

KEY FIGURES

978,321 internally displaced Ukrainians (as of 02.02)

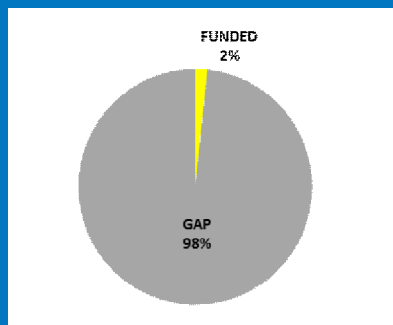
264,777 Ukrainian applications for refugee status and temporary asylum in the Russian Federation (as of 04.02)

Top 5 applications for international protection in other countries (provisional data)

Germany: 2,657 applications (as of 01.01.15)
Poland: 2,613 applications (as of 05.02.15)
Italy: 2,149 applications (as of 01.01.15)
France: 1,386 applications (as of 01.01.15)
Sweden: 1,333 applications (as of 31.01.15)

FUNDING

USD 41.5 million needed for the operation in 2015



PRIORITIES

As part of the UN Strategic Response Plan, to lead protection, shelter and NFI clusters to help those forcibly displaced from their homes.

Support the government in efforts to establish a central authority to deal with IDPs.

Work with the government to improve the registration system, specifically procedures relating to pensioners and access to social assistance.

UKRAINE SITUATION UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

6 February 2015

This update provides information on the situation of displaced people and their protection needs. It is intended to be complementary to the [situation reports](#) issued by OCHA.

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR provides aid in areas not controlled by the Ukrainian government for the first time in the conflict.
- UNHCR is concerned that measures on movement restrictions for people and cargo to conflict zones could worsen the dire situation for those displaced and further complicate the delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- Over 2,000 victims of shelling in the southern city of Mariupol received emergency assistance from UNHCR.
- Some 3,985 people evacuated from Debaltseve, Avdiivka and Vuhlehirsk in Donetsk region between 28 January and 6 February due to intensified fighting, according to the State Emergency Services.
- 978,321 IDPs are registered with Ministry of Social Policy as of 2 February.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Operational Context

Internal displacement

The Ministry of Social Policy reports that the number of registered Internally Displaced People (IDPs) is 978,321 as of 2 February. The IDP population includes 61 per cent pensioners, 12 per cent children and 4 per cent disabled people. In Luhansk and Donetsk regions the proportion of pensioners to the overall IDP population is 72 per cent and 74 per cent respectively. This is explained by the fact that many pensioners have registered with the Ministry of Social Policy as IDPs for the sole purpose of transferring their pension before moving back to their usual homes once their pensions and social benefits have been collected. UNHCR is working with authorities in Ukraine to improve IDP data collection, including more accurate numbers of people displaced by the conflict.



Andriy was evacuated from Debaltseve under the devastating shelling. The family is temporarily accommodated in train carriages at the railway station in Slovyansk, Donetsk region.

While his family is waiting for free tickets to Kyiv, Andriy is spending his days playing in the tent set up by local authorities to register new arrivals. His mother complains the boy cannot sleep in the silence as they used to continuous artillery fire back at home. UNHCR/B.Kinaschuk.

Intensified fighting in the areas of Avdiivka, Vuhlehirsk, Debaltseve, Horlivka and Dzerzhynsk, in the centre of Donetsk region resulting in the destruction of buildings, infrastructure and breakdown of basic services, has resulted in a new wave of displacement in late January and early February. Government-led evacuations supported by volunteers moved some 3,985 civilians, including 804 children and 78 disabled people from conflict-affected areas between 28 January and 6 February, according to the State Emergency Service (SES), with many more remaining behind, either unable or afraid to leave their homes.

IDPs have been transported to government-controlled towns in Donetsk region: Sloviansk, Sviatohirsk, Kramatorsk and Grodivka, as well as neighbouring Kharkiv region. Due to a shortage of accommodation in bordering regions, the SES reintroduced a free train ticket scheme for the most vulnerable IDPs and organised movements of newly displaced people by train to Kyiv. Donetsk regional authorities have also allocated a number of train carriages at the railway station in Sloviansk for the temporary accommodation of IDPs.

Monitoring conducted by UNHCR teams at the train and bus stations confirms that many IDPs leave their homes without basic belongings and warm clothes. Currently, beds, sheets, mattresses, pillows, hygiene items, food and rental payments for the most vulnerable arrivals are the most pressing needs. UNHCR began distribution of relief items in northern Donetsk, which serves a transit point for IDPs from the areas of intensified fighting. Some 2,000 IDPs were assisted within first three days of February, with aid distributed through local NGOs *Kramatorsk SOS* and *Slovianske Serdce* in Kramatorsk, Sviatohirsk and Kharkiv. Two collective centres winterised by UNHCR became fully operational in Artiomovsk city and have so far received 120 people.

According to volunteers involved in the evacuation, several thousand civilians are trapped in conflict areas, unable to be safely evacuated due to heavy fighting. Destruction to civilian infrastructure and housing is mounting; more people are expected to be displaced not only to adjacent government-controlled areas, but also into central, southern and western Ukraine as well as non-government controlled areas in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.



UNHCR distributed plastic sheeting to help more than 2,000 people whose homes were damaged or destroyed when the strategically important port town of Mariupol came under fire, killing at least 30 people and injuring dozens. UNHCR/A.Shcherbyna

External displacement

In the Russian Federation, according to data provided by the Federal Migration Service (FMS) as of 4 February 2015, 264,777 Ukrainians have applied for international protection.¹ Of these, 254,676 people were granted Temporary Asylum (TA) status, while 253 people received full refugee status. A further 277,971 people have applied for other forms of legal stay,² however UNHCR has no means to verify whether all these people left Ukraine as a result of the conflict. Most applications for international protection have been submitted in the Central Federal District (93019), Volga Federal District (43,723), and Southern Federal District (32,000).

According to the local authorities³, the number of Ukrainian citizens in four Temporary Accommodation Centres (TACs) in Rostov region increased from 12 December 2014 to 12 January 2015 by 173 people, including 54 children. As of 12 January, there were 38,277 citizens of Ukraine, including 11,407 children in Rostov region. Some

¹ This figure includes the number of applications for temporary asylum and refugee status

² Other forms of legal stay include: temporary/permanent residence permits, Russian citizenship or 'Compatriots' Repatriation Programme (integration and support plan for foreigner citizens with family links to the Russian Federation)

³ <http://www.donland.ru/Donland/Pages/View.aspx?pageid=92218&ItemID=58223&mid=83793>

1,535 people are living in four TACs, including 497 children and 19 disabled people. 36,742 people including 10,910 children are staying with relatives and friends.

Despite a new regulation⁴ for citizens of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Ukrainians retain the right to use national passports to enter Russia. "The new procedure will not affect people entering the Russian Federation for the purpose of seeking asylum, including those who arrived in 2014 as they were fleeing from violence and needed assistance," an official spokesperson of the Federal Migration Service (FMS) said.⁵ Ukrainians who have either refugee status or temporary asylum in the Russian Federation have the right to work without a work permit. Ukrainians arriving for other reasons not related to asylum will have to acquire a work permit or normalise their status through other legal means available for foreigners.

The number of asylum applications is also increasing moderately in European countries, where some 11,187 Ukrainians have applied for international protection. According to provisional government data, as of 1 January, Germany had the highest number of asylum applications from Ukraine (2,657 applications), after the Russian Federation. In Poland, 2,613 people from Ukraine applied for international protection and a further 31,809 have applied for other forms of legal stay.⁶ In Italy, 2,149 Ukrainians applied for asylum as of 1 January. In Belarus, as of 21 January, the authorities have reported that the number of asylum applications reached 682, while some 59,600 are reportedly seeking other forms of legal stay.

Protection

Update on legislation

New procedures restricting the movement of IDPs and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to and from the Anti-Terrorist Operation (ATO) zone remains a significant area of concern. As of 21 January, a Temporary Order⁷ of Movement for people and vehicles along the line of contact in Donetsk and Luhansk regions has been enforced. It requires nationals and non-nationals of Ukraine, moving in and out of the ATO zone to show identity documents and a pass issued by the Coordination Group of the Security Service of Ukraine.

Obtaining a pass involves holding or acquiring a significant amount of paperwork including route details, ID



documents with copies translated into Ukrainian and confirmation of residency in the ATO zone of the traveller and family members. Passes for vehicles and cargo are also subject to supporting documentation.

Following amendments to the Temporary Order of Movement introduced on 22 January, international organisations can receive passes in three days provided the application is cleared by Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Inspection of the cargo will be conducted within 24 hours from the moment when a vehicle arrives at the check point.

UNHCR has raised concerns with the government that these restrictions can further complicate an already difficult situation for those forcibly displaced and made worse by the intensified fighting seen in recent weeks. The new rules caused huge traffic jams in the last week of January at all check points located along the seven corridors leading to the non-government controlled areas, significantly impeding population movement. Several

⁴ As of January 1, 2015 citizens of most CIS countries (with exception Belarus and Kazakhstan) need external passports to enter Russia. While foreign ministries of both Russia and Ukraine discuss modalities of the new procedure, citizens of Ukraine may still enter Russia with their internal passports until further notice.

⁵ http://www.fms.gov.ru/foreign_national/novisas/index_ukr.php

⁶ This figure includes applications for temporary and permanent residence permits and also for EU long-term residence permits

⁷ http://www.sbu.gov.ua/sbu/control/en/publish/article?art_id=136040&cat_id=35317

convoys of humanitarian aid organised by local volunteer organisations were denied access due to lack of proper documentation.

On 26 January, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Order 47 which establishes a state of emergency⁸ in the two eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk. A state of high alert has been established for the rest of the country.

On 30 January 2015, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted Resolution 21 on the provision of humanitarian and other aid to the population of Donetsk and Luhansk regions,⁹ including the introduction of an official logo for Ukrainian humanitarian aid. Several provisions are a cause for serious concern, creating a major impediment for humanitarian organisations to operate in accordance with humanitarian principles. This includes the requirement to provide information on the identity of citizens assisted in non-government controlled areas. The resolution also requires the delivery of aid through Regional State Administrations. UNHCR is currently conducting an assessment of the possible implications on the distribution of assistance in conflict affected areas.

Protection monitoring and response

UNHCR works with two partners conducting protection monitoring and response activities throughout regions in the country with significant IDP populations.

Registration of IDPs. UNHCR field teams continue to report difficulties with the definition of the ATO zone, confirmation of the place of residence and lack of registration procedures for unaccompanied minors. Many people of concern, such as the disabled and elderly, who physically or for other reasons cannot leave conflict affected areas, have no way to register for IDP status and are consequently ineligible for financial assistance or social benefits. Previously reported problems concerning delays in registration persist in Donetsk and Kharkiv regions.



Sergiy from Luhansk opened a barbershop for children in the town of Vinnytsia in central Ukraine with support of a UNHCR self-reliance grant and now employs three other IDPs. UNHCR/V.Shelest

Access to employment. IDPs face discrimination in employment as employers are not always willing to hire staff living in a state of temporary displacement. Reports suggest that some IDPs, particularly those who live in collective centres, have no intention to work, preferring to live on social benefits that are often higher than local salaries. Other obstacles include a lack of employment opportunities, especially in rural areas and problems with documentation, for example the renewal of labour record books and recognition of qualifications. UNHCR's implementing partner *CrimeaSOS*, in cooperation with the local NGO "Center of Employment of Free People" are regularly delivering

training sessions on employment for IDPs.

Difficulties with entering and exiting Crimea reported. The rail connection with Crimea has been closed since 26 December. Bus connections and private vehicles crossing the administrative border are often delayed for several days. The most successful way to cross the border is either by foot or by taxi.

Pensions to IDPs from Crimea. Crimean IDP pensioners are reported to have been told that they will no longer receive pension payments if they fail to provide proof that they are not receiving a pension at the same time in Crimea. UNHCR has frequent reports of IDPs from Crimea who are unable to transfer their pensions from Crimea to mainland Ukraine due to banks ceasing the use of the electronic banking system. Meetings have been held by implementing partners with the Pension Fund but no positive solution has yet been agreed by the Fund.

⁸ http://www.kmu.gov.ua/control/en/publish/article?art_id=247900655&cat_id=244314975

⁹ <http://unhcr.org.ua/attachments/article/1231/HumAidDonLugProvincesE.doc>

Problems with the payment of utilities in collective centres and the threat of eviction. IDPs residing in state-run collective centres are required to pay for utilities and other communal services. In practice this has proven complicated with people not being able or unwilling to pay. A sanatorium in Kherson is experiencing similar problems with evictions becoming a distinct possibility as the *Akhmetov Foundation* is no longer able to pay for communal services. UNHCR's partner NGOs *Right to Protection* and *CrimeaSOS* are following up and providing assistance where possible.

The return of IDP orphans to post-conflict areas (not original locations). Demands by local authorities to return IDP orphans from the rest of Ukraine to state-controlled parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions have increased. A case in Odesa involving 398 orphan children from non-state controlled Luhansk has raised particular concern. There was also the forced return of 51 orphans from a boarding house in Karolina-Bugaz who were sent back to state-controlled parts of Luhansk region. A special committee consisting of representatives from the UN agencies, the Department of Education, NGOs and the Ombudsman for Children was established to address these cases. Follow-up interviews in line with Convention on the Rights of the Child were conducted. Some 80 orphans who expressed wiliness to return were returned voluntarily in safety and dignity, with remaining orphans continuing to stay at the boarding house.

Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

According to estimates provided by Council of Europe, more than two million people remain in areas controlled by separatist forces, exposed to insecurity, serious human rights violations and inadequate living conditions¹⁰. A large influx of IDPs has exhausted the absorption capacity and resources of host communities. This factor together with dwindling financial resources of IDPs is putting pressure on people to relocate again.

UNHCR has increased aid stocks in warehouses in both government and non-government controlled areas. Between 25 and 26 January UNHCR distributed plastic sheeting to help some 1,000 people whose homes were damaged or destroyed by the attack on the city of Mariupol. UNHCR continues distributing blankets, thermal clothing and sleeping bags to people without heating in their homes. On 27 January UNHCR received relief items delivered jointly by the European Commission and several EU member states through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.



The UN refugee agency reacted swiftly to help people forced to flee their homes when the southern Ukrainian town of Mariupol came under rocket fire providing plastic sheeting for shelter construction. UNHCR/A. Shcherbyna

With the establishment of a UNHCR presence in Donetsk in December 2014 and the presence of its partner, *People in Need*, the shelter response in the region has significantly improved. In January UNHCR sent two humanitarian convoys to Donetsk from Kyiv and Mariupol with a stock of warm blankets, jackets and reinforced plastic sheeting. On 15 January UNHCR distributed blankets, bed linen sets and towels sets to 2,800 vulnerable IDPs residing in five Donetsk collective centres. Another 500 sets have been provided to the city hospital. UNHCR dispatched 5,000 blankets, 4,000 bed linen sets and 250 sleeping bags to the local Red Cross and *People in Need* for further distribution among the most vulnerable civilian population affected by the conflict in Donetsk region.

¹⁰ <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=21480&lang=en>

Between 4 and 5 February 1,598 new arrivals from Amvrosiivka, Makiivka, Yenakijeve and Horlivka received assistance in Donetsk from UNHCR partners.

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 unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as to those who contributed in 2014.

Contributions in millions of USD



UNHCR's total financial requirements for the 2015 Ukraine situation is **USD 41.5 million**, as presented in the Supplementary Appeal to be launched in Geneva on 9 February. 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. The breakdown is: USD 40.5 million (Ukraine), USD 0.4 million (Belarus), USD 0.2 million (Republic of Moldova) and USD 0.4 million for regional costs.

Working in partnership

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

Key Shelter and Non-Food Items sector partners: [Adventist Development and Relief Agency \(ADRA\)](#) | [Agency for the development and reconstruction of Donbas](#) | [Caritas Ukraine](#) | [Charitable Foundation ROKADA](#) | [NGO Chesna I Svyata Kraina](#) | [NGO Crimean Diaspora](#) | [Danish Refugee Council \(DRC\)](#) | [Dopomoga Dnipro](#) | [Harmonia Foundation](#) | [IOM](#) | [International Relief and Development \(IRD\)](#) | KoloVorot Public Organization | [Krym SOS](#) | [People in Need \(PIN\)](#) | [NGO "VOSTOKSOS"](#) | [Save the Children UK](#) | [Save Ukraine Organization](#) | [Slavic Foundation](#) | The Right to Protection | [Luxembourg Red Cross](#) | [UNDP](#) | [World Jewish Relief](#).

Key protection sector partners: [State Migration Service of Ukraine](#) | [The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights](#) | [Danish Refugee Council \(DRC\)](#) | [NGO "Crimea SOS"](#) | [NGO "Crimean Diaspora"](#) | The Right to Protection | [NGO "VOSTOKSOS"](#) | [OSCE](#) | [OHCHR \(HRMMU\)](#) | [UNICEF](#) | [OCHA](#) | [ICRC](#) | [Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union](#) | [IOM](#) | [UNDP](#) | [UNFPA](#).

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Links: External Update: www.unhcr.org.ua/externalupdate IDP Profile as of 17 October:
www.unhcr.org.ua/idpprofile

Latest IDP Statistics: www.unhcr.org.ua/maps UNHCR Assistance to IDPs in Ukraine
www.unhcr.org.ua/humanitarianresponse

UNHCR Kyiv: <http://unhcr.org.ua/en> Twitter: [www.twitter.com/UNHCRUkraine](https://twitter.com/UNHCRUkraine) FB: www.facebook.com/UNHCRKyiv

Recent web stories: UNHCR assists victims of shelling in southern Ukrainian town of Mariupol

<http://www.unhcr.org/54c65da56.html>

Displaced families in Ukraine rely on the kindness of strangers <http://www.unhcr.org/54abf8a06.html>

6 February: Ukraine internal displacement nears 1 million as fighting escalates in Donetsk region:

<http://www.unhcr.org/54d4a2889.html>

6 February Briefing Note: Winter of 2015 seeing increased displacement, deteriorating humanitarian situation:

<http://www.unhcr.org/54d49d549.html>

Recent media coverage: [Euronews](#), [dpa](#), [Euroactive](#), [Süddeutsche Zeitung](#), [1+1 TV Channel](#), [24 News TV Channel](#), [First National TV Channel](#), [STB](#), [Hromadske TV](#), [TVi](#), [Komsomolskaya Pravda](#), [RBC](#)

International Protection Considerations Related to Developments in Ukraine – Update II:

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/54c639474.html>

