

UKRAINE - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

FEBRUARY 27, 2019

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

3.5 million

People Requiring Humanitarian Assistance
UN – December 2018

1.5 million

IDPs in Ukraine
GoU Ministry of Social Policy – January 2019

1.1 million

Food-Insecure People in the Eastern Ukraine
UN – December 2018

480,156

Ukrainians Seeking Asylum in Nearby Countries
UNHCR – December 2018

3,300

Estimated Conflict-Related Civilian Deaths since April 2014
UN – December 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Approximately 5.2 million people are affected by conflict in eastern Ukraine, the highest number since 2014
- The UN requests approximately \$162 million to respond to humanitarian needs in 2019
- USG partners provide winter assistance to at least 3,200 vulnerable people in eastern Ukraine

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$7,944,494
USAID/FFP ²	\$1,326,187
State/PRM ³	\$29,900,000
\$39,170,681	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The number of civilian casualties recorded in Ukraine between mid-August and mid-November 2018 decreased by approximately 50 percent compared to the period from mid-May to mid-August, the UN reports. The UN attributes the decrease to two consecutive recommitments to the 2015 ceasefire in July and September.
- The number of people affected by the conflict in eastern Ukraine increased from 4.4 million in November 2017 to 5.2 million people as of December 2018, representing the highest figure since the conflict began in 2014, the UN reports. Moreover, 3.5 million of those affected by conflict require humanitarian assistance to address the impact of widespread explosive remnants of war (ERW) contamination, increasing psychosocial trauma, and insufficient access to basic services.
- On January 31, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) launched the 2019–2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Ukraine, requesting \$162 million for 2019, including \$135 million to respond to the most urgent needs, especially winter assistance. The UN and humanitarian partners will target 2.3 million people with multi-sector assistance under the plan.
- Conflict continues to damage water infrastructure in eastern Ukraine, placing more than 4.8 million people in conflict-affected areas at risk of losing access to safe drinking water and heat should water systems stop functioning. To date in 2019, water workers at one water pumping station in Donetsk *oblast* alone have reported seven incidents of shelling or small arms fire, injuring three maintenance workers, according to the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian shelter activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

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)

INSECURITY AND PROTECTION

- Between August 16 and November 15, 2018, conflict in eastern Ukraine resulted in 50 civilian casualties, including 14 deaths and 36 injuries, representing a more than 50 percent decrease from the 105 civilian casualties recorded between May 16 and August 15, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Light weapons fire or shelling caused nearly 40 percent of total casualties, while more than 30 percent were the result of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). Between April 2014 and November 2018, the UN recorded more than 3,000 civilian deaths and approximately 9,000 injuries in Ukraine.
- The UN reports that an estimated 2 million people in government-controlled areas (GCA), particularly along the contact line, risk contact with landmines and UXO daily, while the extent of the hazard in non-government controlled areas (NGCA) remains unknown. On December 6, the Government of Ukraine (GoU) adopted the Mine Action Bill, which established a national framework to coordinate explosive hazard-related response efforts and victim support, including medical, psychological, and social assistance. A USAID/OFDA partner is providing mine-risk education to at-risk populations, conducting awareness sessions for more than 250 people living near checkpoints along the contact line in December.
- Civilians continue to face significant challenges crossing the contact line, including insufficient services, long wait times, and damaged roads and bridges, as well as risks of shelling. From January–December 2018, more than 50 people were injured by hostilities, suffered health complications, or died while transiting the five official checkpoints, according to the UN. Additionally, humanitarian actors reported the deaths of four older persons due to health complications while waiting at checkpoints in January 2019. The GoU has made substantial repairs to several checkpoints in GCA, but most checkpoints continue to lack adequate medical and sanitation facilities. Despite challenges, relief actors continue to record approximately 1.1 million contact line crossings per month through the five official checkpoints; more than one-half of civilians crossing in 2018 were people ages 60 years and older. Civilians primarily cross the contact line to visit family members and access basic social services, according to the UN.
- USAID/OFDA is supporting critical protection interventions for vulnerable populations, particularly in eastern Ukraine. One USAID/OFDA partner provided child protection support to more than 280 children and adolescents in January 2019 through awareness raising sessions and psychological first aid training. Additionally, a USAID/OFDA partner provided home-based care to nearly 3,600 older people, including 460 people with disabilities and nearly 400 internally displaced persons (IDPs), in GCA of Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts* in December.

HEALTH AND WASH

- The 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) reports that 1.3 million people need health assistance in eastern Ukraine, including 1.1 million people located near the contact line. Since 2017, households residing near the contact line have experienced increased barriers to accessing health care services, according to the REACH Initiative. As of December 2018, conflict had damaged two-thirds of health facilities near the contact line, and nearly 40 percent of households residing in the area lack access to health care services, according to the HNO. Persons ages 60 years and older, who represent approximately 30 percent of conflict-affected people, are particularly vulnerable to health issues.
- From January–December 2018, the UN recorded nearly 90 security incidents affecting WASH infrastructure in eastern Ukraine. In October, shelling damaged a water pipeline connecting Donetsk's cities of Horlivka and Toretsk that left an estimated 50,000 people without water and central heating for nine days. In December, shelling rendered the same pipeline inoperable for seven days, during which time State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported the delivery of more than 1,000 liters of safe drinking water to nearly 100 affected households. Additionally, an attack on January 10 near the First Lift Pumping Station of the South Donbas Water Pipeline in Donetsk, which supplies safe drinking water to 1.2 million people, injured three maintenance workers. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine Osnat Lubrani released a statement following the incident appealing for the protection of civilians and critical infrastructure in eastern Ukraine.
- Regular access to safe drinking water remains a critical challenge for many households in eastern Ukraine and particularly for populations living along the contact line, where nearly 30 percent of residents experienced water

shortages in 2018, the UN reports. From January–December 2018, USAID/OFDA partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) supplied pipes and water treatment chemicals to centralized water companies, helping ensure sustained access to safe drinking water for nearly 1.4 million people in eastern Ukraine. In addition, UNICEF provided hygiene kits and conducted hygiene promotion activities for nearly 67,000 individuals living near the contact line.

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- While the number of people experiencing food insecurity declined from 1.2 million in 2017, food assistance remains a key need for 1.1 million people in eastern Ukraine, according to the HNO. Approximately 558,000 people are experiencing food insecurity in NGCA, including 103,000 people experiencing severe food insecurity. In GCA, approximately 13,000 people are severely food-insecure and require humanitarian assistance to meet basic food needs, the UN reports.
 - Poor market access, lack of agricultural resources, and limited presence of humanitarian actors in NGCA continue to hinder access to sufficient food, particularly for civilians near the contact line, according to a November REACH Initiative survey. In GCA, households residing near the contact line are more likely to experience moderate or severe food insecurity than households residing further inland. Additionally, winter weather conditions have contributed to food needs due to increased caloric intake requirements and higher seasonal prices.
 - Lack of access to livelihoods and rising food prices continue to contribute to food insecurity in eastern Ukraine. Despite an increase in pensions enacted by the GoU in October 2017, rising food prices have diminished household purchasing power in conflict-affected areas, the UN reports. Additionally, unemployment in conflict-affected *oblasts* has increased since 2014, prompting vulnerable households to adopt negative coping strategies to meet basic needs, including begging, reducing health care expenditures, and purchasing food on credit, the UN reports. Further, ERW contamination in conflict-affected areas has limited rural households’ access to farmland to support agricultural livelihoods. Older people account for more than 50 percent of the total food-insecure population due to particular challenges—such as higher prevalence of disability and immobility—accessing food and livelihoods.
 - In FY 2018, USAID/FFP contributed approximately \$1.3 million to support conflict-affected people in Donetsk and Luhansk with food assistance during the 2018/2019 winter lean season. USAID/FFP partner the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is providing monthly unconditional cash transfers for food—each worth \$27—to help 6,000 vulnerable people in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA meet increased food needs from November 2018–March 2019.
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SHELTER AND WINTER ASSISTANCE

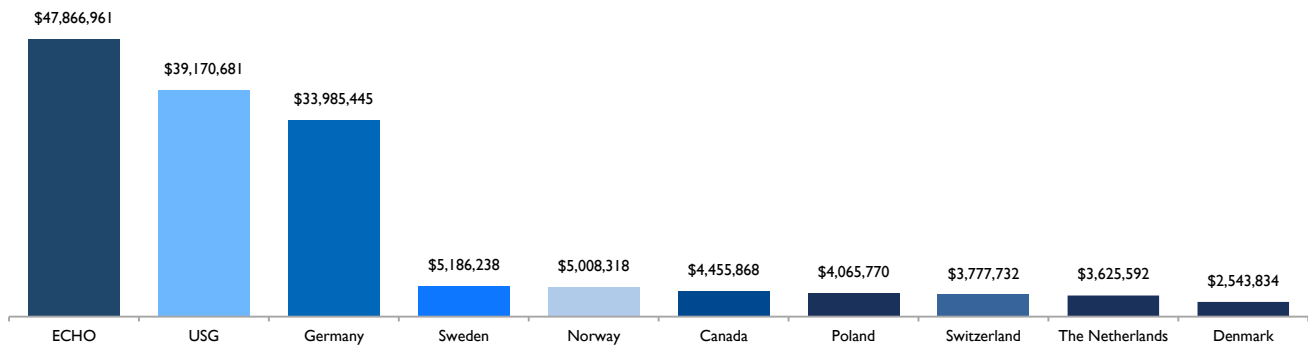
- From January–October 2018, conflict damaged nearly 700 houses in Donetsk and Luhansk, according to the Shelter Cluster. The HNO reports that the absence of a government policy for providing support to repair damaged property is exacerbating shelter needs. Between November and December 2018, a USAID/OFDA partner repaired more than 20 conflict-damaged houses and provided coal for heating to more than 100 households in Donetsk.
- An estimated 264,000 vulnerable people in Ukraine are in need of winter assistance in 2019, with many individuals, particularly IDPs and older people, unable to afford heating costs, according to the HNO. State/PRM partner UNHCR implemented a winterization assistance program targeting approximately 3,500 vulnerable households near the contact line in Donetsk NGCA in December. The UN agency also delivered nearly 7,500 metric tons of coal to approximately 2,500 households, provided cash grants to nearly 1,000 households, reinforced existing shelters, and provided heaters for tents at checkpoints along the contact line. State/PRM partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is also providing cash assistance equivalent to \$200 to 3,250 vulnerable individuals residing near the contact line in GCA to help pay for heating and utilities, among other winter necessities.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- In December, the European Commission announced €4 million—approximately \$4.5 million—in additional humanitarian assistance to respond to increased humanitarian needs in eastern Ukraine during the winter season. The contribution brings the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department’s (ECHO) total support responding to the crisis in eastern Ukraine to €116 million—more than \$131.4 million—since 2014.
- In January, the Central Emergency Response Fund—a pooled humanitarian fund established and managed by the UN to support sudden-onset and underfunded emergencies—allocated \$6 million to respond to ongoing acute humanitarian needs in Ukraine.

2018–2019 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING*

PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of February 27, 2019. All international figures are according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2018 and 2019 calendar year, while U.S. Government (USG) figures are according to the USG and reflect the most recent USG commitments based on the fiscal year, which began on October 1, 2017, and October 1, 2018, respectively.

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 1.5 million people as of January 2019. In addition, the UN estimates that 3.5 million of the 5.2 million conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine require humanitarian assistance in 2019.
- On December 12, 2018, U.S. Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch 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 2018–2019¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Protection	Chernihiv, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Luhansk, Poltava, Sumy, Vinnytsya, and Zaporizhzhya oblasts	\$5,896,596
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$700,000
UNICEF	HCIM, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,250,000
	Program Support		\$97,898
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$7,944,494
USAID/FFP³			
NRC	Cash Transfers for Food	Donetsk and Luhansk	\$1,326,187
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$1,326,187
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross	Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$20,000,000
IOM	Cash Assistance, Health, Livelihoods, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UNHCR	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$5,900,000
UNICEF	Protection	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$29,900,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019			\$39,170,681

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

² USAID/OFDA funding figures reflect funding as of February 27, 2019.

³ Estimated value 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 or +1.202.661.7710.
- 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>