

SITUATION OVERVIEW

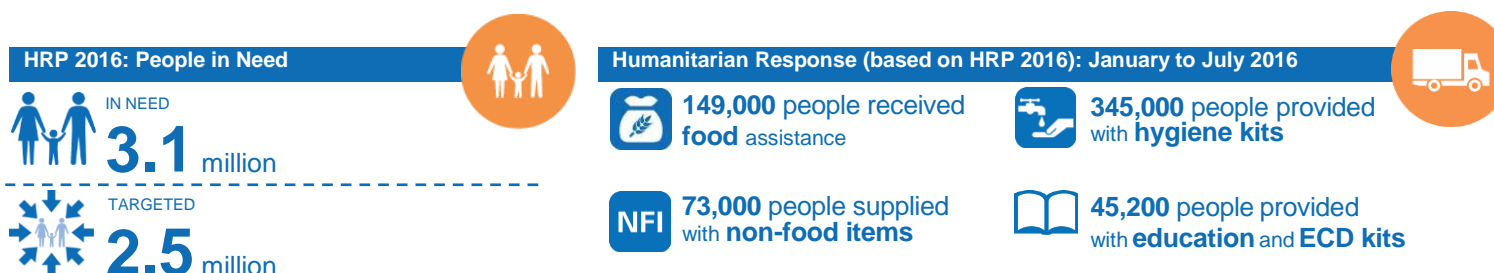
A renewed ceasefire has been announced on 1 September. Some incidents continue to be reported, albeit at a much lower scale than the previous months and the situation remains fragile. Insecurity continues to cause civilian casualties and new humanitarian needs. The Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded 91 conflict-related civilian casualties (16 fatalities and 75 injuries) in August, the highest number of casualties in a single month since August 2015. Frequent shelling at checkpoints and in their vicinity during daytime continued to pose a major security risk to people waiting to cross the 'contact line'. Critical civilian infrastructure, particularly gas pipelines and power lines close to the 'contact line', has been regularly affected by hostilities. Among 2.9 million people whose access to sufficient clean water has been constantly affected by the conflict, one-third had limited access to safe drinking water during the second half of August, according to WASH cluster.

Protection of civilians remains a major concern. The national gender-based violence hotline operated by a protection partner has received nearly 16,000 calls over the past five months. Common assistance sought were psychological support, legal information and advice in dealing with domestic violence and child abuse. The process to reinstate social payments and pensions for IDPs has been delayed due to local authorities' insufficient technical resources and understaffing to conduct verification visits. Nonetheless, progress has been made in mine actions, with an agreement between the Government of Ukraine and the Mine Action sub-Cluster on next steps which will result in a comprehensive mine action plan for Ukraine.

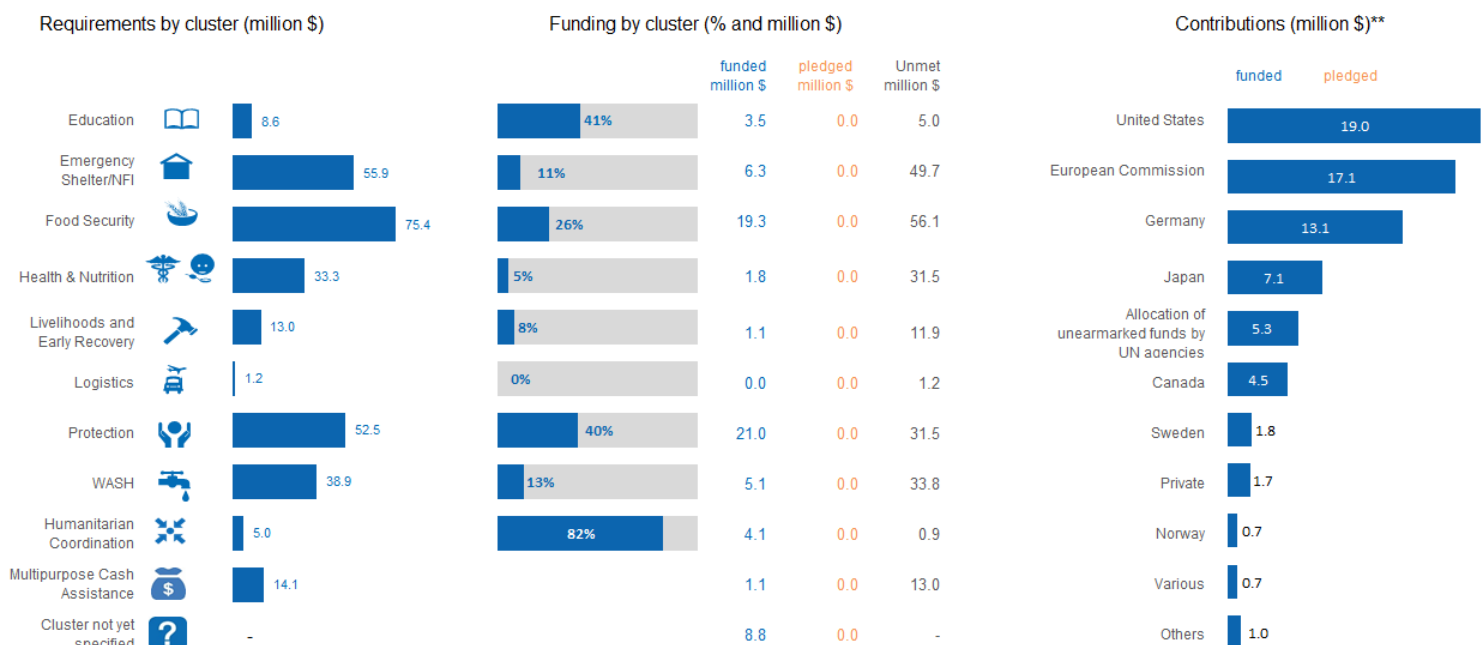
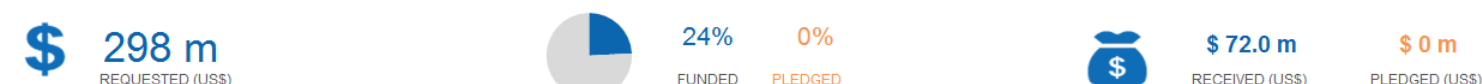
The economic situation remains difficult for the majority of people living in areas beyond Government control of Donetsk. Those cut off from governmental social payments and did not fall under any categories to receive humanitarian assistance become even more vulnerable. In late August, the *de facto* authorities of the so-called "DPR" announced that its residents would now obtain targeted humanitarian aid in accordance with the assessment of their financial situation made by the special committees. However, they would be required to submit their applications together with other supporting relevant documents.

Despite restrictions on access, partners continue to deliver humanitarian assistance, including to NGCA. Between 1 August and 5 September, partners have delivered 390MT of aid to Luhansk NGCA and some 500MT – to Donetsk NGCA. In August, UNHCR became the first UN agency whose official permission to operate was renewed by *de facto* authorities in Luhansk. Other partners re-submitted application requests. Only few international partners are officially authorized to operate. Limited or a lack of humanitarian access continues to be the key impediment hampering the delivery of humanitarian assistance for the most vulnerable people living beyond the 'contact line'. Funding remains critically low, with only 24 per cent of the Humanitarian Response Plan 2016 requirements covered. In June, the humanitarian coordination mechanism in Ukraine was revisited and adjusted in response to evolving context to ensure its fit-for-purpose characteristics. As a result, livelihood activities have been transferred to Food Security Cluster and early recovery activities mainstreamed across other clusters.

KEY FIGURES



FUNDING: HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN 2016*



* 2016 Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan ** According to FTS as of 7 September 2016. Many donations are yet to be recorded, and donors and partners are invited to register contributions.

Ukraine: Humanitarian Dashboard January to July 2016

EDUCATION

1 million people in need

The Education Cluster aims to improve access to quality of education for crisis-affected children.

Emergency repairs to educational infrastructure

18,500

People reached

32,000

People targeted

Provision of Education and Early Childhood Development (ECD) Kits

45,200

People reached

56,000

People targeted

Capacity building of teachers on identified priority topics

3,200

People reached

8,000

People targeted

Needs

- Continuous hostilities along the contact line affect children's access to education.
- Teachers need capacity building to provide learners with psychosocial support in coping with the impact of the conflict.
- Children need relevant life-skills education to improve resilience.
- In areas hosting a high number of IDPs, additional seats in schools and kindergartens are needed.

Response

- WASH-inclusive emergency repairs of damaged education facilities, including kindergartens, are ongoing.
- Provision of educational kits and early childhood developments kits is ongoing. Around 45,200 children in the eastern regions have so far received education material.
- 3,200 teachers and education personnel have received training and essential tools. Training topics included how to support children in emergencies, resilience building and managing effects of exposure to violence.

- Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) has organized examination for children from NGCA. More than 900 students have registered and are attending their examination. In April 2016, the Ukrainian Parliament voted for law amendments allowing school students from NGCA to pass university entry exams in Donetsk and Luhanska Oblasts without external independent testing. This, however, applies only to higher education institutions whose students from NGCA were evacuated, and to all higher education institutions in GCA of Donetsk and Luhanska Oblasts.

Gaps/Challenges

- Cluster partners are unable to work in NGCA.
- Further information on damages to educational infrastructure and needs assessments of learners and teachers in NGCA are required.

For more information, contact:

educationcluster.ukraine@gmail.com



EMERGENCY SHELTER & NFI (update as of June 2016)

0.9 million people in need

After two winters, conflict-damaged houses require light, medium and heavy repairs. In the GCA/contact line (CL), 93 per cent of damages affected private houses. Shelter/NFI needs are also high in NGCA/CL. IDPs need innovative responses as they struggle to afford rents/housing.

Address essential NFI/shelter needs of the most vulnerable (cash/in-kind assistance)

73,000

People reached

81,000

People targeted

Contribute to adequate transitional shelter and NFI solutions (cash/in-kind)

8,000

Households reached

37,000

Households targeted

Needs

- Vulnerable households are preparing to winterize buildings which are partially or structurally damaged.
- Managers of collective centers have reported lack of resources for heating and utilities, with 13% of collective centers facing risk of eviction and some risking to close before the winter. Limited funding for humanitarian partners to cover both grey zone areas and the needs of IDPs residing in those centers is a concern.

Response

- Shelter Cluster partners are managing in cooperation with Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts administration, a database with over 20,984 identified shelter needs by address (11,130 GCA Donetsk and 9,854 GCA Luhanska).
- In the reporting period, 672 households benefitted from acute emergency shelter repairs and 1,773 benefitted from light and medium repairs. 6,096 households benefitted from shelter monetized solutions in the reporting period.

- Shelter Cluster monitored emergency referrals on winterization and shelter repairs in the conflict-affected area. An interactive map is available on <https://www.sheltercluster.org/library/ukraine-referral-system>.

Gaps/Challenges

- IDPs' sustained trend to resettle in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Odessa, Zaporozhie, and other areas in Donetsk, and Luhansk provinces not close to the contact line is hampered by the challenging economic situation. Prone to strenuous coping mechanisms, these IDPs are vulnerable to evictions. This could force return to their area of origin where they fear for their safety. Shelter monetized solutions could support this vulnerable segment of the crisis-affected population.

For more information, contact: chantefo@unhcr.org

Website: <http://sheltercluster.org/response/ukraine>



FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD

1.1 million people in need

Food Security Cluster (FSC) and private partners reached over 0.5 million people with food and livelihood assistance.

Provision of immediate food assistance

149,000

People reached¹

553,000

People targeted

Immediate agricultural assistance to smallholders

9,400

Households reached

37,000

Households targeted

Asset construction/rehabilitation

3,400

Households reached

6,500

Households targeted

Needs

- Food Security Cluster partners target 553,000 people for food assistance in 2016 to meet their immediate food needs based on their vulnerability (gender and age), access, seasonality and 'do no harm' principles. Agriculture-based programmes target nearly 37,000 most vulnerable households for immediate and medium-term interventions.
- FSC interventions prioritise food insecure people living along the 'contact line' and in NGCAs, followed by vulnerable displaced populations and most vulnerable people in IDP-hosting communities.

Response

- From January to July 2016, HRP partners have reached a total of 149,000 unique beneficiaries with interventions aimed at improving access to food.
- In July, HRP partners have reached 57,043 people (over 53,300 through food distribution and over 4,300 through cash and vouchers programme.)
- A total of 524,745 people have received food security support by food security cluster partners (together with non-HRP NGOs and private partners).
- Nearly 9,400 rural households have received livestock inputs to improve their resilience. Some 3,400 households have also received cash assistance for assets construction.

- Starting from July 2016, the FSC has taken over Early Recovery Cluster activities coordination. The number of targeted households to receive livelihood support has increased from 6,500 to 143,000.

Gaps/Challenges

- Due to serious funding shortage, organisations may have to revise their response plans and decrease the number of beneficiaries if no additional funding is forthcoming.
- For winter preparation, provision of animal feeds will be a priority until the end of 2016.
- Opportunities for time-bound and seasonal interventions have already been missed. New cycle of such assistance can only be planned for the next planting season in spring 2017.

For more information, contact: info.ukraine@fscluster.org

Website: <http://fscluster.org/ukraine>

¹ Unique beneficiaries reached between January - July 2016

Ukraine: Humanitarian Dashboard January to July 2016

HEALTH & NUTRITION

3.1 million people in need

The cluster's objective is to ensure access to essential quality health care services and life-saving medicines for crisis-affected people, especially vulnerable groups.

Enhance access to essential quality health care

75

% of targeted population²

80

% of targeted population

Strengthen and expand disease surveillance and response

70

new sentinel sites reached²

20

new sentinel sites targeted

66

emergency health kits distributed

100

emergency health kits planned

Prevent excessive nutrition-related morbidity and mortality of vulnerable groups

46

% of vulnerable groups reached³

100

% of vulnerable groups targeted

Restore health services/rehabilitate facilities

8

health facilities reached

20

health facilities targeted

² Activity discontinued starting 1 July 2016 due to lack of funding

³ Does not include non-HRP funded activities

Needs

- Diagnostic supplies are needed for blood safety and TB. This includes rapid diagnostics for susceptibility testing for 60 newly enrolled MDR-TB patients in Luhansk NGCA TB Dispensary. Blood testing supplies in Donetsk Blood Centre are available only until October 2016.
- Needs remain in primary healthcare, care for chronic diseases and outreach mental health and psychosocial support for IDPs and people residing along the conflict line.

Response

- Discussions on transition strategy are ongoing with Ministry of Health.

Response

- Restricted access to NGCA and limited funding remain the main constraints hindering the delivery of humanitarian aid and services in those areas.
- Safety and security of health care professionals and patients are constantly violated, hampering people's access to healthcare.

For more information, contact: kormosp@who.int (Patricia Kormoss, Emergency Coordinator)

LOGISTICS

N/A

Limited access to non-government controlled areas (NGCAs) remains the key issue for the effective facilitation of humanitarian cargos via joint humanitarian convoys.

Produce and share online IM products

19

Products reached

48

Products targeted

Facilitate/accompany joint humanitarian convoys

9

Convoys reached

36

Convoys targeted

Facilitate transportation of humanitarian goods to NGCAs via joint humanitarian convoys

2,800 m³

Needs

- Regular information sharing to improve situational awareness and to mitigate negative effects of changes in the operational context.
- Administrative support to process clearances and obtain authorization to move humanitarian cargos.
- Operational support to transport humanitarian cargos and facilitate programmatic activities as well as provision of assistance to affected population.

Response

- Dedicated staff was available in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk and Donetsk to address and respond to logistics needs of the humanitarian community.
- Warehouse capacity is available in Dnipropetrovsk.
- During the reporting period, the cluster has facilitated humanitarian cargos via joint humanitarian convoys to Luhansk and Donetsk NGCA to support Health and Shelter activities.

Gaps/Challenges

- Unpredictable changes in the operating environment as a result of the conflict, insecurity and limited access, continue to create difficulties for reliable movement of humanitarian cargos.
- The Logistics Cluster has successfully resumed its operation after being on stand-by for more than a month and successfully facilitated three humanitarian convoys.

For more information, contact: patrick.baudry@wfp.org
Website: <http://www.logcluster.org/ops/ukr15a>

PROTECTION

3.1 million people in need

Protection Cluster and sub-clusters aim to protect, support and strengthen resilience, well-being and family unity of conflict-affected people within the frame of International Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

Monitoring visits conducted

1,200

Visits conducted

6,000

Visits planned

Women, men, boys, girls having access to quality essential services (including PSS, GBV, legal aid, CFS, rehabilitation, etc.)

75,000

People reached

100,000

People targeted

Communities or people supported through peace-building or social cohesion projects

7,000

People reached

80,000

People targeted

Needs

- Long queues at checkpoints between GCA and NGCA pose a serious protection risk.
- Many minefields are not properly marked, resulting in civilian casualties.
- Over the past five months, the National GBV Hotline operated 24/7 by the NGO "La Strada" has received 15,814 calls, of which 50% at night and during weekends. Callers seek psychological support, legal information and advice in dealing with domestic violence and child abuse cases.

Response

- Developed a free legal aid directory for IDPs and conflict-affected people in Ukraine. It includes information on organisations providing free legal assistance across Ukraine (hotline, mobile teams and office consultations,) and it aims to facilitate referrals and access assistance.
- At checkpoints, tents and shelters have been installed at checkpoints to protect people waiting in queues from direct sunlight.

- In collaboration with the Government of Ukraine, the UN held a workshop to validate the report findings and recommendations of the UN Joint Assessment on Mine Action conducted by UNDP, UNICEF and UNMAS. The Government and the Mine Action Sub-cluster have agreed on next steps that will result in a comprehensive mine action plan to be implemented by the mine action community.

Gaps/Challenges

- The process to reinstate social payments and pensions to IDPs has been delayed due to local authorities' insufficient technical and staffing resources to conduct verification visits.
- IDPs residing in a number of collective centres in Kyiv, Odesa and Zhytomyr regions face imminent risks of eviction. The main reasons are high debts for utilities and lack of alternative affordable housing for the most vulnerable IDPs.

For more information, contact: rich@unhcr.org
Website: <http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/en/field-support/field-protection-clusters/countries/ukraine.html>



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

2.9 million people in need

WASH partners continue to provide hygiene items and other assistance to vulnerable people. Water infrastructure continues to be affected by ongoing conflict, with water shortages regularly experienced across the Donbas Region.

Access to safe water

1.8 million
People reached

1.7 million
People targeted

Access to hygiene items

345,000
People reached

413,000
People targeted

Needs

- Water shortages due to conflict-damaged infrastructure continue in, among others, Slavyansk, Avdiivka, Krasnohorivka, Mariinka, Donetsk, Yasynuvata, Dokuchaevsk, Volnovakha and Vugledar.

- Power cuts to pumping stations in Luhansk NGCA continue to cause water shortages in the oblast.
- The Donetsk Filter Station (DFS) has been continually taken off-line due to damage to critical electricity infrastructure.

Response

- WASH Cluster partners continue to support water supply utilities in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts through the provision of water treatment chemicals, emergency water supply as well as maintenance and repairs.

Gaps/Challenges

- Continued shelling in the contact line vicinity continues to put water infrastructure at risk. Access to assess and repair damages to water and electricity infrastructure is limited due to ongoing hostilities.

- Most WASH partners lack a full access to NGCA.
- Continuous funding is required for a strategic, adequate and timely response to WASH needs, especially to ensure resilience of water infrastructure.

For more information, contact: washcluster.ukraine@gmail.com