



## KEY FIGURES

### Internal displacement (as of 20 August)

190,000 Ukrainians are internally displaced

### Applications for international protection in Russia (as of 15 August)

87,927 Ukrainians applied for refugee status or temporary asylum in the Russian Federation

### Applications for international protection in other neighboring countries

Poland: 1,243 applications (as of 18.08)  
Belarus: 304 applications (as of 19.08)

## PARTNERS

### Central and local authorities in Ukraine

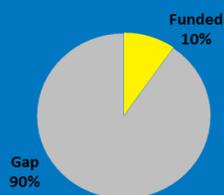
UN Agencies: ILO, IOM, OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO

International organisations: CoE, OSCE

NGOs and community-based organizations from various regions in Ukraine

## FUNDING

USD 11.3 million requested for the operation



## OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

UN Security Council Briefing

Conclusions of the Extraordinary Foreign Affairs Council meeting

# UKRAINE

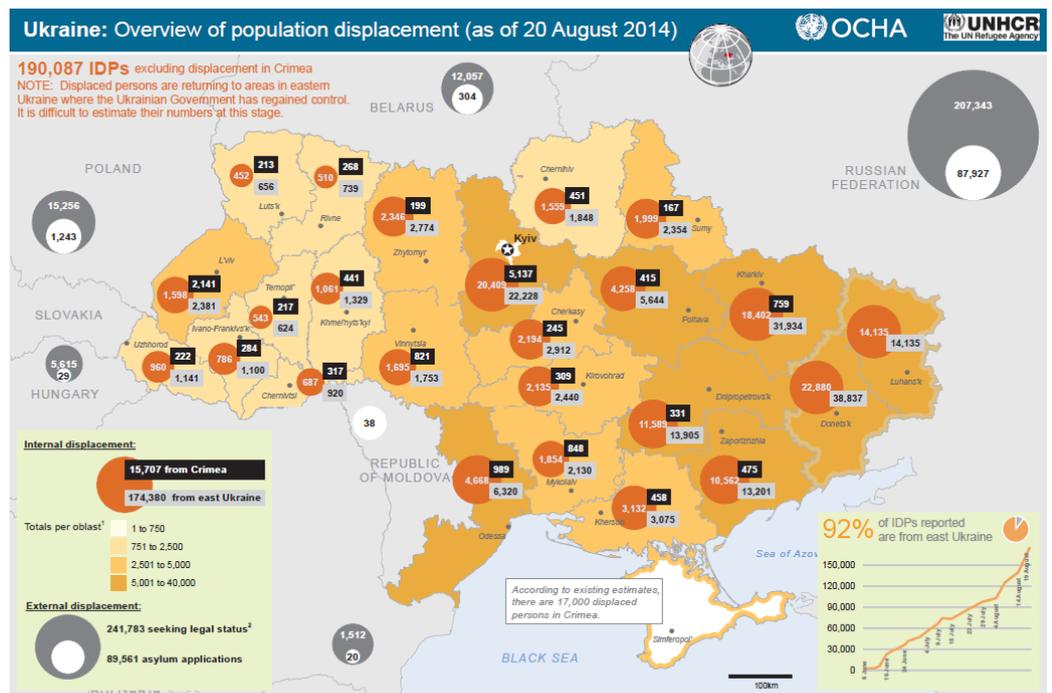
## UNHCR EXTERNAL UPDATE ON THE SITUATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS

22 August 2014

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 20 August, the number of IDPs is estimated to have reached 190,000.
- IDPs from eastern Ukraine now make up 92% of the total number of displaced.
- UNHCR is concerned by the attack on a convoy of people attempting to leave Luhansk region of eastern Ukraine.
- UNHCR is concerned by the increasing number of casualties, OHCHR estimates that as of 13 August the death toll has increased to 2,119.
- As of 15 August 2014 the Russian Federation reported that 87,927 Ukrainians have applied for international protection and of 8 August 119,416 Ukrainians applied for other forms of legal stay.
- UNHCR, together with the State Emergency Service and other UN agencies has provided [humanitarian assistance](#) to vulnerable IDPs in Donetsk region.
- UNHCR is concerned about the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine. Those who remain in the conflict affected areas lack food supplies, water and electricity.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. <sup>1</sup> Internal Displacement: Due to the lack of a centralized system of registration, the real figure of IDPs is unknown and is likely to be higher, as local authorities and civil society register only those who approach them. Various organizations report that some displaced persons from the East are reluctant to apply to the authorities because they fear retribution, want to maintain a low profile, and moreover, see little benefit in identifying themselves as there is no special reception procedures established for them. <sup>2</sup> No information available for Luhansk. Figures reported by local government and NGOs (19 August 2014). External displacement: Figures reported to UNHCR by Government Asylum Authorities as of 2 July for Romania, 15 August for Republic of Moldova, 16 July for Hungary, 19 August for Belarus, and 19 August for Poland, and reported by the Russian Federal Migration Service as of 6 August for the Russian Federation. <sup>3</sup> Overall figure includes the Russian Republic, Poland, Romania, Belarus, and Hungary. | Feedback: haythornthwaite@un.org | Document: ukr\_displacement\_update\_20140820\_08\_hybrid | Creation date: 21/08/2014

# LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

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## Operational Context

### Internal Displacement

As of 20 August, UNHCR estimates the number of displaced persons at 190,000, 92% of them come from eastern regions of Ukraine while 8% come from Crimea. People continue to flee due to the ongoing fighting and lack of basic services. Some people are also citing fear of conscription/forced recruitment as a reason for fleeing. In addition, independent sources report that some 17,000 persons have been displaced from eastern Ukraine to Crimea.

The scope of internal displacement across Ukraine is believed to be much higher as there is no central registration system and many choose not to register. Most of registered IDPs are women and children. Elderly people often remain in the affected areas either because they are not able to travel or because they are unwilling to leave their properties. An estimated 3.9 million people still reside in the conflict areas. Many of them cannot or do not want to leave due to lack of transport, risks to be caught in crossfire and fear to abandon their property.

The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate in eastern Ukraine. According to the Human Right Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) at least 2,119 (including at least 20 children) have been killed and 5,043 (including at least 30 children) have been wounded in east Ukraine as of 13 August. The HRMMU estimates that 1,522 people were killed and 2,838 wounded in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

The authorities opened three “corridors” in Donetsk, Horlivka and Luhansk. Reportedly 6,000 people have left through these “corridors” since the end of July. However, a very small proportion of those who have fled the conflict areas used the “corridors” for fear of being caught in crossfire. Over 22,000 people fled Donetsk and Luhansk regions in the past five days.

UNHCR is concerned by the recent reports and testimonies of IDPs showing an increasing level of intolerance by some small segments of local population towards IDPs. Some see IDPs as a threat for their jobs, while others accuse them of living on assistance provided from local communities.

Displaced persons continue to return back home to areas where the Government has regained control, though it is difficult to estimate the number, as some have never registered as IDPs. Most of them are returning to Slovyansk, Khramatorsk, Druzhkivka and Krasny Lyman from the nearby cities in Donetsk and Kharkiv regions. Their priority is to re-build their homes, hoping that the authorities will repair the social infrastructure (schools, hospitals, etc.). In Slovyansk, water, electricity and gas supplies have been restored to 95% of previous capacity and payments of pensions and social benefits resumed in the city. While IDPs in the East show willingness to return as soon hostilities end and are able to find housing, jobs and access services, IDPs from Crimea are reporting that they are not likely to return under the current circumstances.

### External Displacement

As of 15 August, the Federal Migration Services (FMS) of the **Russian Federation** reported that 87,927 Ukrainian citizens have applied for international protection and further 119,416 (as of 8 August) applied for other forms of legal stay, such as residence permits, citizenship or for the compatriots’ resettlement programme. The number of Ukrainians in the Russian Federation who have arrived since the beginning of 2014 is however likely to be higher as many stay in Russia under visa-free regime extendable to 270 days.

The existing 643 accommodation facilities on the territory of the Russian Federation currently host some 47,500 Ukrainian citizens, 14,809 of them are children. The Ministry for Emergency Situations (EMERCOM) has provided 1,700 tons of humanitarian aid and established a hot-line to provide information to Ukrainians arriving. In August, UNHCR visited two temporary accommodation centres in North Ossetia-Alania (Tamisk in Alagirsky district and Ursdon in Digorsky). North Ossetia-Alania hosts some 800 Ukrainians who have applied for international protection, 477 of them are in temporary accommodation centres and 176 are staying with local families. FMS

estimates that 400 Ukrainian citizens are not yet registered in North Ossetia-Alania and stay under the visa-free regime. Displaced Ukrainians interviewed by UNHCR claim to be satisfied with the reception conditions and perceive the local population as welcoming and supportive. Their main concern is the lack of employment opportunities and uncertainty of their legal status. UNHCR has previously also assessed the situation of displaced Ukrainians in Rostov, Voronezh, Briansk, and St. Petersburg.

In **Poland**, 1,243 Ukrainians have applied for international protection as of 18 August, 87% of them are ethnic Ukrainians, 7% ethnic Tatars and 4% ethnic Russians. The vast majority of Ukrainian applicants (96%) come from Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkov regions fearing persecution due to participation in protests, or fear general security concerns. Those coming from Crimea fled because they had refused to acquire Russian citizenship. In addition, 13,622 Ukrainian citizens, out of whom 60% are women, have applied for other residence permits in Poland since the beginning of the year.

In **Belarus**, according to the Ministry of Interior almost 25,000 Ukrainian citizens have registered since the beginning of the year. Of them, over 11,000 have residence permits<sup>1</sup> and 304 have applied for asylum as of 19 August. The rest stay with friends/families, hotels or rent their own accommodation.

### General humanitarian situation

The ongoing fighting has deteriorated further the humanitarian situation, particularly in the region of Luhansk where water, electricity and phone services have been cut and there is a significant lack of food. In Rovenky, Sverdlovsk, Krasny Luch, Antratsit and Perevalsk there is reportedly lack of food, fuel, medicines and banks are not working. The energy provider has reported that 75 towns in Donetsk region remain partially or fully without electricity as of 11 August.

As a consequence food and NFI are needed, especially in Luhansk region, but also numerous requests for food, medical and NFI assistance were received from the local authorities in Odessa, Kharkov, Donetsk, Kherson, among other Oblasts due to the increasing number of IDPs. There are still serious disruptions in the payments of salaries and social benefits in the affected areas. Therefore, it becomes increasingly difficult for those affected to cover their basic needs.

### Achievements

In **response** to the identified needs, UNHCR continues to support the Ukrainian Government, NGOs and local communities in their response to the displacement, providing humanitarian aid.<sup>2</sup> Since the beginning of June 2014 UNHCR assisted some 50,000 vulnerable IDPs and contributed to the humanitarian assistance, including self-reliance projects, social assistance, legal counseling/referrals for emergency accommodation, cash assistance for accommodation outside collective centers.



## Protection

### IDP legislation

Ukraine still lacks a legal framework for internally displaced people. A draft law approved by Parliament in June was later vetoed by the President. UNHCR has been taking part in discussions with authorities on a revised draft legislation, which is expected to be soon presented to Parliament. UNHCR continues to assist and advocate for a comprehensive IDP law. UNHCR believes it is important to adopt an IDP law, and will continue to advocate with authorities to ensure that international standards are upheld.

<sup>1</sup> The authorities issued temporary residence permits for up to one year to 2,877 Ukrainian citizens, temporary residence permits for maximum 3 months to 7,836 Ukrainians and permanent residence permits to 1,040 persons from Ukraine.

<sup>2</sup> An overview on UNHCR's response to the situation of IDPs is available online: <http://unhcr.org.ua/en/2011-08-26-06-58-56/news-archiwe/1319-unhcr-assistance-to-idps-in-ukraine>

## Registration

Many IDPs have not registered with local authorities, some prefer not to announce their presence for various reasons including fear of conscription or potential reprisals upon return, while others don't see any benefit in terms of assistance. Those having relatives or friends who can accommodate them for some time also do not see the need to register with local authorities.

A central IDP registration has not yet been established. At the local level, registration practices vary from region to region. The Ministry of Justice has been working on a by-law on IDP registration, which depends on the adoption of a legal framework on IDPs. The lack of a systematic and uniform registration system hampers the coordination and implementation of relief efforts. It also makes it harder to plan for the provision of public services, including education and other humanitarian assistance programs. UNHCR has provided equipment and training to the local authorities in several locations to assist them with setting up basic registry of IDPs on the ground.



## Shelter and NFIs

According to a shelter assessment exercise conducted by regional authorities, a total of 35,070 IDPs are currently accommodated in 1,648 collective centers throughout the country. Out of this total, 3,653 will have to move to alternative accommodation before the school year starts on 1 September. An additional 14,025 are staying in 169 collective centers that are deemed unsuitable for winter occupation. For example: in Odessa region, 2,247 IDPs are in need of alternative accommodation before the beginning of the school year, and in the region of Donetsk 11,514 IDPs need to be relocated before the winter season.

In two collective centres in Pershotravneviy district (Donetsk) due to the lack of accommodation places some 30 persons are accommodated in tents, cars or decrepit summer camp facilities, which had been unused for years. They lack access to water and other basic services. In Ternopil region local authorities had included in the list of available accommodations for IDPs, accommodation not suitable for living, such as a functioning tuberculosis dispensary for children in Gusiatoryn district.

One of the last large distributions of humanitarian aid was organized on 2 August when UNHCR together with Donetsk Deputy Governor provided 12 metric tons of food and NFIs to the Pershotravne district (Donetsk region), where more than 5,000 persons displaced from the conflict areas were registered by local authorities. On 8 August, UNHCR together with State Emergency Service and other UN agencies delivered 5 metric tons of humanitarian aid to South of Donetsk region.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed to the situation of displaced people in Ukraine. UNHCR's total financial requirements for IDPs in eastern Ukraine include USD 11.3 million, as presented in the [Preliminary Response Plan](#) launched in Kiev on 14 August. The overall needs for the IDPs situation are currently funded at 10 %.

