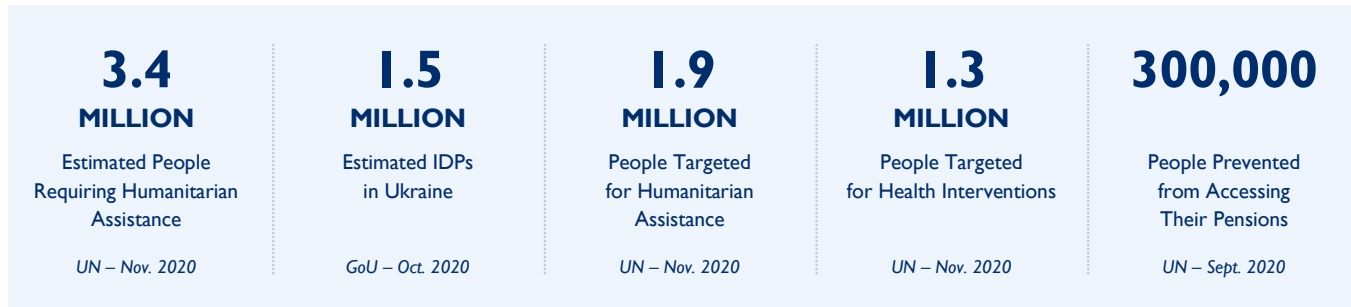


# Ukraine – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 18, 2020

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- On November 26, the UN launched the 2021 Ukraine HRP, calling for \$168 million to support conflict-affected populations in eastern Ukraine.
- Confirmed cases of COVID-19 increased in October and November, straining Ukraine’s health care system and compounding existing humanitarian challenges.
- COVID-19-related movement restrictions along the line of contact continue to impede civilian movement and humanitarian access in NGCAs.



|  |                          |                                 |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b><br>For the Ukraine Response in FY 2020 | USAID/BHA <sup>1,2</sup> | \$24,344,007                    |
|  | State/PRM <sup>3</sup>   | \$35,167,000                    |
| <b>Total</b>   |                          | <b>\$59,511,007<sup>4</sup></b> |

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

<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

### UN, GoU Launch 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan for Ukraine

On November 26, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Osnat Lubrani—in coordination with the Government of Ukraine (GoU) Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories—launched the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Ukraine, requesting \$168 million to address the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine. The HRP identifies 3.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in eastern Ukraine, and aims to reach 1.9 million of the most vulnerable individuals. The 2021 HRP notes that while the number of people in need remains similar to 2020, the severity of needs has significantly increased, primarily due to the direct and socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Priority sectors outlined in the 2021 HRP include health care, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance. Additionally, as women and girls represent more than half of the population in need, relief actors have incorporated targeted interventions to address the specific needs of women and girls in 2021. USAID/BHA continues to support these and other interventions to ensure safe and dignified living conditions among conflict-affected Ukrainians. Since the conflict began in 2014, USAID/BHA has provided more than \$88 million in food, livelihoods, protection, shelter, WASH, and winterization services to assist those most affected by conflict.

### Increasing COVID-19 Cases Strain Health Care System

Rising numbers of COVID-19 cases continue to present challenges for health care actors in Ukraine. As of December 15, health officials had recorded more than 900,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases and more than 15,700 associated deaths, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO); however, relief actors estimate the actual number of cases is likely higher due to underreporting and testing delays. Increased transmission of the virus is straining the capacity of the Ukrainian health care system, according to a November 25 analysis by the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE). The COVID-19 test positivity rate is more than 30 percent across most of Ukraine's *oblasts*, far higher than the WHO-recommended 5 percent positivity level required for national governments to accurately monitor the situation. As of December 11, self-proclaimed authorities had recorded approximately 14,100 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,300 associated deaths across non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs) in eastern Ukraine. To increase response capacity nationwide, the GoU partnered with WHO in December to analyze data on regional COVID-19 mitigation efforts, culminating in a new monitoring tool to inform data-driven containment strategies. In addition, USAID/BHA partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) plans to train 40,000 community health workers on infection prevention and control measures and provide psychosocial support (PSS) services to 35,000 children and caregivers in FY 2021.

### COVID-19 Economic Impacts Exacerbate Humanitarian Needs

A recent study conducted by the UN found that more than 9 million people may fall below the poverty line in Ukraine due in part to the COVID-19 pandemic. More than 80 percent of surveyed households reported loss of income and more than 40 percent of households reported at least one member experiencing loss of employment since the beginning of the pandemic in March, hindering the ability of households to meet basic needs. Furthermore, nearly 60 percent of households in NGCAs have adopted negative coping mechanisms, an increase from nearly 50 percent in early 2020, according to the UN. U.S. Government (USG) relief partners continue to support efforts to enhance the GoU's COVID-19 response capabilities and to promote livelihoods resilience. Working with five partners, the USG supports the provision of multipurpose cash

assistance (MPCA) to conflict-affected individuals with household incomes at least 45 percent below the poverty line in eastern Ukraine.

### **Restrictions Hinder Civilian Movement and Humanitarian Access in NGCAs**

COVID-19-related movement restrictions continue to prevent conflict-affected populations in NGCAs from accessing social services and visiting family members across the line of contact, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). From August to October, only two of the five entry-exit checkpoints (EECPs) were operational, significantly reducing the number of daily civilian border crossings. A shutdown of the only EECP in Luhansk *Oblast*, Staniya Luhanska EECP, from mid-October to mid-November further reduced the number of border crossings, with just 21,300 crossings—a 98 percent reduction compared to the 1.2 million crossings recorded in October 2019—recorded during the month of October. During November, border crossings increased only slightly to 30,000. The constraints on civilian movement have adversely affected people ages 60 years and older and those with disabilities, who comprise more than 30 percent of the population residing in conflict-affected areas. According to the UN, the ongoing border restrictions prevent approximately 300,000 older people from accessing the pensions on which they rely on for income, hindering the population from accessing health care or other social services. The inability to meet basic needs with available resources has also led to the adoption of negative coping strategies among older persons, including forgoing vital medication, which relief actors fear could become normalized behaviors the longer COVID-19-related EECP movement restrictions remain in place.

The GoU's August decision to revoke an expedited process for clearing imported COVID-19-related relief supplies has further hampered the ability of relief actors to reach populations in need, increasing the average delivery time from approximately three days to at least 60 days. Moreover, some documentation requirements are not possible to fulfill for assistance destined for NGCAs. USG partners continue to advocate for unimpeded humanitarian access in NGCAs, where many of the most vulnerable Ukrainians reside. During October, USG funding helped UN humanitarian partners deliver 120 metric tons of relief items—including building materials, medical equipment, and WASH supplies—to NGCAs in Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts*.

### **Security Violations Increase as Water Supply Remains Fragile**

A July 2020 ceasefire 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—largely held in August and September. However, the UN recorded an uptick in security incidents in October and November, including the first recorded use of heavy weapons in 2020 on October 25. The majority of the security violations in November, which injured three civilians, occurred along the 424-kilometer line of contact in Donetsk. Additionally, fighting continues to damage water infrastructure throughout conflict-affected areas, with the UN recording two incidents against water facilities during November. Security incidents also prevent the regular maintenance of aging infrastructure, which UNICEF estimates will require \$170 million over the next decade to keep water supplies operational for 4 million people in eastern Ukraine, of which \$32 million will be required for critical maintenance within one year. The USG continues to support efforts by UNICEF to rehabilitate WASH infrastructure in conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine.

## KEY FIGURES



8

Number of USG implementing partners providing essential protection services



6

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



**\$6.9 Million**

In FY 2020 USG support for essential WASH programming

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### PROTECTION

To address protection concerns in Ukraine, USAID/BHA supports eight non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to implement protection interventions for vulnerable populations, including those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. With nearly \$4.7 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA partners are providing protection and 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, gender-based violence survivors, persons with disabilities, and older people. In addition, State/PRM partners—including ICRC, UNHCR, and UNICEF—are providing protection and legal services to vulnerable individuals, such as persons stranded along the line of contact. 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 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 activities, and 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 coronavirus 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 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 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 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 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 IDPs affected by COVID-19-related economic shocks. From May to June, IOM reached nearly 170 people in Donetsk and Luhansk GCAs with cash grants 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 displaced approximately 1.5 million people as of October 2020. In addition, the UN estimates that 3.4 million conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine 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 2020 <sup>1</sup>

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER  | ACTIVITY  | LOCATION   | AMOUNT      |
|---|---|--|-------------|
| <b>FUNDING IN UKRAINE FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY</b>               |   |  |             |
| <b>USAID/BHA</b>  |   |  |             |
| Non-Food Assistance   |   |  |             |
| 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  | \$136,007           |
| <b>TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING</b>                             |  |                  | <b>\$10,440,239</b> |
| Food Assistance  |  |                  |                     |
| IPs  | Cash-Based Transfers for Food, Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP), 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  | MPCA, Health, Livelihoods, 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>

|  |  |                  |                     |
|--|--|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>USAID/BHA</b>   |  |                  |                     |
| 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> |
| <b>STATE/PRM</b>   |  |                  |                     |
| 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)