

Ukraine – Complex Emergency

March 16, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

3.4 MILLION Estimated People Requiring Humanitarian Assistance <i>UN – November 2020</i>	343,000 Estimated IDPs in Need in Ukraine <i>UN – November 2020</i>	1.9 MILLION People Targeted for Humanitarian Assistance <i>UN – November 2020</i>	1.3 MILLION People Targeted for Health Interventions <i>UN – November 2020</i>	300,000 People Prevented from Accessing Their Pensions <i>UN – September 2020</i>
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- The 2021 HNO identifies an increase in the severity of humanitarian needs among conflict-affected populations in eastern Ukraine, primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A humanitarian convoy transported more than 130 tons of relief supplies to Luhansk NGCA through the newly opened Shchastia EECF on March 1. Despite the opening of the EECF for transport purposes, populations continue to experience difficulties crossing the line of contact, hindering access to pensions and essential services.
- USAID/BHA has provided nearly \$5.3 million in FY 2021 funding to date, bringing total USG humanitarian assistance since FY 2020 to nearly \$65 million.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Ukraine Response in FYs 2020–2021

USAID/BHA ^{1,2}	\$29,604,007
State/PRM ³	\$35,167,000

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

Total \$64,771,007⁴

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

² 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.

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

⁴ This includes \$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

Severity of Needs Increase Among Conflict-Affected Populations

The UN officially released the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan for Ukraine, as well as the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), on February 15. The HNO identifies 3.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including nearly 1.7 million people in government-controlled areas (GCAs) and 1.7 million people in non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs) of eastern Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts*. While the overall number of people in need remains similar to 2020, the severity of needs has significantly increased, primarily due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The HNO identifies 1.8 million people facing severe levels of need, indicating inadequate living conditions; an inability to meet basic needs, leading to adoption of negative coping mechanisms; reduced access to basic services; and decreased physical and mental well-being. Additionally, 1.5 million people face extreme levels of need, defined by a collapse of living standards, with basic survival dependent on humanitarian assistance; use of extreme negative coping strategies; and heightened mortality. The HNO also identifies 133,000 people with catastrophic levels of need, indicating a total collapse of living standards, near or complete exhaustion of coping mechanisms, and widespread mortality. Individuals older than 65 years of age represent nearly 40 percent of conflict-affected people in need of humanitarian assistance in Ukraine, the UN reports.

First Aid Convoy Transports Relief Items to Luhansk via Shchastia EECP

On March 1, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) Osnat Lubrani issued a statement commending the opening of the new Shchastia entry-exit crossing point (EECP) in Luhansk NGCA for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. The same day, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) delivered more than 130 tons of humanitarian cargo—including health, hygiene, and shelter materials—for people in need in Luhansk NGCA through the EECP. RC/HC Lubrani also urged authorities to fully reopen Novotroitske EECP in Donetsk, which is only partially operational and remained closed to humanitarian convoys as of mid-March due to security reasons; no EECPs in Donetsk are currently open for the passage of humanitarian convoys to NGCAs, the UN reports. The RC/HC underscored that the blockage of aid deliveries is a violation of international humanitarian law and puts the lives and dignity of people in need at risk.

Line of Contact Crossings Remain Low in February Amid Ongoing Issues

In February, approximately 40,000 people crossed the line of contact in eastern Ukraine, representing only 4 percent of the nearly 990,000 crossings recorded in February 2020, according to the UN. While two EECPs—Novotroitske and Luhansk's Stanytsia Luhanska—remain open for civilian crossings, Stanytsia Luhanska continues to account for nearly 97 percent of all crossings as Novotroitske is only open to civilians two days per week. Negotiations continue regarding opening the two new EECPs in Luhansk—Shchastia and Zolote—for civilian crossings, the UN reports. Before the majority of EECPs were closed in March 2020, approximately 1.2 million people crossed the contact line per month; approximately 60 percent of individuals crossing were older people, according to the UN.

The inability of some populations to cross the line of contact has hindered access to critical services and pensions. Prior to the COVID-19-related EECP closures, an estimated 90 percent of people crossing were individuals from NGCAs seeking to access documents, pensions, and services in GCAs, the UN reports. Nearly 60 percent of households in NGCAs relied on pensions as the primary source of income prior to the pandemic, and to receive Government of Ukraine (GoU) pensions, NGCA residents must register as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and cross the line of contact every 60 days to

maintain IDP status. The UN estimated that 500,000 people living in NGCAs, including pensioners, experienced difficulties or were unable to access their pensions or withdraw cash in GCAs from March to September 2020. As such, a non-governmental organization (NGO) reports a nearly 150 percent increase in appeals for support crossing the contact line in 2020 compared to 2019. For the first time since 2016, the majority of calls to the NGO's hotline during 2020 were individuals seeking advice on how to cross the contact line, including questions about EECP opening dates, procedures to obtain permission to cross, and EECP regulations and restrictions. The international humanitarian community continues to advocate for the reopening of currently closed EECPs to allow conflict-affected populations to access essential services and pensions.

Security Incidents Increase and Affect WASH Infrastructure in January

Hostilities have steadily increased in eastern Ukraine in recent months, with approximately 340 security incidents recorded in September, nearly 370 incidents in October, 420 incidents in November, more than 580 incidents in December, and nearly 500 incidents—resulting in two injured civilians—in January, the UN reports. The steady increase in clashes follows an initial reduction in fighting due to the July 2020 recommitment to the ceasefire agreement negotiated by members of the Trilateral Contact Group, comprising the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the governments of the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

The conflict continues to affect water supply systems in eastern Ukraine, with the UN recording two events that damaged water facilities in January. In 2020, the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—recorded more than 60 conflict incidents affecting WASH infrastructure or services on both sides of the line of contact, risking safe drinking water provision for more than 5 million people in eastern Ukraine. Although incidents affecting WASH sites significantly declined after the recommitment to the ceasefire, with only 13 incidents recorded from July to December, the WASH Cluster continues to urge all conflict parties to protect civilian infrastructure amid the recent escalation of clashes.

KEY FIGURES



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Number of USG
implementing partners
providing essential
protection services

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

PROTECTION

To address protection concerns in Ukraine, USAID/BHA supports six NGOs to implement protection interventions for vulnerable populations, including those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. With nearly \$5.2 million in funding in FY 2020 and FY 2021, USAID/BHA partners are providing protection and psychosocial support (PSS) services to children, persons 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, gender-based violence survivors, persons with disabilities, and older people. One USAID/BHA partner reached 1,200 older persons in Donetsk and Luhansk GCAs with PSS services in December.

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 line of contact. UNHCR provides legal and PSS services to conflict-affected populations, and has developed a protection monitoring tool to improve data collection and analysis regarding protection conditions in Donetsk and Luhansk. 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.



\$4.5 Million

In FYs 2020–2021
dedicated USG support
for life-saving health
programming

HEALTH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support programming in eastern Ukraine to address the health needs of conflict-affected populations and respond to COVID-19. Often integrated with WASH operations, USAID/BHA is supporting programs to bolster COVID-19 response capacity in conflict-affected areas, including through risk education and infection prevention and control (IPC) activities, as well as providing logistical and training support to health care facilities. Additionally, State/PRM partners ICRC and UNHCR and three USAID/BHA partners are distributing essential medical supplies and improving the capacity of health care centers to detect, prevent, and control transmission of the virus responsible for COVID-19 in Donetsk and Luhansk. Meanwhile, State/PRM partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is supporting isolation and treatment centers, conducting health and hygiene interventions, and distributing hygiene kits to patients at medical facilities to minimize infection risks among vulnerable communities. State/PRM also supports IOM’s mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) campaign to highlight the importance of MHPSS amid the COVID-19 pandemic and promote IOM’s support hotline.



\$9.4 Million

In FYs 2020–2021
dedicated USG support
for essential WASH
programming

WASH

USAID/BHA supports five NGO and UN partners to address WASH needs—particularly critical during the COVID-19 pandemic—by conducting WASH awareness and hygiene promotion activities and distributing essential hygiene commodities to vulnerable communities and social institutions on both sides of the line of contact. Partners are also installing water points and handwashing stations in targeted public venues. Meanwhile, State/PRM partner IOM is conducting IPC activities and other WASH activities among communities along the line of contact. In December, IOM facilitated the delivery of more than 170 500-liter water tanks and five 5,000-liter tanks to improve water storage for populations in Donetsk.



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Number of USG
implementing partners
providing MPCA

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 line of contact, 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 the COVID-19 pandemic 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 IDPs affected by COVID-19-related economic shocks.

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 internally displaced approximately 1.4 million people as of October 2020. In addition, the UN estimates that 3.4 million conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine will require humanitarian assistance in 2021.
- On November 12, 2020, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Kristina A. Kvien renewed the disaster declaration for Ukraine for FY 2021 due to the widespread displacement and continued humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations in eastern Ukraine.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN UKRAINE FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY			
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Health, Protection	Donetsk, Luhansk	\$2,000,000
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$245,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$500,000
UNICEF	WASH	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
	Program Support		\$15,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$5,260,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$5,260,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2020

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN UKRAINE FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY			
USAID/BHA			

IPs	Agriculture; Cash-Based Transfers; HCIMA; Local, Regional, and International Procurement; MPCA; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Cherkasy, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Luhansk, Zhytomyr	\$12,808,000
OCHA	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$400,000
UNICEF	HCIMA, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Program Support		\$136,007
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$14,344,007
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$17,300,000
UNHCR	Logistics Support, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$6,500,000
IOM	MPCA, Health, Livelihoods, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNICEF	Protection	Donetsk, Luhansk	\$837,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$29,637,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN UKRAINE IN FY 2020			\$43,981,007

FUNDING IN UKRAINE FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE²			
USAID/BHA			
IPs	Health, Protection, WASH	Donetsk, Luhansk	\$5,131,369
OCHA	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$568,631
UNICEF	Health, WASH	Countrywide	\$4,300,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$10,000,000
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
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$5,530,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE IN UKRAINE IN FY 2020			\$15,530,000

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FYs 2020–2021	\$29,604,007
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FYs 2020–2021	\$35,167,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FYs 2020–2021	\$64,771,007

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 16, 2021.

² 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.

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)