

Operational Update

December 2018

SGBV: On 5 December, UNHCR organized a forum on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the east of Ukraine in Kramatorsk, in Donetsk Oblast, to exchange the best practices on response and prevention mechanisms in the area on SGBV as well as to draft a joint plan of action on the issue. *For more information, refer to page 3.*

Winterization: During December, UNHCR implemented a winterization assistance programme to help people living along the 'contact line' cope with the harsh temperatures with support from the EU's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). *For more information, refer to page 2.*

Mine Action: On 6 December, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted a new law on Mine Action. The law # 9080-1, among others, establishes a national mine action authority which outlines the process of accreditation and licensing of mine action actors, and defines assistance for mine victims. *For more information, refer to page 2.*

KEY INDICATORS

19,010

Internally displaced (IDP) and other conflict-affected persons have received legal assistance from UNHCR partners in 2018.

3,056

Internally displaced and other conflict affected persons have been selected to receive cash through the individual protection assistance programme (IPA) in 2018.

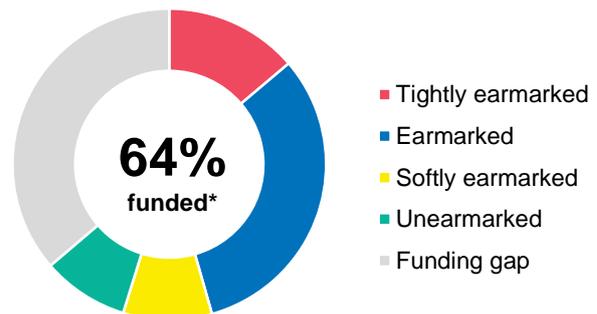
1,720

Households in eastern Ukraine have benefited from UNHCR shelter assistance in 2018.

FUNDING (AS OF 15 DECEMBER)

USD 31.1 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2018



* Including indicative allocation of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

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 2018): respective government authorities, UNHCR. EU Countries: EUROSTAT (as of November 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.



In 2017, UNHCR Ukraine constructed 24 Quick Impact Projects (QIP) in east Ukraine thanks to cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). Throughout 2018, the impacts of the QIPs in their community were visible. In this photo, a Saint Nicholas' Day celebration in the Community Center "Kvartal" in Bakhmut. The event was initiated by the IDP/local community for some 70 children of different age from vulnerable families.

Operational Highlights

In December 2018, the [OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine \(SMM\)](#) recorded approximately 33,600 ceasefire violations, slightly more than the previous month. According to the SMM, a new ceasefire negotiated on 22 December did not decrease shelling incidents. During the month, five civilian injuries were recorded. On 6 December, [the Parliament of Ukraine adopted a new law on Mine Action](#). The law # 9080-1, among others, establishes a national mine action authority, outlines the process of accreditation and licensing of mine action actors, and defines assistance for mine victims. UNHCR's Protection Cluster has been leading the advocacy for the adoption of mine action-related legislation in Ukraine and welcomed this positive development. Earlier in the year, the Protection Cluster prepared a [Protection Cluster advocacy note on Mine Action](#), which helped galvanise support and raise awareness of the importance of mine action in Ukraine. During the month of December, one person died as a result of a mine detonation in Donetsk. The reporting period was marked by the 30-day [Martial Law](#) that was introduced as a response to the Kerch Strait incident and targeted ten regions bordering Russia and Moldova's breakaway Transnistria. UNHCR is present in the targeted areas. Despite concerns from humanitarian agencies, no substantial restrictions on freedom of movement of humanitarian staff were observed. The Martial Law ended on 26 December.

In December, UNHCR and its partners conducted [580 protection monitoring visits](#) to conflict-affected populations in settlements located on the 'contact line'. In December, UNHCR's NGO legal partner, *Right to Protection* (R2P), conducted [66 protection monitoring visits](#) at five entry/exit checkpoints (EECP), where they surveyed and counselled [1,865 persons crossing the 'contact line'](#). Seventy-one percent of respondents were over the age of 60. This information can also be found on UNHCR and R2P's [Online Checkpoint Monitoring Dashboard](#). In December, UNHCR continued to support the village of *Khutir Vilnyj* (Zolote-4), which has been experiencing regular shelling. UNHCR and its partner Proliska continue to provide emergency repair kits to the affected families, which now a total of ten.

In December, [the first IDP family that had been affected by the fighting in Chyhari of May 2018](#) was provided with housing by state authorities. In May 2018, [13 houses had been burned to the ground in Chyhari](#). [Six more families](#) are going to receive apartments in the framework of the same program. Since May, UNHCR and its partners have been supporting the 150 residents displaced from Chyhari. Apart from non-food item (NFI) kits, cash-based individual protection assistance (IPA) and legal counselling, UNHCR has been advocating with regional and local authorities for the provision of apartments to the displaced families whose homes were completely destroyed.

Winterization: UNHCR's 2018/2019 Winterization Assistance targeted 3,505 of the most vulnerable displaced and other conflict-affected households in areas near the 'contact line'. UNHCR together with its partners delivered [7,455 metric tonnes \(MT\)](#) of coal to [2,485 households](#) (3 MT per household) in Donetsk region. The distribution of coal in eastern Ukraine for the 2018/2019 winter is [exclusively supported and funded by EU's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations \(ECHO\)](#). UNHCR provided 1,020 households, namely elderly at-risk and persons with disabilities living near the 'contact line', with cash grants to meet winter expenses. For more information, please read UNHCR's new [Thematic Update on Winterization 2018/2019](#).



Water emergency: On 16 December, after a whole day of heavy artillery shelling that escalated in the evening, a 900-meter water pipeline that delivers clean water from Horlivka to the settlements of Toretsk district was damaged, leaving 45,000 residents without running water and jeopardizing the central heating system in the area. The pipeline was repaired on 22 December. During seven days UNHCR NGO partner Proliska delivered [more than 1,000 litres of water to almost 100 vulnerable families](#) (including 150 persons with disabilities or reduced mobility).

Forum on Sexual and Gender-Based violence (SGBV) organized in Kramatorsk by UNHCR, 5 December 2018: On 5 December, UNHCR organized a forum on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the east of Ukraine in Kramatorsk, in Donetsk Oblast, to exchange the best practices on response and prevention mechanisms in the area on SGBV as well as to draft a joint plan of action on the issue. A number of smaller events were organised in other villages. The event was organized as part of the 16 Days of Activism campaign against GBV jointly with local authorities (Donetsk and Luhansk Regional Administrations), UNHCR's SGBV NGO partner **Slavic Heart**, UNFPA and HelpAge International.



MULTI-SECTOR RESPONSE TO REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS

Protection of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

- In December, requested by State Migration Service (SMS), UNHCR facilitated the travels of **11 staff** from the Ukrainian interregional migration services on rotational basis. As a result, **53 cases** were assessed and finalized. Reducing the backlog of pending asylum cases in Kyiv SMS office remains challenging because of scarce resources. As a response, UNHCR facilitates the processing of the backlog of cases.
- In December, UNHCR partner Caritas organized **six business trainings** for refugees whose business plans proposals for self-reliance grants had been approved.
- In December, thanks to the assistance of UNHCR partner Neeka, the Temporary Accommodation Centre (TAC) in Mukachevo (Zakarpattia region), home to some 50 refugees and asylum seekers, signed **an agreement with a family doctor** in line with the ongoing medical reform. Neeka assisted all the refugees from this TAC with filling in individual declarations with the family doctor. Zakarpattia regional migration service intends to sign similar contracts with other TACs in the region.
- In December, UNHCR partner The Tenth of April organized a training for **14 State Bodyguard Service (SBGS) staff** to raise awareness of peculiarities of access to asylum and the principle of non-refoulement. The Tenth of April also conducted a capacity-building session for **14 interpreters** involved in asylum application interpretations at the Regional Migration Service in Odesa.

1,039

legal consultations were provided to refugees and asylum seekers in Kyiv, Odesa and Zakarpattia regions in December

774

social consultations were provided to refugees and asylum seekers in Kyiv, Odesa and Zakarpattia regions in December

52

refugees and asylum seekers were assisted with employment in December

4

Peaceful Coexistence Projects completed

112

Households of the most vulnerable persons of concern received cash winterization assistance



In December, as part of UNHCR's Peaceful Coexistence Projects, it provided computers to a Ukrainian school (School #85 in Mykolaiv), which hosts large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDP) from east Ukraine to foster the integration of refugees and IDPs. It hosts large number of refugees because it is situated next to a Temporary Accommodation Center (TAC) and provides integrated education program to children of refugees and IDPs.



Livelihood interventions for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

88

refugees were counselled on opportunities to receive self-reliance grants from UNHCR and its NGO partners in December

73

refugees have started their own businesses with UNHCR self-reliance grants this year



Meet Mahmoud*, one of the 73 refugees and asylum seekers who have received a self-reliance grant to start his own business in December 2018. He fled the war in his home country in Syria to Ukraine where he feels at home. Mahmoud is one of the only two Viola players of Uzhgorod State Philharmonic Orchestra. The professional musician also has his own jazz band which performs regularly in small venues. The UNHCR grant helped Mahmoud to develop his business and provide for his family, as he bought a Viola and some musical equipment, which he used to rent for his performances which caused him to lose a part of his profit.



Assistance to Stateless Persons and Persons at Risk of Statelessness

55

stateless persons (or at risk of) were identified and provided with legal aid in Kyiv, Odesa and Zakarpattya regions in December

26

persons received passports in December thanks to UNHCR and partner's support

3

persons received duplicates of birth certificates in December thanks to UNHCR and partner's support

1

person obtained their birth certificates for the first time in December thanks to UNHCR and partner's support



Meet Vadym*, a Roma who was born in 1974 in the village of Mukuzani in Georgia. In 1991 his family fled Georgia to Ukraine to escape the ethnic persecution. However, because he was under age at the time of his flight, he was unable to receive a passport before fleeing. Vadym has been trying to apply for Ukrainian citizenship for over 20 years. However, he never managed to complete the process because of his lack of knowledge of legal procedures. Because of his lack of papers he had been arrested and had to pay various fines. Finally, with the legal assistance provided by UNHCR's NGO partner "The Tenth of April", Vadym received his first Ukrainian passport. This means that Vadym will now be able to travel and visit his brothers and sisters for the first time since 1991.



PROTECTION TO INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND OTHER CONFLICT AFFECTED PERSONS

Protection Cluster

On 12 December, the Protection Cluster delivered a training on accountability to affected populations (AAP) for local authorities in Kramatorsk, Donetsk Oblast Government Controlled Area (GCA). About 30 representatives of the Civil Protection departments at rayon and regional levels, heads of settlements and humanitarian organizations participated in the event.

On 20 December, the Protection Cluster delivered a training session on protection and accountability to affected populations (AAP) for local authorities in Sievierodonetsk. The training was aimed at building the capacity of local authorities in emergency response. Twenty-five representatives of Civil Protection departments at rayon and regional levels, village councils and humanitarian organizations participated in the event. Local authorities expressed interest in learning more about accountability measures and feedback mechanisms established by humanitarian actors. In 2019, the Protection Cluster will place particular attention on this issue.

Legal Assistance and Protection Counselling

1,150

internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons received legal assistance from UNHCR and its partners in December

3,420

persons benefiting from individual protection counselling in December

84

Group consultations on protection-related issues were provided to people in eastern Ukraine in December



Maria* was displaced from Pervomaisk, Lugansk region, to the village of Novooleksandrivka, where she lived in a half-ruined house with no facilities. Apart from the lack of services caused by highly-restricted access to the village situated on the 'contact line', the elderly woman also suffered from lack of medical care which aggravated her health problems. In 2018, thanks to UNHCR's

legal support, the woman started receiving her pension which had been suspended. In December, UNHCR in cooperation with ICRC, Luhansk regional and Popasna district authorities facilitated Maria's voluntary relocation to Popasna town, where she was taken to hospital and was provided with a UNHCR NFI kit. After medical examinations and treatment, the woman has been admitted to a pension house, where she will benefit from adequate living conditions and access to appropriate daily care.



Social Accompaniment

In December, UNHCR NGO Partner Proliska provided social accompaniment to **215 persons**. Social accompaniment is provided to people who need individual support in obtaining personal documentation or access to state services, need authorization to cross check points, transportation to access state services, among others.



Roman, 62, lives in the town of Svitlodarsk, on the 'contact line'. After forty years working at the local thermal power plant, Roman developed a serious disease of the musculoskeletal system, which limited his mobility. As Roman was unable to travel to the Pension Fund in the city of Bakhmut on his own, he was unable to settle his pension payments. Therefore, he incurred an increasing debt for his unpaid utility bills. UNHCR partner Proliska accompanied Roman to the Pension Fund. By the end of 2018, Roman received his full pension debt. UNHCR also assisted Roman to pay off his debts.*

Psychosocial assistance



153

Consultations
in December

As the fifth year of conflict in the East approaches, there is an increasing need for psychological support in eastern Ukraine for the people residing along the 'contact line' as they are regularly exposed to shelling and risk of life. During the reporting period, UNHCR partner Proliska provided **153 individual psychological consultations** to help conflict-affected people deal with symptoms of psychological trauma, domestic violence, grief, depression, anxiety and psychological tension. While some beneficiaries have a positive tendency to stabilize their emotional state, others need continuous assistance.

SGBV

- In December, UNHCR together with its partners conducted **five awareness raising sessions and group consultations** on gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence for **42 representatives** of local authorities, **18 police officers**, **23 high school students**, **76 University students**, and **eight SGBV survivors** in eastern Ukraine.

Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

\$ 3,056
IPA cash
beneficiaries
selected in
2018

UNHCR continues identifying and providing vulnerable conflict-affected individuals in eastern Ukraine with IPA in the form of cash. Since the start of the programme in June 2018, **2,669 vulnerable individuals** have received cash transfers thanks to a partnership with UkrPoshta. **186 new beneficiaries** were selected during the month of December.

1,039 conflict-affected persons have been selected for IPA-in-kind assistance from UNHCR in 2018. By the end of the reporting period, **748 beneficiaries** have received assistance. This support primarily includes special equipment for people with disabilities.



Artem lives with his mother in a village near the "contact line". The 9-year-old boy has to face the risk of mines and UXO as he walks through a field which is shelled almost every day to reach school. In winter, when the field is thickly covered with snow, he stays at home and skips classes. His mother Olena* is unemployed. In 2015, their home was destroyed by a shell while Artem and his mother hid in their basement. In early 2018, shell fell so close to their home that both Artem's window and bed were destroyed. As his mother cannot afford buying a new bed, UNHCR provided this vulnerable family with individual cash assistance. Now Artem finally has a bed and an orthopedic mat. He dreams the conflict would end so he could walk freely around his village and go to school regularly.*

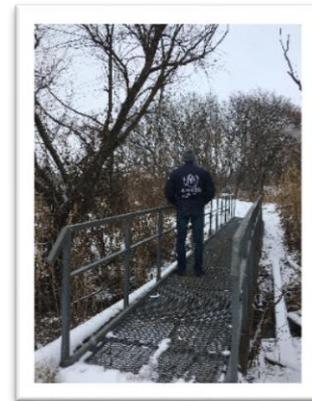
Peaceful Coexistence Projects (PCP)


65
 Projects
 in 2018

Since the beginning of 2018, UNHCR has initiated the construction to **65 peaceful coexistence projects (PCPs)** in eastern Ukraine. The majority of these projects are currently in progress in Luhansk and Donetsk regions, on both sides of the ‘contact line.’ In December, **15 PCPs were completed.**



In December UNHCR completed the repair of a new bridge to replace a dilapidated wooden bridge leading to a water well in Kodema, a village located very close to the ‘contact line’ which suffers from restricted access. Previously, the majority elderly villagers had to cross an old wooden bridge to access the well, which is the only source of drinkable water. Thanks to UNHCR’s PCP programme in collaboration with the villagers, a new metal bridge has been installed benefitting over 430 persons among them children, elderly persons and internally displaced persons. This PCP has been highly appreciated by the villagers of Kodema as they can now reach their only water source with confidence.



Community Support Initiatives (CSI)


87
 Projects
 in 2018

In 2018, UNHCR has been focusing on empowering communities of refugees and internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons in east Ukraine. CSIs include a range of activities designed to mobilize and empower communities, building on the education, skills, and capacities of affected populations in order to strengthen their abilities to organize emergency response, protect themselves and identify solutions.



One of the CSIs implemented by UNHCR in December was a Paralympic sport session for school children in Dnipro organised together with an NGO “Rivni Mozhlyvosti” (“Equal Opportunities”). Founded by an IDP from Donetsk, this NGO promotes non-discrimination and inclusiveness in the local community. “Rivni Mozhlyvosti” is going to organise more similar events in other schools and community centres for children from IDP families, including children with disabilities.



SHELTER/NON-FOOD ITEMS AND HOUSING

Shelter and NFI Achievements, Impact, and Identified Needs

- During the month of December, UNHCR completed repairs of **280 households** of vulnerable families in eastern 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, UNHCR has signed a Letter of Understanding with the [Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons](#). UNHCR works together with [15 NGO partners](#). UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and Shelter/Non-food Items (NFI), Cluster, the latter being co-chaired together with [People in Need](#). UNHCR also leads the logistics working group that is mainly responsible for humanitarian convoys to eastern Ukraine.

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.

The indicative level of funding for the operation is **US \$18 million**. This figure is based on contributions earmarked to Ukraine, the indicative allocation of flexible funds, and adjustments.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS TO UKRAINE | USD

United States of America \$5.9 million | European Union \$2.1 million | Sweden \$1.3 million | CERF \$0.8 million | Japan \$0.7 million | Canada \$0.6 million | Russian Federation \$0.2 million | Estonia \$0.2 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 \$55 million | Private donors Australia \$9.7 million | Private donors Rep. of Korea \$2 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Sweden \$98.2 million | Private donors Spain \$58.7 million | United Kingdom \$45.3 million | Norway \$42.5 million | Netherlands \$39.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea \$28.5 million | Japan \$26.5 million | Denmark \$25.5 million | Private donors Japan \$16.1 million | Switzerland \$15.8 million | Private donors Italy \$15.1 million | France \$14 million | Germany \$13.7 million | Private donors Sweden \$12.2 million | Italy \$11.2 million

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LINKS

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Please note that this report attempts to highlight the main activities implemented by UNHCR and its NGO partners within the selected reporting period. Therefore, please note that it is by no means exhaustive. For additional details on our work, do not hesitate to check www.unhcr.org/ua or, to contact us directly ukrkom@unhcr.org

**Please note that the names of the persons that appear in this report have been changed for protection reasons.*