

UKRAINE

Situation report No.34 as of 3 April 2015



OCHA



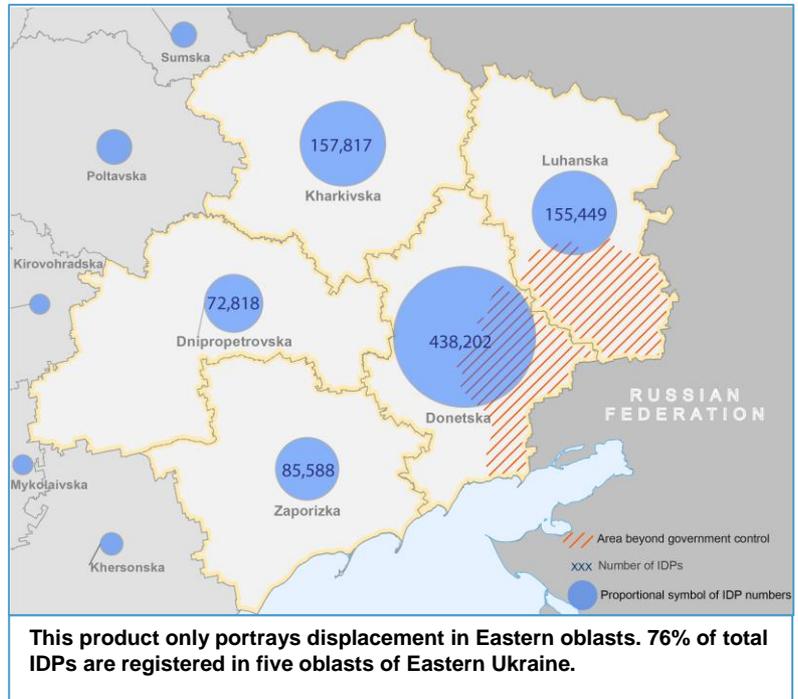
This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers period of 27 March 2015 – 3 April 2015, unless otherwise noted. The next report will be published on 10 April.

Highlights¹

- Access to health remains a major concern for internally displaced and other conflict-affected people.
- At least 42 children killed and another 109 injured since March 2014 as a result of mine-related incidents in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.
- Ambiguities on residence verification procedures of IDP affect access to social services.
- Funding for humanitarian operations remains low: only 18 percent of the USD 316 required for 2015 has been funded or pledged.

1.2 million registered IDPs

Source: Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP)



Situation Overview

The health of both internally displaced and other conflict affected people is deteriorating and needs to be addressed. There is a high incidence of cardio-vascular disease, mental health and acute respiratory infections. Reportedly, cases of malnutrition and acute diarrhea are also increasing in non-government controlled areas (NGCAs).

There is an urgent need for Mine Risk Education as well and humanitarian demining as mine and other unexploded ordnance are increasingly resulting in loss of life. A UNICEF statement on 31 March highlights that at least 109 children have been injured and 42 killed by landmines and unexploded ordnance in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts since March 2014. The figures may not reflect the actual number of child casualties from landmines and unexploded ordnances in eastern Ukraine. According to the same statement, the State Emergency Service of Ukraine is actively clearing government-controlled areas from mines and unexploded ordnance. More than 33,717 items of armaments have been located and removed thus far in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts alone. Yet, displaced families returning to areas where clashes have been occurring are at risk from the highly hazardous materials that have yet to be systematically cleared.

Several protection issues are of increased concern. In particular, continued ongoing illegal detention, forced disappearances and ill-treatment of conflict affected people in both Government and non-government controlled areas, and; in addition, ambiguities on procedures of verification of IDP residence, and lack of unified procedures are resulting in loss of registration data, affecting much needed access to social services.

Overall, since the beginning of the conflict in mid-April 2014 and until 2 April 2015, at least 6,090 people have

¹The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Internal Displacement data was provided by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine as of 30 March 2015.

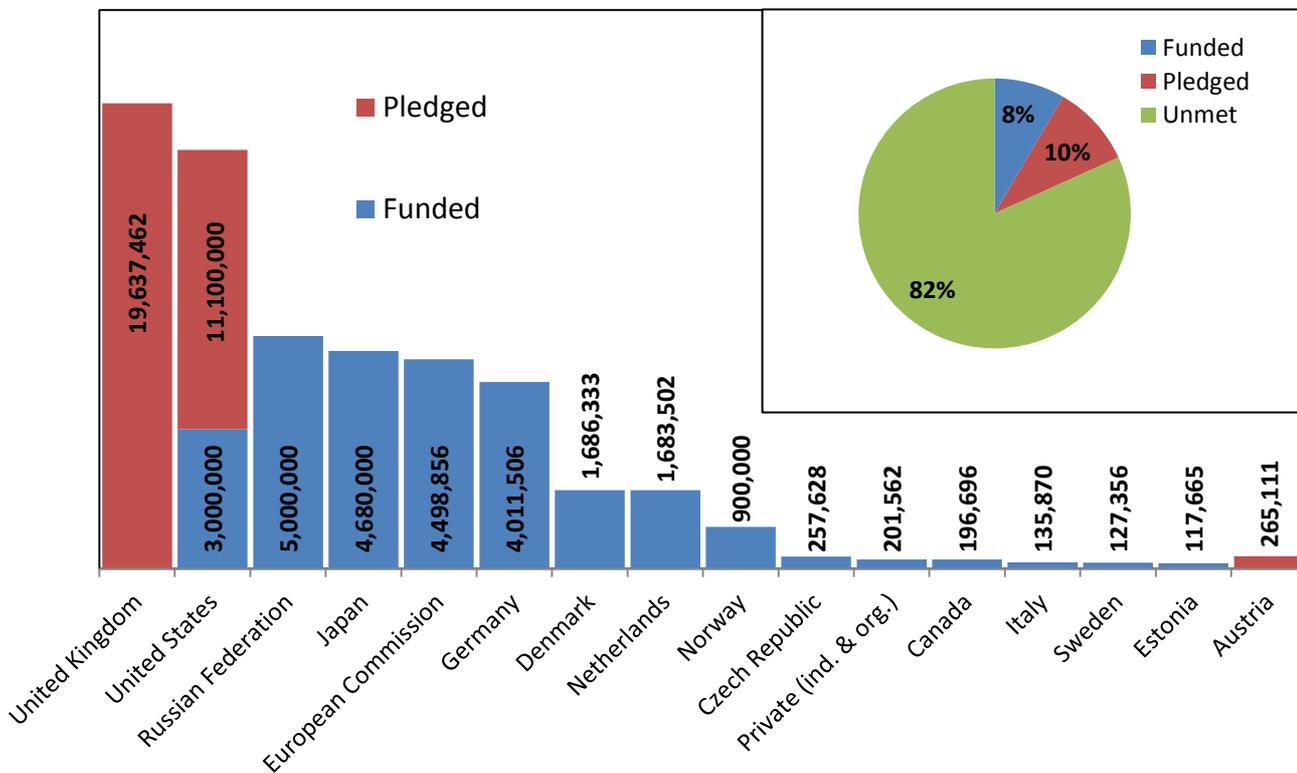
been documented as killed and 15,429 as wounded in the conflict area². Bodies of those killed (both military and civilian) continue to be recovered. Full accounts on casualties during the most recent escalation of hostilities (mid-January–mid-February) are still pending.

As of 30 March, the MoSP reports 1,198,156 registered IDPs across the country. According to UNHCR, as of 2 April, the total number of Ukrainians who have sought asylum, residence permits or other forms of legal stay in neighboring countries now stands at 777,076 including 636,544 in Russia and 80,930 in Belarus.

In February 2015, the Kyiv Administrative District Court supported a lawsuit of 16 pensioners who demanded to cancel the governmental resolution that stopped all social payments, including pensions, for the people living in the territories beyond government control. On 2 April the court of Appeal reiterated the decision of the first instance court ordering the government to resume the payments. The Minister of Justice of Ukraine said the decision will be appealed.

Funding

As of 3 April, donors funded or pledged around USD 57 million to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), or 18 percent of the USD 316 million required for 2015.



OCHA records all humanitarian contributions through its Financial Tracking Service (FTS). Please register your contributions by emailing fts@un.org or through the online contribution form at fts.unocha.org.

Humanitarian Response

OSCE reports that a convoy with a total of 42 vehicles from Russian Federation arrived in areas beyond Government Control on 2 April to deliver humanitarian aid.

² This is a conservative estimate of the UN Human Rights Mission in Ukraine (HRMU) and the World Health Organization based on available official data: casualties of the Ukrainian armed forces as reported by the Ukrainian authorities; 298 people from flight MH-17; and casualties reported by medical establishments of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts: civilians and some members of the armed groups. The HRMU and WHO believe that the actual numbers of fatalities are considerably higher.



Livelihoods and Early Recovery (cluster coordinator: Inita Paulovica, Inita.Paulovica@undp.org)

Needs:

- Detailed information on available jobs for IDPs and conflict-affected communities is needed. Employment remains one of the most often expressed concerns by IDPs.
- Electricity is lacking in 34 localities in Donbass, affecting over 30,000 residents in this area.

Response:

- During the reporting period, the Cluster facilitated provision of legal support to 86 IDPs on employment and re-registration of business (Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Dnipropetrovsk cities). It is estimated that a total of 156 jobs were reinstated due to this support since the begging of this initiative.
- Self-employment trainings were conducted in a number of towns of Kharkiv, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Luhans and Odessa oblasts as well as in Vinnytsia and Lviv cities covering a total of 874 IDPs.
- Electricity has been restored in ten localities of Donetsk city and further restoration works continue in Donetsk, Dokuchayevsk and Debaltseve cities.
- The Cluster selected 15 social institutions for reconstruction and services recovery in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The resolution “On occupied territories” and the law on the special status of selected districts of Donbass have been adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament. Decisions may limit options of response to socio-economic needs of people in non-government controlled territories.



Education (cluster coordinator: Rekha Das, redas@unicef.org)

Needs:

- In non-government-controlled areas, there are records of about 472 partially damaged schools out of more than 3,000.
- Main education needs in conflict affected areas include education kits, cleaning products for schools, support to orphans in boarding schools, school repair inputs (glass timber, roofing), and mine risk education.
- The pressure on schools and pre-schools to accommodate additional IDP children is increasing because of limited number of available teachers and physical premises.
- Teachers and students are in need of psychosocial trainings and support, especially in Donetsk Non-Government-Controlled Areas (200,000 kindergarten and school-aged children).
- Support construction and rehabilitation of educational facilities for children aged 3-5.

Response:

- The Association of Child and Family Psychologists in Kharkiv is organizing trainings for school psychologists on how to deal with the growing number of distressed IDP children in schools. The first round of trainings, which are designed for groups of 15-19 people, has started in Druzhkivka of Donetsk Oblast. The same training has been offered to Sloviansk city.
- The Department of Education in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast confirms that to-date nearly 7,000 IDP children have been granted access to education in the region, 5,200 are enrolled in schools and 1,700 admitted to kindergartens. IDP children are enrolled in different schools with 3-5 children per class to avoid pressure on the system while sustaining an environment for teachers to continue to provide quality education.
- In Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts, UNICEF is working with local Department of Education on a Memorandum of Understanding for rehabilitation of nearly 40 schools in Non-Government Controlled Areas of two oblasts. The cluster is distributing plastic sheets to Maloorlivka School, Shakhtarsk district in Donetsk NGCAs.
- ADRA Ukraine and Step in the Hope organized a week-long recreational camp in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast for 60 children IDPs from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Gaps & Constraints:

- With a steady influx of IDPs, lack of kindergartens is being reported as growing problem in Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk cities.

- Getting a broader picture of partners' presence and activities is still a challenge in both Government and Non-Government-Controlled Areas due to limited information sharing and lack of access to all conflict affected areas.



Emergency Shelter and NFI (cluster coordinator: Igor Chantefor, chantefo@unhcr.org)

Needs:

- A Collective Center in Lozova (Kharkiv Oblast) accommodates 75 IDPs with children in poor shelter conditions (no running water, toilets). The remote location restraint immediate intervention and the district is currently not covered by cluster members.
- Needs of many persons that choose to stay in remote rural areas (both Government Controlled Areas and Non-Government Controlled Areas) are high. The logistic and assessment in such area are time and resource consuming.

Response:

- Cluster partners assisted a total of 33,427 households with multifunctional cash grants; only 175 households received assistance during the reporting period. Many organizations begun the second round of cash projects. Map of reconciliation of 1st round of distribution corresponding to Activity "Multifunctional cash grant" of HRP was produced (see link).
- Some 2,286 individuals in Government Controlled Areas (Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Lviv, Luhansk oblasts and Kyiv city) and 329 in Shyrokyne town of Donetsk Oblast Non-Government Controlled Areas have received bedding and clothes during the reporting period. People in Need (PiN) started delivery of candles in Luganskoie village in Artemivskii district (Donetsk oblast).
- Cluster partners have provided acute emergency shelter (plastic sheeting) to some 984 households in Mariinksii district, Avdiivka (Donetsk Oblast) and Popasna district (Luhansk Oblast). Further, in villages where shelling did not occur for more than two months, partners started distribution of 2,800 rolls of 'ruberoid', 13,600 asbestos free roofing slate, 5,000 corrugated iron sheets, insulation foam and timber to carry out light and medium repairs for damaged houses.
- Partners are completing rehabilitation of two more collective centres (Zaporizhzhia and Odesa oblasts) to serve 260 IDPs.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access constrains related to bureaucratic procedures and different practices in the field continue hinder response.
- In NGCA, de facto authorities are putting in place procedures aiming to restrict distribution only to beneficiaries approved by them, thereby constraining assistance delivery.



Food Security (cluster coordinator: Elena Rovaris elena.rovaris@wfp.org)

Needs:

- Recent findings from the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment report confirm heightened food needs, especially in NGCA. Food has been identified as the highest priority at household level in NGCA, and a secondary priority in Government Controlled Areas. There is an urgent need to reach over 670,000 individuals with food support, nearly 90 percent of who are located in NGCA.
- According to Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA), in Zaporizhzhia Oblast there are small localities with substantial IDPs that are not served by humanitarian actors. In Rosovka village over 2,000 IDPs need food parcel and baby care products. In Kherson Oblast up to 3,500 families need food assistance.

Response:

- The Cluster, in collaboration with NGO partners has distributed food parcels to 4,408 individuals covering Non-Government Controlled Areas of Luhansk Oblast. Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) has also provided food parcels to 10,000 individuals in various locations of Donetsk Oblast.
- In addition, Oleksandr Vilkul Ukrainian Perspective Foundation delivered another set of food items in 500 tons that reached to IDPs based in Kryvyi Rih, Dnipropetrovsk, Dneprodzerzhinsk and Pavlograd raions of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast.
- Food support is reaching IDPs and other conflict -affected population in several ways in Donetsk Oblast. Local and international actors, as well as different foundations and individuals are providing food support.

For example, the "Aid of Dnipro" has distributed hot meals to approximately 500 IDPs based in Krasnohorivka raion of Donetsk Oblast.

- The same process of food support is observed in several other provinces. In Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, local partners distributed food parcels to 400 IDP families.

Gaps & Constraints:

- As food actors seek to scale up operations to meet growing needs, lack of funding remains the greatest challenge.



Health & Nutrition (cluster lead: Dr. Dorit Nitzan, DON@euro.who.int; Patricia Kormoss, kpj@euro.who.int)

Needs

- Complementary feeding of children 6-23 month as well as breastfeeding counseling is a priority nutritional need in all five Eastern oblasts, and particularly in NGCAs.
- Previously defined needs of hospitals in conflict areas are still unmet and include the following, in priority order: laboratory reagents and diagnostic supplies, analgesics, oncology medicines, IV fluids, hemodialysis supplies, insulin, cardio-vascular diseases care, anti-infective medicines and vaccines.
- Assessment of the Luhansk Department of Hematology, Nephrology and Hemodialysis of Luhansk Regional Clinical Hospital, Lysichansk Primary Health-care Center and Municipal Hospital were carried out. Preliminary findings indicate a need of dialysis care for 136 patients in NGCAs of Luhansk Oblast.

Response:

- Three MEPU (Mobile Emergency Primary Health-care Unit) teams in Mariupol (run by IMC/Greek medical foundation "Hippocrates") and seven teams in Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk Oblast), Sloviansk and Sviatohorsk (Donetsk Oblast) Kupyansk, Izium (Kharkliv Oblast), Zaporizhzhia (Zaporizhzhya Oblast) and Pavlograd of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast (run by Ukrainian Red Cross) have provided 1,946 consultations for IDP and residing population. A total of 13,328 consultations were conducted since the beginning of MEPU work.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Process of distribution of state-procured medicines to NGCAs is facing legislative constrains.
- IDPs are forced to pay most of the health care services, including costly diagnostic procedures, with their own funds, as Oblast health budgets are still not planned. This results in absence of health-seeking behavior among IDPs and non-timely provision of specialized care.
- Minority IDP groups (Turks, Tatars, Meshetians and Roma) do not have equal access to health care.
- Since December 2014 delivery of narcotic medicines for IV drug users (e.g. OST) of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have been stopped. It resulted in the discontinuation of life-saving treatment for nearly 700 of all 899 patients who reside in the area.



Protection (cluster co-coordinators: Christine Goyer, goyer@unhcr.org; Fiona Frazer, ffrazer@ohchr.org) – see also overview

Needs:

- In Mariupol there is an increased anxiety of host and IDP population in regard to upcoming planting season as agricultural fields within the buffer zone are reportedly contaminated by unexploded mines and explosive remnants. About 30,000 hectares of agricultural lands in Novoazovsky to Artemivskiy districts of Donetsk Oblast needs demining.
- In NGCAs, Cluster partners report that in the course of one afternoon seven unexploded mortars and cluster bomblets on a single road (Nikishino-Kamyanka, south of Debaltsevo) were detected. While in Nikishino of Donetsk Oblast, two tank rounds were found located in yard with large areas littered with military equipment and craters.
- Cluster partners have identified a need for capacity building on core guiding principles, case management, identification and documentation of Sexual – Gender Based Violence/Gender-Based Violence cases among service providers, particularly psychosocial, social, health and law enforcement bodies. There is also a need for information and awareness raising activities among the general public.

Response:

- 108 teachers and psychologists working in schools in Luhansk and Zaporozhzhia oblasts have been reached with Psychosocial support training sessions (through a project led by Kiev Mohyla Academy).
- More than 3,000 children and caregivers were reached through different activities, including Psychosocial support and other Child Protection activities in Community Protection Centers, Child-Friendly Spaces and other activities in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporozhzhia oblasts.
- Increased access to NGCA is resulting in improved assessment of needs, monitoring and targeted interventions to meet the needs of children. Cluster partners are on the ground and monitoring the needs of children, including those in bomb shelters in Donetsk city.

Gaps & Constraints

- Lack of common approach on providing support to host communities as Cluster partners report of several instances of tensions between IDPs and host communities in regards to provision of assistance. This is also linked to reports of discrimination of IDPs regarding employment and housing.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (cluster lead: Rudi Luchmann, rluchmann@unicef.org)

Needs:

- As of 1 April, need for support in WASH is increasing in health institutions, schools, and other social facilities in conflict-affected zones. Assistance has been requested to Cluster partners in NGCAs to ensure potable water provision, as damages due to shelling in the water system is affecting access to water to thousands of beneficiaries.
- Damages in distribution lines are resulting in contamination of water due to cross-contamination (water and sewage pipes). Affected population without access to centralized water supply is using unprotected water sources.
- Access to hygiene items (household and personal) is limited due to lack of resources of beneficiaries as well as the increase of market prices for most commodities in most parts of the conflict affected area.
- Environmental hygiene is continuing to worsen in Non-Government Controlled Areas amid interruption of municipal services, including as waste collection.
- Over the past weekend, the Donbass water company carried out a significant amount of repair works to the water supply system. However, new damages still continue limiting the access to water in some locations including Mariupol and surroundings of Donetsk city. On 24 March an unexploded mine was found in the tank for portable water at Donetsk city Filter Station.
- The Government of Ukraine has stopped payment of child allowance for IDPs and conflict affected children in Volnovakha town of Donetsk Oblast. Hence local authorities requested UNICEF to provide hygiene kits and other WASH support to 1,200 conflict-affected and IDP children.

Response:

- Water quality is being monitored, bacteriological and physico-chemical tests have been conducted in different areas from centralized as well as not decentralized water supply networks in Government Controlled Areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts. Some 22 out of 115 samples did not meet minimum standards. Corrective measures have been taken by the State Sanitary Epidemiological Service of Ukraine (SSES), including chlorination and cleaning of wells.
- Ukrainian Frontiers provided 255 adult hygiene kits to 500 people in the city of Horlivka, Donetsk Oblast. Additional 800 kits are to be distributed in Alchevsk, Brianka, Luhansk (Luhansk Oblast), and Sviatohirsk (Donetsk Oblast).
- Luhansk Regional Agency for Sustainable Development distributed 11,500 six-liter bottles of drinking water to over 5,700 people in affected areas of Luhansk Oblast, namely to Stanytsia Luhanska, Popasna, Zolote, and Shchastya towns.
- In order to meet critical need of diapers for elders and disabled in relevant institutions, UNICEF donated 6,000 diapers to be further distributed in Donetsk Oblast. In addition, PIN distributed baby hygiene kits to 150 children in Krasnodon and Rovenky orphanages of Luhansk Oblast.
- In the framework of Hygiene Awareness Promotion campaign developed by Cluster to raise hygiene awareness, approximately 1,000 WASH posters-calendars were distributed among children during the World Water Day celebration at the Water Museum in Kyiv.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited resources affect WASH Response.
- Limited access for humanitarian actors due to volatile security situation in some conflict affected areas.
- Insufficient number of WASH partners on the ground.

**Logistics** (cluster lead: Matthew Serventy, matthew.serventy@wfp.org)**Response:**

- Nine out of ten organisations who participated in an informal survey are expecting to use common transport over the coming period; however funding issues and other constraints appear to be slowing the pipeline. The Logistics Cluster is now meeting individually with partners to establish a clearer view of required capacity.
- Seven out of ten organisations who responded to this informal survey also expected to use interagency warehousing for short-term storage.
- The Logistics Cluster stands ready to discuss organisation-specific logistics needs in order to provide assistance.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The Cluster requires partners to identify a clear need for transport and storage for Luhansk Oblast prior to activation of that warehouse. In addition, some partners have still not given clear capacity requirements for upcoming common transport and warehousing services.

Coordination

- On 3 April, General Coordination meeting was conducted in Donetsk. Humanitarian partners discussed access-related issues and updated on the challenges that different partners face in implementing response actions in both GCAs and NGCAs. Partners paid specific focus to issues of access, safety, information sharing and improve inter-cluster collaboration to jointly address the most pressing needs of the affected population.
- Humanitarian Response website (<http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/ukraine>) aims to strengthen information sharing among the humanitarian community in Ukraine and beyond. It is easy to navigate and provides useful overviews of contacts, events/meetings, key documents, maps and infographics, statistics and other operational data. Each cluster has a dedicated page to upload cluster-specific information. OCHA will populate the website over the coming weeks and welcome any suggestions your organization might have to improve layout and contents.

Background on the crisis

In April 2014, armed groups in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk) began to seize buildings and arms. As a result of ongoing fighting between armed groups and government forces, and of events in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) in March 2014, people fled their homes and have become increasingly vulnerable as the conflict spread. Those in parts of Donbas affected by fighting, face imminent security threats due to military activities by all parties to the conflict that are increasingly concentrated in densely populated urban areas. Provision of basic services has been disrupted, supplies are increasingly limited, and an upsurge in lawlessness has occurred. Ongoing daily ceasefire violations continue to be reported, despite the 5 September Ceasefire and 19 September nine-point Memorandum agreed in Minsk. Indiscriminate shelling and continued insecurity are placing conflict-affected people and humanitarian actors at risk. An 11 February Minsk II Agreement resulted in general respect to ceasefire. However, tensions and hostilities remain and pose continued insecurity both to local population and the humanitarian actors on the ground.

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