

HIGHLIGHTS (3 hours ago)

- Ceasefire recommitment made yet again, but millions of people in eastern Ukraine live a different reality
- More than 1,000 civilians killed or injured by landmines and explosive remnants of war since 2014
- Humanitarian actors reach over 1.3 million with aid in 2018, but more needs to be done
- Ukraine Humanitarian Fund - an effective and agile response by all, for all



Credit: Olga Samoilova

KEY FIGURES

5.2M

People affected

3.5M

People in Need

2.3M

People targeted to reach

FUNDING (2019)

\$161.7M

Requirements

\$16.5M

Funding



FTS: <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/662/summary>

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FEATURE (2 hours ago)

Ceasefire recommitment made yet again, but millions of people in eastern Ukraine live a different reality

Localized clashes near the 'contact line', which stretches to some 427 kilometres across eastern Ukraine, have long become the new normal. Attempts to hold a truce are made year after year but the reality for thousands of families on both sides of the 'contact line' is different. 'I pray for peace day and night. Please, get us peace,' says Katerina, at her 70s, wiping her tears. She is one of millions in the east, whose hope is still alive. Hope for a peaceful life.

The 8 March ceasefire recommitment by the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG) could have been the moment to realise the wishes of millions of people like Katerina. However, this attempt at peace was also short-lived while negotiations for truce ahead of the Easter holidays– did not result in a lull in hostilities.

Clashes in areas along the 'contact line' along with landmines and explosive ordnances continue to kill and maim civilians. Four civilian deaths and injuries to 19 more were registered by UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) from 1 March to 24 April. Damages to houses, water and sanitation facilities and schools, as well as an insecure environment that prevents people from freely moving within communities continues to affect millions of innocent civilians. This is the reality on the ground.

Total civilian casualties in 2019

 **7** killed
 **32** injured

Civilian casualties 1 March- 24 April 2019

 **4** killed
 **19** injured

FEATURE (2 hours ago)

More than 1,000 civilians killed or injured by landmines and explosive remnants of war since 2014

April 4 marked International Mine Awareness Day. While mine awareness was a notion once distant to countries like Ukraine, five years of conflict in the East have littered thousands of hectares of lands with landmines and other unexploded ordnances. Raising awareness of the risks these mines pose to millions of people, has today become a life-saving priority.

 Over 1,000 killed and injured by landmines and ERWs since 2014

Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) have already killed over 1,000 men, women and children since 2014, when the conflict first erupted. Sadly, the numbers continue to increase. In 2018, over 40 per cent of casualties among civilians were caused by landmines and other explosive devices. Children are the most at risk - mine-related incidents remained the leading cause of death and injury for children in 2018. Landmines and ERW pose risk to people and curtail socio-economic development in affected areas even long after the conflicts end. In eastern Ukraine, it is still difficult to identify the extent of mine contamination, as vast areas of lands in both GCA and NGCA have not been surveyed yet.

"Large stretches of areas on both sides of the "contact line" are still contaminated by landmines, which prevent safe access of civilians to farmlands, hospitals, schools and other essential services," [said](#) Ms. Lubrani, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) in Ukraine, following the opening of the awareness raising campaign in Kyiv. This event, as well as two similar campaigns organised in the eastern cities of Mariupol and Sievierodonetsk, brought together hundreds of locals, Government authorities, donors and international mine actors for a common cause - to remind everyone of the risk that landmines pose and to call for greater protection of civilians.

Through humanitarian projects in 2018, some 55,000 people, almost 40 per cent of them children, have been provided mine-risk education. But today, there are 220,000 children, who live, play and go to school in areas contaminated by mines and other explosives. A new amendment to mine action law was passed by the Government of Ukraine in response to the advocacy efforts from the international community to allow continued and direct donor assistance to mine action operations.

Despite these positive steps, what is more critical is that these deadly hazards continue to be laid. "Using landmines, especially in populated areas and close to critical civilian infrastructure, must be stopped immediately," stressed the HC.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE (2 hours ago)

Humanitarian actors reach over 1.3 million with aid in 2018, but more needs to be done

'I don't know what we would do at all, if there was no aid,' said Sergii, 55, from a village close to the 'contact line'. Humanitarian actors in eastern Ukraine continue to make a real difference in the lives of many families like Sergii's, bringing hope, dignity and protection.

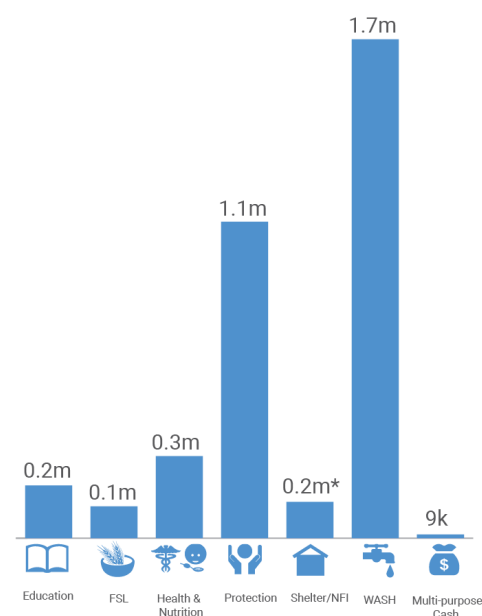
In 2018, thanks to the support of donors, over 1.3 million people on both sides of the 'contact line' have received some form of assistance and protection – according to the [analysis](#) of an annual 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) monitoring report. This number entails assistance covering critical needs, from restoring people's access to water, education, healthcare, to ensuring a proper roof over one's head, winterization and psychological support and most importantly, protection.

However, more could have been done, if humanitarian actors had less restricted, safe access as well as more funds. Less than 40 per cent funds received in 2018 for humanitarian operations left the needs of many families, like Sergii's, unattended.

One of humanitarians' top priorities is therefore, to reduce this funding gap, so that more people, having already lived for five years in this crisis, receive aid and protection. However, over three months into 2019, the US\$162 million HRP remains only six per cent funded.

In February and March 2019, the HC travelled to Brussels, Paris and Geneva, with a mission to convey the message of people in the East – the message of hope, for a dignified life, hope for a sustained peace. The mission engaged with various states and donors. The HC called for strengthened funding support for the 2019 HRP, to urgently reach more people with aid.

People reached by sector in 2018



FEATURE (2 hours ago)

Ukraine Humanitarian Fund - an effective and agile response by all, for all

In a changing and fluid context of eastern Ukraine, an agile response and the ability to steer resources directly to the most critical parts of the operation, when and where they are needed the most, is of utmost importance. The humanitarian actors on the ground continue to explore different channels and innovative processes, to mobilise more funds and reach more people, in the most effective way. In March, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG/ERC), Mark Lowcock, launched the [Ukraine Humanitarian Fund](#) (UHF) - to support a coordinated humanitarian action in line with the 2019 HRP and to address the most critical needs.

The UHF, which is expected to be fully operational by June 2019, will ensure more efficient and streamlined humanitarian response by targeting needs, which otherwise would go unattended and by strengthening access to people in need, particularly along the 'contact line' and in areas beyond the Government's control. The Fund, one of the 18 across the world, will provide an optimal solution for donors, who are otherwise unable to directly fund humanitarian operations due to limited access to implementing partners or lack of accountability mechanisms on the ground. Even individual donors can support the Fund:

https://act.unfoundation.org/onlineactions/D47Mjcz_6ECF1PLcCnHllw2

Under the leadership of the HC, UHF funding is directly available to a wide range of relief partners – including national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN Agencies and Red Cross/Red Crescent Organizations. This ensures that funding is available and prioritized at the local level by those closest to the people in need.

So far, several donors have expressed strong support for the fund with pledges and commitments above US\$3 million. It is critical for others to join in and support the Fund.

How to donate to UHF



For more information about humanitarian operations in the Ukraine please contact OCHA:
sequi@un.org
or bochorishvili@un.org



Donors are urged to contribute to the UHF and are invited to contact:

ocha.donor.relations@un.org



Individuals can also support the UHF by donating via

www.unocha.org/uhf

BACKGROUND (72 days ago)

Humanitarian Context

As the crisis in eastern Ukraine is well into its fifth year, civilians continue to bear its heaviest brunt. Fear of shelling, violent clashes, or treading on one of the many landmines or unexploded remnants of war (eastern Ukraine has been branded one of the world's most mine-contaminated areas) are the daily reality for millions of people living on both sides of the over 420-km-long "contact-line", which is about the length of the French-German border. Since the start of the conflict, more than 3,300 civilian men, women and children have been killed and another 9,000 injured.

The crisis in eastern Ukraine has become protracted. The long-term consequences are serious with daily hostilities damaging critical infrastructure and often disrupting essential services, such as water supply and sanitation facilities. Every month, more than 1.1 million civilian crossings were recorded at the five checkpoints in 2018, where people often have to endure long waiting hours in the bitter cold in winter and scorching heat in summer to maintain family links and access basic services. This is especially arduous for the elderly, who make up 30 per cent of all people in need, the highest proportion in the world. People are increasingly affected by

mental health issues having lived in fear for far too long, and lacking self-esteem after losing their job. The economic situation of the Donbas region, once the economic heartland of Ukraine, is dire which has seriously impacted household wellbeing and living standards.

Despite enormous challenges, the UN and its humanitarian partners continue to deliver lifesaving assistance to millions of people across the country every month. Over the course of 2018, more than 1.3 people benefited from some form of humanitarian assistance and protection services. Since 2014, over US\$460 million has been mobilised through humanitarian response plans.

The humanitarian response is coordinated within six clusters: Shelter and Non-Food Items; Protection; Health and Nutrition; Education; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; and Food Security and Livelihoods. Cluster partners conduct joint assessments, coordinate the response and monitor humanitarian assistance and programming. Relief and early recovery supplies, including food and non-food items, shelter materials, medicine, psychosocial support and hygienic and education kits are distributed. Access to safe drinking water through in-kind as well as cash assistance is provided. Other urgent humanitarian assistance includes provision of farming inputs, mine clearance and mine-risk education as well as other protection services.



Eastern Ukraine with the 427-km long "contact line" and five checkpoints

MEDIA (2 hours ago)



View this video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VzrnHuEA0vQ>

What it takes to live in eastern Ukraine? Spend two minutes with Sergii and his family who have been living in fear of shelling and landmines for almost five years.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.unocha.org/ukraine>

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/ukraine>

<https://reliefweb.int/country/ukr>

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