

Ukraine – Complex Emergency

MARCH 27, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

8,317

UN-Confirmed
Civilian Deaths
Resulting From the
Conflict

OHCHR – March 2023

8.2
MILLION

Refugees From
Ukraine Recorded
Across Europe

UNHCR – March 2023

5.4
MILLION

People Internally
Displaced
Across Ukraine

IOM – January 2023

17.6
MILLION

People in Need of
Humanitarian
Assistance in Ukraine

UN – January 2023

15.8
MILLION

People Reached With
Humanitarian
Assistance in Ukraine
Since March 2022

UN – December 2022

- Heightened hostilities are causing humanitarian conditions in Bakhmut to deteriorate as a GoRF offensive persists.
- GoRF forces continued launching aerial attacks on population centers and critical infrastructure during March, resulting in civilian deaths and injuries.
- The GoRF and GoU agreed to extend the Black Sea Grain Initiative facilitating the export of agricultural products from Ukraine, marking the second extension.
- A March 15 report by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine identified numerous human rights and international humanitarian law violations committed during the invasion.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Ukraine Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA¹ \$400,015,750

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7

Total \$400,015,750

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Remaining Bakhmut Residents Face Intense Fighting, Worsening Living Conditions

Humanitarian conditions in and around Donetsk *Oblast's* Bakhmut city further deteriorated during March due to intensified hostilities as Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF) forces continued attempts to surround the area and take control of the city, according to the UN. Local authorities report that fewer than 3,000 people remained in Bakhmut as of March 21, compared to a pre-invasion population of approximately 72,000 people. Hostilities have reportedly damaged or destroyed nearly 80 percent of houses in the city, while only four medical personnel remain, the UN reports. Furthermore, residents' access to food and hygiene commodities, electricity, gas, heating, and water supplies is limited, and hospitals, markets, and schools are not functional, according to the Government of Ukraine (GoU).

The GoU continues to facilitate civilian evacuations from Bakhmut to safer areas west of the city, although GoU authorities report that daily evacuations had decreased to only a few per day as of late March compared to approximately 600 people evacuating daily during late 2022. Moreover, persistent fighting and related movement restrictions have constrained relief actors' access to Bakhmut. Despite the challenging operating environment, community-based volunteer groups have continued efforts to provide assistance. According to local groups, essential commodities—including food, household and hygiene items, medical supplies, and safe drinking water—provided by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UN agencies since late 2022 have been sufficient to meet the essential needs of those who remain in the city. In addition, local authorities are operating two centers in areas under GoU control where civilians are able to receive hot meals and access electricity to charge personal devices. Bakhmut has also been a focal point of the UN's efforts to reach frontline areas with assistance in recent months; since the beginning of 2023, seven UN-led interagency convoys have delivered life-saving assistance, including food, medical supplies, and water, to support nearly 71,000 people remaining in Bakhmut and the surrounding communities of Chasiv Yar, Minkivka, Siversk, Sloviansk, and Toretsk.

GoRF Aerial Attacks Threaten Civilians Across Ukraine During March

GoRF forces continued to launch aerial attacks against communities along the front line in eastern and southern Ukraine during March. From March 1 to 19, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded 133 civilian deaths and injuries to nearly 360 others in Ukraine, and noted the actual totals are likely underestimated. GoRF shelling affects frontline communities in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhya *oblasts* daily. For example, living conditions for the 2,000 remaining residents of Donetsk's Chasiv Yar town—located approximately six miles west of Bakhmut—continued to deteriorate following months of frequent GoRF artillery shelling. Residents lost access to gas heating in February, and access to electricity remained limited as of mid-March, the UN reports. Additionally, the town was dependent on water trucking services for access to safe drinking water, and the last remaining ambulance was operating intermittently due to persistent insecurity. The GoU issued a partial evacuation order for Kharkiv *Oblast's* Kupiansk city—located near the front line and approximately 80 miles northwest of Bakhmut—on March 2 due to intense shelling, which primarily applied to households with children and residents with limited mobility, such as individuals with disabilities and older people. On March 12, Kharkiv officials urged all remaining residents to leave the area.

GoRF forces also continue to launch missile and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) attacks against other areas of Ukraine. On March 22, GoRF forces launched a wave of 21 single-use UAVs across the country, 16 of which were intercepted by GoU air defenses, according to GoU officials. One of the UAVs struck

two student residential buildings in Kyiv *Oblast's* Rzhyschiv town—approximately 40 miles southeast of Ukraine's capital city of Kyiv—resulting in at least eight civilian deaths and injury to seven others. On the same day, a GoRF missile struck two residential buildings in Zaporizhzhya *Oblast's* Zaporizhzhya city, causing one death and injury to 33 others, GoU officials report.

UN Continues to Deploy Humanitarian Convoys to Frontline Areas in March

During March, the UN continued its efforts to reach communities near frontline areas of eastern and southern Ukraine through interagency convoys—comprised largely of USAID/BHA partners, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Food Program (WFP), and the UN World Health Organization (WHO), as well as U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). On March 10, a UN convoy delivered vital relief commodities—including food, health supplies, hygiene items, solar lamps, and tarpaulins—to Chasiv Yar. On March 14, a separate convoy delivered blankets, food, hygiene kits, and solar lamps to the 1,500 remaining residents of Donetsk's Siversk town. The convoy also delivered medical supplies sufficient to support the population for one year. Moreover, a third convoy delivered clothes, food, hygiene supplies, repair materials, and solar lamps to approximately 2,700 people remaining in or near Kupiansk town on March 16. The following day, a fourth UN-led convoy reached Kherson *Oblast's* Beryslav town with relief commodities, such as food, hygiene kits, medical supplies, solar lamps, and other items, sufficient to assist nearly 6,000 residents, including more than 520 children and nearly 400 persons with disabilities. On March 22, a fifth convoy including WFP and WHO reached Donetsk's Lyman *hromada* with food, hygiene kits, medicine, and shelter materials sufficient to support 12,000 people, including 600 children, who remain in the area. The UN has dispatched at least 30 interagency convoys to conflict-affected settlements near the front line in 2023, providing support to approximately 250,000 people. Interagency convoys have been unable to reach Russia-occupied areas, despite repeated attempts by the UN to secure permission from the GoRF to cross the front line.

BSGI Extended, Export of Agricultural Commodities Continues

The GoRF and GoU agreed to an extension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) prior to its expiration on March 18, marking the second extension of the initiative following a previous 120-day extension on November 17, according to the UN. The BSGI, launched by the GoRF, GoU, Government of Türkiye, and the UN, facilitates the safe export of agricultural goods from Ukraine's Black Sea ports to world markets, particularly to developing countries. On March 18, a GoU official stated the BSGI had again been extended for 120 days, in accordance with the text of the original BSGI agreement signed in July 2022. However, the GoRF Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that it had agreed to an extension of only 60 days. The UN's announcement of the extension did not specify the expected duration. Since its implementation in August 2022, the BSGI has enabled Ukraine to export approximately 25 million metric tons (MT) of grain and other food commodities to 45 countries, contributing to the stabilization and reduction of global food prices, the UN reports. As a result, global food prices had decreased by nearly 19 percent in February 2023, compared to record-high prices reached during March 2022, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The BSGI has enabled USAID/BHA partner WFP to deliver critical food aid to populations experiencing food insecurity worldwide. In total, WFP-chartered vessels had transported more than 481,000 MT of food commodities under the BSGI as of early March to support humanitarian operations in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Yemen.

Commission Inquiry on Ukraine Highlights GoRF Violations of Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law

GoRF authorities and forces have committed a wide range of international humanitarian and human rights law violations in many parts of Ukraine, according to a March 15 report released by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine. The Commission—which was established by the UN Human Rights Council on March 4, 2022, to investigate alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed during the GoRF full-scale invasion—found evidence of attacks on and the willful killing of civilians, unlawful confinement, torture, rape, and forced transfers and deportations of children. Notably, the Commission identified patterns of protection violations, including numerous instances of rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV), committed by GoRF forces as they conducted house-to-house searches in localities that came under GoRF control and during unlawful confinement. The report also notes that GoRF forces have carried out attacks using explosive weapons in populated areas with an apparent disregard for civilian safety. In addition, investigators documented a small number of violations committed by GoU forces, including likely indiscriminate attacks and two incidents of GoU forces torturing or inflicting physical harm on GoRF prisoners of war. Overall, the Commission recommended that crimes and violations committed during the GoRF full-scale invasion of Ukraine be investigated, responsible parties be held accountable, and humanitarian actors maintain unrestricted access to populations in need of assistance, among other recommendations.

ZNPP Reliant on Sole Power Line Following Early March GoRF Strikes, Repairs Underway

The only functioning backup power line at southeastern Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP)—located near the front line—remained disconnected and under repair as of March 22 after having sustained damage during a countrywide GoRF attack on March 1, the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reports. All six of the plant’s reactors remain in a shutdown state. Since the damage occurred in early March, ZNPP has received off-site electricity—a requirement to ensure that the plant is able to perform essential nuclear safety and security functions—from one remaining external power line connected to the Ukrainian grid. Without a backup line, any damage to or temporary disconnection of the power line would result in total loss of all off-site power to the plant, thus requiring ZNPP to rely on its emergency diesel generators for essential nuclear functions. IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi has repeatedly remarked that ZNPP remains in a precarious state and called for all parties to the ongoing war in Ukraine to uphold nuclear safety. The IAEA has maintained a permanent presence at ZNPP since September to mitigate the risk of a nuclear accident in Ukraine.

KEY FIGURES



3 Million

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To meet increasing food needs since the GoRF invasion, USAID/BHA is supporting WFP and three international NGOs (INGOs) to provide 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 February, WFP reached more than 3 million people in Ukraine with in-kind food distributions, including children who received supplementary feeding to prevent malnutrition.



11
USG implementing partners providing MPCA

MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

The USG supports the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), IOM, the UNHCR, WFP, and seven INGOs to provide multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help conflict-affected individuals meet their basic needs. Cash in the form of cash-based transfers and vouchers allows displaced or other conflict-affected people to meet their immediate needs—such as clothing, food, fuel, shelter, or utilities—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 nearly 770,000 conflict-affected individuals across Ukraine in February alone. As of February 23, State/PRM partner UNHCR provided MPCA to more than 1.1 million people across Ukraine. As of January 27, UNHCR provided MPCA to more than 476,000 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.



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

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 the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, WHO, and seven INGO partners to respond to emergency health needs in Ukraine. With USG and other donor support, UNICEF has provided medical supplies sufficient to treat more than 4.9 million people across Ukraine since late February 2022. Meanwhile, as of mid-March, USAID/BHA partner WHO had delivered more than 100 generators and more than 2,100 MT of medical supplies to Ukraine since February 2022.

State/PRM is also supporting IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and other international organizations to provide health care services to refugees in neighboring countries. This support includes meeting urgent trauma care needs by deploying emergency medical teams, delivering essential medical supplies and equipment, providing support for persons with disabilities, and providing logistics support to fill urgent gaps. State/PRM health support in multiple countries in the region serves to strengthen the capacity of local health systems to support increased numbers of refugees.



20
Number of USG implementing partners providing essential protection services

PROTECTION

Armed conflict often exacerbates protection risks. Civilians must cope with threats such as sexual violence, family separation, exploitative labor, exclusion from life-saving humanitarian assistance, and domestic abuse. In response, USAID/BHA supports IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women—through USAID/BHA’s partnership with the UN Development Program (UNDP)—and WHO, as well as 12 INGOs and one Ukrainian NGO 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. Since February 24, 2022, UNICEF-supported MHPSS interventions have reached nearly 3.4 million children and caregivers to help them cope with the psychosocial effects of conflict and displacement. UNICEF has also provided approximately 352,000 women and children with GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response services.

In addition, State/PRM partners—including IOM, UN Women, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, an INGO, and other international organizations—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 in persons; and establishment of child-friendly and women- and girl-friendly spaces. Partners are also establishing Blue Dots, which are multi-agency facilities that provide one-stop protection services and social service referrals to new refugee arrivals in neighboring countries. As of February 10, UNHCR had established 40 Blue Dots, which reach tens of thousands of people with protection services in Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.



5.6 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 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, eight INGO partners, and one Ukrainian NGO partner 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 5.6 million people in Ukraine since February 24, 2022. 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 a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, after mobilizing hundreds of thousands of military forces and heavy weaponry near its border with Ukraine and subsequently launching widespread attacks. 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 commenced a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, after mobilizing hundreds of thousands of military forces and heavy weaponry near its border with Ukraine and subsequently launching widespread attacks. The GoRF invasion marked a major escalation of conflict in Ukraine, where fighting in the country's eastern *oblasts* had caused large-scale population displacement and widespread damage to infrastructure since March 2014. The heaviest fighting had occurred in the easternmost *oblasts* bordering Russia, particularly Donetsk and Luhansk; however, the large influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from these areas had 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, 2022, USAID announced the activation of a 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 2023¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
UKRAINE			
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners	Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$50,599,722
IOM	MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$25,000,000
UNICEF	Shelter and Settlements	Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Lviv, Mykolayiv, Odesa, Poltava, Vinnytsya, Zaporizhzhya, Zhytomyr	\$17,475,728
	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Protection; WASH	Countrywide	\$30,524,272
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Logistics Support; MPCA	Countrywide	\$270,500,000
WHO	Health	Chernihiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, Kyiv, Luhansk, Lviv, Mykolayiv, Poltava, Rivne, Sumy, Vinnytsya, Zaporizhzhya, Zhytomyr	\$4,406,948
	Power Infrastructure Support		\$824,000

Logistics Support	\$327,730
Program Support	\$357,350
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING	\$400,015,750
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2023	\$400,015,750

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced FY 2023 funding that has been committed or obligated as of February 24, 2023. For information on the 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>.

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.
- 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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

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