The epidemiological situation in Ukraine continues to aggravate, with the number of COVID-19 cases doubling every five weeks countrywide and every three weeks in the eastern part of the country (from 4,600 at the end of September to over 14,000 by the end of October). In response to this exponential rise, the Government of Ukraine extended the adaptive quarantine and the emergency situation that had been introduced in March, until the end of the year. Some additional restrictive measures are expected to be introduced in November as the number of new daily cases is expected to reach the 10,000 mark.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

The situation is particularly concerning in the Government-controlled areas (GCA) and non-Government-controlled areas (NGCA) of Luhanska oblast. In GCA, the bed occupancy rate at COVID-19 designated hospitals exceeded 70 per cent during October. Considering the acceleration of the pandemic in the region, the Government closed the only operational crossing point in Luhanska oblast – ‘Stanitsia Luhanska’ – from 15 October until 15 November. In Luhanska oblast (NGCA), the shortage of basic medicines, particularly antibiotics and anti-viral drugs, was reported in both urban and rural areas.

According to a recent UN study, the COVID-19 pandemic is pushing Ukraine towards its worst recession in decades and may push over nine million people into poverty. Reportedly, more than 80 per cent of households have lost income, and over 40 per cent have at least one family member who has lost a job since the beginning of the pandemic. While disaggregated data on eastern Ukraine is not immediately available, the effects of this socioeconomic decline are likely to be devastating for the populations in the conflict-torn region. In NGCA, 58 per cent of families report they have adopted negative coping strategies to meet basic needs, up from 49 per cent in early 2020, with a larger proportion of households in debt (15 per cent in September, compared with 11 per cent before COVID-19). Oschadbank – the state-run bank administering the payment of social entitlements – has extended IDPs’ expired bank cards until 1 January 2021. Due to movement restrictions, pensioners from NGCA have been unable to travel to GCA to collect re-issued bank cards. The bank has reportedly re-issued at least 200,000 bank cards that have not yet been claimed, likely due to COVID-19-related restrictions on movement across the ‘contact line’. Before COVID-19, NGCA pensioners, who have to be registered as IDPs to receive their pensions, had to travel to GCA to have their IDP status verified every 60 days. This requirement has been suspended until 30 days after the end of the adaptive quarantine in Ukraine.

2. UNDP comprehensive interagency socio-economic impact assessment (September, 2020).

**CIVILIAN CASUALTIES**

- 10 casualties reported in October
- 1 death
- 9 injuries

**INCIDENTS AGAINST INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES**

- 367 security incidents in October
- 0 incidents against water facilities in October
- 0 incidents against education facilities in October
- 0 damaged private houses in October

**NUMBER AND LOCATION OF SECURITY INCIDENTS (OCTOBER 2020)**

In May and June 2020, the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (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 31 October 2020. Some donations are yet to be recorded, and donors and partners are invited to register donations.