



*This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers 7 January 2015 – 13 February 2015, unless otherwise noted. The next report will be published on 20 February.*

## Highlights

- Insecurity triggered additional displacement: The Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) reports that one million IDPs have been displaced across Ukraine.
- The latest round of peace talks in Minsk secures a ceasefire starting 15 February and includes a clause ensuring access, delivery, storage and distribution of humanitarian assistance; and the return of banking and social payments to non-government controlled areas.
- The Humanitarian Country Team is revising the Ukraine Strategic Response Plan (SRP) following the deterioration of the humanitarian situation: 5 million people are affected, 3.2 million targeted.
- Some 9,000 newly displaced people fled disputed areas over the reporting period. Response capacity at transit centres needs improvement.



Credit/PIN

*The elderly are considered particularly vulnerable and make up a large portion of the remaining civilian population in the conflict zone.*

## One million registered IDPs

Source: Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP)

## Situation Overview

Insecurity prevailed throughout the week. On 12 February, in Minsk, Belarus, President Poroshenko, Chancellor Merkel, President Hollande, and President Putin met to discuss the critical situation in Eastern Ukraine. Among other points, the meeting resulted in a ceasefire agreement starting 15 February; on securing access, delivery, storage and distribution of humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable on the basis of an international mechanism, and; for the government of Ukraine to resume paying pensions and other social benefits to residents of the conflict affected areas and restore banking services to those districts.

The civilian populations residing in the communities most affected by the ongoing fighting in eastern Ukraine remain at high risk of being targeted either by the Ukrainian armed forces or by armed groups. As of 9 February, the government reports 1,007,917 registered IDPs across the country. Between mid-April 2014 and 12 February 2015, at least 5,617 people (including 63 children) were killed and 13,400 (including 159 children) were wounded in the conflict area of eastern Ukraine<sup>1</sup>. The Donetsk region continues to experience periods of intermittent shelling. On 9 February, two people were reported dead, and three wounded when a shell hit Petrovskiy Bridge. On 11 February, the central bus stop in Donetsk city was shelled, causing four fatalities and leaving five people injured. On 13 February, a shell claimed the life of a child in Artemivsk.

On 12 February, Luhansk City and its environs experienced intense shelling which killed three and injuring five civilians. For the last two weeks, there have been repeated and continuous reports of food shortages in the area. Many villages along the conflict line were affected by shelling - in the Luhansk region alone, more than 10,000 houses are in need of acute emergency shelter using plastic sheeting for windows and roofs.

On 6 February, a one-day ceasefire allowed for organized evacuation of IDPs from disputed areas. While no additional organized convoys were made possible in the subsequent days, spontaneous movements of civilians were recorded. Between 28 January and 13 February, according to the State Emergency Services (SES), a total

<sup>1</sup> This is a conservative estimate of the UN Human Rights Mission in Ukraine (HRMU) and 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 regions: civilians and some members of the armed groups. HRMU and WHO believe that the actual numbers of fatalities are considerably higher.

8,959 people including 2,012 children and 268 disabled people were evacuated from Donetsk and Luhansk regions. The government of Ukraine is encouraging IDPs to move westward without proper coordination in terms of where they will stay. Many fled on their own, as it was impossible to get information in the towns that have been without electricity for several weeks. The Protection Cluster members had not come across a case of involuntary evacuation.

To date, in the transit centers in Sloviansk and Konstantinovka, 2,627 train tickets have been provided for evacuees. As of 13 February, the State Railway station has provided, 11,193 railway tickets free of charge (including 3,201 for children). An estimated 5,000 civilians are still in Debaltseve.

In Slovyansk, partners reported that around over 3,200 people arrived in Slovyansk between 29 January and 13 February. 100 to 200 people arrive on daily basis at the train station. SES established a transit centre and offered free train tickets for IDPs to travel to western Ukraine. By 13 February, there were approximately 150 IDPs living in wagons at the train station. This group decided to remain in the proximity of their homes. The generosity of the local community has once again being noticeable: food, warm clothes and other items are provided by volunteers. The local NGO "Dobraya Vest" provides three meals daily and health assistance in collaboration with the local Red Cross, and WHO to these IDPs. Water and sanitation needs are significant and need to be urgently addressed. UNHCR distributed warm clothes and other NFIs. The Oblast administration rehabilitated the former sports hall with capacity to host additional 1,000 IDPs, but the structure lacks sufficient toilets and showers. While some psychological support is provided, it is insufficient. MoSP does not have the capacity to register the people in a timely and effective manner, and many people have been asked to come back in March 2015 for registration, a procedure that is fundamental for the receipt of social benefits. IDPs must also obtain a document from the Migration Service in order to be able to register, but officials say that instructions on this are unclear. Furthermore, as Debaltseve and other villages conflict areas are still under GoU control, displacement from these locations is not fully recognized, and this creates another hurdle to registration.

Another location of arrival of newly displaced is Artemivsk, where the local administration stated that the collective centres are fully occupied and that the location cannot absorb any additional influx. The State Emergency Services (SES), with UNHCR support, has established a transit centre where IDPs come, receive legal consultation and are offered transport to Slovyansk. OCHA, UNHCR and WHO are supporting SES in improving services offered at this transit centre.

Other densely populated areas with IDPs include Svyatogorsk (5,100 IDPs, 4,000 residents) a resort where the displaced are settled in sanatoriums and summer camps; and Krasnyi Liman, where 17,000 IDPs are staying, with 28,000 town residents, and an additional 27,000 inhabitants across the rayon.

Protection partners carried out systematic monitoring at reception centres, including Kyiv and Odesa. Between 2 and 9 February, 882 persons, mostly, elderly and women with children, arrived to Kyiv through the IDP Reception and Departure Centre, including 197 children and 33 people with disabilities.

Health partners identified an urgent need to provide additional health services to areas where IDPs are concentrating, and in transit centres, including Svyatogorsk (Summer camps), Krasni Liman, Nikolayevka and Slovyansk railway train station.

The capacity of host communities, especially those bordering conflict zones, are exhausted in terms of shelter, employment and social-economic services. As an example, Bilovodsk district in the Luhansk region has accommodated over 11,000 IDPs despite having a local population of just 12,000. In some regions local authorities send IDPs to rural areas, where they struggle to survive.

A newly released report from Internews, examines the information needs and access to communications among displaced and host communities in eastern Ukraine. The document stresses the need to tackle the growing sense of confusion, frustration and isolation among IDPs. Survivors need to have access to information, including on assistance provision and eligibility criteria. This is crucial to manage expectations and minimize rumours, enhance partners' ability to effectively plan and deliver aid and help addressing growing social tensions. The full report can be found at [http://bit.ly/ukraine\\_idp](http://bit.ly/ukraine_idp)

The deteriorating humanitarian situation is further compounded by the devaluation of the Ukrainian currency, the Hryvnia (UAH), against foreign currencies. The UAH is reportedly weaker in Donetsk than in Kyiv, on 13 February, exchange rates varied from 28-32 UAH to 1 EUR, and 25-29 UAH to 1 USD. This has led to an increase in fuel prices.

## Funding

Official reporting to the Strategic Response Plan for Ukraine (Dec 2014) indicate zero contribution to the humanitarian plan for 2015, despite information at local level whereby some limited contributions and pledges are forthcoming. OCHA records all humanitarian contributions through its Financial Tracking Service (FTS). Please register your contributions by emailing [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org) or through the online contribution form at [fts.unocha.org](http://fts.unocha.org).

The Humanitarian Country Team decided to undertake a 'light' revision of the SRP following the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in January 2015 including the substantial increase of displacement across the country. The Humanitarian country team and cluster partners refined the scenario and revised cluster targets, activities and budget taking into consideration the most recent events during a one-day workshop on 12 February, chaired by the HC. The revised plan is being finalized and it is expected to be launched in the coming week.

## Humanitarian Response

There are reports that a further Russian convoy of assistance is due in Donbas on 15 February.



**Education** (cluster leads: Rudi Luchmann, [rluchmann@unicef.org](mailto:rluchmann@unicef.org); Olena Sakovych osakovych@unicef.org)

### Needs:

- In Donetsk, all schools in the city were closed the past week and 14 have been damaged to various extent. Pupils were enrolled in distant education programmes until 8 February.
- As of 6 February, the Ministry of Education and Science reported that 71,632 IDP children are registered in schools in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk regions and Kyiv, or an increase of 1,371 since December.

### Response:

- Save the Children distributed 2,000 back-to-school kits for IDP children (grades 1-4) in Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhzhia and implemented a Psychological First Aid training course for school psychologists from 24 schools.
- La Strada NGO supported a training programme on referral mechanisms, humanitarian assistance and information sharing platforms for IDPs and children affected by crisis for 1,356 teachers from 288 schools in Donbas.
- To date, 4,011 children have been trained on stress coping techniques.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Continuous insecurity represents the main obstacle to access to education.



**Emergency Shelter and NFI** (cluster lead: Igor Chantefor, [chantefo@unhcr.org](mailto:chantefo@unhcr.org))

### Needs:

- Thousands of people are reported to permanently be living in bomb shelters with minimum or no access to basic services.
- First reception areas (Sloviansk, Kramatorsk, Sviatohirsk) as well as transportation hubs (Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Kyiv) are in need of NFIs for newly arrived IDPs.

### Response:

- Partners provided 1,537 HHs with multifunctional unconditional cash assistance, bringing the total assisted to 21,837 HHs.
- UNHCR distributed 6,852 NFI packages to Donetsk IDPs; ADRA 870 NFI vouchers; UNDP 6,000 clothing sets and 6,200 bedding sets in Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv. UNHCR, Red Cross and People in Need have dispatched 5,000 blankets, 4,000 bed linen sets, 1,500 winter coats and 250 sleeping bags to non-government controlled areas.
- In Mariupol area UNHCR has distributed some 2,000 pcs of roofing slate to rehabilitate some 72 private houses along with 75 plastic sheets.
- Save the Children distributed blankets, sheets and pillows to 40 children from Child Sanatorium 2 in Dnipropetrovsk.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Access to conflict area as well as security constraints remain an issue especially for villages under constant shelling.
- Government registration does not provide place of origin for IDPs, impairing the proper identification of the population remaining in non-governmental controlled area. As a consequence, contingency planning and needs mapping are not accurate enough to set-up a precise baseline.

**Food Security and Nutrition** (cluster leads: Elena Rovaris [elena.rovaris@wfp.org](mailto:elena.rovaris@wfp.org), Valeriya Taran, [vtaran@unicef.org](mailto:vtaran@unicef.org))**Needs:**

- Considering the ongoing instability, preposition food in key locations within NGCAs is a priority.
- Following implementation of Government of Ukraine access regulations, food availability in NGCA is increasingly worrying - especially in areas outside urban zones. This issue is compounded by the closure of state services and banks, inaccessible pensions, depleted savings and the overall lack of available hard currency in NGCA.
- Support, protection and promotion of breastfeeding and safe complementary feeding are urgently needed for the population in NGCAs and for IDPs.

**Response:**

- Food parcels were provided to 4,260 individuals in NGCA of Donetsk, including Donetsk city, Horlivka, Debaltseve, Yenakiieve, Makiivka, and Amvrosiivka.
- Voucher distributions are ongoing for over 2,000 individuals in NGCA of Donetsk.
- 3,700 food parcels are being distributed in Sievierodonetsk, Lysychansk, Popasna, Novoaidar.
- 1,000 parcels are being delivered to Luhansk.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Although access to vulnerable and trapped groups remains a challenge, so far partners have been able to reach out to the affected population.
- Security-related access issues, new regulations imposed by the Government of Ukraine has led to significant supply problems as clearance processes are heavily bureaucratic, slow, and inconsistently enforced.
- Up-to-date information on the nutritional status of most nutritionally vulnerable groups (children under age 5, pregnant and lactating women, elderly people) in NGCAs and IDPs is lacking.

**Health** (cluster lead: Dr. Dorit Nitzan, [DON@euro.who.int](mailto:DON@euro.who.int); Patricia Kormoss, [kpj@euro.who.int](mailto:kpj@euro.who.int))**Needs:**

- Most of the newly arrived IDPs at Sloviansk, Kharkiv and Kyiv arrived with non-communicable diseases with complications, mental health needs, trauma and scabies indicating the urgent need to scale up mobile primary health units to new areas.
- There is a large need of insulin for all diabetes patients residing in Donetsk oblast.
- Reportedly, seasonal flu incidence and hepatitis A is growing in Donbas area (beyond 18% of threshold in Khmelnytska).

**Response:**

- Health partners provided haemodialysis consumables for 300 procedures in Donbas and haemodialysis treatment for 130 patients in Dnepropetrovsk. In Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk and Kharkiv, organizations delivered two drug kits for chronic diseases (Novoazovsk and Telmanove); 44 Basic Units Interagency Emergency Health kits (44,000 people) and 90 Reproductive health kits (4,500 baby deliveries).
- Three mobile emergency primary health care unit teams in Mariupol (run by IMC/Greek medical foundation “Hippocrates”) and one team in Sievierodonetsk (run by Ukrainian Red Cross) have launched health care activities for IDP and have provided 863 consultations during last week.
- WHO administered a rapid health assessment for active monitoring of the health situation among IDPs at transit points via mobile technology and online framework.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Shelling affected several health care facilities exposing patients and health professionals to constant risk.
- New IDPs are not always actively screened when at transit points. Chronic cases are however often referred directly to the tertiary level of care. These facilities’ capacities are put under major strain.

**Livelihoods and Early Recovery** (cluster lead: Inita Paulovica, [Inita.Paulovica@undp.org](mailto:Inita.Paulovica@undp.org))**Needs**

- IDPs report difficulties in finding employment opportunities. The main issues reported: lack of vacancies, unofficial employment without any guarantees, low salaries, delays in payments and discrimination.

**Response**

- 19 IDPs have been supported with micro-enterprise/self-employment development grants. These IDPs are expected to jump-start their micro-businesses next month.
- The cluster helped facilitate the employment of 17 IDPs.

- Trainings on micro-entrepreneurship and self-employment among IDPs were conducted in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Kyiv oblasts.
- Legal support, information support and social services were provided to 110 IDPs.

### Gaps & Constraints

- Issues with the retrieving of documents for private entrepreneurs and micro-enterprises were identified.
- Intensification of armed conflict worsened access to affected territories.



**Protection** (cluster co-leads: Ilija Todorovic, [todorovi@unhcr.org](mailto:todorovi@unhcr.org); Fiona Frazer, [ffrazer@ohchr.org](mailto:ffrazer@ohchr.org)) – see also overview

### Needs:

- Need to build awareness of international/humanitarian principles in the evacuation process and to ensure that children's best interests are being considered and catered for.

### Response:

- The Donetsk Regional State Administration reported the evacuation of 6,427 civilians from the 'endangered territories' of the region between 28 January and 9 February. Hundreds of civilians were also evacuated from Debaltseve area (mainly from Vuhlehirsk and Debaltseve) to the territories controlled by the armed groups. Over 1,000 of civilians were evacuated from unsafe areas in the Luhansk region.
- Protection Cluster members monitored casualties, detentions, enforced disappearances, torture, ill-treatment, access to basic social services and movement/evacuation of civilians from the conflict area to inform humanitarian response by the HCT/Ukraine.
- PC members and civil community have been advocating their recommendations on the draft law #1496 On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine to enhance the social protection of internally displaced persons.
- The Protection cluster and Child Protection Sub-Cluster have agreed on the task of defining key principles under international humanitarian responses regarding evacuation policies. This policy document will be shared among state and non-state partners as an advocacy tool.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Capacities of host communities, especially those bordering conflict zones, are exhausted in terms of shelter, employment and social-economic services.
- Newly displaced children who fled to safer areas through organized and spontaneous evacuations lack documentations process. Policies for notaries in conflict areas are changing, making any documentation there not in line with Ukrainian laws. This will cause problems for those children who fled with relatives or other caregivers who are not recognized as their legal guardians, and for issuance of recognized birth certificates. The issue of lack of documents and even medical cards for children remains a problem.
- Partners lack resources to launch a meaningful response to GBV.



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

### Needs:

- According to the Krasnohorivka authorities, all cities along the frontline do not have drinking water. The Siverskyi Donets-Donbass water canal, one of the main water suppliers in Amvrosiivskiyi, Yasynuvatskyi, Shakhtarskyi and Volnovaskiyi raions is damaged. Several repair attempts by Voda Donbassa Company failed amidst mortar attack.
- Lack of clean drinking water or limited access to it has significant consequences. Numerous cases of intestinal diseases in Horlivka, were reported. Civilians in shelters in Donetsk city do not have access to potable water, sanitation facilities and hygiene supplies.
- To date, approximately 461,350 people in Donetsk oblast and 86,862 people in Luhansk oblast do not have access to safe drinking water. The most critical situation is in Avdiivka, Debaltseve, Dzerzhynsk, Novotroitske, Krasnohorivka and Krasnoarmiisk.

### Response:

- On 9 February UNICEF supplied 15,150 liters of bottled drinking water to the city of Volnovakha. ADRA Ukraine distributed water to seven schools (4,284 liters), six kindergartens (7,344 liters), two hospitals (2,448 liters) and a church (1074 liters).
- UNICEF and "Ukrainian frontiers" NGO is distributing 655 hygiene kits (240 Adult hygiene kits /253 Baby hygiene kits /152 Family package hygiene kits) in non-government controlled areas of Luhansk Oblast. On 9 February, UNICEF distributed 10 Baby hygiene kits to new IDPs at the Kyiv Central Station.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited resources affect WASH Response
- Ongoing fighting hinders access to safe drinking water
- The installation of water purification units to reach 20,000 women, children and men in three locations of Donetsk oblast did not take place because of the prevailing insecurity.

## Coordination

- The 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. 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, 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.

### For further information, please contact:

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