

# Operational Update

June 2018

**Psychosocial assistance:** In Donetsk, UNHCR recorded an increase in requests for psychosocial assistance due to increased hostilities in the area. **40.6% increase** according to one NGO.

**Response to hostilities:** UNHCR is assisting villagers affected by increased hostilities in east Ukraine, such as the villagers of Chyhari where **33 families** received Protection Cash Support.

**Clowns without borders:** During the month of June, UNHCR Ukraine hosted CWB who performed in **12 locations**, including for conflict affected persons living on the contact line.

## KEY INDICATORS

**186**

Houses have been damaged during June, 2018 as a result of armed hostilities. The Shelter Cluster continues to track new damages to residential premises.

**2,319**

Persons were surveyed while crossing the line of contact by protection monitors of UNHCR's protection partner R2P. 49.4% of them were travelling to the NGCA and 50.6% to the GCA.

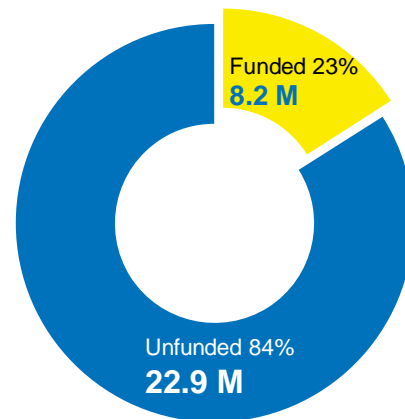
**700**

Counselling sessions were undertaken by UNHCR partners in Kyiv, Odessa and Zakarpattya.

## FUNDING (AS OF 17 JUNE)

**USD 31.1 M**

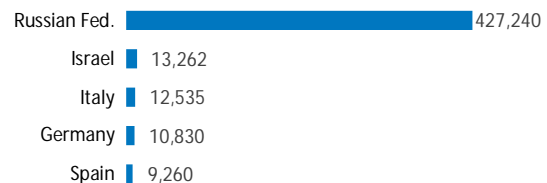
requested for Ukraine



## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDP)\* AND CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS\*\*

**1.8 million**\*\*\*

### ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM UKRAINE\*\*\*\*



\* Residing more permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA).

\*\* Estimated number of conflict-affected persons living along the line of contact in GCAs and non-government controlled areas (NGCA).

\*\*\* Source: 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

\*\*\*\* Source (external displacement): Russian Federation (as of December 2016), Israel (as of July 2017): respective government authorities, UNHCR. EU Countries: EUROSTAT (as of February 2018).

External displacement data refers to the total number of asylum applications by Ukrainians (first time applications) in the top five receiving countries since the beginning of the Ukraine situation in January 2014.

## Operational Context

During the month of June, the security situation in eastern Ukraine continued to deteriorate. UNHCR field partners recorded damage to **186 houses in June 2018** alone –representing a substantial increase as compared to previous months. Villages such as Maiorsk, Zhovanka, Svetlodarsk, Novhorodske and Chyhari suffered disproportionately. In particular, the village of **Chyhari** where 13 houses burned to the ground (more information on UNHCR’s assistance below). During the second half of the month of June, the **OSCE monitoring mission** recorded 13,000 ceasefire violations, which represents a reduction in 10% as compared with the beginning of the month. So far in 2018, the SMM reported 144 civilian casualties, including 29 fatalities. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) issued its **twenty-second report on the situation of human rights in Ukraine** covering the period from 16 February to 15 May 2018. During the mentioned period, OHCHR documented 201 cases of credible allegations of 321 human rights violations and abuses, which affected 252 victims. OHCHR also documented 25 physical attacks against individuals carried out by members of extreme right-wing groups, including two separate attacks on Roma communities in Kyiv and Rudne that led to their settlements being burned to the ground. On 23 June, an armed masked group targeted a Roma camp on the outskirts of Lviv at night, with one casualty, while four others - including a 10-year-old boy - were injured. The injured were reportedly from Zakarpattia region, where UNHCR is supporting undocumented Roma communities that are at risk of statelessness.



*UNHCR and NGO partners have been supporting the villagers of Chyhari, one of the villages that has suffered the most from the escalation of violence in east Ukraine. In this photo, villagers have received solar chargers after the power supply had been cut because of hostilities. Photo: UNHCR*



On 17 June, UNHCR organized World Refugee Day celebration in Kharkiv jointly with partners Station Kharkiv, AKCentre, and R2P. The event took place at Feldman Eco Park and included a “Clowns without Borders” performance, games, workshops, and a horse-show. The event gathered around 200-250 children from the local, displaced and refugee communities, as well as their parents.

As of 11 June and for a period of three weeks (11 to 27 June), UNHCR Ukraine counted on the support of **Clowns without Borders Spain (CWB)**. The international NGO performed at several locations and brought laughter, joy and fun to refugees, stateless persons, conflict affected populations and IDPs of all ages, including elderly people at risk. They performed in central Ukraine (in community centers and hospitals in Kyiv, Irpin, Zlagoda and Bila Tserkva), Sloviansk, Kharkiv, Chuhuyiv, Stanytsia Luhanska, Popasna, Troitske, Avdiyivka and Severodonetsk. Their performances were also supported by UNHCR partners (e.g. Caritas, Veselka TV and Proliska), as well as community groups that benefited from Quick Impact Projects along the line of Contact in eastern Ukraine.



Top right photo: Opening remarks by UNHCR Representative in Ukraine, Mr. Pablo Mateu; Top left photo: guest speaker Ms. Ilyana Massoud, herself displaced twice, first as a refugee from Syria, and subsequently as an internally displaced person from Donetsk to Kyiv mentioned in her inspiring speech “Let’s not put walls, let’s build bridges. Please see the human in us [displaced] and show us kindness and acceptance.”; Bottom left photo of the venue at Cinema Kyiv Cultural Center; Bottom right photo, World Refugee Day was celebrated in locations near the line of contact in east Ukraine, organized by SO Sloviansk.

**World Refugee Day** was celebrated throughout Ukraine during the week of 17-24 June. Events in Kharkiv, Kyiv, Mariupol, Mukachevo, Odessa and Severodonetsk, as well as villages such as Stanytsya Luhanska and Chasiv Yar, centered on screening of the documentary “Human Flow” (by contemporary artist Ai Weiwei), performances by “Clowns Without Borders” and public events targeting children and adults. These events were organized in cooperation with persons of concern, NGO partners, and government authorities. A Russian-language weekly magazine published a supplement on UNHCR, refugees and IDPs in Ukraine and displacement around the world.



## Multi-Sector Response to Refugees and Stateless Persons

### Assistance to Refugees and Asylum Seekers

- UNHCR continued its **biometric enrolment and verification** exercise in Zakarpattya (a province bordering four EU member states) jointly with NGO partner NEEKA. Starting on 19 June, the exercise will continue for the next two to three weeks to cover all asylum-seekers, refugees and persons granted complementary protection registered with UNHCR in Zakarpattya.
- On 21 June, UNHCR **supported the project “New Face of the Border” (Phase 2)**, implemented by the State Border Guard Service (SBGS) of Ukraine, with support from IOM and the US State Department. UNHCR Protection staff conducted **several training sessions for 31 border guards** (including for Boryspil and Lviv International Airports staff, and Kherson and Rava-Ruska border crossing staff).
- On the 26 and 27 June, in the framework of the ‘Quality Initiative’, UNHCR organized a training on facilitation and mentoring to **15 staff of the migration service (SMS)** from different regions as well as SMS headquarters, to enhance the internal training capacity for future newly recruited staff.
- UNHCR partners in Kyiv, Odessa and Zakarpattya performed over **700 counselling sessions** on issues such as access to medical assistance, migration service, tax service, access to employment centers, kindergartens, schools, centers of administrative services, pension funds, educational departments, Child Services, Ministries, banks, universities and centers for social protection of population.
- Additionally, UNHCR staff conducted **95 counselling sessions** with refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons on medical, social, livelihoods and self-reliance issues.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR’s NGO partner Rokada organized a series of art therapy sessions for school aged children in Kyiv. **Twelve refugee families** participated in activities that were jointly organized with Ukrainian families in order to enhance networking between refugees and local communities.
- On 12 June, a Best Interest Determination (BID) Panel was convened by UNHCR jointly with partners in Kyiv and Odessa. The Panel reviewed **eight cases** considering the best interests of **nine children**.

### Assistance to Stateless Persons and Persons at Risk of Statelessness

- On 26 June, UNHCR participated in a round table organized by NGO partner “Right to Protection” in Kharkiv on access to civil documents among convicts. The round-table gathered approximately **40 professionals** working in the area of law enforcement, migration issues and free legal aid. Participants also included the regional Department

of Justice and Penitentiary, as well as representatives of civil society. In Ukraine, the risk of statelessness among convicts is a widespread problem which demands more attention from decision-makers working in this area.

- For more information on UNHCR's work with stateless persons in Ukraine see the [Statelessness Update \[pdf\]](#).

 Protection**Protection Cluster**

- The Protection Cluster issued a Joint Statement on the occasion of the Brussels EU – Ukraine Human Rights Dialogue, highlighting key protection issues, including: (1) mitigation of civilian casualties and remedy and reparation to victims; (2) access to civil status documentation, including birth and death certificates; (3) unimpeded and non-discriminatory access to pensions; (4) protection of land, housing and property rights for the conflict-affected population, including the right to compensation for destroyed and damaged property; (5) freedom of movement; (6) voting rights for internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- Protection Cluster continues to be concerned with civilian casualties, freedom of movement across the contact line and restrictions on humanitarian access as a result of the new Joint Forces Operation in eastern Ukraine. As a result of rising temperatures in summer, health-related incidents, especially among elderly people, continue to be reported at checkpoints.
- The Cluster undertook a mission to non-government controlled areas (NGCA) where training on mainstreaming protection was conducted for 10 partner organizations. Protection Working Groups were held in the NGCA of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

**Protection Achievements**

- UNHCR has been supporting the 150 inhabitants who have been displaced from [Chyhari](#) as a result of increased hostilities and shelling. Some 25 people (including one single mother with 4 children included) remain in the village. UNHCR has been advocating during the reporting period for ways to have a security window for some of the families to go back and retrieve their personal items left behind. Through NGO partner Proliska, [UNHCR distributed 10 solar chargers](#) to families left in the village as electric supplies have been cut since the beginning of June. NGO partner R2P is providing [legal counselling to the IDPs](#) from Chyhari. Furthermore, UNHCR has approved [individual protection assistance \(IPA\) in the form of cash to 33 displaced families](#).
- UNHCR's local partners and UNHCR provided [855 persons with protection counselling in Donetsk and 17 in Luhansk](#), through mobile phone, mobile team visits, and Skype calls on issues related to housing, land and property (HLP), resumption of pensions and renewal of documents in GCA and application for permits to cross the line of contact.

### Peaceful Coexistence Projects (PCP)

- In Mariupol, UNHCR is implementing **four PCPs**, including the rehabilitation of the Pension Fund office in Mariinka; repair of community centre in the village of Chermalyk (Volnovasky Raion) and infrastructure upgrade of a geriatric community centre in Mariupol. UNHCR have started working on **four PCPs** in Donetsk and **two PCPs** in Luhansk.

### Community Support Initiatives (CSI)

- In Donetsk, **216 persons** benefited from capacity development workshops and community meetings. The topics included parenting skills, family club, healthy lifestyle, protection, and SGBV awareness.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted an evaluation to assess the impact of its **capacity building activities benefiting IDP communities** in central and western Ukraine. These activities fall within the framework of the decentralization reform process in Ukraine, which seeks to increase participation of IDP communities in local-level decision-making processes. The evaluation found that, out of 106 trained communities, **58 established relations** with local authorities and **10 applied for funding** from local budgets for community activities. Out of these 10 communities, **two received funding from local budgets** to implement their planned activities.

### Protection Concerns

- UNHCR Protection Partner R2P, in its May Report on “**Crossing the Contact Line**” (**issued in June**) reported that there was a gradual increase in the number of crossings during the warm season. In general, there are fewer GCA residents crossing the line of contact than NGCA residents who must address issues which are impossible or very difficult to solve in the NGCA (e.g. documentation/benefits, legal and banking services, etc.).. On average, respondents spent 2 to 3 hours to cross the contact line, taking more time on NGCA side, except at Stanytsia Luhanska. There has been a significant increase in the level of concerns related to intensified hostilities, shelling and shooting at Hnutove and Maiorske entry-exit check points (EECP). Waiting conditions and increasing temperature were additional concerns.
- In order to strengthen the prevention of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and response to the needs of survivors along the contact line, on 20 June 2018, the NGO Women’s League of Donetsk, with the support of UNHCR and UNFPA, provided an induction training to **15 community members** in the village of Kalchyk, Donetsk region on topics such as awareness-raising, reporting, and delivering support to survivors, with a particular focus on persons with specific needs. During following months, UNHCR in partnership with other organizations aim to build the capacity of local actors (e.g. providers of social services, law enforcement and community representatives) on SGBV prevention and response.

 Shelter and NFIs**Shelter and NFIs Cluster**

- In the month of June, the Shelter and NFI Cluster led by UNHCR and co-chaired by the NGO People in Need (PiN), held two subnational meetings, one in Sloviansk and one in Severodonetsk. The meetings were attended international organizations and local representatives of the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs (MinToT).
- The bulk of shelter damages during the first six months of the year are in Donetsk NGCA (66% of the total). The other regions represent 17% (Donetsk GCA), 11% GCA Luhansk and 6% (NGCA Luhansk) of the total.
- The Shelter Cluster met the Donetsk oblast's Department of Civil Protection, to discuss the Oblast's intention to establish an information center tasked to collect data related to the conflict. The meeting, facilitated by ACTED and REACH – two NGOs that, as of 2017, are working at building the local authorities' capacity to manage emergencies. The meeting was attended by MinToT.

**Shelter and NFI Achievements, Impact, and Identified Needs**

- In Luhansk, UNHCR carried out a [damage assessment of 22 schools/preschools](#) affected by hostilities in the region.
- Also in Luhansk, UNHCR started coordination with a construction company and local administrations to start damage assessment and repair works simultaneously in four areas. Achievements of UNHCR in June in this oblast include: delivery of construction materials to an extremely vulnerable person in Luhansk city; provision of various construction materials to repair seven houses; provision of [40 acute emergency kits](#) delivered to [40 families](#) in response to recent shelling in the Luhansk; and repair of [13 homes \(medium repairs\)](#).
- In both Donetsk and Luhansk, damage assessment of the first [54 houses \(out of a planned 300 houses\)](#) started in June. UNHCR's shelter programme also foresees distribution of construction materials to repair some [700 houses](#) whose owners have the capacity to rehabilitate their own homes. Distribution of construction materials to some beneficiaries already started. In Donetsk, after the successful repair of [200 houses](#) on 31 March 2018, UNHCR is currently repairing an additional [110 damaged houses](#) in areas close to the contact line but considered secure enough to reside. The repair works involve medium and heavy repairs.
- In Luhansk UNHCR delivered hygiene kits provided by UNICEF to [3,268 persons](#) from the most vulnerable population groups in 14 districts.

 Durable Solutions

- On 20 to 23 June, UNHCR conducted a second Area Based Initiative mission to Marinskyi Raion to identify the potential of local businesses, including those located in the villages with restricted access. UNHCR held 14 meetings with local agricultural entrepreneurs in order to assess their currently unmet needs and consider the possibility of providing assistance to increase their capacity.

- During the reporting period, a refugee was resettled to [New Zealand](#) (emergency resettlement case with family links). This resettlement involved close cooperation between UNHCR Kyiv and HQ, as well as the IOM office in Ukraine.

## Working in partnership

The humanitarian response to displacement in Ukraine is a coordinated effort by the Government, international organizations, national and international NGOs. In providing support to persons of concern, UNHCR works closely with the Government of Ukraine. In the case of IDPs, on 10 October 2016, UNHCR signed a Letter of Understanding with the [Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons](#). UNHCR works together with [11 NGO partners](#). UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and Shelter/Non-food Item (NFI), Cluster, the latter being co-chaired together with [People in Need](#).

## Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical financial support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and un-earmarked funds.

### EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS TO UKRAINE | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some [US\\$ 8.2 million](#).

[United States of America 2.2 million](#) | [European Union 2.1 million](#) | [Sweden 1.3 million](#) | [Japan 0.7 million](#) | [Canada 0.6 million](#) | [Russian Federation 0.25 million](#) | [Private donors](#)

### BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation, or to the region or sub-region.

[United States of America 28.7 million](#) | [Private donors Australia 6.2 million](#)

### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Major donors of unearmarked contributions.

[Sweden 98.2 million](#) | [Norway 42.5 million](#) | [Netherlands 39.1 million](#) | [Private donors Spain 37.8 million](#) | [United Kingdom 31.7 million](#) | [Denmark 25.5 million](#) | [Private donors Republic of Korea 19 million](#) | [Switzerland 15.2 million](#) | [France 14 million](#) | [Italy 11.2 million](#) | [Private donors Italy 10.2 million](#)

## CONTACTS

E-mail: [ukrki@unhcr.org](mailto:ukrki@unhcr.org), Tel: +38 044 288-9710

## LINKS

UNHCR Ukraine: <http://www.unhcr.org/ua/en/> - Twitter:[www.twitter.com/UNHCRUkraine](https://www.twitter.com/UNHCRUkraine)

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