



Ukraine

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Estimated number of people in need of humanitarian aid*:
3,8 million

Casualties*:
23.000 injured
9,800 killed*

EU emergency and early recovery assistance:
€ 399 million

European Commission's own humanitarian aid:

€ 88.1 million

EU Member States humanitarian aid:

€133.9 million

Projects implemented in 2016 from Commission's own funding have **directly helped half million Ukrainians**.

*OCHA February 2017

** OHCHR February 2017



Photo Credit: People in Need, Avdiivka, February 2017

Photo Credit: EU/ECHO

- There has been a dramatic increase in cease-fire violations along the front-line since late January 2017, most notably in the town of Avdiivka in the Donetsk region.
- EU humanitarian partners are providing drinking water, food, blankets and other basic items to over 16.000 people directly affected by the renewed fighting. Local workers of the electricity and water companies are also restoring heating and electricity where people are surviving sub-zero temperatures.
- Conflict affected resident population and internally displaced persons (IDPs) face difficult access to **health care and other essential services**, socio-economic exclusion, loss of income and livelihood and suffer from **psychological distress** after three years of conflict.
- The European Union and its Member States have jointly contributed over **€ 399 million in humanitarian and early recovery aid** to the most vulnerable since the beginning of the conflict. This includes the **European Commission's humanitarian aid of €88.1 million** provided to all affected populations, including refugees in Russia and Belarus, and delivered according to humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. Material assistance has also been mobilised through the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism**, in cooperation with Member States.
- Humanitarian access is needed to ensure that aid delivery is not hampered and reaches all the people in need. All parties to the conflict should respect International Humanitarian Law and humanitarian principles.

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* All the latest ECHO
Factsheets:
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Humanitarian Situation and Needs

There has been a dramatic increase in cease-fire violations along the front-line since late January 2017, most notably in the town of Avdiivka in Donetsk region, where repeated shelling on both sides has resulted in over 63 civilian casualties**. Thousands of people were without electricity and heating while facing sub-zero temperatures. The conflict between armed groups and government forces in Eastern Ukraine started in April 2014, and has displaced hundreds of thousands from their homes. The conflict has affected over 4.4 million people, out of which 3.8 million are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

Populations in conflict affected areas, and especially in the Non-Government Controlled areas (NGCA) and along the contact line where ceasefire violation is continuous, are in need of humanitarian protection. They also face difficulties in access to livelihood, health services, basic household items and shelter and suffer from psychological distress

The situation is characterised by a shrinking humanitarian space in the NGCA. The obligation imposed by the de-facto "authorities" of the self-proclaimed "republics" in the NGCA to humanitarian organisations to register hampers the process of the delivery of humanitarian aid. In November 2016, the de-facto "authorities" in the Donetsk NGCA expelled the last fully operational international NGO providing vital humanitarian aid to tens of thousands of civilians. Moreover, the freedom of movement and humanitarian access continue to be restricted due to continued fighting, security measures and Government of Ukraine enforced access and movement measures to and from the NGCA. Regulations imposed by the Government in June 2015 on blocking commercial supply of food, medicines and other items from and to NGCA continue to have a negative impact on populations' needs and wellbeing.

In February 2016, the government also suspended state social assistance to a significant number of displaced due to alleged irregularities, placing many of them at risk.

The European Union's humanitarian response

In response to the latest outbreak of fighting along the front-lines, in particular in Avdiivka, EU humanitarian partners have distributed food, blankets and various items to some of the 16.000 people directly affected by the renewed fighting. In sub-zero temperatures, humanitarian agencies are also attempting to restore the towns' water supply, electricity and heating systems by installing generators and water tanks.

Since 2014, the European Union and its Member States have **contributed over € 399 million in humanitarian and early recovery aid to help the most vulnerable affected by the conflict.** EU aid addresses the basic needs of the population in the areas directly affected by the conflict, the internally displaced and refugees who have fled the conflict areas, and the returnees.

Being one of the largest humanitarian donor to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) has to date provided over €88.1 million of emergency assistance, half of which benefits vulnerable people in the NGCA. This relief aid targets the most vulnerable populations, including female-headed households, the elderly, children and persons with disabilities. Projects implemented in 2016 from the Commission's own funding have directly helped over 500,000 affected Ukrainians. ECHO, present in Ukraine since February 2014, plays a key role in facilitating coordination and information sharing with various stakeholders, including donors, authorities and partners. In addition to financial aid, material assistance has been mobilised through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The Commission has also assisted Ukrainian refugees in Belarus and Russia through the national Red Cross Societies in the respective countries.

The European Commission acts on the basis of international humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, which are an integral part of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid. The European Commission provides humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable communities, irrespective of ethnic, political or religious background. All EU humanitarian assistance is based solely on needs. The assistance is being delivered through the Commission's humanitarian partner organisations, including People In Need (PIN), ICRC, ACF, UNHCR, WHO, IOM, Save the Children, Premiere Urgence International, MDM, NRC, WFP, OCHA, UNICEF and GOAL.

