

In February, the security situation in Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts deteriorated with reports of increased use of heavy weapons and sniper fire compared to January 2021. The hostilities caused damage to 21 houses on both sides of the “contact line” and one education facility, which is the highest number of attacks on civilian property since the start of the ceasefire in July 2020. On 19 February, the President of Ukraine signed a decree to establish Civil-Military Administrations in the “frontline” communities where elections did not take place in October 2020 due to “security concerns”, creating a leadership vacuum. This decree is a critical step in addressing the pressing gaps in essential service delivery which could have possible humanitarian consequences. In addition, Oshchadbank has extended the validity of expired bank cards until 1 May 2021, the fifth extension since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. A valid bank card is required for registered internally displaced people to access their social entitlements, including pensions, in Government-controlled areas (GCA).

OPERATIONAL UPDATES



The Ministry of Social Policy has reinstated accelerated clearance and registration procedures for imported humanitarian relief. The newly-reinstated procedures enable clearance of humanitarian items within 24 hours (as opposed to up to 6 weeks) and cancels the requirement to provide pre-distribution confirmation letters from local authorities, which previously had been the main challenge for the delivery of aid to areas outside Government control (NGCA). Despite this positive development, consignments of medical supplies to Ukraine, including those related to COVID-19, are facing a new customs clearance challenge caused by a Ministry of Health regulation adopted in December 2020. The regulation, which has caused delays in customs clearance for medical cargo from several organizations, requires all medical supplies to have confirmation from the Ministry that they are in compliance with set standards

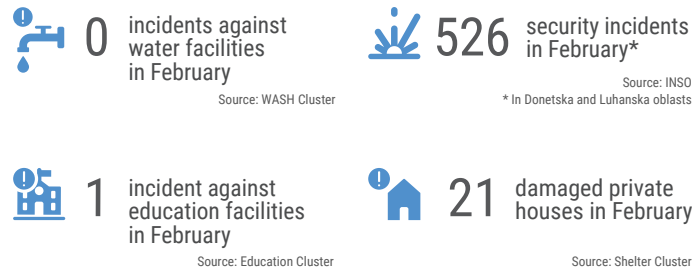


The number of new confirmed COVID-19 cases in February decreased nationwide by 22 per cent compared to January. In GCA of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts, the decrease was more dramatic, with the number of new cases in February (4,198) less than half of the previous month (10,364). Government vaccination campaigns have been launched in both oblasts prioritizing health care workers, social workers and employees of critical state security entities. At the same time, there are reports that the Ukraine vaccination campaign has encountered strong public resistance, and anti-vaccination “crusades” have led to low support for the vaccine. The COVID-19 growth rate was also reported to slow down in NGCA (around 4,500 new cases in February against some 6,600 in January). In addition, the second stage of vaccination in NGCA with Sputnik V vaccine is reported to start on 1 March. By the end of February an increase in the number of new daily cases nationwide was noted, especially in western Ukraine, including an increase in bed occupancy rates.

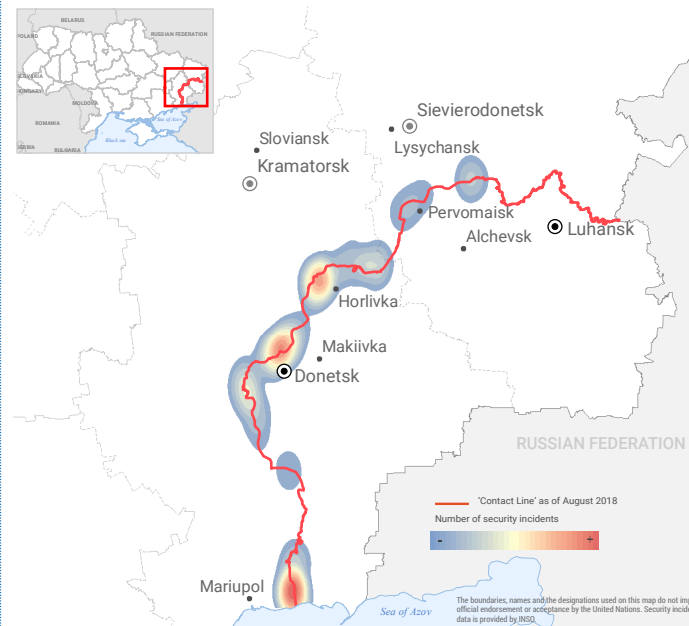
CIVILIAN CASUALTIES



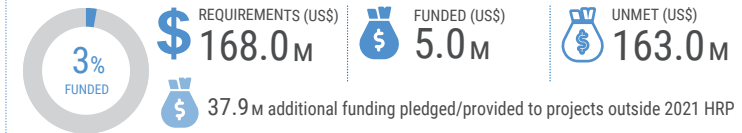
INCIDENTS AGAINST INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES



NUMBER AND LOCATION OF SECURITY INCIDENTS (FEBRUARY 2021)

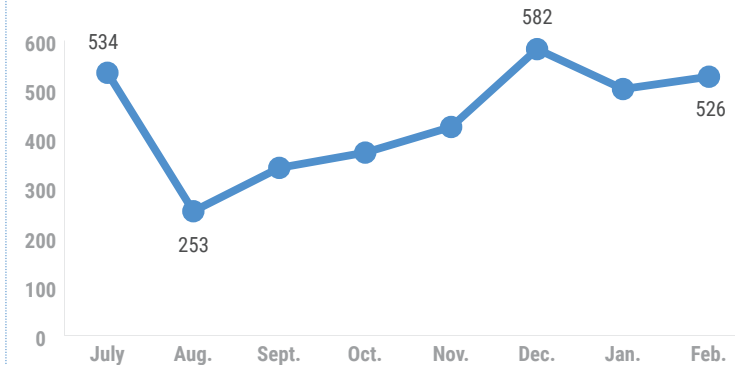


2021 HRP: REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING*



Funding by Cluster (% and million US\$)	Funding requirements (million US\$)	Funding status (million US\$)	
Education	0%	5.6	0
Food Security and Livelihoods	5%	21.0	1.0
Health	0%	28.7	0
Protection	1%	50.1	0.5
Shelter/NFI	1%	23.1	0.2
WASH	2%	27.0	0.6
Common Services and Support	0%	7.2	0
Multipurpose Cash	0%	5.2	0
Cluster not specified			2.7
TOTAL		168.0	5.0

NUMBER OF SECURITY INCIDENTS BY MONTH (JULY 2020 – FEBRUARY 2021)**



* According to FTS as of 28 February 2021. Some donations are yet to be recorded, and donors and partners are invited to register donations.
** According to INSO. A ceasefire came into effect on 27 July 2020.