



OCHA

UKRAINE

Humanitarian Snapshot – December 2020

As of 15 January 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate the consequences of the 6-year-old armed conflict in eastern Ukraine and worsen people's socioeconomic conditions. The cumulative number of confirmed cases nationwide passed one million on 24 December and the Government of Ukraine has announced plans to tighten COVID-19 quarantine restrictions between 8 and 24 January. The import and delivery of life-saving COVID-19 assistance to the areas outside of Government control (NGCA) remains problematic despite limited improvements in late December.

OPERATIONAL UPDATES

COVID-19 transmission rates are reported to have slowed across the country. The reduction in the daily number of confirmed COVID-19 cases coincided with a decrease in the number of PCR tests conducted, from a daily average of over 40,000 tests in November to 35,000 tests in December. A reduction in the number of PCR tests performed was also reported in NGCA. Donetska and Luhanska oblasts (GCA) continued to report a high COVID-19 positivity rate at 98.3 and 93 per cent,¹ respectively, compared to the national average of 91.5 per cent. Bed occupancy rates dropped to 20-30 per cent by the end of December, compared to 22 and 51 per cent in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts (GCA), respectively, in early November.

The validity of internally displaced persons' (IDPs) bank cards has been extended until 1 March 2021, allowing more time for NGCA pensioners to pick up their re-issued bank cards.² This is the fourth extension since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the meantime, IDPs will be able to use the old cards and social payments will continue to accumulate in their respective accounts. Since the partial closure of the "contact line" in late March 2020, NGCA pensioners registered as IDPs in GCA have been mostly unable to cross to collect new cards and access their pensions in GCA.

Several positive steps have been taken to address the shelter needs of conflict-affected people in GCA. Some 1,300 houses in Donetska oblast (GCA) have been reconstructed in 2020 through a programme managed by oblast authorities who have plans to rebuild an additional 1,000 damaged homes in 2021. In addition, following the adoption by the Cabinet of Ministers of a financial compensation mechanism in September 2020, the first tranche of funding, some UAH5.7 million (US\$203,000) has been provided to compensate 19 residents of Donetska oblast for the destruction of their homes during the conflict. While this is a welcome development long advocated for by the humanitarian community, the amount budgeted for such compensation is feared to be insufficient to cover the scale of needs. Another positive development is the introduction of a more simplified procedure that allows IDPs to obtain temporary housing in any settlement where such housing stock is available, as opposed to only in the location where they had been registered in the common IDP database for at least a year.

1. Percentage of confirmed cases to suspected, as of 31 December 2020.

2. The cards' validity was extended by Oschadbank, the state bank administering social payments and pensions to IDPs.

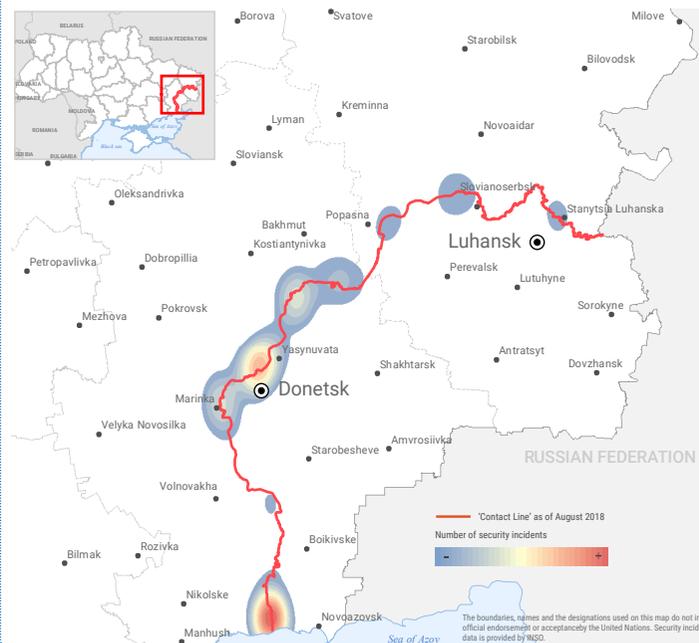
CIVILIAN CASUALTIES



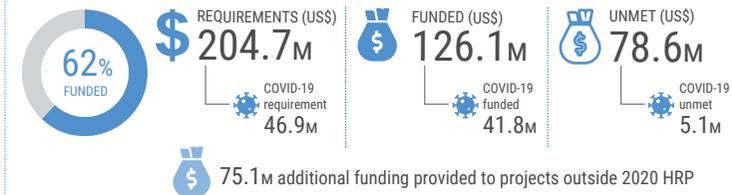
INCIDENTS AGAINST INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES



NUMBER AND LOCATION OF SECURITY INCIDENTS (DECEMBER 2020)



2020 HRP: REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING*



Funding by Cluster (% and million US\$)	Funding requirements (million US\$)	Funding status (million US\$)
Education 25%	8.4	2.1
Food Security and Livelihoods 39%	27.1	10.7
Health 51%	38.9	19.8
Protection 40%	55.9	22.6
Shelter/NFI 24%	26.6	6.5
WASH 30%	32.5	9.7
Common Services and Support 43%	6.3	2.7
Multipurpose Cash 13%	9.0	1.1
Cluster not specified		50.9
TOTAL	204.7	126.1

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 an 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 12 January 2021. Some donations are yet to be recorded, and donors and partners are invited to register donations.