The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to coordinate the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises. We advocate for effective and principled humanitarian action by all, for all.

www.unocha.org

This report is produced by OCHA Ukraine in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 5 p.m. (EET) 2 March to 3 p.m. (EET) 3 March. The next report will be produced on 4 March.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The most affected areas of the country are facing a major humanitarian crisis. Increasing numbers of people are trapped in cities under constant attack, as wide-scale evacuations have not been possible in certain locations.
- Over the reporting period, major urban centres, such as Kharkiv (east), Kherson (south), Mariupol (south-east) and the capital Kyiv, witnessed the most intense clashes since the Russian military offensive began on 24 February. Settlements along the “contact line” in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts, such as Volnovakha, Shchastia and Stanytsia Luhanska, have been all but completely devastated.
- Between 4 a.m. on 24 February and 2 March 2022, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded 802 civilian casualties in Ukraine, including 249 people killed. The human cost of ongoing clashes is likely much higher as access and security challenges make it difficult to verify the actual number of deaths and injuries.
- As clashes escalate, a growing number of people are being displaced every day within Ukraine and across international borders. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), a staggering 1 million have fled Ukraine during the last week.
- While access challenges and a rapidly deteriorating security environment hinder response efforts, humanitarian organizations are working on adapting and adjusting their delivery approaches in order to continue providing assistance despite the operational limitations they face.

12M
People in need
(Projected over 3 months, Source: 2022 Flash Appeal)

6M
People targeted for assistance
(Source: 2022 Flash Appeal)

$1.1B
Financial requirements
(Source: 2022 Flash Appeal)

1M
Refugees in other countries
(Source: UNHCR)

802
Civilian casualties
(Source: OHCHR)
SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 2 March, major urban centres in certain parts of Ukraine, such as Kharkiv (east), Kherson (south), Mariupol (south-east), and the capital Kyiv, witnessed the most intense clashes since the Russian military offensive began on 24 February. Settlements along the “contact line” in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts, such as Volnovakha, Shchastia and Stanytsia Luhanska, have been heavily impacted. Between 4 a.m. on 24 February and 2 March 2022, OHCHR recorded 802 civilian casualties in Ukraine, including 249 people killed. The human cost of ongoing clashes is likely much higher as access and security challenges make it difficult to verify the actual number of deaths and injuries.

In recent days, many cities have experienced relentless shelling that has caused significant damage to crucial infrastructure and further restricted access to vital services. Critical supplies, including food, medicine and basic hygiene items, are becoming increasingly scarcer in the hardest-hit areas, while dwindling cash reserves, empty ATMs and suspended money transfer services have greatly curtailed affected people’s ability to purchase basic goods even when markets are functioning and accessible.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs, especially in eastern Ukraine, continue to worsen as escalating tensions prevent urgently needed repair works from being carried out, while limited access makes it more difficult for partners to provide WASH assistance. In Mariupol, Sartana and Staryi Krym, around 470,000 people remain without access to water. Stoppages in the water supply are also reportedly affecting the functioning of heating systems in certain locations amid freezing winter temperatures.

Moreover, the health needs generated by the ongoing conflict are particularly acute. The World Health Organization (WHO) says it has received several unconfirmed reports of attacks on hospitals and health infrastructure. There are critical shortages of oxygen and other critical drugs and medical supplies, as conflict-related injuries and COVID-19 infections place increasing strain on the already-weak healthcare system. With millions of people now on the move, the conditions on the ground are ripe for the spread of COVID-19, potentially triggering a double health emergency that could overwhelm the health system.

In Kyiv, thousands of people continue to pack overcrowded train stations in an attempt to flee the capital as Russian troops advance towards the city, limiting the movement of people and essential goods in and out of the city. On 2 March, debris from a powerful explosion reportedly landed close to the central railway station in Kyiv used to evacuate thousands of women and children. The level of damage and number of civilian causalities have yet to be confirmed.

The most affected areas of the country are facing a full-blown humanitarian crisis. Increasing numbers of people are trapped in cities under constant attack, as wide-scale evacuations have not been possible in certain locations.

As clashes escalate, a growing number of people are being displaced every day within Ukraine and across international borders, increasing the scope and scale of the ongoing crisis into neighbouring countries. According to UNHCR, one million people have fled Ukraine over the last week – the equivalent of more than 142,000 people on average per day – a number that will likely increase as constant violence and destruction of homes displaces more people.

The situation of third country nationals from countries in Africa and South Asia and other ethnic minority groups in Ukraine, including the Roma population, is particularly concerning, as there have been numerous reports of discrimination and even violence against these vulnerable groups. The Roma population lack civil status documents, limiting access to critical services, including education and health, and potentially humanitarian assistance as many Roman internally displaced people were not registered prior to the current escalation in conflict.

COORDINATION & RESPONSE

UN agencies and humanitarian partners are carrying out rapid needs assessments at border areas with neighbouring countries that continue to receive growing numbers of displaced Ukrainians. The most urgent needs identified include: food assistance; additional reception centres; WASH facilities; legal assistance; mental health support and delivery of humanitarian assistance to people waiting to cross borders. As men aged 18 to 60 remain in the country, women, children and the elderly makeup the majority of people on the move, creating specific needs, risks and vulnerabilities that humanitarian response efforts must be effectively tailored to in order to ensure a well-targeted response, making the collection and analysis of sex, age and other diversity characteristics critical as partners roll out needs assessments when and where possible.
While access challenges and a rapidly deteriorating security environment hinder response efforts, humanitarian organizations are working on adapting and adjusting their delivery approaches in order to continue providing assistance despite the operational limitations they face. Partners are relocating non-food items outside of Kyiv to warehouses in other parts of the country, where they will be distributed by implementing partners to people on the move and internally displaced persons, leveraging the presence and capacities of local organizations to deliver assistance, a key response strategy to overcome response gaps and challenges in the current response environment.

In the hardest-hit areas eastern Ukraine, UN agencies and humanitarian partners are setting up temporary shelters for people displaced from Donetska, Luhanksa and Kharkiv oblasts, while continuing to provide essential household items to already-established shelters. As health needs continue to grow significantly with each passing day, humanitarian partners are providing critical medical equipment and supplies, including wound kits, to help local health systems treat people with trauma, burn, gunshot wounds and other conflict-related injuries. The World Health Organization (WHO) shipped six tonnes of trauma care and emergency surgery supplies that will be delivered to address the needs of 1,000 patients and other supplies to meet the needs of 150,000 people. As many families with children face challenges accessing basic hygiene items in the most-hard-hit areas, more than 170,000 diapers for babies zero to one month old were delivered to maternity wards, primary health-care centres and bomb shelters in Kyiv and neighbouring cities.

For further information on receiving OCHA Ukraine products, please subscribe to the mailing list or contact Sofiia Borysenko at sofiia.borysenko@un.org

For further information on the content of this report, please contact:
Lizaveta Zhuk, Public Information Officer, Head of Public Information & Reporting Unit (OCHA Ukraine) at lizaveta.zhuk@un.org.
Anthony Prassoulis, Reporting Officer (on surge to OCHA Ukraine) at anthony.prassoulis@un.org
Valljon Ranoev, Humanitarian Affairs Officer (OCHA Geneva) at ranoev@un.org.