

# Operational Update

01-30 April 2018

**Situation at checkpoints:** The State Border Guard Service recorded 1,130,700 crossings of the line of contact during April. UNHCR’s partner R2P reported long queues as a main concern.

**Changes in east Ukraine:** The Joint Force Operation (JFO) officially replaced the “Anti-Terrorist Operation” (“ATO”) in eastern Ukraine incorporating new controls on freedom of movement.

**Legal Assistance:** In April, UNHCR and its partners provided primary legal assistance to more than 1,400 people.

## KEY INDICATORS

**5,500**

IDPs and conflict-affected persons received **primary legal assistance** from UNHCR partners in 2018.

**4,000**

People expected to receive Individual Protection Assistance (cash) totaling USD 450,000 during 2018 in areas near the line of contact (GCA only).

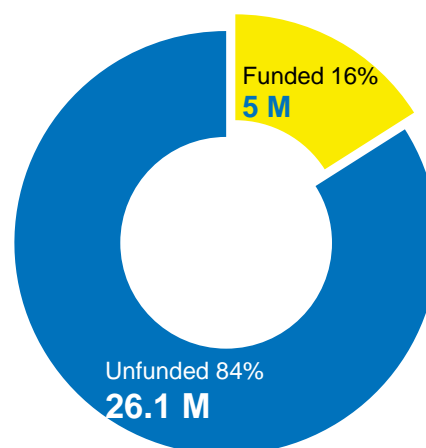
**100**

Peaceful Coexistence Projects planned for 2018 in areas near the line of contact and NGCA.

## FUNDING (AS OF 8 MAY)

**USD 31.1 M**

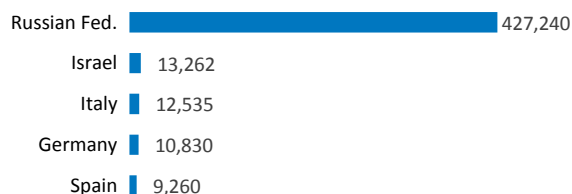
requested for Ukraine



## 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.



Nadiia Kalynchuk, 76, and Yevhen Kalynchuk, 78, in their home rehabilitated under the UNHCR shelter programme. Photo: UNHCR

## Operational Context

Despite a slight decrease in the number of ceasefire violations in the first half of April following a recommitment to the ceasefire on 30 March, the second half of the month saw an upsurge in hostilities. Shelling targeted civilian areas in Novohorodske and Zaitseve in northern Donetsk, and the area east of Mariupol. The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) [reports](#) 74 civilian casualties, including 18 fatalities, since the beginning of the year. During April, OHCHR recorded 46 conflict-related civilian casualties, including 13 fatalities, a 142 per cent increase in the number of civilian casualties compared with March. Civilian casualties during April were comparable with the total figures for the first quarter of 2018, which saw the lowest levels of civilian casualties during the entire conflict period. As of 3 May, there are 1,502,019 registered IDPs according to the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP), an increase of 9,429 since 2 April.

On April 30, [the Joint Force Operation](#) (JFO) officially replaced the “Anti-Terrorist Operation” (“ATO”) in eastern Ukraine. The change of format is defined in the law “*On Donbas reintegration*”. The new operation includes a revised security zone area within which the JFO commander may establish areas with restricted and prohibited access. Entry to such restricted areas may be granted by special permit at the commander’s discretion. Permitted reasons for entering the area include residence or residence of family members in the area; access to places of burial of family members or relatives, or attendance at the funeral of a family member or relative; property rights; “ensuring national interests of Ukraine with the aim of peaceful conflict settlement or on humanitarian issues”; and other reasons. “Areas where security and defense measures are implemented” remain undefined.



*Nadiia Kalynchuk, 76, and Yevhen Kalynchuk, 78, live in the village of Kurdiuivka, Donetsk region. Nadiia, a cancer survivor, worked as a brick moulder, and Yevhen worked as a crane operator. Following their retirement, they remained in the village. When the conflict in eastern Ukraine began, they found themselves on the frontline and subject to daily shelling, forcing them to hide in the basement of their home. While they considered following many of their neighbours into displacement, they were unable to leave their hens and rabbits. On 9 June 2015, two shells caused significant damage to their home and killed many of their animals. “You can see”, says Nadiia, “there is nothing left from that shed now. All the rabbits are gone...” In 2017, UNHCR rehabilitated their home through its shelter programme. On 25 April, 2018, the elderly couple received an unexpected visit: 5 Danish Parliamentarians who visited east Ukraine with UNHCR support in order to familiarize themselves with the situation and understand the humanitarian needs on the ground. Photo: UNHCR*

## Achievements



### MULTI-SECTOR RESPONSE TO REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS

#### Assistance to refugees and asylum seekers

- During April, UNHCR conducted **five Refugee Status Determination (RSD) interviews** with applicants from Afghanistan, Iran and Tajikistan as part of the resettlement process.
- UNHCR provided **two asylum seekers** from the Republic of Congo and Somalia with counselling on voluntary repatriation.
- UNHCR provided refugees and asylum-seekers in Ukraine with **15** resettlement consultations, **45** legal consultations, **30** protection consultations, **90** self-reliance consultations, and provided direct assistance in **11** cases. UNHCR partner Right to Protection (R2P) provided **235** legal consultations, while NGO partner Tenth of April provided **669** consultations and protection consultations to **10** persons. Rokada provided protection consultations to **333 persons**, and medical consultations to **30 persons**. NEEKA provided protection consultations to **56 persons**.
- Main concerns included access to medical assistance, homelessness registration, migration, tax services, employment, education, administration, pensions, children, and finance.
- For more information on UNHCR's work with refugees and asylum seekers in Ukraine see the [Refugee and Asylum Seekers Update \[pdf\]](#).

#### Assistance to statelessness persons

- UNHCR Ukraine works with three NGO partners providing support to stateless persons, conducting advocacy, and policy development.
- On 27 April, UNHCR and its partner NEEKA conducted an inter-agency meeting on documentation of stateless Roma in Uzhgorod, Zakarpatska region and at risk of statelessness, which involved some 60 participants including the Ombudsman, SMS, MoJ, FLA from Kyiv and 13 districts level with biggest communities of Roma of Zakarpatska region.
- On 25 April, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Resolutions # 321 and 322, which approved new editions of the permanent and temporary residence permit forms, as well as revised procedures for processing and issuance of residence permits. The Resolutions are adopted in compliance with the requirements of the Law of Ukraine "On the Single State Demographic Register and documents confirming citizenship of Ukraine, certifying a person or its special status" and aim to provide contactless residence permit cards to foreigners and stateless persons. Adoption of the by-law will allow issuance of permits using the Single State Demographic Registry.
- Following UNHCR lobbying, the validity of permanent residence permits has been increased from 1 to 10 years, while validity of temporary residence permits is 1 year (for students and workers it is issued for the contract period, and for owners of legal entities operational in Ukraine for 2 years).
- UNHCR is lobbying Members of Parliament to adopt the Law on Stateless Determination Procedures, which will provide stateless persons a legal avenue to residence permits.
- For more information on UNHCR's work with stateless persons in Ukraine see the [Statelessness Update \[pdf\]](#).

**PROTECTION****Protection Cluster**

The Protection Cluster led by UNHCR, together with the Mine Action Sub-cluster, organized a Mine Action Awareness Day event in central Kyiv on 4 April. The event sought to raise awareness on the prevalence of mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Ukraine. Ukraine ranks amongst the most severely affected places in the world for landmine and ERW casualties and has the highest rate of anti-vehicle mine casualties. Mine contamination affects the lives of two million people in eastern Ukraine, jeopardizing vital civilian infrastructure, inhibiting freedom of movement and access to livelihoods. The Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs and for Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs; the First Deputy Chief of the Main Directorate of Operational Support of the Armed Forces; together with the Representatives of UNOCHA and UNICEF, the Deputy Chief Monitor of the OSCE SMM, and the OSCE PCU Senior Project Officer spoke at the event.

- The Cluster delivered training in Kramatorsk, northern Donetsk, on protection mainstreaming for humanitarian and development actors, as part of the [New Way of Working](#) and enhancing the humanitarian and development nexus. The training helped participants identify concrete steps to ensure protection is mainstreamed in both humanitarian and development responses, learn how development actors can integrate protection principles into their programmes, and ensure the inclusion of people with specific needs in those programmes.
- More information on Cluster activities is available in the [April fact sheet \[pdf\]](#).

**Protection Achievements, Impact, and Identified Needs**

- On 5 April, UNHCR, [Free Legal Aid Centre \(FLAC\)](#) representatives and UNHCR NGO partners met to plan training workshops for FLAC lawyers during 2018. The training plan will reinforce the capacity of the FLACs currently providing support to refugees, stateless persons and IDPs in Ukraine. On 27 April, UNHCR facilitated a training session on international instruments relating to protection of the rights of IDPs and conflict-affected population for 19 FLAC lawyers.
- On 5 April, UNHCR and NGO partner Proliska undertook a field mission to the village of Pivdenne, Donetsk region, to [assess the humanitarian and security situation](#) of this village on the line of contact where 178 persons face hardships caused by limited freedom of movement, absence of public services, and ongoing military activities. At the request of regional authorities, UNHCR collected water samples from the basements of some homes in the village and delivered them to the State Agency of Water Resources of Ukraine for laboratory analysis. Later, UNHCR was informed that the water sample showed no contamination by the seepage from the local coalmine.
- On 23 April, UNHCR met with the [Ukrainian Army CIMIC commander](#) to address the issue of freedom of movement for the residents of Chygori village. The humanitarian situation in the village is of concern since it has been blocked by a military checkpoint and therefore restricting access to basic services and food supplies to the vulnerable and mostly elderly population. During the meeting, UNHCR proposed improving access

for local public transport. The CIMIC commander assured UNHCR that he would follow up with army units in the area. UNHCR also raised the issue with the Deputy Governor of Donetsk region.

- In government-controlled areas (GCA) of eastern Ukraine, UNHCR partner R2P provided **primary legal assistance to 1,307 IDPs and conflict-affected persons**, and **individual protection counselling to 2,114 persons**, while Tenth of April provided primary **legal assistance to 117 persons**, and Proliska provided **2,464 protection consultations**. The UNHCR hotline managed by R2P received **calls from 123 persons**. During March and April, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provided **legal information to 860 people, protection consultations to 1,553, and legal assistance to 300 persons**. Main legal concerns of the beneficiaries included social assistance, pensions, civil documentation, IDP registration, freedom of movement, family unity, employment, as well as Housing, Land and Property (HLP) issues.
- UNHCR organized **training sessions in central and western Ukraine for some 113 IDP communities**. Organized jointly with NGO partners CrimeaSOS and Tenth of April, the training events covered social entrepreneurship and project management to improve the self-reliance of these community organizations.
- In non-government controlled areas (NGCA) of Donetsk region, UNHCR and its NGO partners provided **protection counselling to some 550 persons**, including two SGBV survivors. UNHCR NGO partners facilitated workshops and community meetings for 196 people on subjects including parenting, protection advice, and SGBV awareness. In the NGCA of Luhansk region, UNHCR provided **protection consultations to 36 persons**. Main concerns of those assisted included humanitarian assistance, social assistance, pensions, crossing the line of contact, HLP, employment, and civil documentation.
- UNHCR reviewed and approved **18 cases for individual protection assistance (IPA)** to vulnerable persons in the NGCA of Donetsk region. In the first quarter of 2018, UNHCR provided in-kind IPA to 204 persons in the area.
- In April, UNHCR partner R2P conducted **38 monitoring visits to five checkpoints** on the line of contact to survey people crossing and provide counselling. R2P protection monitors surveyed **2,179 persons: 1,407 women (64%) and 772 men (35%)**. More than half of the respondents (57 per cent) were over 60 years old. The main reasons given for crossing included visiting relatives, avoiding the suspension of social and pension payments, withdrawing cash, and resolving issues related to civil documentation.
- In 2017, UNHCR completed 24 Community Quick Impact Projects in eastern Ukraine thanks to GIZ Funding. One such QIP rehabilitated a sports facility for **disabled persons in Sloviansk**. The project, completed in October 2017 has since become a reference point for the local community, people with disabilities, IDPs and local population of all ages. The centre, called “Stimulus to Life”, now **employs seven persons** and provides fitness, tennis, chess, martial arts, and wheel-chair dancing classes. The centre also hosts special events including competitions, master classes, and concerts. Some **500 persons visit “Stimulus to Life” every month**, more than twice the number of planned beneficiaries. For more information see the [QIP Fact Sheet \[pdf\]](#).

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Shelter and NFIs Cluster**

- The Shelter Cluster led by UNHCR and co-chaired by People in Need (PiN), held a national co-ordination meeting attended by 10 national and international organisations, and a representative of the Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs (MinTOT). The Cluster also held sub-national meetings in Sloviansk and Sievierodonetsk.
- The Cluster continues to track damages to residential properties caused by the conflict. In the first quarter of 2018, the International NGO Safety Organisation recorded **107 inhabited homes damaged by military activities** in both GCA and NGCA. During the same period in 2017, there were more than 500 newly damaged homes in the GCA alone.
- The Cluster moderated a briefing on winterization in 2018-19 organised by the ECHO-funded consortium Access and hosted by the Canadian Embassy. The presentation demonstrated the need for winterization assistance during the coming winter.

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

- In GCA of Donetsk region, UNHCR distributed **winter jackets** provided by private sector donors EuroTops and Youngone to more than **1,104 persons** in areas near the line of contact. UNHCR partner Proliska distributed winter jackets to a further **498 persons** in the area. In Kharkiv region, UNHCR partners R2P and Station Kharkiv provided **winter jackets to 274 vulnerable IDPs**. UNHCR provided **winter jackets to 128 children and 18 adults** from vulnerable IDP and conflict-affected families in Popasna, Luhansk region.
- In the NGCA of Donetsk region, UNHCR provided **two emergency NFI sets** to a family of six from Staromykhailivka village, near the line of contact, whose home and possessions had been destroyed by the hostilities. In the NGCA of Luhansk region, UNHCR distributed IOM-provided disposable diapers to **eight** vulnerable persons.

**Working in partnership**

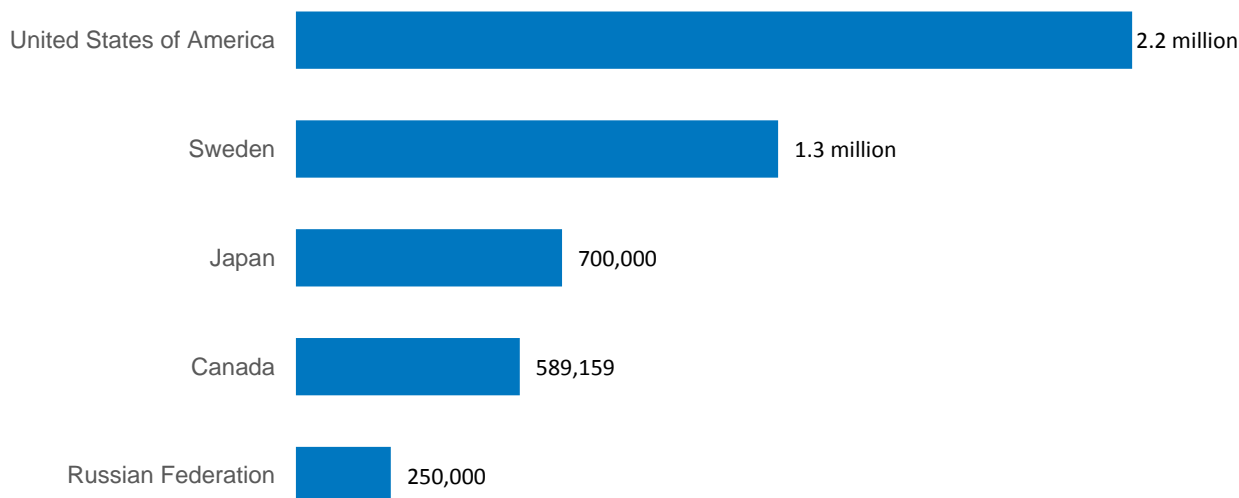
The humanitarian response to displacement in Ukraine is a coordinated effort by the Government, international organizations, national and international NGOs. In providing support to persons of concern, UNHCR works closely with the Government of Ukraine. In the case of IDPs, on 10 October 2016, UNHCR signed a Letter of Understanding with the [Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons](#) establishing a framework for collaboration and coordination aimed at maximizing the capacity of UNHCR and the Ministry to assist IDPs. UNHCR works together with **11 NGO partners** providing support to IDPs through protection and legal assistance, policy development and capacity building and the distribution of emergency shelter materials and non-food items. 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 | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 5.0 million**.



### 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 theme, or to the region or sub-region.

United States of America 28.7 million | Private donors Spain 7.1 million | Private donors Australia 3.8 million

### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Sweden 98.2 million | Norway 42.5 million | Netherlands 39.1 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Denmark 25.5 million | Private donors Spain 19 million | Australia 18.9 million | Switzerland 15.2 million | Italy 11.2 million

### CONTACTS

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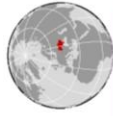
### LINKS

UNHCR Ukraine: [www.unhcr.org.ua/en](http://www.unhcr.org.ua/en) - Twitter: [www.twitter.com/UNHCRUkraine](https://www.twitter.com/UNHCRUkraine)

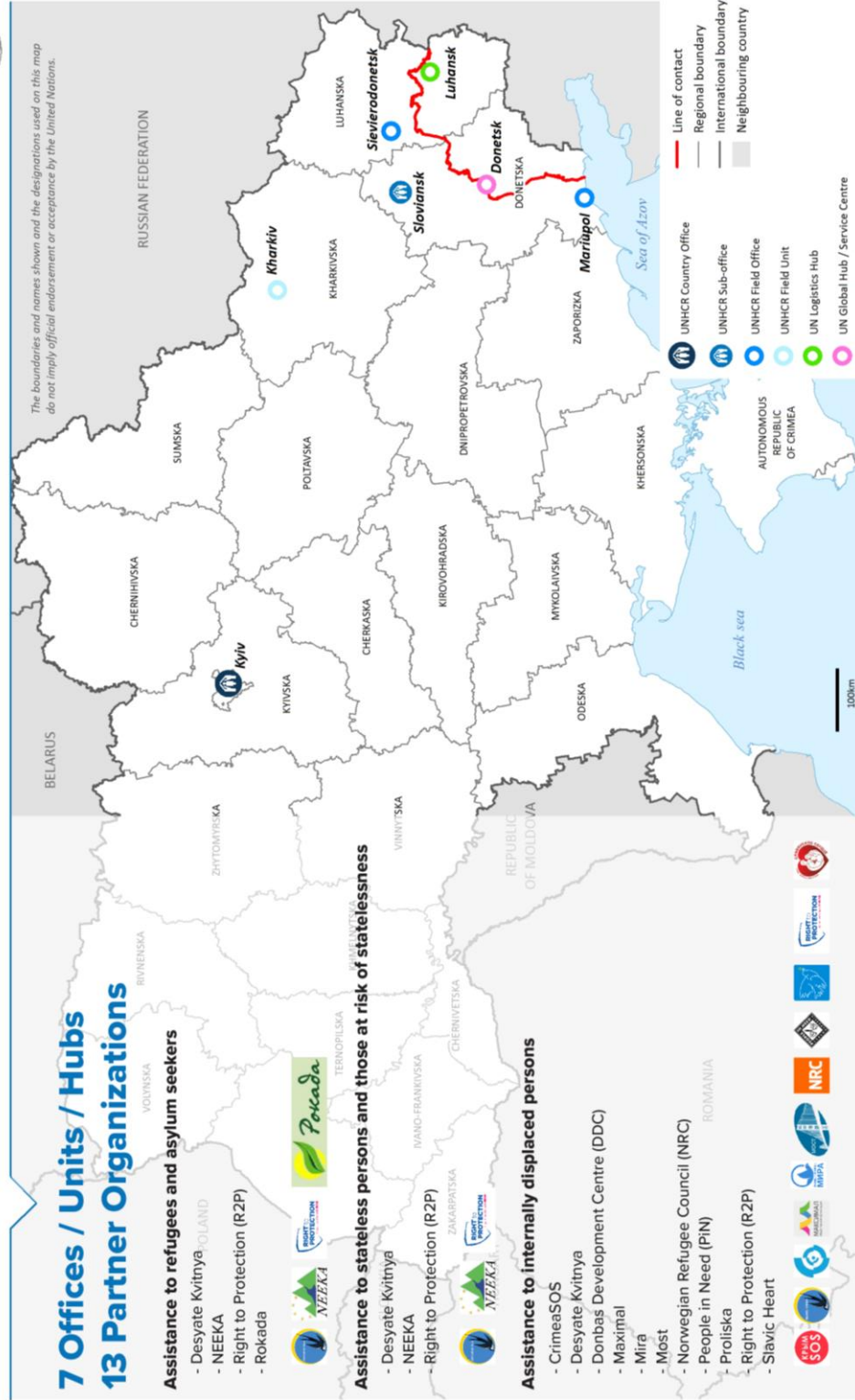
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# Annexes

1.



## Ukraine: UNHCR Presence



Date: 04 Apr 2018 Sources: UNHCR Author: UNHCR - Kyiv Feedback: UkraineInfoManagement@unhcr.org Filename: UNHCR\_presence\_EN