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HIGHLIGHTS

- Death toll on the rise
- Critical civilian infrastructure and water treatment staff targeted yet again
- Mine contamination affects 1.9 million Ukrainians
- Humanitarian needs persist across all critical sectors
- The concept of #NewWayOfWorking takes shape in Ukraine
- Over 40 Member States briefed on Ukraine crisis in NY
- 2018 HRP is only 18 per cent funded



Civilian casualties rise by 142 per cent in April

After four years of armed conflict in east Ukraine, civilians are continuing to pay the highest price. Every day, hundreds of thousands of men, women and children living along the “contact line” are threatened by shelling, small-arms-fire and mine contamination.

April 2018 was the deadliest month, and civilian casualties rose to record levels this year, with 46 men, women and children (13 killed; 33 injured). This is a 142 per cent increase compared to March 2018, with 19 civilian casualties (five killed, 14 injured). Since the outbreak of hostilities, over 2,700 civilians were killed and up to 9,000 injured¹.

In March 2018, a family of four was killed when their car hit an anti-tank mine. In April, over 30 schoolchildren travelling home in Zaitseve, a village along the “contact line”, came under fire – they had to immediately evacuate for their safety. Today, many of the 600,000 people who regularly experience hostilities, include families who have to sleep in damp basements, and children studying in schools, where windows are walled with sandbags.

“We are all tired of this war. I will give everything to live in peace for the remainder of my life.” says an elderly standing at an entry/exit checkpoint.

PEOPLE AFFECTED

 **4.4M**

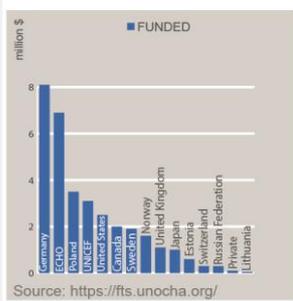
PEOPLE IN NEED

 **3.4M**

PEOPLE INTERNALLY DISPLACED

 **1.5M**

FUNDING (2018)

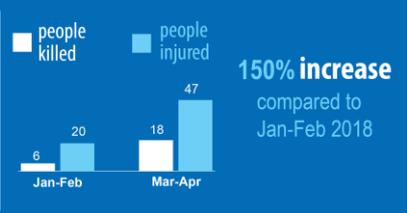
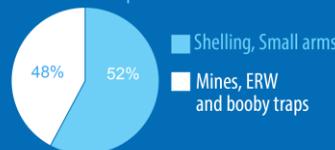


March - April 2018

Casualties

 **18** people killed
 **47** people injured

Civilian casualties by type of incident
March - April 2018



After four years of conflict, 4.4 million men, women and children affected by the armed conflict continue bearing the heaviest brunt. Of these, some 3.4 million people urgently require humanitarian assistance and protection, whilst about 1.5 million Ukrainians are internally displaced. Protracted humanitarian situation forced millions of them to make impossible choices whether they eat, access healthcare or send their children to school.

Urgent action on ceasefires needed, to stop targeting civilians and critical infrastructure

¹ 14 April 2014 to 30 April 2018 - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

142 per cent more civilian casualties in April than in the previous month

There was a lull in hostilities over the start of spring and Easter, with two ceasefires committed to on 5 and 30 March, respectively. However, they did not last long, and [clashes escalated shortly thereafter on both sides of the 'contact line'](#). Shelling in the vicinity of critical infrastructure disrupted access to basic services. The Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster reported at least 25 incidents affecting WASH facilities in March and April 2018. Following these incidents, water supply was interrupted for millions of people, at least on 10 occasions.

Water treatment workers risk their lives every day to ensure water flows and supply people on both sides of the "contact line". Five workers were seriously injured [on 17 April, when a bus carrying 30 staff of the Donetsk Filter Station \(DFS\) was shot at](#). The next day, Voda Donbasa, the water supply company, evacuated staff and interrupted DFS operations for four days. Water supply resumed only with OSCE's commitment to escort the staff to/from the facility for their safety. In his [statement](#) made in New York, the Humanitarian Coordinator reminded parties of their obligations to respect International Humanitarian Law and urgently called to protect civilians and critical infrastructure.

Landmines and explosive hazards threaten 1.9 million Ukrainians in the East



Volodymyr Shuvayev/OCHA

Landmines and explosive remnants of war have killed or injured more than 1,800 men, women and children in Ukraine since 2014. Over 1.9 million people², live in areas that are heavily contaminated with landmines, including [220,000 children](#). Mines and explosive remnants of war also severely restrict people's ability to move freely, to commute to work or go to school. The hundreds of thousands of civilians who cross the "contact line" through the five official entry/exit [checkpoints](#) are especially impacted,

as these areas are highly contaminated with explosives.

It is therefore critical to advocate for a [#MineFreeUkraine](#), to secure a mine-action policy and to scale up mine clearance/risk education. On 4 April, humanitarian partners marked the International Mine Awareness Day. The Mine Action Sub-Cluster, together with the Government, UN agencies and NGOs organised events in Kyiv as well as in eastern Ukraine, where they presented various demining, mine-risk education and mine-clearance initiatives to raise awareness about mine-contamination in eastern Ukraine. The humanitarian partners highlighted once again the threat of mine contamination and [demanded](#) to protect civilians and prevent the use of landmines in civilian areas, in line with International Humanitarian Law.

Over 1.9 million men, women and children in east Ukraine are affected by explosive hazards

Critical humanitarian needs persist across all sectors

Over 54 per cent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have enough money to only buy food, or must limit their expenses even for food

According to the March 2018 [survey](#) by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), this is a 10 per cent increase from December 2017. Healthcare is also unaffordable for many of the 1.5 million registered IDPs due to the cost of medicine. The share of IDPs satisfied with accessibility of healthcare sharply declined from 85 per cent in December

² Data provided by the Mine-Action Sub Cluster.

2017 to 62 per cent in March 2018. Employment among IDPs has remained relatively stable, but low since June 2017, with only 48 per cent of displaced persons having a job.

In the government-controlled areas, one in five conflict-affected households is food insecure

The latest Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster and humanitarian partner [analysis](#)³, also reveals that in the non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs), 71 per cent of households resorted to negative practices such as alcoholism, survival sex, cutting expenses for other needs such as healthcare and drug use, due to food insecurity. The most vulnerable groups remain single-headed households with children, elderly people, chronically ill and people with disabilities and female-headed households. Whilst the analysis suggests some pension reforms have had a positive impact on the food security of some 3 per cent of pensioner-headed households.



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71 per cent households in the non-Government controlled areas resort to negatives practices to cope due to food insecurity

A #NewWayOfWorking in Ukraine

The representatives from humanitarian and development partners, financial institutions and the Government of Ukraine came together on 26-27 March to develop thinking and approaches to strengthen the Humanitarian-Development Nexus (HDN). The protracted humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine requires stronger links between addressing the urgent humanitarian needs of 3.4 million people and strengthening their resilience. This is also one of the key priorities of the 2018 [Humanitarian Response Plan](#), which recognizes the humanitarian imperative, but also lays the ground for a well-coordinated and coherent response with recovery and development actors. It



Ivan Kryvokhatko/OCHA

reflects the commitments of the Grand Bargain and the UN Secretary General's [New Way of Working](#).

The HDN workshop was held in Kyiv, and benefitted from the expertise of Professor Walter Kaelin and other global experts. The workshop brought together over 60 participants, who established three collective outcome groups, namely essential services, livelihoods and critical infrastructure. During an initial three-month timeframe, these groups will map current humanitarian and recovery initiatives, policies and operational strategies and seek to agree on collective outcomes.

Humanitarian Coordinator briefs Member States in New York on the Humanitarian Situation and Response, and Recovery Efforts

Over 40 governments and representatives of international organizations were briefed about the dire humanitarian situation, response and recovery efforts by the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) on 20 April in New York. The briefing, which was moderated by the Head

³ REACH winter assessment data (February 2018)

of OCHA Ukraine, highlighted the humanitarian consequences of the active armed conflict in eastern Ukraine and the response efforts. With the Humanitarian Response Plan severely underfunded, the HC called on Member States to provide urgent funding to address critical needs of 2.3 million most vulnerable Ukrainians. The HC also urged parties to the conflict to respect International Humanitarian Law and protect civilians and critical infrastructure. He then highlighted the efforts of the humanitarian and development partners in Ukraine on advancing the thinking on the New Way of Working. Additional remarks on the recovery component were provided by the Director of Crisis Response Unit of UNDP.



Jean-Francois Ruel/OCHA

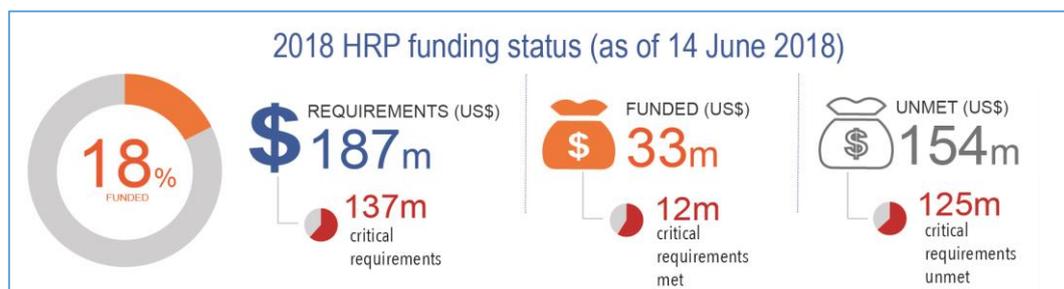
Humanitarian response is severely underfunded

The Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018 is only 18 per cent funded. The humanitarian community in Ukraine stretches out available resources, but urgent funding is needed to address this 82 per cent funding gap to meet the needs of 2.3 million most vulnerable Ukrainians.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian partners continue to deliver assistance and protection services to the most vulnerable on both sides of the “contact line”, through both in-kind and cash-based modalities.

In addition, the Russian Federation advised that they dispatched two convoys to Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (NGCAs) on 29 March and 8 May, respectively, containing some 800 tonnes of baby food, educational kits, medicine and basic commodities.

Urgent funding required to address the critical needs of 2.3 million most vulnerable Ukrainians affected by the conflict



To ensure effective use of available resources, and to record and recognize the contributions, donors and partners should reflect their contributions pledged, disbursed and received at <https://fts.unocha.org>.

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