

# Ukraine – Complex Emergency

NOVEMBER 7, 2024

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

**11,973**

UN-Confirmed Civilian Deaths Resulting From the Conflict

*OHCHR – September 2024*

**6.2**  
MILLION

Refugees From Ukraine Recorded Across Europe

*UNHCR – October 2024*

**3.6**  
MILLION

People Internally Displaced Across Ukraine

*IOM – October 2024*

**14.6**  
MILLION

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Ukraine

*UN – January 2024*

**7.2**  
MILLION

People Reached With Humanitarian Assistance in Ukraine January–September

*UN – September 2024*

- Approximately 3.6 million people were displaced—including 1 million in frontline areas—across Ukraine as of October, according to IOM. Harsh winter conditions are likely to drive IDPs to collective centers despite insufficient accommodations and access challenges.
- Humanitarian conditions continue to deteriorate as the 2024/2025 winter season begins; however, USG partners provide critical shelter assistance to vulnerable populations.
- Relief actors, including some USAID/BHA partners, reached 7.2 million people across Ukraine with critical multi-sector assistance between January and September, the UN reports.



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### GoR Attacks Drive Displacement and Evacuations Across Ukraine As Winter Approaches

Attacks by Government of Russia (GoR) forces across Ukraine continue to result in significant displacement and evacuations, exacerbating dire humanitarian conditions among already vulnerable populations. As of mid-October, there were approximately 3.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) across the country, with an estimated 1 million IDPs residing in frontline areas, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Among IDPs, priority needs include access to income-generating opportunities, medicine, power banks, and generators; many IDPs also reported insufficient access to clothing, food, and mental health services. Prolonged displacement and exhaustion of savings have also led many IDPs to resort to negative coping mechanisms. For example, 66 percent of IDP households have reportedly switched to cheaper foods and 53 percent of households have reduced usage of utilities—including coal, electricity, gas, and wood—due to costs even as the 2024/2025 winter season approaches, IOM reports.

In addition, daily aerial attacks and shelling by GoR forces prompted Government of Ukraine (GoU) authorities to issue mandatory evacuations orders in conflict-affected *oblasts* in October. In Kharkiv *Oblast's* Kupyansk *Raion*, local authorities announced the mandatory evacuation of children and their families residing in Kupyansk city and three adjacent communities, as well as neighboring Izium *Raion's* Borova town on October 15. Approximately 7,000 people remained in areas under evacuation orders in Kupyansk *Raion* as of October 15; however, more than 2,100 people, including 145 children, have been evacuated from Kupyansk and Izium between October 15 and November 1, according to local media.

In addition to ongoing attacks, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster anticipates that winter-related needs and rising utility costs could also drive evacuees to collective sites in the coming months.<sup>1</sup> Evacuees—often comprising older people and people living with disabilities and chronic illnesses—also require additional support such as health care. Meanwhile, collective centers receiving evacuees in *oblasts* across Ukraine may be inaccessible to people with limited mobility, according to the cluster. As of early October, relief actors were responding to the current level of need among evacuees arriving in regions throughout Ukraine; however, they have cited limited availability of supplies—such as bedding, food packages, and heaters—or funding to meet the needs of IDPs in the event of a surge in evacuations due to winter conditions or further movement of the front line.

### Humanitarian Needs in Frontline Areas Increase Ahead of 2024/2025 Winter Season

Conflict-related damage, high population density, and socioeconomic vulnerabilities continue to drive significant risks of heightened humanitarian needs as the 2024/2025 winter season begins, particularly in Donetsk, Kharkiv, and Sumy *oblasts*, according to an assessment by an international nongovernmental organization (INGO). Frontline areas of Kharkiv *Raion* and Donetsk's Pokrovsk *Raion* had experienced significant disruptions to water services, including damage to water pumping stations and water treatment facilities restricting the functionality of sanitation systems and the availability of safe drinking water. In addition, disruptions in electrical supply present barriers for winter heating in the three *oblasts*, increasing health-related risks for residents as temperatures continue to decline, the INGO reports. Additionally, approximately 40 percent of the remaining 11,900 residents in Pokrovsk were completely without electricity as of late October, according to national media. Hostilities have also

<sup>1</sup> The CCCM Cluster is the coordinating body for humanitarian camp coordination and camp management activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

impeded repair and restoration services, leading local authorities to issue warnings to residents that municipal electricity, gas, and water services are likely to be unavailable during the upcoming 2024/2025 winter season, exacerbating dire humanitarian conditions among already vulnerable populations.

Amid the ongoing hostilities and related constraints to humanitarian access, relief actors, including U.S. Government (USG) partners, continued to provide shelter and winter assistance to vulnerable populations across Ukraine in September. Shelter Cluster partners—including U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)—reached nearly 5,100 people with emergency shelter assistance and distributed construction materials to nearly 62,000 people in 19 *oblasts* during the month. In addition, as part of the humanitarian community's winter response, cluster members distributed emergency winter items—such as bedding and blankets—to approximately 5,000 people. Additionally, relief organizations supported more than 20 health facilities throughout Ukraine between August and September to ensure uninterrupted health service delivery amid limited energy and heating availability. Relief actors donated generators to the health facilities, repaired and upgraded the heating systems, provided backup boilers, and installed units to serve as additional temporary health centers during the same period, according to the Health Cluster.

### **Insecurity Surges in Donetsk Between July and September, Damaging Civilian Infrastructure and Affecting Relief Operations**

Hostilities surged in Donetsk between July and September, generating civilian casualties and restricting access to basic services and humanitarian assistance, according to ACAPS. During the period, hostilities escalated in several of Donetsk's frontline cities—Myrnohrad, Pokrovsk, Selydove, and Toretsk—compared to the previous quarter, with recorded armed clashes increasing from 20 armed clashes to more than 120 armed clashes, 19 drone strikes to 59 drone strikes, and 40 shelling incidents to 54 shelling incidents, between July and September, representing a significant increase in threats to safety for civilians residing in frontline areas. The increase in attacks also damaged more than 410 civilian facilities—such as electrical, gas, government, health, and industrial facilities—during the period, an approximately 180 percent increase from the nearly 150 civilian facilities damaged between April and June, ACAPS reports. As a result, centralized gas and water supplies were disrupted in Pokrovsk city during September, adversely affecting resident's preparedness for the upcoming 2024/2025 winter season. Additionally, shelling in Kramatorsk injured three Ukrainian Red Cross Society staff on September 25, highlighting the precarious operating environment for relief actors in frontline areas.

### **7.2 Million People Reached With Humanitarian Assistance Between January and September**

Humanitarian organizations—including USAID/BHA partners—reached an estimated 7.2 million people across Ukraine, nearly 60 percent of whom were women and girls, with at least one form of assistance from January to September, according to the UN. The assistance included water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services for approximately 5.8 million people, particularly in frontline areas; food and livelihood support for 3 million people; health support for 2 million people; and shelter support, including conducting emergency repairs, distributing household supplies, and providing construction materials to more than 1.3 million people. The total population reached during the nine-month period included approximately 1.7 million IDPs, according to the UN. Additionally, 34 interagency convoys delivered emergency relief commodities, including blankets, hygiene supplies, medicine, and shelter materials, to support people in frontline areas with critical assistance, between January and September. Six convoys reached approximately 10,000 people in September, the UN reports.

## KEY FIGURES



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USG implementing partners providing MPCA



495,000

People in Ukraine reached with protection assistance by State/PRM partner UNHCR in 2024



1.5 Million

People in Ukraine reached with food assistance via USAID/BHA partner WFP in September

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

The USG supports the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), IOM, UNHCR, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Food Program (WFP), and six INGOs to provide multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), which supports displaced and other conflict-affected people to meet their immediate needs—such as clothing, food, fuel, shelter, or utilities—through local markets and helps reach vulnerable communities more efficiently than providing in-kind commodities. State/PRM is 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. Between January and October 2024, State/PRM partner UNHCR reached more than 270,000 conflict-affected individuals, including IDPs and returnees inside Ukraine, with MPCA to help cover the cost of basic items.

### PROTECTION

Armed conflict often exacerbates protection risks. Civilians must cope with threats such as domestic abuse, exclusion from lifesaving humanitarian assistance, exploitative labor, family separation, and sexual violence. In response, USAID/BHA supports IOM, IFRC, UNICEF, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women—through USAID/BHA’s partnership with the UN Development Program (UNDP)—and WHO, as well as ten INGOs and three Ukrainian NGOs, to implement protection interventions for conflict-affected populations in Ukraine. USAID/BHA partners provide case management and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to children, persons with disabilities, and older people and operate mobile protection teams to reach remote communities with gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response activities, legal assistance, and MHPSS services. UNICEF reached more than 495,000 people with MHPSS interventions to help them cope with the psychological effects of conflict and displacement between January and September.

In addition, State/PRM partners—including IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, and UNICEF—provide legal and protection assistance to vulnerable individuals in Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees in neighboring countries. Services include child protection, GBV prevention and response, and MHPSS support; the establishment of child-friendly spaces and women and girls’ safe spaces; and prevention of and response to trafficking in persons.

### FOOD SECURITY

To meet the food needs of vulnerable populations affected by the GoR’s full-scale invasion, USAID/BHA supports WFP and two INGOs to provide food assistance in the form of in-kind food baskets and cash assistance that can be used to purchase food in Ukraine. WFP continues to prioritize food distributions in eastern and southern Ukraine, where fighting and supply

chain disruptions hinder vulnerable populations' access to food in frontline areas. In September, with USAID/BHA and other donor support, WFP reached 1.5 million people across Ukraine with food assistance in September, including approximately 907,000 people with in-kind food assistance and more than 553,000 people with cash-for-food assistance.



**717**

Individual facilities supported by Health Cluster assistance in Ukraine as of September

## HEALTH

To support the health needs of conflict-affected populations, USG humanitarian partners provide medical 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. State/PRM is also supporting one humanitarian organization providing health assistance in Ukraine. In the first nine months of 2024, Health Cluster member organizations, including USAID/BHA partners, reached approximately 2 million people with critical health assistance.

In neighboring countries, State/PRM supports IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and other international organizations to provide health care services to refugees from Ukraine. This support includes delivering essential medical supplies and equipment, connecting refugees with MHPSS services, filling logistical support gaps, and providing support for persons with disabilities. State/PRM health support in multiple countries in the region serves to strengthen the capacity of local health systems to support the increased number of refugees from Ukraine.



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Partners Providing Shelter Support Across Ukraine

## SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

With USG support, NGO and UN partners provide emergency shelter assistance to conflict-affected populations, support the rehabilitation of damaged shelters, and bolster vulnerable populations preparedness for the upcoming 2024/2025 winter season across Ukraine. USAID/BHA partner IFRC distributes cash assistance to IDPs and households in conflict-affected areas to support winter-related needs and UNICEF rehabilitates child-friendly shelters and provides winter-related relief commodities—including blankets and children's winter clothing—to vulnerable populations. Additionally, State/PRM partner UNHCR reached more than 500 households with emergency shelter materials in Kherson, Mykolaivska, and Odesa *oblasts* and more than 1,000 households with emergency relief items—including blankets, hygiene kits, and pillows—in Kherson in September.



**4.5 Million**

People reached with WASH support through USG partner UNICEF from January to September

## 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, IFRC, UNICEF, nine INGO partners, and one Ukrainian NGO partner to address WASH needs in Ukraine. State/PRM partners are also providing WASH assistance in Ukraine and to refugees in neighboring countries, including strengthening sanitation infrastructure in shelters. From January to September, USG partner UNICEF improved access to safe drinking water for nearly 4.5 million people through maintenance, restoration, and repair of crucial WASH facilities and networks across Ukraine, with USAID/BHA and other donor support.

## 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 during this period occurred in the easternmost *oblasts* bordering Russia, particularly in Donetsk and Luhansk; however, the large influx of IDPs from these areas have also affected 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 September 2024, USAID maintains staff in Kyiv, Ukraine, and Washington, D.C.
- On October 25, 2024, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget A. Brink renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for Ukraine for FY 2025 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.usaid.gov](https://cidi.usaid.gov)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://reliefweb.int)

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