



Ukraine – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 7, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

9,965

UN-Confirmed
Civilian Deaths
Resulting From
the Conflict

OHCHR – November
2023

5.9

MILLION

Refugees From
Ukraine Recorded
Across Europe

UNHCR – December
2023

3.7

MILLION

People Internally
Displaced Across
Ukraine

IOM – September 2023

17.6

MILLION

People in Need of
Humanitarian
Assistance in Ukraine

UN – January 2023

10.1

MILLION

People Reached With
Humanitarian
Assistance in Ukraine
in 2023

UN – October 2023

- GoR attacks continue to damage critical civilian and humanitarian infrastructure, temporarily leaving thousands of people without power amid decreasing temperatures.
- As of November 8, ongoing hostilities had resulted in more than 28,300 verified civilian casualties—including 9,965 civilian deaths—since February 2022, OHCHR reports.
- Humanitarian organizations reached more than 10 million people across Ukraine with multi-sector assistance between January and October, according to the UN. Additionally, 100 UN-led convoys reached nearly 70 frontline communities with assistance between January and November.



¹ FY 2024 funding for the Ukraine Complex Emergency will be included in future products when committed/obligated. For information on the U.S. Government (USG)'s funding toward the response in FY 2023, refer to Ukraine Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #22 released on September 30, 2023, available on the USAID website at <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work>

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

GoR Attacks on Civilian Infrastructure Result in Damage to Health Care, Temporary Power Outages Amid Worsening Winter Conditions

Government of Russia (GoR) forces continued to target critical infrastructure and population centers across Ukraine in November, resulting in civilian casualties and widespread power outages amid worsening winter conditions. Between November 10 and 11, GoR forces conducted attacks against energy infrastructure in frontline areas of the country, which temporarily left thousands of people without power, including approximately 1,000 people in Dnipropetrovsk *Oblast* and an estimated 1,600 people in Kharkiv *Oblast*, according to the Government of Ukraine (GoU) Ministry of Energy. GoR forces also launched near-daily attacks against eastern Ukraine's Donetsk *Oblast* in mid- to late November, with attacks between November 16 and 17 causing significant damage to a DTEK—Ukraine's largest private sector energy company—thermal power plant located near the front line that temporarily left populations in nearby settlements without access to electricity and water, international media report. Elsewhere in Donetsk, GoR shelling had left almost the entire population of Avdiivka town, an estimated 1,400 people, without access to electricity or water as of November 22, according to local GoU officials. Furthermore, falling debris from the largest aerial attack against Ukraine's capital city of Kyiv on November 25 resulted in injury to at least five civilians, including one child, and damage to civilian infrastructure, as well as temporary power outages, which affected approximately 17,000 people across Kyiv *Oblast*, international media report. In response to attacks targeting energy infrastructure, the UN warned that GoR attacks against Ukraine could worsen humanitarian conditions as temperatures continue to decrease across the country, estimating that 1.7 million people in Ukraine will likely require emergency winter assistance through March 2024.

GoR attack additionally impacted health care facilities in Ukraine from mid-November to early December. In southern Ukraine's Kherson *Oblast*, a November 13 GoR attack impacted a hospital in Kherson city, resulting in the three civilian deaths, injury to at least 15 others, and damage to civilian infrastructure, according to international media. Elsewhere in Kherson, GoR missiles caused damage to two additional hospitals on December 3. In Donetsk's Selydove town, GoR missiles struck a health facility on November 20, resulting in three civilian deaths, injury to at least eight others, and damage to civilian infrastructure. On November 22, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Ukraine Denise Brown condemned GoR attacks impacting critical services, including health care, and called for the protection of civilians in the country. Overall, GoR forces have conducted more than 1,300 attacks on the health care system—including health facilities, patients, personnel, and transportation—in Ukraine since February 2022, accounting for approximately 55 percent of all attacks against health care globally during the reporting period, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO).

OHCHR Verifies More Than 28,000 Civilian Casualties Since GoR Invasion

The GoR's full-scale invasion of Ukraine continues to result in civilian deaths and injuries, with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)—which monitors and documents civilian casualties resulting from conflict in Ukraine—recording 179 deaths and injury to 426 others in October alone. Explosive weapons with wide area effects—including air strikes, missiles, rockets, and shelling from heavy artillery—resulted in nearly 93 percent of the civilian casualties, or 159 deaths and injury to more than 400 people, during the month. Incidents involving landmines and explosive remnants of war resulted in an additional 11 civilian deaths and injury to 25 others during the month. In total, hostilities caused more than 28,300 verified civilian casualties—including 9,965 civilian deaths and injury to nearly 18,400 people—between February 24, 2022, and November 8, 2023, according to OHCHR. However, the UN agency believes the actual figures are considerably higher as security-related access challenges

have delayed reporting from several frontline areas, including in Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts*.

UN-Led Convoys Continue to Reach Frontline Communities Amid Attacks Impacting Humanitarian Operations

Ongoing hostilities and GoR attacks continued to impact humanitarian assets, facilities, and operations across Ukraine in November. GoR shelling impacted a UN World Food Program (WFP) food distribution site in Donetsk's Toretsk town on November 30, according to the UN agency. The attack resulted in injury to a WFP local partner staff member who was distributing food assistance at the time of the attack, as well as injury to at least three other people, WFP and local GoU officials report. The attack did not cause damage to food commodities, and it remains unclear whether GoR forces intentionally targeted humanitarian infrastructure in the attack. As of October 31, GoR attacks had resulted in at least 37 incidents causing damage to humanitarian facilities, which include infrastructure crucial for storing and distributing essential aid supplies, the UN reports.

Despite the challenges, the UN continued efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to frontline communities in November. Notably, approximately 900,000 people continue to reside less than 19 miles from the front line and face limited access to markets and services, according to WFP. In southeastern Ukraine, four UN-led convoys—including participation from USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partners the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and 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)—reached Zaporizhzhya *Oblast* during the month, delivering critical assistance to conflict-affected populations in the *oblast*. In addition, USG partners—including IOM, UNICEF, WHO, and UNHCR—participated in two UN convoys during November to frontline communities in Donetsk, including Chasiv Yar, Marinka, and Vuhledar, that experience near-daily GoR attacks and limited access to basic items and services. Overall, the UN and its partners coordinated 100 interagency convoys between January 1 and November 30, including at least seven convoys in November alone, delivering more than 3,100 metric tons of relief commodities—including food, hygiene kits, medical supplies, shelter materials, and winter clothing—to 68 frontline communities.

Prolonged Conflict Exacerbates Gender Inequality and GBV Risks in Ukraine

The GoR's full-scale invasion has exacerbated gender and intersectional inequalities in Ukraine, according to a CARE Rapid Gender Analysis published in October 2023. CARE found that women and girls face heightened risk of human trafficking and sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly in less secure areas such as border crossing points and collective centers. Meanwhile, men reported generally feeling safer to move around their city than women; however, fear of conscription contributed to some restrictions in mobility. Additionally, stress stemming from prolonged conflict has contributed to an increase in domestic violence cases, with nearly 244,000 domestic violence incidents reported in Ukraine since the beginning of 2023, international media report. However, CARE indicated that domestic violence is frequently underreported, as the absence of proper training limits the capacity of the police to respond. Furthermore, CARE found that women were increasingly serving as the sole provider for their households while also facing family separation, income loss, and limited access to essential services, resulting in heightened feelings of stress.

To help mitigate protection risks, USAID/BHA supports 19 partners to provide critical protection assistance in Ukraine. With USAID/BHA and other donor support, UNICEF provided nearly 288,000 women and children in Ukraine with gender-based violence (GBV) response, prevention, and risk-mitigation services in October alone.

Relief Actors Reach More Than 10 Million People With Critical Aid Between January and October

Humanitarian organizations, including USAID/BHA partners, reached more than 10 million people across Ukraine, more than 60 percent of whom were women and girls, with multi-sector assistance from January to October, according to the UN. The relief actors collectively provided health services for approximately 7.2 million people; protection services, such as GBV response interventions, for an estimated 5.4 million people; food and livelihood support for approximately 4.1 million people; multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) for an estimated 3.7 million people; as well as other sectors. Overall, relief actors reached approximately 3.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) during the ten-month period. Under the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, humanitarian organizations aim to support more than 11 million people with assistance during the calendar year.

KEY FIGURES



1.2 Million

People in Ukraine reached with USAID/BHA-supported in-kind food assistance via WFP in November 2023



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USAID/BHA-supported implementing partners providing critical health assistance in Ukraine

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To meet increasing food needs since the GoR invasion, USAID/BHA is supporting WFP and two international nongovernmental organizations (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 November, WFP reached nearly 1.2 million people in Ukraine with in-kind food distributions, including children who received supplementary feeding to prevent malnutrition.

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 UNFPA, WHO, and five INGO partners to respond to emergency health needs in Ukraine. Humanitarian organizations—including USAID/BHA health partners—supported nearly 1,300 health facilities in Ukraine with capacity building support and medical equipment and supplies between January and October. Additionally, 28 UNFPA sexual and reproductive health mobile teams—including one newly operational team in Kherson—conducted nearly 26,000 health consultations between September 1 and October 31.

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.



4.5 Million

People supported with WASH services through USG partner UNICEF between January and October

WASH

Disaster-affected populations are often more susceptible to waterborne diseases due to reduced access to hygiene items, safe drinking water, and sanitation services. In response, USG partners are providing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support to conflict-affected populations, including distributing hygiene kits; repairing damaged WASH infrastructure; and transporting safe drinking water to conflict-affected areas. Overall, USAID/BHA supports IOM, UNICEF, nine INGO partners, and one Ukrainian NGO partner to address WASH needs in Ukraine. In 2023, UNICEF had provided comprehensive WASH services to more than 4.5 million people as of October 31, improving access to safe drinking water for nearly 779,000 people in October alone. State/PRM partners are also providing WASH assistance, including strengthening sanitation infrastructure in shelters, in Ukraine and to refugees in neighboring countries.



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USG implementing partners providing MPCA

MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

The USG supports the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), IOM, UNHCR, WFP, and six INGOs to provide MPCA. Assistance 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 assistance for food to more than 67,000 conflict-affected individuals across Ukraine in November alone. State/PRM is also supporting IOM and UNHCR to provide MPCA to refugees in neighboring countries, as well as UNICEF to provide cash assistance to vulnerable households with children in transit. UNHCR reached more than 209,000 Ukrainian refugees in Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia with cash assistance between January 1 and November 27.



2.4 Million

Children and caregivers reached with UNICEF-supported MHPSS interventions between January and October

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 two Ukrainian NGOs 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 GBV prevention and response activities, legal assistance, and MHPSS; and conduct other protection activities. Since the beginning of 2023, UNICEF-supported MHPSS interventions had reached nearly 2.4 million children and caregivers to help them cope with the psychological effects of conflict and

displacement as of October 31. UNICEF had also provided nearly 971,000 women and children with GBV prevention, response services, and risk mitigation as of the same date.

In addition, State/PRM partners—including IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, and UNICEF—provide legal services and protection to vulnerable individuals in Ukraine and refugees in neighboring countries. Services include child protection, GBV prevention and response, and MHPSS support; the establishment of child-friendly and women- and girl-friendly spaces; and prevention of and response to trafficking in persons. State/PRM partner UNHCR and its partners reached more than 1.2 million people inside Ukraine with protection services between January 1 and November 23.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- The GoR 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 GoR ordered forces into non-GoU-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts* after recognizing the areas' independence from Ukraine on February 21.
- The GoR 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 infrastructure damage since March 2014. The heaviest fighting occurred in the easternmost *oblasts* bordering Russia, particularly Donetsk and Luhansk; however, the large influx of IDPs from these areas have also impacted neighboring *oblasts*. The UN estimates that approximately 2.9 million conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine had required humanitarian assistance as of early 2022, prior to the February 24 GoR 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 Brussels, Belgium; Chişinău, Moldova; Warsaw, Poland; Geneva, Switzerland; Kyiv, Ukraine; and Washington, D.C., also continue to support response activities. As of December 2023, USAID maintains staff in Krakow, Poland; Kyiv, Ukraine; and Washington, D.C.
- On October 14, 2023, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget A. Brink renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for Ukraine for FY 2024 due to widespread displacement and continued humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations in Ukraine resulting from Russia's full-scale invasion.

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