

UKRAINE

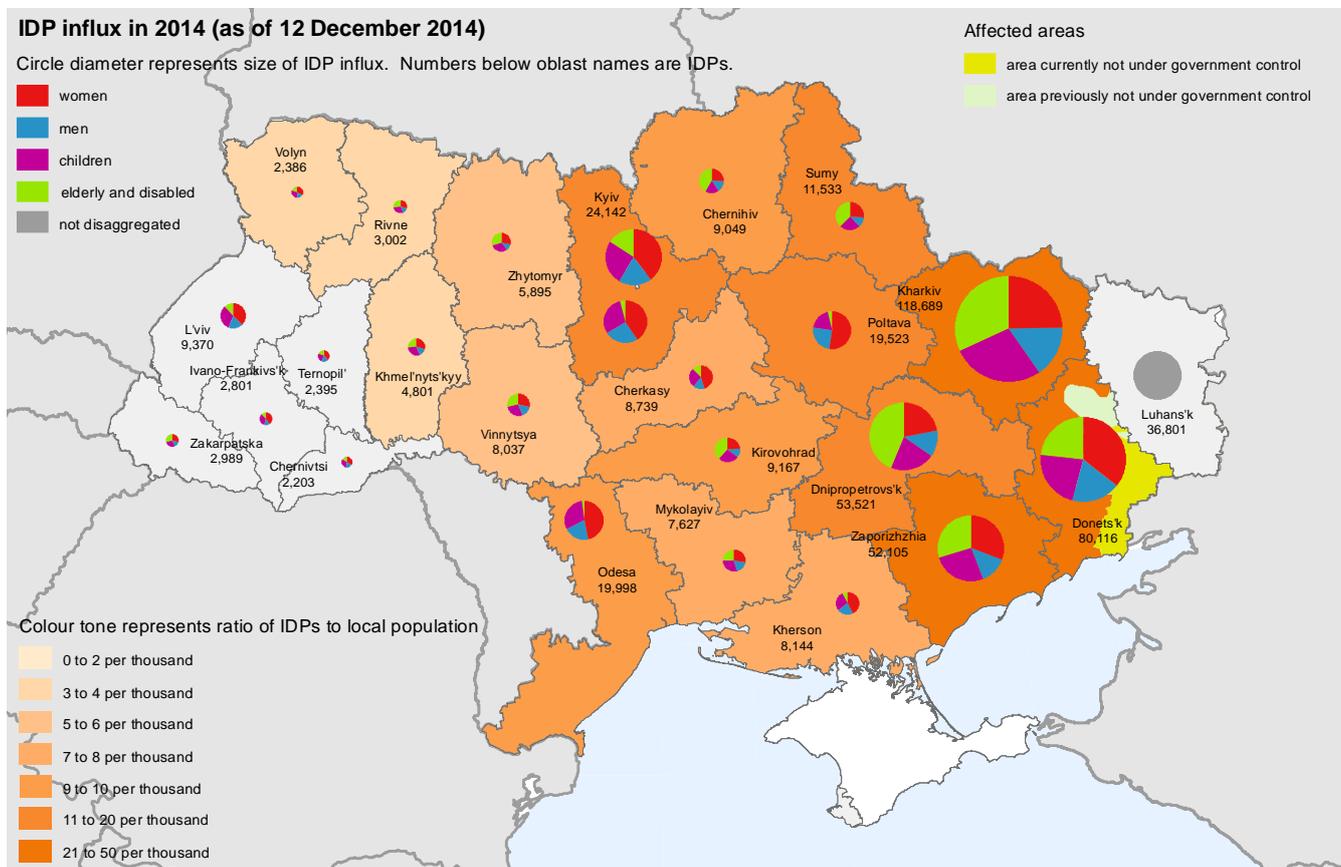
Situation report No.21 as of 12 December 2014



OCHA



This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers 29 November – 12 December 2014, unless otherwise noted. The next report will be published on 26 December.



Highlights

- The humanitarian community remains deeply concerned by the Government of Ukraine announcement calling for the closure and withdrawal of all governmental services and personnel from areas controlled by armed groups by 1 December (Decree 875/2014). The National Bank of Ukraine has also closed locations and services, complicating access to cash and liquidity for conflict-affected people living in these areas. The human rights and humanitarian implications of this move are serious and will deepen the vulnerability of those populations most in need of assistance, particularly as winter deepens making these essential services more life-saving in nature.
- A 'Day of Silence' agreed by all parties to the conflict began at 10:00 am on 9 December and continued throughout the week. No civilian casualties were reported throughout this period – a noteworthy 'success'.
- Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ivan Šimonović, is on mission to Ukraine from 11 - 15 December to monitor and assess the human rights situation in-country and visit key eastern locations.
- The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) will launch the Strategic Response Plan 2015 on 17 December in Kyiv.

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Estimated number of people living in conflict-affected areas as of 28 November

542,080 Internally displaced people as of 12 December (source: SES)

567,956 Fled to neighboring countries as of 12 December

Situation Overview

The Humanitarian community continues to scale-up in response to deteriorating conditions in conflict-affected areas in eastern Ukraine. INGOs continue to arrive in-country for assessments and expanded response, while UN agencies are finalizing joint-office space in a number of key locations and the recruitment of additional staff. A new WASH sector coordinator arrived to Kyiv this week, and a series of headquarters visits are ongoing among partners to strengthen response and support. The humanitarian community urgently requires the deployment of a Gender Based Violence (GBV) humanitarian sub-sector lead and a Cash Transfer Expert.

Reports of extreme vulnerability in state institutions in or near areas of conflict are of serious concern – the chronically ill, mentally ill, disabled, elderly, and orphaned children are in particular need of immediate protection, food and health response. Partners are conducting field missions and assessments to respond to vulnerable populations in institutions and bunkers or bomb shelters in conflict-affected areas.

On 4 December, the United Nations and other humanitarian actors partnered with INGO International Relief and Development (IRD) to provide lifesaving humanitarian assistance to three institutions in grave need of support near Severdonetsk, Luhansk region. Food, blankets, bedding, and hygiene items were provided to protect affected people from hunger and cold. The Governor of Luhansk oblast and the Department of Social Welfare in Severdonetsk contributed 4 tons of potatoes, cabbage, and carrots to the response, collected through donations from across northern Luhansk. Further assessment, response and monitoring are ongoing.

The OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian Gukovo and Donetsk checkpoints reports a marked decrease in the number of entries and exits at both crossing points. More people entered Ukraine than the Russian Federation and the majority of vehicles bore license plates issued in the Luhansk region, including the long-distance coaches commuting between Luhansk and Russian cities.

At least 4,634 killed (including 298 from flight MH-17) and 10,243 wounded in eastern Ukraine as of 7 December (source: OHCHR/WHO)¹.

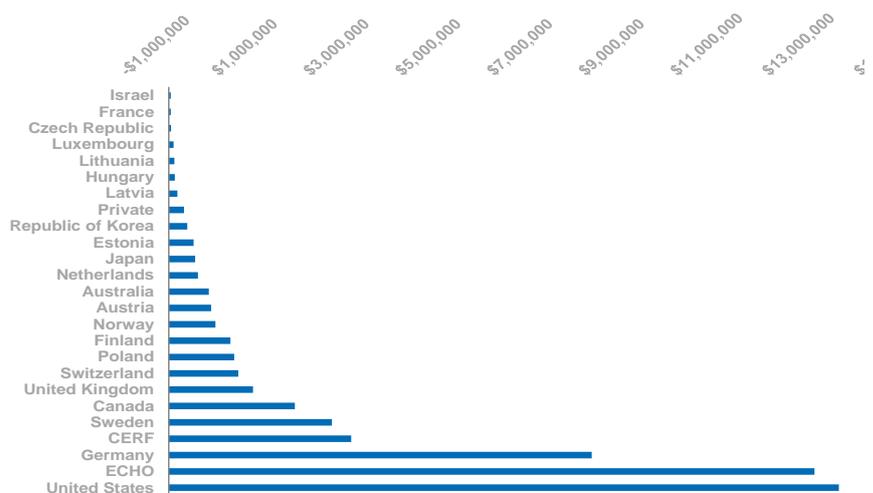
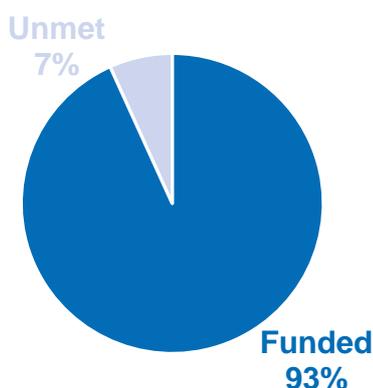
Funding

The Preliminary Response Plan (PRP) was launched on 14 August, against which UN agencies requested an initial \$33.3 million for immediate life-saving needs. Since the launch of the PRP, the situation has significantly deteriorated and needs have risen further. As of 12 December, donors have contributed \$31 million (UN only).

As of 12 December, the total amount provided by donors to international aid organizations for relief activities in Ukraine amounts to \$60.3 million.

Ukraine Crisis 2014

\$33.3 million requested



¹ This is a very conservative estimate by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and the World Health Organization based on available official data. These totals include: Ukrainian armed forces casualties as reported by the Ukrainian authorities; 298 people from flight MH-17; casualties reported by civil medical establishments and local administrations of Donetsk and Luhansk regions; and civilians and some members of armed groups (without distinguishing them). OHCHR and WHO believe that actual fatality numbers are considerably higher.

Humanitarian Response



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

Preparedness:

- The Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment preliminary draft report is to be presented to the Ukrainian government on Tuesday, 16 December.
- A call for proposals was announced for NGOs to conduct 3 business trainings for IDPs willing to jump start micro-enterprises or earn a living through self-employment. 90 micro grants ranging from US \$700 – \$2,500 will be disbursed on a competitive basis to IDPs for business start-up.
- 14 IDP collective centers were identified for reconstruction activities in 7 oblasts of Ukraine.
- IOM plans to implement community development projects in at least 7 localities. The project is aimed at bringing together host communities and IDPs who would work on development projects jointly to improve public infrastructure as well as socio-economic well-being.
- At the request of NGO Dopomoga Dnipra, a two-day training will be provided 11-12 December for volunteers that support IDPs in Dnipropetrovsk. Twenty volunteers will be trained in physiological first-aid and case management of IDPs, prevention and overcoming of burnout.

Needs:

- IDPs in displacement areas are seeking job opportunities to gain self-reliance.
- Because of the high unemployment rates in displacement areas many IDPs, such as former private entrepreneurs from the conflict zone, are eager to launch micro-enterprises.
- Water quality has worsened in several locations in Donbas due to lack of chemical reagents. The water supplying company in Luhansk has asked residents to boil water for at least 10 minutes before drinking.

Response:

- As of 5 December, the Donetsk Oblast State Administration indicated that 4,897 residential and public buildings, including 320 residential houses, electrical grids in 100 locations, 63 heating facilities, and 1,094 gas mains, were rebuilt or repaired since August. Two health care institutions, 28 secondary schools, and 17 kindergartens were reconstructed.
- Electricity was re-established in Yubileynyi settlement of Luhansk city, and the water supply and heating systems are being repaired to ensure service.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The Donbas Recovery Agency is not operational, and hence there is no single coordination body to develop a strategic recovery process. The capacities of regional administrations remain limited in terms of staffing, skills and financial resources to ensure response to emerging problems.
- SME regulations including registration/re-registration of businesses by IDPs, taxation, general economic situation in the country are important external factors to influence the success of assistance projects.



Education (sector lead: Oyvind Wistrom, owistrom@unicef.org)

Needs:

- To ensure the continuous monitoring of children's access to education and assessments of damaged infrastructure in areas of active conflict, UNICEF established a partnership with Donetsk-based NGO Maximal. According to NGO contacts in Donetsk city, around 90 education facilities have been damaged to date because of fighting; approximately one third of these have been renovated.

Response:

- The Emergency education specialist and sector lead has conducted a trip to Slaviansk for a preliminary assessment of damage to education facilities. As a result of this trip, a list of damaged schools was submitted to State Emergency Service (SES) to identify which will be renovated with the support of humanitarian agencies.
- Sector partners are finalising agreements with INGO Save the Children to implement a comprehensive child-centred assessment across sectors, including education. Information will be gathered to identify gaps, assess how many students are not attending schools, and analyse the reasons for this. Information will also be gathered regarding the issues IDPs face at school, the need for psychosocial support, and further integration into host communities.
- In response to increased demand, UNICEF will print and disseminate more mine risk education (MRE) posters. A comprehensive MRE intervention is under development in cooperation with Danish Demining Group (DDG).

Gaps & Constraints:

- Monitoring of child issues in the conflict zones continues to be a challenge due to limited access and security concerns. UNICEF, as sector lead, has reached a preliminary agreement with the OSCE to develop a joint program for monitoring children's issues in the conflict.

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

- Shelter/NFI Sector continues Collective Centers master list update exercise. On national level Premiere Urgence is conducting evaluation for opening a mission, and Norwegian Refugee Council confirmed their interventions in Luhansk oblast.
- Small groups of IDPs are reported to stay in non-winterized locations in Kherson, Kharkiv, Northern Donetsk and other regions and need either relocation or winterization.
- Disabled and elderly are categories in urgent need of assistance, especially in areas not controlled by the Government. World Jewish Relief and HelpAge are focusing their interventions on the elderly.

Response:

- Cash assistance:** Some sector partners (IRD, ADRA) have already started providing cash assistance in Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk, Kyiv and Luhansk regions (providing assistance to some 435 HHs), others starting implementation next week (Save the Children, PiN, DRC). IOM is also starting cash program planning to reach some 5,530 HHs in Kharkiv city. In addition to already covered 1,442 HHs / 4,087 IDPs in Lviv, Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Vinnitsya regions with one-time cash assistance, UNHCR plans to assist some more 2,756 families / 6,259 IDPs by the end of the year in Zakarpattya, Odesa, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk, Vinnitsya and Zaporizhzhia regions.
- Collective Centers:** People in Need (UNHCR IP) is currently rehabilitating 8 collective centers in Slovyansk area in Donetsk region with ECHO funds on top of the 12 supported by UNHCR who also provided construction materials, heating equipment and other core relief items to 4 CCs in Odesa region assisting some 700 IDPs. CC rehabilitation is on-going in Dniprodzerzhynsk (Dnipropetrovsk region), Odesa, Kharkiv, Donetsk and Luhansk regions to cover some 2,200 IDPs. During the reporting period 11 collective centers have received construction materials from UNHCR in Kharkiv and Northern Donetsk area.
- NFI in Kind:** Shelter Sector partners (IOM, PiN, CrymSOS, WJR, Save Ukraine, ADRA, IRD, Vostok-Kiev-Pomosh) have rendered assistance to 1,500 IDPs in Kyiv city, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Luhansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Ternopil, Vinnytsia, Lviv and Kherson regions. During the reporting period UNHCR has provided assistance to some most vulnerable 9,115 IDPs with 3,988 blankets, 5225 bedding items, 2101 food sets (Estonian food donation), some beds, mattresses and jerry cans in Kyiv city and region, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk and Odesa regions. First three wagons of asbestos free roofing slate are going by railway to Severodonetsk, with 8 more wagons ordered and intended for Slavyansk, Kramatorsk and Mariupol.

Gaps & Constraints:

- IDPs staying in private accommodation constitute the majority of the displaced population (90 to 95 %) and often are not supported by the humanitarian community. No methodological sound assessment was conducted on this category of accommodation, neither a rent price survey.
- Recent legislation developments, broken supply chains and lack of access to the areas in Donetsk and Luhansk not controlled by the Government continue constraining adequate and urgently needed response by humanitarian community.

**Food and Nutrition Security** (sector leads: Leelaraj Upadhyay, leela.upadhyay@wfp.org; Valeriya Taran, vtaran@unicef.org)**Needs:**

- Within Luhansk oblast, reports from NGOs continue to identify food needs within institutions – especially for the disabled and other long-term patients. To date, food supplies have been scarce, and replenishments are unreliable from the already-stretched local community. Food assistance from external organizations is not being provided in large amounts, and reports from the field indicate an urgent need to reach these vulnerable groups.
- Families need to feed themselves while they are forced to prioritize expenditures during winter. Eroded purchasing power increasingly makes this difficult. Food prices are increasing with rising inflation. This, coupled with the closure of state services and banks, inaccessible pensions, and the overall lack of

available hard currency, means that those affected are not able to pay for their daily food needs. Food access issues impact both government-controlled and non-government-controlled areas.

Response:

- WFP provided food parcels for 651 individuals as part of the UN convoy sent into non-government controlled areas of Luhansk (Slavyanoserbsk). This food was also part of ongoing WFP distributions of 4,335 food parcels throughout Donbas, with an emphasis on zones most impacted by hostilities.
- Over the reporting period, PIN distributed nearly 3,000 food kits within Donetsk oblast, including 900 in areas controlled by armed groups, Donetsk city and surroundings.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Guaranteed security and access within non-government controlled Donbas continues to limit the delivery of humanitarian assistance where it is needed most. While the main urban zones remain a concern, rural areas are significantly more difficult to reach and information is largely unavailable.



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

Preparedness:

- The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers is preparing changes to the Decree on Pharmaceuticals to support recognition of medicines from countries with strong regulatory bodies including Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, the United States and the European Union.

Needs:

- Insulin, dialysis consumables, blood transfusion and hospital, primary and emergency care medicines and supplies are required in conflict-affected areas and areas with high concentrations of IDPs.

Response:

- Health sector partners continue to support affected population with medical kits and mental health services.
- WHO will provide Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, and Zaporizhzhia regions with Interagency Emergency Health Kits - 90 Basic units, 9 Supplementary units, 5 Diarrheal and 2 Trauma units.
- UNFPA provided 6 regions (Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Poltava and Zaporizhzhia) with 20 reproductive health (RH) kits containing medicines, medical supplies and surgical equipment for critical maternal and other sexual and reproductive health (SRH) care. 12 more RH kits containing medicines and 18 RH kits containing medical supplies and surgical equipment will be delivered shortly.
- The WHO Field Coordinator is establishing the main WHO Field Office in Kharkiv. The next field office will be established in Mariupol. Health assessments in Izum and Kharkiv areas ongoing.
- Mobile Emergency Primary Health Care Units (MEPU) teams are being recruited through Ukraine Red Cross and IMC. Training package under preparation.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Accessibility to health information in non-government-controlled areas is essential. WHO is working with IRD to assess and respond to key health needs.
- IDPs and people remaining in non-government held areas do not have adequate funds or access to cash to procure health care services, including pharmaceuticals and diagnostic laboratory services.
- Surveillance system and primary health services are not fully functional.
- Provision of specialized health care in government-controlled areas of Donbas is unsustainable as most tertiary and specialized health care facilities are situated in areas controlled by armed groups.



Protection (sector leads: Ilija Todorovic, todorovi@unhcr.org; Fiona Frazer, ffrazer@ohchr.org)

Preparedness:

- The Cabinet of Ministers issued a Resolution that establishes list of 'humanitarian items' exempt from personal income tax. These include shelter repair, education, psychological assistance, food and non-food items. UNHCR and partners continue to monitor the resolution.
- The GBV sub-sector has been initiated under UNFPA coordination. Representatives of the Government, NGOs, international organizations and donor missions are welcome to participate.
- The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) continued to monitor casualties, detentions, enforced disappearances, torture, ill-treatment, reprisals and access to basic social services in the conflict area.

- Twenty-eight penitentiary institutions (two pre-trial detention facilities, 24 correctional colonies and two correctional centres) with an estimated population of 15,000 inmates continued to function on the territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions currently under control of armed groups. The State Penitentiary Service of Ukraine has prepared a draft order of the Cabinet of Ministers concerning evacuation of inmates from these territories to other regions of Ukraine in order to implement Presidential decree No. 875/2014 of 14 November. Protection partners are engaged with the government on this issue.

Needs:

- There is a need for a central agency designated as responsible for IDPs. Current responsibility for the protection and assistance of IDPs, as well as persons living in the areas currently outside of government control, is split among multiple ministries and agencies. The new IDP law states that the Cabinet of Ministers shall oversee the implementation of the law, but it cannot exercise daily control in a rapidly developing context. The designation is urgently needed to oversee the protection of IDPs and persons in the conflict area, coordination of humanitarian assistance, and policy development on integration, reconciliation and assistance.
- Due to increasing number of unlawful refusals in registration, financial assistance, violation of employment rights, and limited access to social benefits, a system of free legal aid must be developed on a national scale.
- Capacity development regarding child protection in emergencies is required within the MoSP at oblast level and the Community Protection Centers.
- GBV sub-sector partners have identified the following priority activities: mapping of all available services for survivors of violence; raising awareness among population on available services; roll-out of trainings for the Ministry of Interior and other actors (curriculum developed jointly by Healthright Ukraine and Mol).
- Government resolution #637, terminating social payments to people residing on the territories which are not under control of the Government, resulted in significant increase in figures of registered IDPs.

Response:

- In cooperation with the Ministry of Social Policy to improve IDP registration, UNHCR provided special equipment to regional social protection departments and assisted in printing blank forms.
- Multidisciplinary activities are being developed for girls and boys living in bunkers in conflict areas that engage adolescents and caregivers, based on principles and practices of psychosocial support.
- District level MoSP Centers for Family, Children and Youth agreed to develop mechanisms for direct social service support with Community Protection Centers targeting children and caregivers.
- The HRMMU followed a number of abductions by armed groups, and cases of arbitrary and incommunicado detention and enforced disappearance with the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There are still long waits for IDPs to register with the Department of Social Protection in regions near the conflict zone. They are unable to cope with large numbers of people, and some are provided with tokens to return in a few months' time.
- Resolution #1085 established the list of localities where state authorities do not execute their powers. It is incomplete and does not include all areas under the control of armed groups. This issue created additional gaps in the IDP registration process and has increased tensions.
- Pursuant to residential decree 875/2014 of 14 November, state enterprises continue relocation from and termination of activities in Donetsk and Luhansk regions controlled by armed groups, limiting access of local residents to basic services. As of 1 December, postal service and railway stopped working, as well as the only Ukrainian bank that was available on that territory. The Ministry of Energy and Coal announced the termination of activity of approximately 250 enterprises in Donetsk and Luhansk region, leaving thousands of people without work.
- The need grows for the provision of humanitarian assistance in the areas currently outside of government control. The government has not yet established a clear framework for humanitarian actors—both international and national—to provide assistance to persons living in these areas. Several questions arise regarding security, information exchange, acceptable forms of documentation regarding the distribution of assistance in areas where institutions are no longer legally recognized, etc.
- Elderly and immobile IDPs cannot receive their pensions from the state pension fund without their physical presence during registration – a serious challenge leading to gaps in delivery.



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

Needs:

- According to the preliminary WASH assessment in Donetsk oblast conducted by sector partners - UNICEF in cooperation with People in Need - many villages and communities are in urgent need of water, such as Avdeevka, Bryanka, Khurakhovo, Krasny Luch, Selydove, and Vuhledar.
- The villages of Alchevsk and Stakhanov have no power supply and water is provided once every 7-10 days. The pipeline is damaged and affecting supply in Krasnohorovka, Marynka, Novoukrainka, Uspenovka and Zoriane.
- The villages of Blagodat, Uritske, Veseloe Pole, have no water at all and people are carrying water from nearest villages, as the local municipality does not have funds available for drilling.

Response:

- Over the past two weeks, the sector has delivered 200 adult hygiene kits and 44 baby hygiene kits to Ugledar, a city in Donetsk oblast. 389 baby hygiene kits and 190 adult hygiene kits have also been delivered to Donetsk to be distributed in civil protection bunkers (bomb shelters) by local NGOs.
- UNICEF, as sector lead, is reaching 8,000 school-aged children in Kharkiv and Luhansk oblasts with information on good hygiene practices. 40 teachers will be trained in hygiene promotion in emergencies in the cities of Kharkiv and Luhansk.
- Together with local partners, the WASH sector will conduct 120 thematic lessons on hygiene in emergencies in 40 schools and will provide WASH guidebooks for instruction.
- The sector continues WASH assessments in schools together with NGO partner Mama 86.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of direct access to areas affected by ongoing hostilities continues to hamper the WASH response in Donetsk and Luhansk cities. According to anecdotal evidence, there is an urgent need for hygiene supplies among children and women.

General Coordination

- The **NGO Forum** meets every second Tuesday at 10:00 am at People in Need (PIN). This meeting alternates with the **OCHA-NGO Forum** at 10:00 am at OCHA.
- The **Cash Transfer Technical Working Group** can be contacted through OCHA or WFP should your organization wish to receive information and guidance on cash transfer activities in Ukraine.
- The **Humanitarian Response website** aims to streamline 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 sector has a dedicated page to upload sector-specific information. We will populate the website over the coming weeks and welcome any suggestions you might have to improve layout and content.
- Regular sector meetings are held in Kyiv and the field, including Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Sloviansk and Zaporizhzhia. Please click [here](#) for the meeting schedule.

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, as well as the events which occurred in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) in March 2014, people have been forced to flee their homes and have become increasingly vulnerable as the conflict intensified and spread. Those staying in Donbas region, particularly in areas 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.

The displaced population has significantly increased since early June 2014. To date, 542,080 people have reportedly been displaced and 567,956 people have reportedly fled to neighbouring countries. Of these, 465,721 have sought refuge in Russia. Most have left with few belongings and are in need of shelter, food and non-food assistance, placing pressure on neighbouring regions.

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