

KEY FIGURES

1,100,000

registered internally displaced people comprising:

641,700

pensioners

246,200

working age

137,900

children

44,200

disabled

674,300

total number of externally displaced Ukrainians

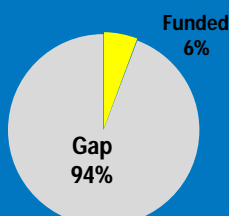
575,900

Ukrainians seeking asylum or other forms of stay in the Russian Federation

FUNDING

USD 41.5 million

requested for the operation in 2015



PRIORITIES

- As part of the UN Humanitarian Response Plan, to lead protection, shelter and NFI clusters to help those forcibly displaced from their homes.
- Support Government in efforts to establish a central IDP authority.
- Work with the Government to improve registration system, specifically for pensioners.

UKRAINE SITUATION

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

7 February – 6 March 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- Situation overview:** An assessment mission to Donetsk conducted by UNHCR between 19-22 February reconfirmed huge humanitarian needs. Scale-up of humanitarian presence in the east is urgently required. People are living in basements, bomb shelters or under the rubble of their houses or apartment buildings. In particular they lack food, medicine and heating.
- Protection concerns:** Freedom of movement is an issue and civilians are often trapped in the conflict zone. Lack of available and affordable transport and insecurity along exit routes, as well as administrative barriers prevent them from reaching safety and people feel abandoned.
- Legislation update:** Amendments to the IDP law currently under discussion would improve access to rights for IDPs. If implemented the IDP definition would be extended to include stateless individuals and foreigners with permanent or temporary residence; documentation requirements for IDP registration would be partially relaxed; registration of unaccompanied minors would be made easier as would registration for unemployment benefits.
- Assistance provided:** One of the first NFI deliveries to two areas in Luhansk. UNHCR distributed assistance to 11,500 people in Donetsk region where the majority of the displaced population, including many of those coming from Debaltseve who fled ongoing fighting. A joint UN convoy delivered humanitarian aid to Donetsk city on 19 February despite shelling.



Vladik, 9 years old, stopped going to school as fierce firing started in his hometown of Dokuchaevsk, Donetsk region. During the daytime shelling his mother often takes him and his two year brother to the underground bunker.

Operational Context

The past month has seen further uncertainty and continued hardship for the people of Ukraine. The total number of IDPs passed the 1 million mark. As of 3 March there were 1,100,000 IDPs registered by the Ministry of Social Policy. A new ceasefire agreement was reached resulting in a broad reduction in the intensity of the conflict. Nonetheless, incidents of shelling and civilian deaths continued to be reported, especially in the Debaltseve area.

The humanitarian situation in northern Donetsk and along the Luhansk sector of the line of contact has been particularly dire, with utility supplies cut or sporadic supply due to damaged infrastructure caused by shelling and rocket attacks. Insecurity means that the delivery of humanitarian aid to the many

civilians trapped in the conflict area is extremely difficult. The scarcity of basic supplies, including food, has driven up prices of available supplies. Living conditions have been exacerbated by cold weather and temperatures as low as -15°C, particularly for those with damaged homes or taking shelter in bunkers and basements.

The State Emergency Service (SES) reported 11,121 evacuees (including 2,238 children and 343 disabled) from Donetsk and Luhansk regions in February. Many IDPs pass through transit points close to the line of contact, such as Slovyansk, Kostyantynivka, Avdiivka, Artemivsk and further afield; through Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Kyiv before reaching a final destination where they can be properly accommodated. Government assistance to evacuees continues to fall far short of demand, particularly in the provision of accommodation, transport, information and maintaining family unity.

UNHCR has offices in Kyiv and Kherson. In the east of the country UNHCR has offices in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Mariupol, Donetsk and Sievierodonetsk. UNHCR is continuing to scale-up its presence in Donetsk city and is currently looking at the feasibility of an increased presence in Luhansk. As part of the overall UN response to the situation in Ukraine, UNHCR co-leads the Protection Cluster with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and leads the Shelter and Non Food Items Cluster.

External displacement

The total number of externally displaced Ukrainians now stands at 674,300, with the majority going to the Russian Federation (542,800) and Belarus (80,700). The Russian authorities planned for an increased flow of refugees and resumed sending Ukrainian refugees further inland by rail in order to prepare accommodation for new arrivals. Three new winterized temporary accommodation centers opened in Rostov region. Currently, almost 27,000 Ukrainian refugees stay at 525 temporary accommodation facilities in various Russian Federation regions. In Belarus all Ukrainians from Donetsk and Lugansk regions receive complementary protection; while Ukrainians arriving from other regions of Ukraine are denied protection.

In other neighbouring countries 2,700 Ukrainians have sought asylum in Poland and 180 in Moldova, 40 in Romania, 40 in Hungary and 20 in Slovakia (see map on page 6), while 11,187 Ukrainians have sought asylum in the European Union, including 2,968 in Germany, 2,458 in Italy, 1,506 in France and 1,422 in Sweden according to provisional government data.

Protection¹

A joint assessment mission by UNHCR Shelter and Protection representatives to Donetsk took place between 19-22 February. The devastation of civilian infrastructure, including houses, the spread of explosive remnants of war, including any inaction to remove them and the lack of a humanitarian agency presence were the key findings. There is a lack of access to the basic social services, including schools in conflict areas. Inflation and lack of state budget are also creating challenges to cover basic needs of IDPs, creating further protection concerns. There is a need to fully assess the current protection concerns in Debaltseve and other areas of insecurity. Humanitarian actors report on problems passing checkpoints between government and non-government controlled areas.

The introduction of the Temporary Order of Movement on 21 January requires those who wish to leave the conflict area to obtain a permit. Protection monitoring shows a greatly restricted freedom of movement, including exit issues leaving the conflict area, including exit. The permit is not always easy to obtain and issuing offices cannot cope with the high levels of demand. It has also been reported that men of working age do not risk leaving unless they are part of a family group due fears of being drafted into the military.

On 18 February, UNHCR and partners participated in the special hearing of the Parliament Human Rights Committee on IDPs rights presenting recommendations to the Committee for the improvement of the legal framework on IDPs,

¹ [International Protection Considerations Related to the Developments in Ukraine – Update II](http://www.refworld.org/docid/54c639474.html)
www.refworld.org/docid/54c639474.html

particularly in regard to registration, taxation, freedom of movement and assistance to IDPs. One amendment to an Order is expected to resolve registration issues for several thousand people who fled Debaltseve, Avdiivka and other conflict affected areas. The amendments do not however resolve the issue of geographic limitations to IDP registration (currently some IDPs fleeing government-controlled areas face bureaucratic obstacles to register).

The Protection Cluster is finalizing its strategy in line with the Strategic Response Plan and its revised version, the [Humanitarian Response Plan](#).



UNHCR together with partner NGO People in Need delivered relief items, clothing and food to the heavily destroyed village of Nikishyne, which is situated 12 km from Debaltseve in Donetsk region. The fighting that began last June left more than 90 per cent of homes completely ruined. UNHCR/Andrew McConnel

Shelter and Non Food Items (NFIs)

In Donetsk city the permanent presence of UNHCR is facilitating the storage and distribution of goods and the delivery of assistance will significantly improve, as will needs identification. Partners have reached over 30,000 people with multifunctional cash grants. UNHCR and partners have delivered NFI aid to the neediest, including to areas under frequent bombardment. UNHCR conducted its first NFI distribution in Novoposkov and Markovka, Luhansk, where according to local authorities, around 30 percent of the IDP population received assistance. Three UNHCR trucks of humanitarian aid arrived in Donetsk with aid distributions taking place in Debaltseve and the nearby village of Nikishyne. UNHCR has distributed over 11,500 items assisting over 10,000 people in Donetsk region where the majority of the displaced population, including many of those coming from Debaltseve have fled the fighting.

The Shelter and Non Food Items Cluster now needs more precise estimates of the NFI needs. These include the identification of unmet needs from previous waves of displacement, rapid response to new displacement, as well as item types and distribution by district. In the medium term, secondary IDP movements toward western Ukraine may trigger rapid distribution or other assistance. Increased number of new arrivals to key reception points generates increased need for shelter and NFIs. There are continued delays for trucks, with long queues at checkpoints on the government side on roads leading to Donetsk city.

In non-government controlled areas, UNHCR has pre-positioned winter jackets, blankets and powdered milk to meet the needs of some 2,500 people. UNHCR with the Red Cross and People in Need provided blankets, bed linen sets, winter coats and sleeping bags. On 24 February, a UNHCR truck arrived in Debaltseve with plastic sheeting, thermal

clothing, blankets, winter jackets, sleeping bags and powdered milk for distribution by partners. There were two further NFI deliveries on 25 and 26 February. On 1 March, UNHCR and People in Need distributed NFIs to 200 residents of Nikishyne village near Debaltseve. UNHCR distributed roofing panels in Sartana and Talakivka (Mariupol area) where the population continues to live despite extensive damage to housing. UNHCR also distributed roofing panels in Krasnoarmiisk, northern Donetsk.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

The humanitarian response to the internal displacement situation in Ukraine is a coordinated effort by international organizations, the Government, local and international NGOs.

Key Shelter and Non Food Items Cluster partners: [Adventist Development and Relief Agency](#) | [Caritas Ukraine](#) | [Charitable Foundation Rokada](#) | [Chesna i Svyata Kraina](#) | [Crimean Diaspora](#) | [Crimea SOS](#) | [Danish Refugee Council](#) | [Donbas reconstruction and development agency](#) | [Dopomoga Dnipra](#) | [Harmonia Foundation](#) | [IOM](#) | [International Relief and Development](#) | [Kolo Vorot Public Organization](#) | [Luxembourg Red Cross](#) | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | [People in Need](#) | [Save the Children UK](#) | [Save Ukraine Organization](#) | [Slavic Foundation](#) | [The Right to Protection](#) | [UNDP](#) | [Vostok SOS](#) | [World Jewish Relief](#)

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

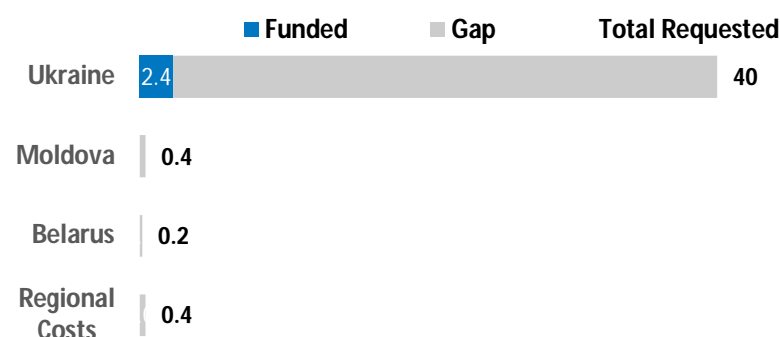
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have already indicated a contribution to UNHCR's 2015 activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who contributed in 2014. UNHCR's total financial requirement in 2015 for the Ukraine situation is **US\$ 41.5 million**, as presented in the Supplementary Appeal. This covers UNHCR's financial needs for providing protection and assistance to those displaced by the conflict inside Ukraine, as well as those externally displaced in Belarus and the Republic of Moldova. Contributions recorded so far represented 6 per cent of the total financial requirements.

Donors who have contributed:

- Denmark
- European Union
- Germany
- Private Donors

Funding (in million USD)

A total of **2.4 million** has been contributed



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