

UKRAINE SITUATION

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

22 May – 8 June 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Situational overview:** The security situation has considerably deteriorated following a period of relative calm. Heavy fighting has greatly restricted humanitarian access, particularly to non-government controlled areas.
- **Protection concerns:** Freedom of movement across the line of contact has become more restricted. Issue and renewal of civil documentation for residents of non-government controlled areas, lack of social benefits for unaccompanied IDP children remain matters of concern.
- **Assistance provided:** Since 22 May, UNHCR provided non food items (NFIs) and emergency shelter items to 7,350 people government controlled areas. UNHCR delivered a further 50 NFI sets to people in non-government controlled areas.



Lebedynske is one of the villages next to Mariupol in Donetsk Region. A small town just a few kilometers east of the Azov Sea port city was heavily shelled in early June as a new wave of violence was reported in Eastern Ukraine. Together with local volunteers, UNHCR Mariupol provided plastic sheets for emergency repairs of damaged houses. Photo: UNHCR/Mykhailo Aleshin/Mariupol

KEY FIGURES

1,325,200

registered Internally Displaced People (IDPs) including:

790,800

pensioners

308,700

working age

167,000

children

56,000

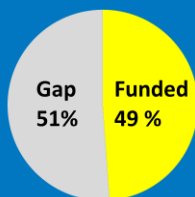
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Source: Ministry of Social Policy, Ukraine

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

Following a period of relative calm, the conflict situation again worsened in recent days with heavy fighting breaking out in areas north, west and south of Donetsk city, concentrated in the vicinity of the government controlled towns of Maryinka and Krasnohorivka. OSCE [reports](#) the use of heavy weapons, including artillery and rocket systems, by all sides. Reports suggest that the fighting is the heaviest seen since the 12 February ceasefire. Further fighting took place north and west of Luhansk city and north and east of Mariupol including areas that had not previously witnessed fighting. There have been an unconfirmed number of civilian casualties and it is most likely that the situation will lead to an increase in displaced people. Fighting is reported to have subsided; however, the situation continues to remain extremely volatile.

As of 3 June there were 1,325,200 IDPs registered by the Ministry of Social Policy, representing an increase of 41,500 since 21 May. This increase in the number of registrations reflects the deteriorating situation in the conflict area.

Whereas previously there were reports of limited numbers of people returning their homes in non-government controlled areas to maintain property or take care of relatives who remained behind, lately there have been no such reports. Even prior to the current surge in fighting, it had become increasingly difficult for people to cross the line of contact with cases of people with the correct documentation refused permission to move between government and non-government controlled areas. All government checkpoints across the line of contact in Luhansk region are now closed which has greatly reduced access to and from non-government controlled areas, impacting the freedom of movement of people and goods.

Humanitarian access to non-government controlled areas has been further restricted with the closure of Government checkpoints at Kurakhove and Volnovakha due to the deteriorating security situation. These are the main crossings used by humanitarian agencies (including UNHCR) to transport goods to non-government controlled areas. Concerns for security and the closures of the checkpoints have greatly restricted humanitarian operations in the area.

As the conflict situation affects previously unaffected areas, there is concern that the government list of settlements in the conflict area is not comprehensive. Only displaced people coming from settlements listed in Council of Ministers Resolution 1085-r recognized as being in the conflict area or non-government controlled area may register for IDP status. There have been numerous reports of people, particularly in southern Donetsk who have left destroyed homes and are unable to register for government assistance provided to IDPs.

In recent days the risk posed by mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) contamination was again highlighted following incidents involving civilian casualties. The threat from mines and UXO may linger for many years after the end of the conflict. It is therefore imperative that people living in the conflict area are informed on the risks. To this end, the Mine Action Sub-cluster has been activated under the guidance of UNDP and the Danish Demining Group.

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 878,000, with the majority going to the Russian Federation (728,200) and Belarus (81,100).

The OSCE Observer Mission monitoring the Gukovo and Donetsk checkpoints on the Russia-Ukraine border inform that the situation remains calm. Total cross-border traffic 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.

As of 4 June, since the beginning of the crisis there were 3,648 applications for international protection in Germany, 3,500 in Poland, 2,956 in Italy, 1,851 in Sweden, 1,763 in France, 200 in Moldova, 50 in Romania, 50 in Hungary and 20 in Slovakia according to government sources in receiving countries.

Data sources: Respective national asylum authorities

Achievements



Protection Cluster

- The Humanitarian Country Team endorsed the activation of a Mine Action Sub-cluster under the Protection Cluster which will be co-led by UNDP and the Danish Demining Group. The aim of the activation is to improve coordination on the topic, raise awareness and fundraise. Terms of Reference were drafted and a first meeting took place on 4 June.
- The cluster finalized an advocacy note highlighting protection concerns and key messages regarding the impact of the Temporary Order on Movement and is finalizing another note on humanitarian evacuations. These key messages will be shared with an array of interlocutors who can relay and support the messages.
- Following the previously reported mission undertaken by the Cluster coordinators in May to Dnipropetrovsk and Kharkiv to look into field coordination, protection actors met in Donetsk city on 28 May to discuss protection issues and coordination arrangements.
- The Protection Cluster Housing, Land and Property working group on was activated on 4 June.

Achievements, Impact and Identified Needs

- The restriction of freedom of movement across the line of contact continues to be a most pressing protection concern. The Government's Temporary Order on Movement implemented in January requiring that those wishing to cross the line of contact apply for passes has been the main barrier to freedom of movement of the civilian population. The pass system is extremely bureaucratic and prevalent with corruption as bribes are paid to expedite or avoid the process. Freedom of movement has recently been further restricted by the implementation of a local decree on 1 May in Luhansk region which has effectively closed all crossing points. The Government has promised to reform with the introduction of an electronic pass system on 25 March. The electronic system met with various technical problems. IDPs continue to report problems with the pass system with little to indicate improvement. In response UNHCR continues to advocate the Government for solutions to the problem. Additionally, UNHCR is looking into practical solutions to assist those wishing to cross the line of contact.



Nastya, 5, and Sasha, 7, arrived to Kyiv from Luhansk region several months ago. They are among 9,200 displaced children registered in the Ukrainian capital since the beginning of the conflict. Forced to flee violence in their hometowns, many require support to reduce their psychological distress. According to social workers who met the girls during participatory assessment in Kyiv region, their paintings indicate a high level of insecurity and anxiety caused by previous traumatic experience and adaptation to new environment.

Photo: UNHCR/Tamara Beresh/Kyiv

- People with expired documents are no longer permitted to cross into the government controlled area of Luhansk region from non-government controlled areas. However, this appears contradictory to other regional practices where notaries operating in non-government controlled areas are recognized for documentation related to the Regional Archive and Housing, Land and Property matters. The situation is similarly ambiguous regarding the issue of birth certificates for residents of non-government controlled areas. Birth certificates can be issued in government controlled areas for those born in non-government controlled areas based on medical documentation. However, problems occur when hospitals in non-government controlled areas mark the documentation with the stamp of de facto authorities. Where these stamps are present on documentation, authorities in government controlled areas will not issue birth certificates.

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

- Children are still unable to register for IDP status unless accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Unaccompanied children and those living with relatives without legal guardianship are deprived of social benefits as Council of Ministers Resolution no. 509 does not make provision for the registration of children as IDPs.
- Preliminary Participatory Assessment report for Donetsk has been finalized and shared with key partners. The Participatory Assessment process for Mariupol began on 1 June. Participatory Assessment with IDPs is aimed at gathering accurate information on specific protection risks faced by IDPs, underlying causes and hearing their proposed solutions. The results will influence the protection and solutions strategy for eastern Ukraine.

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 [mapped](#) operational presence of partners: there are currently 49 partners throughout Ukraine. International NGO are scaling up operations despite delays in signing funding agreements.
- The Cluster Co-chair and Sub-national Coordinator recently arrived, responsible for coordination in the government controlled areas of northern Donbas. This position provided by People in Need and funded by ECHO will greatly enhance sub-national level strategy, training and assessment capabilities.
- Two technical working groups have been established: one on Cash for Shelter and NFI and the other on Permanent Shelter Solutions. The aim of the working groups is to consolidate practice with international experience and to advocate for durable solutions to long-term displacement.
- The Cluster and UNHCR have begun REACH assessments aimed at gathering information for future planning to better meet the needs of beneficiaries. The training of enumerators took place in Slovyansk in May. During the first week of assessments, more than 600 door-to-door interviews were conducted. Enumerator training will also take place in Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Mariupol expanding coverage of the assessments.
- Shelter and NFI Cluster [mapping](#) shows that over 85 per cent of the pre-conflict population of eastern Ukraine lived in urban areas.



Arkadiy, Mykola and their youngest brother lost their parents during shelling in Donetsk. They now stay in Kramatorsk, Donetsk region with their grandmother Natalia, who is the only caregiver of the young orphans. As children fled with no belongings, UNHCR has provided sleeping bags, bedding sets and basic household items to ease their life in displacement. Some 3,500 IDPs will receive the EU-funded assistance from UNHCR in Kramatorsk, Druzhkivka and Konstantinivka in Northern Donetsk region in the upcoming week. Photo: UNHCR/Dmytro Kotkov/Kramatorsk

Achievements, Impact and Identified Needs

- During the reporting period, UNHCR provided NFI and shelter assistance to over 7,350 beneficiaries in government controlled areas. UNHCR distributed ECHO funded bedding sets (a blanket, sleeping, bed linen and towels) and other NFIs including kitchenware, buckets and jerry cans to 3,500 people in Druzhkivka, Kostyantynivka and Kramatorsk in northern Donetsk. UNHCR provided emergency shelter plastic sheeting for repairs to houses in Berdyanske near Mariupol. Plastic sheeting was also provided to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) for distribution in the recently shelled villages of Kominternove and Lebedynske. 2,800 bedding sets and other NFIs were provided to the NGO I'm Volnovakha for distribution in Volnovakha, Volodarskoye and Pershotravnevyyi districts near to Mariupol. A further 760 bedding sets were provided to Volnovakha city council the NGO New Life for distribution to

IDPs in Volnovakha and Mariupol. Clothing, blankets and personal hygiene items were provided to 37 families in Kherson.

- In non-government controlled areas aid distributions have been restricted due to the increased fighting. Nonetheless, NFIs were provided to 50 people living in a bomb shelter at Trudovskiye mine, close to the line of contact.

Working in partnership

UNHCR hosted a Round Table with a high level delegation from the United States Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, heads of UN agencies and the ICRC to discuss the current humanitarian situation and to jointly formulate key messages and priorities.

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](#) | [Chesna i Svyata Kraina](#) | [Crimea SOS](#) | [Danish Refugee Council](#) | [Donbas reconstruction and development agency](#) | [Dopomoga Dnipra](#) | [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](#) | [ICRC](#) | [IOM](#) | [Norwegian Refugee Council](#) | [OCHA](#) | [OHCHR \(HRMMU\)](#) | [OSCE](#) | [State Migration Service of Ukraine](#) | [The Right to Protection](#) | [The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights](#) | [Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union](#) | [UNICEF](#) | [UNDP](#) | [UNFPA](#) | [Vostok SOS](#)

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

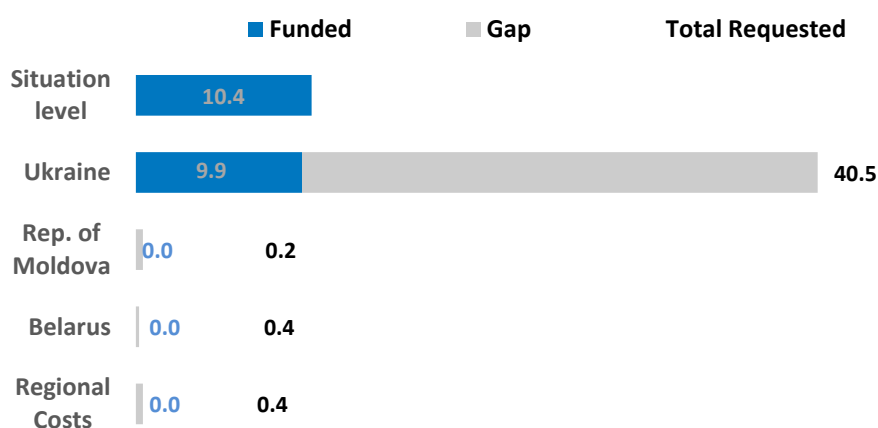
UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have already indicated a contribution to UNHCR’s 2015 activities in Ukraine with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds. UNHCR’s total financial requirement in 2015 for the Ukraine situation is **US\$ 41.5 million**, 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 **49 per cent** of the total financial requirements.

Donors who have contributed:

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

Funding (in million USD)

A total of **20.3 million** has been contributed



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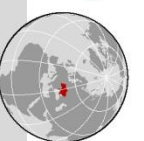
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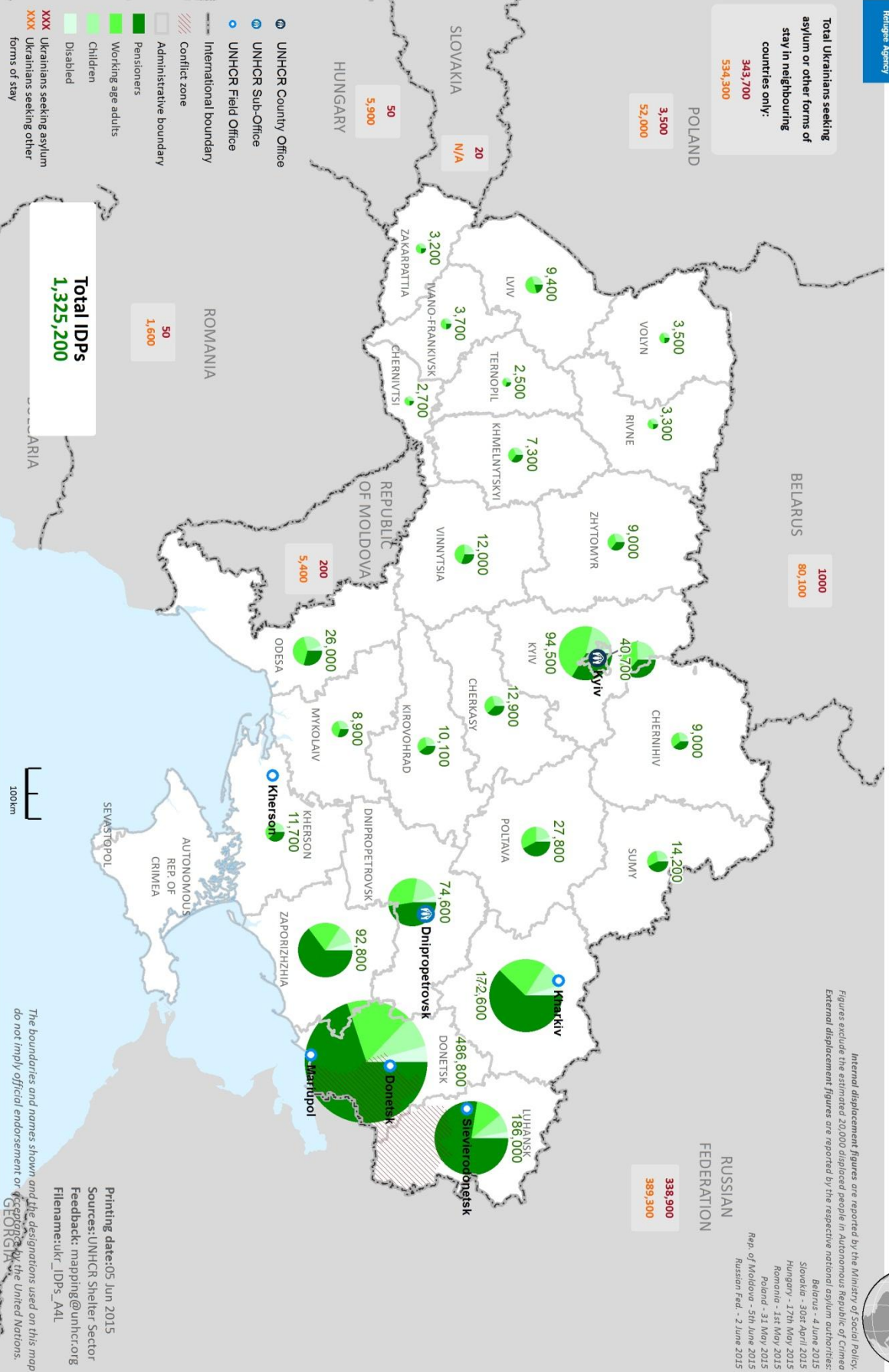
Ukraine: Internally Displaced People

- 3 June 2015

UNHCR - Kyiv



Total Ukrainians seeking asylum or other forms of stay in neighbouring countries only:
 343,700
 534,300



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 - 4 June 2015; Slovakia - 30st April 2015; Hungary - 17th May 2015; Romania - 1st May 2015; Poland - 31 May 2015; Rep. of Moldova - 5th June 2015; Russian Fed. - 2 June 2015

The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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