

UKRAINE SITUATION

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

27 June – 15 July 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Situational overview:** The situation in eastern Ukraine remains unstable and volatile. The humanitarian situation is grave with freedom of movement and humanitarian access restricted due to continued fighting, security measures and the Government's ongoing blockade of non-government controlled areas.
- **Protection concerns:** Freedom of movement across the line of contact remains a key concern. Access to civil documentation, such as birth certificates and passports, is an ongoing problem for those in the non-government controlled area.
- **Legislation update:** On 8 July, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted three resolutions relating to IDP employment and unemployment: simplifying unemployment registration for IDPs; protecting their right to unemployment benefit; and approving an Action Plan for Employment and Training of IDPs.
- **Assistance provided:** Since 27 June, UNHCR provided non-food item (NFI) and emergency shelter assistance to more than 8,800 people in government controlled areas. In non-government controlled areas, UNHCR provided NFI and shelter assistance to some 430 people.



A disabled man sits at the porch of his damaged house in Granitnoye, a small village next to Mariupol. Due to ongoing clashes, the frontline village has many buildings destroyed and suffers from infrastructure and water supply disruptions. Although many residents fled Granitnoe, some people decided to stay. UNHCR provided reinforced tarpaulin to cover broken windows and roofs to the most vulnerable residents of Granitnoe. Photo: UNHCR/I.Bulgakov

KEY FIGURES

1,382,000

registered Internally Displaced People (IDPs) including:

820,400

pensioners

325,600

working age

174,500

children

58,400

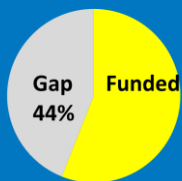
disabled

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.
- Promote freedom of movement and humanitarian access.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The situation in eastern Ukraine remains unstable and volatile despite continued diplomatic efforts to achieve implementation of the Minsk Agreements. Of particular concern are OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) [reports](#) on the shelling of civilian areas which could lead to increased displacement of the local population. Fighting remains concentrated north and west of Donetsk city, north of Luhansk city and east of Mariupol. Freedom of movement across the line of contact between the non-government and government controlled area is limited due to the fighting and resulting security measures implemented as well as the continued blockade strategy against the non-government controlled area by the Government.

As of 13 July there were **1,382,000** IDPs registered by the Ministry of Social Policy, representing an increase of 24,000 since 26 June. This number is broadly in line with previous numbers indicating the continued gravity of the situation.

On 7 July, the State Security Service launched a revamped version of the electronic application system for passes to cross the line of contact. In the first three days of operation there were 26,000 applications. The main advantage over the old paper system is the simplicity of the interface and improved security. Progress of applications can also be tracked online. The application processing time for the new system is 10 days. The former system was rife with corruption and the processing time was unduly long. It is hoped that the new system will address these problems and improve freedom of movement across the line of contact.

Humanitarian access to non-government controlled areas remains greatly restricted with the opening and closure of checkpoints remaining unpredictable from day to day, though queues at checkpoints have become shorter. At present only the checkpoint at Volnovakha is open for the transit of goods and there is still no access across the line of contact in Luhansk region, greatly restricting the delivery of much needed humanitarian aid to non-government controlled areas.

Reports from Mariupol and Donetsk indicate that water and electricity supplies remain cut or sporadic due to the conflict situation leading to hardship for the population. The OSCE SMM facilitated a ceasefire in the vicinity of Horlivka to allow for repair work to be carried out in the area to the water supply system providing water to 2 million people in the region, including Mariupol. In Donetsk, UNHCR is preparing a preliminary project for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged infrastructure.

IDPs continue to report that long-term housing solutions are difficult to find, with the vast majority staying with volunteers and host families. Preparation of accommodation for winter is a serious challenge that needs to be prepared for well in advance, particularly private sector housing. Employment remains difficult for IDPs to find due in part to the current economic situation in Ukraine and discrimination against IDPs by employers. UNHCR has launched a project aimed at the promotion of peaceful coexistence between host communities and IDPs as well as strengthening the absorptive capacity of communities receiving IDPs while meeting host community needs.

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 922,650, with the majority going to the Russian Federation (765,600) and Belarus (81,600).

The OSCE Observer Mission monitoring the Gukovo and Donetsk checkpoints on the Russia-Ukraine border inform that the situation remains calm. Total cross-border traffic again increased at both checkpoints during the reporting period. In the past week there was a net flow of 535 people going to the Russian Federation. This represents a reversal of the general trend seen following the 12 February ceasefire of more people entering Ukraine.

As of 13 July, since the beginning of the crisis, in the top five receiving countries in the European Union and in neighbouring countries there were 4,603 applications for international protection in Germany, 3,700 in Poland, 2,956 in Italy, 1,962 in Sweden, 1,763 in France, 200 in Moldova, 60 in Romania, 60 in Hungary and 20 in Slovakia according to government sources in receiving countries.

Data sources: Respective national asylum authorities

Achievements



Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster co-led by UNHCR and OHCHR is currently working on several documents, based on needs expressed by Cluster partners. A briefing note on protection needs of older people is being finalized based on inputs received from HelpAge International. A note summarizing the main protection concerns and key messages related to registration is also being prepared, as well as a document providing some protection guidance on the operation of assistance hotlines.
- A review of vulnerability criteria adapted to the context of Ukraine is being conducted, together with other clusters, as this is a cross-cutting issue. UNHCR's protection monitoring indicates that there are many people not included in traditional vulnerability categories with special needs who are not receiving assistance, such as smaller families with unemployed parents.
- A mission was conducted to the field to attend protection coordination meetings in Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk in order to understand the protection issues faced by the IDPs and other affected people and to see how Kyiv can best support advocacy and other activities conducted by partners on the ground. Issues related to freedom of movement (from obtaining passes to cross the line of contact to actual travel), evacuations from non-government controlled areas, referral pathways and integration of IDPs are the main protection issues identified in the field.

Achievements, Impact and Identified Needs

- UNHCR has launched a Quick Impact Project (QIP) aimed at the promotion of peaceful coexistence between host communities and IDPs as well as strengthening the absorptive capacity of communities receiving IDPs while meeting urgent community needs. The QIP aims to support IDPs as well as affected and host communities and will be implemented across the country, with priority given to the areas hosting the greatest number of IDPs. On 25 June the first meeting of the QIP Selection Committee was convened.
- Following the adoption of amendments to the Law on Free Legal Aid, four government legal aid clinics opened in Kyiv on 1 July, allowing people of concern to seek free legal assistance and have access to representation in national courts. Although the Law does not explicitly mention IDPs, it purports to protect and render legal assistance to all socially unprotected individuals throughout Ukraine, with 100 more clinics to be opened by the end of July. While this is a positive development, it is still too early to evaluate the impact, quality and operational capacity of free legal aid clinics, thus continuous support from UNHCR and its partners on legal assistance is still required.
- As a result of advocacy work by the Crimea SOS office in Kherson city, improvements in access to child documentation in Kherson region have been observed. Specifically, many parents of newborn children from Crimea were able to receive Ukrainian birth certificates upon presentation of a certificate from the maternity hospital bearing a stamp from Crimean authorities without needing to apply through court, unlike other regions. In view of the absence of relevant legislation regulating the issue and leaving it at the discretion of heads of registry offices, UNHCR along with its implementing partners will attempt to replicate this success in other regions.
- According to the State Security Service, from 7 July all applications for passes to cross the line of contact between the government controlled area and the non-government controlled area will be processed online. Reportedly, once a permit is granted, individuals will be able to cross the line of contact only showing their identity document. It should be noted, however, that the online service has been blocked several times due to high demand.
- On 8 July, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted three resolutions relating to IDP employment and unemployment. Resolution no. 473 simplifies the acquisition of the status of “registered unemployed person” for IDPs. Amendments include reducing the exhaustive list of documents necessary for registration at employment centers. The amendments will remove bureaucratic barriers.
- Resolution no. 471 regulates the protection of IDPs rights for compulsory state insurance. IDPs are entitled to receive state assistance (payments) for unemployment in situations where the insured event occurred before their departure from non-government controlled areas. The Regulation will cover people (IDPs) who have worked or are

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

working at enterprises, institutions, organizations or for individual entrepreneurs who are registered in the eastern conflict area (the non-government controlled area and government areas in proximity to the line of contact).

- A third resolution approved the Action Plan for Employment and Training of IDPs for 2015-16, aimed at: development by donors of areas where IDPs reside *en masse* and reconstruction of affected areas, including implementation of donor, international organization and government joint projects aimed at the employment of IDPs; introduction of a compensation mechanism for employers who employ and re-train IDPs; updating of the system indicating availability of accommodation and community resources, such as schools, for IDPs. UAH 21 million (USD 957,000) has been allocated from the budget of the Fund for Obligatory Unemployment Insurance to ensure implementation of the Action Plan.

Shelter and Non Food Items (NFIs)

Emergency Shelter and NFIs Cluster

- The Shelter and NFI Cluster led by UNHCR, has almost completed the REACH assessment and has already shared preliminary findings through presentation and validation meetings in Dnipropetrovsk and Sloviansk. The main findings were shared at a presentation in Kiev with 20 organizations and two embassies represented. The findings focus on a broad range of indicators establishing a solid baseline for the Ukraine IDP operation. The final report is expected to be released by 25 July.
- The sub-national cluster conducted a coordination meeting on 2 July related to the response in northern Donbas emphasizing preparation and needs for winter 2015-16.
- UNHCR as Cluster lead conducted a fact-finding mission to non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. During the mission a decentralized coordination meeting was held in Donetsk city. It was found that damage to homes is extensive and only few organizations are providing a response through permanent and continuous presence. Furthermore, capacity-building in terms of a technical team and an increase in the number of organizations on the ground will ensure adequate resources for the implementation of a timely response.



8-month-old Ksenia is one of 400 children born in displacement in Kramatorsk this year. On 1 July, UNHCR dispatched aid for displaced communities in northern Donetsk that currently hosts nearly 100,000 IDPs, including many families with children and pensioners. Nearly 2,500 people in Kramatorsk, Druzhkivka and Konstantynivka will receive blankets, bedding sets, kitchenware, buckets and candles for their temporary homes. Photo: UNHCR/N.Sorokopud

Achievements, Impact and Identified Needs

- During the reporting period, UNHCR provided NFI and shelter assistance to over 9,300 beneficiaries. In government controlled areas, UNHCR delivered bedding sets (consisting of a blanket, bed linen and towels) and other NFIs to the NGO Dopomoga Dnipro for distribution at a transit centre run by the NGO. Bedding sets and other NFIs were also provided to the NGO Fond Rozvitku Gromadi for distribution in the town of Kramatorsk, northern Donetsk. In Mariupol plastic sheeting for emergency shelter repairs was provided to NGO Help to Wounded and Bereaved Families for distribution in nearby Berdyanske village, close to the line of contact. Folding beds were provided for distribution through NGOs to beneficiaries in Mariupol, Pershotravnevyi district and Volnovaskyi district. In Lozova, Kharkiv region, four apartments renovated using UNHCR provided materials were handed over to 24 IDPs. A further

18 renovated apartments will be made available to IDPs. UNHCR implementing partner ADRA carried out repairs to 29 houses in Sloviansk, northern Donetsk. UNHCR implementing partner People in Need (PiN) distributed emergency shelter and construction materials to 19 households in northern Donetsk.

- In non-government controlled areas, PiN distributed UNHCR supplied bedding sets, sleeping bags and kitchen sets to beneficiaries in Novoazovsk who were evacuated from Shyrokyne village, near to Mariupol. PiN also distributed UNHCR supplied roofing panels to 80 households in the villages of Faschivka, Lomuvatka, Chornukhyne, Komisarivka and Horodyshche in 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. UNHCR works with five implementing partners and other partners providing assistance to Internally Displaced People through protection and legal assistance, policy development and capacity building and the distribution of emergency shelter materials and non-food items. UNHCR co-leads the Protection and Shelter and Non Food Item Clusters.

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](#) | [HelpAge](#) | [IOM](#) | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | [OHCHR \(HRMMU\)](#) | [OSCE](#) | [People in Need](#) | [The Right to Protection](#) | [Save the Children](#) | [The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights](#) | [UNICEF](#) | [UNDP](#) | [UNFPA](#) | [Vostok SOS](#)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

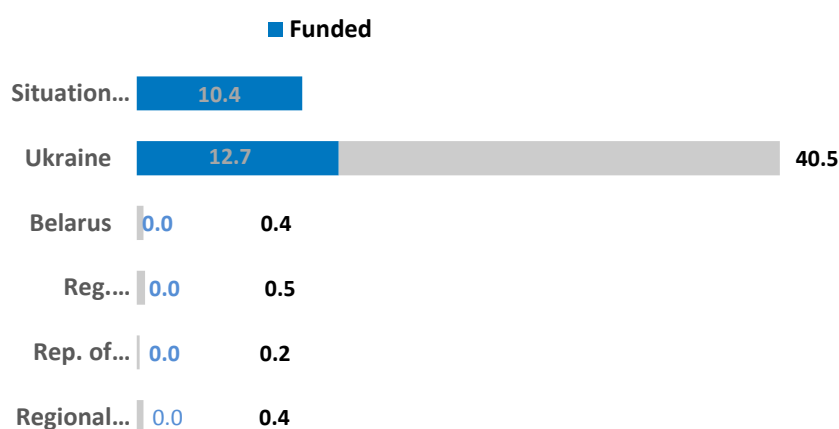
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have already indicated a contribution to UNHCR's 2015 activities in Ukraine with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds. UNHCR's total financial requirement in 2015 for the Ukraine situation is **US\$ 41.5 million**, 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 as well as in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, countries covered by the Regional Office in Georgia. Contributions recorded so far represented **56 per cent** of the total financial requirements.

Donors who have contributed:

Funding (in million USD)

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- Finland
- Germany
- Greece
- Italy
- Japan
- Norway
- Portugal
- Private Donors
- Republic of Korea
- Russian Federation
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- United States of America

A total of **23.1 million** has been contributed



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Ukraine: Internally Displaced People

- 10 July 2015

UNHCR - Kyiv

