

HIGHLIGHTS

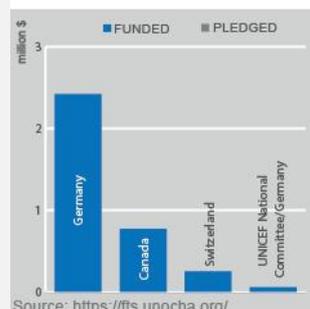
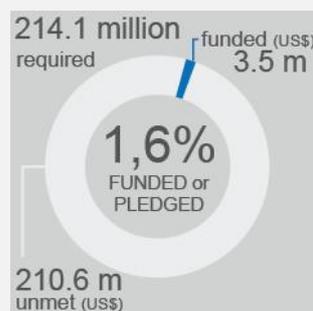
- A spike of hostilities increased humanitarian needs.
- Government approves the Action Plan on reintegration of NGCA.
- Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) remains severely underfunded.
- Life-saving water facilities are at risk of breaking down.

FIGURES

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| People killed | 9,621* |
| People wounded | 22,420* |
| People in need (2017) | 3.8 m |
| People targeted (2017) | 2.6 m |

Source: UNHCR, WHO, OHCHR
*As of 13 February 2017

FUNDING



Avdiivka, Ukraine: Some 200 children were cut from education during the conflict escalation in February. ©OCHA/O. Kuzik

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Heightened humanitarian needs in the east

Insecurity peaked up again in late January across eastern Ukraine, generating additional civilian casualties and humanitarian needs in several locations. Since the beginning of the year, OHCHR verified 111 civilian casualties (20 deaths and 91 injuries), compared to 51 in November-December 2016. Most casualties were caused by shelling from artillery, tanks and MLRS.¹ Damage to houses and vital infrastructure, including electricity, water (with knock on effect on the heating system), as well as schools and health facilities, was also widespread. These events further added to the suffering of already vulnerable people whose resources and resilience have been depleted by the protracted crisis.

Insecurity peaked in late January, and, after a brief period of relatively lessened conflict during the second week of February, renewed clashes flared up on 16-18 February in Avdiivka–Yasynuvata area, with nearly all other major hotspots also witnessing a sharp increase of violence. In Donetsk oblast, the majority of the incidents occurred in the southern part of the ‘contact line,’ east and northeast of Mariupol, in particular, in three biggest hotspots around Pikuzy/Kominternove, Shyrokyne and Pavlopil. Most of the recorded conflict activity in Luhanska oblast remained in the southern parts of Popasnianskyi raion: Novozvanivka (GCA), Novooleksandrivka (area near the ‘contact line’), Troitske (GCA), Kalynove (NGCA) and Kalynove-Borshchuvate (NGCA).

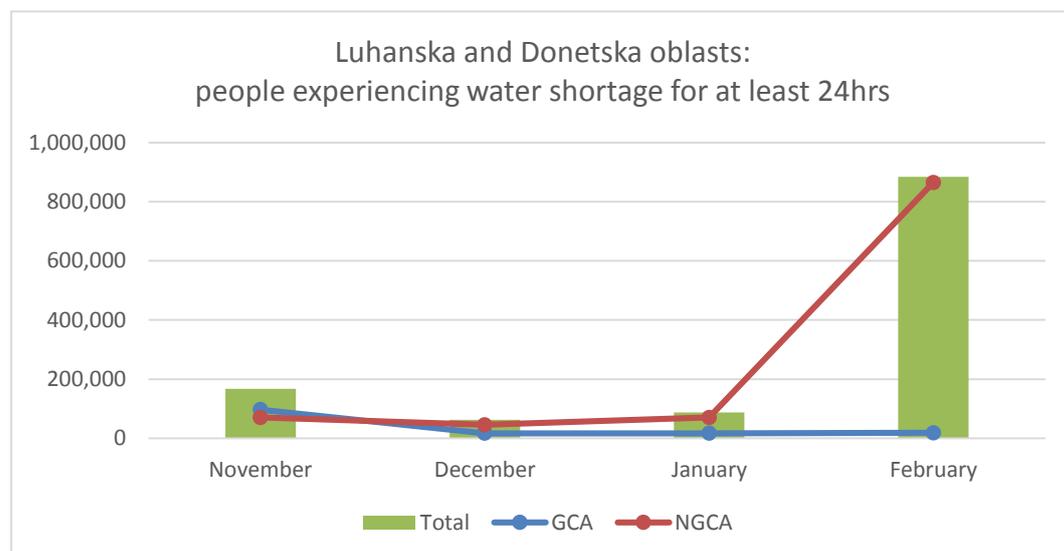
Life-saving water provision is critically affected

According to the water utility company Voda Donbasa, in February alone, over 880,000 people in the conflict-affected area of eastern Ukraine (860,000 in NGCA) experienced water shortages for at least 24 hours. In addition, many more experienced water cuts for several hours. WASH Cluster estimates that, at present, some 2.9 million people are at risk of water shortages, as disruptions continue to be recorded and repair teams’ work is hampered by continuous insecurity.

The WASH Cluster produced some 24 alerts since the beginning of the year and provided vital information to inform advocacy and response. Repeated damage to critical inter-dependent infrastructure, in particular Avdiivka coke plant and Donetsk Filter Station (DFS), which provides water to more than 345,000 people, set off a domino effect of water, electricity and subsequent heating cuts in both GCA and NGCA, amidst freezing temperatures. In Avdiivka and surrounding villages, some 16,000 people were left without power, water and heating supply on 30-31 January. Up to 800,000 people in parts of Donetsk city had no access to water for 24 hours on 1 February. Almost 500,000 people in Mariupol lost access to sustainable water supply and have to rely on Starokrymska backup reservoir, which will eventually run out of water. Shelling around Horlivka, with a population

¹ OHCHR estimates the total number of civilians killed during the whole conflict period (mid-April 2014 – 2 February 2017) 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.

of 190,000, damaged electricity infrastructure on multiple occasions. Undeterred by repeated shelling, repair teams restored electricity, water and heating supply to all affected people by the second week of February. However, in the absence of substantial 'windows of silence', contingency measures which could ensure the operation of the infrastructure in case of future power cuts were limited.



On 18 and 24 February, as a result of intensified fighting, DFS lost power, interrupting water supply to parts of Donetsk city and Yasynuvata, and completely shutting supply to Verhnetoretske, Vasylivka and Spartak. Left without sustainable supply of clean water, Avdiivka had to use a local water reservoir with a 3-day capacity, and water supply had to be limited as a contingency measure. Continued shelling stalled repair attempts for a couple of days, but the damaged power lines were eventually restored. Additional incidents triggered evacuation of staff and suspension of operations in several instances.

WASH partners warn that the South Donbas water pipeline, which serves over 1 million people, damaged in late January, has not been repaired yet. The system serves large cities, including Mariupol, and several pumping stations. This continues to create severe risks of water shortages, which could have a knock-on effect on other systems, as well as increase health related outbreaks on both sides of the 'contact line'. The Horlivka Filter Station, which supplies water to 300,000 people, may be affected if fighting does not stop.

More critical water infrastructure sustained damage on 28 February. The 1st lift pumping station of South Donbas Water pipeline (Donetsk NGCA) was shelled in the evening of 28 February. The pumping station remained operational although staff was evacuated. The station provides raw water to five filter stations, supplying water to more than 1 million people living south of Donetsk who are at risk. Additionally, as a result of shelling in Luhanska oblast, a power line Mykhailivka (NGCA)-Lysychansk (GCA) and Water Pumping Station in Carbonit were damaged. The reserve power lines were activated to avoid problems with water supply.

Environmental and health risks on the increase

Increased insecurity heighten as well the risks for environmental emergencies in eastern Ukraine due to potential chemical releases resulting from the conflict. Several highly industrialized zones with a history of mining, metallurgical, chemical, power and heavy engineering industries are present in eastern Ukraine. Given the industrial nature of the area, there is a large risk to human health and the environment from a multitude of industrial chemical sites. Examples of impacts and their potential implications include the chlorine storages at water filtering stations, the phenol plant near Novgorodske village, where chemicals, such as sulphuric acid and formaldehyde, are at critical levels and threaten to pollute the Severskyi Donets river. The coke refining plant near Avdiivka, the Nikitovsky Mercury Plant and obsolete pesticide stocks, all potentially containing severe toxic and/or flammable/explosive hazards, are among other potential environmental and health risks.

Parties to the conflict should respect the civilian nature of critical water infrastructure and give a wide berth during fighting.

Many industrial sites with hazardous chemicals in and around the urbanized areas pose a large risk to human health if the chemicals are released. Risks include fires/explosions, toxic effects, causing human deaths and long-term health effects, and toxic effects to the environment. There is a potential for chemical exposure by air, direct contact, drinking contaminated ground or surface water, or eating contaminated food. If facilities are set on fire, there is a complementary risk of other toxic gasses being released in the smoke that can expose people for many kilometres downwind, in addition to potential environmental contamination of the rivers, aquifers, creeks, ponds and lakes.

The nearly-miss hit of the chlorine gas depot at DFS on 24 February serves as a stark reminder of the risk for associated to presence of pollutant and chemicals for all those present in the area. Shelling hit the building where over 7,000 kg of chlorine gas is stored in bottles, and, fortunately, none of these were damaged. Should just one of the 900 kg-containers be damaged, any person present within 200-metre distance would be killed and those living within 2.4 km would suffer health problems. In case of extensive damage, people living within 7.4 km downwind from the facility would need to be evacuated within 24 hours, across the 'contact line'.

Humanitarian partners continue to call on parties to the conflict to respect the civilian nature of water infrastructure, de-militarise the adjacent areas and give a wide berth during fighting. A reasonable, limited supply of essential safety equipment for the staff of water treatment facilities must also be allowed to pass into NGCA, so that in case of any damage to chlorine storage, the staff can survive but also take action.

Education disrupted for thousands of children

Intensification of fighting since late January impacted at least 27 education facilities across the 'contact line' (12 damaged, other closed for a period of time), against a recorded number of 27 in 2016, affecting at least 5,000 girls and boys. This adds to over 500,000 children in eastern Ukraine whose right to education has been impacted since the start of the conflict.

Information available to the Education Cluster indicate that some 12 education facilities were damaged by shelling, 15 other schools had to close for some time, disrupting education for thousands of children for days or weeks. Most of the school-age children have returned to schools, although there are reports of schools closed due to electricity cuts. Several other schools near the 'contact line' have also reported a significant drop in attendance. Particularly hit is the frontline town of Avdiivka, where nine schools and kindergartens were closed, cutting off 1,800 children from education. Some children still do not attend schools and kindergartens that are now open - signalling fear of continued heavy fighting and unexploded ordnance in the streets or near schools.

The Cluster is tracking school damage, closures, immediate education-related needs, including provision of psycho-social support, and assisting partners in their response. Aid agencies provided services to at least 10 schools in Government-controlled areas (GCA), including backpacks and stationary, for more than 1,000 students from Avdiivka and other affected areas. Education and Child Protection partners offered psycho-social support (PSS) services to at least eight education facilities recently affected, including recreation and game therapy activities, Psychological First Aid, mobile clinics and teacher training in PSS. Furniture was supplied for at least two impacted schools, electricity and water restored at some facilities, and repairs for several damaged schools have started.



Credit: UNICEF/A. Hetman
Mariinka, Donetsk region (26 Jan 2017) - a fourth grade student writes on the blackboard against the backdrop of reinforced windows. Heavy sandbags are used to prevent windows from shattering during shelling.

Children in frontline areas are cut off from education as a result of fighting and the threat of unexploded ordnance in the streets.

Avdiivka-Yasynuvata-Donetsk area: damage and response

The spike of violence at the end of January in Avdiivka-Yasynuvata-Donetsk area has caused damage to over 350 houses.

A sharp spike of hostilities in the triangle Avdiivka-Yasynuvata-Donetsk erupted on 29 January and continued through 3 February. The situation continues to be tense, with incidents occurring on regular basis, usage of heavy artillery, including multi-rocket launchers (MLRS) “GRAD” being reported. Avdiivka, a town with a population of about 16,000 people, including 2,500 children, has been hit hard: on 30 January, the last power line to the town and Avdiivka Coke Plant, which provides heating, was broken, leaving residents for 48 hours without power, water and heating supply. Incidents at the Donetsk Filter Station and breakages of the power lines, described elsewhere in the report, continue to be recorded. When DFS is not operational, Avdiivka relies to a small back-up water reservoir, which is sufficient for 3-6 days, depending on the level of water supply. At the beginning of March, as water started again to be in short supply, partners had to intervene with water trucking interventions.

By 3 February, the hostilities somewhat subsided, yet, despite sustained calls and commitment to a ceasefire, fighting continued, leading to disastrous impact on residential housing and critical civilian infrastructure. The spike of violence at the end of January in Avdiivka-Yasynuvata-Donetsk area has caused damage to over 350 houses, according to the Shelter Cluster, or 10 per cent higher than the damage the Shelter Cluster records on daily basis. Some 298 people, including 139 children, have been evacuated from Avdiivka, while *de facto* authorities reportedly evacuated some 236 residents, including 64 children, from northern areas of Donetsk and Yasynuvata.

The Government of Ukraine appealed to international organizations to support the affected civilians. The State Emergency Service (SES), together with humanitarian partners, provided the town with three high-power generators and established 11 heating points, with field kitchens providing water and food to some 12,000 residents for about a week. In coordination with the authorities, humanitarian organizations have covered the most urgent humanitarian needs of people affected by the conflict escalation, including food, water, shelter materials and relief items, as well as psycho-social support. Urgent shelter repairs have started as soon as the security situation allowed partners to assess damage and needs. The Donetsk Oblast Administration (DOMCA) established a 24/7 hotline for the affected population. In addition, DOMCA inaugurated a ‘logistics centre’ in Kramatorsk, established to facilitate the receipt and distribution of assistance. The centre has reportedly received over 400 MT of NFI and construction materials. A call centre is organized at the logistics centre to receive and keep track of information on urgent needs from Avdiivka, Marinka and Yasynuvatskyi district of Donetsk oblast, as well as information or offers on humanitarian assistance. To facilitate the smooth coordination of aid tracking and responding to various needs, humanitarian partners, together with DOMCA and the Ministry of Temporary Occupied Territories and IDPs (MToT), have worked out a joint response matrix that includes information on needs, location, type and quantity of aid provided, as well as specifies which organization and in cooperation with which partners is undertaking the response action.

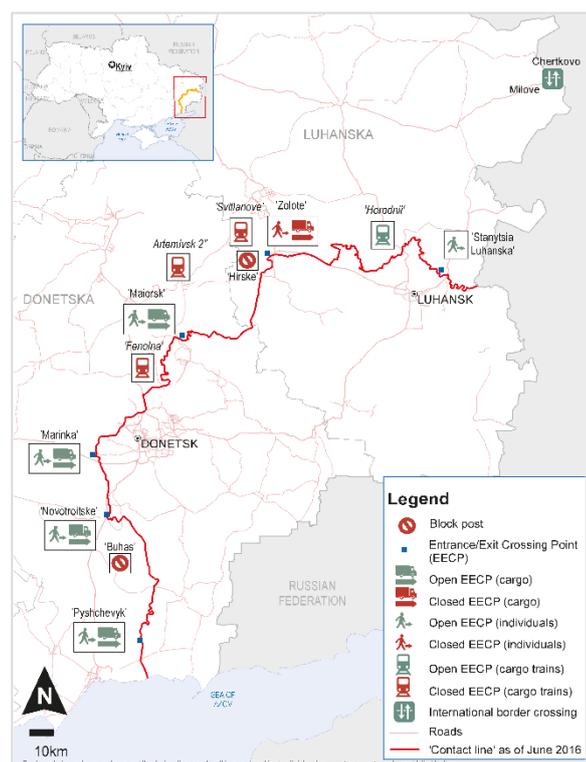
Assistance was also provided to some 1,500 people living in areas beyond government control directly affected by the spike of violence, according to needs and in coordination with *de facto* authorities. This includes those who were relocated to collective centres. People received kitchen sets, tarpaulins, bed linen, heaters, potable water and food items.

Crossings over the ‘contact line’ correspond negatively to spikes in fighting and ceasefire violations. The fighting needs to stop.

Crossing the ‘contact line’ becomes more difficult

On 25 January, a group of ATO veterans launched a blockade of railway communications between GCA and NGCA, demanding the release of prisoners of war by *de facto* authorities. The blockade shut down three out of four railway crossing points, with the

combined capacity of 9 million tons of coal transported per year (see the infographic). The blockade primarily affects the delivery of anthracite coal from NGCA to GCA, which is used by the thermal power plants (TPPs) in Ukraine to produce electricity. TPPs account for one third of all electricity produced in Ukraine, and about 40 per cent of the coal consumed by TPPs is produced in NGCA of Donetsk oblast. To avert an energy crisis, the Government of Ukraine (GoU) declared a state of emergency in the energy market, planned to last from 15 February to 17 March. The temporary emergency measures may be prolonged and potentially include rolling power blackouts. To compensate for the coal shortage, Ukraine has increased the share of nuclear energy in the overall energy balance of the country – from 47 per cent to almost 60 per cent. Yet, it would cost US\$550 million to stop



using coal from the Donbas and would put an additional burden of approximately US\$40 million in unemployment allowance to thousands of potentially affected people. By 21 February, Ukraine's Metinvest mining and steel company put on hold the operations of its two enterprises: "Krasnodonugol" coke plant (Luhansk NGCA) and Yenakieve steel plant (Donetsk NGCA). Tens of thousands of jobs are at stake, though the company announced it will retain workers and pay 75 per cent of salaries.

Risks of unemployment for 500,000 people with negative effects for over 1.5 million people and the general population of Ukraine, as railway blockade affects the anthracite coal delivery for electricity production.

In addition to the railway blockade, on 16 February, ATO veterans blocked a motorway (Lysychansk to Zolote), signifying the alarming expansion of the blockade. On 24 February, the 'right sector' veterans set up a checkpoint near the crossing point Novotroitske, and on 2 March they further installed another checkpoint along the Kurakhove-Marinka highway, which could affect humanitarian cargo delivery. The economic impact of the blockade is likely to affect ordinary Ukrainians in many locations, with at least half a million of jobs are at risk and negative repercussions likely to affect some 1.5 million people - family members of former employees of energy enterprises included, and fuel social tensions. According to the Minister of Social Policy (MoSP), the blockade may lead to a 30 percent increase of electricity and other utility costs for Ukrainians.

Meanwhile, by the end of February, *de facto* authorities announced a plan to seize control of the enterprises in areas under their control and cease the coal delivery to Ukraine in case the transport blockade is not withdrawn. The plan started coming into effect on 1 March, when *de facto* authorities 'nationalized' some 40 Ukrainian enterprises in Donetsk NGCA, according to "DPR" Head, Alexander Zakharchenko. A telecommunication provider, Ukrtelecom, informed about suspension of telephone services in NGCA since 1 March, caused by interruption into the work and occupation of their office by armed groups. The company had to cut off some 200,000 subscribers. The so-called "Ministry of communication of DPR" have started to restore telephone and internet connection on 2 March. Meanwhile, on 2 March, the Cabinet of Ministers discussed an order, further regulating trade exchanges across the 'contact line', including humanitarian aid.

Long lines amidst ongoing fighting, limited services and harsh winter

In January, GoU took measures to accelerate control at checkpoints (CP), but long queues, stretching over 100 cars and 500 people, are still a daily occurrence. People have to wait for hours in the freezing cold to cross the 'contact line', often without access to basic services, adequate health, sanitation or shelter facilities. The opening time of the five

operating checkpoints increased by 2.5 hours on 1 March (7.00 a.m. - 6.30 p.m. compared to the winter schedule 8.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.).

In January, the State Border Guards Service (SBGS) recorded some 586,000 individual and 100,000 vehicle crossings in both directions – a 17 per cent decline from the previous month, which is attributed to holidays and a sharp spike of insecurity at the end of January. As the 29 January escalation spilled into February, fewer people and vehicles were crossing the ‘contact line’ in the first two weeks of February, when



Credit: OSCE/ E. Maloletka

Crossing the broken wooden pedestrian bridge in Stanytsia Luhanska in harsh winter conditions is particularly difficult for the most vulnerable, women with children and the elderly.

117,700 individual and 21,000 vehicle crossings were recorded as a weekly average. The numbers picked up again as fighting subsided, with 156,000 individual and 25,000 vehicle crossings recorded on average in the last two weeks of February, bringing the monthly total to 547,600 individual and 92,700 vehicle crossings (a 6 per cent decrease compared to January).

Numerous security incidents occurred close to the checkpoints, threatening the life of people crossing the frontline and triggering temporary closures. On 15 January, mortar and tank fire hit the Maiorsk checkpoint (CP) just before its opening. Clashes between parties to the conflict at Novotroitske CP resulted in a civilian injury and temporary closure of the crossing point on 20 January. The same CP closed again on 21 February, with civilians evacuated due to shelling. Marinka was the most affected checkpoint in February: fighting was recorded there on 6 to 9, 12, 16 and 28 February. No casualties were reported, as the incidents occurred during closing hours.

In January and February, reports indicate that at least six civilians died of a health condition while waiting in a queue at the checkpoint: one person died on 22 January in ‘no-man’s land’ at Marinka CP, four people – on 27 January, 15 and 16 February at Stanytsia Luhanska, and one man died on 8 February at Novotroitske CP when traveling on a bus.

Since the beginning of the year, at least six civilians died of a health condition while waiting in a queue at the checkpoint.

Despite discussions ongoing for months, and humanitarian partners’ availability to proceed with repairs, the damages of foot bridge in Stanytsia Luhanska continues unaddressed. Pedestrians can only go on foot, and crossing itself is slippery and dangerous. Reports indicate regular injuries among civilians. People (mostly elderly), crossing CP in Stanytsia Luhanska, complain about rude behaviour among the law enforcement personnel. The humanitarians highlighted the need for training regarding the preferential crossing and attitude towards civilians.

Humanitarian partners continue efforts to ease the burden of people, as the latter try to go about their daily lives that happen to span two sides of the ‘contact line’. Latrines are maintained, heating points stocked with sanitizing materials, potable and technical water; hot drinks, basic food items, heating pads, raincoats and boot covers are distributed at the five operating checkpoints. First-aid posts have been set up on the GCA side at Novotroitske and Maiorsk CPs; a medical van is on stand-by at the NGCA side of Maiorsk. More needs to be done to improve the conditions for crossing children. Kharkiv Institute of Social Research found that waiting area, toilets and baby-care spaces should be provided and/or better tailored for children’s needs. More information on CPs can be found here:

www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/infographic/ukraine-checkpoints-humanitarian-snapshot-14-february-2017

Humanitarian response smothered by bureaucratic impediments

The overall scale and quality of response suffered due to the decision of Donetsk de facto authorities to suspend the activities of PIN on 25 November, 2016.

On 18-20 January, Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr. Neal Walker, visited eastern Ukraine and met with the partners and authorities to discuss plans and priorities for 2017 within the humanitarian, recovery and development frameworks and access issues, which – particularly in NGCA – remain unabated. The scale and quality of response suffered due to the decision of Donetsk *de facto* authorities to suspend the activities of the NGO PIN since November 2016, and most recently of the national organization ‘Akhmetov Humanitarian Centre’ in the beginning of March. These decisions had and will continue to have a severe impact on assistance delivery for hundreds of thousands of people in need.

Despite difficulties, several humanitarian convoys managed to reach NGCA

Despite challenges with access and the lack of registration in NGCA, cross-line operations continued. Since the beginning of the year, the Logistic Cluster, with OCHA support, organized seven road convoys, for a total of 62 trucks, which transported some 1,500MT of relief items across the frontline. Of these, one failed to cross the line, as the *de facto* authorities did not manage to issue authorisation papers on time and convoy had to return to GCA and then re-arranged for a later date. The humanitarian assistance delivered to NGCA mainly consisted of shelter materials, non-food items, medical supplies and other items provided by UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, WFP and other partners. Other organizations also continued provision of supplies via road.

Delays in communication between Luhansk and Donetsk *de facto* authorities and changes in procedures delayed crossing between Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA. Traffic bottlenecks and delay in public transportation in NGCA were observed, as new customs procedures came into effect at the checkpoint “Snizhne-Miusinsk” between the ‘LPR’ and ‘DPR’. Effective of January 2017, people crossing the ‘border’ between Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA are to register their passports in a database and show their belongings for inspection – a measure aimed at tracking migration and ensuring security in the area.

Winterization efforts continue

Despite access challenges, Shelter and NFI Cluster partners proceeded with winterization support. Coal and fuel for heating and insulation reached some 15,800 households (HH) in GCA of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. In NGCA, humanitarian partners have launched aid delivery and distribution, with over 20,000 individuals slated to receive coal and NFI items within projects approved by the ‘Humanitarian Committee’. In NGCA Donetsk, 6,000 HHs will stay warm thanks to charcoal provided by UNHCR and IOM.

A rise in transportation costs and prices on coal made some partners reduce the recommended by the Cluster amount of 3 tons of coal per HH down to 1 ton.

In NGCA Luhansk, around 40,000 people will benefit from 700 metric tons of construction materials, hygiene and education kits, food and equipment for education facilities. WFP has prepositioned around 29,000 food parcels to be distributed in January and February to the most vulnerable people living in the most insecure settlements along the ‘contact line’. In January 2016, WFP in partnership with ADRA Ukraine, UNHCR and local authorities provided food



UNHCR Ukraine

In January and February, partners continued to bring much-needed coal for the most vulnerable families in the villages along the ‘contact line’.

rations to 15,502 people among the most vulnerable population such as elderly people without support of relatives, families with one parent, people with disabilities and people with chronic diseases (HIV, Tuberculosis, cancer). Humanitarian partners continue distributing family kits, warm clothes, blankets and bed linen among the most vulnerable residing in the conflict zone, IDPs and to shelters and collective centres. Increasingly more humanitarian partners opt for multi-purpose and purposeful cash assistance.

A rise in transportation costs and prices on coal made some partners reduced the recommended by the Cluster amount of 3MT of coal per HH down to 1MT. The reduction will affect the most vulnerable, particularly female-headed households and the elderly. As people's coping mechanisms dwindle, they resort to negative survival practices and increasingly depend upon humanitarian aid.

Policy changes: Government Action Plan

An action plan on reintegration of NGCA is a positive development

According to UNHCR, a new Action Plan may be conducive to new approaches to ensuring that Ukrainian citizens in NGCA have access to pensions and social assistance.

On 11 January, the Ukrainian Government approved an Action plan on reintegration of NGCA territories, which is seen by humanitarian partners as a positive step. The plan envisions the provision of psychological, social, medical, legal and information services to NGCA residents. It also includes measures to stem corruption at checkpoints, establish logistic and administrative centres in close proximity to the checkpoints, ensure social payments to all Ukrainian citizens, protect the rights of children, including the provision of PSS, conflict and online education, ensure transportation of humanitarian cargo through the 'contact line'.

The Plan will grant access for NGCA residents to administrative services and humanitarian-logistical centres, as well as facilitate salary payments to state enterprise personnel that are lawfully present in NGCA (railway and energy companies). In doing so, the Action Plan may be laying the groundwork for finding a new approach to access to pensions and social assistance for Ukrainian citizens in NGCA.

African Swine Fever outbreak hits in lean season

The number of cases of African Swine Fever (ASF) is increasing. In January and February, 48 cases of ASF have been registered in six oblasts of Ukraine². The number is alarming given the trend in previous years, when 91 cases in total were registered in 2016 and 40 cases the year before.

The spike is identified in eastern oblasts already riddled with war-induced vulnerabilities. ASF affects domestic and wild pigs and cannot be cured. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) warns that because pork is a key source of protein, especially in winter, the outbreak poses a serious threat for the food security of the most vulnerable households in rural areas along the 'contact line' in Luhanska and Donetska oblasts. The neighbouring Dnipropetrovska and Kharkivska oblast authorities announced a quarantine, banning the sale of pork to avoid further spread of the disease. The state and *de facto* authorities of the Donetska (the largest national pork producer) and Luhanska oblasts asked the humanitarian community to assist with



FAO Ukraine

The State Service for Consumer Protection and Food Safety stated that swill feeding, backyard slaughter and uncontrolled movement of animals and products were the key reasons for the ASF control failure.

² As of 28 February 2017, the number of ASF cases was 48. Up-to-date information can be found on <http://www.asf.vet.ua/index.php/maps>

Cases of ASF are increasingly turning up in the military kitchens in the conflict area.

disinfecting equipment, personal protective equipment and reagents, as well as to establish veterinary control of ASF spread in the conflict zone. ASF is increasingly turning up in the military kitchens in the conflict area.

FAO produced guidance on outbreak control measures, conducted workshops among local veterinary services. With the support of Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster partners, awareness-raising posters and booklets were distributed in rural communities. Humanitarian partners are seeking support in distributing awareness materials in NGCA of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Humanitarian Response Plan 2017: 1.6 per cent funded

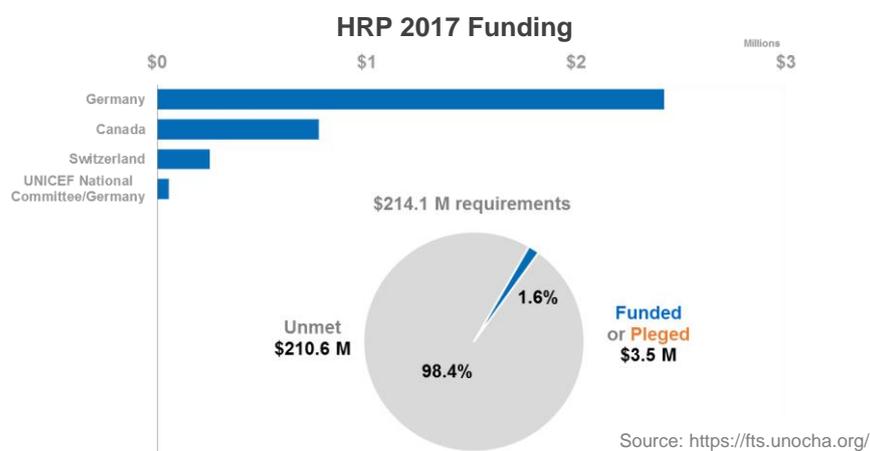
As of 28 February, the official tracking system for donation to the HRP 2017 indicates that the operation received only 1.6 per cent, or US\$3.5 million, of the required US\$214 million. Some generous donations are yet to be recorded. This includes portion of the recent announcement of a contribution of €18 million by the EU Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management and €1 million announced by the Italian Government to support Ukrainian people affected by the conflict.

An appeal has been made to donors and partners to reflect contributions pledged, disbursed and received at <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/531/summary>

On 21 and 28 February, EMERCOM of the Russian Federation dispatched the first two humanitarian convoys in 2017 to NGCA. The 60th and 61st convoys reportedly delivered 600 tons of baby food to NGCA – 200 tons to Luhansk and 400 tons – to Donetsk.

As funding shortage persists, thousands of most vulnerable women and adolescent girls risk losing access to life-saving health and psychosocial services through mobile outreach in less than a month, according to UNFPA. Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a significant risk in eastern Ukraine. Low reporting of GBV cases further deepens vulnerability. Critical interventions responding to acute humanitarian needs in this regard are now under a grave threat if no continued funding materializes. UNFPA is appealing for US\$3.3 million to provide mobile outreach psycho-social assistance and safe spaces to survivors of gender-based violence and to sustain access to sexual and reproductive health services for displaced and conflict-affected women and adolescent girls.

In view of the serious deterioration of humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine, UNICEF in early February appealed for a priority funding of US\$3,500,000 to support its multi-sector response of which US\$2,250,000 will focus on ensuring the continuity of emergency safe water supply for 500,000 people for three months.



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For more OCHA humanitarian bulletins, see <http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/operations/ukraine> | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int