

UKRAINE SITUATION

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

16 July – 3 August 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Situational overview:** The situation in eastern Ukraine remains unstable and volatile with shelling and fighting, in some regions on a daily basis. The humanitarian situation is grave with freedom of movement and humanitarian access restricted, limiting the delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- **Protection concerns:** Freedom of movement across the line of contact remains a key concern. The *Participatory Assessment* report for Kyiv demonstrates the needs of IDPs in the area of livelihood, employment, and psychosocial support.
- **Legislation update:** On 29 July, the Ukrainian president signed a Law amending the current legislative framework for the recreation of displaced children, who are given an opportunity to stay in recreational facilities at the expense of state and local budgets.
- **Assistance:** UNHCR Field Offices are currently assessing needs for the upcoming winter, listing winterization items (e.g. coal, wood, blankets, sleeping bags, insulation), and discussing needs with partners and clusters.
- **Partners:** UNHCR signed an agreement with the *Norwegian Refugee Council* (NRC) in the area of shelter and protection as well as with the organization *Station Kharkiv*, a multi-purpose community center in regard to community-based protection.



This boy has lived in a bomb shelter for around a year. In total, there are around 20 children who live in this bomb shelters in Petrovskiy, near the coal mines in Donetsk. Their parents go either to work or collect coal in the surrounding areas to sell it in order to make some small income. Up to today, shelling is taking place on a regular basis in this area.

KEY FIGURES

1,401,100

registered Internally Displaced People (IDPs) including:

829,500

pensioners

331,000

working age

177,000

children

58,800

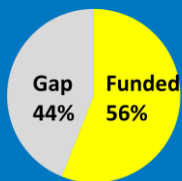
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Source: Ministry of Social Policy, Ukraine

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.
- Promote freedom of movement and humanitarian access.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The situation in eastern Ukraine remains unstable and volatile with shelling and fighting along the line of contact despite continued diplomatic efforts to achieve implementation of the Minsk Agreements. According to an OSCE [report](#), violations of the signed ceasefire five months ago had reached a daily record. Three OSCE monitors have been imperiled in the last week. As of 3 August, there were **1,401,100** IDPs registered by the Ministry of Social Policy. A total of 19,147 people registered since last week, compared to 9,278 the previous week and 12,109 the week before.

UNHCR signed an agreement with the **Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)** in the area of shelter and community-based protection. In addition, UNHCR signed an agreement with the Multi-purpose community center **Station Kharkiv** to strengthen informational, legal and psychological support. Station Kharkiv also operates a hotline to disseminate information on services and to reach out to the uprooted population in the most remote areas of the region and organizes summer recreation programmes for children and adults to improve social integration.

Moreover, a **partner coordination meeting** in Dnipropetrovsk brought together all partners and key staff from UNHCR last week. The main focus was to streamline and improve UNHCR protection and shelter related activities, including capacity building of partners, monitoring, visibility, and reporting requirements. Partners also exchanged their vision of priorities for 2016.

On 29 July, the Ukrainian president signed a Law amending the current legislative framework for **recreation of children**, with immediate effect. Hereby, IDP children are given an opportunity to stay in recreational facilities at the expense of state and local budgets.

Preparation for winter is paramount. UNHCR Field Offices are currently assessing needs and numbers, listing winterization items (e.g. coal, wood, blankets, sleeping bags, insulation), and discuss needs with partners. The issue of winterization was also brought up in all sub-national clusters and working groups in order to avoid duplication and assure coherent coordination.

Access remains challenging and checkpoints continue to open and close in an unpredictable manner, greatly restricting the delivery of much needed humanitarian aid to non-government controlled areas.

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 924,300, 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 at both checkpoints remains calm. Total cross-border traffic decreased slightly at both checkpoints during the reporting period to an average of 10,797 crossings per day, down from a daily average of 10,986 crossings last week.

As of 31 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. The advocacy note on *freedom of movement* is being revised to address the changes introduced with the new system of electronic passes.
- Protection and Shelter Clusters have set up a *Technical Working Group on Housing, Land and Property (HLP)* issues to identify the key challenges facing displaced and affected communities in exercising their HLP rights and to provide guidance on HLP issues to humanitarian actors to ensure that protection and shelter interventions do not have any negative or unintended impact on HLP rights.

Achievements, Impact and Identified Needs

- The **Preliminary Participatory Assessment (PA) report for Kyiv and Kyiv region** is currently been finalized and shared with key partners. On 31 July, all partners and stakeholders met to discuss the results and to share information on activities undertaken following identification of problems during Focus Group Discussions. The participants also noted that more attention should be paid to the livelihood and employment activities, more active participation of the civil society in the development of a national integration plan and strengthening psychosocial activities for IDPs. A finalized version will soon be shared with a wider audience.
- UNHCR Dnipropetrovsk Team participated in a **round table with IDPs**, local authorities, and local NGOs, which provided a forum to exchange information about available services and rights of IDPs. Local authorities introduced the new framework on subsidies for IDPs to cover utilities costs and new rules regarding payment of social allowances through the bank *Oschadbank*. Other NGOs presented their services and activities. Hopefully, similar community events will take place across eastern Ukraine.
- Following the adoption by the Parliament of the Law No.2831-3 on **local elections** on 16 July 2015, UNHCR's partners CrimeaSOS, Right to Protection, and Vostok SOS, held a joint press conference at Ukraine Crisis media center in order to draw attention to the violation of IDP voting rights. The current provision affects more than 1,4 million IDPs (GoU data), barring them from voting in the upcoming local elections at the place of IDP registration.
- The Inter-Agency GenCap Advisor, who is hosted by UNHCR, conducted a two-day workshop on **Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action** in Kyiv and in Dnipropetrovsk, in collaboration with UNHCR, OCHA, and UNFPA. The aim is to examine gender and its impact in shaping the lives, experiences, opportunities, and rights of men and women, and to equip colleagues with tools to better consider gender in the planning and delivery of assistance. Over half of the participants highlighted the desire for further training on humanitarian issues, which is in line with the discussions over the two days, indicating a lack of understanding of the humanitarian system (actors, clusters, principles, mandates). Next weeks' workshops will be conducted in Kharkiv, Kramatorsk, Sievierodonetsk, and in Donetsk.
- UNHCR Protection Team undertook a **protection mission to Odessa** in order to identify key protection concerns and risks and to liaise with partners and authorities. Access to long term shelter, employment and effective mechanisms to follow up on social protection issues, including health, are top priority for the IDPs in the region. Odessa hosts the largest number of persons with disabilities, elderly and other specific needs, most of whom are temporary located in sanatoriums. This may be problematic in the long-term as the sanatoriums are private businesses and might not be able to host the IDPs for another winter.
- According to the official mid-year statistics provided by the State Migration Service (SMS) in Ukraine, the trend in numbers of **new arrivals of asylum seekers** remains the same as in several previous years with 630 new asylum-seekers being registered during first six months of 2015. Afghan applicants remain hereby the biggest group with 221 persons, while the number of Syrians has decreased to only 60 persons.

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

At the same time, the number of Russians remained stable with 46 new asylum-seekers, but the number of Somalis doubled compared to 2014 to 70 persons. Government RSD procedures continue to improve with 19 % recognition rate during the first six months of 2015.

Shelter and Non Food Items (NFIs)

Emergency Shelter and NFIs Cluster

- The second edition of the **Post Distribution Monitoring of Cash assistance report** (2014-2015) has been released ([see report](#)).
- The Shelter/NFI Cluster led by UNHCR is currently conducting a **Collective Centre assessment** across the country to establish a better understanding of the situation of displaced communities resorting to that type of shelter solution.
- The Shelter/NFI Cluster led by UNHCR through the *Technical Working Group on monetization of NFI and Shelter assistance* has prepared recommendations for the **cash for rent – modality**, including the recommended transfer value that was determined after proper analysis of shelter assessment data and costs for adequate shelter in five regions. The final text is yet to be endorsed by the Cluster and will soon be shared with partners.



On 27 July, UNHCR and Station Kharkiv launched the new agreement with a press conference in Kharkiv. As part of the newly established cooperation, Station Kharkiv will open five multipurpose IDP assistance centres at the district level in towns of Chuhujiv, Barvinkove, Kup'jansk-Vuzloviy, Bakalia and Izium.

Olga Ivanovna, 60 (right) is one of the first visitors of the newly opened center in Chugujiv. Olga fled Kirovsk, Luhansk region together with her daughter, nearly a year ago. They were helped to leave the shelled town and sent to Chugujiv. Every week Olga's daughter commutes to the nearby town to earn some money as a cleaning lady. As many others uprooted by conflict in eastern Ukraine, Olga cannot stop thinking about the house she left back in her hometown. "I want the situation to change, so we can return. There is no place like home", says Olga.

Achievements, Impact and Identified Needs

- During the reporting period, UNHCR provided NFI and shelter assistance to over 316 beneficiaries. In the government-controlled area, in Slaviansk region (Semenovka, Selezonovka), UNHCR's partner ADRA carried out repairs to 11 houses. The Sievierodonetsk Field Office through NRC distributed shelter materials (17,544 bricks) along the line of contact. Kharkiv Field Office is in the process of its warehouse closure and NFIs are currently handed over to *Station Kharkiv*. No distribution took place in the non-government controlled areas.

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 partners providing assistance to IDPs 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.

UNHCR Implementing partners (for IDP operation): [Adventist Development and Relief Agency \(ADRA\)](#) | [Crimea SOS](#) | [Danish Refugee Council](#) | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | [People in Need](#) | [Station Kharkiv](#)

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 Dnipra](#) | [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

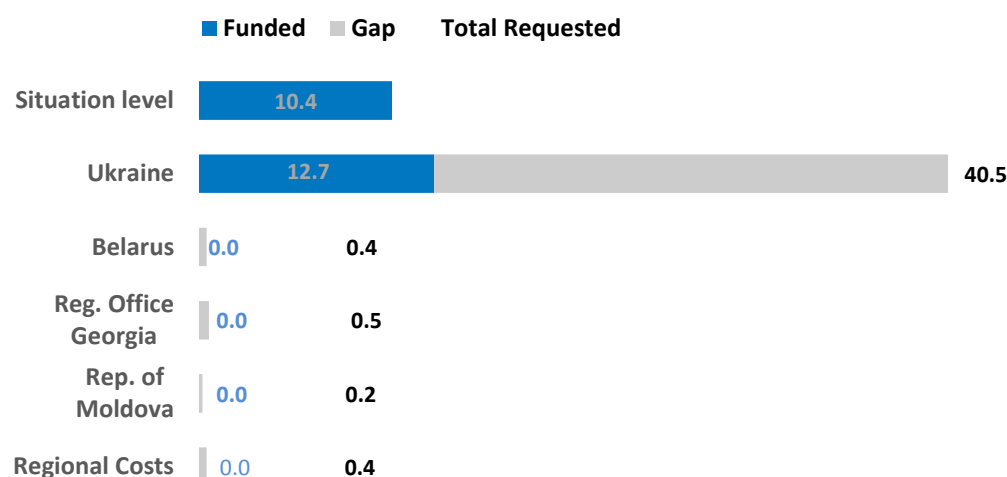
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have already indicated a contribution to UNHCR’s 2015 activities in Ukraine with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds. UNHCR’s total financial requirement in 2015 for the Ukraine situation is **US\$ 41.5 million**, 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:

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

Funding (in million USD)

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



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Ukraine: Internally Displaced People

- 24 July 2015

UNHCR - Kyiv

