

## UKRAINE SITUATION

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

9 – 26 June 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Situational overview:** Following the surge in fighting in early June, the situation remains volatile. The humanitarian situation has worsened with freedom of movement and humanitarian access greatly restricted due to continued fighting and security measures.
- **Protection concerns:** Freedom of movement across the line of contact remains a key concern. Recent issues reported by IDPs include lack of information on registration and registration renewal and delays to social assistance.
- **Legislation update:** On 16 June, the State Security Service issued an Order including some improvements to rules on crossing the line of contact. Importantly, people may now leave non-government controlled areas without the usual pass in case of emergency.
- **Assistance provided:** Since 8 June, UNHCR provided non food items (NFIs) and emergency shelter assistance to 1,760 people in government controlled areas. In non-government controlled areas, UNHCR provided NFI and shelter assistance to 1,235 people.



*Polina together with her cousin is helping her mother Olena to sell handmade jewelry at a charity event in central Kyiv. Their family fled Alchevsk, Donetsk region to western Ukraine last year when the fighting reached their hometown. Olena who used to work at the regional branch of the Prosecutor General's Office now spends her time producing handmade crafts. She donates all her revenues to help other displaced children affected by the conflict. On 20 June, UNHCR together with partner NGOs organized a series of World Refugee Day outreach events in Kyiv, Mariupol, Dnipropetrovsk, Sievierodonetsk and Kharkiv to draw public attention to the needs of refugees and IDPs in Ukraine. Photo: UNHCR/M.Korishev*

## KEY FIGURES

**1,358,000**

registered Internally Displaced People (IDPs) including:

**807,200**

pensioners

**318,800**

working age

**171,600**

children

**57,500**

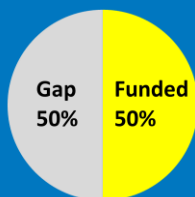
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Source: Ministry of Social Policy, Ukraine

## 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 authority to deal with IDPs.
- Work with the Government to improve registration system, specifically procedures relating to pensioners and access to social assistance.
- Promote freedom of movement and humanitarian access.

## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

### Operational Context

Since the surge in fighting during the week of 1-7 June, which saw the heaviest fighting in eastern Ukraine since the 12 February ceasefire, the situation remains volatile. OSCE continues to [report](#) fighting and the presence of heavy weapons. Fighting remains concentrated north and west of Donetsk city, north of Luhansk city and east of Mariupol. Freedom of movement remains limited due to the fighting and resulting security measures implemented as a blockade strategy against the non-government controlled area. The humanitarian situation has worsened with increased restrictions on freedom of movement in and out of the conflict area as a direct result of the fighting and subsequent security measures, with many checkpoints remaining closed and long queues reported at the few that remain open.

As of 25 June there were 1,358,000 IDPs registered by the Ministry of Social Policy, representing an increase of 32,800 since 8 June. This increase in the number of registrations reflects the deteriorating situation in the conflict area. Most IDPs live with host families or volunteers, with others living in collective centres or privately rented accommodation. Long-term housing solutions are difficult to find as many IDPs have been unable to find work due to the current economic situation in Ukraine and the perception among employers that IDPs will only remain temporarily.

On 11 June, the Governor of Donetsk region, Oleksandr Kikhtenko, was dismissed and replaced by Pavlo Zhebrivskiy, formerly chief investigator of corruption crimes at the Prosecutor General's Office. The Cabinet of Ministers voted for the move on 5 June, which was reportedly supported by President Poroshenko. Mr. Kikhtenko had previously criticized the Government regarding implementation of the Temporary Order of Movement pass system and advocated for the opening of checkpoints, which were closed following the recent surge in fighting.

Humanitarian access to non-government controlled areas remains greatly restricted. The last remaining humanitarian access corridor linking government and non-government controlled areas of Luhansk region has been closed due to the presence of mines. Consequently, humanitarian agencies operating in non-government controlled areas, including UNHCR, have been forced to restrict operations despite the growing needs of people in non-government controlled areas.

In villages near the line of contact in Donetsk region evacuations have been reported. The much fought over village of Shyrokyne, east of Mariupol, has now been evacuated. Similarly, the nearby village of Berdyske is also reported to have been abandoned by its inhabitants. The UNHCR Field Office in Mariupol reports that people who initially fled Krasnohorivka village during the surge in fighting have now returned for fear that their abandoned homes would be seized. These returnees are now hiding in basements, living in desperate conditions. Due to damage caused by shelling and imposed cuts, utility supplies have been sporadic in many parts of the conflict area leading to further hardship.

The situation in eastern Ukraine remains volatile and unpredictable forcing people remaining in the area to live one day at a time without knowing what difficulties tomorrow will bring.

### External Displacement

UNHCR continues to monitor the refugee situation in neighbouring countries. According to government sources in receiving countries, the total number of people seeking asylum or other forms of legal stay in neighbouring countries now stands at 900,300, with the majority going to the Russian Federation (746,500) and Belarus (81,200).

The OSCE Observer Mission monitoring the Gukovo and Donetsk checkpoints on the Russia-Ukraine border inform that the situation continues to remain calm. Total cross-border traffic again increased at both checkpoints during the reporting period. The trend of more people entering Ukraine than leaving, which has been generally consistent since the signing of the 12 February ceasefire, has continued though in reduced numbers, with a net flow of 73 people entering Ukraine.

As of 25 June, since the beginning of the crisis, in the top five receiving countries in the EU and in neighbouring countries there were 4,603 applications for international protection in Germany, 3,600 in Poland, 2,956 in Italy, 1,962 in Sweden, 1,763 in France, 200 in Moldova, 60 in Romania, 60 in Hungary and 20 in Slovakia according to government sources in receiving countries.

*Data sources: Respective national asylum authorities*

## Achievements



### Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster co-led by UNHCR and OHCHR has released its first factsheet. The aim is to highlight the key protection concerns and the response of the cluster partners monthly, and to give more visibility to protection issues in general. The document is available on the Humanitarian Response website, both in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#).
- Thanks to efforts and contributions received from protection partners, the Cluster has produced and will regularly update a 3W matrix aimed at mapping actors active on the ground and also to facilitate referrals between partners.

### Achievements, Impact and Identified Needs

- The first Participatory Assessment for Kyiv and the Kyiv region launched in May 2015, ended on 9 June 2015 with the last focus group discussion conducted with IDPs. The Participatory Assessment entailed a 2-day preparation workshop with all stakeholders in Kyiv, followed by more than 40 focus group discussions. Participatory Assessment with IDPs is aimed at gathering accurate information on specific protection risks faced by IDPs, underlying causes and hearing their proposed solutions. According to preliminary analysis of the focus group discussions, main concerns raised by the IDPs related to lack of clear vision for long term solutions especially for housing; lack of employment opportunities and the need for additional assistance. Registration and documentation concerns were also high on the agenda. Specifically, IDPs highlighted problems of their bank accounts and property in places of origin. Results of the Participatory Assessment will be finalized and main findings shared with key partners by the end of June.
- On 16 June, State Security Service Order no. 415-og on the Temporary Procedures of Control over Movement of Persons, Vehicles and Cargos over the Junction Line within Donetsk and Luhansk regions came into power. Following lobbying by UNHCR and civil society, the procedures for the movement of individuals over the line of contact were revised. Major improvements include the possibility to leave conflict areas without a permit in case of emergency; a regulated procedure for crossing the contact line for children and prisoners who served their sentences; opening of an additional transport corridor in Luhansk region; no requirement to have a separate permit for private vehicles. Negatively, public transport may not cross the line of contact and the delivery of humanitarian aid is still unregulated. The only two transport corridors allowing movement of cargo do not function at the moment and no alternative was proposed. Implementation will be key to observe the impact of these changes.
- On 17 June, the Ministry of Social Policy along with UNHCR's partner NGO Crimea SOS and the Busel public initiative organized a second meeting with some 200 IDPs. The main aim of the meeting was to provide information on problems faced by IDPs and to establish a dialogue between the IDPs and government authorities. During the meeting, representatives of the Ministry of Social Policy, the Ministry of Public Health, the State Employment Service, the State Migration Service and the Ministry of Internal Affairs provided information on recent legislative changes concerning IDPs and answered questions raised by IDPs. The IDPs present requested a clear and realistic action plan supported by appropriate funding to address issues of housing, integration and employment. They also voiced concerns on the poor quality of services provided by the Government, particularly social assistance and health.
- On 18 June, Crimea SOS conducted a round table discussion on Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Ukraine: Challenges, Experiences and Perspectives. The round table brought together representatives of NGOs, government agencies and international organizations to discuss an overall SGBV response and implementation strategy, the joint coordination further activities, sharing of best practices, case management and prevention and the overview of SGBV cases among the internally-displaced population. Key messages included the need for a comprehensive approach to SGBV and an SGBV assistance program including IDPs receiving regions.
- UNHCR's partner Crimea SOS continues to provide protection information, legal assistance and counseling to IDPs in Kyiv, central and western regions. Main issues addressed by the IDPs during the reporting period concern the

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



registration of newly arrived IDPs and re-registration of already registered IDPs with expiring certificates; delayed social assistance despite approved applications; the transfer students from Crimea to educational institutions in Ukraine; the remote termination of employment contracts with employers in non-government controlled areas; restrictions on movement across the line of contact and the administrative border with Crimea.

## Shelter and Non Food Items (NFIs)

### Emergency Shelter and NFIs Cluster

- The Shelter and NFI Cluster co-led by UNHCR and People in Need has endorsed new [Cluster Strategy](#). The strategy clearly sets out objectives and activities within the context of the Ukraine situation.
- A second meeting of the technical working group on Cash for Shelter and NFIs took place. The meeting focused on the subject of cash for rent.
- Shelter/NFI Cluster has completed a monthly 3W mapping update. Maps are available on the Shelter Cluster [website](#). In addition, the Cluster is currently preparing a gap analysis on the delivery of assistance.
- The REACH assessment, aimed at gathering information for future planning to better meet the needs of beneficiaries, is ongoing. The assessment is focused on five regions of eastern Ukraine, with 2,277 door-to-door interviews having taken place so far. The first presentation of preliminary findings was held in Geneva on 16 June 2015 and can be viewed [online](#). Once the assessment is complete, the results will be shared with partners for feedback and comments and the final report released. A pilot report in non-government controlled areas is being conducted by NRC and REACH to assess needs of people remaining in conflict areas. NRC has provided extensive support to make the assessment possible.

### Achievements, Impact and Identified Needs

- During the reporting period, UNHCR provided NFI and shelter assistance to over 3,000 beneficiaries. In government controlled areas UNHCR NFI and shelter materials were provided to 1,870 beneficiaries. UNHCR through NGO SOS Kramatorsk distributed bedding sets (consisting of a blanket, bed linen and towels) and other NFIs including kitchenware, buckets and jerry cans to beneficiaries in the government controlled area of northern Donetsk. In Mariupol, UNHCR provided 60 blankets, towels and sleeping bags for distribution through NGO New Life. A further 50 bedding sets were provided to Mariupol City Hospital no. 5 for IDPs and others affected by the conflict. Furthermore, UNHCR partners ADRA and People in Need repaired 15 houses in government controlled areas of northern Donetsk with roofing material provided by UNHCR and other materials provided by ADRA.



*Maria, 62, is standing next to her destroyed house in the village in Maloorlovka in Donetsk region. In August 2014, the village saw heavy fighting between the opposing sides of the conflict. Now more than 50 per cent of the population has returned to the village. UNHCR together with People in Need have delivered blankets, jerry cans, buckets, bed linens, candles, plastic sheets and kitchen sets to the community affected by the fighting. Photo: UNHCR/V.Stetsenko*

- In non-government controlled areas UNHCR NFIs were provided to over 1,235 beneficiaries. Bedding sets and other NFIs including kitchenware, buckets and jerry cans were distributed by People in Need to people in Telmanove and Novoazovsk, on the line of contact east of Mariupol and in Dokuchajevsk, Horlivka, Maloorlovka, Novoorlovka Shakhtarsk, and Yasnuyata, in northern Donetsk. UNHCR NFIs were also distributed by local NGO Responsible Citizens to over 45 families in the Kuibyshevsky district of Donetsk city. The families had fled from Vtoraya Ploschadka, close to the line of contact and the much fought over Donetsk airport.

## 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. UNHCR works with five implementing partners and other partners providing assistance to Internally Displaced People through protection and legal assistance, policy development and capacity building and the distribution of emergency shelter materials and non-food items. UNHCR co-leads the Protection and Shelter and Non Food Item Clusters.

Key Shelter and Non Food Items Cluster partners: [Adventist Development and Relief Agency](#) | [Caritas Ukraine](#) | [Chesna i Svyata Kraina](#) | [Crimea SOS](#) | [Danish Refugee Council](#) | [Donbas reconstruction and development agency](#) | [Dopomoga Dnipro](#) | [HIA Hungary](#) | [IOM](#) | [Mercy Corps](#) | [Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Communal Living](#) | [Ministry of Social Policy](#) | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | [People in Need](#) | [Save the Children UK](#) | [Save Ukraine Organization](#) | [State Emergency Service](#) | [Ukrainian Red Cross Society](#) | [UNDP](#) | [Vostok SOS](#) | [World Jewish Relief](#)

Key Protection Cluster partners: [Danish Refugee Council](#) | [Crimea SOS](#) | [Crimean Diaspora](#) | [HelpAge](#) | [IOM](#) | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | [OHCHR \(HRMMU\)](#) | [OSCE](#) | [People in Need](#) | [The Right to Protection](#) | [Save the Children](#) | [The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights](#) | [UNICEF](#) | [UNDP](#) | [UNFPA](#) | [Vostok SOS](#)

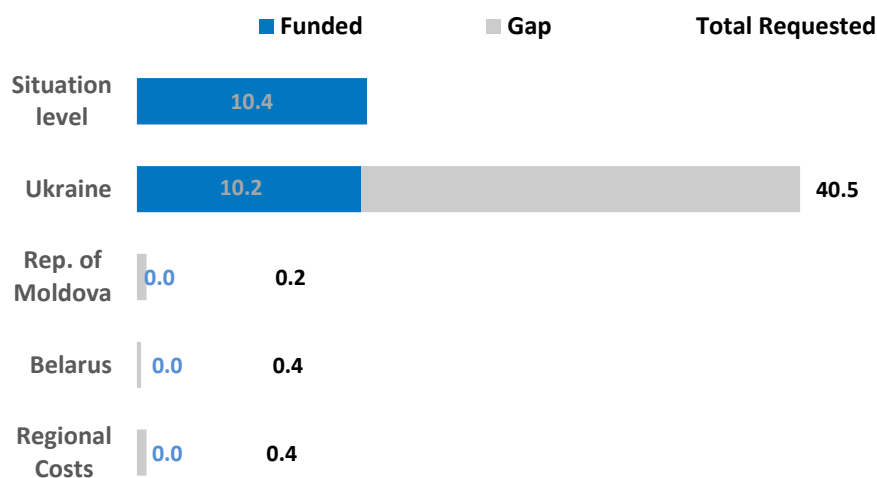
## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have already indicated a contribution to UNHCR’s 2015 activities in Ukraine with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds. 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 represent **50 per cent** of the total financial requirements.

### Donors who have contributed: Funding (in million USD)

- Canada
- Denmark
- Estonia
- European Union
- Finland
- Germany
- Greece
- Italy
- Japan
- Portugal
- Private Donors
- Russian Federation
- Sweden
- United States of America

A total of **20.6 million** has been contributed



#### Contacts:

Nina Sorokopud, Regional Public Information Officer, [sorokopu@unhcr.org](mailto:sorokopu@unhcr.org), Tel: +38 044 288-9710 ext.116

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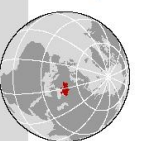
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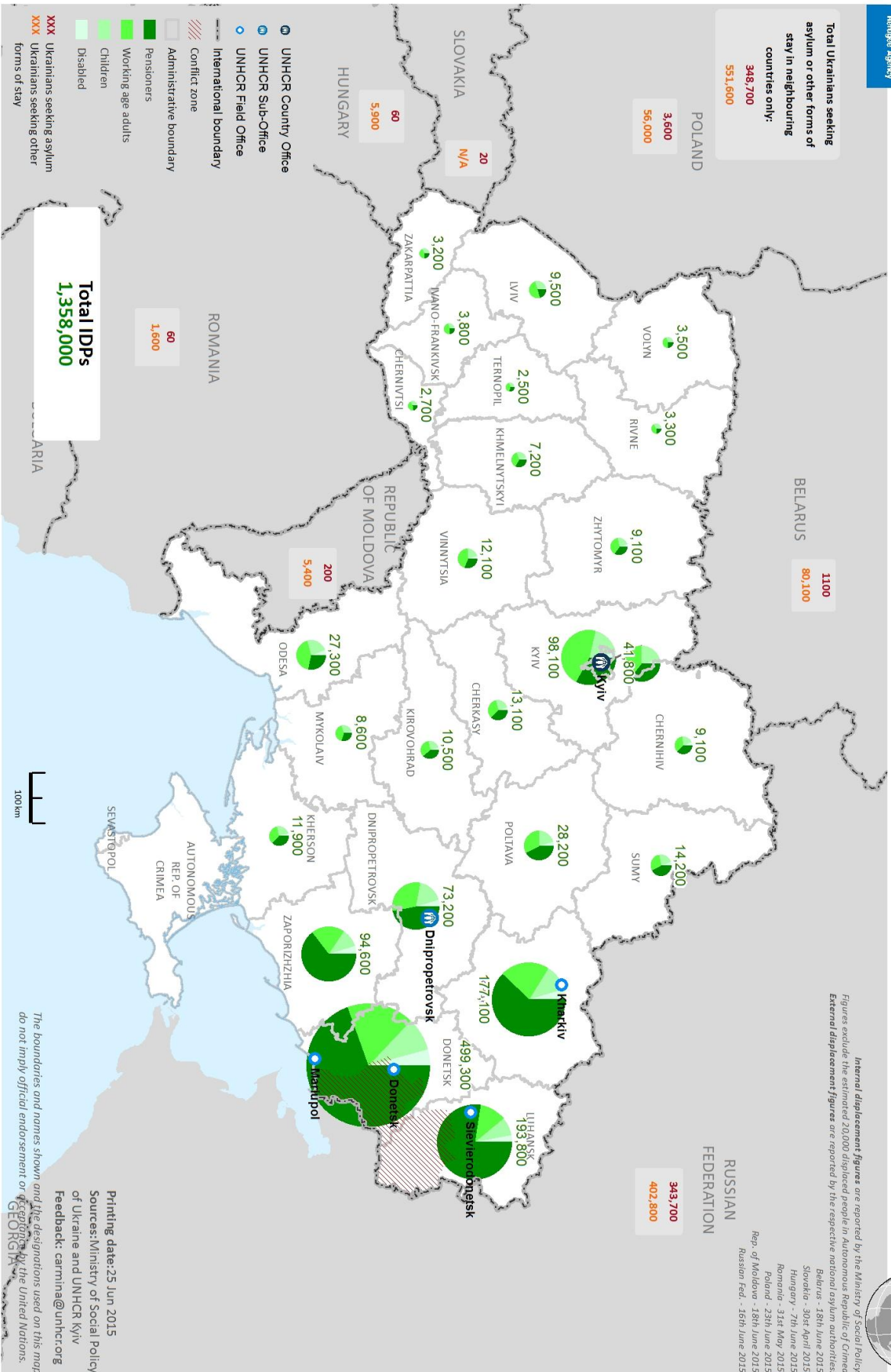
# Ukraine: Internally Displaced People

- 22 June 2015

UNHCR - Kyiv



**Total Ukrainians seeking asylum or other forms of stay in neighbouring countries only:**  
 348,700  
 551,600



*Internal displacement figures are reported by the Ministry of Social Policy. Figures exclude the estimated 20,000 displaced people in Autonomous Republic of Crimea. External displacement figures are reported by the respective national asylum authorities: Belarus - 18th June 2015; Slovakia - 30th April 2015; Hungary - 7th June 2015; Romania - 31st May 2015; Poland - 23th June 2015; Rep. of Moldova - 18th June 2015; Russian Fed. - 16th June 2015*

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 Sources: Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and UNHCR Kyiv  
 Feedback: carmina@unhcr.org

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