



Ukraine – Complex Emergency

FEBRUARY 23, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

10,457

UN-Confirmed
Civilian Deaths
Resulting From
the Conflict

OHCHR – February 2024

6

MILLION

Refugees From
Ukraine Recorded
Across Europe

UNHCR – February 2023

3.5

MILLION

People Internally
Displaced Across
Ukraine

IOM – January 2024

14.6

MILLION

People in Need of
Humanitarian
Assistance in Ukraine

UN – January 2024

11

MILLION

People Reached With
Humanitarian
Assistance in Ukraine
in 2023

UN – December 2023

- Since February 24, 2022, the GoR's invasion of Ukraine has resulted in 30,457 civilian casualties; displaced more than 6 million Ukrainian refugees; and damaged or destroyed critical infrastructure.
- Civilian casualties resulting from GoR attacks increased by 40 percent between November 2023 and January 2024, likely due to intensified GoR missile and UAV attacks across the country, according to OHCHR.
- Increased GoR aerial attacks since December 2023 continue to disrupt critical services, including electricity and heating, amid below freezing temperatures, the UN reports.



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

At Least 30,457 Civilian Casualties in Two Years Since GoR's Invasion of Ukraine

Hostilities since the Government of Russia (GoR) launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, have resulted in 30,457 civilian casualties, displaced more than 6 million Ukrainians to other countries in Europe, and damaged or destroyed critical civilian infrastructure. More than 47,000 incidents involving armed clashes, aerial attacks, and other hostilities took place across Ukraine in 2023, an increase of more than 12,000 incidents compared to 2022, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project. These incidents resulted in widespread humanitarian needs throughout Ukraine, with more than 3.3 million people—including 800,000 children—residing along the front line requiring emergency assistance. Individuals in these areas depend on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs, as access to adequate food, shelter, and water, as well as cooking and heating fuel, health care, livelihoods, and other essential services and supplies are limited, the UN reports. An estimated 14.6 million people require humanitarian assistance countrywide, a slight decrease compared to the 17.6 million people who required assistance in 2023, according to the UN. The UN released the 2024 Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan—an assessment of humanitarian needs designed to help inform strategic response planning—requesting \$3.1 billion to provide humanitarian assistance to 8.5 million people in need. The funding request represents a more than 20 percent reduction from the \$3.9 billion requested in the 2023 Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan, as the UN prioritizes populations with the most urgent humanitarian needs.

Amid persistent hostilities, humanitarian actors, including USG partners, distributed critical relief items to 11 million individuals in 2023, the UN reports. This figure includes 7.6 million people who received life-saving health care and medical supplies; 6.8 million people who received water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services; 4.1 million people who received food and livelihood support; 4 million people who received materials for emergency shelter repairs and critical household items, including winter supplies; and 3.9 million people who received cash assistance. Relief organizations also provided child protection services to 3 million children and caregivers and additional protection services, including counseling and legal aid, to an estimated 2.2 million individuals. Humanitarians reached up to 1.6 million people with gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and survivor assistance services. Relief actors also provided mine action programs, including awareness and risk education activities to 1.2 million people. In addition, humanitarian actors, including USG partners, delivered more than 3,200 metric tons of relief items to hard-to-reach locations across six *oblasts*—primarily in frontline areas of the country, including Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhya *oblasts*—via 107 interagency convoys during 2023, supporting nearly 400,000 people, according to the Logistics Cluster.²

GoR Aerial Attacks Increase Civilian Casualties and Risk to Relief Actors

Civilian casualties resulting from GoR attacks increased between November and January, largely attributed to intensified GoR missile and single-use unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) attacks across the country since December, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The OHCHR verified at least 650 civilian casualties—including the deaths of 164 people and injury to more than 490 individuals—across Ukraine during January, representing a nearly 40 percent increase compared with November 2023. Notably, GoR attacks killed or injured at least 40 children in January, a more than 122 percent increase from the 18 child casualties recorded in November, OHCHR reports. Increased GoR aerial attacks in recent months also continue to highlight the ongoing risks

² The Logistics Cluster is the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

USAID/BHA partners and other humanitarian actors face while operating in Ukraine. Humanitarian actors reported nearly 230 incidents affecting humanitarian operations in the country, averaging four incidents per week, between January and December 2023, the UN reports. Notably, a February 1 GoR aerial attack in Kherson *Oblast's* Beryslav *raion*—an area subject to consistent GoR attacks—killed two USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) international nongovernmental organization (INGO) partner staff members and injured four others, according to the INGO. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) Denise Brown released a statement on February 2 condemning the attack and warning of a trend of increased GoR violence against humanitarian facilities and personnel in recent weeks, which hinders the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance. The deaths of the INGO staff members follow similar attacks against humanitarian assets and workers in Ukraine in January, including a January 26 attack against a U.S. Department of State Bureau for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) local NGO sub-partner in Donetsk *Oblast's* Chasiv Yar city. The attack injured a volunteer from the organization, damaged the vehicle, and destroyed the relief supplies, the UN reports. RC/HC Brown issued a statement condemning the attack on January 26, underscoring the importance of upholding international humanitarian law. Relief actors have expressed concern over the steady increase in GoR attacks against humanitarian infrastructure near frontline areas in recent months, which have regularly caused the temporary suspension of aid.

GoR Attacks Disrupt Electricity and Heating Services Across Ukraine

GoR aerial attacks across the country continue to disrupt critical services, including electricity and heating, amid below-freezing temperatures, the UN reports. Notably, frontline areas of the country experience frequent GoR aerial attacks, which disrupt power supplies in civilian population centers. GoR attacks between February 12 and 13 disrupted the power supply for approximately 30,000 individuals and the water supply for a separate 30,000 individuals in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast. The Government of Ukraine (GoU) Ministry of Energy restored the electricity supply on February 13. This incident follows three GoR UAV attacks in Dnipropetrovsk in early February, resulting in subsequent electricity blackouts and power outages. Two consecutive GoR UAV attacks between February 1 and 3 caused temporary power outages affecting tens of thousands of individuals in Dnipropetrovsk's Kryvyi Rih city, international media report. The initial February 1–2 attack damaged an electrical substation operated by Ukraine's state-owned utility operator and disrupted the electricity supply to hospitals, residential areas, schools, and transportation infrastructure in the city, which international media estimates to have affected up to 100,000 individuals. A subsequent overnight UAV attack February 2–3 against power stations in Kryvyi Rih resulted in electricity blackouts affecting nearly 15,000 residents. The UAV attack also cut power for two boiler houses, disrupting heating for up to 43,000 individuals as temperatures dropped below freezing, international media report. The February 2–3 attack in Kryvyi Rih represents one of the largest attacks on energy infrastructure to date in 2024, according to international media. Separately, a GoR UAV attack on February 7 killed four individuals, injured at least 40 others, and disrupted essential services in Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Lviv, and Mykolayiv oblasts. The attack damaged houses and powerlines, causing some Kyiv residents to temporarily lose power and disrupting gas and water infrastructure in Mykolayiv. RC/HC Brown denounced the attack in a February 7 statement, noting the increasing frequency of GoR attacks damaging civilian infrastructure, resulting in civilian casualties, and the continuing pattern of harm and international humanitarian law violations.

The USG supports 18 humanitarian organizations to provide critical winter assistance to at-risk populations across Ukraine during the 2023/2024 winter season as temperatures have dropped alongside an increase in hostilities. Humanitarian actors, including USG partners, provided fuel or cash for fuel to ensure heating for 710,000 individuals; maintenance of heating systems for 410,000 individuals; and winter clothes for 230,000 individuals so far during the winter season, the UN reported on February 16.

With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) distributed blankets, mattresses, and solar lamps to nearly 1,600 displaced people in Lviv Oblast, while the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided blankets, diapers, hand sanitizers, hygiene kits, and winter clothes to households with children and displaced persons living in the oblast during January. Additionally, State/PRM's partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reached nearly 907,000 individuals with winter-specific assistance, including providing cash support for winter energy needs, essential winter clothing and household items, heaters, and shelter assistance between September and December 2023.

KEY FIGURES



620,000

People in Ukraine reached with USAID/BHA-supported in-kind food assistance via WFP in January 2024



7.6 Million

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To meet increasing food needs since the GoR 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. WFP reached nearly 620,000 individuals with in-kind food distributions and distributed approximately \$1 million in cash assistance in Ukraine during January.

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), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and seven INGO partners to respond to emergency health needs in Ukraine. Humanitarian organizations—including USAID/BHA partners—supported more than 1,360 health facilities in Ukraine with capacity building support and medical equipment and supplies between January and December 2023. Overall, Health Cluster member organizations' mobile health teams reached 7.6 million people with assistance between January and December 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.



4.7 Million

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

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 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, eight INGO partners, and two Ukrainian NGO partners to address WASH needs in Ukraine. In 2023, UNICEF provided comprehensive WASH services to more than 5.4 million people between January and December 2023. State/PRM partners are also providing WASH assistance in Ukraine and to refugees in neighboring countries, including strengthening sanitation infrastructure in shelters.



10

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 eight INGOs to provide multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA). Cash assistance and vouchers allow 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 600,000 conflict-affected individuals across Ukraine in December 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 from Ukraine to neighboring countries. UNHCR reached nearly 218,000 Ukrainian refugees in Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia with cash assistance between January and December 2023.



2.6 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. UNICEF-supported MHPSS interventions reached nearly 2.6 million children and caregivers to help them cope with the psychological effects of conflict and displacement between January and December 2023. UNICEF also provided more than 1.1 million 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 and protection assistance 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 1.5 million people inside Ukraine with protection services between January and December 2023.

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 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](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
 - 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)