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.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- The Ministry of Energy reports that around 650,000 people have been left without electricity and at least 130,000 people remain without natural gas supply in the east, north and south amid ongoing hostilities. Service repair teams require secure “windows of silence” as the rapidly deteriorating security situation prevents them from restoring critical services, including electricity, gas and water.
- On 6 March, multiple missile strikes reportedly destroyed Vinnytsia International Airport in central Vinnytsia province, where growing numbers of people displaced by the conflict have fled in search of safety and security, raising concerns that the rapidly expanding geographic scope of the military offensive will generate ever-increasing civilian casualties and humanitarian needs.
- As of midnight on 6 March, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reports at least 1,207 civilian casualties, including 406 killed. The actual number of civilian casualties is likely to be much higher as civilian deaths and injuries continue to be verified.
- Population movements continue internally and across borders. The massive influx of people heading to western Ukraine will likely overwhelm already-stretched national response capacities, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable groups. The number of refugees from Ukraine has exceeded 1.73 million people.
- Although many internally displaced people are reportedly staying in private accommodations, a growing number are seeking refuge in collective shelters or centres. These facilities face overcrowded conditions, lack of separation by sex, and poor basic services such as electricity and water, greatly increasing the risk of GBV and COVID-19 transmission. Food and non-food items (NFIs) remain among pressing needs in transit/receptions centres hosting IDPs.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called yesterday for an immediate pause in fighting to allow civilians to safely evacuate conflict-stricken cities across Ukraine and facilitate the passage of life-saving humanitarian aid to those trapped by increasingly intensified military encirclements, who remain without electricity, water, food or the opportunity to flee an unravelling humanitarian crisis. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says the failure to evacuate hundreds of thousands of people highlights the absence of a detailed and functioning agreement between sides of the conflict that continues to have dire humanitarian consequences.

On 6 March, casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure were reported in Chernihiv (north), Bucha, Irpin (capital area), Korosten (Zhytomyrska oblast, north), Mykolaiv (Mykolaivska oblast, south), Okhtyrka (Summska oblast, north), Ovruch (Zhytomyrska oblast, north), Trostianets (Summska oblast, north), Kharkiv (north-east), Vinnytsia (Vinnytska oblast, centre) and multiple locations in Government-controlled parts of Luhanska oblast and in non-Government-controlled parts of Donetskka oblast, including Donetsk and Horlivka. Kharkiv – a conflict-ravaged city of 1.4 million inhabitants in north-eastern Ukraine – continues to reportedly suffer from airstrikes, causing civilian casualties and damage to critical civilian infrastructure, with active hostilities still ongoing. More than 23,000 people were evacuated from Kharkiv over the last day, while the State Emergency Service reported that at least eight people were killed.

Ongoing hostilities have left close to 650,000 people without electricity and at least 130,000 people without natural gas supply – commonly used for cooking and heating amid harsh winter temperatures – across Ukraine, including conflict-affected areas in the eastern, northern and southern parts of the country, according to the Ministry of Energy. Repair teams are working tirelessly to restore these vital services but require secure “windows of silence” to do so, as the rapidly deteriorating security situation prevents them from carrying out repair works.

Increasingly violent clashes continue in the outskirts of Kyiv. In Irpin – around 25 km north-west of the capital – a family of four, including two children, were reportedly killed, according to the City Mayor, after the shelling of a checkpoint affected people using it to flee the conflict-ravaged town. In Bucha, Hostomel and Irpin – the former under attack for more than a week – communities remain trapped without water, food and electricity, as local authorities attempt to negotiate “safe passages” to carry out evacuations. Reportedly, around 2,000 civilians have been evacuated from Irpin, according to local police.

In Donetsk oblast, authorities have evacuated at least 1,500 people from Government-controlled areas (GCA) to the western part of the country. In neighbouring Government-controlled part of Luhanska oblast, a train evacuated more than 2,000 people as cities such as Sievierodonetsk and Popasna have come under increasingly intense attacks in recent days. On 7 March, four evacuation trains were scheduled to depart from Kramatorsk, Donetsk oblast (GCA) to Uzhgorod, Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk in the west.
The scope and scale of military operations continue to expand, wreaking havoc in parts of Ukraine previously not directly affected by the ongoing conflict. On 6 March, multiple missile strikes destroyed the Vinnytsia International Airport located near the village of Havryshivka in the western part of central Ukraine, where people displaced by the conflict have fled, seeking safety and security in transit/reception centres. As the military offensive begins to create new hotspots of conflict, the risk of rising civilian casualties and wide-scale destruction of critical civilian infrastructure continues to increase.

Between 4 a.m. on 24 February and midnight on 6 March, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reports at least 1,207 civilian casualties, including 406 killed. The actual number of civilian casualties is likely to be much higher as civilian deaths and injuries continue to be verified. OHCHR reports 528 casualties in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts (70 killed and 324 injured in Government-controlled areas and 23 killed and 111 injured in non-Government-controlled areas) and 679 civilian casualties in other regions of Ukraine.

The current conflict threatens to displace affected people multiple times as its multi-faceted impacts become increasingly felt in new communities every day, creating greater protection risks and exacerbating pre-existing humanitarian needs. As the number of people fleeing the conflict increases – 1.7 million people have fled to neighbouring countries – the massive displacement of people heading to western Ukraine will likely overwhelm already-stretched national response capacities, disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable groups in need of assistance, including women and children, people living with disabilities, elderly persons and minority groups.

As of 5 March, Protection Cluster monitoring systems found that more than 72,000 new internally displaced people arrived in 14 locations, mostly in western Ukraine but also in Kyiv and some central oblasts to a lesser extent. Although many internally displaced people are reportedly staying in private accommodations, a growing number are seeking refuge in collective shelters, especially in Chernivetska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetska and Kirovohradska oblasts. The people in collective centres face overcrowded conditions, lack of separation by sex or private space for families, and poor basic services such as electricity and water, greatly increasing the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) and COVID-19 transmission. The GBV Sub-Cluster is currently assessing the status of service providers and mapping operational GBV actors, access to services and priority needs. Currently, both food and non-food items (NFIs) remain pressing needs in Government-run transit/receptions centres hosting IDPs, most of whom will continue their journey west in hope of finding greater safety and security within Ukraine or in neighbouring countries.

NEEDS, RESPONSE & GAPS

NEEDS

Multi-sectoral

- Food, water, shelter and basic household items are urgently needed, especially for those trapped in cities experiencing active hostilities whose access to markets has been cut off, and supplies are running short as supply chains grind to a halt. Repair works to restore access to water supply, electricity, telecommunications and other critical services in the hardest-hit areas are urgently needed.

- Respect for the independence of humanitarian organizations and protection of humanitarian personnel and volunteers are needed. Reliable and predictable “windows of silence” and security guarantees in conflict-affected areas to facilitate the evacuation of civilians and relief workers and to reach people in need of humanitarian assistance are critical, along with implementation and monitoring of safe passage that enable quick and safe transportation of humanitarian cargo and convoys.

- Strengthened logistics coordination and common platforms for information sharing and management are needed. A consolidated approach and the provision of shared services will be crucial to facilitate the operations of humanitarian organizations within Ukraine and in surrounding border areas, avoiding competition over assets and services and the duplication of efforts.

2 According to the Protection Cluster’s Ukraine Response Protection Snapshot, IDPs come from Kharkivska, Donetska, Khersonska, Odeska, Mykolaivska, and Dnipropetrovska Oblasts, but also from Zaporizhzhia, Sumy, Chernihiv and Kyiv.
Protection

- GBV actors report that while specialized services, including GBV hotlines, remain partially functional, access is extremely limited for both staff and survivors due to the ongoing conflict and movement restrictions. Persistent challenges in accessing basic goods and services and lack of access to safe shelter leave women and girls extremely vulnerable to abuse, exploitation and violence.

- Scaled-up capacities at reception centres for displaced people are needed. Humanitarian needs at border areas with neighbouring countries include food assistance; access to transportation; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities; legal assistance; protection services and mental health support; and access to medicines, emergency health care and education.

- Fair treatment and protection for third-party nationals (Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Nigeria and Zimbabwe, among others) fleeing the conflict are required. States must investigate reported discrimination and mistreatment and ensure that displaced people have access to adequate protection services.

Education

- Following the closure of schools countywide due to ongoing hostilities, access to education has been impacted for around 5.7 million children and adolescents between 3 and 17 years of age. According to the Ministry of Education and Science, more than 210 educational facilities have been damaged or destroyed, although this figure has yet to be verified by the Education Cluster.

WASH

- Ongoing hostilities continue to affect the functionality of water infrastructure in areas close to the “contact line,” where Voda Donbasu – the main water supplier in the Donbas region – operates. Key water infrastructure has been partially damaged or completely destroyed. A full picture of the extent of the damage and the people affected by lack of access to water is not yet available due to access and other constraints that limit assessments. Emergency WASH services are urgently required for IDPs in collective centres, especially in the central and western parts of the country.

Health

- Health needs are greatest in eastern (Donetska and Luhanska oblasts) and southern (Khersonska and Odeska oblast) of Ukraine. Continuation of crucial life-saving health services, including sexual and reproductive health, and scaled-up health centre capacities are needed, including hospital beds. Beds occupied by COVID-19 patients are increasingly being repurposed for trauma injuries and critical illnesses. Additionally, psychosocial and mental health support for affected people is also a critical need.

- Replenished oxygen reserves are desperately needed across hospitals in Ukraine, whose reserves are running desperately low. Trauma and surgical supplies, essential medicines as well as backup generators and fuel for health-care facilities are needed.

- Continuation of immunization campaigns that have been disrupted by ongoing hostilities, including for Polio, measles and COVID-19, remains critical. There is an urgent need to restart or continue preventative measures through vaccination and continued treatment of tuberculosis and HIV, alongside scaled-up surveillance, early detection and response systems for epidemic-prone diseases.

- At the start of the crisis, there were around 265,000 pregnant women in Ukraine, some 80,000 of whom are expected to deliver over the coming three months. During the last eight days in Kyiv alone, approximately 390 babies were born (199 boys and 191 girls), creating the need for after-delivery support and items. Perinatal and maternal hospitals in some oblasts have been severely damaged and are no longer operational, affecting access to these critical services for women.

- The latest available data (2021) shows more than 2,700,000 people were registered with disabilities, including nearly 164,000 children. Additionally, there are around two million people living with rare diseases in Ukraine, many of whom cannot go days on end without medication and lack sufficient mobility and strength to wait for hours or
even days at border crossing points. Medicines (e.g., antiepileptics and insulin) and evacuation assistance are urgently needed for the respective vulnerable groups and their families.

- Several hospitals have requested breast milk substitutes due to growing shortages. Feeding with breast milk substitutes is not affordable or sustainable for most low- and middle-income families, and there are health risks associated with the use of water to reconstitute powdered and concentrated formula, potentially resulting in increased infant morbidity and mortality. WHO is in contact with providers to supply the hospitals in need, with every item delivered being cleared by WHO Ukraine Country Office’s clinical management team.

**RESPONSE**

**Response coordination**

- A Common Humanitarian Operations Coordination Centre (CHOCC) has been established in Rzeszow, Poland, serving as a common space for all humanitarian organizations responding to the unfolding crisis in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

- The Government of Ukraine has set up a Coordination Centre for Humanitarian and Social Affairs to coordinate the response of NGOs and international humanitarian organizations.

- The Logistics Cluster has developed a new Concept of Operations as common storage and transport services are now available in Poland (Rzeszow, Warsaw, and Lublin) and Ukraine (Lviv, Kyiv, Dnipro, and Vinnytsia).

- WHO Ukraine has mobilized logistics experts to establish a hub in Poland for personnel and a warehouse for supplies to support its operations, including the establishment of secure land corridors to facilitate the delivery of supplies to affected people. The Health Cluster has created an online registration form for health partners requesting to join the Cluster: https://bit.ly/3sLyDyl.

- The Education Cluster is coordinating with the Protection Cluster and Child Protection Sub-Cluster the delivery of psychological first aid and psychosocial support for school-aged children and education personnel. The Cluster is also working closely with the Mine Action Sub-Cluster on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), as well as with WASH Cluster covering areas where WASH facilities in schools have been affected and/or where temporary learning spaces have been established.

- OCHA is mapping new capacities and partners in Ukraine to understand the operational presence of humanitarian partners, ensure a better-coordinated response and identify response gaps. Partners are invited to register their humanitarian organizations to get connected with clusters and be part of the coordinated response (available in English, Ukrainian and Russian). The information collected will be included in Who’s Doing What, Where (3W) products.

- The Cash Working Group (CWG), co-led by OCHA and ACTED, has established four task teams to assess and plan the cash-based response. These teams will focus on targeting (led by World Food Programme, WFP), transfer mechanisms (led by Norwegian Refugee Council, NRC), deduplication and registration (led by UNHCR) and monitoring (led by ACTED).

**Humanitarian assistance delivered**

**Multi-sectoral**

- The Government of Poland delivered 41 railway containers filled with fire and rescue equipment to the State Emergency Service, helping to improve and speed up emergency response services in the country.

- French Civil Protection deployed a humanitarian convoy of 13 trucks, carrying logistical, hygiene and emergency equipment items, from Strasbourg en route to Ukraine.
UNHCR’s local partner, the International Foundation of Health and Environment Protection “Region Karpat” (NEEKA), provided shelter, food and clothing to more than 1,000 displaced people in the cities of Chop and Uzhgorod in Zakarpatska Oblast (western Ukraine).

The Ukrainian Deminers Association provided food and medicine support to more than 230 people in Toretsk hromada, Sumy, Kyiv and Mykolaiv.

MapAction is providing support to humanitarian partners, with a team of three physically deployed in the region and additional staff providing remote support to ongoing humanitarian response efforts.

**Protection & Shelter**

- Local NGO Right to Protection provided protection counselling, legal aid and evacuation support (remotely) to more than 140 people from Chernivtsi (Donetska oblast, east), Khmelnytskyi (Luhanska oblast, east), Ternopil (Ternopilska oblast, west), Kyiv, Kharkiv, Kryvyi Rig (Dnipropetrovska oblast, centre), Sloviansk (Donetska oblast) and Vinnytsia.

- Save the Children delivered around 25 sqm of plastic and tarpaulin to a damaged kindergarten in Makievka, Donetska oblast (non-Government-controlled areas, NGCA).

- Local NGO Proliska evacuated around 30 people, including 10 children, from Hirsky, Luhanska oblast (GCA) to Dnipro, Dnipropetrovska oblast in central Ukraine. Additionally, Proliska distributed around 110 blankets, 45 water canisters, as well as bedding sets and towels for shelters in Sievierodonetsk and Myronivskyi (Luhanska oblast, GCA).

- The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) provided remote legal counselling to 19 affected people, while NGO Donbass SOS provided protection and legal counselling support for 26 people.

- UNHCR delivered 130 folding beds and 40 blankets to people seeking shelter for days in bomb shelters in Sievierodonetsk, Luhanska oblast (GCA) affected by intense shelling. Additionally, UNHCR provided assistance to nearly 160 IDPs – around 80 per cent of them women and children – transiting through Kryvyi Rig.

**Health**

- ICRC provided more than 200,000 medical items to mobile clinics in Luhanske, Novoluhanske, Oleksandropol, Verkhnotoretske (Donetska oblast, GCA), allowing health staff to scale up emergency medical care for those most in need.

- Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) has delivered around 120 m3 of medical supplies to Ukraine, including surgery kits, trauma kits, chronic diseases medicines and mass casualty supplies.

- ICRC delivered critical supplies, including medical items like dressing materials, disinfectants and antibiotics, alongside basic hygiene items, such as soap, diapers and candles, to the only functional hospital in Sievierodonetsk, Luhanska oblast (GCA).

- World Vision delivered much-needed food and medical supplies to a 600-bed hospital in Ukraine. The supplies provided include mattresses, soap and disinfectant, as well as food items such as rice, oil, condensed milk and canned meat for children and families in need.

- The Ukrainian Red Cross, together with Doctors Without Borders, donated medical kits to two hospitals in Kyiv caring for injured people.

- ICRC delivered essential medical supplies, including two and a half tons of insulin, to the port city of Odesa in southern Ukraine. Meanwhile, in Mariupol, ICRC provided medical items, including bandages, drips and gloves, to several hospitals in the conflict-ravaged city, all of which continue to witness a huge influx of wounded people.

- In Luhanska oblast (GCA), ICRC distributed much-needed household items, including mattresses, blankets and diapers, to around 1,500 people staying in shelters in Sievierodonetsk. ICRC also plans to provide food and basic
necessity items to around 500 people, including 250 people from Shchastia, where humanitarian conditions remain dire.

- In Donetsk oblast (NGCA), ICRC delivered basic medicines to the main hospital, as well as mattresses and blankets to hundreds of displaced people in Novoazovsk. Additionally, ICRC installed five water tanks, providing access to safe water for affected people.

**Food**

- The first delivery of 4.8 mt of bread (equivalent to 10,000 loaves) produced by a WFP-contracted bakery was delivered to hospitals in Kharkiv on 5 March. When at full production, daily distribution of 15 mt of fresh bread is expected to support 60,000 crisis-affected people a day for ten days through a cooperating partner.

- On 4 March, 26 mt of high energy biscuits were delivered from WFP warehouse in Rzeszow, Poland to WFP warehouse in Lviv, Ukraine and handed over to Kyiv City Administration officials who will arrange their onward transport to Kyiv.

- Trucks carrying 400 mt of dry rations from Turkey arrived in Poland and Romania, with goods planned for onward transport into Ukraine in the coming days.

**GAPS & CHALLENGES:**

- Access to conflict-affected communities remains severely restricted, while the constantly deteriorating security situation prevents the possibility of evacuation in many locations, leading to the accumulation and exacerbation of unmet needs.

- The operational presence of humanitarian partners is currently restricted to certain parts of the country, as many organizations, thanks to the agreement by parties to the ongoing hostilities, have been forced to relocate staff to safe havens where they can operate, adapt their programmes and plan for expanding presence and operations.

- Road transportation options in Ukraine are limited by the lack of human resources available due to the ongoing conflict. Cargo flows into Ukraine continue to be interrupted due to the limited availability of transporters and their ability to cross into and out of Ukraine. The Logistics Cluster is working on potential solutions to address this problem, including exploring the possibility of using railways to transport cargo from Rzeszow, Poland, to Lviv and other parts of Ukraine.

- Competition over logistics assets and services within Ukraine and in border areas continues to grow as an increasing number of actors are scaling up response activities, leading to difficulties for humanitarian organizations to ensure access to logistics service providers.

- Access to health services, essential medicines, and market goods continues to be limited by security concerns and movement restrictions related to the hostilities and the imposed martial law and curfews. Local authorities and partners require “windows of silence” to restore water, electricity and other basic services.

- Water infrastructure (including supply and electricity systems, maintenance machinery, vehicles, etc.) is at risk of damage and/or destruction. Due to ongoing hostilities, the implementation of emergency water supply through trucking and bottled water distribution remains constrained. There is very limited technical staff to operate water supply systems, especially along the “contact line”, and to undertake repair works.

- Partners lack resources and funding to deliver the support that is needed. There is a scarcity of basic goods and limited access to essential services for affected people. Most food assistance is currently arriving from abroad, making an accelerated cross-border movement of humanitarian goods a response priority. There is also a lack of food storage warehouses in Kyiv and other cities to allow for the creation of food kits.

- Partially non-operational banking services, rising prices and restrictions on movement in affected areas limit the effectiveness of cash-based assistance. Lack of fuel and the ability for organizations to secure cash to purchase relief items continue to hinder the speed of response activities.
USEFUL LINKS

- The Ukraine Humanitarian Fund is one of the quickest, most effective ways to directly support the most urgent, lifesaving humanitarian relief in Ukraine. Donate here.
- OCHA’s partners’ capacity mapping tool (available in English, Ukrainian and Russian): https://bit.ly/3sL8krS
- Humanitarianresponse.info Ukraine: https://bit.ly/35xVh4r
- List of activated clusters, sub-clusters and working groups in Ukraine: https://bit.ly/3sL7wTS
- Logistics Cluster’s Service Request Form (SRF) for transportation and warehousing support: https://bit.ly/3tuibBL
- Share information on incoming cargo and its final destination to facilitate planning from the Logistics Cluster for downstream logistics services to support partners’ response with: alexandre.austin@wfp.org.

- Are you a certified psychologist, counsellor, psychotherapist or social worker, fluent in Ukrainian and/or Russian? Do you want to help conflict-affected people in Ukraine? IOM is looking to contract people like you who can work from home to provide psychological support through an established hotline. Learn more: https://bit.ly/3Cote3y

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3 Logistics partners have established a travel route from Rzeszow, Poland, to Lviv, Ukraine, and transportation solutions and storage spaces have been secured in Lviv, Rzeszow and Warsaw.