

UKRAINE

Situation report No.29 as of 27 February 2015

This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers 21 February 2015 – 27 February 2015, unless otherwise noted. The next report will be published on 6 March.

Highlights

- On 24 February, the revised Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Ukraine was launched, appealing for USD 316 million for 3.2 million of the most conflict-affected people.
- People in bunkers in Donetsk lack access to potable water, sanitation facilities and hygiene supplies. Several locations in the east still do not have access to water.
- An estimated 2,000 people have returned to Debaltseve; many who remained are traumatized. The UN and humanitarian partners are providing humanitarian assistance.

1 million registered IDPs

Source: Ministry of Social Policy



WFP/PiN food distribution at bomb shelter at Pticefarma, north of Donetsk

Situation Overview

The 15 February ceasefire in eastern Ukraine remains fragile. Humanitarian partners report that many people in Debaltseve have heavily suffered from the recent intensification of fighting: many are traumatized and have had little or no access to assistance or basic services for weeks. OSCE Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) reports that almost all the buildings in the city centre were destroyed or heavily damaged. De facto authorities report that the remaining 7,000 inhabitants, including 1,000 children, and 2,000 returnees, have extremely limited access to running water, basic services or heating. Many are still living in intense fear, in the darkness of bomb shelters. Approximately 500, mostly civilian, corpses had been found in houses and cellars in Debaltseve and authorities have requested body bags from international organizations operating in the area. The pre-conflict population of the city stood at more than 25,000 people.

De facto authorities are providing food, which is estimated to be sufficient to cater for needs for the next two weeks. The cessation in hostilities has allowed for the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance, despite shelling having destroyed or damaged several access bridges. MSF and People in Need (PiN) were able to deliver humanitarian assistance inside Debaltseve. The UN (UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP) provided food and non-food items to partners for distribution.

In some locations (such as Donetsk airport and the village of Shyrokyne near Mariupol) artillery and small arms exchanges were reported. Indiscriminate shelling of populated areas - both government-controlled and those under the control of the armed groups - continued as well, but its scale and impact have dramatically decreased.

According to information from Luhansk Oblast State Administration (LOSA) people started returning to the towns and villages that were under shelling during the last two weeks (Popasna, Krymske). Local authorities are trying to rehabilitate damaged infrastructure. In the majority of towns and villages there is a shortage of food. Delivery of basic products in these areas is irregular due to continued shelling.

Along the contact line, many people continue however to flee cities and towns. As of 23 February, the government reports 1,069,809 registered IDPs across the country. The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine extended the list of the security operation areas with 30 other locations which means that the residents of said areas can be granted an

IDP certificate and be entitled to the respective governmental allowances.

On 16 February and 20 February, the Head of the self-proclaimed ‘Donetsk people’s republic’ signed the Order N 51 and 59, which instruct that the social payments should be commenced on 1 March 2015 for the following groups: pensioners by age, people with disabilities, to the veterans of the ‘Great Patriotic War’, and in case of the loss of a ‘bread-winner’ in the family. It was also reported that residents of Vuhlehirsk and Debaltseve had started receiving one-time financial aid and pensions. However, this information is yet to be verified. According to very conservative estimates¹, the leadership of ‘Donetsk people’s republic’ will need at least UAH 710 million monthly to pay the declared pensions.

Overall, since the beginning of the conflict in mid-April 2014 and until 26 February 2015, at least 5,807 people (including 63 children) were killed and 14,735 (including 169 children) were wounded in the conflict area.² The full account of the losses in the Debaltseve area and Donetsk airport are still pending. On top of injuries, the top most reported morbidity causes in the conflict affected area are cardio-vascular diseases, acute respiratory infections and diabetes.

On 24 February the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) launched the revised Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) appealing for USD 316 million. These funds will be used in 2015 to target 3.2 million of the most vulnerable people across Ukraine, with a wide range of life-saving activities. The launch took place simultaneously in Geneva and Kyiv, together with the Deputy Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine and included member states and various agencies. For planning purposes, four zones were created to map the severity of the humanitarian situation, and help humanitarian actors plan and prioritize accordingly.

From 26-27 February, the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) held a series of meetings in Brussels with members of the European Parliament and ECHO. He appealed for cash support for the newly launched HRP and for financial and technical support for humanitarian action, early recovery and reform. The HC also encouraged European leaders to push for peaceful solutions, despite the many challenges and difficulties. He also outlined the mechanisms of coordination that are currently in place and working, in addition to briefing on what the government of Ukraine is doing to facilitate humanitarian aid and some of the impediments that the humanitarian community is facing, including bureaucratic hurdles affecting access.

On 26 February, the VII Conference of Ukrainian Philanthropist Forum “Philanthropy and Volunteering in Action: Saving, Reconciling and Building the future” took place and humanitarian themes were echoed, specifically the need to change legislation and the significant challenges of delivering humanitarian aid to the vulnerable in non-government controlled area. The ongoing difficulties faced by the local non-governmental humanitarian groups are even greater than those facing the international humanitarian community, local organizations reported.

Funding

During the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) launch, the following contributions were announced:

- The United Kingdom announced GBP 15 million (approximately USD 25 million).
- European Union announced EUR 15 million (approximately USD 16.5 million).
- Denmark EUR 1.3 million (approximately USD 1.4 million).

OCHA records all humanitarian contributions through its Financial Tracking Service (FTS). Please register your contributions by emailing fts@un.org or through the online contribution form at fts.unocha.org.

¹ At the very least there are 400,000 pensioners; the average pension out of the declared is UAH 1774.667.

² This is a conservative estimate of the UN Human Rights Mission in Ukraine (HRMU) and World Health Organization based on available official data: casualties of the Ukrainian armed forces as reported by the Ukrainian authorities; 298 people from flight MH-17; and casualties reported by medical establishments of Donetsk and Luhansk regions: civilians and some members of the armed groups. HRMU and WHO believe that the actual numbers of fatalities are considerably higher.

Humanitarian Response

Another convoy of in-kind assistance from the Russian Federation was reportedly due to arrive to non-government controlled Donetsk and Luhansk.



Livelihoods and Early Recovery (cluster lead: Inita Paulovica, Inita.Paulovica@undp.org)

Needs:

- Provision of coal for low-income households (especially in affected rural areas) remains a priority during winter
- Military activities regularly cause disruptions of basic services, like electricity and water supply in affected districts. Today 55 settlements (145 thousand residents) have no electricity supply.

Response:

- 1,500 unemployed IDPs received employment consultations, 76 IDPs were employed.
- 130 metric tons of coal were provided to IDPs and public social institutions in the Dobropillia district of Donetsk oblast.
- DTEK company provided water to stations of centralized water distribution in Kurakhove city in Donetsk oblast.
- Two capacity building events to open the business for IDPs and host communities were held in Burshtyn (Ivano-Frankivska oblast) and Dobropillia (Donetska oblast). Events included presentation of special bank, franchising packages, and small and medium business development programs.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of access to territories due to on-going insecurity remains a key factor in hampering recovery activities.



Education (cluster leads: Rudi Luchmann, rluchmann@unicef.org; Olena Sakovych osakovych@unicef.org)

Needs:

- On 19 February, the Deputy Minister of Education and Science (MoES), the Head of Parliamentary Committee on Science and Education, the Head of Open Policy Foundation NGO, and representatives of Donetsk teachers and students, discussed the extension of registration for independent testing. The registration deadline has been extended until 20 April. Additional testing sessions are planned on 9 and 27 June. Passport is no longer a requirement for registration and for taking the test.
- MoES confirmed the list of schools ready to accept graduates for registration, and is reviewing the list of boarding schools with the capacity to accommodate graduating students and their families.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Instances of fighting continue to hinder the access to education.
- IDP children who reside in the territories bordering the areas controlled by armed groups face the greatest risk. Schools and kindergartens there are overcrowded and sometimes it is impossible to get to educational institutions because of long travel distances or danger of being caught in hostilities. In Donetsk, due to constant shelling, children from Uhlegorsk, Bulavinskoe, Alexandrovskoe, and Olhovatka do not attend schools.



Emergency Shelter and NFI (cluster lead: Igor Chantefor, chantefo@unhcr.org)

Needs:

- Affected population in the areas under constant shelling are in need of heating and emergency shelter solutions.
- Increased number of new arrivals to key reception points generates an increased need for shelter/NFIs.

Response:

- Cluster partners are finalizing cash assistance projects; post distribution monitoring is already ongoing. In total, cluster partners have assisted 30,497 HHs with multifunctional cash grants.
- Cluster partners have assisted some 4,364 HHs with in-kind NFIs in government controlled areas. ADRA has provided a total of 1,500 vouchers for NFIs and hygiene items.

- In non-government controlled areas (NGCA), PiN has started the distribution of plastic sheets and jerry cans in areas close to the conflict line. UNHCR has provided 300 blankets to the most vulnerable staying in Collective Centers in Donetsk city. UNHCR, in partnership with PiN and the de facto authorities have started distribution of 2,000 thermal underwear, 2,000 blankets, 300 winter jackets, 100 sleeping bags and 4,000 sq m of plastic sheeting to cover the need of minimum 2,000 IDPs in Debaltseve.
- 12 Collective Centers accommodating some 583 HHs have received assistance with repairs and NFIs in Kyiv city, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Odesa, Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk regions. UNHCR with other partners started distribution of asbestos free roofing slate in Northern part of Donetsk region.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is a lack of presence of humanitarian partners in NGCAs in Luhansk region, where humanitarian needs, including for shelter/NFIs, are extremely high.
- Lack of proper information on access roads limits accessibility of NGCAs, given the rapidly changing situation.



Food Security (cluster leads: Elena Rovaris elena.rovaris@wfp.org)

Needs:

- Partners are in the process of assessing food security needs for Debaltseve.

Response:

- In the last week, through its partners WFP food has reached more than 1,200 individuals with a monthly food parcel. Distributions were provided in NGCA, including Donetsk city, Luhansk city, Shakhtarsk, Torez, Zhdanivka, Krasnyi Luch and other cities directly impacted by fighting.
- PIN delivered 2,870 food kits to Sievierodonetsk, Avdiivka, Kostiantynivka, Dobropillia, Rovenky, Zolote, Krasnoarmiisk, Svitlodarsk, Krasnyi Lyman, Sloviansk, Netailove, Pervomaiske, Vodiane, Sieverne, Tonenke, Hirske, Krasnohorivka, Popasne, Sverdlovsk, Selidove, Siversk, Ocheretyne, Kurahove, and Artemivsk.
- Caritas Ukraine distributed food vouchers for 1,000 people in Kharkiv and Kharkiv oblast. Food was distributed for 1,500 IDPs in Kramatorsk and 1,500 IDPs in Sloviansk.
- Hungarian Interchurch Aid is currently assessing food security needs in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Donetsk oblast.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The volatility of the currency has resulted in increased fuel prices, affecting the cost for food deliveries.



Health & Nutrition (cluster lead: Dr. Dorit Nitzan, DON@euro.who.int; Patricia Kormoss, kpj@euro.who.int)

Needs

- Conflict area hospitals are in need of trauma care medicines and consumables³, laboratory reagents and diagnostic supplies, haemodialysis consumables, insulin and oncology medicines. Lack of medical professionals and food also remains a great concern.
- An increase of advanced cancer cases in conflict area is reported. Donetsk and Luhansk Oncological Oblast Hospitals need cytostatics, laboratory reagents, analgesics, antibiotics, IV fluids for the treatment of 1,053 patients.

Response:

- WHO received urgent request for assistance for MDR-TB patients from Luhansk Oblast and is, along with partners, currently assessing the situation on the sustainability of provision of the TB care in non-government controlled areas of the region.
- Over the reporting period, 3 MEPU (Mobile emergency primary health care unit) teams in Mariupol (run by IMC/Greek medical foundation "Hippocrates") and 5 teams in Sievierodonetsk, Sloviansk, Kupiansk, Zaporizhzhia and Pavlograd (run by the Ukrainian Red Cross) have provided 3,422 consultations for IDP and residents.

³ Antiseptic solutions, scalpel blades, surgical sutures, drainage tubes, stomach probes, urinary catheters, anti-infectives, antibiotics, external fixation, plaster of Paris, bandages material, X-ray film, analgesics, anesthetics, muscle relaxants, spinal needles, epidural sets, subclavian catheters, intravenous catheters system for blood transfusion, syringes, infusion solutions (colloids, crystalloids), blood products, vaccines.

Gaps & Constraints:

- 600 patients on OST treatment in NGCA were forced to terminate life-saving treatment due to a lack of drugs.
- Legal constraints are blocking further distribution of medicines, including TB and insulin to NGCA, leaving patient without essential health care. These medicines, procured by the state, are currently residing in warehouses in government controlled Donetsk and Luhansk oblast.

**Protection** (cluster co-leads: Ilija Todorovic, todorovi@unhcr.org; Fiona Frazer, ffrazer@ohchr.org) – see also overview**Needs:**

- There is a need to assess what the current protection concerns are in Debaltseve, and other areas of insecurity or where civilians have been trapped. This is necessary in order to plan for appropriate responses.
- The protection cluster assessment mission in Donetsk 19-22 February identified protection needs including Psycho Social Support (PSS) for children as well as shelter issues. With limited international presence on the ground, local volunteer groups and NGOs with limited funds and capacity are alone in responding to protection needs.
- There is a need to increase the knowledge on and advocate for the rights of IDPs, both among national authorities/duty bearers and among IDPs themselves. This includes implementation of existing legislation; dissemination of legal instruments in state structures and ensuring that IDPs for instance has access to information on the registration process.
- Recovery of documents (lost passports, birth certificates) remains an issue. It can take several months to restore such documents as internal passports, child's birth certificates, child benefit certificates etc.

Response:

- Protection Cluster partners continued their monitoring including protection concerns related to IDPs. There is a lack of access to basic social services in the conflict area; there are concerns related to continued detention of civilians and partners also found and followed up on new cases of abduction, enforced disappearances and arbitrary treatment in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The Situation related to the temporary order of 21 January 2015 controlling movements of persons, vehicles and goods along the conflict line within Donetsk and Luhansk regions with entering/exiting the territories under control of armed groups remains difficult. This is a protection concern particularly when it comes to freedom of movement; increased corruption; arbitrariness and lack of due process related to decision making when it comes to granting of passes.
- It is a current gap that the state authorities are not efficient in their internal coordination, limiting access for IDPs and impacting on their rights to support and services, including the right to housing with limited capacity of transit centres in the regions bordering the conflict zone.
- Inflation and lack of state budget to cover basic needs of the IDP population is creating protection concerns. A number of families and individuals rely entirely on state assistance, they may not have access to their bank accounts and/or may be socioeconomically poor and/or left their homes with few resources. Before they get their registration in place and receive benefits they rely on the state for basic needs, and with a lack of a state budget to cover such requirements, these families and individuals are left without any support. Inflation would lead to any meager resources they do have being worth even less.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene** (cluster lead: Rudi Luchmann, rluchmann@unicef.org)**Needs:**

- The water supply system was restored in Volnovakha rayon, and Kurakhove, Starobesheve and Dzerzhynsk cities, while in Debaltseve and Vuhlehirsk it was only partially restored (20 per cent).
- According to data collected by UNICEF field monitors, city authorities, and cluster partners, several locations still do not have access to portable water, among them Chervonoarmiisk, Selydove, Dymytriv, Bilozerske, Krasnohorivka, Novotroitske, Blahodatne, Volodymyrivka, Mykolske, Pavlivka, Novodonetske, Oleksandrivka, Pershotravneve, Chervonoarmiyskiy raions.
- People in bunkers in Donetsk do not have access to potable water, sanitation facilities and hygiene supplies.

Response:

- On 18 and 25 February UNICEF supplied 40,000 liters of drinking water to 3,000 people in Volnovakha. With the support of UNICEF implementing partner ADRA Ukraine, several locations were reached among them six kindergartens.
- The functioning of Pivdenno-Donbaskyi water canal was stabilized, and to date it provides water supply to several locations in south-western part of Donetsk region.
- 18 tons of bottled water were delivered to Debaltseve in addition to 120 adult hygiene kits, 100 baby hygiene kits and 50 family hygiene kits.
- KHORS NGO distributed hygiene items, as part of an in-kind donation from Proctor & Gamble, to 448 families in the cities of Sievierodonetsk, Lysychansk and Rubizhne, with a high rate of IDPs from Luhansk oblast. As part of the distribution, 521 children were provided with diapers, 402 children with baby wipes, 100 children with soap.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited resources affect the WASH Response
- Ongoing fighting limits access to safe drinking water
- Unsuccessful attempts to install water purification units in three locations in Donetsk were reported amidst the unstable security situation.

**Logistics** (cluster lead: Kennet Blixt, kennet.blixt@wfp.org)**Response:**

- The Logistics Cluster now has a Cluster Coordinator and an Information manager in Kyiv. A Concept of Operations has been circulated and endorsed by all Logistics Cluster participants on the ground. The second Logistics Cluster meeting is planned for Monday, March 2, 15:00 at the WFP Offices.
- Plans are underway to establish a fleet of 5 to 10 trucks for interagency transport to non-government controlled areas. Common warehouses are planned in Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk.

Gaps & Constraints:

- At present, most humanitarian cargo moving into NGCAs is entering via Donetsk, including assistance destined for Luhansk. This is largely due to more severe access constraints into Luhansk in terms of bad road conditions from shelling, risks of UXO and IEDs, and damage to the Stanytsia Luhanska Bridge, which can now only support small vehicles.
- Changing regulatory frameworks have been identified as one of the key constraints in terms of logistics.
- The majority of Ukrainian commercial entities are not willing to transport goods into non-government controlled areas. At present, the best available option is for drivers from Donetsk and Luhansk to pick up cargo from government-controlled areas and take it back. However the available capacity in both areas, in particular Luhansk, is reported to be extremely limited and the issue of government check-points demanding permits remains.

Coordination

- During the reporting period, IASC Principals have agreed to two changes to the cluster architecture in Ukraine. The Logistics cluster has been activated (WFP lead) and the existing Food Security & Nutrition Cluster (WFP lead) has split into Food Security (WFP lead) and Nutrition being absorbed by the Health Cluster (WHO/UNFPA co-led; with UNICEF leading the Nutrition component as sub-cluster) henceforth known as the Health and Nutrition Cluster. These changes have been reflected in this report.
- The Humanitarian Response website (<http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/ukraine>) aims to strengthen information sharing among the humanitarian community in Ukraine and beyond. It is easy to navigate and provides useful overviews of contacts, events/meetings, key documents, maps and infographics, statistics and other operational data. Each cluster has a dedicated page to upload cluster-specific information. OCHA will populate the website over the coming weeks and welcome any suggestions your organization might have to improve layout and contents.

Background on the crisis

In April 2014, armed groups in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk) began to seize buildings and arms. As a result of ongoing fighting between armed groups and government forces, and of events in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) in March 2014, people fled their homes and have become increasingly vulnerable as the conflict spread. Those in parts of Donbas affected by fighting, face imminent security threats due to military activities by all parties to the conflict that are increasingly concentrated in densely populated urban areas. Provision of basic services has been disrupted, supplies are increasingly limited, and an upsurge in lawlessness has occurred. Ongoing daily ceasefire violations continue to be reported, despite the 5 September Ceasefire and 19 September nine-point Memorandum agreed in Minsk. Indiscriminate shelling and continued insecurity are placing conflict-affected people and humanitarian actors at risk.

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