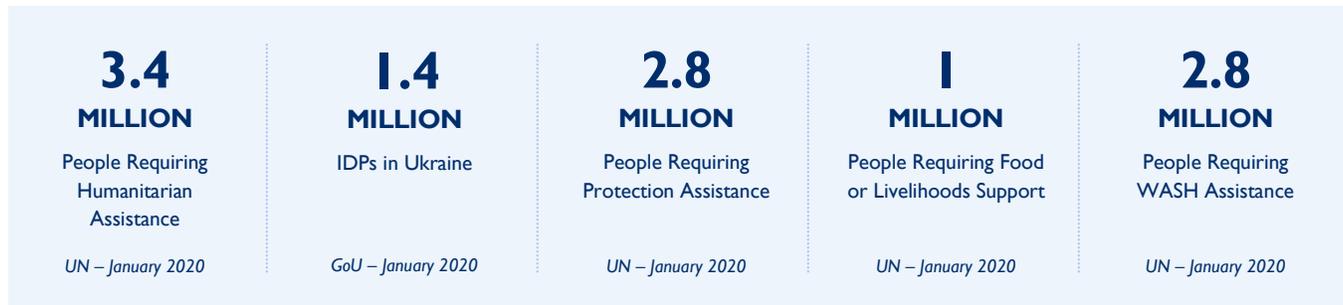


# Ukraine – Complex Emergency

September 30, 2020

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Ceasefire measures implemented in July have led to a more than 50 percent drop in security incidents and a decline in civilian casualties.
- Known COVID-19 cases rapidly increased in September at the same time that checkpoint restrictions between GCAs and NGCAs negatively affected civilian access to health care.
- USG implementing partners have expanded health, protection, and WASH activities in recent months to address humanitarian needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the Ukraine Response in FY 2020	USAID/BHA <sup>1,2</sup>	\$24,721,007
	State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$35,167,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$59,888,007<sup>4</sup></b>

*For breakdown by Agency and partners, see funding chart on page 6*

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>2</sup> Total USAID/BHA funding includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

<sup>4</sup> This includes approximately \$15,530,000 in total funding through USAID/BHA and State/PRM for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) preparedness and response activities, of which \$15,150,000 is supplemental funding and \$380,000 is non-supplemental funding.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Number of Civilian Casualties Decreases Following Ceasefire

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) recorded a 95 percent decrease in ceasefire violations in eastern Ukraine between July and August following an agreement among the Trilateral Contact Group—including the OSCE and the governments of the Russian Federation and Ukraine—on July 27 to strengthen the ongoing ceasefire by banning weapons and proposing disciplinary measures for ceasefire violations. The number of monthly civilian casualties decreased from 13 to five between July and August, with no reported fatalities in August or September, according to the UN. Moreover, no damages to civilian houses were recorded in August or September, marking the first months without reported damages since the Shelter Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian shelter activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—began monitoring damage to housing along the contact line in 2017.

### Health Actors Record Significant Increase in COVID-19 Cases in Ukraine

The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases continues to increase in Ukraine, threatening to reverse recent improvements in health care, economic security, education, gender-based violence (GBV) reduction, and mental health conditions, a USAID/BHA partner reports. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) had reported more than 200,000 COVID-19 cases in Ukraine as of September 30, with more than 4,065 related deaths and an average daily new case count of more than 4,000. The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases also doubled approximately every five weeks across Ukraine in August and September with cases rising the most sharply in conflict-affected areas; the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in government-controlled areas (GCAs) of Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts* nearly tripled from 1,733 cases in August to 4,526 cases in late September, with a similar spike occurring in non-governmental controlled areas (NGCAs), according to the UN. Despite efforts to reimpose restrictions, relief actors remained concerned about the ability of the Government of Ukraine (GoU) and health care system to respond, especially in Donetsk and Luhansk, where up to 50 percent of qualified health care workers have fled conflict-affected areas since 2014, and where damaged frontline hospitals and health care facilities remain only partially operational.

### Civilian Movement in Eastern Ukraine Remains Restricted

In August, an estimated 84,000 people passed through Luhansk's Stanytsia Luhanska and Donetsk's Novotroitske border crossings, the two official entry-exit checkpoints (EECP) in eastern Ukraine, according to UN. While August crossings were more than double the 38,000 crossings recorded in July, civilian crossings in August represented only 7 percent of the approximately 1.3 million crossings recorded in August 2019, as movements remain impeded by COVID-19-related restrictions, the UN reports. Although the GoU began gradually easing restrictions in mid-June, crossing remains difficult for individuals lacking approved humanitarian exemptions, and requires extensive preparation, as well as costly self-isolation or 14-day quarantine. The restricted and unpredictable EECP process has hindered the ability of vulnerable populations to return to areas of origin, access health care and other services, receive pension benefits, and reunite with family members. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and relief actors continue to advocate for improved services to support the safety and rights of individuals using EECPs. According to the UN, contact line crossings dropped from nearly 1.2 million crossings in September 2019 to 86,000 in September 2020—an approximately 93 percent reduction.

The more than 90 percent decrease in EECP crossings has particularly affected older people in eastern

Ukraine, limiting access to vital services, family visits, and pension withdrawals. Older individuals represent more than 30 percent of the population in need in eastern Ukraine, the highest proportion of older people in a conflict-affected area globally, according to the UN. Although Oschadbank—the Ukrainian state bank responsible for pension payments—has extended card expiration dates for pensioners due to the COVID-19-related movement restrictions, more than 300,000 older individuals remain unable to withdraw the pensions they rely on for income in GCAs, the UN reports. As a result, older people have adopted negative coping strategies such as borrowing money, pursuing costly legal aid to access their pensions, or utilizing savings, according to the UN. In addition, authorities in the Luhansk NGCA imposed new rules in late September restricting individuals residing in the area to one crossing per month, further hindering access to pensions and other services. However, individuals with permanent residency in the Luhansk GCA can continue to cross the line of contact if they qualify for a humanitarian need exemption.

### **First Humanitarian Convoy Reaches Luhansk Since March**

On September 10, a humanitarian convoy transporting nearly 90 metric tons of humanitarian aid reached the Luhansk NGCA via the Donetsk NGCA for the first time since the start of the pandemic, according to UNHCR. De-facto authorities in Luhansk NGCA previously permitted limited humanitarian access through the Stanytsia Luhanska EECP in July; however, bridge weight limitations prevented the direct transport of relief commodities through the crossing, requiring humanitarian actors to manually transfer assistance across and restricting the type and quantity of emergency assistance. The new crossing process will enable a larger volume of humanitarian cargo—including heavy materials such as construction supplies—to reach vulnerable populations in Luhansk NGCA.

### **Wildfires Continue to Displace Hundreds in Luhansk**

Luhansk GCA experienced a series of destructive wildfires from June to September near the line of contact. A wildfire in early September burned nearly 3,000 acres and quickly spread to more than a dozen settlements located along the line of contact; in addition, the fire damaged numerous houses and injured several firefighters and soldiers, including at least one person who was injured when unexploded ordnance detonated in the heavily mined area, according to the UN. As of September 30, additional wildfires in Luhansk GCA had impacted more than 49,000 acres, causing at least 11 deaths, injuring 19 people, damaging or destroying 600 houses in 31 settlements, and forcing the evacuation of more than 1,000 people. The wildfire also damaged administrative structures at the Stanytsia Luhanska EECP, forcing the temporary closure of the crossing, according to the UN. The September wildfires, the third outbreak of the year, are the worst on record and follow a large-scale blaze that displaced hundreds of people in Luhansk and burned more than 12,000 acres across the GCA in July.

## KEY FIGURES



**10,600**

People received USG-supported protection services as of March 2020



**6**

Number of USG implementing partners supporting programming to provide health care services



**\$6.9 Million**

In dedicated USG support for essential WASH programming

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### PROTECTION

To address protection concerns in Ukraine, USAID/BHA supports eight NGOs to implement protection interventions for vulnerable populations, including those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. With nearly \$4.7 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA partners are providing protection and psychosocial support (PSS) services to children, people with disabilities, and older people; operating mobile protection teams to reach remote communities; and conducting mine risk education activities to minimize protection risks. As part of COVID-19 response efforts, USAID/BHA partners are also offering PSS to individuals particularly vulnerable to the impacts of the pandemic, including children, GBV survivors, persons with disabilities, and older people. In addition, State/PRM partners—including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNHCR, and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)—are providing protection and legal services to vulnerable individuals, such as persons stranded along the contact line. With State/PRM and other donor support, UNHCR provided legal assistance to approximately 10,600 conflict-affected individuals and PSS services to nearly 1,400 people from January to September. UNHCR also offers transportation and social accompaniment support to people who need assistance crossing checkpoints, such as persons with disabilities, as well as cash assistance to mitigate protection risks.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support programming in eastern Ukraine to meet the health needs of conflict-affected populations and respond to COVID-19. Often integrated with water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) operations, USAID/BHA is supporting programs to bolster COVID-19 response capacity in conflict-affected areas, including through risk education and infection control and prevention activities, and providing logistical and training support to health care facilities. Additionally, State/PRM partners ICRC and UNHCR are distributing essential medical supplies and improving the capacity of health care centers to detect, prevent, and control COVID-19 transmission in Donetsk and Luhansk. Meanwhile, State/PRM partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is supporting isolation and treatment centers and conducting health and hygiene interventions to minimize infection risks among vulnerable communities.

### WASH

USAID/BHA supports six NGO and UN partners to address WASH needs—particularly amid the COVID-19 pandemic—by conducting WASH awareness and hygiene promotion activities and distributing essential hygiene commodities to vulnerable communities and social institutions. Partners are also installing water points and handwashing stations in targeted public venues. Meanwhile, State/PRM partner IOM is meeting the

hygiene needs of households with young children, distributing diapers to more than 2,250 people in Donetsk NGCA to date, while partner ICRC is expanding hospital capacity through water supply and proper waste management activities.



**5**

Number of USG implementing partners providing multipurpose cash assistance

## **MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE**

Working through five NGOs and IOM, USAID/BHA and State/PRM support the provision of multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help conflict-affected individuals in eastern Ukraine meet basic needs; the MPCA targets vulnerable individuals residing along the contact line, most of whom experience multiple overlapping needs across different sectors and whose income falls below 45 percent of the poverty line. MPCA operations aim to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 and address increased vulnerabilities related to winter weather when heating costs rise and food availability declines. Additionally, State/PRM partner IOM is providing cash grants to support small businesses and generate livelihood opportunities, including among internally displaced persons (IDPs) affected by COVID-19-related economic shocks. From May to June, IOM reached nearly 170 people in Donetsk and Luhansk GCAs with cash microgrants to support small businesses.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Since March 2014, the conflict in eastern Ukraine has caused large-scale population displacement and widespread damage to infrastructure. The heaviest fighting has occurred in the easternmost *oblasts* bordering Russia, particularly Donetsk and Luhansk; however, the large influx of IDPs has also affected neighboring oblasts.
- The GoU estimated that the conflict had caused the internal displacement of approximately 1.4 million people as of January 2020. In addition, the UN estimates that 3.4 million conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine require humanitarian assistance in 2020.
- On November 15, 2019, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires William Taylor renewed the disaster declaration for Ukraine due to the widespread displacement and continued humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations in eastern Ukraine.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2020<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>FUNDING IN UKRAINE FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
<b>Non-Food Assistance</b>			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture and Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cherkasy, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Luhansk, Zhytomyr	\$8,904,232
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIM	Countrywide	\$400,000
UNICEF	HCIM, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
		Program Support Costs	\$136,007
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$10,440,239</b>
<b>Food Assistance</b>			
IPs	Cash-Based Transfers for Food, Local Procurement, Complementary Services	Donetsk, Luhansk	\$3,903,768
<b>TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$3,903,768</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$14,344,007</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
ICRC	Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$17,300,000
UNHCR	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
IOM	Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNICEF	Protection	Donetsk, Luhansk	\$837,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$29,637,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN UKRAINE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$43,981,007</b>

FUNDING IN UKRAINE FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE <sup>2</sup>			
USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
IPs	Health, Protection, WASH	Donestk, Luhansk	\$5,131,369
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$568,631
UNICEF	Health, WASH	Countrywide	\$4,300,000
<b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>			<b>\$10,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$10,000,000</b>
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
IOM	Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$2,150,000
UNICEF	Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$380,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$5,530,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS &amp; RESPONSE IN UKRAINE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$15,530,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$24,344,007</b>
<b>TOTAL State/PRM FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$35,167,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2020</b>			<b>\$59,511,007</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Figures represent supplemental and non-supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities as of September 30, 2020.

## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)