

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

UKRAINE

HUMANITARIAN
PROGRAMME CYCLE
2022
ISSUED FEBRUARY 2022



About

This document is consolidated by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team and partners. The Humanitarian Response Plan is a presentation of the coordinated, strategic response devised by humanitarian agencies in order to meet the acute needs of people affected by the crisis. It is based on, and responds to, evidence of needs described in the Humanitarian Needs Overview.

PHOTO ON COVER

Avdiivka, Donetsk oblast, GCA, Ukraine. Seven-year-old Viktoriia preparing to leave for school from her house near the "contact line". Photo: UNICEF/Oleksii Filippov

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<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine>



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The Financial Tracking Service (FTS) is the primary provider of continuously updated data on global humanitarian funding, and is a major contributor to strategic decision making by highlighting gaps and priorities, thus contributing to effective, efficient and principled humanitarian assistance.

<https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/1081/summary>

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AVDIIVKA, DONETSKA OBLAST, GCA, UKRAINE

Viktorii with her mother on their way to her school next to the "contact line".
Photo: UNICEF/Oleksii Filippo

Foreword by the Humanitarian Coordinator

For almost two years, people across Ukraine, and the world, have been experiencing unprecedented turmoil and bewilderment of the pandemic era. For the people of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts who have been living in an armed conflict for now eight years, the impact of COVID-19 comes on top of the conflict-related hardships, causing even more grave disruption and suffering.

Prior to the pandemic, millions of people were able to maintain family and community connectivity (even if with difficulty and risk). However, since COVID-19 and its associated restrictions, they have been unable to travel freely across the 427-kilometre-long “contact line” that divides Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of eastern Ukraine into Government- and non-Government-controlled areas (GCA and NGCA). As a consequence of their increased isolation and the abrupt rupturing of their access to basic services and to livelihoods, the needs of these already vulnerable people have become even more pronounced.

Moreover, the unfortunate return to more active fighting that we have observed in recent months is lamentable. I therefore have great hope that the agreement reached in December 2021 to adhere to the strengthened ceasefire negotiated in July 2020 will bring some much needed relief to millions as we enter this new year. At the same time, we witness the growing geopolitical tensions with dread, hoping that they will not translate into an escalation of hostilities, at further risk to civilian lives, adding to an already unbearable toll that has reached 3,100 civilian deaths and over 7,000 injuries.

The firm grip of COVID-19 is unlikely to lessen as we enter 2022. The latest wave of the pandemic during October and November 2021 has shown us that

fragile and weakened health systems in the conflict-torn areas are struggling to cope, while the latest variant is already rampaging the globe. With vaccination levels still low, COVID-19's impact on the most vulnerable will remain severe.

Notwithstanding these amplified challenges, the efforts of the Government of Ukraine to alleviate needs and enhance the rights of the affected population deserve acknowledgment, including the adoption of a new national integration strategy and action plan for internally displaced persons (IDPs), the increased availability of more comprehensive housing schemes for IDPs, establishment of the National Mine Action Centre, as well as the first Safe Schools Declaration implementation plan, among other achievements. We also note the improvements in the infrastructure at crossing points and the increased availability and accessibility of services there, the establishment of a compensation mechanism for destroyed houses, and improved access to education for children from areas beyond Government control.

Considering the growing severity of the needs of the people due to the ongoing fighting, COVID-19 and movement restrictions, we estimate that 2.9 million people will require humanitarian assistance and protection in 2022 – over half of whom reside in non-Government controlled areas.

In 2022, the UN and humanitarian partners will need \$190 million under this Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) to provide much-needed and principled assistance to 1.8 million of these people, on both sides of the “contact line”. This figure is a realistic ask, reflecting a rigorous and focused prioritization for meeting essential needs and preventing further deterioration of the situation. In addition to addressing

urgent, life-saving needs, one of the on-going objectives of the HRP is to facilitate, in areas under Government control, the transition of the international humanitarian service provision to national and local providers, in close collaboration with the Government, civil society organizations and development actors.

This is the ninth time we are launching an appeal for support for people affected by the conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in eastern Ukraine. As prospects for peaceful resolution of the conflict in any near future are still dim, Ukrainians on both sides of the “contact line” need our support now.

Why do I believe it is so vital that our work can be sustained, and even scaled up in the coming year? Firstly, having visited the conflict-affected areas 10 times since the outbreak of COVID-19, the people I meet, the stories I hear of their hardship and suffering, are a testament to why our work matters. We owe them our continued support and solidarity.

Secondly, adequate funding will allow humanitarian organizations to save lives, help people get by and minimize the negative consequences of the continued armed conflict and the additional impact from COVID-19.

Lastly, in these times of uncertainty, geopolitical tension and unpredictable COVID-19 fluctuation, a well resourced HRP can contribute reassurance that our collective robust response capacity is retained, enabling us to adapt swiftly in the eventuality of any deterioration.

I would like to thank our donors for their ongoing generous support and trust. With improved access to areas beyond Government control, these contributions have allowed us to provide assistance to over 1.5 million people during the first nine months of 2021 – the highest level of response since 2017. This critical achievement must be sustained amid the increasing severity of humanitarian needs.

We count on the continued support of our donors and encourage everyone to join us. I also hope that all relevant actors will fulfil their obligations and adhere to the strengthened ceasefire. People deserve to live in dignity, safety and security. They also deserve an opportunity to rebuild their lives that have been turned upside down during the past eight years.



Osnat Lubrani

Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine

Response Plan Overview

PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)	OPERATIONAL PARTNERS
2.9M	1.8M	\$190M	119

Almost eight years of active fighting have had profound consequences on the lives of millions of people in the conflict-affected Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts of eastern Ukraine. An estimated 2.9 million people are projected to need humanitarian assistance in 2022, with some 55 per cent living in the non-Government controlled area (NGCA).¹

In Government-controlled area (GCA), the severity of needs is lower, particularly in the communities farther from the “contact line”, leading to a lower number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in GCA. The lower severity is in part due to the support provided by the Government of Ukraine, civil society and development actors. The most severe humanitarian needs in GCA remain in areas close to the “contact line” where active hostilities continue. Older

MARIUPOL, DONETSKA OBLAST, GCA, UKRAINE

A humanitarian worker consulting with a woman about her needs.
Photo: DRC-DDG/Pete Muller



¹ According to the national Ukrainian legislation, such areas have been defined as the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts.

persons, persons with disabilities, female-headed households and children living in isolated villages are particularly vulnerable due to their limited mobility, continued exposure to shelling and landmine contamination and economic challenges.

In NGCA, the humanitarian needs remain severe and continue to deteriorate. Residents of NGCA have been most impacted by the limitations on movement across the “contact line” due to disproportional COVID-19 restrictions, mostly imposed in NGCA, increasing the number of people crossing to GCA through the Russian Federation. The resilience of the most vulnerable on both sides of the “contact line” has been worn thin, leading to a greater reliance on humanitarian assistance.

In 2022, humanitarian partners aim to assist 1.8 million people, including 144,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in GCA, with a funding requirement of \$190 million. The target to assist 1.8 million people across the conflict-affected area is similar to the 2021 target and reflects the level of humanitarian response capacity and State ownership of the response as well as access restrictions and the development of COVID-19. The humanitarian response will span six sectoral areas – education, food security and livelihoods, health, protection, shelter/non-food items and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

The vast majority of the 1.8 million people targeted for humanitarian assistance live in the two conflict-affected oblasts of Luhanska and Donetsk.

- 750,000 of the people targeted live in NGCA,

Among the most vulnerable are older persons, who represent 32 per cent of the people targeted for assistance in 2022, as well as the children of vulnerable families who make up 14 per cent. Importantly, the response also aims to meet the critical needs of 225,000 persons with disabilities.

The 2022 response will continue to focus on saving lives, ensuring access to basic services, and strengthening the protection of those affected by the conflict whose needs have been exacerbated by the continuing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Humanitarian operations will focus on delivering a series of sectoral responses aligned with three overarching Strategic Objectives:

1. Provide emergency and time-critical assistance and ensure access to basic essential services for 1.8 million people affected by the conflict (including 144,000 IDPs), exacerbated by COVID-19.
2. Respond to the protection needs and strengthen protection of 1.4 million conflict-affected people, including IDPs, with due regard to international norms and standards.
3. Ensure implementation of an international humanitarian exit strategy in GCA from 2021 to 2023.

The 2022 response will be guided by a differentiated approach, taking into consideration the particularities of the operational contexts in GCA and NGCA, particularly in terms of access, level of State ownership of the response, operational capacity and severity of humanitarian needs.

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