

UKRAINE - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

APRIL 30, 2020

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

3.4
million

People Requiring
Humanitarian Assistance
UN – January 2020

1.4
million

IDPs in Ukraine
GoU Ministry of Social Policy –
January 2020

1
million

Food-Insecure People in
Eastern Ukraine
UN – January 2020

480,156

Ukrainians Seeking
Asylum in Nearby
Countries
UNHCR – December 2018

9,866

Confirmed COVID-19
Cases in Ukraine
WHO – April 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- COVID-19 exacerbates vulnerabilities and hampers humanitarian operations in eastern Ukraine as USG partners respond to the outbreak
- Contact line crossings decrease nearly 40 percent due to mid-March EECP closures
- Armed clashes result in nearly 20 civilian casualties in March, more than triple February's total

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FYS
2019–2020

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$10,699,443
USAID/FFP ²	\$4,046,544
State/PRM ³	\$32,500,000
\$47,245,987	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- As the number of confirmed coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases continues to rise across Ukraine, containment measures—including border closures and movement restrictions—imposed by the Government of Ukraine (GoU) and self-proclaimed authorities in non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs) have hindered relief operations for conflict-affected populations, the UN reports. As of mid-April, self-proclaimed NGCA authorities had restricted the movement of some humanitarian personnel and supplies into NGCAs, while broader COVID-19-related movement prohibitions had limited access to essential services for residents in Donetsk and Luhansk *oblast* government-controlled-areas (GCAs) and NGCAs. To date, only two UN-managed humanitarian convoys have reached Donetsk NGCA and no convoys had reached Luhansk NGCA since March, the UN reports.
- During March, humanitarian monitors recorded 593,000 contact line crossings—a nearly 40 percent decrease compared to the number of crossings in February—due to the mid-March closure of all entry–exit checkpoints (EECPs) connecting GCAs and NGCAs, the UN reports. The closure resulted in more than 300,000 NGCA residents losing access to critical GoU pensions, as well as access to some basic services and social benefits, according to the UN.
- Despite restrictions, U.S. Government (USG) partners are responding to the COVID-19 outbreak in eastern Ukraine. With USAID/OFDA support, one partner is operating a COVID-19 hotline and providing COVID-19-related technical assistance to local authorities in Donetsk GCA, as well as distributing disease informational materials in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA. In addition, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has mobilized existing community support activities to produce and distribute personal protective equipment to local populations and health facilities in GCAs.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

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

COVID-19 IMPACT AND RESPONSE

- The COVID-19 pandemic and resultant containment measures have hampered relief activities, as well as limited access to essential services, for conflict-affected populations in eastern Ukraine, according to the UN. Following the first reported COVID-19 case in Chernivtsi *Oblast* in early March, the GoU and self-proclaimed NGCA authorities implemented regulations—including border closures, movement restrictions, and public gathering prohibitions—to reduce disease transmission in Ukraine. As of late April, most travel across the line of contact connecting GCAs and NGCAs in eastern Ukraine remained prohibited, and all EECPs remained closed, the UN reports. As a result of the EECP closures, the UN estimates that 300,000 NGCA residents have lost access to the GoU pensions on which they rely, and an additional 163,000 people experience difficulties accessing ATMs in GCAs, limiting their access to cash and hindering their ability to purchase essential goods.
- In addition, restrictions imposed by self-proclaimed NGCA authorities have limited humanitarian commodity and staff movement from GCAs to NGCAs, the UN reports. As of mid-April, self-proclaimed authorities had prohibited all relief staff from entering NGCAs, allowing for limited and unevenly applied exemptions for International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and UN personnel. Self-proclaimed authorities also restricted humanitarian convoy movement to only those comprised of food, hygiene, and/or medical items into Donetsk, while convoy movement into Luhansk remains restricted. To date, only two UN-managed humanitarian convoys have reached Donetsk NGCA and no convoys have reached Luhansk NGCA since March.
- While COVID-19 cases in Ukraine continue to increase, conflict-affected populations remain at acute risk, as containment measures disrupt access to basic services, according to the UN. To date, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) has reported nearly 9,900 confirmed COVID-19 cases—including more than 110 in Luhansk NGCA; more than 80 in Donetsk NGCA; and more than 50 and 30 in Donetsk and Luhansk GCAs, respectively—and 250 associated deaths in Ukraine. More than 40 percent of the population residing along the contact line are older persons, often at higher risk of COVID-19 complications, while protracted conflict continues to adversely affect eastern Ukraine's health care system, the UN reports. On both sides of the contact line, a shortage of medical personnel and supplies, as well as limited public transport to access services, has complicated response efforts. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, approximately 2.8 million people already required water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support in eastern Ukraine, hindering hygiene practices critical to minimizing the risks of disease transmission.
- With support from State/PRM and other donors, UNHCR and its partner Proliska conducted a COVID-19-related needs assessment in late March in GCA settlements along the contact line. Of the nearly 120 settlements surveyed, approximately 90 percent lacked ambulance services, and more than 60 percent lacked medical facilities. Furthermore, COVID-19 restrictions on public transportation have hindered access to grocery stores, health care facilities, and other basic services for approximately 129,000 people across 70 settlements. An estimated 107 settlements also do not have ATMs—which serve as the primary means to receive pensions and social benefits—to withdraw the cash needed to purchase food, medicine, and other goods, as the majority of local stores do not permit non-cash payments, UNHCR reports.
- In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the UN released the Ukraine COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan, requesting \$165 million—including \$34 million for conflict-affected areas—for COVID-19 prevention and response activities countrywide. As a result, the UN revised the requirements of the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan for Ukraine, now requesting approximately \$192 million to support conflict-affected populations in eastern Ukraine. Of the additional \$34 million, the UN has requested \$15 million for health activities and \$19 million to address the socioeconomic impact of the outbreak on vulnerable populations.
- USG partners are responding to the COVID-19 outbreak in Ukraine, focusing interventions to support the most vulnerable populations. With USAID/OFDA and other donor support, one non-governmental organization (NGO) partner has adjusted ongoing programming to deliver more than 12,000 COVID-19 informational pamphlets to Donetsk and Luhansk GCA residents in coordination with other relief organizations; provide technical assistance to local authorities in Donetsk GCAs to improve response activities, such as contact tracing and testing; and procure disinfectants and medical supplies for GCA local service providers. The partner is also conducting COVID-19 risk

awareness activities—including operating a hotline to provide COVID-19-related information to and solicit feedback from *oblast* residents—that reached approximately 6,000 people in Donetsk from March to mid-April.

- During March, UNHCR mobilized more than 10 Community Support Initiatives (CSIs)—which the UN agency organizes to assist displaced and other conflict-affected communities in Ukraine—to produce medical masks for distribution to GCA community members and health facilities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, UNHCR and its partners supported more than 260 conflict-affected communities through CSIs, assisting people to respond to emergencies and advocate community-based and sustainable solutions to protections concerns among authorities.

INSECURITY AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

- Ongoing insecurity—including armed clashes, as well as explosive remnants of war and mine-related incidents—resulted in two civilian deaths and injury to 17 civilians in March, more than three times the number of civilian casualties reported in February, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The March figure is the highest reported since September 2019, when the UN agency recorded more than 20 civilian casualties. From April 2014 to March 2020, the conflict resulted in an estimated 3,353 civilian deaths and injury to more than 7,000 people, OHCHR reports.
- From January to March, armed actors attacked more than 10 education facilities in eastern Ukraine, according to the Education Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian education activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders. On February 18, shelling near a number of settlements along the contact line prompted at least one school to evacuate to a nearby bomb shelter, contributing to a 70 percent increase in child psychosocial support (PSS) service requests from schools in affected areas, the Protection Cluster reports. In 2019, approximately 50 incidents damaged school infrastructure in conflict-affected areas of Ukraine, according to the UN.
- During March, humanitarian monitors recorded 593,000 contact line crossings—representing a nearly 40 percent decrease from the 979,000 crossings recorded during February—due to the mid-March COVID-19-related closure of all EECPs, the UN reports. The EECP closures stranded people at crossing points along the contact line, often without access to temporary accommodation, according to the UN. As of late March, approximately 50 people remained stranded on the GoU-controlled side of Stanytsia Luhanska EECP, unable to return to their residences in NGCAs. In response, UNHCR and its partners provided hygiene items, legal counseling, and safe drinking water to help meet the immediate needs of those affected.
- During January, UNHCR partner Proliska transported approximately 25,600 people with mobility concerns between the Stanytsia Luhanska bridge and EECP, connecting Luhansk’s GCA and NGCA. Through mobility assistance, the UN agency supports the freedom of movement of vulnerable individuals, many of whom must cross the contact line to collect critical GoU pensions. However, COVID-19-related restrictions prompted the partner to suspend transportation assistance in mid-March.

PROTECTION

- During January and February, one USAID/OFDA NGO partner provided PSS services to nearly 3,200 older people in Donetsk and Luhansk GCAs through group-based activities and individual PSS sessions. The NGO also referred nearly 130 people for specialized PSS services, organized more than 30 community sessions to raise awareness on available protection services, and repaired two local community centers in the *oblasts* during the period. In addition, a second USAID/OFDA partner provided mental health and PSS services to nearly 50 conflict-affected people in GCAs during March. As COVID-19-related movement restrictions persist, the partner plans to continue activities remotely, as well as provide COVID-19 stress management and stigma prevention sessions.
- UNHCR continues to support protection activities for vulnerable populations across Ukraine. In February, UNHCR and the UN Development Program undertook a joint protection assessment of Donetsk’s Avdiivka town to ensure persons with disabilities had access to essential services. During the assessment, UN personnel observed obstacles that

would prevent persons with disabilities from accessing the local pension office, potentially affecting more than 3,000 people in the town. As a result, the UN agencies plan to jointly support accessibility repairs at the office to ensure equitable access. Furthermore, UNHCR and an NGO partner organized an internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugee association forum on protection advocacy in February, during which nearly 30 local associations shared best practices.

SHELTER, WASH, AND WINTERIZATION

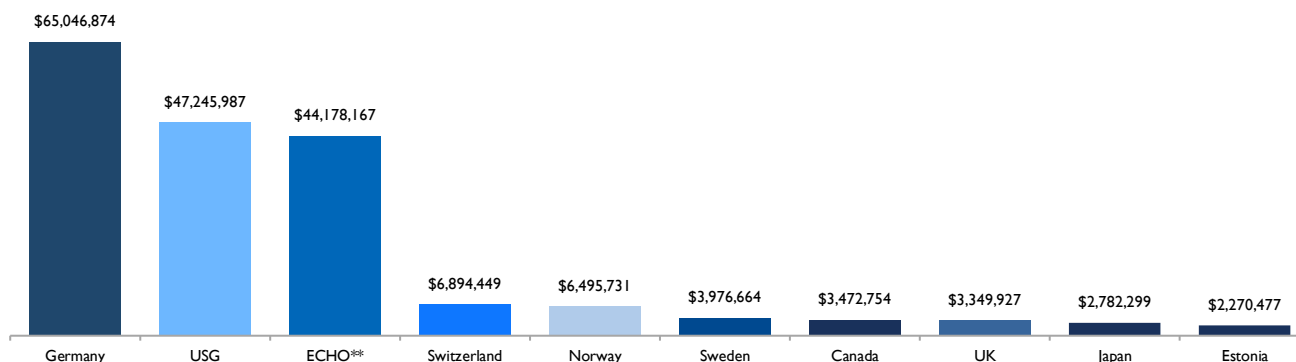
- From January to March, approximately 14 armed attacks affected critical WASH facilities in conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine, according to USAID/OFDA WASH partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF). Furthermore, Donetsk Filter Station—which supplies safe drinking water to an estimated 380,000 people on both sides of the contact line—ceased operations in late March due to a lack of personnel security assurances from parties to the conflict, the WASH Cluster reports. Following donor and relief actor advocacy, the station resumed activities after three days.
 - During early April, State/PRM partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) delivered approximately 5,000 hygiene items to conflict-affected households in Luhansk to help meet immediate needs. In addition, IOM supported more than 12,000 NGCA residents with winterization assistance in December and January, providing heating supplies and winter kits—including bedding, blankets, and towels—to help households cope with the winter season.
 - State/PRM partner UNHCR expanded its shelter and winterization activities to support conflict-affected communities in Luhansk NGCA in February. During the month, the UN agency provided nearly 4,700 relief items—including nearly 2,000 winter clothing items and approximately 1,700 blankets—to persons residing in social institutions, such as older person living facilities and orphanages. UNHCR personnel also assessed nearly 60 damaged houses in the *oblast* to ensure people’s protection and basic needs were being met; in total, the agency plans to repair nearly 200 homes in Luhansk.
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OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- In coordination with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNHCR facilitated the delivery of nearly 40 metric tons (MT) of relief items, including educational and medical supplies, via humanitarian convoy to Luhansk NGCA’s Luhansk city in mid-February to meet urgent humanitarian needs. In late January, OCHA and UNHCR also facilitated the delivery of more than 100 MT of food assistance and relief items, such as hygiene kits, for distribution to conflict-affected households in NGCAs in eastern Ukraine.

2019–2020 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING*

PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of April 30, 2020. All international figures are according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect the most recent USG commitments for FY 2019—which began on October 1, 2018, and ended September 30, 2019—and FY 2020, which began on October 1, 2019, and ends September 30, 2020

**European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)

CONTEXT

- 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 negatively affected neighboring *oblasts*.
- The GoU estimated that the conflict had internally displaced 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 PROVIDED IN FY 2020¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Protection	Donetsk, Kyiv, Luhansk	\$858,000
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$400,000
UNICEF	HCIM, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Program Support		\$76,007
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$2,334,007
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UNHCR	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$1,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$4,100,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$6,434,007

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE PROVIDED IN FY 2019

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
IPs	Agriculture and Food Security, HCIM, Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Cherkasy, Chernihiv, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Luhansk, Poltava, Sumy, Vinnytsya, Zaporizhzhya oblasts	\$5,811,127
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$1,400,000
UNICEF	HCIM, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Program Support		\$154,309
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$8,365,436
USAID/FFP			
IPs	Cash Transfers for Food	Donetsk, Luhansk	\$3,740,490
IP	HCIM	Countrywide	\$306,054
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$4,046,544
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$16,700,000
IOM	MPCA, Health, Livelihoods, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
UNHCR	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$6,700,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$28,400,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2019			\$40,811,980

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FYs 2019–2020

TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING IN FYs 2019–2020	\$10,699,443
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING IN FYs 2019–2020	\$4,046,544
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING IN FYs 2019–2020	\$32,500,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FYs 2019–2020	\$47,245,987

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding figures reflect funding as of April 30, 2020.

³ Estimated values of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

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 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, environmentally, and nutritionally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>.