



# **Ukraine – Complex Emergency**

APRIL 21, 2023

# SITUATION AT A GLANCE

8,534

UN-Confirmed Civilian Deaths Resulting From the Conflict

OHCHR - April 2023

**8.2** 

Refugees From Ukraine Recorded Across Europe

UNHCR - April 2023

5.4
MILLION

People Internally
Displaced
Across Ukraine

IOM - January 2023

17.6

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Ukraine

UN - January 2023

**15.8** 

People Reached With Humanitarian Assistance in Ukraine Since March 2022

UN - December 2022

- GoRF forces continued to launch daily aerial attacks against frontline areas of Ukraine in mid-April, resulting in civilian casualties and significant damage to civilian and residential infrastructure, including an April 14 attack on Sloviansk city that resulted in 15 deaths.
- A needs assessment by an INGO found that damage to energy infrastructure resulted in increased WASH needs for vulnerable households.
- UN convoys continued to reach vulnerable frontline communities with humanitarian assistance in April.





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

# **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

# GoRF Forces Continue Aerial Attacks Against Frontline Areas in April

Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF) forces continued to launch daily aerial attacks against frontline areas of eastern Ukraine in mid-April, resulting in civilian casualties and significant damage to civilian and residential infrastructure. A GoRF missile strike on Donetsk *Oblast's* Sloviansk city on April 14 resulted in 15 civilian deaths and injury to at least 24 people, the State Emergency Service of Ukraine reports. The attack also damaged more than 30 multi-story buildings and 20 houses, according to President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy. Sloviansk is located within 19 miles of the front line and is subject to regular GoRF aerial attacks. Another missile and single-use unmanned aerial vehicle attack in Sloviansk on April 18 damaged a health care facility, five multi-story buildings, and seven houses, among other infrastructure, local Government of Ukraine (GoU) officials report.

In southern Ukraine, a GoRF missile attack that struck Mykolayiv *Oblast's* Snihurivka town on April 16 resulted in the deaths of two people and damage to a hospital, two educational facilities, and multiple residential buildings, a local GoU official reports. In southern Ukraine's Kherson *Oblast*, GoRF forces shelled the central market of Kherson city on April 18, resulting in one death and injury to nine other people, local media reports.

During the first year of the GoRF's full-scale invasion of Ukraine from February 2022 to February 2023, widespread hostilities generated approximately \$135 billion in infrastructure damage and destruction across the country, according to a Damage and Needs Assessment—jointly developed by the European Commission, the GoU, the UN, and the World Bank—released in late March. The highest proportion of damage has affected housing, transportation, and energy infrastructure, representing nearly 40 percent, 30 percent, and 10 percent of the estimated damages, respectively. GoRF attacks on civil infrastructure since October also contributed to approximately \$2.2 billion in total damage to water and sanitation infrastructure. The majority of this damage affected larger physical infrastructure, including drinking water treatment facilities, wastewater treatment plants, and water supply networks.

## People in Ukraine Continue to Face Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Needs

The GoRF's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has destroyed approximately one-half of the country's energy infrastructure and strained water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and resources, according to the UN. Between December 2022 and January 2023, international non-governmental organization (INGO) REACH surveyed nearly 3,000 households in seven *oblasts* and determined that limited electricity access posed the most significant challenge preventing households from meeting WASH-related needs across the country. Additionally, nearly 15 percent of households reported an insufficient water supply for domestic use, with many surveyed households reducing bathing and handwashing as a result. WASH-related needs were exacerbated for older people and people with disabilities; pensioners reported that they needed to spend much of their pensions on medication and health care, leaving little savings for hygiene items or other needs. People with mobility challenges also face barriers to accessing markets and collecting water from public sources. Moreover, one in three households in Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhya *oblasts* reported an inability to afford needed hygiene items, highlighting the continued need for WASH assistance in the country. The assessment took place during the GoRF's intensified attacks on civilian infrastructure across Ukraine during the 2022–2023 winter season.

Despite these challenges, the INGO reported only two percent of the surveyed households were unable to meet basic needs due to water shortages. However, nearly 20 percent reported the quality of their

water had decreased since February 2022. In comparison, nearly 90 percent of Ukrainians had regular access to a safely managed water source in 2020, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). USAID/BHA partners continue to deliver WASH assistance, including repairs to damaged WASH infrastructure and transportation of safe drinking water, across Ukraine to address the needs of conflict-affected communities.

# UN Humanitarian Convoys Deliver Aid to Ukraine's Hard-to-Reach Areas

The UN continued its efforts to reach vulnerable frontline communities in Ukraine with humanitarian assistance in April. On April 7, a UN-led interagency convoy—accompanied by UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) for Ukraine Denise Brown—delivered assistance to Donetsk's Kurakhove town for onward delivery to the nearby communities, including Marinka and Vuhledar, where an estimated 7,000 people, including 450 children, remained. The convoy delivered food, health supplies, hygiene kits, and shelter materials to support those who remain in the two frontline communities. Frequent GoRF shelling in the area has damaged many houses, and residents have insufficient access to food, health services, and safe drinking water, the UN reports. Due to persistent insecurity, the UN is unable to directly access communities around Kurakhove.

On April 14, a UN-led interagency convoy—which included USAID/BHA partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and was also accompanied by RC/HC Brown—delivered hygiene kits, shelter materials, and other household items sufficient to support 1,500 people in a frontline community located in Kherson along the Dnipro River. The convoy represented the first instance that the UN has been able to reach the specific area—where approximately 4,000 civilians, including 200 children, in heightened need of aid remain—as persistent insecurity constrains humanitarian access. Frequent aerial attacks on the community from GoRF forces on the opposite bank of the river have resulted in widespread damage to residential and civilian infrastructure, and residents have had limited access to electricity for more than five months, the UN reports. On the same day, a separate UN-led convoy—comprising four UN agencies and an INGO—delivered bedding, food, hygiene items, and shelter materials, sufficient for approximately 1,500 people to a frontline community of Donetsk near Avdiivka town. As of April 21, Avdiivka remained a site of intense fighting between GoRF and GoU forces.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE** 

#### **KEY FIGURES**



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

#### **FOOD SECURITY**

To meet increasing food needs since the GoRF invasion, USAID/BHA is supporting the UN World Food Program (WFP) and three 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 March, WFP reached more than 2.3 million people in Ukraine with in-kind food distributions, including children who received supplementary feeding to prevent 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 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 724,000 conflict-affected individuals across Ukraine in March 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.



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 160 generators and more than 2,300 metric tons 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.



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.



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 support 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 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			
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 for Food, 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
Implementing Partners	Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$50,599,722
	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

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
  - o 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