

HIGHLIGHTS

- Access to clean water by millions is at risk
- Daily clashes continue amidst the 'harvest ceasefire'
- Despite challenges, humanitarian actors continue to address critical needs
- Limited access to benefits
- Key strategies developed to improve coordination



6-year-old Anastasia receives food assistance from DDC and WFP. Photo: © Donbass Development Center

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Critical water supply systems interrupted

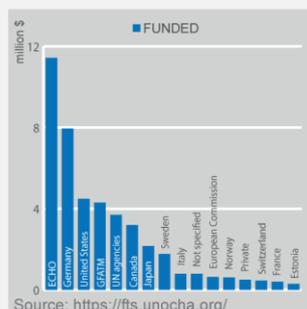
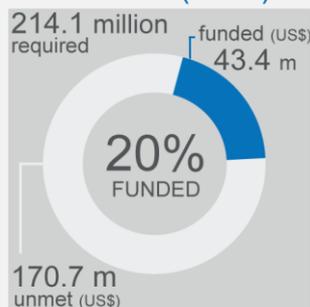
Hostilities continuously occur in variety of forms and scale near critical civilian infrastructure. Access to clean water by millions is at stake, as power lines, supply systems and pumping stations continue to be hit. Obsolete infrastructure and lack of systematic agreements between energy and water entities on both sides of the 'contact line' further exacerbate the situation. The heaviest impact of these water cuts falls on the most vulnerable. A single incident of shelling of a Pumping Station of the South Donbas Water Pipeline reported on 11 June cut access to water for some 400,000 people for more than five days and indirectly affected some 700,000 people. To scale up the response to this critical humanitarian situation, the Ukrainian Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs (MTOT) called an urgent meeting with partners, while Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG) issued a [statement](#) calling for immediate cease in hostilities targeting civilian infrastructure. Partners delivered water through water trucking and performed rapid repairs of the damaged infrastructure, however these solutions are temporary, while disruptions continue to be recurring amidst active conflict.

Overall, in June, WASH Cluster recorded at least 12 cases of disruption of access to water in Donetsk and Luhansk provinces on both sides of the 'contact line' due to multiple reasons. Although the statistics show a 20 per cent decrease comparing to the previous month, number of people affected by a single incident at any given time reaches thousands, which is of alarming concern. The Cluster has recorded that at least 3 million people have been affected by water cuts since the start of 2017.

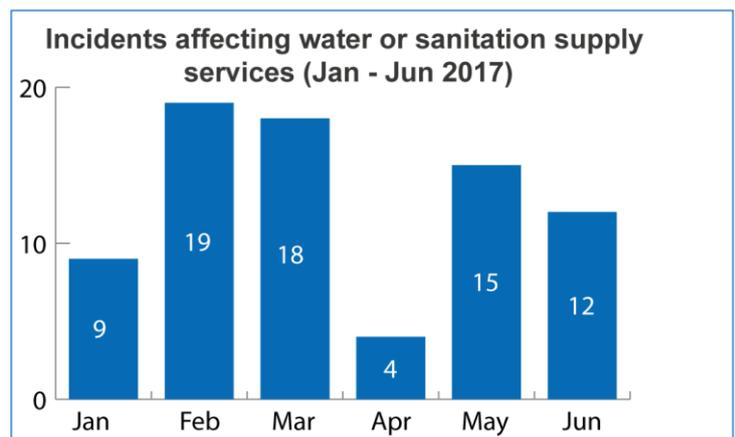
Disruption of operations, caused by continuous shelling and damage of the infrastructure results in regular wastewater discharge posing a great environmental and health threat. All-encompassing impact of shelling near the civilian infrastructure by parties to the conflict continues to be witnessed. Humanitarian community continues to call for both parties to the conflict to

adhere to the International Humanitarian Law (IHL), humanitarian and human rights principles and to respect the civilian nature of critical infrastructure.

FUNDING (2017)



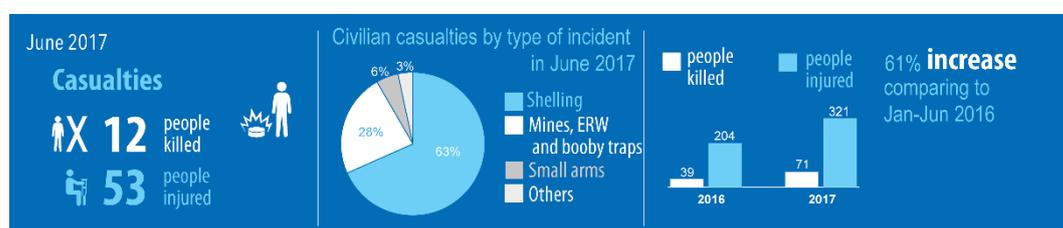
Source: <https://fts.unocha.org/>



All parties to the conflict must respect International Humanitarian Law and human rights principles

Hostilities continue despite the reinforced ceasefire to allow safe harvesting

Efforts through the Minsk negotiations have brought additional ceasefire agreements for harvesting season, to last from 24 June to 31 August 2017. Although, the ceasefire calls for complete cessation of fire along the 'contact line', daily clashes in all major areas of concern continue to be reported. However, the latest ceasefire agreement has brought about a relative lull. Despite overall decrease in hostilities, geography and the scope of combat activities remained largely unchanged on both sides of the 'contact line', while civilian casualties are still reported almost daily. OHCHR verified 65 civilian casualties (12 killed and 53 injured) in June¹, representing a decrease by 14 per cent comparing to the previous month. This slight decrease could partially be attributed to relative adherence to the 'harvest ceasefire'. Causes of casualties vary, while shelling and incidents related to mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) prevail (63 per cent and 28 per cent respectively). The Mine Action Sub-Cluster reports that more than 7,000 km² of areas along the 'contact line' have been contaminated by mines and other remnants of war. Ongoing insecurity, the need for livelihoods and start of agriculture activities, particularly during the planting and harvesting seasons, indicate that the tendency of mine-related incidents is likely to continue.



According to OHCHR, from 1 January to 30 June 2017, at least 392 civilian casualties were recorded (71 killed and 321 injured). This is an increase by 61 per cent compared to the same period of 2016.

Humanitarian needs persist and rise

Ongoing shelling causes more damage to housing, educational and health infrastructure. The latest conservative account by the Health and Nutrition Cluster partners indicates that since the start of the conflict, at least 160 health facilities were shelled on both sides of the 'contact line', while some 130 facilities remain either partially or fully non-operational, seriously limiting access to critical healthcare. Also, the Cluster partner indicates that some 441 health facilities in the conflict areas report insufficient stocks of medicines, including surgical supplies, insulin and other treatment materials. In addition, Education Cluster reports that at least 55 educational facilities were impacted by continuous insecurity in 2017 alone, disrupting access to education for thousands of children. Of these, at least 28 schools were damaged by the shelling, posing serious risks to lives of children and students. The Cluster is extremely concerned with the staggering number of 700 educational facilities that have been damaged or destroyed since the start of the conflict.

In parallel, the Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Cluster's recent analysis indicates that since the start of the year, ongoing hostilities and 'flare-ups' increased the target of acute emergency shelter interventions by 140 per cent by the end of May 2017. In addition, targets for light, medium and heavy shelter interventions have also risen significantly. The Cluster estimates that many newly damaged houses are within the proximity of ongoing insecurity, making it impossible to undertake relevant repair works. An estimated 1,500 houses are repairable only when a relative 'window of silence' is obtained.

Multifaceted impact of the ongoing conflict is widespread. Recent Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC) analysis highlights the serious impact that the conflict has had on the economy of the affected region. The level of poverty by actual cost of living increased from 20 per cent in 2013 to 74 per cent in 2015 in Luhansk GCA, and from 22 per cent to 65 per cent in Donetsk GCA, respectively. Food prices are now at a record high and are expected to see sharper increases as winter approaches – especially in NGCA

¹ According to OHCHR, during the whole period of the conflict (14 April 2014 to 30 June 2017) at least 2,493 civilians were killed and an estimate of 7,000–9000 civilians injured.

160 health facilities
damaged / destroyed due to the conflict

441 health facilities
report insufficient stocks of medicines

55 educational facilities
impacted in 2017

700 educational facilities
damaged / destroyed due to the conflict

140% increase of
target for
acute emergency shelter
interventions by end of May 2017

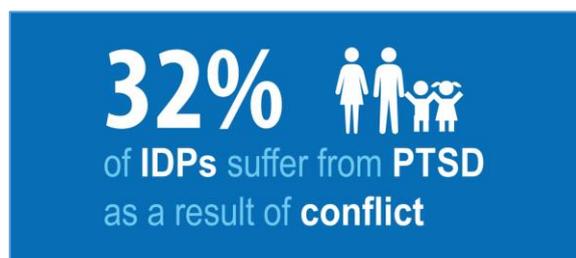
where the value of the full food basket has reached its highest level since the beginning of the conflict standing at US\$39.30 per food basket per person (per month).

Despite challenges, including severe underfunding and limited humanitarian space, particularly to NGCA, humanitarian actors continue efforts to address critical needs in all areas of high concern. Assistance, consisting of food and non-food items, shelter, WASH, health, education and livelihoods interventions reached the most vulnerable through variety of modes, including in-kind and cash-based programmes. In addition, on 15 June, the Russian Federation has reportedly delivered 66th humanitarian convoy consisting of over 550 metric tons of assistance to Donetsk and Luhansk provinces (NGCA). Meanwhile, initiatives to streamline humanitarian efforts with those of development and recovery, particularly in Government controlled areas (GCA) are also underway.

Of particular highlight is the increase in Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) as critical component of humanitarian assistance in Ukraine. In an effort to improve the scope and enhance effectiveness, consultations with wide range of partners to mainstream gender aspects and expand cash-based interventions across critical sectors, such as Health and Nutrition are taking place. At the same time, Multipurpose Cash (MPC) actors are currently looking at common indicators, standard calculation methodologies and market tools that will ensure wider scope of analysis in understanding the impact of MPC on the beneficiaries.

Widespread protection concerns undermine people's ability to enjoy rights

Conflict continues to impact the lives of millions in many ways. Daily hardships are coupled with challenges to access social benefits by multiple bureaucratic impediments. Most vulnerable groups, including Internally Displaced People (IDPs) with specific needs, women with children and minority groups experience discrimination in accessing their rights and benefits. The conflict has also lowered social standards, deepened gender inequalities, contributed to feminization of poverty and has disproportionately affected women, who make up over 60 per cent of the displaced population. Destruction of schools has also affected women's employment in this female dominated sector. A study conducted by the International Alert found high prevalence of mental disorders, including post-traumatic stress disorder (32 per cent), depression (22 per cent) and anxiety (17 per cent) among IDPs, particularly women. Due to high costs of mental healthcare and other priorities, many of the affected do not seek support.



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Constant changes to or issuance of new legislations and orders impact people's access to benefits. On 1 June, Cabinet of Ministers introduced amendments to the Resolution No. 505 stipulating provision of monthly targeted assistance to IDPs, which potentially further shrinks IDPs' access to housing assistance. These amendments specify that the assistance is granted to individuals, who originate from settlements in NGCA, or along the 'contact line', narrowing the assistance geographically. While the list of such settlements has not been updated since December 2015, the Protection Cluster partners have identified at least 81 locations which need to be included into this list. Also, according to Protection Cluster partners, it is feared that the amendments could potentially empower authorities to deny housing assistance (rent and utility) to IDPs, who or whose family members own a house or a part thereof in GCA. It is imperative that targeted assistance must be provided on the grounds of individual needs, rather than the place of origin.

Of positive news is the opening of branches of Pension Departments in Rubizhne and Shchastya (Luhansk province, GCA). Some 50,000 people will benefit from easier access to pensions, as around 6,000 pensioners in Rubizhne took some 50 km of travel to access pensions previously.

Impeded access to social benefits by the most vulnerable is a major concern

Humanitarian access and efforts to improve coordination

Accessing the most vulnerable people in need is becoming a constant challenge. This is characterized by both ongoing insecurity and limited humanitarian space in NGCA. Multiple factors, including the requirement of ‘accreditation/registration’ of humanitarian partners and ad-hoc modalities of coordination imposed by the de facto authorities continue to hamper the delivery of humanitarian assistance. On 2 July, the Humanitarian Coordinator visited NGCA to engage with the key stakeholders to identify possible solutions to these challenges and remind the parties to the conflict on the need to adhere to IHL and human rights principles. The Humanitarian Coordinator also consulted with key humanitarian organizations active on the ground to identify ways to strengthen operational coordination and minimize the disconnect between coordination mechanisms existing at national and field levels.

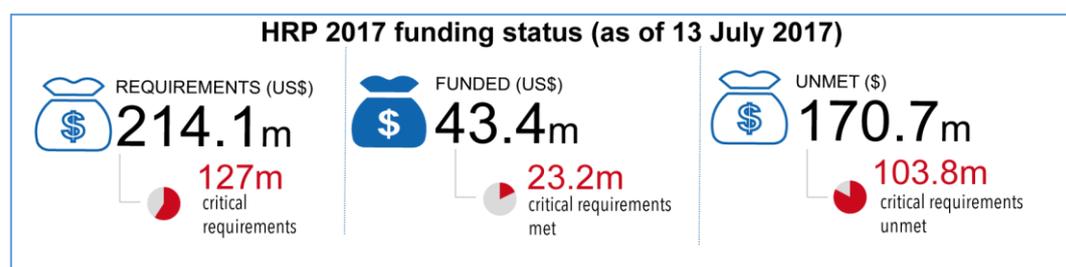
In parallel, efforts to improve humanitarian coordination are scaling up through the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). As part of immediate follow-up to the recommendations of the Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (STAIT) mission, partners have advanced in strengthening critical coordination elements. Key guiding documents are currently under development, such as the HCT Protection Strategy, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) frameworks. Once rolled out, these strategies will contribute to addressing critical areas around protection. These HCT-led/owned initiatives will include clear action plans and monitoring mechanisms, with clarified roles and responsibilities defined to guide a coordinated and people-centred humanitarian action.

Humanitarian Overview: Needs and response analysis (January- May 2017)

On 29 June, HCT concluded an **analysis** of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) covering January - May 2017. The results are not positive, as partners’ ability to meet the life-threatening needs shrunk significantly due to lack financial resources and access constraints. Of the US\$127 million required resources for the 2017 HRP projects of critical priority, only 18 per cent is funded (US\$23.2 million). Underfunding has led to readjustments of programmes, and in worse cases, cessation of planned critical life-saving interventions, with at least two international NGOs already closing down their operations in Ukraine. Some of these activities include seasonal projects, such as agriculture/livelihoods support. Insufficient funding for such critical activities jeopardized people’s opportunity to earn an income, undermining their ability to recover and become self-reliant.

Overall, underfunding remains a critical concern. As of 13 July, HRP is funded only at 20.3 per cent. Advocacy efforts to raise funding for Ukraine humanitarian portfolio continue. On 29 June, the HCT convened an expanded meeting with the donor community in Ukraine. The meeting discussed the results of the 2017 HRP January to May analysis, stressed the urgency of gaps as well as evolving needs and called for urgent support and increased funding for life-saving and prioritized activities of the 2017 HRP.

Underfunding has led to cessation of critical seasonal activities, having a knock-on effect on people’s ability to restore livelihoods and self-reliance



To ensure effective use of available resources, record and recognize the contributions, an appeal has been made to donors and partners to reflect contributions pledged, disbursed and received at <https://fts.unocha.org>.

Revision of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) Priorities

Evolving humanitarian and security environment, coupled with severe underfunding and increasing needs across all sectors prompted partners to undertake a light Mid-Year Review (MYR) of the 2017 HRP. Guided by the outcomes of the latest stock-taking of humanitarian situation and quarterly HRP monitoring analysis, the MYR process will analyse achievements against the originally established HRP targets, review the existing capacities vis a vis the current state of needs and risks, revise targets and as necessary, re-prioritize humanitarian projects, and adjust requirement for the remainder of 2017. The process is expected to be concluded in August 2017.

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