



This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers 31 January 2015 – 6 February 2015, unless otherwise noted. The next report will be published on 13 February.

Highlights

- On 6 February a temporary ceasefire allowed for the evacuation of some civilians from Debaltseve. Agencies assisted at reception points.
- Internal displacement nears one million as fighting escalates in the Donetsk region of Ukraine.
- On 5 February, the GoU Deputy Prime-Minister met with partners and committed to find solutions to facilitate humanitarian operations. A two-tier coordination setup (policy and day-to-day operations) has been launched.
- Authorities in Odesa stressed that their capacity to cope with the IDP influx is exhausted.
- Lack of funding hampers humanitarian operations.



Lack of water, basic services, food, electricity, heating, basic services is a fact of life for many people living – for months in a row - in bomb shelters across Eastern Ukraine – photo: PIN

One million registered IDPs

Source: Ministry of Social Policy

Situation Overview

Intense, indiscriminate shelling continues in densely populated areas in different locations along the frontline in eastern Ukraine. As a result of the escalation of armed hostilities, bus stops and public transport, marketplaces, schools and kindergartens, hospitals and residential areas continue to be indiscriminately shelled in clear breach of international humanitarian law. As of 2 February, the government reports 978,482 registered IDPs across the country.

On 4 February, Hospital no 27 in Donetsk city was hit by shelling. Many of the victims were taken to hospital no 24. This incident caused six fatalities and 25 injuries. According to *de facto* authorities, the bombardment also resulted in the destruction of five schools and five kindergartens. Between 31 January and 5 February, fighting in populated areas claimed the lives of at least 263 civilians and wounded a further 674 people. From mid-April 2014 to 5 February 2015, at least 5,486 people, including 59 children were killed (including 298 from flight MH17) and 12,972 people were wounded including 153 children across eastern Ukraine¹.

Evacuations from disputed and highly insecure areas (update as of 7 February)

On 4 February, Ukrainian authorities reported the evacuation of over 3,000 civilians from the territories most affected by fighting; hundreds of civilians were also evacuated from these territories to Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCAs). In the area of Debaltseve, thousands people have been trapped, desperately sheltering from heavy shelling and lacking running water, food, electricity and basic medical supplies.

On 3 February, the Presidential Administration called on the UN and ICRC to assist with evacuating children from affected areas. The UN highlighted the importance of keeping families together; ensuring the voluntariness of the process, including respecting the decision of evacuees to go where they wish. The UN Secretary-General, along

¹ 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.

with other members of the international community, including the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) renewed appeals for a truce. Such a ceasefire came into force on 6 February, allowing for the evacuation of civilians from the area. While some fighting was reported by the end of 6 February, and again the day after, people still managed to leave the area on 7 February. The Government of Ukraine (GoU) and non-state groups (NSG) controlling parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk region mobilized vehicles and buses for the evacuation of civilians to safer areas. In Debaltseve, volunteers in areas of origin notified and mobilized civilians ahead of the evacuation.

GoU and State Emergency Service volunteers facilitated the evacuation northwards, monitored movement, provided information on available transit points, options for further travel and settlement in other regions of Ukraine, and free train tickets for onward journeys (mostly to Kyiv, Kharkiv and Odesa). Available reports indicate that 874 people left Debaltseve, Horlivka and Avdiivka to GoU controlled areas. Of these, 772 (121 children) reached Slavyansk by 7 February. A further 100 people (23 children) were evacuated from Avdiivka to Kostiantynivka.

Reports indicate that buses sent from Donetsk to Debaltseve evacuated around 40 people to non-government controlled areas. The majority of buses that were sent came back empty. It is possible that the non-state actors (NSA) did not manage to reach Debaltseve residents with the information that buses evacuating people to Donetsk were also available.

Spontaneous movements out of disputed areas have been recorded for several days. Additional, organized and spontaneous movements occurred also from Vuhlehirsk – where fighting has been intense over the last two weeks - Avdiivka, Horlivka, Donetsk, Makiivka, Marynivka, and Artemivsk. On 4 February some 700 new IDPs left Amvrosiivka, 300 from Makiivka, 400 from Yenakiieve, and 200 from Horlivka.

According to some of the evacuees, approximately 20 per cent of the original 26,000 people living in Debaltseve remain, mostly elderly and adult men, and families with children. Electricity, water, telephone connections are disrupted and people have no food. Large parts of the city suffered severe damage. Some of the underground shelters are flooded and unusable. GoU/SES distributed some food aid to residents on 6 February.

In Sloviansk, where it is estimated that some 1,000 IDPs - mostly elderly, women, children, and bedridden IDPs on stretchers - arrived on 6 February, evacuees were housed in several locations including the train station building, in six train cars and at the Lokomotiv stadium until boarding trains – mostly to Kharkiv, Kyiv (a transit point) and Odesa. The transit centre in Kostiantynivka is functioning well and IDPs are provided with food, NFIs, information and psychosocial counselling. However, access to drinking water and WASH facilities is problematic. In Kostiantynivka and Sloviansk railway stations, a faith-based organization distributes food and NFIs to the newly displaced while SES provided registration services, psychosocial support and free train tickets for onward travel. Some concerns were however expressed by IDPs with regards to accessing free train tickets at the railway station. In the two transit centres in Sloviansk, UNHCR distributed NFIs (270 blankets, 100 sets of thermal underwear, 20 towels sets and 100 jerrycans) to the newly displaced. ICRC distributed clothing and other NFIs. Red Cross volunteers distribute hot food and provided health services. WFP and PIN distributed 600 food vouchers to IDPs. As of 7 February, some 160 people (29 children) left Sloviansk and 78 from Kostiantynivka to other destinations, westwards, in the country. Others who decided to stay were provided with UNHCR blankets. Some 400 IDPs - mostly elderly, women and children - arrived on 5 February in Bogorodnichye village, close to Sloviansk.

In Artemivsk, 150 civilians arrive on a daily basis from Debaltseve area. The Governor of Donetsk has taken measures for a GoU/SES information point to be setup at the railway station, assign psychologists, provide heating and mobilize volunteers' support for provision of food and NFIs. SES will also provide free transportation to Sloviansk railway station. In Artemivsk the Red Cross distributed hygienic sets for vulnerable IDPs. UNICEF also distributed hygiene items and baby kits. Two collective centres winterized by UNHCR became fully operational in Artemivsk city and started receiving 120 persons.

In Kramatorsk and Druzhkivka UNICEF distributed hygienic sets and UNHCR blankets, sleeping bags, and thermal underwear. In Donetsk, on 4 and 5 February, UNHCR and partners assisted 1,598 persons (40 per cent women and children, 60 per cent elderly) in collective centres in Donetsk with NFIs while NSAs provided food and other commodities. UNHCR and partners – including PIN, and the Red Cross society distributed NFIs to new arrivals from Amvrosiivka, Makiivka; Yenakiieve and Horlivka.

The Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) mobile health teams are assisting newly arrived IDPs in Artemivsk, Sloviansk, and Kramatorsk in close cooperation with GoU/SES, and – in Sloviansk – with the WHO Mobile Emergency Primary health care Unit (MEPU) team. MSF is also active at the transit centre.

In Kyiv, UN field protection teams report that SES is present at the train station. Officials report a need for hygiene

kits, medications and warm clothes for children. First arrivals are expected on 8 February.

A humanitarian truce is urgently needed to allow trapped civilians to leave danger zones, and for humanitarian organizations to provide assistance. This assistance must be systematized, based on evolving but prioritized needs, and the overall response requires urgent scaling up. At present, additional teams are being despatched to the reception areas.

Authorities in Odesa overwhelmed by IDP influx

By 5 February, some 21,000 IDPs have been registered in Odesa's four registration sites, of which, 1,000 occurred in the last week. As many as 5,000 people are accommodated in 'sanatoriums' (collective centres), and an equal number of people (half of them children, and another 234 disables) returned to their villages in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Authorities stated that IDPs should move westwards as the ability of the region to accommodate IDPs is exhausted. In a meeting with partners, authorities stated that only people with disabilities will be accommodated in sanatoriums but other vulnerable groups will need to pay for accommodations. Authorities also expressed concern around increased tensions between IDPs and host communities. Food for IDPs living in sanatoriums is a major concern and no partners are present in the area to support this group with food distribution because of a lack of financial resources.

Government establishes humanitarian coordination structures

On 5 February, the GoU Deputy Prime-Minister (DPM) chaired a meeting with other ministries, humanitarian partners and donors to discuss current issues of concern for humanitarian operations. The DPM stressed that peacetime regulations are inappropriate and that a different approach is warranted to facilitate humanitarian operations. He stressed that a countrywide approach to the provision of humanitarian assistance is warranted, as IDPs are everywhere. Nonetheless, different approaches are required in the non-government controlled areas, and in areas with a highest number of IDPs and other parts of the country. The DPM established a two-tier coordination setup (policy and day-to-day operations) between the Government and the humanitarian community, and requested that the government security apparatus support the development of a simplified system for humanitarian agencies and cargoes to access NGCAs; and for financial authorities to find solutions to remove the taxation on humanitarian aid. Humanitarian agencies advocated for a full waiver of regulations and laws which create bureaucratic hurdles to the much needed delivery of humanitarian aid.

Another draft that could affect freedom of movement for IDPs

The fourth wave of military mobilization has been launched. Citizens of Ukraine between the ages of 20 to 60 years, who are eligible for military service, will be drafted all over Ukraine, although preference will be given to those who have prior military experience. Citizens in NGCAs can be conscripted only if they register in any commissariat in GoU areas. Draftees must notify authorities of their change of residence within seven days. Failure to do so, would result in being considered a draft evader, and would trigger the prosecution process. This could have implications of IDP men who have not re-registered with the military authorities. The President of Ukraine requested that the Cabinet of Ministers develop a regime to restrict the exiting/leaving of Ukraine for military-draft age men. It is foreseen that they could only leave the country with written permission from local military commissions. This regime could have implications for the freedom of movement of Ukrainian men, spur corruption, and encourage smuggling/trafficking. Protection Cluster partners will continue to monitor the situation.

Funding

Official reporting to the Strategic Response Plan for Ukraine (Dec 2014) indicate zero contribution to the humanitarian plan for 2015, despite information at local level whereby some limited contributions and pledges are forthcoming. 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.

On 5 February, the U.S. Government announced a pledge of \$16.4 million of new humanitarian funding for Ukraine. These contributions will support the work of UNHCR, OCHA and other organizations.

Humanitarian Response



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

Needs:

- The Resource Center for Displaced Persons, prepared the list of needs of IDPs in places of compact residence. IDPs prioritized employment, accommodation, household appliances, etc. Within one week the Center registered over 120 queries from IDPs via a hotline.

Response:

- Three-day self-employment training was held for 32 IDPs in Vinnytsia city and 60 IDPs in Ternopil and Lviv. After business plan submissions, successful participants will receive micro-grants to start enterprises.
- The Resource Center for IDPs provided employment consultations to 210 persons, settlement and general questions to 145 persons, and legal issues to 15 persons.
- Donetsk, Luhansk: 150 unemployed IDPs received consultations.
- Luhansk: More than 150 inhabitants of Rubizhne and Kreminna districts received legal aid.
- Psychological help to over 30 people in Kreminna and Rubizhne districts were provided.
- Free legal aid provided to more than 175 residents of Lutuhynskiyi, Starobilsk, Novovaidarskiy areas (Luhansk oblast).

Gaps & Constraints:

- Capacities of the local government to support income generation activities remain low in affected areas.
- Intensified military activity halted recovery activities.



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

Response:

- UNICEF and 'Ukrainian Frontiers' are jointly distributing educational kits to displaced children in Sviatohirsk, Kramatorsk, and Sloviansk.
- Activities to support Roma communities in Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions are ongoing in the community centres: free legal aid and social services.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Continuing insecurity hinders access to education.



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

Needs:

- Continuous shelling leads to serious infrastructure damages: gas, electricity and water supply are at risk in locations like Novovaidar, Stanytsa Luhanska, Popasna, Yasynuvata, Telmanove.

Response:

- During the reporting period some more 1,251 HHs have received multifunctional unconditional cash assistance provided by Cluster partners in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Donetsk and Kyiv, which brings total assisted to 17,451 HHs
- Some 4,485 HHs have received in-kind assistance from Cluster partners (clothing and bedding) in Lviv, Kherson, Kyiv, Odesa, Poltava, Kirovohrad, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia regions. UNHCR has provided assistance to some 1,395 HHs in Northern and Southern parts of Donetsk region that are under GoU control (first line of displacement reception). Moreover, ADRA has distributed in Poltava and Kyiv 169 NFI vouchers.
- In non-governmental controlled areas, UNHCR, Red Cross, People in Need have dispatched 5,000 blankets, 4,000 bed linen sets, 1,500 winter coats and 250 sleeping bags and already more than 1,598 IDPs got assistance.
- UNHCR and People in Need have provided 10,600 sq. m. of plastic sheeting to cover window/roofing/door destruction in Horlivka and Southern Donetsk area. Caritas has repaired windows in Sloviansk for 100 HHs.
- In line with Shelter/NFI Cluster policy, prepositioning is increased with 154 cubic metres. of timber. A Google Form for Warehouse data collection has been launched and already 4 organisations – Save Ukraine, CrimeaSOS, People in Need and UNHCR – have updated their stock ([link](#)).

Gaps & Constraints:

- Spontaneous and unplanned (often with lack of coordination) massive evacuation from the cities under constant shelling drastically increases needs in the reception areas, while many arrive with no belongings or NFI.



Food Security and Nutrition (cluster leads: Elena Rovaris elena.rovaris@wfp.org, Valeriya Taran, vtaran@unicef.org)

Needs:

- Kitchen supplies (NFIs) and nutrition for children and baby food are needed.
- Security access for the quick movement of food in large quantities to isolated locations on both sides of the conflict areas. More food is needed in locations with new IDPs influx.

Response:

- Food cluster partners completed food distribution of around 8,500 food parcels, 4,436 vouchers and 2,000 cash for food/cash grant among IDPs in across Ukraine.
- Over 20,000 food parcels have been dispatched to partner warehouses.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The availability of food is less than what is required for the population across Ukraine.
- Lack of funding hampers operations.



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

Needs:

- Estimated increase of 5% of TB new cases in Donetsk NGCAs, mainly among the elderly and combatants (6 per cent). Increased concern for treatment of TB patients affected by HIV/AIDS.
- The hospitals in Luhansk report complete break of common diseases and emergency care stocks of drugs within two weeks.
- Inconsistent electricity and water supply pose a risk of infectious diseases outbreak, while surveillance system and primary health services stay not fully functional.
- During the last week several health care facilities in Donetsk were shelled.

Response:

- The WHO public health surveillance project was introduced with case-based, integrated disease surveillance of mental health, non-communicable disease and communicable disease, and is programmed using mobile technology and an online framework.
- Seasonal flu incidence crossed threshold by 15,1% in Khmelnytska oblast where all necessary measures are being implemented.

Gaps & Constraints:

- National and international health partners are increasingly needed in the Donetsk NGCAs.
- IDP shelters do not have adequate conditions to accommodate chronically ill people (oncological, neurological etc). To fulfil these non-medical needs people are placed to the hospitals thus misusing and overloading the in-patient care units.
- Medical documentation such as birth certificates and sick leaves issued in NGCAs health care facilities are not recognized in the government-controlled areas resulting in no payment of social benefits.



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

Needs:

- Civilian population resident close to areas of on-going fighting are at high risk.
- By 3 February, queues of people have been observed at coordination centres and checkpoints waiting to receive their passes necessary to travel out of NGCAs. In the town of Artemivsk in Donetsk region, the number of applicants waiting for passes reached 3,000. On many instances, however, people are allowed to leave the conflict area without passes, often based on personal factor, if they are evacuated by the Ukrainian authorities in a centralized manner.
- As of 31 January, at least 2,332 people remained in institutional care in NGCAs of Luhansk, including 94 adults (mainly elderly) in social services, 803 in geriatric nursing homes a, 861 in psycho-neurological facilities, and 631 children in orphanages and children's homes. These facilities need humanitarian aid, particularly hygiene kits, medicines and food. Situation is especially dire in the psycho-neurological facilities due to the severe shortage of psychotropic drugs that are crucial for its patients.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Increased insecurity, bureaucratic impediments affect access.
- People who fled conflict areas under GoU control cannot get registered as IDPs. Documentation for children has been a problem in some cases, preventing them from receiving social benefits.
- IDP registration was suspended in Stanychno-Luhanskyi district due to continuous shooting in the area.



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

Needs:

- Parts of three districts of Donetsk (Kyivskiy, Kuibyshevskiy and Petrovskiy) have no water supply. North of Torez (Donetsk), part of Yasynuvata, Horlivka and Vuhlehirsk and the town of Krasnohorivka have been experiencing water supply cut due to damages caused by shelling.
- In Donetsk, bunkers are damp and not heated, so people are facing all possible diseases, especially elderly people and children.
- Local authorities of Druzhkivka, Volnovakha, and Horlivka and the city of Donetsk requested urgent dispatch of ingredients for filter stations to cover kindergartens, schools and hospitals in remote rural areas, supply of bottled water as well as technical assistance to boreholes.

Response:

- On 3 February UNICEF supplied 3,264 6-liter bottles to the city of Volnovakha.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited resources affect WASH response.
- Ongoing fighting hampers access.

Coordination

- The Humanitarian Country Team has issued guidelines for humanitarian operations in Ukraine. The document highlights the primary responsibility of parties to the conflict for provision of humanitarian assistance to areas under their control, according to International Humanitarian Law, human rights laws, UN General Assembly Resolutions and other international instruments. It also reiterates the commitment of humanitarian agencies to meeting immediate life-saving needs of the crisis-affected civilian population, wherever they may be located and provide early recovery assistance as soon as feasible. It does stress the need for parties to the conflict to, at all times, grant unhindered access to humanitarian organizations to all affected people, and their role in facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable. It also stresses the receptiveness for authorities to verify the humanitarian and impartial nature of the assistance, but this needs to be commensurate, and implementation of measures may never result in unduly delaying or rendering impossible the delivery of the humanitarian relief. The humanitarian community is committed to work in a transparent manner with openness and clarity about the purpose and objectives of activities to be undertaken, which will be shared with the relevant beneficiary communities, local authorities, and coordinated with other humanitarian agencies. The document further reiterates the commitment of agencies to humanitarian principles in their operations and negotiations to parties to the conflict:
 - Humanity: alleviation of human suffering;
 - Neutrality: Not-endorsement of any political or military allegiances or aspirations, nor taking side in conflicts;
 - Impartiality: Provision of assistance on the basis of need only, without distinction based on politics, religion, ethnicity, nationality, political opinion, nationality or other grounds.
 - Independence: Humanitarian action must be free from interference from any interference, including political, economic, military or other objectives.
- 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. 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, 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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