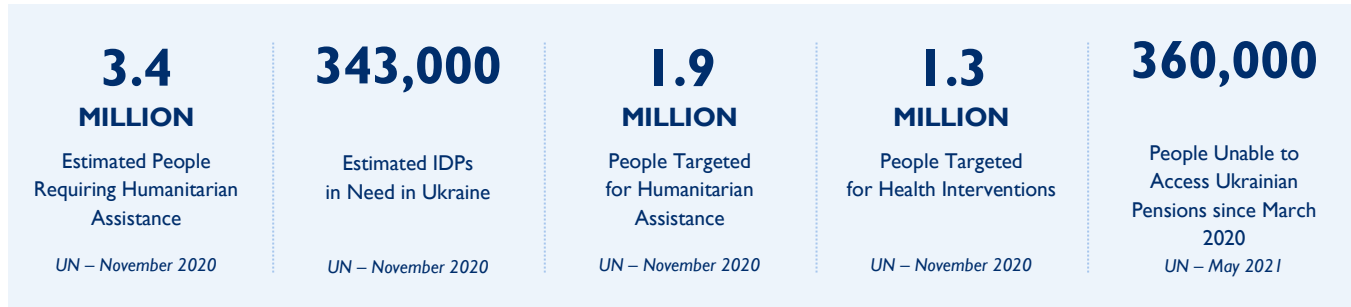


Ukraine – Complex Emergency

JULY 2, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Hostilities in eastern Ukraine continue to threaten civilians and critical infrastructure, with the UN recording 50 civilian casualties between January and May—a nearly 30 percent increase compared to the preceding five-month period.
- The UN recorded a nearly fourfold decrease in new COVID-19 cases in Donetsk and Luhansk GCAs from April to May.
- USAID/BHA has provided nearly \$7.4 million in FY 2021 funding to date, bringing total USG humanitarian assistance since FY 2020 to nearly \$67 million.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Ukraine Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA¹

\$7,354,000

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

Total

\$7,354,000

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

UN Highlights Continuing Impact of Conflict on Civilians and Infrastructure

Insecurity in eastern Ukraine continued to threaten civilians in May, with the UN recording nearly 560 security incidents and 11 civilian casualties—three deaths and eight injuries—during the month. While the figures represent a slight decrease from the nearly 580 security incidents and 17 civilian casualties observed in April, relief actors noted a 17 percent month-on-month increase in the use of heavy weapons, as well as an overall trend of escalated hostilities in 2021. Since January, the UN has recorded 50 civilian casualties, representing a nearly 30 percent increase in the number of incidents recorded during the preceding five-month period.

Amid the rise in security incidents, critical infrastructure—including water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities—are extremely vulnerable to attacks, creating humanitarian risks to civilians, the UN reports. On May 5, a military projectile struck the Northern Pumping Station in Donetsk *oblast*, resulting in minor damage to the building and limiting access to safe drinking water for some residents for approximately two days. In a separate incident on May 7, heavy shelling damaged a power line near the 3rd Lift Pumping Station of Siverskyi Donets Donbas channel in Donetsk, threatening the supply of water to an estimated 3.1 million people on both sides of the line of contact. In total, the UN recorded four incidents affecting key WASH installations during the month, as well as damage to approximately 50 homes and three education facilities. Humanitarian actors, including the U.S. Government (USG), continue to urge conflict parties to ensure the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Fines and Citations for IBCP Crossings Rise Amid Movement Restrictions

In May, coronavirus disease (COVID-19)-related movement restrictions continued to limit civilian crossings between government-controlled areas (GCAs) and non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs) of eastern Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts*, preventing populations in NGCAs from visiting family members and accessing key social services across the line of contact, the UN reports. The UN recorded approximately 52,000 crossings in May—less than 5 percent of the monthly average observed prior to March 2020, when the majority of the entry-exit crossing points (EECPs) separating GCAs and NGCAs closed. Just two EECPs—Luhansk's Stanytsia Luhanska and Donetsk's Novotroitske—remained open under limited operations as of late June. Scarce COVID-19 testing supplies at the two EECPs, as well as strict quarantine protocols—in particular, a requirement for civilians crossing into GCAs to self-isolate for 14 days—have further obstructed crossings, particularly among older populations who must enter GCAs to receive their pension payments, the UN reports. Since March 2020, approximately 360,000 pensioners have lost access to their Ukrainian pensions, reducing their basic incomes and forcing them to adopt negative coping strategies, including borrowing money and depleting savings to meet basic needs.

The long-term closures and limited opportunities for legally crossing at EECPs have pushed many NGCA residents to pursue alternative entry points into GCAs, traveling hundreds of miles to the Russian border towns of Hoptivka and Milove, where they utilize international border crossing points (IBCPs) in violation of Ukrainian law. The UN has subsequently observed an increased number of people receiving related fines and citations from Ukrainian authorities. Between January and April, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates a daily average of approximately 500 and 800 people utilized the Hoptivka and Milove IBCPs, respectively, noting a concomitant rise in the issuance of fines and citations at the sites. Total fines issued at Hoptivka IBCP have already exceeded 2020 levels,

while citations issued at the Milove IBCP are at 90 percent of the total number issued in 2020, according to UNHCR. Such fines and citations—as well as the extra costs incurred through longer travel times—exacerbate vulnerabilities among populations in eastern Ukraine, the UN reports. In response, the UN is advocating for a lifting of the ban on IBCP crossings for individuals requiring humanitarian assistance until all EECPs resume operations. In addition, the UN is advocating for a removal of the Government of Ukraine (GoU)'s 14-day self-quarantine requirement for crossing into GCAs—provided the trip lasts less than 48 hours and is aimed at accessing administrative services.

COVID-19 Outbreak Slows in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA

The COVID-19 outbreak in eastern Ukraine is beginning to stabilize, with a marked decrease in new confirmed COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in Donetsk and Luhansk GCAs, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). GCA health officials recorded a nearly fourfold decrease in new cases—from approximately 17,000 in April to an estimated 4,500 in May—and a 300 percent decline in the number of COVID-19-related hospitalizations in Donetsk and Luhansk GCAs.

Additionally, Ukrainian authorities reported that new COVID-19 cases decreased nearly fourfold across the country, from 360,000 new cases during April to approximately 100,000 new cases in May.

However, in Donetsk and Luhansk NGCAs, improving COVID-19 conditions were less apparent. While officials observed a 30 percent decrease in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Luhansk NGCA, the UN noted the decline may be due to irregular reporting. Meanwhile, coronavirus transmission increased 25 percent in Donetsk NGCA during the month. In response, USAID/BHA continues to support humanitarian partners to bolster COVID-19 prevention. Among other activities, USAID/BHA partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) plans to disseminate COVID-19 awareness messages at health centers, schools, EECPs, and through mass media outlets, aiming to reach nearly 60,000 people across both GCAs and NGCAs in 2021.

RC/HC Highlights Continued ERW and Mine Contamination Risks

On International Mine Awareness Day on April 4, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) for Ukraine Osnat Lubrani called for the protection and safety of the approximately 2 million people who face safety and security risks in eastern Ukraine due to explosive remnants of war (ERW) and mine contamination. Mine-related incidents resulted in the death or injury of at least 70 civilians in 2020, with more than 1,200 ERW- or mine-related civilian casualties recorded in Ukraine since the conflict began in 2014, the UN reports. Relief actors have expressed concern regarding the recent increase in ERW- and mine-related incidents, noting a 50 percent rise in incidents between January and April 2021 compared with the same period in 2020. The UN also underscored that the verified figures are underreported, with the actual number of civilian casualties resulting from ERW and mines likely much higher. In response, RC/HC Lubrani has urged the GoU to scale up specialized care for mine survivors, including health care services, and protection and psychosocial support (PSS) services. In addition, RC/HC Lubrani called on donors to expand their support for mine action activities in eastern Ukraine. In response to ongoing ERW- and mine-related protection concerns, USAID/BHA is supporting a non-governmental organization (NGO) partner to implement a two-year ERW risk education program to protect civilians against accidental ERW detonations in eastern Ukraine.

KEY FIGURES



9

Number of USG implementing partners providing essential protection services



4

Number of USG implementing partners providing Health programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

PROTECTION

To address humanitarian protection concerns in Ukraine, USAID/BHA supports six NGOs to implement protection interventions for vulnerable populations, including those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. USAID/BHA partners are providing PSS services to children, persons with disabilities, and older people; operating mobile protection teams to reach remote communities; and conducting mine risk education activities to minimize protection risks. As part of COVID-19 response efforts, USAID/BHA partners are also offering mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to individuals particularly vulnerable to the impacts of the pandemic, including children, gender-based violence survivors, persons with disabilities, and older people.

In addition, State/PRM partners—including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNHCR, and UNICEF—are providing protection and legal services to vulnerable individuals, such as persons stranded along the line of contact. UNHCR provides legal and PSS services to conflict-affected populations, and has developed a protection monitoring tool to improve data collection and analysis regarding protection conditions in Donetsk and Luhansk. UNHCR also offers transportation and social accompaniment support to people who need assistance crossing checkpoints, such as persons with disabilities, as well as cash assistance to mitigate protection risks.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support programming in eastern Ukraine to address the health needs of conflict-affected populations and respond to COVID-19. Often integrated with WASH operations, USAID/BHA is supporting programs to bolster COVID-19 response capacity in conflict-affected areas, including through risk education and infection prevention and control activities, as well as providing logistical and training support to health care facilities. Additionally, State/PRM partners ICRC and UNHCR are distributing essential medical supplies and improving the capacity of health care centers to detect, prevent, and control transmission of the virus responsible for COVID-19 in Donetsk and Luhansk. Meanwhile, State/PRM partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is supporting isolation and treatment centers, conducting health and hygiene interventions, and distributing hygiene kits to patients at medical facilities to minimize infection risks among vulnerable communities. State/PRM also supports IOM's MHPSS campaign to highlight the importance of MHPSS amid the COVID-19 pandemic and promote IOM's support hotline. The hotline has managed more than 2,000 calls since it was established in September 2020.



\$2.7 Million

In dedicated FY 2021
USAID/BHA support for
essential WASH
programming

WASH

USAID/BHA supports two NGO partners and UNICEF to address WASH needs by conducting WASH awareness and hygiene promotion activities and distributing essential hygiene items to vulnerable communities and social institutions on both sides of the line of contact. Partners are also installing water points and handwashing stations in critical public venues. In addition, USAID/BHA supports the WASH Cluster to provide humanitarian coordination and information management support, including sharing critical information with humanitarian partners regarding conflict incidents affecting WASH infrastructure and services. State/PRM partner IOM is also conducting WASH activities among communities along the line of contact.



5

Number of USG
implementing partners
providing MPCA

MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

USAID/BHA and U.S. Department of State's Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) support four NGOs and IOM to provide multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help conflict-affected individuals in eastern Ukraine meet their basic needs; the MPCA targets vulnerable individuals residing along the line of contact, most of whom experience multiple overlapping needs across different sectors and whose income falls below 45 percent of the poverty line. MPCA operations also aim to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, State/PRM partner IOM is providing cash grants to support small businesses and generate livelihood opportunities, including among IDPs affected by COVID-19-related economic shocks.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Since March 2014, the conflict in eastern Ukraine has caused large-scale population displacement and widespread damage to infrastructure. The heaviest fighting has occurred in the easternmost *oblasts* bordering Russia, particularly Donetsk and Luhansk; however, the large influx of IDPs has also affected neighboring *oblasts*.
- The GoU estimated that the conflict had internally displaced approximately 1.4 million people as of October 2020. In addition, the UN estimates that 3.4 million conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine will require humanitarian assistance in 2021.
- On November 12, 2020, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Kristina A. Kvien renewed the disaster declaration for Ukraine for FY 2021 due to the widespread displacement and continued humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations in eastern Ukraine.

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN UKRAINE FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY			
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Food Assistance - Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP), Health, HCIMA, Protection, WASH	Donetsk, Luhansk, Kyiv	\$3,094,000
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	WASH	Countrywide	\$245,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
UNICEF	WASH	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
		Program Support	\$15,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$7,354,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$7,354,000

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 2, 2021.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)