

Ukraine

June to July 2021

In Ukraine, UNHCR responds for three populations: refugees and asylum-seekers, stateless persons and persons with undetermined nationality, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other conflict-affected persons.

Since the beginning of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the temporary occupation of Crimea in 2014, UNHCR has provided protection and humanitarian assistance and support, including shelter repairs, to IDPs and conflict-affected persons on both sides of the contact line.

On 20 June, UNHCR Ukraine and its NGO partners observed World Refugee Day (WRD) with 30 events all across Ukraine under the global theme “Together we can achieve anything”.

KEY INDICATORS

6,290

Internally displaced (IDPs) and other conflict-affected persons received **legal assistance** from UNHCR's NGO partners in 2021.

1,713

Refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from **legal assistance** from January to June 2021.

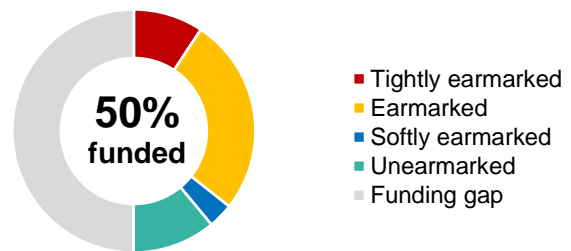
52

Stateless persons were assisted with **applying to the statelessness determination procedure** since it became operational in May 2021.

FUNDING (AS OF 27 JULY 2021)

USD 28.9 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2021



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A refugee at the opening of “Together we can achieve anything” photo exhibition dedicated to World Refugee Day, Kyiv, 18 June 2021.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS)*

734,000**

OTHER CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS***

1,62 million****

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN UKRAINE

4,633*****

STATELESS PERSONS AND PERSONS WITH UNDETERMINED NATIONALITY

35,875*****

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

**Source: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)

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

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

*****Source: UNHCR's Refugee Population Statistics Database, June 2021

*****Source: UNHCR's Refugee Population Statistics Database, June 2021

Operational Highlights

- UNHCR and its NGO partners observed World Refugee Day (WRD) by organizing a campaign of 30 events all across Ukraine from 18 to 25 June. The events were attended by the public and representatives of local governments and ranged from cultural and sporting events to workshops, discussions, and flash mobs. The highlight of the WRD campaign was the launch on 18 June of an open-air photo exhibition: “Together we can achieve anything” in Kyiv city center. It was accompanied by a press briefing attended by the representatives of the State Migration Service of Ukraine, ministries, embassies, non-governmental organizations, refugees and IDPs. The speakers presented the findings of the UNHCR’s Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2020 report and described the national context concerning the forcibly displaced persons. The WRD campaign was covered by more than 50 news pieces in local press and television.
- In July, due to the worsening protection situation in Afghanistan, Afghan asylum-seekers were inquiring more frequently about the possibility for reunification in Ukraine with their family members remaining in Afghanistan through UNHCR’s NGO partner, the Tenth of April.
- 340 applications for Statelessness Determination Procedures (SDP) were registered by the State Migration Service of Ukraine (SMS) since applications began being accepted in May. UNHCR’s partners have provided legal aid in 52 of those cases. In June, the majority of district SMS units (in raions) were still not accepting SDP applications, but in July the situation slightly improved as more SMS units started registering applicants. The most common challenges still reported in June and July were: an insufficient number of SMS staff assigned to deal with the SDP cases, the need to further enhance the expertise of SMS staff on statelessness determination, a long average time spent registering each applicant (2 to 5 hours), problems with the SDP software, insufficient information provided to SDP applicants about their rights and further steps in the procedure, requests to provide additional documents not envisaged by the SDP resolution and to bring witnesses, and rejections of applicants whose parents had Ukrainian or Russian citizenship according to state databases and delays in issuing the applicants’ certificates.
- In June, two humanitarian convoys were delivered to the non-government controlled areas (NGCA). On 10 June, UNHCR delivered two trucks containing medical equipment to Luhansk NGCA through the Entry-Exit Crossing Point (EECP) in Schastia. On 17 June, UNHCR delivered five trucks with construction materials from UNHCR to Donetsk NGCA through the EECP in Novotroitske.
- After a gradual lifting of Covid-19 restrictions in June, on 28 July, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine tightened the rules to counter the proliferation of the Delta variant of the coronavirus, reintroducing the requirement for self-isolation with the *Vdoma* application at international borders, EECPs at the contact line and at the administrative boundary with Crimea. Those who cannot install the application will not be allowed to cross. Self-isolation can be terminated by a negative test taken after the crossing. However, there are some exemptions, such as fully vaccinated foreigners and stateless persons and fully or partially vaccinated Ukrainian citizens, people travelling to access vaccination in GCA and children, among others.

Working in Partnership

The humanitarian response to displacement in Ukraine is a coordinated effort by the Government, international organizations, national and international NGOs. UNHCR works closely with the Government of Ukraine, including its line ministries and central and local administrations and authorities. In relation to IDPs, UNHCR has signed a Letter of Understanding with the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily

Occupied Territories. In relation to refugees and stateless persons, UNHCR cooperates closely with the State Migration Service of Ukraine. In 2021, UNHCR has agreements with eight NGO project partners. UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and Shelter/Non-food Items (NFI) Cluster under the humanitarian coordination structure that responds for IDPs and conflict-affected populations in the east. UNHCR together with OCHA co-leads the Logistics Working Group responsible for facilitating humanitarian convoys to eastern Ukraine.

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers



Advocacy and Capacity Building

- On 9 June, UNHCR and the Council of Europe (CoE) conducted an online training on the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) for 20 staff from central and regional offices of the State Migration Service of Ukraine. CoE experts presented ECtHR practices on immigration detention, including court decisions against Ukraine and focused on alternatives to detention. UNHCR Strasbourg assisted in the organization of this event. A second event is planned for September.
- In June, UNHCR's NGO partner, Right to Protection, conducted two off-line training events for lawyers from Free Legal Aid centres (FLAC) and judges. The FLAC training gathered 15 lawyers from several regions and included refresher sessions on asylum procedures and the role of the advocate. The training for judges was organized jointly with the National School for Judges and gathered 17 judges from Kyiv administrative and district courts dealing with the refugee status determination procedures and detention issues, including extraditions. The presentations were delivered by three judges, including one from the Supreme Court.
- As part of UNHCR's advocacy for inclusive access to Covid-19 vaccination, UNHCR's NGO partners in Kyiv and Odesa intervened with the Office of the Ombudsperson and the local healthcare department to advocate for asylum-seekers' access to vaccinations. UNHCR also initiated the preparation of a letter from the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine, on behalf of the UNCT, to the Ministry of Health advocating for the inclusion of everyone in the territory of Ukraine, including asylum-seekers and undocumented persons, in vaccination campaigns.
- On 14 July, UNHCR's NGO partner, Right to Protection, and the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, Liudmyla Denisova, carried out a joint monitoring visit to the transit zone of the Boryspil Airport, visiting a potential asylum-seeker who was staying in the airport transit zone. As a result, the person was admitted to the territory of Ukraine.



Community Engagement

- Three refugee communities were supported by UNHCR grants to organise events dedicated to World Refugee Day in Odesa: the NGO United Youth held the "Run with Refugees 2021" marathon, the NGO Al Massar organized and conducted an adventure game in a city park where participants had to answer questions about different cultures, and the NGO Foundation "Friendship" created a video that brought various communities together in dance.
- On 17 June, UNHCR's NGO partner the Tenth of April held an Informal forum to discuss non-violent communication for refugee and IDP communities which was attended by 81 participants, 10 of whom were from refugee communities. The forum was aimed at showing diversity, creating a platform for interaction and exchanging knowledge and ideas.

- In Zakarpattya oblast, UNHCR's NGO partner, NEEKA, together with the Centres of Employment and the regional migration service created a Young Ambassadors Initiative "Club Poznajko" for refugee, Ukrainian and IDP children.
- In Zakarpattya, the women's Initiative "Zerkalo Ednannya" opened the "Vanilla – Khachapuri" bakery in Uzhgorod for refugees, IDPs, volunteers, stateless Roma and the community at large. It aims at creating a small integration centre with an inclusive space for self-development and intercultural communication as well as building intercultural communities.

Key Figures


1,128

Persons received legal assistance

(refugees and asylum-seekers) thanks to UNHCR and its NGO partners in June and July


406

Persons were assisted in accessing healthcare

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


56

Persons received psychosocial assistance

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


93

Households received monthly cash assistance
 (refugees and asylum-seekers) in June and July


152

Persons provided with language training for livelihoods
 (refugees and asylum-seekers) thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support in June and July

Stateless Persons and Persons with Undetermined Nationality



Advocacy and Capacity Building

- On 16 June, UNHCR and its NGO partners held a webinar on communication techniques to be applied during Statelessness Determination Procedures (SDP) for the employees of the State Migration Service (SMS). The event was attended by 41 employees of 24 territorial bodies and the central SMS office. Participants received information about UNHCR and partner activities addressing statelessness and SDP interviewing techniques applied in other jurisdictions (Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro and the UK).
- On 30 June, Right to Protection, UNHCR's NGO partner, held an [online press conference](#) on the SDP launch. The UNHCR Representative in Ukraine, the first Deputy Head of the SMS and the Head of the Parliament Committee on Human Rights took part in the event.
- From 28 to 30 June, UNHCR's NGO partner, the Tenth of April, conducted two trainings for local communities (hromadas) in Kirovohrad and Odesa oblasts on the issues of Ukrainian citizenship, birth registration, identification procedure, and newly established SDP with emphasis on the role of hromadas in these processes.
- On 7 July, the Tenth of April, UNHCR's NGO partner organized a training for employees of municipal authorities on working with undocumented people in a community of Krasnosilka, Odesa raion. Participants learned about communication techniques, ways to resolve cases of undocumented residents, and prevention of burn-out of the staff assisting undocumented people.

- On 28 July, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved a [2030 Strategy on promoting human rights for the Roma minority in Ukrainian society](#). According to the Strategy, about 4 to 8 per cent of Roma people in Ukraine do not have identity documents. That consequently prevents them from accessing free legal aid and employment. Among other things, the Strategy aims to facilitate the acquisition of birth registration and identity documents by Roma people and create conducive procedures for accessing free legal aid by undocumented persons. UNHCR provided its input to the Strategy through Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) that leads the Human Rights Working Group of the United Nations Country Team.

Key Figures

 **32**

Persons with undetermined nationality **obtained a passport or other document certifying nationality**

in June and July thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support

 **617**

Undocumented persons **received advice on the acquisition or confirmation of nationality**

in June and July thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support

 **42**

Persons **obtained birth certificates** in June and July thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support

 **39**

Stateless persons **assisted with applying to statelessness determination procedures**

in June and July thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support

Internally Displaced and Other Conflict-Affected Persons



Advocacy and Capacity Building

- On 22 July, the President of Ukraine signed [draft law #5478](#) exempting persons residing in NGCA from paying administrative fines for violating the procedures for entering/exiting NGCA by crossing through Russian territory rather than through authorized EECs on the contact line as enshrined in Article 202-4 of the Code of Administrative Offences. This will be applicable until the EECs are fully functional again. UNHCR welcomes the amendment since it helps preserve family links and helps people residing at NGCA to access services and exercise their rights. This positive development follows concerted advocacy by UNHCR, OHCHR, OCHA, UNHCR's NGO partners Right to Protection, Donbas SOS as well as NGOs ZMINA Human Rights Centre, Vostok SOS and the Norwegian Refugee Council, and a joint support letter in June from UNHCR and OHCHR to the Parliamentary Committee for Human Rights.



Community Engagement

- UNHCR supported 17 projects of IDP communities to organise events dedicated to the World Refugee Day (WRD). The events were held in Odesa, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zhytomyr, Vinnytsia, Cherkasy Ivano-Frankivsk, Poltava, Zaporizhzhia, Mykolaiv, Kirovohrad and Kyiv oblasts.
- On 22 to 23 July, the Tenth of April, UNHCR's NGO partner initiated a study tour for 10 IDP community leaders from various regions of Ukraine to Kyiv to meet with representatives of International Organizations and charity foundations present in the country. The study tour was facilitated by UNHCR and included participants from Odesa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Kirovohrad, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia oblasts. During the visit the participants met with representatives of UNHCR, International Organization for Migration, Council of Europe, Ukraine – Local Empowerment,

Accountability and Development Programme (U-Lead) with Europe, International Renaissance Foundation and the Zagoriy Foundation. Participants learned the best practices of cooperation with national and local authorities and explored possible modes of collaboration between IDP communities and these organizations.

Key Figures

 **1,538**

Internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons received **legal assistance** from UNHCR and its partners in June and July

 **4,146**

Persons benefited from **individual protection counselling** in June and July

 **47**

Group consultations on protection-related issues were provided to 54 persons in areas along the 'contact line' in June and July

 **685**

Persons were provided with **social accompaniment** Thanks to UNHCR's NGO partners in June and July

19.3 per cent of the individuals who were provided with social accompaniment in obtaining personal documentation, accessing administrative and other essential services, and receiving authorization to cross EECPs were persons with disabilities.

 **170**

Persons received **psychosocial assistance** in June and July

Psychological assistance helps conflict-affected persons deal with trauma, domestic violence, grief, depression and anxiety, including the effects of quarantine restrictions.



Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

UNHCR continued identifying and providing the most vulnerable conflict-affected individuals in eastern Ukraine with Individual Protection Assistance (IPA), in cash where possible. This assistance is used to cover essential needs, particularly for persons with disabilities. The assistance is provided within a case management approach and helps enable the beneficiaries to access public services. In areas where state services are not accessible, UNHCR and NGO partners provided in-kind IPA. Since June, UNHCR also provided financial assistance to support IDPs with specific needs and help them endure the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This IPA targets displaced persons living in different regions of Ukraine and not only in locations along the 'contact line'.

 **307**

IPA cash beneficiaries were selected by UNHCR and its NGO partners since the beginning of 2021

 **391**

IPA "in kind" beneficiaries received assistance from UNHCR and its NGO partners since the beginning of 2021

 **39**

Internally displaced persons received IPA cash to help them cope with the impact of the COVID-19 since the beginning of 2021

 **38**

Community Support Projects (CSPs)

In 2021, UNHCR re-defined its Community-Based Approach in eastern Ukraine. To support the capacities of conflict-affected communities, UNHCR implements Community Support Projects (CSPs). These include small to medium repairs of premises, provision of equipment, improving access to

approved in 2021

services and training activities. The CSPs aim to ensure that protection gaps are addressed and IDPs and returnees have improved access to durable solutions.

**Shelter Assistance**

- In GCA, UNHCR continues follow-up on the repair of 13 houses taken over from the Norwegian Refugee Council in June 2020 that could not be completed last year. As of 31 July 2021, the repair of 10 houses is completed (3 with light or medium and 7 with heavy damage), while the repairs of three houses are still ongoing (all with light or medium damage).
- In Donetsk NGCA, as of 31 July 2021, 25 houses have been repaired through the direct distribution of construction materials, while the repair of four more houses is currently ongoing. Repair of the first five houses using the contracted construction company is underway.
- In Luhansk NGCA, as of 31 July 2021, 11 houses have been repaired through the direct distribution of construction materials, while the repair of 31 more houses is ongoing. An additional 28 houses (26 with medium and 2 with heavy damage) have been repaired with the use of a construction company, while the repair of one more house is ongoing.

**Conflict-affected families**

(17 people) relocated
to safer homes
since the beginning of
2021

Since 2019, UNHCR is supporting the exceptional voluntarily relocation of families at specific risk, who live in unsafe areas along the 'contact line' to safer locations. People who benefit from this project are carefully selected based on protection vulnerability criteria and a security assessment of the settlements to which they relocate.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical financial support provided by donors who have contributed to the Ukraine operation, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programs with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

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