

UKRAINE

Situation report No.36 as of 17 April 2015



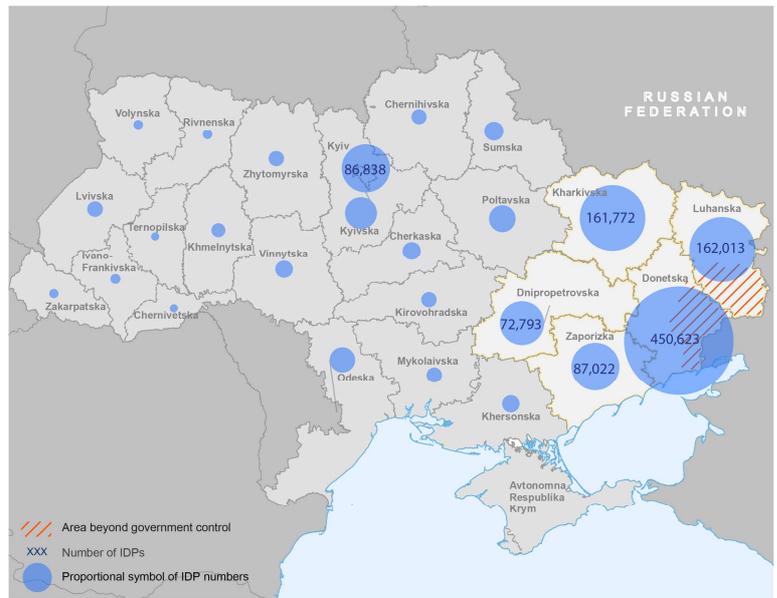
OCHA



This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period of 10 - 17 April 2015, unless otherwise noted. The next report will be published on or around 24 April.

Highlights¹

- Access impediments restrict the delivery of essential humanitarian assistance in a number of villages along the contact line, increasing the needs of local population in terms of access to basic life-saving assistance.
- Limited locally available resources to sustain/expand social services amid increased influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to many communities create tensions between host population and IDPs.
- Reports emerge of IDPs being reluctant to return to non-government controlled areas due to fear of persecution for political reasons leading to ill-treatment, damage of documents, and intimidation of families or deprivation of property.
- Funding for humanitarian operations remains low: only 21 percent of US\$316 required for Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) 2015 is funded or pledged.



Internal displacement data was provided by MoSP as of 15 April 2015.

1.2 million registered IDPs

Source: Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP)

Situation Overview

Access to healthcare in many conflict-affected areas is a major concern. There are reports that Donetsk Municipal Hospital No. 21 has been shelled. Since very few hospitals in the area remain operational, this incident has a significant impact on access to health for the local population. In addition, patients residing in rural localities of some conflict-affected areas have restricted access to healthcare services, including specialised medical services, as local facilities lack logistical capacity, including ambulances, to provide emergency transportation for patients.

By 15 April, MoSP had registered 1,228,090 IDPs in Ukraine. This is an increase of about 15,000 people compared to the previous week. According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), by 16 April, 800,961 Ukrainians had sought asylum, residence permits or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries. This includes 659,143 individuals in Russia and an additional 81,023 individuals in Belarus. The number of Ukrainian nationals who had sought asylum, residence permits or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries increased by about 23,600 people compared to the previous week.

A surge in armed clashes was reported in several locations, with civilians again seeking refuge in underground shelters in Petrovskiy district and in Horlivka, Donetsk Oblast (province). In one day alone, on 13 April, the Ukrainian armed forces reported six servicemen killed and 12 wounded, while the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk People's Republic' and 'Luhansk People's Republic' said four of their fighters were killed and 17 wounded. In

¹ The 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 6 April 2015.

total, since mid-April 2014, at least 6,116 people have been killed and 15,491 wounded in the conflict zone of eastern Ukraine².

There are increasing reports of tensions between IDPs and host communities across Ukraine. A local NGO media monitoring indicates that targeted ‘hate speech’ was used against IDPs in several regions. In the city of Pavlohrad of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, IDPs were blamed for many social problems. Some IDPs are reluctant to return to non-government controlled areas because they are afraid of possible persecution that could lead to ill-treatment, damage of legal documents, and intimidation of families or loss of property.

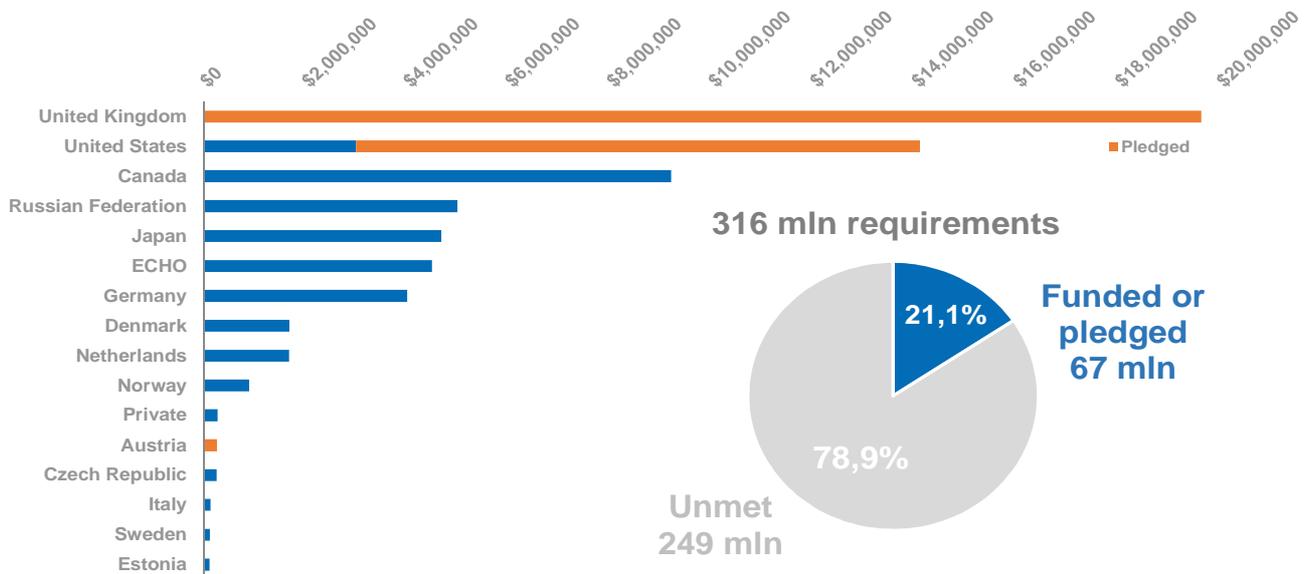
OCHA and UNHCR conducted a joint mission to Luhansk on 14-15 April and delivered humanitarian cargo (blankets, winter jackets, plastic sheet and milk powder). The team met with the de facto authorities who reiterated their support to humanitarian organisations. The humanitarian situation in Luhansk is critical. Food, medicines, shelter and cash (due to delayed salaries, pensions, and massive unemployment) are priority needs. Several reports indicate that eligible people started receiving their pensions in some localities in non-government controlled areas of eastern Ukraine. On 9 April, UNHCR witnessed, in the city of Donetsk, a queue of pensioners in front of the local ‘Donetsk Republican Bank’, which reportedly has been established by the self-proclaimed ‘Donetsk Peoples Republic’ for administration of payments for utilities. However, payment coverage, prioritisation criteria, capacity of local de-facto authorities to continue disbursing these payments remains unclear.

In Mariupol, at least 134 IDPs are on the verge of eviction from a collective centre as they are unable to pay utility charges. Several villages in the area that are located in government-controlled areas in the vicinity of the ‘contact line’ are inaccessible due to security risks and restricted humanitarian access.

On 17 April, the Government Committee of Veteran Affairs, Combatants, Members of ATO (Anti-Terrorism Operation) and People living with Disabilities established a working group to draft a new comprehensive law on humanitarian assistance in Ukraine. This new law is expected to facilitate the work of humanitarian organisations, remove all current bureaucratic hurdles and other impediments as well as expedite the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The new law would be drafted in line with international standards and principles. This came after a workshop on 16 April, which brought together the members of the Committee and UN agencies, major international and national NGOs and other stakeholders.

Funding

Following the launch of the revised HRP 2015 for Ukraine on 25 February, which appeals to the generosity of the



Source: Financial Tracking System (FTS)

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.

international community to fund life-saving activities targeting 3.2 million people across Ukraine, as of 16 April donors funded or pledged around US\$67 million, or 21 percent of the \$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

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) reports that a convoy of 62 vehicles from the Russian Federation arrived in areas beyond Government control on 16 April to deliver humanitarian aid.



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

Needs:

- Electricity supply is disrupted in several cities such as Svetlodar and Avdiivka. Water supply problems reported in Dokuchayevsk, Avdiivka, Svetlodar, Stakhanov and Luhansk cities.

Response:

- The cluster provided 47 self-employment trainings for 1,080 IDPs country-wide.
- The cluster supported seven IDPs with micro grants to start their micro businesses.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Capacities of NGO partners are critical to identify needs as there are a number of constraints in identification of IDP needs on the ground due to a lack of information and statistics.



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

Needs:

- Damaged education facilities are observed in several villages in non-government controlled areas. In the city of Krasnohorivka of Donetsk Oblast, Primary School 5 had been damaged with shattered windows and cracked walls following a recent shelling. The school has no water or gas supply, while sanitation facilities are not functioning. The school is closed, hampering children's access to education. Education Cluster partners in Donetsk have agreed to compile a more comprehensive overview of damaged schools and where they are located in the area. This will provide a better understanding of the impact this has on the access of education for children.
- There is a lack of school transport in the areas near the contact lines. Some parents moved to neighbouring areas where schools are accessible. In some cases, children are studying through distance learning programme, although not all students have access to it due to lack of electricity, internet access, and computers. Several locations in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts requested school transport support.
- Some IDP families keep their children at home because they expect to return to their areas of origin before the beginning of the new school year. On the other hand, many parents are unable to enroll their children between the ages 3 and 5 in kindergartens as many preschool facilities are overcrowded.
- In government-controlled areas, there are reports of children dropping out of school. There is a discrepancy between the number of registered IDP children and the number of IDP children enrolled in schools and kindergartens in the five conflict-affected oblasts. This can be due to frequent movements of IDPs who often do not de-register from the IDP list when they move to another oblast.

Response:

- The education cluster engaged regional education institutions to obtain more accurate figures on IDP children in and out of school. In order to attract out-of-school children to continue education, education partners recommend a targeted “back to school campaign” for IDP parents.
- UNICEF has to date distributed education kits to 7,200 children and Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits to 12,780 children in five affected oblasts.
- YMCA is planning to roll out Mine Risk Education as well as First Aid education and group psychosocial education for school staff, schoolchildren and their parents in Antratsit and Krasny Luch of Luhansk oblast (non-government controlled areas).

Gaps & Constraints:

- A complete assessment of damaged education facilities and education needs in non-government controlled areas is needed, but access and presence of partners is a challenge.



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

Needs:

- In Donetsk village, Luhansk Oblast, 1,000 people need shelter as 30 houses are completely destroyed, some 300 partially damaged and not suitable for living. They are the remaining part of the 3,500 pre-conflict resident population.
- Need for summer clothing and footwear is reported in both government-controlled and non-government controlled areas. Meanwhile, blankets are still reported as a need due to fluctuating weather conditions.
- Despite the increased international presence in non-government controlled areas, needs related to emergency shelter (plastic sheeting) and basic non-food items (NFIs) are yet to be met.

Response:

- In addition to cash assistance provided in 2014 to 8,304 households, the Cluster partners have assisted in 2015 close to 38,000 households with multi-functional cash grants. All partners finished their rounds of distribution and are awaiting funding to start new similar programmes in conflict-affected areas.
- During the reporting period, 2,134 people in government-controlled territories, mainly in the Mariupol area have received NFI assistance (bedding and clothes). In addition, UNHCR has provided blankets and clothes to some 1,750 individuals in non-government controlled areas of Donetsk city. Also, the UN agency provided 23,500 square metres of tarpaulin as emergency shelter supplies in Donetsk city.
- The Cluster is strengthening its information management capacity and is planning to launch a REACH door-to-door survey in five eastern oblasts targeting data collection for 2,600 informants. This is a detailed, cluster-specific survey aimed at establishing the baseline for the NFI/ES cluster. Initial results of the survey are expected to be available at round mid-May 2015, while more comprehensive findings will be available towards the end of May.

Gaps & Constraints:

- NGOs and volunteers working on delivering humanitarian aid continue to report issues with access to non-government controlled areas.



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

Needs:

- HIA is reporting that there are 157,572 officially registered IDPs in Kharkiv Oblast (1,395 of them pregnant women) in need of food parcels, baby food and other food commodities.

Response:

- During the reporting week, food security cluster partners delivered 1,627 food kits in 16 cities and small towns of Donetsk Oblast, (Hirske, Krasnohorivka, Dzerzhynsk, Sloviansk, Zolote, Popasnoe, Krasniy Liman, Sviatohorsk, Ocheretino, Rozovka, Mironovka, Novobaxmytka, Svetlodarsk, Kuraxovo, Prelesnoe).
- The cluster also distributed 25 sets of baby food to IDPs in Zaporizhzhia Oblast. In addition, 655 IDPs in Kharkiv and 147 people in Kramatorsk received financial assistance for food products.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Based on the results of the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) report from March 2015, cluster partners are redefining their support to affected population for the coming months. Considering the upcoming plan to extend operations, the cluster shortfall may soon significantly increase.
- As reported by partners, main activities are still concentrated in big cities, while small localities are reportedly left unattended and IDPs in those localities have very limited access to basic humanitarian assistance.



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

Needs

- The Ministry of Health identified urgently needed medicines and supplies for the treatment of patients with severe conditions and quantified the overall required amount for the country – see link: http://moz.gov.ua/docfiles/pre_20150409_0dod.pdf
- Preliminary findings of the assessment of Luhansk Regional Psycho-Neurological Clinic, Luhansk Regional TB Dispensary, Primary and Secondary Health Care institutions of Starobelsk locality of Luhansk Oblast indicate needs in medical supplies (antidepressants, X-ray films) and food for psycho-neurological care, as well as medical supplies and equipment for primary and secondary health care institutions.

- Preliminary findings from a rapid assessment conducted in non-government controlled areas of Donetsk Oblast confirm significant deterioration in infant and young child feeding practices, including using semolina or cow milk with water for feeding children over one month old. The assessment also indicates heavy reliance on starches for complementary feeding children aged 6-23 months, limited dairy availability and limited access to meat, fruit and vegetables for complementary feeding.
- Needs assessment of vulnerable IDPs who reside in a temporary site in Nerubayske village of Odessa Oblast and in private accommodation, as well as newly arrived IDPs in Kharkiv city reveal needs for basic, life-saving and chronic diseases health-care services (especially treatment of diabetes, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal diseases, and special services for people living with disabilities).

Response:

- Over the reporting period, three MEPU (Mobile Emergency Primary Health-care Unit) teams in Mariupol of Donetsk Oblast (run by IMC/Greek medical foundation “Hippocrates”) and seven teams in Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk Oblast), Sloviansk and Sviatohorsk (Donetsk Oblast) Kupyansk, Iziium (Kharkiv Oblast), Zaporizhzhia (Zaporizhzhia Oblast) and Pavlohrad of Dnipropetrovsk Oblast (run by the Ukrainian Red Cross Society) have provided 1,534 consultations for IDP and resident population. One new MEPU was launched in Dniprodzerzhynsk (Dnipropetrovsk Oblast), which will be run by the Ukrainian Red Cross Society.
- The cluster partners conducted a workshop on emergency TB preparedness and response to head physicians of TB dispensaries of several oblasts.
- The Cluster initiated a working group on refocussing strategies related to child and maternal health according to the principles of greater health equity with an explicit but not exclusive focus on the Roma population.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of funding remains the main challenge hampering the efforts of cluster partners to meet growing nutritional needs of infants and young children. Limited nutrition in emergencies expertise in the country further impacts availability for scaling up of necessary programmes.



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

Needs:

- About 1,000 IDPs are accommodated in four sanatoriums functioning as collective centers in Odessa. Over half of these IDPs are considered as vulnerable persons with disabilities and children. Outstanding payments by the Government for these private sanatoriums have now reached \$1.8 million going back to July 2014. In case this remains unpaid, IDPs could be evicted. Alternative solutions are being sought locally but they involve relocation to dormitories in need of repairs. For people living with disabilities there are reportedly no other accommodation options than the sanatoriums.

Response:

- In the city of Kramatorsk of Donetsk Oblast, volunteers assisted IDPs in getting stamps from the Migration Services. As a result, 1,000 IDPs were able to receive the stamps in two days. For comparison, earlier in the reporting period, the Migration Services processed only up to 50 stamps per day.
- During the last two weeks, psychosocial support was provided to 6,373 children through the network of community support (through the Child Protection sub-cluster). Since January 2015, approximately 19,000 children received psychosocial support. Child Protection partners are monitoring the needs of children in non-government controlled areas. 50 children have been provided with psychosocial support through a child-friendly space in Debaltseve, Donetsk Oblast. Through its nine Community Protection Centers (CPC), the Ukrainian Red Cross Society has provided psychosocial support, organised recreational activities, legal and educational services to 3,309 persons. This includes 1,641 children.

Gaps & Constraints

- The issue of freedom of movement for civilians continues to be a major concern for local residents on either side of the line of contact. Residents of Luhansk (non-government controlled areas) now only have one official corridor for Luhansk Oblast (Stakhanov–Pervomaysk–Zolote–Hirske–Lysychansk). Other alternatives are to travel through the Russian Federation, which entails a lengthy and costly journey.
- Problems with recognition of civil registry certificates issued in the non-government controlled areas create additional obstacles for IDPs in accessing social benefits and services.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (cluster lead: [Silvia Ramos, washcluster.ukraine@gmail.com](mailto:Silvia.Ramos@washcluster.ukraine@gmail.com))

Needs:

- Damage to water supply networks have been identified in several locations in Luhansk Oblast (Pervomaisk, Kirovsk, Bryanka and Stakhanov), which now have poor or limited access to water. Most rural areas are yet to be assessed to identify the extent of the damage.
- Almost all cities and villages in Novoazovsk district of Donetsk Oblast have no access to water supply, with wells reportedly accessible only for technical needs.
- In Mariupol and surroundings, clashes during the past few weeks resulted in heavy destructions, with local authorities reporting of poor access and quality of piped water in the city. Some locations around Mariupol have been experiencing no access to potable water amid the lack of power.

Response:

- Three water treatment plants have been assisted to ensure the provision of potable water for 70,000 people in Krasnohorivka of Donetsk Oblast.
- The Luhansk Regional Agency for Sustainable Development distributed 7,000 liters of drinking water to 1,250 people in the most affected areas of the oblast.
- Baby, adult, and family hygiene kits have been distributed among the most vulnerable people in Alchevsk, Bryanka, Luhansk (Luhansk Oblast) and Sviatohorsk (Donetsk oblast), benefiting 1,500 persons, including 700 children. In addition, People In Need has distributed family hygiene kits in several locations of Donetsk non-government controlled areas reaching 250 people. In the past month, hygiene kits distributions covered the needs of 20,500 people in non-government controlled areas.
- In the framework of Hygiene Awareness Campaign, hygiene promotion activities have been conducted targeting 300 people in IDP centers and collective shelters in the city of Kyiv.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of fuel, electricity to run pumps and other required equipment is decreasing the response to meet existing WASH needs, especially in potable water supply and waste water management in affected areas.

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

- The shipment of UNHCR cargo of non-food items from Dnipropetrovsk reached Donetsk on 10 April.
- A warehouse remains available in Dnipropetrovsk, which is to be used for consolidation of cargo for onward transfer to non-government controlled areas. Storage for a longer period (up to two weeks) can be provided in Donetsk.
- The Logistics Cluster also facilitates transportation to organisations' own warehouses in Donetsk and Luhansk cities.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to facilitate the paperwork for its partners for all common service transport. A checklist and templates of required documents have been established, and the revised list of documentation will be distributed amongst partners. The Logistics Cluster is assessing the best practices for cargo movement to work towards streamlining the current procedures and has prepared a proposal document to share with partners.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access for humanitarian cargo movement into non-government controlled areas remains challenging.

Coordination

- On 17 April, a general coordination meeting under the chairmanship of the Humanitarian Coordinator took place in Kyiv. Participants discussed outstanding issues in humanitarian assistance, existing impediments to deliver aid, including issues related to access. Specific attention was paid to strategies for resource mobilisation and how the humanitarian community would further advocate for funding.
- 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 overview 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 organisation might have to improve its layout and content.

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 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 adherence to ceasefire. However, tensions and hostilities remain and pose continued security risks both to local population and humanitarian actors on the ground.

For further information, please contact:

Alimbek Tashtankulov, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Kyiv | tashtankulov@un.org | +380 95 284 7322

Jake Morland, Desk Officer, New York | morland@un.org | +1 212 963 2066

OCHA Ukraine Situation Reports are available at: <http://reliefweb.int/country/ukr>

To be added or deleted from this situation report mailing list, please e-mail: Kutsel@un.org, kalinina@un.org