

## Landmines continue to take lives

Human tragedies continue to happen near the 'contact line' which has become a death trap for many people living in its vicinity. Almost five years into the conflict, the 'contact line' is still bristling with landmines and other unexploded remnants of war (ERW). At the end of September, three teenage boys were killed and one injured when they accidentally triggered a landmine in the non-Governmental controlled areas (NGCA). The boys were reported to have ventured to an abandoned house in the city of Horlivka, 30 kilometres north of Donetsk. **"We are constantly confronted (with the problem of mines), and I think it's something that will continue for some time,"** a local resident was quoted as saying. About two weeks later, landmines claimed yet another two lives when a husband and wife stepped on an unexploded device in so-called "no man's land" near Zolote-4 in Luhanska oblast on their way to cross the 'contact line'. The fact that the security situation only allowed the authorities to retrieve the couple's bodies six days after the incident clearly reflects the gravity of the situation.

Landmines and ERW are still some of the highest causes of civilian casualties in eastern Ukraine, with 112 men, women and children killed or injured in landmine-related incidents this year alone. In a [statement](#) following the killing of the three boys, the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine, Ms Osnat Lubrani, called for the protection of civilians. **"I urge all parties to take the necessary measures to avoid using landmines, especially in populated areas and close to civilian infrastructure such as homes, schools and medical facilities."**

## Workers pay high price for bringing water to the people

In another mine-related incident, two workers of the "Voda Donbasu" water utility company were seriously injured when their truck hit a landmine. The pair had just delivered an excavator needed for the repair of a damaged pipeline on the 'contact line' between Horlivka (Donetska oblast, NGCA) and Toretsk (Donetska oblast, GCA) when they were struck by the explosion. Water workers have become the real heroes of this conflict as they regularly put their lives at risk in their quest to restore the water supply for hundreds of thousands of people. In this case, their efforts allowed 45,000 people to be put back on the water grid. Since the beginning of this year, water supply infrastructure has been exposed to at least 73 incidents, eight of which happened in September and October.

In an effort to protect water workers and guarantee access to clean water to all conflict-affected people across the country, humanitarian partners for water and sanitation issues have launched a [petition](#) on the presidential website. If 25,000 signatures are collected by 24 January 2019, the Government will act on the petition's demands.

## Addressing protracted internal displacement

Renowned expert for internal displacement, Professor Walter Kaelin, facilitated a series of workshops on protracted internal displacement at the end of October. The workshops took place in Kyiv, Kramatorsk and Sievierodonetsk during which Professor Kaelin shared his international experience of addressing the challenges of internal displacement and finding durable solutions for IDPs with the relevant representatives of the Government of Ukraine and humanitarian partners. Some 80 representatives of the Government of Ukraine and local authorities participated in the workshops and discussed how to develop viable long-term approaches as well as lessons learnt for the integration of IDPs in Ukraine.

*"We are constantly confronted with the problem of mines, and I think it's something that will continue for some time."* Resident of eastern Ukraine

Humanitarian partners presented tools and mechanisms for addressing protracted internal displacement, such as raising awareness regarding the eligibility for pension and social security benefits or the right to housing and healthcare. These efforts are aligned with the Government of Ukraine, particularly with the Ministry of Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs' (MTOT) efforts to find durable solutions to address internal protracted displacement affecting some 1.5 million registered IDPs. It also builds on the National IDP strategy endorsed in November 2017 and links with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the global initiative on [Guiding Principles for Internal Displacement](#).

### Needs for 2019 identified and response planning underway

The Government of Ukraine, humanitarian and development partners as well as donor aid agencies and representatives of embassies, gathered at a workshop on 27 September to discuss emerging humanitarian needs and response priorities for 2019. The results of over 55 assessments conducted in 2018 to better understand the needs of the people in eastern Ukraine were presented. Participants agreed on prioritising activities; first and foremost, delivering aid to areas with critical humanitarian needs, considering the levels of vulnerability of the men, women and children in need. Participants discussed how to better link humanitarian, recovery and development efforts, not only to address immediate humanitarian needs but to reduce these needs and strengthen people's resilience. The workshop resulted in a set of actions and collective decisions that will form the base for the 2019-2020



Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) help the millions of people in need of emergency assistance and protection services, recovery and development support.

### Over one million people receive aid in 2018

Thanks to generous contributions from donors over one million men, women and children were reached with various types of assistance and protection services on both sides of the 'contact line' between January and September, according to the [latest Humanitarian Dashboard](#). This included shelter and non-food items, improved access to clean water and sanitation, healthcare, safe and protective education environment and critical protection services, such as psychosocial counselling, legal support and assistance to victims of gender-based violence (GBV). Despite challenges of unpredictable access and limited funds, humanitarians continue to stay and deliver. Since October, six convoys have delivered vital emergency assistance to settlements on both sides of the 'contact line'.

The Russian Federation informed OCHA New York that they dispatched two convoys to Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (NGCAs) in September and October, reportedly carrying over 1,000 tons of baby food, medicines, medical and basic emergency supplies<sup>1</sup>.

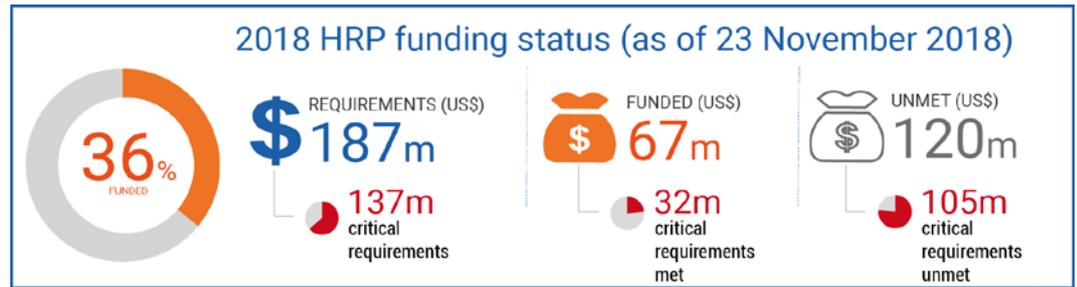
### Funding for 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan

As of 22 November 2018, the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was funded at 36 per cent, a six per cent rise since the last reporting period. This slight but much-needed increase has brought the funding to a total of US\$67 million and comes at a time when more relief items are required to meet the people's needs due to the upcoming winter.

*Despite challenges, more than one million Ukrainians have received assistance and protection*

<sup>1</sup>OCHA reports on what has been communicated in New York, but is not in a position to verify this information.

*Even though the slight increase in funding came right on time for winterisation, the 64 per cent funding gap needs to be addressed for humanitarian efforts to continue.*



To ensure effective use of available resources, and to record and recognise the contributions, donors and partners should reflect their contributions pledged, disbursed and received at <https://fts.unocha.org>.

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