

# UKRAINE

Situation report No.24 as of 23 January 2014



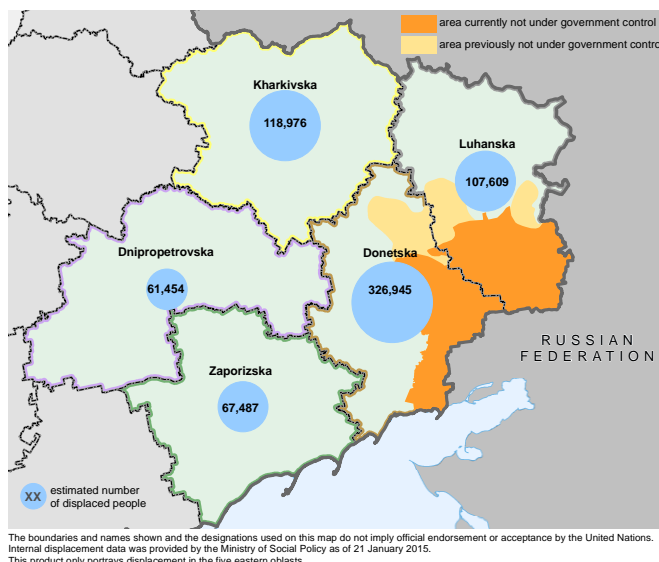
# OCHA



This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers 10 January 2014 – 23 January 2015, unless otherwise noted. The next report will be published on 30 January.

## Highlights

- Indiscriminate shelling causing casualties among civilians, triggering additional displacement and destruction of infrastructure, including hospitals and water systems.
- Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) registered 921,640 IDPs across Ukraine as of 21 January.
- Ongoing advocacy to address the issue of increased bureaucratic hurdles affecting access is yet to bare results.
- Mr. Neal Walker appointed as Humanitarian Coordinator.



0.9 million IDPs

600,000 fled to other countries

## Situation Overview

Renewed fighting in the east of the country has resulted in additional displacement, civilian loss of life, destruction of infrastructure, all resulting in increasing humanitarian needs. As of 21 January, MoSP – the government entity officially in charge of IDP registration - has registered 921,640 IDPs across Ukraine, an increase of 47,878 since their last report on 14 January. This is a result of ongoing registration and the establishment of a new, more robust system. At this time, it is not possible to quantify or track new IDP movements. Of concern are reports indicating multiple arrivals at Kharkiv Train Station where authorities are accepting IDPs only if they have close relatives in town. Cash assistance for IDPs provided by the State Emergency Services has been discontinued, resulting in the most vulnerable being stranded in the station. In Severodonetsk and Starobilsk in Luhansk region authorities temporarily stopped IDP registration (until 19 January) either due to holidays or lack of personnel and office equipment. There are reports of agents selling addresses that can be used when filling out IDP registration forms, providing copies of owner's documents if necessary. This helps recipients of social payments register as IDPs in order to keep the payments but return back to their homes in the non-state controlled areas.

Multiple civilian casualties were also reported this week, with as many as 15 people killed, and more than 20 civilians injured following the shelling of a public transport stop in the city of Donetsk on 22 January<sup>1</sup>.

Multiple reports of indiscriminate shelling have been received. The conflict is particularly intense in the vicinity of Donetsk and Luhansk cities, as well as Avdiyivka, Debaltseve, Slovyanoserbsk, Schastia, Stanitsa Luhanskaya and Zymohirya. For example, a shell hit a hospital in Donetsk and destroyed the cardiology department and causing extensive damage throughout the facility. Several patients were evacuated to another hospital in the city. In Kharkiv, devices exploded in front of the court building, resulting in 12 injuries, and in Zaporizhya causing the collapse of a railway bridge and the derailment of a train.

Entering and exiting Crimea has also become more complicated as railway and bus connections have stopped, and the movement of private vehicles is often restricted. There has been a substantial increase in the number of

<sup>1</sup> OHCHR and WHO report that from mid-April 2014 to 21 January 2015, at least 5,086 people were killed (including 298 from flight MH17) and 10,948 were wounded in the conflict area of eastern Ukraine<sup>1</sup>. Between 13 and 21 January, at least 262 people (including at least seven children) were killed and 380 were wounded in the conflict zone.

people crossing by foot or by taxi, which now provide services at higher prices than usual. Continuous monitoring is needed to understand the impact this can have on persons wanting to flee.

As collective centres face problems due to non-payment of communal and food services, the prospect of them going bankrupt is looming. This is increasing the risk of IDPs being evicted and/or compelled to return to unsafe areas. One sanatorium called “Speranza” in Odessa has had its communal food services stopped and the residents are threatening to go on hunger strikes soon. This is also happening with the sanatorium “Yalynka in Kherson. Evictions have been threatened as the Ahmetov foundation which used to pay all the communal services has stopped doing so. Partners are following up on all such cases across the country. It is foreseen that this problem will get worse.

The humanitarian community is stepping up advocacy to ensure a thorough revision of recent Government regulations imposing additional bureaucratic procedures to access areas beyond government control which came into force on 21 January. Requests for compliance to regulations being elaborated by non-state actors are also multiplying. Humanitarian cargoes belonging to INGOs and the UN have been detained on a number of occasions and only released after lengthy negotiations. The Humanitarian Country Team, under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator is constantly appealing to all parties to the conflict to ensure full and unimpeded access to all those in need, facilitate and ease processes to cross the frontline and ensure safety and security of humanitarian staff and goods.

The Emergency Relief Coordinator, after consultations with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), has decided to appoint Mr. Neal Walker as the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC). Mr. Walker is also the UN Resident Coordinator in Ukraine.

## Funding

Official reporting to the Strategic Response Plan for Ukraine (Dec 2014) indicate zero contribution to the humanitarian plan for 2015. Agencies continue to implement programs against the 2014 pledges (US\$ 31 million for UN alone).

OCHA records all humanitarian contributions through its Financial Tracking Service (FTS). FTS aims to give donors due credit and visibility for their generosity, and helps track humanitarian funding and gaps in emergencies. Please register your contributions by emailing [fts@un.org](mailto:fts@un.org) or through the online contribution form at [fts.unocha.org](http://fts.unocha.org).

Since August, Russia has sent 11 convoys, reportedly carrying 14.5 thousand tonnes of humanitarian assistance to areas of Donbas region controlled by non-state actors. The United Nations has kindly requested a full inventory of the assistance provided and data on distribution of material.

The United Nations urges donors to make cash rather than in-kind donations, for maximum speed and flexibility, and to ensure the aid materials that are most needed are the ones delivered. Should in-kind contributions be contemplated in response to the crisis, please contact [logik@un.org](mailto:logik@un.org).

Humanitarian partners are fully committed and guided in their actions by the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and do no harm, and to ensure the civilian character of humanitarian aid. Media reports labelling as humanitarian contributions of non-lethal equipment to parties to the conflict is a serious concern and advocacy to ensure that these instances are not repeated is being stepped up.

## Humanitarian Response



### Livelihoods and Early Recovery (cluster lead: Inita Paulovica, [Inita.Paulovica@undp.org](mailto:Inita.Paulovica@undp.org))

#### Needs:

- The Resource Center for Displaced Persons registered over 4,600 queries from IDPs via a hotline. IDPs prioritized employment, accommodation, household appliances, etc.
- Due to damage to the communal system as of 21 January, 16 heating stations do not operate. 343 residential houses, 9 hospitals, 12 kindergartens and 9 schools as well as 22 other institutions remain without heating. Problems with transportations noted.

#### Response:

- The Center provided consultations regarding employment to 2,130 persons, settlement and general questions to 2,023 persons, and legal issues to 75 persons.
- 3,500 unemployed IDPs received consultations. 1,000 employees of the coal industry received recommendations for employment.
- Financial support to 102 IDPs were provided in Dobropolsky rayon.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Due to the explosion of railway bridge in Zaporizhziya oblast the passenger communication from Sartana is disrupted (all trains will leave from Berdyansk).
- Access concerns – including insecurity and newly established bureaucratic procedures affect delivery.

**Education** (cluster leads: Rudi Luchmann, [rluchmann@unicef.org](mailto:rluchmann@unicef.org); Olena Sakovych [osakovych@unicef.org](mailto:osakovych@unicef.org))**Needs:**

- UNICEF is carrying out an assessment of damages to schools in Severodonetsk and Slavyansk.

**Response:**

- In January, UNICEF delivered education kits to 9,525 IDP children in Kharkiv.
- UNICEF is discussing with the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) regarding the exams in non-governmental controlled areas where non-state actors are changing the curriculum. The MoES is going to issue a new, simplified guidance on the matter that will allow the residents of the conflict area to register for exams online (previous instructions require pupils to leave the conflict zone and physically register at the nearest secondary school in the government-controlled territory).

**Gaps & Constraints:**

Increase in violence hinders access to education.

**Emergency Shelter and NFI** (cluster lead: Igor Chantefor, [chantefo@unhcr.org](mailto:chantefo@unhcr.org))**Needs:**

- NFI in five most affected regions of Luhansk, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kharkiv, especially for new IDPs.
- Critical emergency shelter needs are increasing in the east as the situation is deteriorating.

**Response:**

- Cluster partners provided multifunctional unconditional one-time cash assistance to 17,433 households (HH) since the beginning of hostilities across eleven regions. The Ukrainian Red Cross Society distributed cash vouchers to 310 HHs in Lysychansk, with Austrian Red Cross support.
- Houses repairs reached 1699 people in Sloviansk, in Shchastia and Triohizbinka, Luhansk region. Work in 31 collective centres in Kyiv, Zhytomyr, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Odesa and Donetsk and Luhansk regions are ongoing. Some 50 packages of plastic sheets were provided to Telmanivski district for emergency repairs.
- Partners distributed NFIs to a total of 5,606 IDPs in Odesa Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Luhansk, Lviv, Odesa, Vinnytsya and Ternopil regions.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Access to areas beyond government control is constrained and hinders timely deliveries of assistance.

**Food Security and Nutrition** (cluster leads: Sultan Mehmood, [sultan.mehmood@wfp.org](mailto:sultan.mehmood@wfp.org); Valeriya Taran, [vtaran@unicef.org](mailto:vtaran@unicef.org))**Needs:**

- Food needs are among high priorities in Severodonetsk and other areas.
- More kitchen facilities are required in provision of food for beneficiaries in social institutions.
- Provision of more food to the locations where IDPs are arriving due to escalation of fighting.
- Lack of hard currency and exhausted savings were reported by Save Ukraine Now (SUN) in some of the areas where food is available but buying capacity does not exist.
- Food prepositioning required

**Response:**

- Food cluster partners completed food distribution to 28,000 vulnerable people across Ukraine.
- Cash for food/cash grants reached some 3,400 IDPs in Berdiansk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Mariupol, Odessa, Kharkiv and Volyn regions.
- Over 20,000 food parcels have been dispatched to partner warehouses.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Availability of a clean and final list of registered affected population.
- Access to areas beyond government control.



**Health** (cluster lead: Dr. Dorit Nitzan, [DON@euro.who.int](mailto:DON@euro.who.int); Patricia Kormoss, [kpj@euro.who.int](mailto:kpj@euro.who.int))

### Needs:

- 14,178 of HIV-infected, including 5,638 who are being on the antiretroviral therapy (ART), 2,219 TB patient, including more than 543 people with MDR-TB are residing in the non-government controlled area without consistent follow up. In areas under government control, supplies for HIV/TB of patients will go out of stock by March 2015.
- The stock of buprenorphine in the non-governmental controlled territory is depleted. Since the beginning of January, 37 patients in the buprenorphine program in Donetsk are without treatment. More than 550 patients may be cut off the life-saving treatment if the stock of medication is not re-filled by the end of February.
- Solution for provision of specialized health care in Donbas, which is unsustainable as most of tertiary and specialized health care facilities with necessary equipment are situated on the non-government controlled areas while health specialists had left non-government controlled areas due to salaries not being paid.
- Fuel for ambulances in conflict areas as currently only half of them are operational.
- Guarantee of electricity and water to health facilities to minimize the risk of infectious diseases outbreak
- Ensure fully functional surveillance system and primary health services.
- Socio-medical services for the people suffered physical and emotional trauma

### Response:

- Procurement of 11 IEHKs, 4 Trauma Kits and 4 Diarrheal Diseases Kits to address basic medical needs of 110,000 people, emergency and trauma care for 400 interventions are being distributed through health facilities and WHO Mobile Emergency Primary Care Units (MEPUs). Additional kits have also been procured and distributed.
- Some 29 medical professionals received trainings to operate in MEPUs in eastern Ukraine.
- The Ministry of Health submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers a draft Resolution of the Government that will allow dispatch of TB/HIV/OST medicines from Global Fund recipients to areas beyond Government control.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Restriction, since December 2014 of the delivery of narcotic drugs for OST patients of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, resulting in discontinuation of the treatment for more than 300 of all 899 patients who reside in the area.
- Due to the lack of necessary drugs in the regions, treatment of MDR-TB patients is suspected to be not in line with the recommended protocols, raising the concern of further resistance extension.
- Access restrictions on accessing non-governmental controlled areas have produced new difficulties for the established supply schemes for state target programs and humanitarian aid delivery.
- Health specialists face major security concerns operating within the boundary line due to unpredictable shooting and the presence of explosive remnants of war in the area.



**Protection** (cluster co-leads: Ilija Todorovic, [todorovi@unhcr.org](mailto:todorovi@unhcr.org); Fiona Frazer, [ffrazer@ohchr.org](mailto:ffrazer@ohchr.org)) – see also overview

### Needs:

- Need for all parties to the conflict to ensure unimpeded access out of the conflict areas for civilians wishing to leave.
- Up to 600 people continue to be held by the armed groups. They, particularly civilians, need to be protected from ill-treatment, including forced labour.

### Response:

- Reports indicate that the Pensioner's Fund threatened for some IDP pensioners from Crimea be cut off from pension payments if they do not provide confirmation that they do not receive a pension at the same time in Crimea and handover paper originals of their file. Pensioners from the east are only being asked for an electronic copy. Official requests have been made by civil society are yet to bear fruit. Partners will seek a meeting with the Pensioner's Fund to discuss issues of concerns.
- ICRC monitoring activities on the treatment of the detainees and their detention conditions, including the availability of food and medication, in Zaporizhia, Odesa, Poltava, Kharkiv, Mariupol, Kiev, Donetsk continues (source: ICRC).
- Cluster partners are advocating for the amendment of existing legislation on registration (particularly resolutions 505 and 509) and drafting new ones.
- UN agencies and government partners are closely following the situation with orphaned children from Luhansk region who have stayed in Odesa region since June, and now are in question of moving back to Government-controlled areas of Luhansk region upon the request of the regional administration. As of 21 January, 135 out of 400 children who had expressed a desire to return to Luhansk Oblast have been

already relocated to the Luhansk region. Although orphanages in Kreminske, Svatovo, and Severodonetsk have been reconstructed, the move may not be in the best interest of children, considering safety concerns with recently intensified fighting in the area.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- MoSP registration of IDPs continues to be challenged by the lack of definition of the so-called “ATO zone”, documentation requirements including confirmation of the place of residence prior to registration; the order of registration of unaccompanied children and for people of concern who physically or by other reason cannot leave conflict currently has no way to register as IDP and thus become ineligible to financial assistance or social benefits.
- IDPs still face employment discrimination as employers are still not willing to hire IDPs since they do not know how long IDPs will stay in their temporary place of residence. Not all IDPs want to work as they may prefer to receive social benefits which are higher than salaries in the regions. Problems continue with documents (renewal of labor record books, approval of qualification etc.).



#### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (cluster lead: Rudi Luchmann, rluchmann@unicef.org)

#### Needs:

- A Dec/Jan UNICEF survey on the WASH situation in conflict-affected areas in Eastern Ukraine indicates that 208,216 people need WASH support (161,262 in Donetsk and 46,954 in Luhansk oblast). Of these, 30,899 are women (20,152 and 10,747 respectively); 7,928 are children under five years of age (3,004 and 4,924 respectively); and 14,931 are children aged 6 to 18 (7,049 and 7,882 respectively).
- Restoring of power lines in those areas which have been damaged by parties to the conflict affecting reliability of water supply to the local population.

#### Response:

- WASH partners distributed 239 adult hygiene kits, 250 baby hygiene kits and 150 WASH family kits to Svyatogorsk to 2,128 people this week and 192 people with disabilities and elderly in Antrazyt.
- Specifically, the agreement covers delivery of drinking water and water distribution to the affected population; hygiene promotion among children; and the creation of a database of humanitarian aid beneficiaries for UNICEF.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Ongoing fighting prevents from implementing a comprehensive assessment of all damage of the water supply systems.

## Coordination

- Regular sector meetings are held in Kyiv and the field, including Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Slaviansk and Zaporizhzhia. Please click here for the meeting schedule.
- The NGO Forum meets every second Tuesday at 10:00 am at People in Need (PIN). This meeting alternates with the OCHA-NGO Forum at 10:00 am at OCHA.
- The Cash Transfer Technical Working Group can be contacted through OCHA or WFP should your organization wish to receive information and guidance on cash transfer activities in Ukraine.
- The Humanitarian Response website aims to streamline information sharing among the humanitarian community in Ukraine and beyond. It is easy to navigate and provides useful overviews of contacts, events/meetings, key documents, maps and infographics, statistics and other operational data. Each sector has a dedicated page to upload sector-specific information. We will populate the website over the coming weeks and welcome any suggestions you might have to improve layout and content.
- On 15 January 2015 the Ukrainian Minister of Health and WHO briefed, with the support of OCHA and of health clusters, Member States in Geneva. Partners called to support the Health Cluster.

#### Background on the crisis

In April 2014, armed groups in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk) began to seize buildings and arms. As a result of ongoing fighting between armed groups and government forces, and of events in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) in March 2014, people fled their homes and have become increasingly vulnerable as the conflict spread. Those in parts of Donbas affected by fighting, face imminent security threats due to military activities by all parties to the conflict that are increasingly concentrated in densely populated urban areas. Provision of basic services has been disrupted, supplies are increasingly limited, and an upsurge in lawlessness has occurred. Ongoing daily ceasefire violations continue to be reported, despite the 5 September Ceasefire and 19 September nine-point Memorandum agreed in Minsk. Indiscriminate shelling and continued insecurity are placing conflict-affected people and humanitarian actors at risk.

#### For further information, please contact:

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