

UKRAINE – CONFLICT

FACT SHEET #7, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

AUGUST 12, 2015

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

1.4 million

Registered IDPs in Ukraine
OCHA – July 2015

924,300

Number of People Displaced to Neighboring Countries
UNHCR – July 2015

5 million

Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance
OCHA – July 2015

6,800

Documented Number of Deaths Resulting from the Conflict
OCHA – July 2015

16,900

Documented Number of Injuries Resulting from the Conflict
OCHA – July 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- Bureaucratic and security restrictions impede the movement of civilians and delivery of humanitarian cargo in eastern Ukraine
- Humanitarian agencies are now required to register to operate in the DPR
- The UN reports inadequate availability of medicines and medical supplies in NGCAs, as well as limited access to safe drinking water
- WFP announces plans to scale up the provision of food assistance in conflict-affected areas

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO UKRAINE IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$10,800,889
USAID/FFP ²	\$10,000,000
State/PRM ³	\$28,400,000
\$49,200,889	
TOTAL USAID AND STATE ASSISTANCE TO THE UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The security situation in eastern Ukraine remains tense, with daily ceasefire violations resulting in civilian deaths and injuries, as well as damage to houses, water systems, and other infrastructure, according to the UN and international media.
- On July 7, the Government of Ukraine (GoU) launched an electronic pass system to facilitate civilian movement across the contact line—the line between GoU-held territory and non-government controlled areas (NGCAs). However, the system has been unable to quickly process the large number of requests.
- Market studies indicate that commodity prices are increasing and availability decreasing in NGCAs due to continued conflict and restrictions that reduce commercial traffic. The UN is working with the GoU to identify streamlined procedures for the transport of humanitarian assistance into NGCAs.
- Self-proclaimed authorities in the Donetsk People’s Republic (DPR) have announced that humanitarian organizations must register with DPR officials in order to operate in the DPR. The UN notes that the new requirement could affect the ability of relief agencies to provide assistance to vulnerable populations.
- Despite significant constraints, the UN reports that humanitarian organizations had provided humanitarian assistance—including emergency relief commodities, food assistance, health care, nutrition interventions, and psychosocial support—to more than 450,000 people in both GoU-held areas and NGCAs between January and June. Humanitarian agencies aim to scale up assistance in the coming months and begin preparations for the onset of winter.

¹ USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

INSECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- The security situation in eastern Ukraine remains volatile, according to the UN. Fighting continued in eastern Ukraine during July, with clashes concentrated north and west of Donetsk city, north of Luhansk city, and east of Mariupol city. The UN reports that sporadic fire across the contact line between June 27 and July 3 killed four civilians and wounded an additional six people. As of July 3, the conflict had resulted in more than 6,700 confirmed deaths—with the actual death toll likely significantly higher—and wounded nearly 16,900 individuals.
- Outbreaks of violence and movement restrictions across the contact line are hindering humanitarian response efforts. Humanitarian agencies report that the unpredictable opening and closing of checkpoints and slow processing times are resulting in waits of up to two days to cross between NGCAs and GoU-held territory, often leaving people—most of whom are seeking to purchase basic supplies or visit relatives—without access to sanitation facilities, food, and water during the wait. Additionally, the GoU has restricted the movement of public transportation across the contact line due to security concerns, further hindering the movement of civilians.
- The GoU launched an electronic pass system on July 7 to facilitate population movement across the contact line; however, the UN reports that the system is currently unable to process the significant number of applications. Within the first three days of launching, the system received 26,000 applications. The UN reports that the processing time for an application is approximately 10 days.
- Local-level restrictions have resulted in a decrease in commercial cargo—including food and medical supplies—entering the NGCAs and contributed to limited supplies and increased prices, according to the UN. The UN is advocating for the streamlined transport of humanitarian assistance to NGCAs, although humanitarian assistance cannot compensate for the overall decrease in commercial activity. The Security Service of Ukraine has announced plans to identify two checkpoints through which aid may be delivered; however, as of mid-July, the checkpoints had not yet been announced and Volnovakha remained the only checkpoint for the transit of goods, according to the UN. The UN is also advocating for procedures to quickly facilitate the crossing of humanitarian cargo and personnel through identified checkpoints.
- Humanitarian agencies report that self-proclaimed authorities are requiring that all foreign relief organizations register with the officials in order to work in the DPR. Authorities have indicated that non-registered international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and humanitarian agencies will not be permitted to operate in these areas until registration is complete. The UN notes concern regarding this new regulation, as it could impede or prevent the delivery of assistance.
- Despite constraints, the Logistics Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—transported 140 metric tons (MT) of emergency relief commodities in support of eight humanitarian organizations, including U.S. Government (USG) partners, to NGCAs between May 28 and June 29. Commodities included food, hygiene kits, medical commodities, construction materials, clothes, and kitchen sets. Between June 27 and July 15, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided emergency relief commodities and shelter support to more than 8,800 people in GoU-held areas, as well as to more than 400 people in NGCAs.

PROTECTION

- The Protection Cluster is monitoring protection-related concerns in both NGCAs and GoU-held territory, as well as advocating for legislation to facilitate movement of people and commodities across the contact line to mitigate the effects of the conflict on vulnerable populations. The cluster reports that of the approximately 1.4 million registered internally displaced persons (IDPs) in GoU-controlled areas, 59 percent are elderly, 13 percent are children, and five percent are persons with disabilities.
- The Protection Cluster reports that individuals residing in NGCAs whose passports or identity documents have been lost or destroyed in the conflict face significant movement restrictions. Such individuals must travel to GoU-held areas to replace their documentation; however, travel across the contact line without a valid passport or identity document is not permitted, leaving these individuals currently without an option to obtain new documentation.

- During April and May, a USAID/OFDA partner trained nearly 700 teachers and school psychologists in Mariupol and Kharkiv on how to identify children who have experienced gender-based violence, appropriately respond, and link survivors and caregivers with municipal health and social welfare services. On July 9, State/PRM partner the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) provided medical supplies to the Kharkiv regional perinatal center to support health care for women affected by the conflict, including IDPs.

FOOD SECURITY

- Although food prices have increased throughout Ukraine since July 2014, inflation is particularly acute in the NGCAs of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, according to two recent market assessments. On June 8, the UN World Food Program (WFP) issued a market update that indicated that eggs, meats, and oils are approximately 60 percent more expensive in NGCAs than in government-controlled areas, and the prices of dairy and fresh fruit have increased by more than 100 percent.
- An early-June NGO assessment of markets similarly concluded that food prices are higher on average in the Luhansk NGCAs than in government-controlled areas. Both reports attribute the price disparity to the reduced flow of commercial and humanitarian commodities into NGCAs. The NGO assessment notes that while food remained available in Luhansk NGCAs—albeit with a reduced selection—a further escalation in conflict may negatively impact the availability of food and other commodities.
- On July 1, WFP announced plans to scale up emergency operations in conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine, aiming to provide food assistance to 500,000 people—nearly three times the number of people reached since November 2014—by the end of 2015. WFP plans to target the most vulnerable populations by providing assistance in schools, orphanages, hospitals, and other institutions in NGCAs, as well as provide supplementary feeding for children under two years old who have been identified as at risk of malnutrition. WFP is also continuing to support IDPs in GoU-held areas through cash transfers and food vouchers, as well as individuals in NGCAs through the distribution of food assistance. USAID/FFP has provided \$10 million to WFP in FY 2015 to support the local procurement and distribution of food assistance, as well as food vouchers.

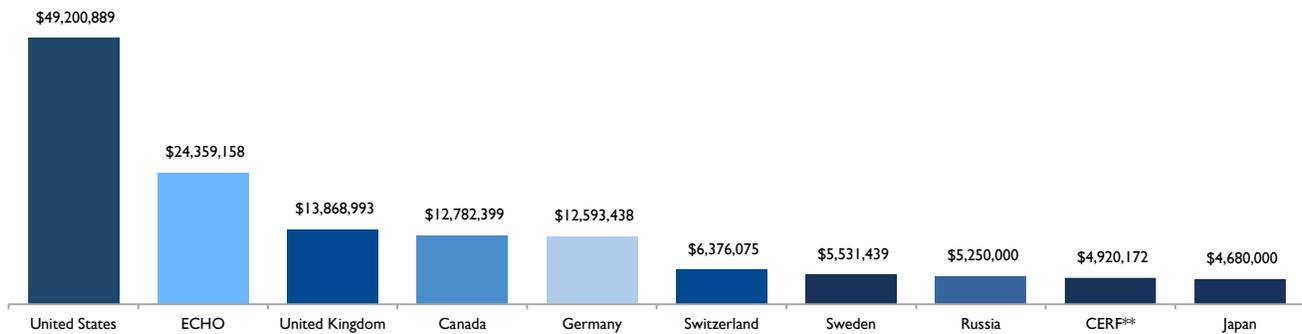
WASH

- The Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster reports limited access to safe drinking water in conflict-affected areas. During June, the water supply from GoU-held territory to Petrovskaiia pumping station and Western filter station was cut, leaving 165,000 people residing in NGCAs of Luhansk without access to safe drinking water. While the water supply from GoU-held areas resumed in early July, Kirovsk and Pervomaisk districts remained dependent on water trucking as of mid-July due to damaged power supplies preventing normal water provision.
- In Donetsk, conflict-related damage to the Donetskaia filter-station was repaired on July 2 and remained operational as of mid-July. Other pipeline repairs remained ongoing, but were impeded by shelling and risk of further damage. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe negotiated a daytime ceasefire in the vicinity of Horlivka that began on July 4 to facilitate repairs to a major water pipeline that provides water to an estimated 2 million people in the region, including Mariupol. As of mid-July, Mariupol was receiving approximately 10 percent of its normal water intake from its primary source and was relying on a reservoir as a secondary source, which GoU water companies expect will be exhausted within two months.
- Between January and July, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) provided safe drinking water to more than 550,000 conflict-affected individuals. In addition, USAID/OFDA is funding a partner in Luhansk to support basic repairs of damaged water systems, rehabilitation of wells in select villages, instruction of communities on water treatment techniques, and other WASH activities to improve the quality of drinking water and prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

- As of August 12, donors had provided \$105.2 million—or 33 percent—toward the revised 2015 Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan, which requests \$316 million to support humanitarian assistance in Ukraine. Donors had provided an additional \$54.7 million to support activities outside of the appeal.
- On July 1, the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) announced the provision of €15 million—nearly \$16.5 million—to respond to humanitarian needs in Ukraine. The funding will support the provision of food, hygiene kits, blankets, health care, safe drinking water, and shelter, among other humanitarian activities.
- On June 24, the Government of Switzerland (GoS) delivered 300 MT of water treatment chemicals to the Donetsk Water Utility; the quantity is sufficient to treat the water supply for 3.5 million people in both GoU-held areas and NGCAs. The GoS also provided medical supplies and equipment to four medical facilities in Donetsk.

2015 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of August 12, 2015. All international figures are according to OCHA’s Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect commitments based on FY 2015, which began on October 1, 2014.

**The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) is a pooled humanitarian fund established and managed by the UN to support underfunded emergencies.

CONTEXT

- Since March 2014, conflict between the GoU military and separatists has escalated in eastern Ukraine, causing large-scale population displacement and widespread damage to infrastructure. The heaviest fighting has occurred in the easternmost oblasts bordering Russia, particularly Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts; however, the large influx of IDPs has negatively affected neighboring oblasts.
- As of July 2015, the UN estimated that the conflict had displaced more than 2.3 million people. As many as 5 million people remained in conflict-affected oblasts of eastern Ukraine, where the volatile security environment has impeded access by humanitarian actors.
- On October 29, 2014, U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey R. Pyatt re-issued a disaster declaration for Ukraine due to the continued humanitarian needs of IDPs and vulnerable populations affected by conflict between GoU forces and pro-opposition forces in eastern Ukraine.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE PROVIDED IN FY 2015¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$700,000
Implementing Partners	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, and WASH	Countrywide	\$9,999,324
	Program Support		\$101,565
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$10,800,889
USAID/FFP			
WFP	Locally Procured Food Assistance and Food Vouchers	Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$10,000,000
STATE/PRM			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$14,000,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UNFPA	Protection	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNHCR	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$10,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$28,400,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE IN FY 2015			\$49,200,889

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² Funding represents announced funding amounts as of August 12, 2015.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.

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 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, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>