



Ukraine – Complex Emergency

January 4, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

10,700

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

**14.6
MILLION**

People in Need of
Humanitarian
Assistance in Ukraine

UN – January 2024

**10.1
MILLION**

People Reached With
Humanitarian
Assistance in Ukraine
in 2023

UN – October 2023

- GoR attacks between mid-December and early January marked the beginning of intensified GoR attacks during the 2023/2024 winter season, causing civilian casualties and damaging civilian infrastructure throughout Ukraine, according to the UN.
- Relief actors—including USG partners—reached more than 800,000 people with winterization assistance throughout Ukraine in October and November.
- UN agencies led 105 convoys to frontline areas of Ukraine during 2023, reaching hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people with critical assistance.



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Escalating GoR Attacks Result in Civilian Casualties, Damage Civilian Infrastructure Across Ukraine

Government of Russia (GoR) aerial attacks against civilian population centers across Ukraine from mid-December 2023 to early January 2024 marked the beginning of intensified GoR attacks during the 2023/2024 winter season; the UN anticipates that the uptick in violence will contribute to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in the country during the cold winter months. Between December 13 and 17, GoR forces launched a series of single-use unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and missiles targeting Ukraine's eastern and southern *oblasts* and Ukraine's capital city of Kyiv. In a further escalation of hostilities, GoR forces launched daily aerial attacks from December 28 to January 2 against major cities in Cherkasy, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Lviv, Odesa, Sumy, and Zaporizhzhya *oblasts*. Notably, GoR forces' aerial attacks between December 28 and 29 resulted in the deaths of more than 40 civilians and injured at least 130 others, according to the UN, marking the largest countrywide aerial attack since the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. GoR strikes caused more than ten civilian deaths and injured an estimated 40 others across Ukraine during another wave of overnight aerial attacks December 30–31, the UN and international media report. In particular, aerial attacks in Kharkiv city resulted in damage to hospitals, a hotel, multiple residential buildings, and other public infrastructure. Furthermore, GoR forces struck Kharkiv and Kyiv on January 2 with missiles and UAVs, causing at least five civilian deaths and injury to more than 130 others, the Government of Ukraine (GoU) Ministry of Interior reports. In total, GoR attacks between December 29 and January 2 resulted in the deaths of nearly 70 civilians and injured more than 360 others, according to the UN.

In addition to exposing civilian populations to widespread protection risks, including death, injury, and psychological distress, GoR attacks since mid-December also damaged critical public infrastructure, rendering more than 440 towns and villages across Ukraine temporarily without power and access to pumped water, the UN reports. GoR attacks on December 22 and December 30–31 in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk *Oblast* resulted in damage to a power plant and coal mining station, which disrupted electricity production in an area where more than 120 towns and villages were already facing power supply shortages due to hostilities, according to DTEK, Ukraine's largest private sector energy company. GoR attacks on Kyiv city on January 2 damaged the city's power grid and overhead lines, temporarily leaving approximately 260,000 people without power, DTEK reports. The strike also affected the water supply in several districts of Kyiv, according to Ukrenergo, the GoU-owned energy operator. Additionally, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) verified that aerial attacks damaged at least ten health care facilities across Ukraine between December 29 and January 2.

GoR attacks also continue to impact humanitarian organizations' facilities, disrupting operations and damaging supplies. During the night of December 19–20, a GoR aerial attack against southern Ukraine's Kherson *Oblast* impacted three humanitarian organizations—including a USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) international nongovernmental organization (INGO) partner—and damaged humanitarian facilities and supplies, the UN reports. While no USAID/BHA INGO partner staff were onsite at the time of the attack, a fire damaged the facility's roof. Due to the damage, the site will likely no longer be operational, according to the INGO. On December 20, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) for Ukraine Denise Brown issued a statement condemning GoR attacks impacting civilians and humanitarian actors in Ukraine.

USG Partners Provide Health and Winterization Assistance to Hard-to-Reach Areas

Health Cluster members—including eight USAID/BHA partners—reached 7.5 million people with critical health assistance, including primary health care services, between January and November 2023.¹ For example, a USAID/BHA INGO partner and its partners provided life-saving health services across Ukraine during November. The INGO provided approximately 1,000 primary health care consultations through five mobile medical units operating in conflict-affected areas of Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Mykolayiv, and Zaporizhzhya *oblasts* during the month. Additionally, INGO-supported health care facilities provided inpatient and outpatient consultations for nearly 80,000 people across 60 health facilities in Chernihiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kyiv, Mykolayiv, Sumy, Odesa, and Zaporizhzhya *oblasts* in November. A separate USAID/BHA INGO partner also provided emergency health services to vulnerable populations during November, providing nearly 19,000 health consultations to individuals in hard-to-reach areas of the country through mobile medical teams. During the same month, the INGO provided approximately 41,600 health consultations to more than 21,700 patients through 23 health care facilities in Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Odesa, and Zaporizhzhya *oblasts*.

Additionally, relief actors continue providing winterization assistance amid the dropping temperatures during the 2023/2024 winter season. Humanitarian actors, including USG partners, reached approximately 800,000 people throughout Ukraine with winterization assistance between October and November, according to the UN. This represents nearly one-half of the 1.7 million people targeted with winterization assistance by OCHA's 2023/2024 Winter Response Plan, which prioritizes support for communities in frontline areas of the country. Winterization assistance provided during October and November included winter heating support for 106,000 people, warm winter clothing for 105,000 people, and other winter-related relief commodities for 82,000 people, the UN reports. Relief actors reached the highest number of people in Sumy, where populations often face the lowest below-zero temperatures during the winter season. As part of these winterization efforts, USAID/BHA partner IOM distributed more than 9,300 winterization kits—including blankets, towels, and other household items—and more than 1,900 blankets to vulnerable populations via IOM, partner organization, and GoU distributions. To address winter heating needs, IOM also transported 9,000 oil-filled radiators and nearly 800 solid fuel stoves to warehouses for further distribution in Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Zaporizhzhya *oblasts*, and distributed solid fuel to more than 1,300 households in Kharkiv. Additionally, U.S. Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) distributed cash assistance to address winter energy needs to nearly 464,000 people between September 1 and December 27, surpassing its target of 450,000 people, the UN agency reports.

UN-Led Convoys Deliver Assistance to Frontline Areas in 2023

In response to persistent hostilities and widespread destruction, humanitarian organizations continued to provide assistance to conflict-affected populations across Ukraine in December. On December 31, a UN-led convoy carrying critical relief items reached Kupiansk town in Kharkiv, where approximately 1,500 civilians lack access to basic services. The interagency convoy—comprising USAID/BHA partners the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), and UN World Food Program (WFP), as well as one INGO partner—delivered 16 metric tons of aid, including food, hygiene items, shelter materials, and other winter-related items to help conflict-affected individuals during the winter season. Overall, the UN and its partners coordinated 105 humanitarian convoys reaching hundreds of thousands of conflict-affected people in

¹ The Health Cluster is the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

frontline areas across Ukraine throughout 2023, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports.

KEY FIGURES



1.2 Million

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



7.5 Million

People in Ukraine reached by humanitarian mobile health teams between January and November 2023.



4.7 Million

People supported with WASH services through USG partner UNICEF between January and November 2023

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To meet increasing food needs since the GoR invasion, USAID/BHA is supporting WFP and two 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 more than 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 six 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. Overall, Health Cluster member organizations' mobile health teams reached 7.5 million people with assistance between January and November 2023.

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.

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 4.7 million people as of November 30. State/PRM partners are also providing WASH assistance in Ukraine and to refugees in neighboring countries, including strengthening sanitation infrastructure in shelters.



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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 multipurpose cash assistance (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 400,000 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 nearly 219,000 Ukrainian refugees in Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia with cash assistance between January 1 and December 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 gender-based violence (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 nearly 1.4 million people inside Ukraine with protection services between January 1 and December 18.

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 internally displaced persons (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.