

UKRAINE SITUATION

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

21 March – 10 April 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,213,000

Registered Internally Displaced
People (IDPs) comprising:

732,700

pensioners

277,000

working age

152,700

children

50,600

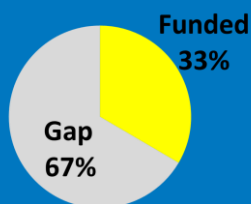
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Source: Ministry of Social Policy,
Ukraine

FUNDING

USD 41.5 million

requested for the operation in 2015



PRIORITIES

- As part of the UN Humanitarian Response Plan, to lead protection, shelter and NFI clusters to help those forcibly displaced from their homes.
- Support Government in efforts to establish a central authority to deal with IDPs.
- Work with the Government to improve registration system, specifically procedures relating to pensioners and access to social assistance.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Situational overview:** With little change in the conflict situation, the number of displaced remains constant with continued movements in and out of the conflict area. There is concern for mines and unexploded ordnance contamination of agricultural land as the planting season begins. The Government has renewed the provision of benefits to IDPs for a further 6 months.
- Protection concerns:** Lack of access to the final high school examination, the External Independent Examination, by up to 7,000 students in non-government controlled areas has been reported by several humanitarian agencies as a priority issue with the potential to trigger further displacement.
- Legislation update:** On 25 March a law “On amending certain Laws of Ukraine to strengthen social protection of IDPs” came into force. The law includes various measures to improve employment opportunities for unemployed IDPs.
- Assistance provided:** Since 21 March, UNHCR provided non-food aid to 1,450 people in government controlled areas. UNHCR through operational partner People in Need also delivered emergency shelter in the form of plastic sheeting to nearly 1,000 households in areas still experiencing shelling.



In June 2014, after participating in the European Championship, Ukraine’s National Paralympic Youth Team formed by mostly orphans, had no home to go back to. At the time their town was under heavy shelling. “They were nobody for the community. Now they are Europe and World Champions; they are strong with will and spirit”, said Ms. Rimma Starostina, 77, team trainer. The team found temporary shelter at “Olymp” summer training base in Kreminna Luhansk region. The team has won 99 medals in Europe and World Championships. Photo: UNHCR / Y.Gusyev

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

There has been little change in the conflict situation during the past few weeks. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission continues to [report](#) numerous ceasefire violations. Some measure of stability in the conflict situation and warmer temperatures has encouraged continued movement both in and out of the conflict area.

As of 6 April there were 1,213,000 IDPs registered by the Ministry of Social Policy, representing an increase of 61,000 since 16 March.

There have been reports of a limited number of IDPs taking advantage of the relative respite in fighting to return to the conflict area to visit family, check on their property and tend the land. However, concern remains for the considerable amount of mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) contaminating the conflict area. Although the fighting is less intense, areas along the line of contact remain extremely dangerous. This was demonstrated on 25 March when a bus crossing the line of contact hit a mine while trying to avoid checkpoints, resulting in four deaths. It has been reported that 30,000 hectares of agricultural land along the line of contact in Novoazovskiyi and Artemivskiyi districts, Donetsk region are contaminated with mines and UXO. Mines and UXO are likely to be found all along the line of contact. Their presence will particularly affect the livelihoods of agricultural workers at the beginning of the planting season as they are unable to tend to their fields. It is imperative that people remaining in the area of conflict and returnees are informed of the risk of mines and UXO.

The Temporary Order on Movement, requiring people to obtain a pass in order to cross the line of contact, continues to be problematic. The current paper system is bureaucratic and takes time to acquire. The Security Service and State Border Guard Service launched a trial version of an electronic application system on 20 March with a proposed reduced waiting time of 10 days. Full transfer to the electronic system was scheduled for 25 March; however, the launch was postponed due to technical problems.

The Deputy Minister of Social Policy recently stated in the media that targeted state benefits for IDPs will be extended for 6 months. This comes as the initial 6 month allocation period under Resolution no. 505 came to an end on 31 March. According to the Deputy Minister, the Government has already allocated funds from the budget to cover the assistance. He added that in the first 3 months of 2015, the Government provided a total of UAH 905,3 million (USD 39,1 million) to IDPs. The official extension of assistance through amendments to Resolution no. 505 has been drafted by the Ministry of Social Policy and is pending with the Cabinet of Ministers. This is a welcome development, however, the assistance only targets relatively few people and at minimal level. The Ministry confirmed to UNHCR that they sent instructions to regional departments on the process and procedure for the extension of IDP certificates. The process will take two months and while initial reports show that the implementation is not harmonized in different regions; it is too early to make conclusions on how address verification will affect the number of IDPs and their rights.

External Displacement

UNHCR continues to monitor the refugee situation in neighbouring countries. According to government sources in receiving countries, the total number of people seeking asylum or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries now stands at 777,250, with the majority going to the Russian Federation (636,640) and Belarus (80,900).

The OSCE Observers monitoring the Gukovo and Donetsk checkpoints on the Russia-Ukraine border inform that the situation remains calm. While overall cross-border traffic slightly decreased at both checkpoints, contrary to the previous reporting period. The continued trend observed by the Observer Mission over the past seven weeks is of more people returning to Ukraine through the two checkpoints, with an average net flow 310 people going to Ukraine in the past week.

As of 9 April, since the beginning of the crisis there were 3,648 applications for international protection in Germany, 3,080 in Poland, 2,647 in Italy, 1,637 in Sweden, 1,625 in France, 190 in Moldova, 50 in Romania, 50 in Hungary and 20 in Slovakia according to government sources in receiving countries. In 2014, 13,990 Ukrainians applied for asylum in Europe, representing a year-on-year increase of 1359 per cent.

Data sources: Respective national asylum authorities

Achievements



Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster, co-led by UNHCR and OHCHR, held a round table discussion on IDP registration on 25 March following identification of a number of concerns relating to IDP registration, mainly government plans to verify registered IDP addresses. Address verification could reduce the number of registered IDPs by 20-30 per cent, as many IDPs registered with temporary addresses. The round table concluded with several key areas for action needed including provision of better information on registration for IDPs, assistance for unregistered IDPs and ensuring data protection.
- The Cluster and child protection partners are scaling up activities in territories controlled by armed groups, including psychosocial support. The identified priority areas are in Donetsk, Luhansk and Debaltseve cities.
- The Gender-based Violence sub-cluster Working Group in Kharkiv city developed the content for a referral card with available services for Gender-based Violence survivors. The card will be distributed by local partners in Kharkiv city and Kharkiv region to ensure wider outreach.
- Training on psychosocial support delivered through a Protection Cluster partner was expanded to include children in kindergartens as well as their caregivers in Donetsk and Luhansk cities. Cluster partners conducted a pilot training of district police officers in Kharkiv region aimed at building capacities of law enforcement officials. The training focused on legal and psychosocial aspects of addressing cases of domestic violence (including Sexual and Gender-based Violence).

Achievements, Impact and Identified Needs

- Lack of access to the final high school examination, the External Independent Examination, by students in non-government controlled areas has been reported by several humanitarian agencies as a priority concern. The Government has extended the registration period from 20 February to 20 April; however, the exam will only be administered in government controlled areas. Estimates indicate that up to 7,000 students could be affected. Unless a solution is found, the problem could trigger further displacement. UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM are currently drafting a joint advocacy note on the issue.
- UNHCR and partners share concerns on the implementation of Cabinet of Ministers Resolution no. 79 on the verification of IDP addresses by the State Migration Service. Officials in local offices mention a lack of capacity to complete the process within the two month timeframe specified in the Resolution, with long queues seen at State Migration Service offices. In response, UNHCR and partners are reaching out to IDPs providing information on verification procedures. Where IDPs are not found to reside at their registered address, their benefits will be stopped. Some 3,000 IDPs in Dnipropetrovsk have reportedly already been affected.
- On the 25 March, law no. 245-VIII “On amending certain Laws of Ukraine to strengthen social protection of IDPs” came into force. The main changes introduced are: the granting of free requalification vouchers to IDPs of employable age who have not found appropriate employment; compensation of medical examination and transport costs relating to employment for those who were registered unemployed; reimbursement of training costs for employers hiring IDPs; reimbursement of salary costs for 6 months to employers hiring registered IDPs on a contract of at least 12 months. These are positive measures taken by the Government; UNHCR’s partners have been asked to proactively share the information with IDPs.
- The Ministry of Social Policy informed UNHCR that the Government has received UAH 6 million (USD 0.25 million) for charitable aid under Cabinet of Ministers Resolution no. 535. So far there have been some 600 individual applications by IDPs with an average UAH 1,100 (USD 45) distributed per person. It was agreed that there is a need for additional efforts to inform IDPs on how they can apply for this additional Government aid. UNHCR and its partners will work on this in cooperation with the special commission formed for this purpose.
- UNHCR protection monitoring in Mariupol reports increased concern amongst the population regarding the upcoming planting season. Agricultural land in the vicinity of the line of contact is contaminated with mines and

¹ [International Protection Considerations Related to the Developments in Ukraine – Update II](http://www.refworld.org/docid/54c639474.html)
www.refworld.org/docid/54c639474.html

unexploded ordnance (UXO), with around 30,000 hectares of land along the line of contact in Novoazovskiy and Artemivskiy districts, Donetsk region requiring clearance. The authorities are in the process of forming local commissions to deal with the issue.

- On 25 March 2015, UNHCR met with the Deputy Head of the municipal social protection department in Rubizhne and the headmaster of a school from Pervomaisk to discuss the registration of 22 unaccompanied children IDPs evacuated from the Pervomaisk area. It was agreed to assist the children to register with local municipal children's services and the Department for Social Protection in Rubizhne who will issue IDP certificates to the children giving them access to state benefits.
- Two Participatory Assessment Workshops took place in Kharkiv and Sievierodonetsk with representatives from local authorities and NGOs taking part. The workshops are important in ensuring that assessments are used to gather information on specific protection risks faced by IDPs, underlying causes and to hear their proposed solutions. Following the workshops, Participatory Assessment exercises were launched with results expected in mid-April.

Shelter and Non Food Items (NFIs)

Emergency Shelter and NFIs Cluster

- The Shelter and NFI Cluster led by UNHCR has updated the map on multifunctional cash grant partner presence and beneficiaries assisted in the first round of assistance²; this activity contributes to Humanitarian Response Plan Strategic Objective 1. Furthermore, the Cluster is finalizing the post-distribution monitoring report on cash assistance distributed in 2014 by UNHCR and four cluster partners: ADRA, Caritas, IOM and People in Need. A total of 33,427 households were assisted, of which 4,640 were assisted by UNHCR.



A frontline village of Novotoshkovske in Luhansk region was heavily damaged as fighting escalated near the strategic town of Popasna. The majority of the local population fled the area with only 300 out of 2,000 residents staying in their homes. UNHCR together with partner Norwegian Refugee Council delivered construction materials to Novotoshkovske for emergency roof repairs. The village community created a brigade of six volunteers who will help to carry out rehabilitation works for elderly people and returnees. Photos: Norwegian Refugee Council

Achievements, Impact and Identified Needs

- During the reporting period, UNHCR has provided NFI assistance to 1,450 people in government controlled areas: 1,000 in Sievierodonetsk, Luhansk region and 450 in Mariupol, Donetsk region. Moreover, UNHCR carried out distribution of bedding and clothing for 329 people in Shyrokyne village, which has been under constant shelling during last few weeks.

² http://www.sheltercluster.org/sites/default/files/docs/unhcr_arcgis_cash_assistance_cluster_members4101.04.2015-2.pdf

- On 1 April 2015, UNHCR together with operational partner People in Need started distribution of shelter materials in government controlled areas of Donetsk where there are destroyed homes and where no shelling has occurred for the past 2 months. 13,600 asbestos-free roofing panels, 5,000 pieces of corrugated iron roofing panels, 3,750 cans of insulation foam, 2,800 rolls of ruberoid roofing felt and 12 cubic meters of plywood are being distributed for light and medium repairs.
- In areas still experiencing shelling, UNHCR through partner People in Need delivered acute emergency shelter in the form of plastic sheeting to 984 households and distributed 335 jerry cans in Avdiivka, Donetsk region and Popasna, Luhansk region.

Working in partnership

The humanitarian response to the internal displacement situation in Ukraine is a coordinated effort by international organizations, the Government, local and international NGOs.

Key Shelter and Non Food Items Cluster partners: [Adventist Development and Relief Agency](#) | [Caritas Ukraine](#) | [Chesna i Svyata Kraina](#) | [Crimea SOS](#) | [Danish Refugee Council](#) | [Donbas reconstruction and development agency](#) | [Dopomoga Dnipro](#) | [HIA Hungary](#) | [IOM](#) | [Mercy Corps](#) | [Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Communal Living](#) | [Ministry of Social Policy](#) | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | [People in Need](#) | [Save the Children UK](#) | [Save Ukraine Organization](#) | [State Emergency Service](#) | [Ukrainian Red Cross Society](#) | [UNDP](#) | [Vostok SOS](#) | [World Jewish Relief](#)

Key Protection Cluster partners: [Danish Refugee Council](#) | [Crimea SOS](#) | [Crimean Diaspora](#) | [ICRC](#) | [IOM](#) | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | [OCHA](#) | [OHCHR \(HRMMU\)](#) | [OSCE](#) | [State Migration Service of Ukraine](#) | [The Right to Protection](#) | [The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights](#) | [Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union](#) | [UNICEF](#) | [UNDP](#) | [UNFPA](#) | [Vostok SOS](#)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

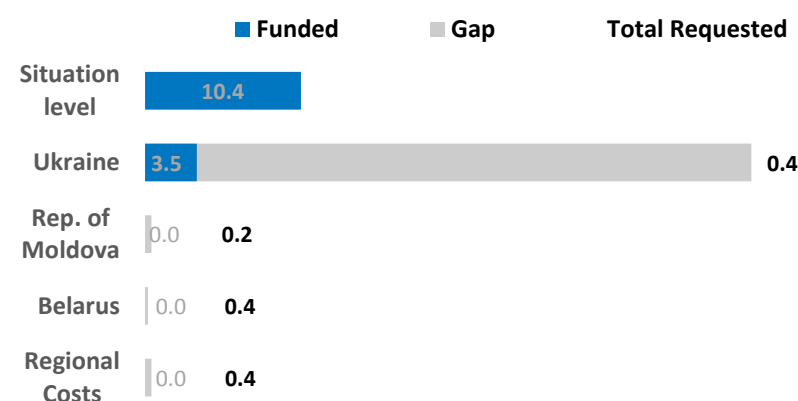
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have already indicated a contribution to UNHCR’s 2015 activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds. UNHCR’s total financial requirement in 2015 for the Ukraine situation is **US\$ 41.5 million**, as presented in the Supplementary Appeal. This covers UNHCR’s financial needs for providing protection and assistance to those displaced by the conflict inside Ukraine, as well as those externally displaced in Belarus and the Republic of Moldova. Contributions recorded so far represented **33 per cent** of the total financial requirements.

Donors who have contributed:

- Denmark
- Estonia
- European Union
- Germany
- Italy
- Private Donors
- United States of America

Funding (in million USD)

A total of **13.9 million** has been contributed



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Links:

UNHCR Ukraine: <http://unhcr.org.ua/en> Twitter: www.twitter.com/UNHCRUkraine Facebook: www.facebook.com/UNHCRKyiv



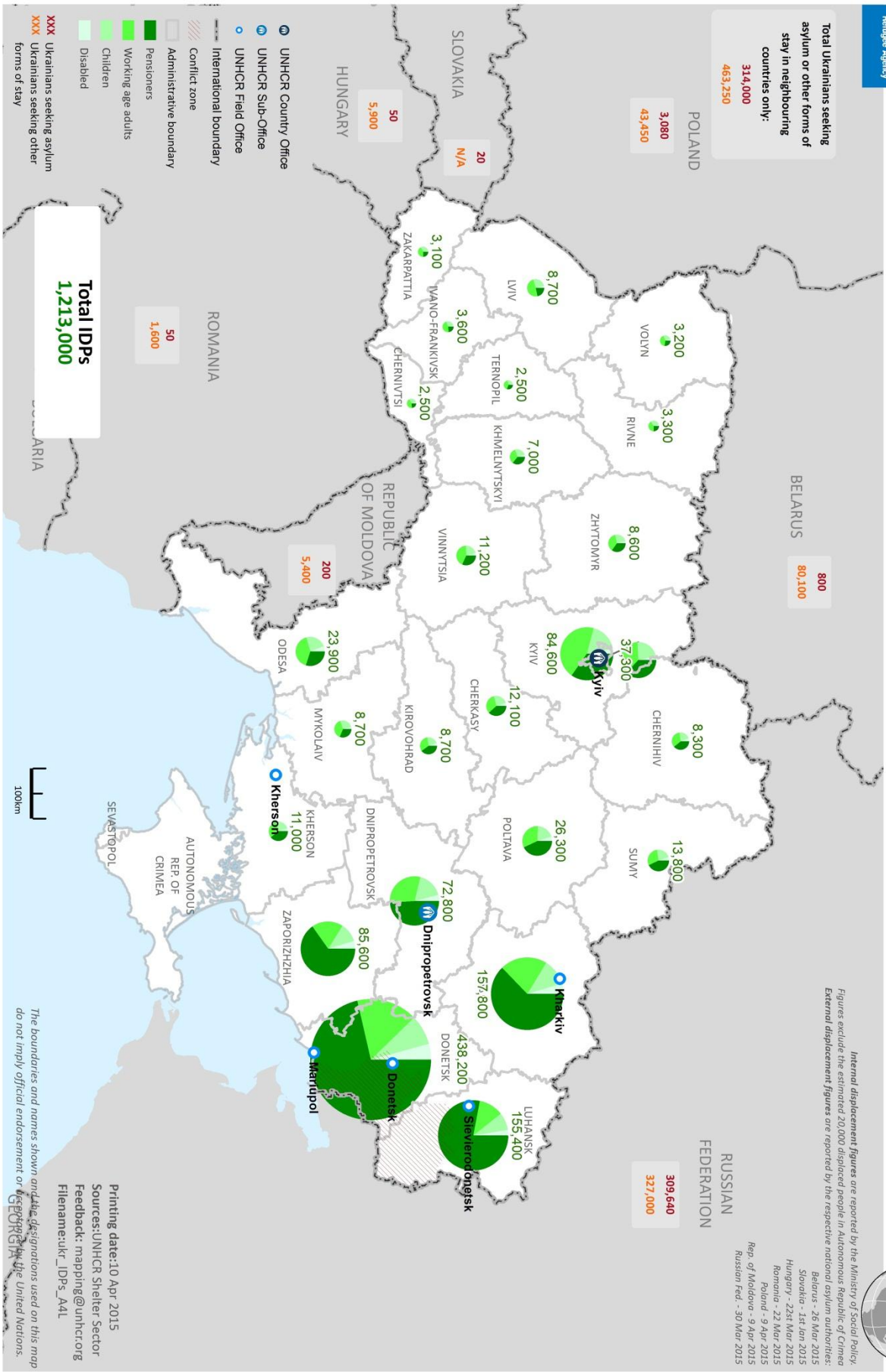
Ukraine: Internally Displaced People

- 10 Apr 2015

UNHCR - Kyiv



Total Ukrainians seeking asylum or other forms of stay in neighbouring countries only:
 314,000
 463,250



Internal displacement figures are reported by the Ministry of Social Policy. Figures exclude the estimated 20,000 displaced people in Autonomous Republic of Crimea. External displacement figures are reported by the respective national asylum authorities:
 Belarus - 26 Mar 2015
 Slovakia - 1st Jan 2015
 Hungary - 22st Mar 2015
 Romania - 22 Mar 2015
 Poland - 9 Apr 2015
 Rep. of Moldova - 9 Apr 2015
 Russian Fed. - 30 Mar 2015

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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