

# UKRAINE SITUATION

## UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1 December 2014

This update provides information on the situation of displaced persons and their protection needs. It is intended to be complementary to the [situation reports](#) issued by OCHA.

### KEY FIGURES

#### Internal displacement (as 28.11)

490,046 Ukrainians are internally displaced

#### Applications for international protection in Russia

229,409 Ukrainians applied for refugee status or temporary asylum (as 25.11)

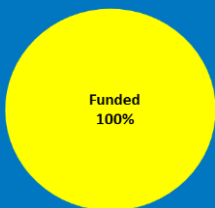
#### Top 5 applications for international protection in other countries (provisional data)

Poland: 2,043 applications (as 26.11)  
Germany: 1,622 applications (as 31.10)  
Italy: 1,552 applications (as 31.10)  
France: 1,076 applications (as 31.10)  
Sweden: 1,070 applications (as 01.11)

### FUNDING

#### USD 11.7 million

Represents current 2014 requirements for the operation which have been fully met. Revised requirements for 2015 will be presented in the 2015 Strategic Response Plan

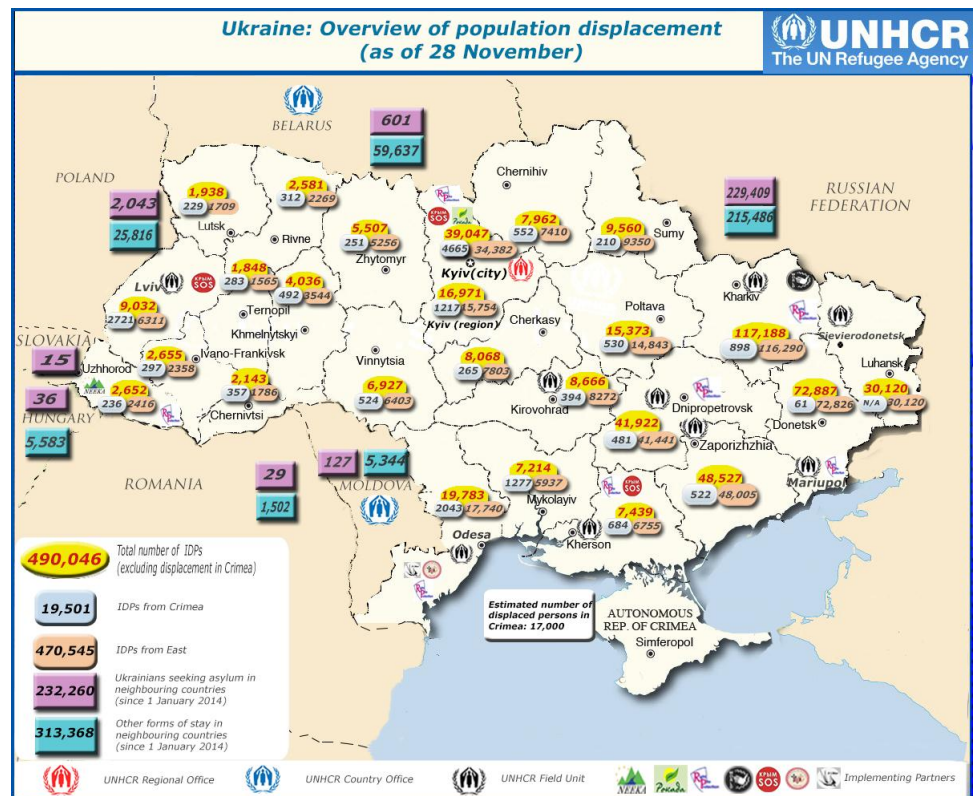


### OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

[The 7<sup>th</sup> OHCHR Report on Situation with Human Rights in Ukraine](#)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 28 November, 490,046 IDPs have been identified by Ukraine's State Emergency Service. The majority (96 per cent) come from the eastern regions of Ukraine.
- As of 28 November, 449,847 IDPs (of the 490,046) have registered with the Ministry of Social Policy in line with the new government registration policy.
- UNHCR is concerned about the potential impact of a new government resolution that provides for the transfer of state-run institutions and social payments to government-controlled areas. People should not be forced to leave their homes to access pensions and social benefits.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. The UN General Assembly affirmed its commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, underscoring the invalidity of the 16 March referendum held in autonomous Crimea. Internal displacement: figures are reported by the Ukrainian State Emergency Service (SES). UNHCR is currently using official statistics provided by SES, but estimates that the real number of IDPs is likely to be higher. The figure excludes the number of displaced persons in Crimea, currently estimated by reliable sources to be at 17,000. The real figure remains unknown. External displacement: figures reported to UNHCR by respective national asylum authorities are as follows: as of 24 November for Belarus, as of 31 October for Slovakia, Romania and Hungary, as of 26 November for Republic of Moldova, as of 26 November for Poland, and reported by the Russian Federal Migration Service as of 25 November for the Russian Federation. Creation date: 28/11/2014, UNHCR Kyiv

## LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

### Operational Context – Internal Displacement

The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) further increased from 417,246 on 16 October to 490,046 on 28 November. The majority of IDPs remain in the regions close the conflict-affected area: in the government-controlled territories of Donetsk (73,000) and Luhansk region (30,000), as well as in Kharkiv (117,000), Dnipropetrovsk (42,000) and Zaporizhzhia regions (49,000). As of 28 November, the IDP population includes 27 per cent children, 20 per cent identified as “elderly or disabled” and of adult IDPs, 66 per cent are women.

Until 15 October, registration of IDPs was conducted by the inter-agency coordination committees organised at local and region levels. The statistics were aggregated, but individual-level data was not entered into a common database. As a result, the system did not allow for proper data management: duplicate registrations could not be identified and de-registration could not be completed upon departure. Some IDPs continue to approach these coordination committees for assistance with accommodation, information or movement to another region, and data about these individuals continues to be compiled by the State Emergency Services. From mid-October, the Ministry of Social Policy took over responsibility for registering (or in many cases, re-registering) the IDP population, using a standard form, entering the data into a common database, and issuing IDPs a certificate as proof of registration. As this system is fully rolled out data on IDP numbers and needs will become more reliable.

The Ministry of Social Policy reported that over 449,847 IDPs were registered as of 28 November. Over the next six to eight weeks, information will be provided in parallel – showing the number of cumulative registrations by the coordination committees, as well as the figures available through the Ministry of Social Policy’s registration exercise. UNHCR is also working with the ministry to introduce an online system to tackle remaining registration problems.

As of 27 October, local authorities estimate that 135,000 displaced people returned to their places of permanent residence. The real number of returnees remains a difficult figure to accurately verify.



*UNHCR continues to distribute reinforced plastic sheets to affected villages and towns. During the last week, despite ongoing hostilities, people in Talakovka in southern Donetsk region managed to cover the damaged parts of their homes, schools and kindergartens.*

### Operational Context – External Displacement

In the Russian Federation, according to data provided by the Federal Migration Service (FMS) as of 25 November, 229,409 Ukrainians have applied for international protection<sup>1</sup>. Of these, 218,380 people were granted Temporary Asylum (TA) status, while 218 persons received full refugee status. A further 215,486 people have applied for other forms of legal stay<sup>2</sup> and UNHCR has no means to verify whether all these people left Ukraine in 2014 as result of the conflict. Most applications for international protection have been submitted in the Central Federal District (81,762), Volga Federal District (39,525), and Southern Federal District (24,514). UNHCR is not currently provided with data to allow for the monitoring of returns from the Russian Federation.

<sup>1</sup> The figure includes the number of applications for temporary asylum and refugee status.

<sup>2</sup> Other forms of legal stay include: temporary/permanent residence permits, Russian citizenship or ‘Compatriots’ Repatriation Programme (integration and support plan for foreigner citizens with family links to the Russian Federation)

In late October UNHCR undertook monitoring missions to Vladivostok and Khabarovsk (far east of Russia), and Irkutsk (eastern Siberia) to observe reception conditions and integration options of Ukrainian nationals arriving in these areas. Those in possession of temporary residence permits arrive at their own expense and reside with families and friends. The majority of the refugees and people with Temporary Asylum status arrive through the centralised relocation system from the border areas and Saint Petersburg and stay predominantly in Temporary Accommodation Centres (TACs).



*On 19 November, UNHCR dispatched food donations received from Estonian government and food producers to the collective centres in Odesa region*

Meetings with local FMS branches and Ombudspersons, visits to five Temporary Accommodation Centres in Khabarovsk and individual interviews revealed that reception conditions and support services for Ukrainian nationals met international standards and were consistent throughout the regions visited. During the time of the mission, the Irkutsk region hosted 2,800 Ukrainian citizens in 10 TACs, the Primorskiy Krai – some 1,776 persons in 30 TACs, and Khabarovsk – 1,500 Ukrainian citizens in 10 TACs. Set up in the dormitories of colleges and universities, children’s vacation camps and sanatoriums these facilities are fully prepared for the winter and have medical care,

school and daycare facilities, including services for pregnant women, complex medical cases.

The number of asylum applications continues to grow modestly in European countries. Between 1 January and 31 October, more than 8,936 Ukrainians have applied for asylum or other forms of international protection in the European Union. As of 26 November, Poland has the highest number of asylum applications from Ukrainians, after the Russian Federation. 2,043 Ukrainians have applied for international protection in Poland and a further 25,816 have applied for other forms of legal stay<sup>3</sup>. In Germany 1,622 have applied for asylum as of 31 October. In Italy, 1,552 Ukrainian nationals have applied for asylum as of 31 October. In Belarus, as of 24 November, the authorities have reported that the number of asylum applications reached 601, while some 59,600 are reportedly seeking other forms of legal stay.



## Update on legislation

On 22 November the new IDP law came into the force<sup>4</sup>. The government now needs to adopt relevant by-laws within the next three months. As reported by the Presidential press service, agreement was reached with the Prime Minister that the law would be revised shortly by the new Parliament and all relevant regulations to ensure access of IDPs to education, employment, accommodation, social payments and healthcare would be in place<sup>5</sup>.

On 7 November, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Resolution No. 595, which provides for the transfer of state-run institutions and social payments from the regions not currently under government control to government-controlled areas. UNHCR is concerned that this provision might generate unintended effects, for example, if this forces people to move from areas not controlled by the Ukrainian government in order to receive their pensions and social benefits.

UNHCR urges the government of Ukraine to continue with its previous good practice of transferring pensions and social payments of all citizens upon their application in regions where these payments can be made and tracked in an effective manner. No additional or discriminatory requirements – such as registering as an IDP or establishing a new residence – should be imposed on them. UNHCR calls the government to effectively inform affected people how they can receive their entitlements. UNHCR also continues to work with the office of the Deputy Prime Minister on a number key government decisions.

<sup>3</sup> The figure includes applications for temporary and permanent residence permits and also EU long-term residence permits.

<sup>4</sup> The text of the law is available in Ukrainian at <http://zakon3.rada.gov.ua/laws/card/1706-18> and in English at <http://unhcr.org.ua/attachments/article/1231/IDPlawSeptE.doc>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/31614.html>

## Protection Monitoring and Response

UNHCR works with two partners conducting protection monitoring and response activities throughout regions in the country with significant IDP populations:

**Access to employment.** IDPs continue to report difficulties accessing employment. If they do not have their ‘labour book,’ they can obtain half-time work, as if it is a second job, but not full-time employment. People face difficulties in re-registering their businesses, accessing banking services and paying taxes. Many requests for legal advice relate specifically to employment law. IDPs also face difficulties finding jobs given the high unemployment in the country, and a reluctance of employers to hire people from the east whom they regard as temporarily relocated. UNHCR’s partner *Crimea SOS* is mobilising volunteers to provide training to IDPs on employment rights, job-seeking tips and vocational skills. The new IDP law is expected simplify some of the procedures regarding economic activities of IDPs, but in some cases, ministries will need to develop further regulations.

**Tolerance and inclusion.** In some regions, protection monitors have identified issues of conflict in schools, related to bullying of children from eastern Ukraine, and disputes among parents that quickly escalate into hot political discussions. UNHCR and partners are: working with the media to portray positive images of IDPs; organising cultural events to introduce local communities to Crimean Tatar culture; and supporting discussions among local authorities, host communities and IDPs.

**Right to vote.** After the belated introduction of simplified procedures for voting by the Central Electoral Commission on 7 October, protection teams worked with local authorities and NGOs to disseminate information to IDPs about how they could exercise their right to vote in 26 October parliamentary elections.

**Monitoring the state’s new registration and assistance programme.** UNHCR and partners are working with the Ministry of Social Policy to strengthen its new programme of registration and financial assistance for IDPs. UNHCR’s monitoring has identified several areas for improvement in both the software and procedures. Monitoring of the process by UNHCR and its partners has shown both problems in identifying the “Anti-Terroristic Operation (ATO)” zone from which displaced status is based on (Council resolution 509) and with the interpretation of who should and should not be included for financial assistance (Council resolution 505).



### Emergency Shelter and NFIs

Under the leadership of UNHCR, the coordination for Emergency Shelter and NFI sector is implemented with regional meetings organised in Kharkiv, Slovyansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Mariupol and Kyiv every two weeks.

**Cash assistance:** Based on successful pilot projects in Kyiv, Lviv and Vinnitsa regions, UNHCR is extending its one-time financial assistance programmes to 11 other regions. The current target is 10,500 people by the end of 2014. The government central registration exercise is expected to start having an impact in early 2015. UNHCR cash assistance for the most vulnerable families is trying to bridge this current gap.

**Collective centres:** The rehabilitation of collective centres in Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia regions is ongoing through direct implementation or partnership with local authorities. An estimated 30,000 to 40,000 IDPs (6-7 per cent of total IDP population) are currently accommodated in collective centres, where the most vulnerable are often placed there as a last resort. The constant fluctuation and dynamic of the displacement underlines the need for this capacity near conflict areas. UNHCR with our partner *People in Need* plan to repair and make ready for the winter a further 12 collective centres in northern Donetsk and Kharkiv region. This brings the total number of premises under different stages of refurbishment to 47.

The distribution of 47,000 squared-metres of plastic sheeting in Luhansk and southern Donetsk to assist 5,468 affected people with emergency repairs began in late-October.

UNHCR is concerned by the announcement reported in the Ukrainian press suggesting that two donors will assist in the establishment of containers' camps. The shelter strategy is aimed at avoiding the creation of camps given problematic



*With onset of winter, UNHCR distributes warm clothing to the most vulnerable IDPs, including children*

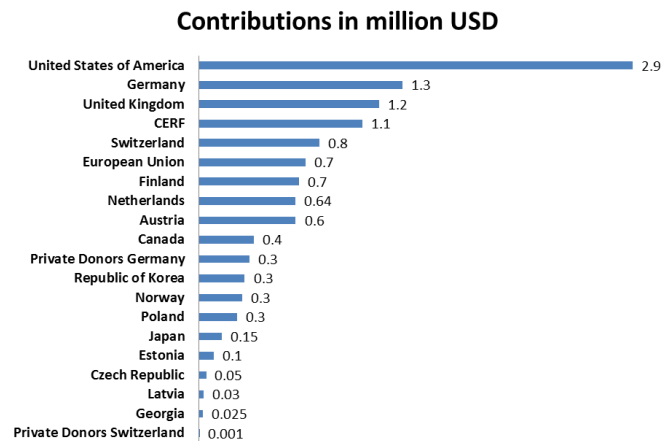
precedents elsewhere, as well as the risk of protractedness. UNHCR is encouraging all partners and donors to coordinate their shelter activities within the shelter sector

**NFI:** As of 21 November, UNHCR has dispatched over 37,300 blankets, 23,300 bed linens, 25,800 towels, 6,800 clothing sets, 2,200 kitchen sets and 8,200 food packages. Distributions, both direct and through partners, took place in conflict affected areas of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, first-line reception regions – Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kyiv. UNHCR is currently procuring an additional 50,000 winter clothing sets and 80,000 warm blankets. UNHCR and partner staff now operates in Sieverodonetsk, Kharkiv, northern Donetsk government-controlled areas, Mariupol, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kirovograd, Poltava, Kherson, Odesa, Lviv and Zakarpattia.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR’s financial requirements for IDPs in government-controlled territory in eastern Ukraine until the end of 2014 is USD 11.3 million, as presented in the Preliminary Response Plan (PRP) launched in Kyiv on 14 August 2014. The assessed sector needs for IDPs as per the PRP are currently fully funded. In 2015 the Strategic Response Plan, which is currently being consulted upon will present updated financial requirements based on a more holistic assessment of needs. The overall budgetary requirements will also increase when access to areas currently controlled by anti-government elements is gained.

UNHCR is grateful for the financial support provided by donors particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed to the situation of displaced people in Ukraine through financial or in-kind contributions, coordinated in advance with sector leads and based on prior needs assessments.



## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The humanitarian response to the internal displacement situation in Ukraine is the coordinated effort of international organisations, the government and local NGOs.

**Key shelter and NFI sector partners:** [Adventist Development and Relief Agency \(ADRA\)](#) | [Agency for the Development and Reconstruction of Donbas](#) | [Caritas Ukraine](#) | [ROKADA Charitable Foundation](#) | [NGO “Chesna I Svyata Kraina”](#) | [NGO “Crimean Diaspora”](#) | [Danish Refugee Council \(DRC\)](#) | [Dopomoga Dnipro](#) | [Harmonia Foundation](#) | [IOM](#) | [International Human Rights Commission \(IHRC\)](#) | [International Relief and Development \(IRD\)](#) | [KoloVorot Public Organization](#) | [Norwegian Refugee Council \(NRC\)](#) | [People in Need \(PIN\)](#) | [NGO “Crimea SOS”](#) | [NGO “VostokSOS”](#) | [Save the Children UK](#) | [Save Ukraine Organization](#) | [Slavic Foundation](#) | [The Right to Protection](#) | [Luxembourg Red Cross](#) | [UNDP](#) | [World Jewish Relief](#)

**Key protection sector partners:** [State Migration Service of Ukraine](#) | [The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights](#) | [NGO “Crimea SOS”](#) | [NGO “Crimean Diaspora”](#) | [The Right to Protection](#) | [NGO “VostokSOS”](#) | [OSCE](#) | [OHCHR \(HRMMU\)](#) | [UNICEF](#) | [OCHA](#) | [ICRC](#) | [Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union](#) | [IOM](#) | [UNDP](#) | [UNFPA](#).

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**Links:** External Update: [www.unhcr.org/ua/externalupdate](http://www.unhcr.org/ua/externalupdate) IDP Profile as of 17 October: [www.unhcr.org/ua/idpprofile](http://www.unhcr.org/ua/idpprofile)

Latest IDP Statistics: [www.unhcr.org/ua/maps](http://www.unhcr.org/ua/maps)

UNHCR Assistance to IDPs in Ukraine (including NFI distribution map): [www.unhcr.org/ua/humanitarianresponse](http://www.unhcr.org/ua/humanitarianresponse)

UNHCR Kyiv: <http://unhcr.org/ua/en> Twitter: [www.twitter.com/UNHCRUkraine](https://twitter.com/UNHCRUkraine) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UNHCRKyiv](https://www.facebook.com/UNHCRKyiv) -

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Ukraine: Displaced at Home <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RQz1b9KYlrg>

**International Protection Considerations Related to the Developments in Ukraine:** <http://www.refworld.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/rwmain?docid=53b29ad44>