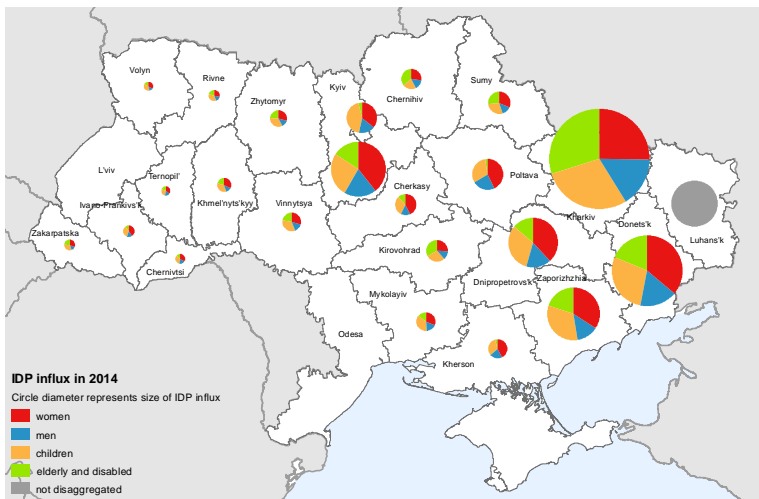




This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 17 – 24 October 2014, unless otherwise noted. The next report will be published on 31 October.

Highlights

- The Ukrainian Parliament adopted the long-awaited law ensuring the rights and freedoms of IDPs on 20 October 2014. The law is expected to help resolve several key outstanding issues that cannot be addressed within the current legislative framework and is delaying humanitarian assistance.
- As of 23 October, 50,000 people have registered under the recently adopted Government Decree 509. Some 10,000 of these already received state support under Government Decree 505.
- On 20 October, Humanitarian Situation Monitoring teams began interviewing key informants in conflict-affected areas to identify sector-specific needs for humanitarian response. This data will inform the upcoming Strategic Response Planning process for 2015.
- The Health sector urgently reports that Ukraine's pharmaceutical supply is on the verge of collapse. The Ministry of Health has called for support to replenish life-saving essential medicines.
- At least 3,724 killed (including 298 from flight MH17) and 9,205 wounded in eastern Ukraine as of 21 October (source: OHCHR/WHO)¹.



5.2m

Estimated number of people living in conflict-affected areas as of 24 October

430,059

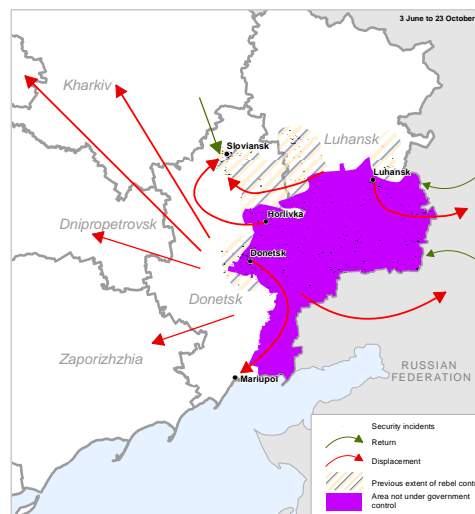
Internally displaced people as of 24 October (source: SES)

454,339

Fled to neighboring countries as of 24 October

Situation Overview

The new IDP law was tabled on 20 October and adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament. At the time of writing, the law is with the President for signature. While the final text of the law remains unclear, it is expected to be a significant step towards simplifying procedures and ensuring IDP access to rights and entitlements. There will likely be some inconsistencies with the two earlier cabinet resolutions 505 and 509 involving IDP registration and provision of monthly financial support. These must be addressed to facilitate smooth implementation of the new law. IDP registration commenced on 15 October, and 4,000



¹ This is a very conservative estimate of the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and World Health Organization based on available official data. These totals include: Ukrainian armed forces casualties as reported by the Ukrainian authorities; 298 people from flight MH-17; and casualties reported by civil medical establishments and local administrations of Donetsk and Luhansk regions: civilians and some members of armed groups (without distinguishing them). OHCHR and WHO believe that actual fatality numbers are considerably higher.

IDPs were registered on the first day. To date, 50,000 IDPs have registered. Unfortunately, the current procedure is paper-based, leading to lack of efficiency, possible duplication, long lines and delays. UN monitoring indicates that one administrator can register an average of only 16 people per day and applicants must wait in two different lines to register and receive financial aid. The international community continues to lobby for web-based registration in Kyiv and the regions to ensure effective response nation-wide.

The humanitarian community is preparing the 2015 Strategic Response Plan for Ukraine. A workshop will be held in Kyiv on 30 – 31 October with key stakeholders to assess priority needs and plan the international humanitarian response for 2015.

Ukraine's pharmaceutical supply is on the verge of collapse with almost no medicines available. Procurement of medicines and services by the state and oblasts has not been carried out in a timely manner due to financial and other constraints, and the Ministry of Health is calling for support. Among the needed medicines are those for the treatment and care of TB, HIV, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, haemophilia, renal failure (dialysis), reproductive health, new-born diseases, and congenital diseases.

Serious ceasefire violations continue to be reported daily. Shelling has intensified in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which have been partly confirmed by both Ukrainian and Russian representatives of the Joint Centre for Control and Coordination (JCCC).

On 22 October, 57 OSCE participating states agreed to extend the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Gukovo and Donetsk Russian checkpoints until 23 November 2014. This week, the cross-border observers report that the total number of border-crossings has again decreased, although cross-border traffic remains steady. More people entered Ukraine than left to Russia, although the return movements also appear to have decreased.

A recent report by Amnesty International concluded that there was substantial evidence that atrocities have been committed by both sides of the conflict, but not at the scale reported by the Russian Federation. The report called on all parties to the conflict to thoroughly investigate evidence of killings and abuses and emphasized that some of the "shocking cases that have been reported by the Russian media were distorted and exaggerated".

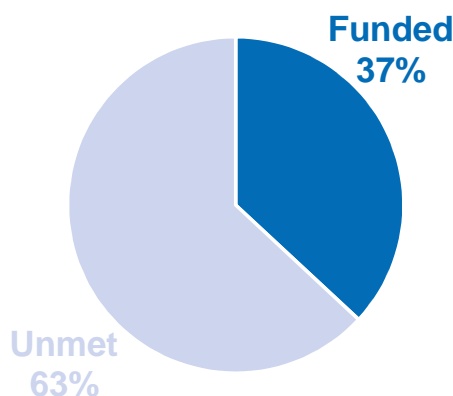
Funding

The Preliminary Response Plan (PRP) was launched on 14 August, against which UN agencies requested an initial \$33.3 million for immediate life-saving needs. Since the launch of the PRP, the situation has significantly deteriorated and needs have risen further. As of 24 October, donors have contributed \$12.3 million (UN only).

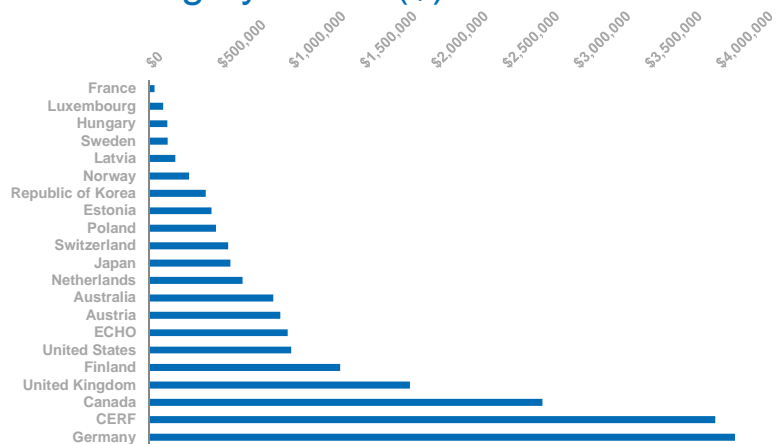
As of 24 October, the total amount provided by donors to international aid organizations for relief activities in Ukraine amounts to \$24.8 million.

Ukraine Crisis 2014

\$33.3 million requested



Funding by donor (\$)



All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

Humanitarian Response



Early Recovery and Livelihoods (sector lead: Ms Inita Paulovica, Inita.Paulovica@undp.org)

Preparedness:

- UNDP conducted a mission to Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts to assess civil society development needs in Biletskoye, Kremennaya, Konstantinovka, Rubezhnoye, and Sievierodonetsk.
- The United Nations is preparing to open a joint office in Kramatorsk over the next 2-3 weeks.

Needs:

- Secondary unemployment effects are likely to be felt as support services close. For example, a mine closed in Biletskoye town, Dobropolye district, resulting in the loss of 640 jobs.

Response:

- The manual on primary psychological assistance to IDPs was developed by UNDP, printed in 1100 copies and is currently being disseminated to professionals and volunteers working with IDPs.
- Seven early recovery project proposals were selected for a total of \$ US 80,000 in support.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The UNDP field mission revealed a high level of intimidation in relation to the upcoming elections, including the harassment of employees and management at mines, factories and enterprises where candidates campaign. The purpose is to force certain candidates to step down. This creates fear at workplace.



Education (sector lead: Ms. Olena Sakovych, osakovych@unicef.org)

Preparedness:

- UNICEF field monitors in Kharkiv report that some IDPs registered in Kharkiv oblast feel pressured to return home due to threats that homes in areas of active fighting will be taken over by armed groups.
- As of 20 October, the Kharkiv Regional Education Department reported a small decrease in the total number of IDP children in schools. The Education sector is looking into the causes and repercussions of the decrease.

Needs:

- At least 5 kindergartens and 7 schools were damaged by shelling in Makiivka and 30 educational institutions were damaged in Horlivka, Donetsk oblast.
- Many children are arriving in Sloviansk from areas of active fighting without proper school supplies to continue their studies (Donetsk, Dzerzhynsk, Illovaysk, Shakhtarsk, Illovaysk, Volnovaha, and Yasynovata).

Response:

- UNICEF distributed 140 education bags to children from Luhansk who participated in a summer camp in Lviv oblast, organized in cooperation with the Council of Europe and Ministry of Social Policy.
- The Ministry of Education and Science together with UNICEF has defined the emerging needs of people in Donbas region to ensure smooth functioning of the education facilities over the winter. The most pressing needs are clothes and boots for IDP school children and power generators for schools, education supplies and furniture. This information is disseminated to Education sector members for action.

Gaps & Constraints:

- According to a national toll-free children hotline run by NGO La Strada Ukraine, IDPs are facing the following challenges: refusal of acceptance to schools and kindergartens for IDP children; difficulty for IDP teaching professional to find work as teachers; questions related to maintenance allowance for IDP students; status of “temporary” students; requirements to attend school in Donetsk and Lugansk oblast; needs for employment and payment for housing.



Emergency Shelter and NFI (sector lead contact: Mr. Igor Chantefor, chantefo@unhcr.org)

Preparedness:

- The Shelter sector has begun work on the Strategic Response Plan by briefing national and international partners on planning objectives and projects.

- Shelter sector partners continue to collect information on the needs, gaps and constraints from the field to facilitate ongoing response planning.
- In order to enhance preparedness of collective centers for winter, it is necessary to increase the electrical capacity of old buildings.
- Collapsible jerrycans and plastic sheeting have been received from the UNHCR Global Stockpile for distribution.

Needs:

- Lack of winter clothing, warm blankets, and insulation and construction materials for roofing and glazing are key immediate requirements.
- IOM partners have identified 712 IDPs in need of NFI and hygienic items in Dnipropetrovsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Mykolayiv, Khmelnytsky, Vinnitsya and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Response:

- KrymSOS is organizing professional trainings for IDPs on entrepreneurship and sales to facilitate employment and self-reliance.
- Numerous religious organizations are supporting large numbers of IDPs in collective centers or assisting with host family placement.
- A network of INGOs is launching cash assistance programs in the regions with highest density of IDPs. These projects will provide an immediate 'one shot' cash grant for IDPs to prepare themselves for the winter (US \$260-300 USD per household for warm clothes, shoes, rent or utilities).
- In collaboration with other sectors and government actors, the shelter sector is planning more substantial recurrent cash assistance activities targeting the most vulnerable groups of IDPs.

Gaps & Constraints:

- As winter is approaching, unpaid utility bills and increased costs for winter period jeopardize the future stay of many IDPs in collective centers.
- The lack of a comprehensive system for data collection continues to constrain proper planning of humanitarian response.



Food and Nutrition Security (sector leads: Ms Lani Trenouth, lanitrenouth@wfp.org [F] / Ms. Valeriya Taran, vtaran@unicef.org + 38 50 385 4990 [N])

Preparedness:

- WFP is conducting a food security assessment throughout the five eastern oblasts, over a five week period. The first round of data collection is ongoing and initial results are expected in the coming week.

Needs:

- Ukrainian media continues to report increased prices of various food commodities in Luhansk and areas of Donetsk oblast. A WFP Market Situation Update report based on government figures identified that the price of food has continued to rise since January this year, and overall food prices are comparatively more expensive than this time last year. With the coming winter, concurrent with the increased household expenditures during winter months, access to food will be further constrained.
- An assessment of humanitarian assistance in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts was published by Akhmetov Foundation. The assessment suggests that, in addition to medicines, food is identified as a primary need - particularly in frontline areas surrounding the bigger cities and especially in Luhansk oblast. Furthermore, the report validates previous assessments that prices of food have increased and that access to food on the market remains a concern.

Response:

- With NGO partner PIN, WFP has begun distribution of vouchers in the northern districts of Donetsk oblast. This week, WFP voucher assistance is reaching 5,000 IDPs in Artemivskiy, Druzhkivka, and Kramatorsk. The voucher entitlement is equivalent of US\$ 45/person – enough to support food needs for an individual for one month. In the coming weeks, an additional 5,000 IDPs will also be reached in other areas of northern Donetsk.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Potential prolonged food insecurity among affected populations will play a critical role in those areas hardest hit by the ongoing conflict. Physical inaccessibility to key cities within Donbas, as well as funding gaps, continue to inhibit an increased coverage of affected populations. Further, this affects an increased response in preparation for the winter months.



Health (sector lead: Dr. Dorit Nitzan, DON@euro.who.int; Patricia Judith Kormoss, kpj@euro.who.int)

Preparedness:

- New, simplified registration procedures of pharmaceuticals and immunobiological drugs produced in countries with high quality regulations or which are WHO-prequalified were adopted.
- The Ukrainian Center for Disease Control is updating the treatment needs for patients with multidrug resistant TB living in conflict-affected areas.

Needs:

- The Ukrainian Center for Disease Control urgently requires ART treatment for children and test kits for HIV testing as of November, and drugs to treat MDR-TB as of January 2015.
- IDPs and Returnees do not have the money needed to procure available medicines using out-of-pocket payments.
- Safety and security of health care professionals remains a major concern in the conflict areas as humanitarian law violations are frequently reported.

Response:

- As of 8 October 79,398 IDPs from Donbas area including 35,274 children sought health care. Among them, 16,433 people were hospitalized, including 6,534 children (Ministry of Health).
- MoH provided patients with medicines for acute management of severe forms of haemophilia.
- 500,000 doses of BCG vaccine were unblocked by the Parliament.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Delivery of health supplies (medicines, diagnostic consumables) in Donbas from the regional warehouses to rebel-controlled areas remains limited.
- Outflow of medical staff together with unjustified health care system reformation in rebel-controlled areas jeopardises health care provision.
- Major gaps in follow-up for TB and HIV patients in conflict areas are expected due to non-operational health care facilities.
- Outbreak surveillance remains a great concern although no increase in infectious diseases cases has been registered. The number of seasonal influenza cases is within epidemic threshold (MoH).



Protection (sector leads: Mr. Ilija Todorovic, todorovi@unhcr.org/ Ms. Fiona Frazer, ffrazer@ohchr.org)

Preparedness:

- The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) continued to monitor casualties, detentions, enforced disappearances, torture, ill-treatment, reprisals and access to basic social services in the conflict area.

Needs:

- Recent hostilities around Mariupol have forced the movement of some 1,000 IDPs from the villages of Gnutovo, Sartana, Sopino and Talakovka to relocate to relatively safer areas in the city. If hostilities continue, preparations will be needed to respond to the needs of newly displaced persons.

Response:

- The HRMMU followed a number of cases of detention by Ukrainian law enforcement agencies and by armed groups.
- The Child Protection sub-group of the Protection Sector visited several eastern regions to establish coordination hubs following the roll-out of protection coordination to the field.
- Humanitarian Situation Monitoring teams have begun on the 20th of October to carry out UN monitoring of the humanitarian situation with interviewing key informants per a sectorial written questionnaire in the districts of eastern Ukraine most affected by the on-going conflict.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The following protection issues remain outstanding throughout the country and will need to be addressed by advocacy: continued problems with the employment process of IDPs; restoration of IDPs' documents; the difficulties for IDPs to rent apartments due to local's distrust; encouraging IDPs who have registered by the 20 October deadline to vote and whose numbers have been low; and work out payment for utilities by IDPs for collective accommodation which is now obligatory by the new IDP law inconsistent with Resolutions 509 and 505.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (sector lead: Mr. Rudi Luchmann, rluchmann@unicef.org +38 50 312 9915)

Preparedness:

- According to a recent WASH assessment in government-controlled areas the situation is improving. Water is now available in most areas visited by the mission; however, the quality of water is of major concern. People are either buying bottled water or boiling it before they drink.
- Although the water supply system is operational as of 20 October in Dobropillya, Krasnoarmiisk, Kramatorsk, and Vuhledar local authorities are worried about further damage to the system in case of renewed fighting.
- Since most IDPs are either living with host families or have rented houses, there are no specific areas with critical WASH issues although the additional population has put pressure on services.
- Bottled water purchases are an additional financial burden for IDPs. The situation may worsen if it continues once IDPs exhaust their resources.

Needs:

- Field monitors in Donetsk report that thousands of people are living in bomb shelters with no access to water, hygiene, sanitation, or food in the city of Donetsk.
- Although access to water is normalizing in some areas, quality of drinking water is an issue. The focus should now be on controlling biological contamination through household treatment options and awareness raising campaigns.
- IDP collective centers require additional toilet facilities to ensure minimum standards.
- The provision of hygiene kits will ease the burden of IDPs, especially vulnerable families, such as those with multiple children, single mothers and the unemployed. Provision of hygiene kits in schools with high IDP intake is also an area for immediate response for WASH partners.

Response:

- UNICEF visited government-controlled areas in eastern Ukraine to assess urgent WASH needs and explore areas of cooperation and partnership.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There are very few NGOs currently working in WASH in Ukraine. UNICEF is looking for partners who have capacity and experience in WASH to work in the conflict affected areas.
- A detailed sector assessment is required in the conflict-affected areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

General Coordination

- The **NGO Forum** meets every second Tuesday at 10:00 am at People in Need (PIN). This meeting alternates with the **OCHA-NGO Forum**, next scheduled for 28 October at 10:00 am at OCHA.
- Regular sector meetings are being held in Kyiv and the field. Please click [here](#) for the meeting schedule.

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, as well as the events which occurred in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) in March 2014, people have been forced to flee their homes and have become increasingly vulnerable as the conflict intensified and spread. Those staying in Donbas region, particularly in areas 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.

The displaced population has significantly increased since early June 2014. To date, 430,059 people have reportedly been displaced and 454,339 people have reportedly fled to neighbouring countries. Of these, 387,355 have sought refuge in Russia. Most have left with few belongings and are in need of shelter, food and non-food assistance, placing pressure on neighbouring regions.

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