

# Ukraine – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 16, 2022

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- GoRF forces continue to target cities and infrastructure across Ukraine with aerial attacks, resulting in civilian deaths and injuries and causing widespread electrical, water, and heating shortages. A December 15 attack in Kherson caused the death of an aid worker.
- IAEA experts inspected nuclear power plants in Ukraine in early December to mitigate the risk of a nuclear disaster in the country.
- IDPs across Ukraine highlight cash, health services and commodities, and access to utilities as critical needs, according to a December assessment by IOM.



### TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Ukraine Response in FY 2023<sup>1</sup>

USAID/BHA<sup>2</sup>

\$25,000,000

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 8*

**Total**

**\$25,000,000**

<sup>1</sup> Funding figures reflect publicly announced FY 2023 funding that has been committed or obligated as of November 8, 2022. For information on the U.S. Government (USG) funding toward the response in FY 2022, refer to Ukraine Fact Sheet #29 released on September 30, 2022, available on the USAID website at <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work>.

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### GoRF Attacks on Infrastructure Result in Civilian Deaths and Loss of Electricity and Heating During Winter Season

Aerial attacks on cities and critical civil infrastructure—including power stations and centralized heating systems—across Ukraine by Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF) forces since early October continue to result in widespread electrical, water, and heating shortages. Meanwhile, temperatures have dropped below freezing and will likely continue to decrease in the coming months of the 2022–2023 winter season. As of November 30, GoRF attacks had damaged or destroyed more than 50 percent of Ukraine’s energy infrastructure, according to the UN. Most recently, a December 15 attack in Kherson *Oblast’s* Kherson city resulted in two civilian deaths, including a paramedic working for the Ukrainian Red Cross Society, according to international media. The attack damaged infrastructure and cut off electricity supply for the entire city. The Government of Ukraine (GoU) and Ukrainian utility providers have made continuous efforts to repair damage and restore utility services following GoRF attacks.

Following a visit to Ukraine’s Kherson and Mykolaiv oblasts, as well as the capital city of Kyiv, from December 12 to 15, UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Martin Griffiths identified repair of electricity infrastructure as a critical priority to ensure availability of health services, heating, and transportation, particularly in cities subject to front line artillery shelling such as Kherson. During a December 6 meeting of the UN Security Council, ERC Griffiths stressed that recent attacks on Ukraine’s energy infrastructure have exacerbated humanitarian needs in the country by cutting off access to heat, electricity, and water for millions of people. These concerns significantly affect the most vulnerable people, particularly older people and people with disabilities. In preparation for the winter season, humanitarian agencies have provided more than 630,000 people across Ukraine with various types of winter-related assistance and distributed approximately 400 generators to ensure continuity of operations at critical facilities, such as hospitals, in recent months, the UN reports.

Overall, attacks on infrastructure have impeded sustained access to electricity, heating, and water for nearly 7 million children across Ukraine, putting them at increased risk amid falling temperatures, USAID/BHA partner the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reported on December 14. Damage affecting heating infrastructure also drives households to use alternative heating methods—such as burning solid fuels—which risk exposure to toxic substances that can worsen health concerns for children, older people, and people with cardiovascular or respiratory conditions, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) warns. Anticipated displacement of people seeking heat and safety during the winter also presents health risks, including respiratory infections such as coronavirus disease (COVID-19), influenza, and pneumonia, as well as diphtheria and measles among under-vaccinated populations. These attacks also worsen the psychological stress experienced by Ukrainians nearly ten months into the GoRF invasion; WHO estimates approximately 10 million people are at risk for mental health conditions such as acute stress disorder, anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance abuse. USG partners continue to mobilize resources to scale-up winterization assistance in Ukraine, including pre-positioning, stockpiling, and distributing critical winter-specific relief items and preparing health facilities, local housing, and collective centers for internally displaced persons (IDPs) for winter conditions.

### IAEA Inspection Teams Visit Nuclear Power Plants in Ukraine

During the first week of December, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) conducted nuclear safety and security missions at Ukraine’s Khmelnytsky and Rivne nuclear power plants in Khmelnytsky and Rivne *oblasts* as part of its ongoing efforts to avert a nuclear accident in the country. A radiological incident would likely result in civilian casualties and drive significant displacement and other humanitarian

needs. Located in northwestern and western Ukraine, the two plants have not yet sustained any physical damage from attacks, but both have experienced related challenges and other consequences, including electricity blackouts, that led to the temporary operation of backup emergency diesel generators, according to the IAEA. The two expert missions—which were requested by the GoU—occurred a week after the IAEA visited the South Ukraine Nuclear Power Plant in Mykolaiv *Oblast* to provide on-site assistance and support in nuclear safety and security, and approximately two weeks after a similar mission to the Chernobyl site in Kyiv *Oblast*. The IAEA has maintained a permanent presence at Zaporizhzhia *Oblast*'s Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant since early September. To increase technical and technological safety, the IAEA is planning to establish permanent technical missions at all the nuclear plants in Ukraine in the near future, according to local media.

### **Humanitarian Needs Remain High Despite 9 Percent Decrease in IDPs**

An estimated 5.9 million people are internally displaced in Ukraine as of December 5, representing a 9 percent decrease from the 6.5 million IDPs recorded in the country in October, according to an International Organization for Migration (IOM) assessment conducted between November 25 and December 5. The UN agency suggests that the decrease may be partially due to displaced persons leaving Ukraine and seeking refuge in neighboring countries. Of the 5.9 million current IDPs, approximately 680,000 people have been newly displaced between November and early December. More than 40 percent of new displacements occurred in eastern Ukraine, where *oblasts* such as Donetsk and Kharkiv have experienced intensified hostilities. An estimated 25 percent of new IDPs originated from southern Ukraine, where Kherson *Oblast* has experienced repeated aerial attacks since GoRF forces withdrew from Kherson city on November 11, according to IOM and international media.

Financial support is the most widespread need among IDPs, with 67 percent reporting insufficient cash to meet their daily, basic needs and more than half of respondents reducing usage of utilities such as electricity, gas, and heating fuel as a coping strategy, according to IOM. Needs for menstrual hygiene products registered second at 43 percent, and approximately 30 percent of respondents reported needs for clothing and heating appliances. To provide heat amid cold winter temperatures, more than 20 percent of IDPs require provisions for solid fuel, such as coal and firewood. In a separate assessment in November, IOM projected solid fuel prices would increase due to heightened demand and a lack of supplies, further exacerbating the effects of winter upon displaced populations.

Needs for health services and medicine also remain high, with approximately 50 percent of both displaced and non-displaced households reporting that at least one member of their household—such as the chronically ill, older people, or people with disabilities—require long-term care, IOM reports. More than 30 percent of respondents noted at least one barrier to access to medical resources. Though households indicated reduced availability of medicines or medical services, a lack of funds was the most frequently mentioned barrier. Approximately 25 percent of households with health vulnerabilities spend one-fourth to half of their income on health needs, and nearly 20 percent of respondents indicated that a member of their household stopped using medication in the past month due to ongoing hostilities, citing either unaffordable prices or a lack of availability.

## KEY FIGURES



**2 Million**

People in Ukraine reached with USAID/BHA-supported in-kind food assistance via WFP in November



**11**

USG implementing partners providing MPCA



**4.9 Million**

Number of people able to receive health care with supplies distributed by USG partner UNICEF

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

To meet increasing food needs following the February 24 GoRF invasion, USAID/BHA is supporting the UN World Food Program (WFP) and four international non-governmental organization (INGO) partners to scale up food assistance in Ukraine. WFP continues to prioritize food distributions in eastern and southern Ukraine, where fighting and supply chain disruptions hinder food access for vulnerable populations in frontline areas. During November, WFP reached nearly 2 million people in Ukraine with in-kind food distributions, including children who received supplementary feeding to prevent wasting—the deadliest form of acute malnutrition.

### MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

The USG supports the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), IOM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP, and seven INGOs to provide multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help conflict-affected individuals meet their basic needs. Cash allows displaced or other conflict-affected people to meet their immediate needs through local markets and provides a more efficient means of reaching vulnerable communities than providing in-kind commodities. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, WFP provided cash-based transfers to approximately 842,000 conflict-affected individuals across Ukraine in November. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner UNHCR has reached nearly 820,000 people across Ukraine with MPCA since the start of the GoRF's full-scale invasion, along with more than 448,000 refugees in Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. State/PRM is also supporting IOM to provide MPCA to refugees in neighboring countries, as well as UNICEF to provide cash assistance to vulnerable households with children in transit.

### HEALTH

To support the health needs of conflict-affected populations, USG humanitarian partners are providing health care supplies, medicine, and other health assistance in Ukraine and neighboring countries. USAID/BHA is supporting UNICEF, WHO, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and six INGO partners to respond to emergency health needs in Ukraine. With USG and other donor support, UNICEF has provided medical supplies sufficient to treat nearly 4.9 million people across Ukraine since late February. Meanwhile, as of late November, USAID/BHA partner WHO had delivered approximately 60 generators and more than 2,000 metric tons (MT) of medical supplies to Ukraine since February 24.

State/PRM is also supporting WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, and IOM to provide health care to refugees in neighboring countries. This support includes

meeting urgent trauma care needs by deploying emergency medical teams, delivering essential medical supplies and equipment, and providing logistics support to fill urgent gaps. State/PRM health support in Hungary, Moldova, Poland, and Slovakia serves to strengthen the capacity of local health systems to absorb increased refugee caseloads.



20

Number of USG implementing partners providing essential protection services

## PROTECTION

Armed conflict often exacerbates protection risks. People must cope with threats such as sexual violence, violence in the home, family separation, exploitative labor, and exclusion from life-saving humanitarian assistance. In response, USAID/BHA supports IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and UN Women—supported through USAID/BHA’s partnership with the UN Development Program—as well as 13 INGOs to implement protection interventions for conflict-affected populations in Ukraine. USAID/BHA partners provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to children, persons with disabilities, and older people; operate mobile protection teams to reach remote communities with gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response activities, legal assistance, and MHPSS; and conduct other protection activities. For example, since February 24, UNICEF-supported MHPSS interventions have reached nearly 2.7 million children and caregivers to help them cope with the psychosocial effects of conflict and displacement. UNICEF has also provided approximately 312,000 women and children with GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response services.

In addition, State/PRM partners—including IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, and WHO—provide protection and legal services to vulnerable individuals in Ukraine and neighboring countries. Services include GBV prevention and response, child protection, and MHPSS support; prevention and response to trafficking persons; and establishment of child-friendly and women- and girl-friendly spaces. Partners are also establishing Blue Dots, multi-agency facilities that provide one-stop protection services and social service referrals to new refugee arrivals in neighboring countries. As of December 2, UNHCR had established 37 Blue Dots, which reach tens of thousands of people with protection services in Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.



4.2 Million

Number of people supported with safe drinking water through USG partner UNICEF since February 24

## WASH

Disaster-affected populations are often more susceptible to waterborne diseases due to reduced access to safe drinking water, sanitation services, and hygiene items. In response, USG partners are providing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) supplies to conflict-affected populations, including hygiene kits containing soap and other items; repairing damaged WASH infrastructure; and transporting and distributing safe drinking water in conflict-affected areas. Overall, USAID/BHA supports IOM, UNICEF, and 10 INGO partners to address WASH needs in Ukraine. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, UNICEF has facilitated access to safe drinking water for more than 4.2 million people in Ukraine since February

24. State/PRM partners are also providing WASH assistance in Ukraine and to refugees in neighboring countries, including strengthening sanitation infrastructure in shelters and distributing hygiene kits to refugees.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- The GoRF commenced widespread attacks against Ukraine on February 24 after mobilizing hundreds of thousands of military forces and heavy weaponry near its border with Ukraine. Immediately prior, the GoRF had ordered forces into non-GoU controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts* after recognizing the areas' independence from Ukraine on February 21.
- The GoRF invasion marked a major escalation of conflict in Ukraine, where fighting in the country's eastern *oblasts* has caused large-scale population displacement and widespread damage to infrastructure since March 2014. The heaviest fighting has occurred in the easternmost *oblasts* bordering Russia, particularly Donetsk and Luhansk; however, the large influx of IDPs from these areas has also impacted neighboring *oblasts*. The UN estimated that 2.9 million conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine required humanitarian assistance as of early 2022, prior to the February 24 GoRF invasion.
- On February 24, USAID announced the activation of a USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to lead the USG humanitarian response to the crisis in Ukraine, with initial staff in Rzeszów, Poland; Chişinău, Moldova; Budapest, Hungary; Bucharest, Romania; and Bratislava, Slovakia. To support the DART, USAID activated a Response Management Team in Washington, D.C. State/PRM staff in Warsaw, Poland; Budapest, Hungary; Chişinău, Moldova; Bucharest, Romania; Bratislava, Slovakia; and Washington, D.C., also continue to support response activities.
- On October 21, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Bridget A. Brink renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for Ukraine for FY 2023 due to widespread displacement and continued humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations in Ukraine resulting from the GoRF's full-scale invasion.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
Ukraine			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
IOM	MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$25,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$25,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$25,000,000</b>

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## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)