

# Operational Update

July 2018

**Protection Monitoring:** Despite spikes in hostilities during July, UNHCR has maintained its presence in remote villages along the Contact Line, such as Chihary, Pisky, Novooleksandrivka, and Spirne.

**Self-reliance grants for refugees:** UNHCR is reinforcing the self-reliance of refugees. In July, UNHCR launched a new partnership with Caritas Ukraine to provide refugees with financial support to start businesses.

**Statelessness:** Since June 2017, UNHCR partners identified and provided legal aid to 1,111 stateless persons or persons at risk of statelessness.

## KEY INDICATORS

11,230

IDPs and other conflict-affected persons have received legal assistance from UNHCR partners in 2018.

133

IDP communities have been supported throughout central and western Ukraine in 2018.

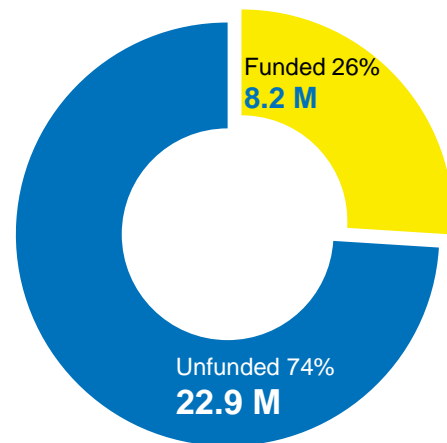
258

Persons with specific needs have received in-kind support in Non-Government Controlled areas of Donetsk Region in 2018.

## FUNDING (AS OF 13 JUNE)

USD 31.1 M

requested for Ukraine

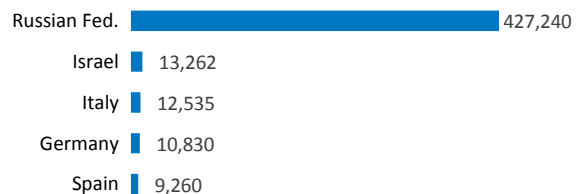


A family of 7 children from the village of Troitske, situated along the Contact Line, received a cash grant from UNHCR and books from Partner NGO Proliska.  
Photo: Proliska

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

1.8 million\*\*\*

### ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM UKRAINE\*\*\*\*



\* Residing more permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA).  
 \*\* Estimated number of conflict-affected persons living along the line of contact in GCAs and non-government controlled areas (NGCA).  
 \*\*\* Source: 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).  
 \*\*\*\* Source (external displacement): Russian Federation (as of December 2016), Israel (as of July 2017): respective government authorities, UNHCR. EU Countries: EUROSTAT (as of February 2018).  
 External displacement data refers to the total number of asylum applications by Ukrainians (first time applications) in the top five receiving countries since the beginning of the Ukraine situation in January 2014.

## Operational Context

July started with a “harvest” ceasefire, which did not deter ceasefire violations but it did contribute to a slight de-escalation of armed violence along the contact line with reduced employment of heavy weapons. According to the Ukrainian Armed Forces, ceasefire violations dropped by 80% between 1 and 11 July. On 16 July 2018, a projectile was identified near the Donetsk Filter Station (DFS), representing a security issue for the 40 staff members working daily at the station. On 25 July 2018, a Trilateral Conflict Group meeting on Ukraine (TCG) was held in Minsk. Despite this, the OSCE noted a sharp increase in ceasefire violations towards the last days of July. In this context of continued hostilities, UNHCR focussed its **protection monitoring** and interventions on villages located along the ‘contact line’ that have suffered from limited or no humanitarian access. For instance, UNHCR and its partners are the only organizations able to access the village of **Spirme** where 23 elderly persons remained after the village saw serious damage to its infrastructure, gas and water supply in 2015. IDPs from the village of **Chyhari** benefitted from legal counselling sessions by UNHCR and R2P on how to access targeted IDP assistance, compensation of damaged property, as well as individual protection assistance. In **Novooleksandrivka**, UNHCR followed up on the resolution of pension issues, where 20 elderly people reside and are deprived of social services. On 6 July, UNHCR and Proliska successfully negotiated unimpeded humanitarian access to **Pisky**, located on the contact line, allowing for UNHCR and other partners to deliver services and assistance. On the other side of the contact line in Donetsk, UNHCR met with 15 recently displaced persons from a village where seven houses were damaged, providing them with household items.



UNHCR through its Partner Proliska is the only organisation that has access to the village of Spirme, situated some 30 km from the Contact Line. Only elderly people stayed in the settlement, deprived of all services, namely food, medicine, transportation, gas and central heating. UNHCR is providing them with essential humanitarian and protection aid. Photos: UNHCR

**Mission of the Canadian Minister:** On 22 July 2018, UNHCR facilitated the visit of the Minister of International Development and La Francophonie of Canada, Marie-Claude Bibeau, to the Donetsk region. UNHCR accompanied her mission to Maiorsk Checkpoint (EECP) as well as the village Kurdiuivka village located on the ‘contact line’. At the EECP, Minister Bibeau visited the tents provided by UNHCR to the State Emergency Service and where people crossing the checkpoint can find shelter from severe weather conditions and are able to rest, have free fresh water and spend the night, if needed. The delegation also spoke to people waiting in line inside the sun sheds constructed by UNHCR. The State Border Guard Service showed the delegation the reception booths where the crossings are processed and took the opportunity to thank UNHCR for the equipment and the modules which make it possible to significantly speed up the movement and, therefore, reduce waiting time. The Minister was reminded that daily shelling affects the lives of people living around Maiorsk and was shown damaged houses around the checkpoint. During her visit to the village of Kurdiuivka (where UNHCR repaired 38 homes), Minister Bibeau met UNHCR’s shelter beneficiaries including Viktoriya, her 8 year-old twin girls, and her husband who moves around in a wheel chair and is a stroke survivor. The family explained to Minister Bibeau that without UNHCR, they would have been unable to re their own home, since Viktoriya has not been able to find work that will allow her sufficient time to look after her husband and children. Today, the family survives thanks to her husband’s small disability pension.



UNHCR took Minister to the village of Kurdiuivka. In this village, UNHCR and implementing partners rehabilitated 38 homes. Despite absence of military in the city, it suffered various shelling incidents in early 2015, early 2017 and recently in early 2018. As a result, people were killed and buildings destroyed. In response, UNHCR not only repaired 38 homes but also coordinated other partners through its Shelter Cluster to repair and provided in-kind material donations to a total of 83 households. Before, the village survived thanks to a ceramic factory. However, the factory was destroyed early in the conflict leaving the residents with no livelihood. Photos: UNHCR



## Multi-Sector Response to Refugees and Stateless Persons

### Assistance to Refugees and Asylum Seekers

- UNHCR started a partnership with Caritas Ukraine to launch a livelihoods project in four regions of Ukraine: Kyiv, Odesa, Zakarpattya and Kharkiv. The partnership will continue managing **self-reliance grants** for refugees that UNHCR was managing directly with **22 self-reliance grants** delivered since November 2017.
- Over **700 counselling sessions** were provided to refugees by UNHCR partners in Kyiv, Odesa and Zakarpattya on issues such as access to medical assistance, homeless support, migration service, tax service, pension funds, access to employment, access to education, child services, banking, and access to centers for social protection of population.
- On 9 to 10 July 2018, in the framework of the Quality Initiative Project in Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus (QIEE), two experts from the Swedish Migration Agency

conducted a two-day training for Ukraine's State Migration Services in order to improve refugee determination procedure.

- UNHCR started consultation sessions with refugees who have successfully integrated into Ukraine with little or no support. These discussions will help UNHCR understand successful coping strategies for integration and devise new approaches to support refugees in Ukraine. Seven interviews with refugees have been conducted in July 2018. So far, findings have found that important elements to integration include [language learning, development of existing professional skills and an efficient asylum procedure](#). Additional consultations are planned.
- UNHCR mobilized a network of [22 \(and growing\) on-line volunteers](#) who are willing to conduct Ukrainian and Russian language classes for refugees and asylum seekers in Ukraine via skype.
- UNHCR's NGO partner *Tenth of April* conducted a weekend-long [cross-cultural leadership training](#) in Odesa for young people between 13 and 20 years of age from refugee and IDP communities. The workshops covered social activism, public speaking, self-esteem, responding to hate speech, promoting diversity, and healthy relationships topics.
- Refugees in Kyiv and Zakarpattya have benefitted from language and computer classes. Language courses were attended by [105 refugees](#) (68 in Kyiv and 37 in Zakarpattya) and computer classes by [63 persons](#) (25 in Kyiv and 37 in Zakarpattya). Three people completed Coursera on-line courses.

**WANT TO READ MORE ON REFUGEES? CHECK OUT THESE LINKS:**

REPORT: [Refugee Update](#)

ARTICLE: ["Language is the door to another culture's soul"](#) – a story of refugee integration through language learning.

ARTICLE: ["Ukraine gave me hope"](#) - How UNHCR and NGO "NEEKA" is supporting refugees find jobs, and live their dreams!

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

- Since June 2017 until the end of the reporting period, UNHCR partners identified and provided legal support to [1,111 stateless persons or persons at risk of statelessness](#) in Kyiv city, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Odesa, Zakarpatska regions.
- In the last 14 months, UNHCR supported [87 persons to obtain passports, 57 children to obtain birth certificates and 80 persons to obtain duplicates of their birth certificates due to loss](#).
- **Statelessness Determination Procedure:** UNHCR has been supporting the authorities in developing procedures for determining the status of stateless persons. Authorities are working on a second draft law that introduces a statelessness determination procedure in Ukraine. On 17 July 2018, UNHCR shared expert comments on the draft law. UNHCR suggested amendments to the Law on State Financial Guaranties on the Provision of Medical Assistance to Population so that recognized stateless persons are provided with a temporary residence permit that would give them access to the full scope of medical aid provided to nationals and recognized refugees. UNHCR also recommended that recognized stateless persons who have temporary residence

permits not be required to have a work permit to access employment as well as receive full integration support, such as language courses.

- Learn more on statelessness by reading our [Statelessness Update \[pdf\]](#).

 Protection**Protection Cluster**

The Protection Cluster issued a [Guidance Note on Prioritizing People with Specific Needs for Humanitarian and Development Actors in Ukraine](#), which provides guidance on how to ensure that people with specific needs are prioritized in humanitarian, early recovery and development programming in Ukraine.

The Protection Cluster supported the Global Protection Cluster in organizing a round table in Kyiv to discuss the participation of IDPs in peace agreements and peace processes. Participants included government ministers and officials, IDPs, peace activists, humanitarian workers, international organizations and academics from South Sudan, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, Cyprus, Georgia and Ukraine.

Restrictions on the freedom of movement of people and transfer of goods across the contact line separating government-controlled and non-government controlled areas of Ukraine continue to pose a key protection risk for civilians, with over 1.1 million crossings recorded each month. The Protection Cluster convened a meeting with partners to discuss a joint position on the recent draft Resolution on movement across the contact line and transfer of goods, and submitted the consolidated inputs to the Ministry of Defense, which is preparing the draft Resolution.

**Protection Achievements**

- UNHCR, Proliska and R2P advocated and coordinated support to the village of [Travneve](#) in Donetsk oblast, where elderly villagers had their pensions suspended. As a result of coordinated advocacy, the district Pension Fund proposed a simplified mechanism of cancelling IDP registration and resuming payments immediately. Proliska monitored implementation of the agreement and provided individual assistance to 31 villagers with heightened vulnerability such as persons with disabilities and single mothers. Proliska also advocated for bank clerks to visit the elderly persons' homes to facilitate their access to pensions.
- On 12 July 2018, UNHCR partners R2P and Proliska organized a [legal counselling session](#) for 30 older residents of Pavlopil village who would like to relinquish their IDP registration and receive pensions as local residents.
- On 12 July 2018, awareness-raising sessions on prevention and response to [sexual and gender based violence \(SGBV\)](#) were facilitated jointly by UNHCR and NGO Slavic Heart in the town of Avdiivka to conflict affected population. The town is located right on the contact line and is subject to shelling daily and has a sizeable military presence.
- On 23 July 2018, in order to strengthen the prevention of [SGBV](#) and respond to the needs of survivors along the contact line, UNHCR provided the Women's League of Donetsk with an induction training to representatives of local service providers. The meeting was attended by [eight](#) representatives of social services, health care and law enforcement officials.
- UNHCR continues to monitor the increasing requests for psychosocial assistance. So far, [526 requests for psychosocial assistance in Donetsk town and surrounding villages](#)

alone were received since the beginning of the year. The majority of requests come from IDPs and conflict-affected women from large families, single mothers, persons with specific needs.

- UNHCR provided **Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) in the form of cash to 76 beneficiaries**.
- **UNHCR engages with 162 internally displaced persons (IDP) communities** across western and central Ukraine in its mandate to facilitate durable solutions to displacement. **Housing** remains one of the main protection concerns of these communities. Therefore, on 30 July 2018 UNHCR organized a meeting with **17 community leaders**, together with Crimea SOS, to discuss and exchange on local efforts and strategies on how to engage local authorities on accessing various housing programmes. During the exchange, UNHCR offered advice on a broad range of housing issues. UNHCR will continue to follow up with these communities as they work towards addressing their housing challenges.

#### **Peaceful Coexistence Projects (PCP)**

- UNHCR evaluated a Quick Impact Project implemented in 2017 in which computers and other IT equipment were provided to a school located near Crimea in Novoalekseevka city, Kherson region. The evaluation showed that the assistance enabled distance learning for students who are either originally from the location or displaced from Crimea (600 people), including Crimean Tatars. There are also 65 students residing in Crimea who are participating remotely in this distance-learning opportunity. This school is a unique centre for the preservation of Crimean Tatar identity and language.
- UNHCR is currently implementing **16 PCPs**. **Ten** PCPs are in Donetsk oblast, targeting mostly educational establishments and administrative facilities. Examples include renovations of schools and kindergartens of villages along the contact line, fixing heating systems in health centers, repair works of municipal cultural establishments. **Two** PCPs are ongoing in Luhansk oblast, involving support to cultural and community centers. In Mariupol, **four** PCPs are ongoing, which include the refurbishment of a center for administrative services for IDPs and community centers. UNHCR continues assessment missions to the field to meet with local communities and administrations in order to identify and negotiate further PCPs.

#### **Community Support Initiatives (CSI)**

- UNHCR NGO partner *Tenth of April* launched a Women's Club for refugees and IDP. They gather every week for joint handicraft activities and discussions of important topics such as gender balance, female health care, family planning and SGBV-related issues.



#### **Shelter and NFIs**

##### **Shelter and NFIs Cluster**

In the month of July, the Shelter and NFI Cluster, led by UNHCR and co-chaired by the NGO People in Need (PiN), held one national and two subnational meetings.

The meetings in Kyiv, Sievierodonetsk and Sloviansk were attended by national and international humanitarian agencies and by the representatives of the Ministry of Occupied Territories (MinToT).

The Shelter Cluster has issued the final version of the recommendations for the winterization 2018-2019. A workshop was convened in July to conduct consultations among key actors.

In its role of technical advisory, the Shelter Cluster has issued two more notes with technical advice on how to approach typical situations faced by shelter agencies in the daily work.

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

- UNHCR partner NGO completed four light repairs, which supported 31 vulnerable households in Donetsk. Furthermore, through a construction company, UNHCR completed 32 medium repairs, assisting in total 58 vulnerable households in Luhansk.
- In response to the recent increase of emergency, UNHCR IP Proliska provided core relief items to 12 households in Sloviansk on the contact line.
- Overall, **737 households** in eastern Ukraine benefitted from UNHCR shelter assistance in 2018; of these, 407 repairs are currently ongoing.

### **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, on 10 October 2016, UNHCR signed a Letter of Understanding with the [Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons](#). UNHCR works together with **11 NGO partners**. UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and Shelter/Non-food Item (NFI), Cluster, the latter being co-chaired together with [People in Need](#).

### **Financial Information**

UNHCR is grateful for the critical financial support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and un-earmarked funds.

#### **EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS TO UKRAINE | USD**

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 8.2 million**.

United States of America 2.2 million | European Union 2.1 million | Sweden 1.3 million | CERF 0.8 | Japan 0.7 million | Canada 0.6 million | Russian Federation 0.2 million | Estonia 0.2 million | Private donors

#### **BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD**

Major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation, or to the region or sub-region.

United States of America 28.7 million | Private donors Australia 8.6 million

**UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD**

Major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Sweden 98.2 million | Private donors Spain 45.2 million | Norway 42.5 million | Netherlands 39.1 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Denmark 25.5 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 22.2 million | Switzerland 15.2 million | France 14 million | Germany 13.7 million | Private donors Italy 11.9 | Italy 11.2 million | Private donors Japan 11.1 million

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