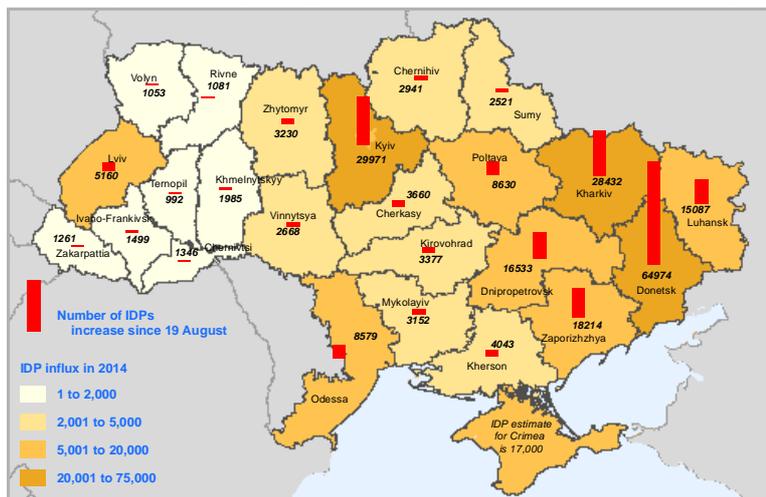




This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 23 to 29 August 2014, unless otherwise noted. The next report will be published on or around 5 September.

Highlights

- Rebels are threatening to take the key port of Mariupol, after opening a new front in the south-east. They have reportedly captured the town of Novoazovsk and are advancing on the port. This is likely to create another wave of displacement amongst parts of the close to half a million people living in an area that until now had escaped fighting.
- At least 4,445 people including 46 children have been wounded and 1,830 people including 28 children were killed in eastern Ukraine as of 27 August¹ (source OHCHR/WHO).
- Significant numbers of unregistered IDPs are expected to register over the next few weeks, triggered by the start of the school year on 1 September and the rapidly encroaching winter season.



3.9m

Affected people living in areas directly affected by conflict as of 29 August

230,389

Internally displaced people as of 27 August

283,065

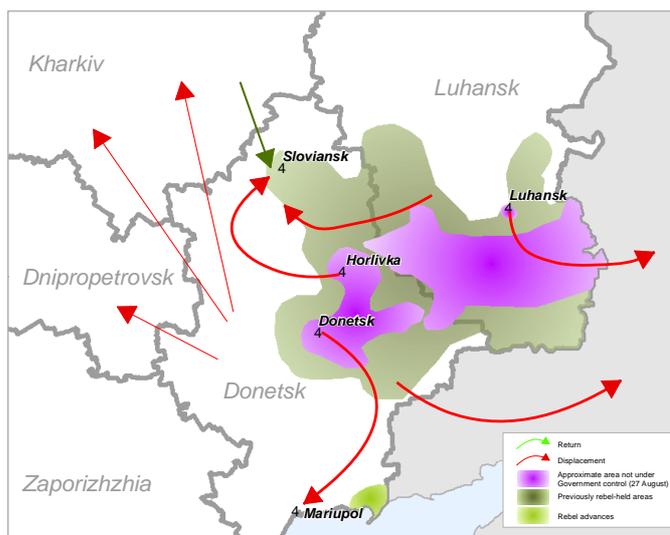
Fled to neighboring countries as of 27 August

Situation Overview

The humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine continues to deteriorate. Fighting and shelling in large urban areas of the Donbas region is resulting in accelerated displacement. As of 29 August, the number of internally displaced increased to 230,389, while more than 283,065 people have fled eastern Ukraine to seek refuge in neighboring countries.

Ongoing shelling presents a challenge to accessing some parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Reports indicate there is increasing need for basic services such as water, electricity and health care in these areas.

Ukrainian President Poroshenko dissolved parliament on 26 August and called for early elections to be held on 26 October. Lawmakers will continue to work until a new parliament is



¹ These are very conservative estimates by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and the World Health Organization. The total is likely to be much higher. Figures include Ukrainian armed forces, civilians and some members of armed groups.

elected. The dissolution of parliament is expected to reduce its ability to review new draft laws. As a result, laws required to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance might be postponed until after the elections have taken place.

In order to facilitate humanitarian activities and the timely and comprehensive registration of internally displaced people, the humanitarian legislative provisions must be approved. The UN-Government customs agreement must also be finalized in order to help clearance of lifesaving medications and goods, and create an enabling atmosphere for response.

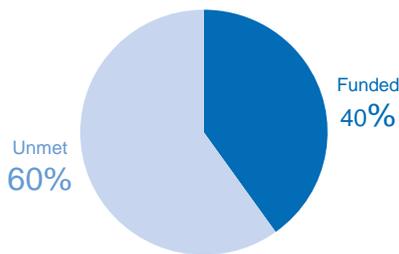
A humanitarian convoy sent by the Russian Federation has crossed into Ukrainian territory, and a second convoy is reportedly being prepared. The provision of humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected areas in eastern Ukraine must be conducted in accordance with International Humanitarian Law and the approval of the Government of Ukraine. While recognizing the deteriorating humanitarian situation, any unilateral action has the potential of exacerbating an already dangerous situation in eastern Ukraine. All sides should continue to exercise maximum restraint and avoid escalation.

Funding

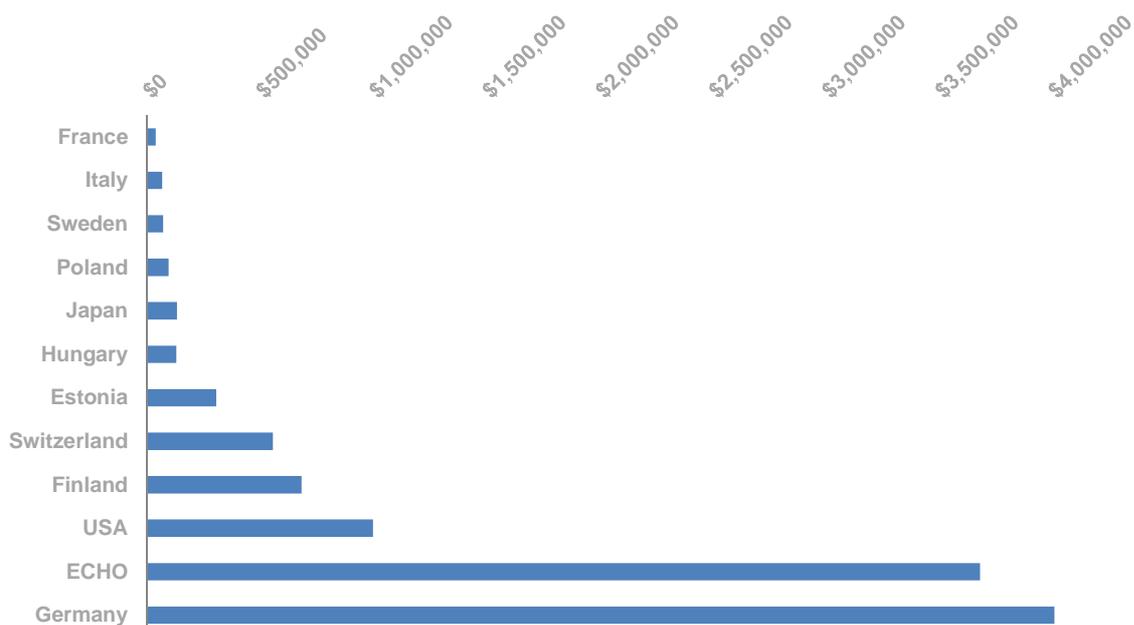
The Preliminary Response Plan (PRP) was launched on 14 August, against which UN agencies requested an initial US\$33.3 million for immediate life-saving needs. By 29 August, donors have committed US\$13.3 million to international aid organizations towards implementation of the strategy. Since the launch of the PRP, the situation has significantly deteriorated and needs have risen further.

Ukraine Civil Unrest 2014

US\$33.3 million requested



Funding by donor (\$)



All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

Humanitarian Response



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

Preparedness:

- A two-day training to address the psychosocial wellbeing of national personnel employed in conflict-affected areas is being developed for September.
- Two two-day trainings on the provision of psychosocial care to IDPs are being prepared and will be carried out in September.
- The second phase of the infrastructure damage assessment is being carried out by a group of 31 local monitors in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.
- The concept of the mobile application to monitor the infrastructure damage assessment is prepared and the tender procedures are being carried out.

Needs:

- Standardized terminology and methods to verify information concerning infrastructure damage must be developed and shared by the sector.
- In-depth information on the business environment in the affected areas is critical to conduct advocacy campaigns and plan support.
- The state-adopted recovery strategy is key to ensure both a comprehensive approach and a greater alignment of international assistance to the recovery process.

Response:

- Call for proposals issued for NGOs to provide legal and psychological support, and income generation activities for IDPs.
- Call for proposals issued for civil society organizations to ensure participatory recovery activities and dialogue. 25 proposals have been received so far.
- 15,000 copies of the second edition of the road map for IDPs (with information on health, and education issues) printed and disseminated through the State Emergency Service.
- An international expert to support the government in development of the recovery strategy has been recruited and will arrive this week.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of security and access to affected areas prevents objective and independent assessments as well as unimpeded recovery measures. The prevalence of unexploded ordinance may also hamper recovery initiatives.



Education (sector lead: Ms. Olena Sakovych, osakovych@unicef.org)

Preparedness:

- The educational facilities in Sloviansk are being rebuilt by the First Combined Detachment of the State Special Transport Service. They are working 24 hour days to repair damaged facilities and restore facades and windows. Reconstruction is scheduled to be finished by 1 September, so that all children in Sloviansk begin the school year on time.
- More than 290 schools in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have been ruined or damaged by conflict. The situation in the areas under the control of armed groups has not been assessed due to the limited access.

Needs:

- The start of the school year in the affected areas is at risk due to lack of security and infrastructure damage. On 27 August, the Luhansk City Council press-service announced that the 2014-2015 school year will not begin on 1 September due to continued fighting and shelling in the city. However, schools will open on 1 September in Shchastia town.

Response:

- MoES, UNICEF and the Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights developed an action plan to prevent the disruption of education services for children and develop possible back-up measures to ensure children's rights to education, including reconstruction of learning spaces, provision of school supplies and psychosocial support programs.
- On 1 September UNICEF will launch a mine risk education campaign in partnership with SES and MoES, which will reach 600,000 children and 200,000 parents through 2,000 schools and other education facilities, including SES offices operating locally on the liberated territories. MRE must become an integral and routine subject in Donetsk and Luhansk, but also in secondary schools across the country.

- UNICEF has delivered educational supplies to three oblasts: Donetsk, Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk, benefiting approximately 14,000 children.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Children's safety and security are the main focus of activities in the recovered territories in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Since 6 July, the SES detected and seized more than 16,000 items of ammunition and explosive devices.



Emergency Shelter and NFI (sector lead contact: Ms. Margarida Fawke, fawke@unhcr.org)

Preparedness:

- The Minister of Social Policy reported that the state has capacity to provide another 25,000 places for accommodation of IDPs, including 5,000 places in Dnipropetrovsk region and 3,000 in the areas re-taken by the government in Donetsk region.
- The first draft of the Emergency Shelter/NFI Sector working group has been circulated. Deadline for inputs is Wednesday, 3 September. Partners were asked to make sure their existing budgets and activities are properly reflected in the plan to avoid gaps and duplications.
- IOM partner NGOs continue carrying out IDP assessment needs in Dnepropetrovsk, Kharkov, Ivano-Frankovsk, Khmelnytsky and Vinnitsa regions.

Needs:

- Preparation of IDP children for the school year is one of the most acute needs reported by IDPs as most new arrivals are requesting assistance with uniforms, shoes and stationery. Sector partners are also receiving more requests for warm cloths and blankets as autumn season is approaching and temperatures dropped substantially in the last week.

Response:

- UNHCR delivered 20 metric tons of humanitarian assistance to Donetsk region on 23 August: NFI kits will be distributed to 359 IDP families in Slavyansk and 300 families in Krasny Lyman. All packages include blankets and bed linen.
- On 27 August, 1,000 food sets, mattresses, sheets and kitchenware were transferred by UNHCR to the IDP coordination center "Dnipro Assistance" in Dnipropetrovsk.
- UNHCR provided 300 NFI sets to the Kharkiv Red Cross to be distributed to 300 most vulnerable families.
- IOM provided basic NFI including bed linen, blankets, clothes, shoes, hygienic sets and kitchen utensils to 52 new arrivals (including 25 children) in Dnipropetrovsk and Khmelnytsky regions. Additionally, their school related needs such as uniforms, shoes, stationery and bags, have been met.
- On 22-23 August 100 trucks with 20,000 MT of humanitarian assistance from the Rinat Akhmetov Foundation arrived to Mariupol for further distribution to IDPs and people staying in the conflict affected areas in Donetsk region.
- In Lviv, the NGO "Crimean wave" together with Crimea SOS delivered humanitarian assistance to 123 families. The majority asked for food, hygienic items, children's items and school materials.
- There is a volunteer initiative to build a 150-house IDP village 5 km from Dnipropetrovsk near Liubimovka village. The initiative group is collecting cash donations (50,000 UAH donated thus far); donations of construction materials and support from volunteers are anticipated. A landholder provided 2 hectares of land for the construction, and construction will be provided free of charge. UNHCR is monitoring the project closely.

Gaps & Constraints:

- As the holiday period comes to an end and prospects of return remain extremely limited, the majority of IDPs temporarily housed by relatives and host families are concerned about winter accommodation.
- Most of the local state administrations do not have lists of facilities suitable to use during the fall/winter season. UNHCR was informed by the government that the list of collective centers to be winterized and the updated list of winterization equipment will be circulated on Wednesday, 3 September.



Food and Nutrition Security (sector leads: Ms Lani Trenouth, lanitrenouth@wfp.org [F] / Ms. Valeriya Taran, vtaran@unicef.org + 38 50 385 4990 [N])

Preparedness:

- No new activities to report.

Needs:

- No new needs have been identified this week. In areas of active hostilities, food supplies are dwindling.

- Frontline workers responsible for organizing and delivering necessary emergency food parcels continue to work long hours in difficult conditions and are themselves also affected by the conflict. Their need for psychosocial support is growing.
- Despite power cuts, bread is still available in Luhansk via local bakeries which are using generators.

Response:

- Despite active hostilities continuing in Donetsk, essential food items have been distributed by local organizations and international NGOs.
- WFP distribution of 90,000 daily food rations, which will meet the 2,100 kcal daily nutritional requirements of the displaced people, will begin next week in areas currently affected by the hostilities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Increased donor support remains critical to meet the emergency needs of families fleeing areas of conflict. Early mobilization of funds can ensure basic food needs are met for the newly displaced, including the most vulnerable populations, as well as prepare responses for the coming winter season.



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

Preparedness:

- Importation of WHO emergency health kits ongoing.
- The Ministry of Health has provided a list of medical needs for IDPs with special needs (e.g. haemophilia, haemodialysis, cystic fibrosis, inborn metabolic disorders, and those on chemotherapy).

Needs:

- The increased number of medical requests from the central and local levels is increasing tremendously.
- As of 27 August at least 4,445 people including 46 children have been wounded and 1,830 people including 28 children were killed. The figures are assessed to be underestimated.
- Health care services as well as outbreak surveillance systems in parts of Luhansk and Donetsk regions where conflict is ongoing face the extreme lack of pharmaceuticals (including vaccines and insulin), consumables, health workers, electricity, water, fuel, communication and security.
- State provided care for HIV/AIDS, TB/MDR-TB and drug users (both IDPs and people who reside in conflict area) is jeopardized due to the lack of information, functioning/accessible care facilities and foreseen shortage of pharmaceuticals on the national level.
- Vaccination and expensive health care (renal dialysis, diabetes, oncological diseases and rare diseases) both for IDPs and residents are in the critical lack of supplies.
- IDPs with disabilities require specific attention and care.

Response:

- According to the MoH, as of 22 August, 24,742 registered IDPs (11,015 children) received primary and emergency health care. Among them, 5,192 people were hospitalized, including 2,171 children.
- Health sector partners continue to address emergency needs in the conflict areas. Some medical needs of vulnerable IDPs are being covered by local and private volunteers, but this support is insufficient.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Due to lack of security and safety, emergency and primary health services are not accessible in some areas, such as Shahtersk, Shahtersky rayon, Snizhne, Yasinovataya, Yasinovatsky rayon. In sites under insurgent control, health care services continue to be limited, including in Donetsk, Gorlivka, Makeyevka, Torez and Luhansk.
- At least 32 hospitals in Donbas are not functioning and approximately 17 hospitals were shelled and damaged.
- Access to specialized care in Donbas region (including chronic NCD, maternal and newborn care, and delivery of blood products) is restricted.
- Gaps between availability and need for health workers in Donbas contribute to the lack of services. The security of health workers and adequate legislation allowing for staff mobility in-country are of concern.
- Luhansk is at high risk of outbreaks due to unsafe environment and gaps in disease surveillance and monitoring.
- IDPs lack funds to purchase medicines and health services. Most services are paid out-of-pocket, even prior to the current crisis.
- Roma IDPs do not have access to health and social services.



Preparedness:

- Ukraine still does not have legislation on internal displacement.
- Parliament passed legislation regarding economic transactions in Crimea. The law imposes financial restrictions on persons with residence registration in Crimea. Many IDPs from Crimea have retained their Crimean registration in order to facilitate travel between Crimea and the mainland, as well as to maintain links to property there. If this legislation is signed by the President, IDPs with Crimean residence registration will not be able to access normal banking services on the mainland.
- The United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) continues to monitor the impact of the security operation (casualties, detentions, enforced disappearances, torture, ill-treatment, reprisals, access to basic social services) in the areas controlled by armed groups, as well as the situation of areas under the control of the Ukrainian Government.

Needs:

- The continued violence affecting the major cities of Luhansk, Donetsk and surrounding areas is leading to a deteriorating humanitarian situation. Many civilians are trapped in urban areas where there is frequent shelling, leading to deaths and injuries. Civilians have limited access to water, food, electricity and medical care, which is putting lives at risk. Civilians must be able to leave dangerous areas in safety during designated hours and through specific travel routes, agreed between all parties to the conflict.
- Humanitarian actors require security guarantees to gain access to conflict-affected populations in the Donbas region. While there is general information about serious protection problems in these regions, direct access is needed to provide crucial independent, neutral verification of the scope and nature of these problems.
- IDPs report delays in the payment of social benefits, since their payments are transferred only after the authorities receive confirmation that payments are no longer occurring at the place of previous residence. Since offices in Donbas are slow or unable to respond, IDPs may not receive social payments for weeks or months. In southern Donetsk oblast, the authorities report they will be able to restore social payments only in October.
- IDPs from Donbas cannot exercise their right to work or receive unemployment payments because most have fled without the required documentation (“labor book”) and cannot prove their employment status. Simplified procedures have not yet been put in place.
- IDPs’ financial problems are worsened by the fact that many have mortgages or other loans that they cannot pay due to their loss of employment and displacement. They are falling into deeper debt and risk losing their homes. While the National Bank of Ukraine has encouraged banks to be tolerant of non-payment, there is no legal framework requiring banks to waive IDP loan payments for a specific period.
- All violations of international law, including war crimes, must be fully investigated; perpetrators must be promptly brought to justice and victims provided with remedies and reparations.

Response:

- UNHCR has provided technical guidance to the authorities regarding international standards for adopting legislation relating to internal displacement.
- Protection sector members have started to work on a public information campaign to disseminate positive information about IDPs and to encourage greater harmony among IDPs and host populations.
- Legal counseling is being provided by protection sector participants in western Ukraine, Vinnitsya, Kyiv and Kherson. Protection monitoring of IDPs is conducted in various regions of eastern/southern Ukraine, covering various issues such as discrimination, access to employment, housing and public services.
- The HRMMU Donetsk Office interviewed a number of victims and witnesses of alleged human rights violations in Sloviansk, Kramatorsk, Krasniy Liman and the village of Donetsk to facilitate the investigation of these allegations.

Gaps & Constraints:

- IDPs increasingly complain about discriminatory practices: landlords reluctant to rent to IDPs, banks refusing loans, and employers rejecting qualified IDP applicants. Negative media reports have inflamed the situation in some regions, while other regions report that there have been no negative incidents between IDPs and the host population.
- With the increasingly negative public image of IDPs, there is a risk that the outpouring of assistance from civil society will slow. Assistance from voluntary groups and religious organization has been absolutely crucial in meeting the basic needs of IDPs.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (sector lead: Mr. Rudi Luichmann, rluichmann@unicef.org +38 50 312 9915)

Preparedness:

- Water supply in Donetsk is partially restored, available 1-2 hours per day. The local authorities are finding it difficult to cope with the situation of restoring the water supply system at all areas or providing an alternative source of water.
- Since 26 July the Luhansk central water supply system has been affected by the shelling, resulting in about 250,000 people in the oblast center without access to safe drinking water. The most affected areas are Bryanka (47,512 people), Stakhanov (92,132 people), Pervomaisk (38,801 people) and Petrovskoye (13,500 people).

Needs:

- Supply of drinking water to Bryanka, Pervomaisk, Petrovsky, Stakhanov in Luhansk oblast has deteriorated significantly due the shutdown of Alchevsk water filtration plant (damaged by fighting on 27 August).

Response:

- The week of 25 - 29 August, UNICEF distributed 30 family WASH kits, 10 baby and 90 adult hygiene kits to the State Emergency Transit Camp in Mariupol.
- UNICEF will supply 38,886 6L bottles of water to INGO partner ADRA for distribution in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Personal hygiene problems escalate with the shortage of water. This may pose significant health risks to the affected population if not addressed.

General Coordination

- All humanitarian sectors and sub-sectors are operational and meeting on a weekly basis, or as needed, resulting in increased coordination and information sharing.
- The Ukraine Preliminary Response Plan was launched on 14 August, requesting a total of US\$33.3M to continue with preparedness and response activities.

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.

The displaced population has significantly increased since early June 2014. To date, some 230,389 people have reportedly been displaced and more than 283,065 people have reportedly fled to 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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United Nations Ukraine – Humanitarian Situation Monitoring, Phase 2, Round 1 report:

<http://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukraine-humanitarian-situation-monitoring-phase-2-report-round-1-21-july-2014>

UNHCR Ukraine external updates are available at: <http://www.unhcr.org.ua/externalupdate>

UNICEF Ukraine situation reports are available at: http://www.unicef.org/ukraine/children_26254.html