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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The scale and direction of the ongoing military operation, 18 million people are projected to become affected, including up to 6.7 million people projected to be newly internally displaced. Of the affected population, 12 million people are expected to need humanitarian assistance, and 6 million with the most urgent humanitarian needs will be assisted with the resources required under the Flash Appeal, including 2.1 million IDPs covering the initial period of three months. The Flash Appeal 2022 supersedes the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), as of 1 March.
HIGHLIGHTS

- After three weeks of active hostilities, civilian casualties have risen to 2,032, including 780 killed, according to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).
- On 16 March, Mariupol's Drama Theatre and Neptune sports centre (Donetska oblast, east) – where more than 1,000 people have reportedly sought shelter amid ongoing hostilities, including pregnant women and children – suffered extensive damages after allegedly being hit by a bomb. Unconfirmed preliminary reports suggest that the bomb shelter withstood the powerful blast, as people are now being pulled out of the rubble.
- As of 17 March, in Luhanska oblast (east), active hostilities continue in the city of Rubizhne, where around 20 homes were destroyed overnight. Across the oblast, authorities report that around 35,000 users have been cut off from gas supplies, while nearly 104,000 remain without electricity.
- As millions of people are now on the move, forced to shelter in crowded spaces with limited sanitation facilities and access to health services, the risk of infectious disease outbreaks continues to rise. The World Health Organization (WHO) says that nearly half of all attacks on health systems across the globe so far this year – 43 out of 89 – have occurred in Ukraine.
- In eastern Ukraine, shortages in safe drinking water have long been a problem that ongoing hostilities have only exacerbated. Damaged water infrastructure remains unrepaired as constant shelling and growing insecurity make it virtually impossible to carry out vital repair works, forcing people with limited or no access to water to resort to catching rainwater or melted snow.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

After three weeks of active hostilities, civilian casualties and damage to critical infrastructure continue to accumulate as intense clashes reach new localities across the country. In traditional hotspots, like eastern Ukraine, fighting continues to escalate, leaving affected people with little respite.

As of 16 March, OHCHR reports 2,032 civilian casualties, including 780 killed, figures that are likely much higher than officially reported and will only continue to grow as fighting rages on. These include 854 reported casualties in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts (162 killed and 472 injured in Government-controlled areas (GCA), and 46 killed and 174 injured in non-Government-controlled areas (NGCA) and 1,178 civilian casualties in other regions of Ukraine.

The rapidly deteriorating humanitarian crisis in the southern city of Mariupol continues to be the biggest concern. Yesterday, 16 March, brought some respite to the city ravaged by hostilities as nearly 6,500 people, including more than 2,000 children, safely evacuated to Zaporizhzhia (Zaporizha oblast, south-east). However, according to authorities, private cars attempting to evacuate Mariupol came under fire, injuring at least five civilians, including a child. This incident reinforces the need for safe and secure evacuation corridors for civilians and humanitarian goods to be agreed to and respected by both sides.

Meanwhile, the Russian Federation reported it has so far evacuated 283,000 people from Ukraine towards Russia, including 12,000 persons during the past 24 hours. The UN does not have means to verify the actual numbers of people evacuated.

Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister/Minister for Reintegration Iryna Vereshchuk announced that humanitarian convoys stalled outside Mariupol have yet again failed to reach the encircled city with the life-saving relief supplies that hundreds of thousands of people still trapped there desperately need. Ms. Vereshchuk added that the relief supplies were unloaded in Berdziansk (Zaporizka oblast) to provide much-needed support to people fleeing Mariupol. Inside the city, however, the situation continues to worsen. People still lack access to the most basic supplies, including safe water, food and essential medicines.

On 16 March, Mariupol's Drama Theatre and Neptune sports centre – where more than 1,000 people reportedly sought shelter amid ongoing hostilities, including pregnant women and children – suffered extensive damages after allegedly being hit by a bomb. As intense clashes persisted, search-and-rescue crews were unable to reach affected people in the immediate aftermath, with the entrance to the theatre’s bomb shelter blocked by piles of rubble. Unconfirmed preliminary reports suggest that the bomb shelter withstood the powerful blast, as people are now being pulled out of the rubble. At the time of writing, however, the civilian toll has yet to be confirmed by oblast authorities.

In neighbouring Luhanska oblast, active hostilities continue in the city of Rubizhne, where around 20 homes were destroyed overnight. Across the oblast, authorities report that around 35,000 users have been cut off from gas supplies in more than 20 settlements, while nearly 104,000 users remain without electricity in nearly 40 settlements. In Popasna and Zolote (Luhanska oblast), water supplies have been partially disrupted, while the settlements of Novotoshkivka, Nyzhne and Nyzhne-1 (also in Luhanska oblast) remain completely cut off from access to safe water. Due to the lack of electricity and limited water supplies, centralized heating has been interrupted in Lysychansk (Luhanska oblast) – where more than 10
boiler houses are no longer operational – and in at least 180 multi-apartment buildings in Sievierodonetsk (Luhanska oblast), as temperatures dip below freezing.

In eastern Ukraine, shortages of safe drinking water have long been a problem that has only been exacerbated by ongoing hostilities. In many localities, damaged water infrastructure remains unrepaird as constant shelling and growing insecurity make it virtually impossible to carry out vital repair works, forcing people with limited or no access to water to resort to catching rainwater or melted snow. International non-governmental organization (INGO) People in Need (PIN) continues to provide safe drinking water by tanker to villages and towns whose water supply systems have been damaged while also providing jerry cans filled with water and containers for people with access to wells and reservoirs to store water.

The recent escalation in hostilities across Ukraine has forcibly displaced nearly 4.9 million people, with 1.85 million new internally displaced persons (IDPs) and more than 3 million people fleeing across international borders. As millions are now on the move, forced to shelter in crowded spaces with limited sanitation facilities and access to health services, the risk of infectious disease outbreaks, including tuberculosis and diarrheal diseases, continues to rise. The prevalence of HIV and tuberculosis in Ukraine ranks among the highest across Europe, while last year’s polio outbreak in western Ukraine highlighted the risk of outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in the country.

With only 37 per cent of the population having received two jabs of the COVID-19 vaccine – one of the lowest rates in Europe – Doctors Without Borders warns of the possibility of a new wave of COVID-19 potentially overwhelming the health system. The continuation and expansion of vaccination campaigns, including for polio, measles and COVID-19, and strengthened surveillance for priority infectious diseases, will be critical to prevent outbreaks that could bring an already-strained health care system to its knees at a time when needs are greatest.

WHO says that nearly half of all attacks on health systems across the globe so far this year – 43 out of 89 – have occurred in Ukraine. More than 300 health facilities are located in areas experiencing active hostilities or with a significant presence of the Russian Federation forces, while 600 facilities are within 10 km of ongoing clashes, leaving the health system particularly vulnerable to infrastructural damages and severe interruptions in critical services.

**HUMANITARIAN FINANCING**

With increased donor contributions to the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF), the Humanitarian Coordinator has increased the envelope of the ongoing reserve allocation to US$30 million. The reserve allocation aims to address the priorities outlined in the Flash Appeal and to scale up the humanitarian response across the country. The allocation is open until 20 March 2022. For more information on the UHF, please direct inquiries to: ocha-uhf@un.org.

**GENERAL COORDINATION**

As UN agencies continue to scale-up response efforts, the UN Volunteer Programme (UNV) is recruiting onsite and online volunteers to support the UN System’s operations in response to the unfolding crisis in Ukraine and neighbouring countries receiving growing numbers of forcibly displaced people. Upon request, UNV can also facilitate direct recruitment and/or reassignment of currently serving UN Volunteers to support the ongoing humanitarian response. For more information on the UNV emergency response offer for UN System partners, click here.

**RESPONSE**

To meet the growing scale of needs, the Member States, UN agencies and humanitarian partners continue to increase support for affected people in Ukraine. On 15 March, the European Union (EU) sent three trains carrying around 210 tons of humanitarian cargo, including food, tents and medical supplies, to Ukraine to be distributed to the hardest-hit areas. In the last few days, the Ukrainian Red Cross in Kyiv received and delivered onward more than 100 tons of food, hygiene products, clothing, medicine and other critical relief supplies to cities most affected by ongoing hostilities, including Bila Tserkva, Bilohorodka, Irpin, Vasylkiv (all in Kyivska oblast) and Kurakhove (Donetska oblast), among other locations.

The Russian Federation reported that it has delivered around 3,175 tons of cargo with first aid kits, essential goods, medicines and food to the population in Chernihivska (north), Donetska, Kharkivska (east), Khersonska (south), Kyivska (north), Luhanska and Zaporizhia oblasts since the escalation of the humanitarian situation, including 181 tons during the past 24 hours. The UN does not inspect these shipments and, therefore, has no means of verifying their contents.

Currently, four UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) trucks stocked with core relief supplies collected from PIN, WHO and the World Food Programme (WFP) are prepositioned in Poltava (Poltavska oblast, central Ukraine). These relief supplies will
be delivered to Sumy (Sumski oblast, north-east) as part of the first UN convoy to the city ravaged by hostilities as soon as security conditions allow. Moreover, UNHCR’s local partner, the Tenth of April, covered fuel costs for Mykolaiv oblast authorities’ delivery of 15 tons of humanitarian assistance, including food and hygiene supplies, from Chernivtsi (Chernivtska oblast, west) to Mykolaiv (Mykolaivska oblast, south) to be distributed to people in need. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC), on the other hand, is supporting IDPs and others in need of humanitarian assistance in partnership with 25 local NGOs that provide food, medicine and other relief support. DRC has provided these NGOs with $260,000 to cover the multi-sectoral needs of around 35,000 people.

In a context of wide-scale forced displacement, the Government of Ukraine continues to adopt new measures to facilitate the cross-border movement of the country’s most vulnerable people, including people living with disabilities and unaccompanied minors, and to make it easier for IDPs to register with the relevant authorities and receive much-needed humanitarian assistance.

On 13 March, the Government adopted Resolution No. 269 – introducing amendments to Resolution No. 509 on issuing IDP certificates – greatly simplifying access to IDP registration. During martial law – recently extended for a month until 26 April – a person can apply for IDP certification with the executive body of their local village/city council or at centres for administrative services (TsNAPs). For more information on IDP registration in Ukraine, see UNHCR’s March 2022 Legislative Update here.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM)

Ongoing response & humanitarian assistance delivered:
• Together with local authorities, UNHCR team in Lviv continued a series of field visits to six locations – Dunaiv, Kamianka-Buzka, Nesluhiv, Obroshyne, Pustomyty and Semenivka (Lvivska oblast, west) – to assess the situation on the ground and identify locations for reception and collective centres for long-term stay.

• In Lviv (Lvivska oblast), UNHCR met with the representatives of Lvivska Oblast Administration to follow-up on last week’s assessment activities and discuss further coordination and potential interventions. The aim is to ensure efficient coverage of needs and avoid duplication or gaps in the response. Local authorities expressed their interest in UNHCR’s support and in increasing the capacities of reception centres, underscoring the need for mattresses, blankets, shower cabins and food products.

Education

Needs:
• On 15 March, Lumos, a UK-based foundation, met with representatives from the Ministry of Education and Science, and the Head of School and Preschool Education based in Kyiv to understand changes in the Ministry’s operations, the scope of immediate needs and support required. The needs and support highlighted include:
  ▪ Specialist advice for oblast authorities delivered through a series of webinars on strategic planning geared towards operational models applied in contexts with active hostilities;
  ▪ Psychosocial support (PSS) for children and teachers, as well as other educational personnel;
  ▪ Technical advice on adapting the delivery of remote learning to allow for the resumption of education in areas not affected by hostilities;
  ▪ Support with ensuring that the curricula are responsive to the needs of children who have been experiencing trauma and heightened stress, including PSS as a subject;
  ▪ Support in developing special regulations for the enrolment of displaced children; and
  ▪ Provision of specialized learning equipment and software that enable children with disabilities and impairments to continue their education.

Gaps & constraints:
• The Ministry of Education and Science has informed Lumos that there is a gap in education interventions targeting very young children.

For more information on needs, response and gaps/constraints, please refer to the previous Situation Reports: https://bit.ly/3Cle3ID
Emergency Telecommunications (ETC)

Needs:
• Establishment of an independent network of communications for humanitarian organizations to operate without relying on national communications infrastructure, including security communications to support staff movement and safety, as well as internet access, during response operations.

• While the telecommunications infrastructure remains operational in most parts of Ukraine, there are reports of hacking and jamming telecommunications means in the country and signs of saturation of the mobile networks due to the high level of displacement. The full status of connectivity is not known in areas hardest hit by hostilities; however, localized power outages and telecommunications blackouts are expected to continue.

Ongoing response & humanitarian assistance delivered:
• A VHF radio repeater that will be installed in Lviv to serve as a backup security communications system (SCS) for humanitarian organizations was programmed on 16 March in Rzeszow, Poland. The SCS network is expected to benefit at least 50 humanitarian staff employed by multiple UN agencies based in Lviv.

• The Global ETC conducted an initial assessment of the information needs of the affected population through a series of Key Informant Interviews conducted between 3 and 5 March. The report, available to ETC partners on the ETC website, was updated with input from ETC partners CDAC Network, GSMA, Internews and REACH on 16 March.

Constraints:
• Security and access are expected to be a major constraint in the ETC’s ability to implement telecommunications solutions within Ukraine, while cyber security is also expected to be a response challenge.

Food Security and Livelihoods (FSLC)

Needs:
• Food aid should be tailored to meet the needs of vulnerable populations, including older people, people living with diabetes and those suffering from other chronic illnesses. In addition, formula and food for babies have been frequently requested.

Ongoing response & humanitarian assistance delivered:
• WFP provided 478 tons of wheat flour to the Kyiv City Administration (Kyivska oblast). In addition, 216 tons of vegetable oil have arrived and await to be unloaded.

• WFP delivered 99 tons of mixed canned/dry food to Dnipropetrovsk and 130 tons of yellow split peas to Odesa.

• Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) has covered the needs of over 20,000 IDPs in Lvivska and Zakarpatska oblasts (west) with in-kind food assistance. HIA is planning to cover the needs of additional 2,000 IDPs in Lvivska oblast.

• Polish Humanitarian Action assisted 2,500 people in Kyivska oblast with food parcels, and additional 3,000 people will receive in-kind food items in Zaporizka oblast (south-east).

• World Central Kitchen delivered a truckload of supplies from Lviv to Odesa (Odeska oblast, south-west). World Central Kitchen is also exploring options to deliver relief to Kharkiv (Kharkivska oblast).

• National NGO Proliska continues to support the local population in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts (GCA). In-kind emergency food kits have been distributed to cover the needs of 125 people. Additionally, over 650 food parcels are being distributed in Donetska and Kharkivska oblasts.

• DRC is working on identifying potential new national partners, while providing support to 30 reception and collective centres across the country.

Gaps & Constraints:
• Humanitarian access continues to be constrained despite efforts to establish humanitarian corridors. Sporadic fighting and indiscriminate attacks on roads and infrastructure in the north-west, south-west and central Ukraine put at risk
humanitarian aid deliveries. Significant logistics constraints, including the lack of drivers or vehicles, hamper the transfer of food and other relief items from relatively safe locations to the hardest-hit areas.

• There is a limited number of national partners available in-country, which highlights the need for establishing partnerships with INGOs and UN agencies to widen the reach of assistance.

Health

Needs:
The Health Cluster has received requests from health facilities and administrative bodies to provide life-saving, surgical, and primary health-care medicines and medical supplies, including antibiotics, pain medicines, medicines for cancer patients, blood and blood substitutes, IV fluids, personal protective equipment, as well as other items (e.g., flashlights, walkie-talkies, blankets, cots and water bottles).

For more information on needs, please refer to the previous Situation Reports: https://bit.ly/3CIe3lD

Ongoing response & humanitarian assistance delivered:
The French Civil Protection delivered nearly 60 artificial respirators via Poland that will be distributed to hospitals in the north-eastern city of Kharkiv.

Gaps & Constraints:
Supply chains have been severely disrupted. Many distributors are not operational; some stockpiles are inaccessible due to the ongoing armed clashes, and medical supplies are running low. Hospitals are struggling to provide care to the sick and wounded.

Logistics

Needs:
A consolidated approach and 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.

Response:
The Logistics Cluster has facilitated the transportation of 118.7 tons of cargo to Ivano-Frankivsk (Ivano-Frankivska oblast, west), Lviv and Uzhhorod (Zakarpatska oblast) and storage of 674.8 m³ of relief items in Lublin and Rzeszow, Poland.

The Logistics Cluster is conducting rapid gaps and needs assessments in Moldova and Romania to understand available logistics options. The fuel and road assessment is expected to be completed by the end of the week.

Constraints:
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.

Nutrition

Needs:
The Nutrition Cluster estimates that more than 450,000 children aged 6 to 23 months are in need of complementary food support.

• Breastfeeding initiation immediately after childbirth is at risk of coming to a complete stop.

Ongoing & planned response:
For more information on the ongoing humanitarian response and assistance delivered, please refer to the previous Situation Reports: https://bit.ly/3CIe3lD

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is a programme planning and implementation knowledge gap in nutrition, specifically in Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergency (IYCF-E), which will be addressed through the Training of Trainers.

- Nutrition Cluster reports a lack of local implementing partners (NGOs) and qualified personnel that could ensure the implementation of nutrition-related interventions in field locations.

Protection

Needs:

- The number of displaced people is growing as the security situation across the country continues to worsen, with ongoing fighting and airstrikes forcing people to flee their homes in search of safety and security. The massive and rapid influx of people in the western region has overstretched the local capacities to respond to the basic needs of the displaced.

- Forced displacement, exposure to mines and explosive remnants of war, attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure continue to restrict civilians’ freedom of movement and heighten their exposure to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation.

- As hostilities intensify, family separation due to forced displacement and armed violence, theft and criminal behaviour, greater risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and children’s exposure to physical harm have become key protection concerns.

- UNHCR concluded assessments of the 26 reception centres in Vinnytsia (Vinnytska oblast, central and western part of Ukraine). Among IDPs in the centres, some 80 percent indicated an intention to flee Ukraine.

Ongoing & planned response:

- Since 24 February, International Organization for Migration (IOM), with support from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), has ramped up the work of the National Counter-Trafficking and Migrant Advice Hotline 527, which has provided consultations to more than 11,000 people.

- On 17 March, the Protection Cluster published key messages for IDPs and affected populations available here.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The number of airstrikes affecting civilians and non-military infrastructure as well as residential areas has significantly increased, limiting humanitarian access and endangering the lives of civilians as well as humanitarian personnel operating in hardest-hit locations.

- Lumos reports a need to set up cross-border child protection safeguarding and monitoring mechanisms for children being evacuated and/or leaving the country, with a specific focus on unaccompanied, separated children living in institutional care.

Shelter and Non-food Items (NFI)

Needs:

- Scaled-up capacities at reception/transit centres for displaced people, as well as NFI and cash-based assistance, as the scope and scale of displacement increases.

Ongoing response & humanitarian assistance delivered:

- The Shelter Cluster has launched the Who’s doing what, where (3W) to collect information on partners active in the country that will be updated on a weekly basis. The first Cluster situation report was released on 15 March, highlighting UNHCR and cluster partners’ response to date and key findings.

- On 14 March, UNHCR delivered shelter emergency assistance, including 100 pieces of tarpaulins, 300 m² of plastic sheets, 600 timber battens and 90 pieces of plywood to Kadiivka town administration (Luhanska oblast).
On 14 March, UNHCR dispatched 300 blankets and 200 mattresses to a transit centre in Vinnytsia.

As reported on 16 March, on 13 March, UNHCR provided 1,085 warm blankets to three temporary accommodation centres in Uzhhorod to support the displaced persons from Donetska, Chernihivska, Kharkivska, Kyivska and Luhanska oblasts. In addition, 2,000 blankets were provided in communities in Zakarpatska oblast through partners NEEKA and Nehemia.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Partners are working on bringing in shelter supplies from abroad, but the process continues to be delayed by long queues at the border and formal shipment procedures. Some partners are attempting to capitalize on local procurement and delivery but face challenges as the capacity of markets and ability to procure supplies varies in different parts of the country.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:
- Emergency WASH services are urgently required for IDPs in collective centres, especially in central and western Ukraine. The restoration of electricity and water supplies in the hardest-hit areas is needed to prevent the spread of communicable water-borne diseases.

Response:
- In eastern Ukraine, international non-governmental organization (INGO) People in Need (PIN) continues to provide safe drinking water by tanker to villages and towns whose water supply systems have been damaged while also providing jerry cans filled with water and containers for people with access to wells and reservoirs to store water.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Key WASH infrastructure has been partially damaged or completely destroyed. Limited access makes it difficult to track and repair damages. Lack of electricity contributes to the increasingly critical lack of water in certain parts of the country.

- The lack of accurate information on the location and needs of the displaced population continues to hinder the emergency WASH response for IDPs. Price increases continue to limit the procurement capacity of implementing partners while growing insecurity cuts off access to prepositioned stocks.

Multi-purpose cash (MPC)

Ongoing response & humanitarian assistance delivered:
- UNHCR is training the first team of enrollment officers and plans to launch the enrolment in Lviv today, 17 March. The first MPC payment is scheduled to take place next week, which will be followed by a progressive scale-up and expansion to other locations. UNHCR will follow MPC modalities (UAH2220 ($75) for one person per month, for three months), which was agreed with other agencies and partners in the Cash Working Group.

USEFUL LINKS
- The Ukraine Humanitarian Fund is one of the quickest, most effective ways to directly support the most urgent, life-saving 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
- Humanitarian Data Exchange’s (HDX) Ukraine Data Explorer: https://bit.ly/3t2mFjS
- Contact list of activated clusters, sub-clusters and working groups in Ukraine: https://bit.ly/3sL7wTS
- International Rescue Committee’s (IRC) Ukraine crisis refugee resource – frequently asked questions: https://bit.ly/3i3t9Zs
- Logistics Cluster’s Service Request Form (SRF) for transportation and warehousing support: https://bit.ly/3uiB8L

2 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.
• 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.
• Private Sector Engagement: https://bit.ly/3CvmsZT

FOR NGOs
If you would like more information on how to officially launch your humanitarian response activities in Ukraine, please contact Mario Trutmann at trutmann@un.org.

HUMANITARIAN NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (HNS)
For more information on the HNS, please contact Ivane Bochorishvili at bochorishvili@un.org.

MAKE AN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION OF GOODS OR SERVICES
While humanitarian aid is needed urgently, OCHA urges companies to refrain from sending unsolicited donations that may not correspond to identified needs or meet international quality standards. Donors are encouraged to send financial/cash donations rather than in-kind donations. However, for businesses wishing to contribute in-kind goods or services, please reach out to (OCHA) with as much detail as possible, including what you wish to donate and how much, your time frame for delivery, details on shipping and any other conditions. We will then guide you to the most appropriate recipient organization(s). For more information, please contact Karen Smith, OCHA’s Private Sector Engagement Advisor, at ocha-ers-ps@un.org.