

Ukraine – Complex Emergency

July 31, 2020

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- GCA and NGCA authorities gradually lifted COVID-19 quarantine measures on both sides of the contact line; however, checkpoint restrictions continue to negatively impacted civilians and humanitarian access.
- In June and July, flooding in western Ukraine and wildfires in eastern Ukraine’s Luhansk oblast resulted in nine deaths and large-scale infrastructure damage.
- USG implementing partners have expanded health, protection, and WASH activities to meet increased humanitarian needs amid the COVID-19 pandemic.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Ukraine Response in FY 2020	USAID/BHA ^{1,2}	\$18,790,239
	State/PRM ³	\$17,377,000
Total		\$36,167,239⁴

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

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

²Total 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.

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

⁴This total includes approximately \$14,190,000 in supplemental funding through USAID/BHA and State/PRM for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Civilian Casualties Decrease from May to June Despite Ongoing Conflict

Approximately 15,500 ceasefire violations occurred in eastern Ukraine during June, representing a 24 percent decrease compared to May, according to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission. Similarly, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine reported a recent decrease in conflict-related civilian casualties, from 32 in May to 16 in June. Incidents against safe drinking water facilities also declined from 9 attacks in May to 3 attacks in June, according to the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian WASH activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. Despite these positive trends, five security incidents—a record high number—impacted educational facilities from July 2019 to April 2020; the conflict in eastern Ukraine has affected more than 700,000 children and teachers, as well as approximately 3,500 school facilities, since 2014, according to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Ceasefire Deal Reached for Eastern Ukraine Set for July 27

On July 22, the Government of Ukraine (GoU), Government of the Russian Federation, and OSCE negotiators reached an agreement for a full ceasefire in eastern Ukraine’s conflict-affected Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts* beginning on July 27. Despite a 2015 ceasefire agreement that largely ended major combat operations, armed clashes—often with heavy artillery—continue to kill civilians and soldiers in government-controlled areas (GCAs) and non-government-controlled areas (NGCAs) in eastern Ukraine. In addition, mines and unexploded ordinance remain a daily threat to communities near the front lines; an average of six civilians are injured or killed in this area on a monthly basis. The recent ceasefire—the latest of more than 20 attempted ceasefires—is a precondition for the implementation of the 2014 Minsk agreements designed to end the conflict in eastern Ukraine.

COVID-19 Restrictions Negatively Impact Vulnerable Populations

The combined effects of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions and the conflict in eastern Ukraine have negatively impacted many vulnerable households. More than 40 percent of the population residing along the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk are older people, often at higher risk of COVID-19 complications, while protracted conflict continues to adversely affect eastern Ukraine’s health care system. On both sides of the contact line, a shortage of medical personnel and supplies, as well as limited public transport to access critical services, has complicated response efforts. Moreover, nearly 50 percent of internally displaced person (IDP)-owned businesses and 36 percent of host community-owned enterprises face closure due to restrictions in eastern Ukraine, according to a May survey conducted by State/PRM partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In addition, increased prices for food and hygiene items, transportation costs, and lack of access to livelihood opportunities had negatively impacted nearly 80 percent of households following the implementation of national COVID-19 quarantine measures, the Norwegian Refugee Council reports. As of July 31, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) had reported 1,007 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Donetsk and Luhansk.

Despite Partial Re-Opening of EECPs, Severe Restrictions on Civilian Movement Continue

Although COVID-19 restrictions have gradually eased across Ukraine, freedom of movement between GCAs and NGCAs remains limited, with only two entry-exit checkpoints (EECPs) open from both the GCA and NGCA sides of the contact line—Luhansk’s Stanytsia Luhanska EECP and Donetsk’s

Novotroitske EECF—as of late July; the five official EECFs were closed in March due to COVID-19 transmission concerns. Approximately 500,000 people living in NGCAs are largely unable to access checkpoints due to uncoordinated reopening schedules, complex crossing procedures, and restrictions on eligibility as self-proclaimed authorities in Donetsk NGCA only allow people with permanent residency in the GCA to use the crossing. Moreover, individuals who cross checkpoints are required to self-isolate or remain in a health facility for 14 days, preventing people from crossing into GCAs for short periods to receive pensions or access services. The inconsistent and unpredictable EECF processes have prevented many people from accessing family members, homes, jobs, and pensions. As a result, the UN recorded an estimated 10,800 crossings at Stanytsia Luhanska EECF in June—a 96 percent decrease compared to the same period in 2019. The similarly uncoordinated reopening of the Novotroitske EECF from June 22 to 27 resulted in dozens of people stranded for several days between Donetsk GCA and NGCA; to date, approximately 60 people have been stranded between checkpoints, the UN reports. In response, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and NGOs provided food, safe drinking water, and other essential items to the affected individuals.

First UN–NGO Humanitarian Cargo Allowed Directly Into Luhansk

In May, the GoU reached an agreement with self-proclaimed authorities in Luhansk NGCA to allow humanitarian access at the Stanytsia Luhanska EECF, enabling relief actors to access the *oblast* directly for the first time since the conflict began, according to the UN. Prior to COVID-19-related closures, humanitarian actors had to cross Donetsk NGCA to access Luhansk NGCA. The first UN–NGO humanitarian cargo shipment occurred in May 28, during which relief actors utilized the pedestrian-only checkpoint to manually deliver approximately 8.6 metric tons of relief commodities.

Wildfires in Luhansk Displace Hundreds, Exacerbating Vulnerabilities

Wildfires in Luhansk’s Novoaidar District burned more than 12,000 acres of forest between July 6 and 13, resulting in the deaths of five people and the hospitalization of nine others, including two children, according to the UN and international media. The fires also damaged or destroyed at least 110 houses and other residences, in addition to some infrastructure. The fires spread quickly through forest areas and came within several miles of the contact line, which complicated the GoU’s response. The GoU responded to the wildfires—the second major natural disaster in several weeks—with support from the UN and NGOs.

Heavy Rainfall Leads to Severe Flooding in Five Regions in Western Ukraine

Heavy rainfall from June 23 to 24 caused severe flooding that affected more than 40,000 people in 200 towns and villages across western Ukraine, the UN reports. The floods resulted in four deaths and displaced hundreds of people, as well as damaged more than 260 miles of roads and approximately 130 bridges, according to the GoU. Widespread infrastructure damage constrained disaster response efforts—a challenge exacerbated by COVID-19 precautions while assisting the flood-affected populations—in what the GoU referred to as the region’s worst flood in a decade.

KEY FIGURES



10,600

People received USG-supported protection services as of March 2020



8

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



\$6.7 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 to vulnerable populations, including those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. With nearly \$4.2 million in FY 2020 funding, USAID/BHA partners are providing protection and psychosocial support 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 psychosocial support 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 the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (ICRC), UNHCR, and UNICEF—are offering 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 6,370 conflict-affected individuals and psychosocial services to nearly 740 people from January to May. 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 health 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 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 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 hand washing 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.



1,000

People received USG-supported MPCA as of March 2020

MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

Working through four 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. MPCA operations aim to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 and address increased vulnerabilities related to winter weather. 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 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 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 IN FY 2020 ¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN UKRAINE FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY			
USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Donetsk, Kyiv, Luhansk	\$7,254,232
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
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$8,790,239
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$8,790,239
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$10,350,000
UNHCR	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
UNICEF	Protection	Donetsk, Luhansk	\$837,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$13,187,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN UKRAINE IN FY 2020			\$21,977,239

FUNDING IN UKRAINE FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE²

USAID/BHA

Non-Food Assistance			
IPs	Health, Protection, WASH	Donetsk, Luhansk	\$5,131,369
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$568,631
UNICEF	Health, WASH	Countrywide	\$4,300,000
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$10,000,000
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$2,400,000
IOM	Health, Livelihoods, MPCA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,790,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$4,190,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE IN UKRAINE IN FY 2020			\$14,190,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$18,790,239
TOTAL State/PRM FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$17,377,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2020			\$36,167,239

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 31, 2020.

² Figures represent supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities as of July 31, 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)