

Despite the relative calm created by the ongoing ceasefire since 27 July 2020, the already fragile humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine has continued to be exacerbated by multiple shocks. First was the fast-deteriorating COVID-19 situation on both sides of the 'contact line' and across Ukraine. The other was the widespread outbreak of wildfires in late September that caused extensive damage to public and civilian property, particularly in Luhanska oblast. Meanwhile, the country is gearing up for local elections scheduled for 25 October. The local elections will not be conducted in non-Government-controlled areas (NGCA), and 18 communities in Government-controlled areas (GCA) have also been excluded – the majority of which are located near the 'contact line'.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

Extensive wildfires broke out in Luhanska oblast in late September, the third outbreak of 2020 and the worst on record, burning over 20,000 hectares of land and damaging over 30 settlements in GCA. At least 11 people were reported killed and 19 others injured, while hundreds were evacuated and relocated to safety. Some 600 houses were reported to have been destroyed before the fires were extinguished in early October. The fires also halted the operations of the only crossing point in Luhanska oblast at Stanytsia Luhanska (refer to the September 2020 'Crossing Points' snapshot for further information). Outbreaks of localized wildfires were also reported in NGCA, albeit at a lesser scale. The humanitarian community is coordinating with the regional and local authorities to provide emergency support to affected people.

The COVID-19 situation continued to deteriorate nationwide, with the number of daily confirmed cases passing the 4,000 mark by the end of September and continuing to climb exponentially. Over the past two months, the number of confirmed cases has doubled every five weeks nationally. In the conflict-affected area, the trend is increasingly worrisome, with the spike in cases rising faster than the national average. The number of confirmed cases in Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts (GCA) almost tripled during the month (4,526 by end of September, compared to 1,733 by end of August), while the situation was reportedly similar in NGCA. In response, various restrictions have been reintroduced on both sides of the 'contact line' such as a ban on mass gathering and a switch to distance learning for schools.

Water shortages continued to be reported in conflict-affected communities, despite the considerable improvement in the security situation. The aging water supply system, coupled with limited access for maintenance, led to numerous disruptions of the water supply for thousands of people, particularly in NGCA. Such situations were particularly concerning amid the COVID-19 pandemic where access to adequate water to maintain hygiene is essential.

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES



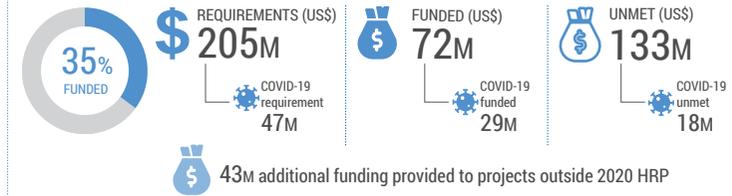
INCIDENTS AGAINST INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES



NUMBER AND LOCATION OF SECURITY INCIDENTS (SEPTEMBER 2020)



2020 HRP: REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING*



Funding by Cluster (% and million US\$)	Funding requirements (million US\$)	Funding status (million US\$)
Education 25%	8.3	2.1
Food Security and Livelihoods 5%	27.1	1.3
Health 19%	38.9	7.3
Protection 23%	55.9	13.1
Shelter/NFI 15%	26.6	4.1
WASH 13%	32.5	4.3
Common Services and Support 38%	6.3	2.4
Multipurpose Cash 6%	9.0	0.5
Cluster not specified		36.9
TOTAL	205	72

2020 POOLED FUND ALLOCATIONS

In May and June 2020, the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF) allocated \$3.75 million for COVID-19 response in eastern Ukraine to provide livelihood support to elderly and other vulnerable people, to support pilot contact-tracing in GCA, and increase COVID-19-related medical response capacity in NGCA.

In June 2020, the UHF launched a \$1 million allocation to strengthen humanitarian access and response capacity of partners in NGCA.

In September 2020, the UHF launched a new allocation of \$6 million to address priority humanitarian needs in NGCA during the winter months, and to support the increased sustainability of humanitarian response in GCA.

The World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) continue to implement COVID-19 response in eastern Ukraine under a \$925,000 global allocation from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for COVID-19 response.

* According to FTS as of 30 September 2020. Some donations are yet to be recorded, and donors and partners are invited to register donations.