

HIGHLIGHTS

- An estimated 3.8 million people in Ukraine are in need of humanitarian assistance
- Thousands are left without water supply due to shelling and lack of mechanisms to pay debts to and from non-government controlled areas (NGCA)
- Fewer people cross the 'contact line' due to shorter opening hours and harsh winter conditions
- Shelter/NFI Cluster partners reached more than 50,000 people with winterization assistance



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Some 440 households in Zolote-4, near the contact line, received coal from NRC for heating purpose.

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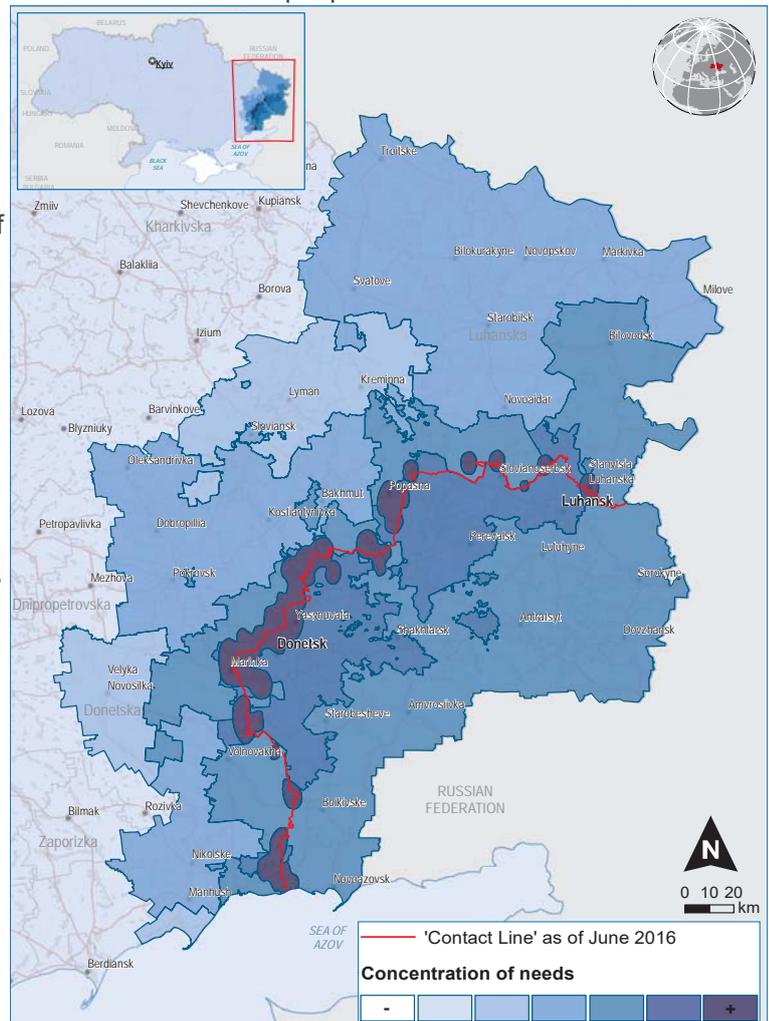
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The Humanitarian Country Team appeals for US\$ 214 million to cover needs in 2017

Nearly three years into this conflict, humanitarian needs in Ukraine persist unabated. An estimated 3.8 million people will continue to need humanitarian assistance in 2017 – an increase of 0.7 million compared to in 2016.¹ This is largely due to an increase in protection concerns, including restrictions over freedom of movement for people and goods, suspension of social payments and pensions, and some unsafe return to non-government controlled areas (NGCAs). Ongoing hostilities, extensive damage to critical civilian infrastructure and the inability of those responsible to reach an agreement on the payment of water and electricity bills leaves some 3.7 million people in need of water and sanitation assistance.

Approximately 2.2 million people are suffering a lack of access to quality health services as a result of the conflict. Livelihood interventions – of emergency and longer-term nature - are urgently required, as many people have exhausted their savings and resources. Most of the needs are concentrated along the 'contact line' where sectoral needs overlap and potentially compound each other. The situation remains particularly worrisome in areas where security incidents continue to occur on a regular basis, forcing people to seek shelter.

In response, the Humanitarian Country Team, together with the Ministry of the Temporarily Occupied Territories and IDPs, launched the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)² for Ukraine on 5 December, appealing

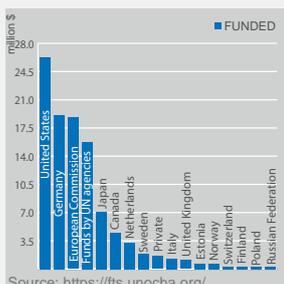
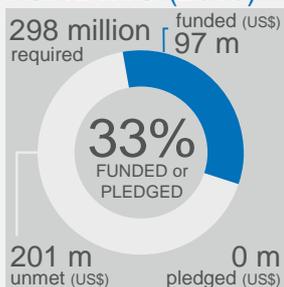


FIGURES

People killed	9,598*
People wounded	22,311*
Externally displaced	1.1 m
People in need (2016)	3.1 m
People targeted (2016)	2.5 m

Source: UNHCR, WHO, OHCHR
* As of 30 November 2016

FUNDING (2016)



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

¹ More information in the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for Ukraine (available in English, Ukrainian and Russian): <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukrain>

² The HRP is available in Ukrainian, Russian and English versions and can be accessed at: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine>

to donors to contribute US\$ 214 million to cover the needs of 2.6 million people considered to be most vulnerable. Activities worth US\$ 127 million were identified as critical priorities for which early funding is crucial to ensure timely delivery of life-saving assistance, particularly in winter. The 2017 HRP encompasses 94 projects and 215 partners, among them many national NGOs.

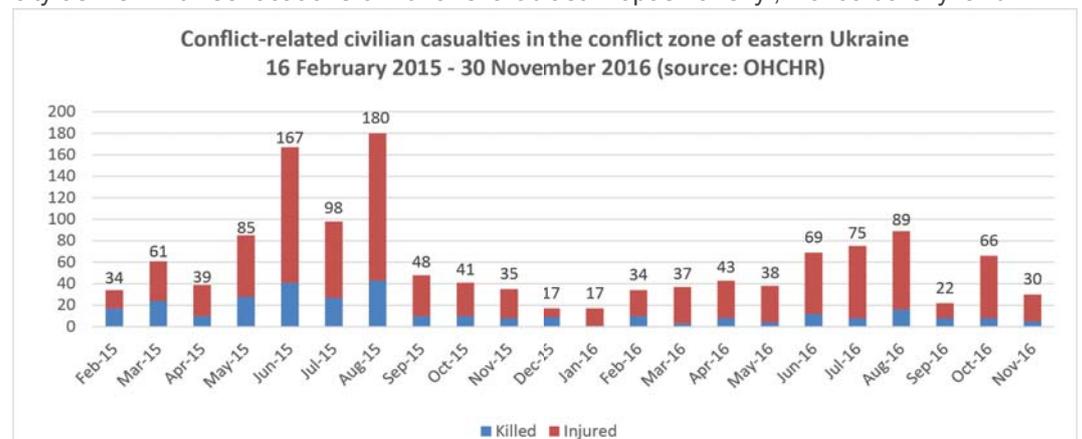
	TOTAL		BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE TARGETED			REQUIREMENTS	
	People in need	People targeted	People in GCA	People in NGCA	IDPs	Critical	Total
WASH	3.7M	2.5M	0.8M	1.5M	0.2M	19.6M	26.2M
Protection	2.9M	2.1M	0.4M	1.4M	0.3M	37.0M	42.6M
Health & Nutrition	2.2M	1.1M	0.5M	0.5M	0.1M	14.2M	23.3M
Food Security & Livelihood	1.1M	0.7M	0.2M	0.4M	70K	11.0M	65.2M
Shelter/NFI	0.6M	0.3M	90K	0.2M	20K	32.0M	33.8M
Education	0.6M	0.1M	80K	60K	10K	6.0M	7.6M
Logistics	-	-	-	-	-	1.5M	1.5M
Coordination	-	-	-	-	-	5.8M	5.8M
Multipurpose Cash Assistance	-	30K	-	-	-	-	8.0M
Total	3.8M	2.6M	0.8M	1.5M	0.3M	\$127M	\$214M

Many casualties and damage as winter sets in

The majority of civilian casualties are caused by shelling in the conflict area.

With eastern Ukraine already faced with sub-zero temperatures and heavy snowfall, the security situation in the conflict area in eastern Ukraine remains tense. Between 1 and 20 December, OHCHR recorded 14 conflict-related casualties in Donetsk and Luhansk provinces: three deaths and 11 injuries, a decrease compared to November when 30 conflict-related civilian casualties (five deaths and 25 injuries) were recorded. In October, 64 casualties were recorded (nine killed and 55 injured). Shelling and shooting accounted for the majority of the casualties, yet mines, explosive remnants of war and booby traps also caused at least 27 casualties during the three months.³

The decrease in civilian casualties somewhat mirrored a slightly lower level of hostilities in November and December. Yet, the situation remains tense and damage to housing and civilian infrastructure continues to be reported almost on a daily basis. Most of the incidents continue to be recorded in the area of Mariupol, and north-west of Donetsk city as well in three locations of Luhanska oblast: Popasnianskyi, Novoaidarskyi and



³ OHCHR estimates the total number of civilians killed during the whole conflict period (mid-April 2014 – 31 October 2016) to be over 2,000. The number of conflict-related civilian injuries is estimated at 6,000-7,000. These are conservative estimates by OHCHR based on available data; the actual number of casualties is believed to be higher.

Stanychno-Luhanskyi raions. Frequent use of heavy artillery and an increasing number of incidents during the daytime and early evening are a particular threat for civilian's life and health.

Thousands left without water supply

Schools and kindergartens in Toretsk were forced to temporarily close, as the heating was not working in temperatures far below zero.

Four significant incidents occurred since October, putting at risk over 600,000 people across the contact line: Shelling close to electricity and water installations has resulted in repeated interruptions of water supply, with knock on effects on heating systems, which caused particular hardships as winter set in. The pumping station №1 on the Yuzhnodonbasskaya pipeline was affected by shelling on at least three occasions, triggering water cuts to five water treatment plants (serving 1.5 million people). The Donetsk Filter Station (DFS), Krasnoarmiiske, Velykoanadolska FS and Starokrymska №1 and №2 WTPs near Mariupol all ceased to receive water, for up to 48 hours.

Power supply to Donetsk FS was cut on 20 November, and again on 7 December due to shelling, and when the electricity company attempted to repair the power lines, staff came under fire and one employee was injured. Water supply to more than 600,000 people was affected for around 2 weeks. On 21 November, a segment of the Horlivka-Toretsk water pipeline (Donetsk) was damaged, leaving more than 40,000 people without water and heating. In light of the freezing temperatures, and due to lack of clean water, the local authorities closes schools for 3-4 days. The crisis was resolved on 4 December, once a local ceasefire was agreed and repairs were made possible. In addition, the wastewater treatment station in Dokuchaievsk, south of Donetsk city (NGCA), was hit on 17 November, resulting in disruptions in sewage treatment, adding pollution risks to water sources to an already complicated situation.

As well as the constant threat of shelling, issues around the non-payment of bills for water and electricity supply across the 'contact line' led to threats to disconnect water supplies in Luhansk Oblast, and bank accounts of major water companies were also frozen in Donetsk. In total bulk water supply to around 4 million people was seriously threatened. An urgent solution to the issue of payments is required to avoid recurrence of water (and heating) water cuts to GCA and NGCAs of Luhansk and potential new water cuts in Donetsk oblast.

On a positive note, in late December local authorities of Mariupol, Kramatorsk, Sloviansk, Ocheretino and Uhledar (all Donetsk GCA) have announced to provide financial assistance to the water supply company 'Voda Donbasa' in order to cover unpaid bills of consumers and avoid supply cuts during the cold season.

Insecurity and bottlenecks at the checkpoints in freezing cold

Shelling and shooting in the vicinity of checkpoints remains a serious threat for hundreds of thousands of people crossing.

Persistent insecurity at and in the vicinity of checkpoints (CP) presents an immediate threat to people's lives and resulted in frequent if mostly short closures of CPs. During the reporting period, 10 civilian casualties were recorded at the checkpoints, including 5 fatalities. On 17 and 20 October, shelling at the pedestrian CP Stanytsia Luhanska resulted in three civilian injuries. Two people were wounded on 26 October near Maiorsk and in Marinka. On 12 November, a 16-years-old boy was killed by the mortar fire while bypassing the CP near Olenivka (NGCA 0-CP of Novotroitske). On 14 December, one civilian was killed and another was injured as a result of a shooting incident at the CP Maiorsk (former Zaitseve). At least three elderly people died of a health conditions at the pedestrian CP Stanytsia Luhanska (Luhanska oblast) and Novotroitske (Donetska oblast). On 8 November, the CP in Olenivka (NGCA) temporary ceased working reportedly due to heavy shelling in the area. Pyshchevyk was forced to suspend operations on 11-13 November after shelling damaged power lines on the NGCA side. The work of the busiest CPs Marinka and Maiorsk was repeatedly interrupted on 22 and 23 November.

Due to shorter opening hours the number of people crossings dropped significantly in November.

The relocation of the CP Zaitseve to Maiorsk, closer to the 'contact line', on 21 October was meant to relieve residents of villages on GCA from cumbersome checkpoint crossing procedures. However, it also raised additional humanitarian and security concerns for the people waiting to cross. The new CP with a daily capacity of up to 8,000 individual crossings (formerly 7,000) is now located only 500m from 'no man's land', closer to the area of hostilities. Facilities and services, including those operated by humanitarian partners, had to be relocated to inappropriate areas, where narrow streets barely allow to empty latrines.

Shorter opening hours and harsh winter conditions have aggravated the humanitarian situation at the five operating CPs on the 'contact line', allowing fewer people to cross. The State Border Guards Service recorded some 658,000 people crossings in December (until 29 December). Considering that two days are missing this is a slight increase compared to November when 682,000 crossings were recorded. However, in October it had been 754,000 crossings. Numbers had dropped significantly after the opening hours were reduced on 1 November (8am-5pm instead of 7am-6.30pm). This resulted in longer waiting hours and bigger queues. As crossing takes up to 24 hours at the two busiest CPs in Marinka and Zaitseve, people are forced to stay overnight in the cold. People continue to travel between GCA and NGCA to visit relatives, receive social payments in GCA, buy food and non-food items. Starting 1 December, the SBG deployed additional 40 staff members to strengthen the processing capacity at all checkpoints during the winter.

Partners respond to the current needs by providing additional tarpaulin coverage of the sheds, which can protect people from the wind, rain and snow, but not the cold. In Luhanska oblast, three heating points (in form of containers replacing heating tents) have been installed at Stanytsia Luhanska by ICRC. In Marinka and Novotroitske (Donetska oblast), Premiere Urgence Internationale (PUI) has installed a first aid point – metal container (15m²) and a heating point (tent 25m²). Despite these efforts, all CPs continue to lack adequate health, sanitation and shelter facilities. While queuing, people are exposed to snow, wind and freezing winter temperatures, putting themselves at risk of health conditions, such as chronic diseases, flu and hypothermia. This is particularly challenging for the elderly, people with disabilities, children and pregnant women. Winterization at the CPs becomes a pressing concern, as early snow and winter frosts came in November, and temperatures dropped below -10C at night.

On a positive note, the limit on personal cargo allowed through the 'contact line' increased from 50 to 75 kg per person, with a maximum value of 10,000 UAH (US\$ 370), including a maximum for food 5,000 UAH (US\$ 185). Ukrainian authorities have endorsed criteria of privileged categories of civilians who are allowed to bypass queues at the crossing points. The disabled, the elderly (70+), pregnant women, parents/care givers with children under 3 years and the people in emergency situations (serious illness, funeral etc.) are allowed to cross the 'contact line' faster, yet they have to provide the relevant documents to confirm their status/eligibility. It remains to be seen how this measure



will be implemented.

Winterization support for over 50,000 people in GCA

WINTERIZATION SUPPORT (GCA)

People reached by Shelter/NFI Cluster in 2016



As damage to private housing continues to be recorded, amidst rising costs for heating material and utility tariffs, winterization assistance is urgently needed. The Shelter/NFI Cluster broadly targets two groups of vulnerable people for its winterization assistance: IDPs with limited access to income and whose coping mechanisms are being exhausted and those non-displaced residing near the 'contact line', experiencing ongoing damage to shelter and infrastructure and/or restricted access to market. The Cluster has identified four types of support: provision of coal and fuel for heating; personal insulation; shelter insulation; and insulation of communal facilities such as collective centres. Proper insulation of damaged homes is required as in winter temperatures could plunge below -20 degrees Celsius.

Based on the lessons learned of the last winter season, the Cluster has recommended increasing the amount of coal and wood for heating - from 2 tons per household to 2.5-3 tons - depending on housing type, to last through the long winter. In GCAs, Shelter/NFI partners are using cash when beneficiaries can purchase appropriate goods in accessible markets. To date, over 50,000 people have received winterisation assistance from the Shelter/NFI Cluster partners.⁴ Despite the tireless efforts to meet the needs in NGCAs, the Shelter/NFI Cluster noticed some gaps to meet the theoretical projection of needs of the conflict-affected living there. Roughly 40 per cent of households are still in need of fuel, and roughly 90 per cent are in need of personal insulation support.

HRP 2016: 33 per cent funded

As of mid-December, the Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <https://fts.unocha.org>) indicates that the 2016 HRP 2016 received US\$ 97.5million, or 33 per cent of the US\$ 298 million required.⁵ This is a massive shrink of funding, compared to the funding level received for the HRP for Ukraine in 2015, which was 61% funded (\$ 193 million received against the appeal of \$316 million).

Despite limited access and funding, the biggest UN convoy with humanitarian aid since the beginning of the conflict has arrived to NGCA Luhansk on 10 December. The joint UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM and WFP convoy of 54 trucks, facilitated by the Logistic cluster has delivered over 700 tons of humanitarian assistance (hygiene and educational kits, shelter materials, diapers, furniture for educational facilities, food parcels) to cover needs of some 40,000 individuals.

The Government of the Russian Federation delivered 400 tons of assistance to Donetsk and Luhansk on 27 October, 450 tons on 24 November and more than 400 tons on 22 December, according to the Russian Emergency Ministry (EMERCOM). Reportedly, the delivery included baby food and medicines.

⁴ For more information on winterisation support update of the Shelter/NFI Cluster, please visit <http://sheltercluster.org/GCAwinterization>

⁵ Excluding the pledge of \$ 7.2 million

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