *M.S. v. Slovakia and Ukraine no. 17189/11*) condemning Ukraine for its violation of Article 3 and Article 5 §§ 2 and 4 of the [European Convention on Human Rights \(ECHR\)](#). The case concerns the complaint of an [Afghan unaccompanied minor](#) who was arrested in Slovakia, returned to Ukraine, detained and then deported to Afghanistan in 2011. The court's decision provides an opportunity for advocacy, in particular on access to asylum and legal assistance at international border points and airports in Ukraine.
- On 22 June, the [draft law 3713](#) was registered in the Parliament to amend the Law of Ukraine “On ensuring rights and freedoms and legal regime on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine”. The draft law equalizes conditions for [birth and death registration](#) in NGCA and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Currently, only civil registry documentation issued by the de facto authorities at NGCA is exempted from the general rule of non-recognition. A by-law on the administrative procedure of birth registration for children born in both NGCA and Crimea has not been adopted yet. On the same day, the Parliament registered the [draft law 3714](#) that removes the administrative penalty for late registration of birth on temporary occupied territories. Back in 2011, the [UN Committee on the Right of the Child](#) gave a recommendation to Ukrainian authorities to abolish any punitive fines for the failure of parents to register their children.
- On 16 June, Ukraine adopted [a law on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning Recognition as a Stateless Person. The law was signed by the President of Ukraine on 15 July](#). This law establishes a [statelessness determination procedure in Ukraine](#) and allows stateless persons, including those with an irregular stay in the country, to apply for statelessness status and receive a [temporary residence permit \(TRP – valid for one year\) alongside a travel document](#). Once recognized, the stateless person will be eligible to obtain an immigration permit and a permanent residence permit (PRP – valid for 10 years). The law amends the definition of “a stateless person” as per provisions of Article 1 of the 1954 Convention and exempts recognized stateless persons from paying administrative service fees to the State Migration Service (SMS). To facilitate the implementation of the law, UNHCR will provide training for the SMS staff from 25 oblasts and launch campaigns to encourage stateless persons (and persons at risk of stateless) to apply for the status. To learn more about Statelessness Determination Procedures in other countries, read: [Establishing statelessness determination procedures to protect stateless persons](#).
- On 30 May, the [Ministry of Justice](#) introduced amendments to its 2018 [Order N 2825/5](#), allowing the registration of a child's birth at the Centers for Administrative Services (TSNAPs) of not only married but unmarried couples and even when the one-month deadline envisaged for the birth registration is violated (before it was possible only at the Civil Registry). The birth registration shall be conducted at the day of application or if submitted in the e-form on the day of its receipt or the following day.

Key Advocacy Messages for June

- On 2 June, UNHCR shared with the [Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories](#) its [recommendations on the Ministry's draft Program of Actions](#). UNHCR highlighted the importance of including provisions on the payment of pensions to IDPs and conflict-affected persons and encouraged the Ministry to work closely with civil society. Finally, the draft program should refer to a more diverse set of housing possibilities for IDPs, as well as to the Ministry's coordination of humanitarian activities related to shelter and non-food items in light of handover of this function from UNHCR to the Ministry.
- On 18 June, UNHCR participated in a meeting of the Coordination Council on IDP issues at the [Office of the Ombudsperson of Ukraine](#). Among other things, the re-opening of EECPs was discussed. UNHCR shared the [recommendations](#) developed by the [UN Country Team](#) related to the [safe re-opening of the EECPs](#). This document includes a checklist of risk mitigation measures ensuring that the resumption of civilian movement across the ‘contact line’ does not lead to further spread of the COVID-19.

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.

[ADVOCACY NOTE] ASSISTING DISPLACED AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED OLDER PEOPLE IN UKRAINE: this note highlights the key protection concerns and needs of conflict-affected older women and men and older people with disabilities, as well as new needs that emerged as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[NEWS STORY] PORTRAITS OF REFUGEES IN UKRAINE: STORY OF NODA: this article provides an insight into the life of a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, telling the success story of his integration in Ukraine.



Humanitarian Development Nexus

- During the reporting period, UNHCR worked with the government's **Free Legal Aid Center (FLAC)** and UNDP to jointly develop a **training platform for future paralegals** and designed the first introductory learning course. It is planned that up to ten online courses will be elaborated for paralegals who work in eastern Ukraine. This joint UNHCR-UNDP-CoE-FLAC Ukraine-wide national initiative envisages involving opinion leaders, members of civil society organizations and volunteers willing to provide support to those in need and become paralegals.
- On 12 June, in the spirit of the **Humanitarian-Development Nexus**, UNHCR took part in a **UNDP selection committee for grants to strengthen social cohesion** in communities of Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Luhansk regions. These projects are to be implemented by UNDP and will use a community-based approach to strengthen social cohesion. As a result, **fifteen grantees were selected from organizations in Zaporizhzhia, Donetska and Luhanska oblasts**. UNHCR was also involved in reviewing some 50 project proposals. Three projects that will be supported by the grants have already benefitted from joint UNHCR and UNDP support (in the town of Chermalyk, Novhorodske, Avdiivka in Donetska oblast).



MULTI-SECTOR RESPONSE TO REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS

Protection of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- Supporting an asylum-seeker diagnosed with COVID-19:** In June, UNHCR provided the **Monthly Subsistence Allowance to the asylum-seeker from Tajikistan who was diagnosed with COVID-19** and hospitalized in Kharkiv. He received free medical treatment which was reimbursed from UNHCR's assistance. The asylum-seeker was discharged from the hospital after the final test confirmed his recovery.
- Cash-based interventions to support refugees and asylum-seekers during the COVID-19 crisis:** During the reporting period, UNHCR provided a one-time **emergency cash assistance to 89 additional households** (122 persons) who were affected by quarantine restrictions. UNHCR also provided a **Monthly Subsistence Allowance to 104 households** (203 individuals) with specific needs whose situation was further aggravated by COVID-19 measures. This assistance is meant to support families for the four-month period of June to September. In June, UNHCR also completed a **Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) analysis** to assess the impact of a one-time emergency cash assistance, provided in May, to support **454 refugee and asylum-seekers families during the COVID-19 outbreak**. The PDM showed that the assistance was primarily used to cover rent and food expenses as the quarantine severely impacted recipient's livelihoods.
- High-Level Consultations with the State Migration Service:** On 5 June, UNHCR met with the **State Migration Service (SMS)** of Ukraine to discuss the **new version of the Draft Law on Granting Protection to Foreigners and Stateless Persons**. During the meeting, the SMS agreed to revise a number of provisions suggested by UNHCR. In its **official Observations**, UNHCR noted that the new draft law is considered disappointing as it takes steps backwards on several issues, in particular, on the detention of asylum-seekers. UNHCR received assurances from the SMS that all modifications to the law moving forward will be sent for UNHCR's views prior to submission to the Parliamentary Committee.

850

Persons received Legal Assistance

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

80

Persons provided with language training for livelihood purposes

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

43

Persons received Psychosocial Assistance

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

181

Persons were assisted in accessing healthcare

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

Livelihood Interventions for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

73

Refugees have started their own businesses

with UNHCR self-reliance grants since the launch of the program in 2018

- In June, UNHCR counselled **40 refugees and asylum-seekers** on business grants and opportunities for vocational training.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partners NEEKA, Rokada and the Tenth of April (TTA) provided **language training for livelihood purposes to 80 refugees and asylum-seekers**. In June, two new courses were launched in Odesa with 49 participants divided into two groups.

Assistance to Stateless Persons and Persons at Risk of Statelessness

- In June, UNHCR's NGO partner NEEKA supported **one person at the risk of statelessness in a Roma camp located in Zakarpattia oblast who was diagnosed with COVID-19** and hospitalized for treatment. In response to this case, local authorities organized an information campaign on COVID-19 prevention, distributed some 1,000 masks free of charge, carried out temperature screening and disinfected the site.
- During the reporting period, to further advocate humanitarian assistance and access to healthcare for stateless people during the COVID-19 crisis, UNHCR's NGO partner the Right to Protection (R2P) launched a blog for the European Network on Statelessness "**Invisible to the state during the COVID-19 pandemic: stateless people in Ukraine**". Furthermore, the findings of the **R2P's survey on access to medical care for stateless persons in Ukraine** were referenced in the report "**Statelessness in a global pandemic**" prepared by the Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion.

8

Stateless persons (or at risk of) (13% female, 88% male) obtained passport or other document certifying nationality

in June thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support

85

Stateless persons (or at risk of) (45% female, 55% male) received advice on acquisition or confirmation of nationality

in June thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support

20

Persons obtained their birth certificates for the first time

in June thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support



PROTECTION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND OTHER CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS

Protection Cluster

- On 15 June, the UNHCR-led Protection Cluster released an **Advocacy note 'Assisting Displaced and Conflict-Affected Older People in Ukraine'**. This note highlights the **key protection concerns and needs of conflict-affected older women and men and older people with disabilities**, as well as opportunities for humanitarian, development and government actors to enhance their protection. The note also places a focus on new challenges and needs that emerged as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including access to food, water and health care for elderly persons in eastern Ukraine.
- On 18 June, the **Child Protection Sub-Cluster** held a national coordination meeting during which partners highlighted the growing need to improve **access to education for children living along the 'contact line'**. Many of them face difficulties in accessing the internet and cannot participate in the online education modality, which has been put in place as a result of quarantine restrictions. Partners are also concerned for children who have been evicted from children's homes and forced to return to families who may not be able to look after them.
- During the reporting period, the Protection Cluster submitted **recommendations from partners to the Government on the draft National Strategy for the Protection of Civilians**. These recommendations are related to provisions on mine contamination and mine victim assistance, protection of Housing, Land and Property rights, gender-based violence and Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA.)
- On 25 June, the Protection Cluster conducted **training on PSEA for Civil-Military Coordination officers who will be serving in the conflict area in eastern Ukraine**. The learning module was delivered as a part of pre-deployment civil-military coordination training at the request of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.
- On 25 and 26 June, the Protection Cluster participated in two meetings of the Mine-Action Sub-Cluster to discuss amendments to the **Mine Action Law 2618 and explosive ordinance risk education (EORE)**. The amendments facilitate the **establishment of the National Mine Action Authority** which will be responsible for planning and coordination of mine action activities in Ukraine. The Ministry of Defence will chair the Mine Action Authority, and both the Ministry of Defence and the State Emergency Services will oversee Mine Action Centres. The amendments to the Mine Action Law extend eligibility for mine victim compensation, including both children and adult mine victims.



UNHCR Protection Activities

- Emergency Support to IDPs affected by the gas explosion in Kyiv:** On 21 June, UNHCR received a request from six IDPs (including two children) who needed assistance after their rented apartments were destroyed by a gas explosion and a fire in a multistory apartment building in Kyiv. These IDPs required legal assistance in restoring their civil documents that had been lost in an accident. UNHCR will continue to explore different avenues to support the affected IDPs.
- Strengthening Capacities of IDPs Communities:** On 24 June, UNHCR held an online webinar to share experience on how to organize focus group discussions for NGO and civil society representatives. The event was part of an online conference coordinated by the Civil School for Sound EU Practice and the Institute for European Politics. In total, 14 activists from five displaced communities of central and western Ukraine participated in the webinars. In addition, three online webinars for IDP communities were organized by UNHCR's NGO partners Crimea SOS. Sixty-four persons participated in these learning modules covering fundraising and inclusion of people with disabilities.
- IDPs' participation in the World Refugee Day:** In June, UNHCR's NGO partners the Tenth of April and Crimea SOS mobilized seven IDP communities to participate in the World Refugee Day observance. Displaced communities in the town Skadovsk in Kherson oblast organized an event "Let's grow the good roots" during which they planted trees to illustrate the active engagement of IDPs in the life of the host community. *Photo by UNHCR on the right.*



Legal Assistance and Protection Counselling

1,199

Internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons (68% female, 32% male) received legal assistance from UNHCR and its partners in June

2,605

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

5

Group consultations on protection-related issues were provided to 50 persons (80% female, 20% male) in areas along the 'contact line' in June



Social Accompaniment

- In June, UNHCR's NGO partners provided social accompaniment to 559 individuals (11,2 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. This number represents a 45 per cent increase compared with the previous month as the key focus of this activity during the reporting month was placed on assisting persons that were stranded at the EECPs on both sides of the 'contact line'. This assistance included the provision of food, water, essential items, as well as support in installation of the observation tracking mobile application.



It took almost two years for UNHCR and its NGO partners R2P and Proliska to restore Svitlana's civil documentation which she lost during the conflict. After being displaced, she settled down in the village of Luhanske in Luhanska oblast. Without her passport, Svitlana was not able to find a job or receive social benefits, which she is entitled to as an IDP, and cross the 'contact line'. The only document she had was her birth certificate, also damaged as a result of her displacement. Svitlana turned for help to UNHCR and its NGO partners which provided her with legal assistance and took her case to court. When this was done, Svitlana was able to restore her passport and other civil documentation which now paves the way for her to claim her social benefits. Photo by Proliska.



Psychosocial assistance

127

69% Female | 31% Male
Persons received consultations in June

During the reporting period, UNHCR's NGO partners provided **127 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.

On 22-27 June, psychologists of UNHCR's NGO partner Proliska were also present at the **EECP Novotroitske** during the re-opening of this checkpoint. They provided counselling support to persons that were not allowed to enter GCA and had to stay overnight in tents on site.



Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

- In June, UNHCR's NGO partner **Slavic Heart** provided support to **18 previously identified survivors of SGBV**. To raise awareness on the prevention of SGBV and strengthen the inter-agency coordination in this area, **Slavic Heart organized seven online sessions for 45 participants** representing conflict-affected communities in Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts.
- During the reporting period, upon request of the **Special Rapporteur on violence against women**, **Slavic Heart collected information** for the United Nations Country Team briefing paper on the increase of gender-based violence against women and domestic violence in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. An online meeting was organized with the representatives of the police, NGOs and activists to discuss an upward trend in GBV cases. Special focus was placed on difficulties in assisting women who needed shelter services but could access them due to COVID-19 related restrictions.
- On 23 June, UNHCR jointly with the representatives of Donetsk Oblast Administration visited the town of Toretsk in Donetsk oblast to finalize **negotiations on the opening of a shelter for SGBV survivors**. The authorities confirmed their intention to implement this project and are currently assessing its cost.



Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

491 230

IPA cash IPA in-kind

beneficiaries selected in 2020

In June, 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 the areas where state services are not accessible, UNHCR and its NGO partners provide **Individual Protection Assistance in-kind**. In June, UNHCR approved the provision of '**cash for protection**' to **254 persons**. Of them, **15 individuals** were assisted to help them deal with the impact of the **COVID-19** related measures, including difficulties with crossing the 'contact line'. In addition, **230 beneficiaries with specific needs were selected to benefit from IPA in-kind in NGCA**.



Before the conflict, Kateryna used to live with her daughter and a grandson in the village of Vesele in Donetsk oblast. But after the shelling hit her house several times, she insisted for them to leave and is now living by herself in a semi-destroyed building with no windows and several holes in the walls. Her bed, some other furniture and a heater had been damaged as a result of shelling. Until recently, Kateryna stayed in a room that is still suitable for a living and slept on an old mattress. UNHCR jointly with its NGO partner DDC provided in-kind assistance to Kateryna which included an orthopedic mattress, bed linen and some kitchen appliances. Earlier, through other programmes, UNHCR and DDC also provided the elderly woman with emergency shelter assistance enabling her to temporarily fix*

the damages to her home as well as to receive a stove to cook with and heat her house. Having received this assistance, Kateryna said that her biggest and only dream for today is to see the conflict end, so she could reunite with her family and seven grandchildren. Photo by DDC.



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

54
Projects
(48 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 at creating an atmosphere of peaceful co-existence between the displaced populations and host communities and to complement the resilience of IDPs and affected communities. Since the outbreak of **COVID-19**, UNHCR has also launched its **Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)** aimed at providing rapid response to the pandemic by **strengthening the capacities of the local health care system and supporting social services providers.**



UNHCR initiated this Quick Impact Project (QIP) in Luhansk NGCA to ensure that conflict-affected persons have access to clean water which is critical for maintaining hygiene during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this project, UNHCR delivered 50 water tanks and pumps to eight schools for children with specific needs and six geriatric homes. This assistance was provided in 10 villages in total. Once the water stations were installed, residents of these social institutions, as well as medical and social workers, have had permanent access to water supplies. This will improve the provision of services and enable to better fight the spread of COVID-19 in these locations. Photo by UNHCR.



Community Support Initiatives (CSIs)

51
Initiatives
(46 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) implemented in the spirit of a **Community-Based Protection** approach 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 June, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partners has supported **five conflict-affected and displaced communities in eastern Ukraine.**



In June, as part of its Community Support Initiatives (CSI) programme, UNHCR distributed sanitizers, contact-free thermometers and detergents to the Volodymyr Dahl East-Ukrainian National University to support this facility during the COVID-19 crisis. Before the conflict, this university was based in the city of Luhansk and was relocated to the town of Sievierodonetsk on the government-controlled side of Luhanska oblast in 2015. Currently, approximately 12,000 students both from GCA and NGCA study at the university. UNHCR also installed a photo exhibition in the university to observe World Refugee Day and present UNHCR's and its NGO partners' achievements aimed at supporting displaced and conflict-affected persons in Luhanska oblast in recent years. Photo by Proliska.



SHELTER / NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)

Shelter and NFI Achievements, Impact, and Identified Needs

- During the reporting month, UNHCR's NGO partner the **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)** completed medium and light repairs of **27 houses on the GCA side**. The repair of 74 houses (including 12 heavy repairs) is currently in progress. Construction works have been interrupted by the COVID-19 related restrictions prompting both organizations to reduce the initial target of 300 houses, planned to be repaired in 2020, to 185. UNHCR is grateful to the NRC for the long-lasting cooperation which allowed to **rehabilitate over 5,000 houses in eastern Ukraine since 2015.**

- In June, UNHCR selected an **additional 150 households who will benefit from light repairs** implemented by UNHCR's NGO partner the Donbas Development Centre (DDC) in Donetsk NGCA. In 2020, **180 households have already benefited from this support** which mostly involved the **replacement of windows** in multistory apartment buildings that had been damaged by the ongoing conflict.
- In June, UNHCR completed the **repair of 66 houses** damaged during the conflict in **Luhansk NGCA** out of 215 planned repairs. UNHCR had to halt its shelter programme and all field activities in Luhansk NGCA waiting for the renewal of its 'registration' by the de facto authorities.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partners Proliska provided **Acute Emergency Kits (AEKs) to four families who had their houses damaged as a result of recent shelling**. These kits included **plastic sheets, tarpaulin, insulation foam and timber batten** to temporarily fix damages incurred during the conflict. *Photo by Proliska on the right shows a resident of Avdiivka receiving an AEK to fix a roof of her house hit by the shell in June.*



Voluntary Relocation

3

Conflict-affected families (eight 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.

Shelter/NFI Cluster

- During the reporting period, the **UNHCR-led Shelter/NFI Cluster** joined a discussion facilitated by OCHA which was focused on the **gradual re-opening of the EECPs** in eastern Ukraine. Different Clusters presented their findings and analysis of the conditions at the EECPs. Several Shelter/NFI Cluster's partners updated partners on the assistance provided at the EECPs, such as **constructing new additional waiting areas for people to access different services (e.g. banking services)**.
- On 24 June, the Shelter/NFI Cluster discussed with the **Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories** how to transition the Cluster's digital functions to the Ministry. As the Ministry envisages that all administrative services will be available online by 2023, several humanitarian agencies were invited to discuss the provision of services to conflict-affected persons. The Ministry and the Cluster agreed to continue discussing the transfer of the Shelter Damage Database, which is currently managed by the Cluster, as well as the functioning of the Portal on Economic Recovery.
- On 26 June, during the regular Sub-National coordination meeting, shelter partners discussed the ongoing shelter projects. During the consultations, ADRA informed about the launch of its **hotline dedicated to the Housing, Land and Property rights issues**. Partners also shared information about the repairs of 102 civilian houses in GCA by the State Emergency Service (SES) of Ukraine. UNHCR's NGO partner NRC notified that its shelter activities for 2020 were at the finalization stage.

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 Veterans, Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons**. In the case of refugees and stateless persons, UNHCR cooperates closely with the **State Migration Service of Ukraine**. UNHCR works together with **ten 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 \$7,624,203**. 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 | **Norway** 41.4 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **United Kingdom** 31.7 million | **Germany** 25.9 million | **Private Donors Spain** 33.1 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 17.3 million | **France** 14 million | **Private donors Japan** 11.7 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 39.2 million | **United Kingdom** 24.8 million | **Denmark** 14.6 million | **Private donors USA** 7.4 million | **United States of America** 12.4 million | **Canada** 8.7 million | **Ireland** 3.3 million | **Private donors Japan** 3.9 million | **Sweden** 3 million | **Private donors Australia** 3.7 million

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 1.1 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

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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.*