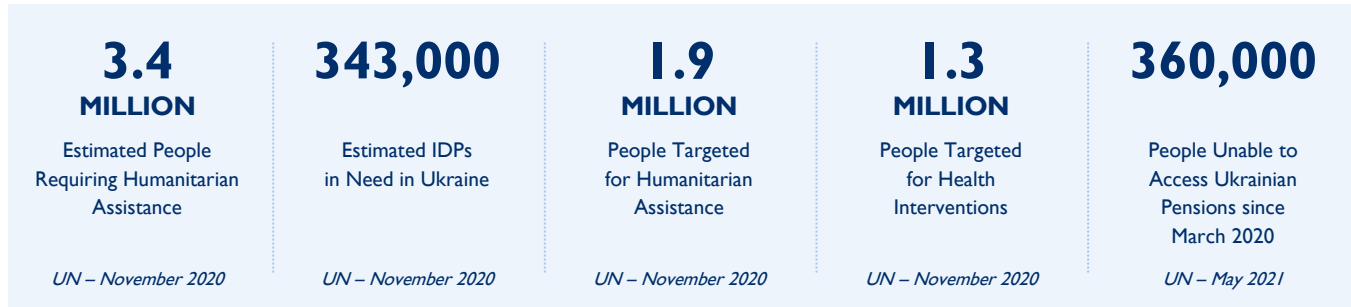


Ukraine – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Humanitarian actors highlight that the increase in the number of civilian casualties in eastern Ukraine in August, despite a 20 percent decline in security incidents compared to the number of incidents recorded in July, reflects a concerning trend in hostilities in the region.
- Relief organizations recorded an uptick in attacks near water supply operations in September, threatening access to safe drinking water for vulnerable populations in Donetsk.
- The USG announced more than \$45 million in additional humanitarian assistance for vulnerable populations in Ukraine in September.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Ukraine Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA¹ \$19,502,158

State/PRM² \$32,571,000

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

Total \$52,073,158

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

² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

President Biden Announces \$45 Million in Humanitarian Funding for Ukraine

In a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on September 1, U.S. President Joseph R. Biden announced more than \$45 million in additional humanitarian assistance for Ukraine. The support—which includes nearly \$32.6 million from State/PRM and more than \$12.6 million from USAID/BHA—will fund critical food assistance, health, livelihoods, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities for vulnerable populations impacted by ongoing conflict and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in eastern Ukraine. In particular, USAID/BHA partners will continue to distribute hygiene supplies to health centers and vulnerable populations; train health care workers; provide psychosocial support (PSS) services to children, older people, and persons with disabilities; and conduct structural repairs for damaged houses. The new funding, bringing the U.S. Government (USG) FY 2021 funding total to nearly \$52.1 million, will also support the distribution of food vouchers and essential relief commodities, such as blankets, as well agriculture and economic recovery programs. Since the onset of hostilities in 2014, the USG has provided more than \$351 million in life-saving humanitarian assistance to address humanitarian needs among conflict-affected populations in Ukraine.

Civilian Casualties Increase in August Despite Reduced Security Incidents

The UN recorded an estimated 440 security incidents in eastern Ukraine in August, a 20 percent decline from the more than 520 incidents observed in July. However, escalated clashes in late August contributed to a significant increase in civilian casualties—from two recorded in July to 11 in August, including three deaths. The UN also recorded an increase in conflict-related damage to schools from July to August, with one and three incidents noted, respectively. The surge in hostilities reflects the conflict parties' increased use of sniper fire and drones, humanitarian actors report. Meanwhile, political negotiations in August failed to generate new ceasefire commitments or progress on other issues that affect humanitarian conditions, including demining and verification requirements for pensioners in non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs) who must pass into government-controlled areas (GCAs) to collect their pensions, the UN reports.

Attacks on WASH Facilities Threaten Water Access in Eastern Ukraine

Three incidents in September underscore the acute water vulnerability in eastern Ukraine, where conflict continues to threaten access to safe drinking water for 3.1 million people, relief actors report. The WASH Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—reported intense shelling near the First Pumping Station of the South Donbas Waterway in Donetsk Oblast GCA on September 30, following an earlier attack on the same area on September 13. While no casualties were reported in either incident, the September 13 shellfire forced the evacuation of two staff and both attacks threatened the supply of water to 1.1 million people in Donetsk. Prior to September, attacks on WASH facilities had declined by 75 percent compared to 2020, with the WASH Cluster also noting a nearly 90 percent year-on-year decline in people-days of water stoppage—an assessment of humanitarian impact that multiplies the number of people affected by a water incident by the duration of stopped services. According to the cluster, attacks on water facilities remain a serious threat to vulnerable populations in the region, as relief actors would not be able to meet urgent water needs amid a lengthy disruption to shared water systems.

UNHCR Reports Decrease in IBCP Fines in August

The Government of Ukraine (GoU) reduced the number of fines issued for the illegal entry of residents of NGCAs to GCAs of eastern Ukraine via international border crossing points (IBCPs) by more than 90 percent in August compared to July, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports. The reduction is due in part to pressure from relief actors to eliminate the fines due to their negative impact on vulnerable NGCA residents, many of whom rely on entitlements only available in GCAs to meet basic needs. While NGCA residents had previously utilized seven entry-exit checkpoints (EECPs) to cross into GCAs, due to COVID-19, all but two of the seven EECPs closed in March 2020, preventing hundreds of thousands of NGCA residents from accessing social benefits, including pensions, which are the primary source of income for more than one-half of households in NGCAs, according to the UN. Moreover, the GoU has introduced quarantine and testing requirements at EECPs in an effort to curb coronavirus transmission. As a result, in June, UNHCR began to observe a surge of illegal crossings from IBCPs at the Russian border towns of Hoptivka and Milove, with monthly crossings increasing by approximately 70 percent in July and August compared to pre-June levels.

Despite the GoU's decision to waive fines for individuals from NGCA crossing IBCPs on specific humanitarian grounds, including family reunions, serious illnesses, and medical needs, GoU officials continue to warn some NGCA residents that their purpose of travel—such as to access pensions—did not meet the established exemption criteria. In addition, relief actors report that, notwithstanding the waiving of fines, IBCPs are not adequate routes to cross into GCAs, as they require arduous and costly overland travel. The UN continues to urge that fines at IBCPs be waived for a broader range of humanitarian needs and for a return to regular operations at EECPs.

KEY FIGURES



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Number of USG implementing partners providing essential protection services

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 the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)—are providing protection and legal services to vulnerable individuals, such as persons stranded along the line of contact. UNHCR provides legal and MHPSS 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. UNICEF engages with key stakeholders at the national and local levels in Ukraine to strengthen the response to and prevention of gender-based violence and violence against children, particularly in eastern Ukraine.



\$7.2 Million

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

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 the spread of COVID-19 in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. 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. This project includes a public awareness campaign focused on reaching out to Ukrainian men and boys who are typically more reluctant to seek professional MHPSS. The hotline has managed more than 2,000 calls since it was established in September 2020.



\$3.7 Million

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

WASH

USAID/BHA supports four 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.



4

Number of USG implementing partners providing MPCA

MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

USAID/BHA supports three NGOs and State/PRM supports 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 internally displaced persons (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.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Food Assistance - Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments; Multipurpose Cash Assistance; Protection, Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Donetsk, Kherson, Kyiv, Luhansk, Odessa	\$9,944,000
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$245,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
UNICEF	WASH	Donetsk, Luhansk	\$2,500,000
WHO	HCIMA, Health	Donetsk, Luhansk	\$5,298,158
		Program Support	\$15,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$19,502,158
STATE/PRM			

ICRC	Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$19,400,000
IOM	Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$5,980,000
UNHCR	Logistics Support, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$6,300,000
UNICEF	Protection	Countrywide	\$891,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$32,571,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$52,073,158

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 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](https://www.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](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.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)