

UKRAINE - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #8, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

800,000

IDPs in Ukraine
UN – November 2015

1.4 million

People Displaced to
Neighboring Countries
UNHCR – April 2016

9,640

Documented Deaths
Resulting from the
Conflict
UN – September 2016

22,431

Documented Injuries
Resulting from the
Conflict
UN – September 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- GoU and self-proclaimed authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk renew ceasefire agreement; sporadic violence continues along the contact line
- Winterization support needed ahead of declining temperatures; guidelines for relief agencies released
- IDPs continue to experience challenges receiving certification necessary to access GoU benefits

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2016

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$16,988,922
USAID/FFP ²	\$5,000,000
State/PRM ³	\$27,300,000

\$49,288,922

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On September 1, the Government of Ukraine (GoU) and self-proclaimed authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts* renewed the ceasefire agreement of September 2015. The renewal followed three consecutive months of escalating violence that resulted in a significant increase in civilian casualties compared to prior months, according to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Although the ceasefire had largely held as of late September, monitors from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) continued to report small-scale violations.
- Multiple years of conflict have damaged homes throughout government controlled areas (GCAs) and non-government controlled areas (NGCAs) along the contact line in eastern Ukraine. Meanwhile, displacement has forced many people into temporary accommodation or collective shelters. The onset of winter and accompanying decline in temperatures is likely to exacerbate humanitarian needs among individuals residing in inadequate shelter, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports. The UN agency recommends that relief organizations prioritize winterization efforts in the coming months.
- Efforts by the GoU and response agencies have improved humanitarian conditions at checkpoints between GCAs and NGCAs; however, security concerns persist.
- Many internally displaced persons (IDPs) remain unable to obtain IDP certification, limiting access to GoU benefits and services. Despite a multi-year advocacy effort by the humanitarian community, issues continued to impede certification as of late September.
- In August, shelling damaged pipelines and disrupted water services in Donetsk and Luhansk, temporarily limiting access to safe drinking water for 950,000 people. In late September, an extensive water network temporarily halted operations, reducing water availability for at least 800,000 people in GCAs and NGCAs of Luhansk.

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

- Security conditions in conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine deteriorated from June–August, with OHCHR recording more than 230 civilian casualties—an average of nearly 80 per month—during the period. By comparison, the average monthly civilian casualty total from September 2015–May 2016 was 34, according to the UN. Amid the escalation in clashes along the contact line, the GoU and self-proclaimed authorities in Donetsk and Luhansk renewed the 2015 ceasefire agreement on September 1. Ceasefire violations continue in many areas despite the agreement, according to the OSCE, which maintains personnel in the area to monitor the conflict.
 - On September 21, the Trilateral Contact Group—comprising representatives from the Government of the Russian Federation, the GoU, and OSCE—agreed to a framework to facilitate the withdrawal of forces and weaponry from three areas along the contact line. As of late September, the OSCE was unable to verify the framework’s implementation status due to access constraints.
 - Approximately 875,000 people crossed the contact line in August via five operational checkpoints, an increase of nearly 60,000 people compared to June, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports. Efforts by the GoU and relief organizations have improved the availability of health services, shelter structures, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities at the checkpoints; however, OCHA cautions that humanitarian needs still exceed capacity, particularly during high volume periods when individuals are subject to lengthy waiting times. The checkpoints also require winterization support in advance of expected colder temperatures in October, OCHA notes.
 - Clashes, shelling, and the presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW) in the vicinity of checkpoints continue to imperil civilians crossing between GCAs and NGCAs, according to the UN. On August 26, sniper fire wounded a civilian at one checkpoint, and on August 24, shelling at another checkpoint injured one person. Individuals waiting at checkpoints are particularly vulnerable due to narrow roads, ERW contamination in adjacent areas, and the lack of fortified shelters at checkpoint premises.
 - In July, the Logistics Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—facilitated three humanitarian convoys to locations in NGCAs. On July 14, a convoy delivered five metric tons (MT) of WASH items to NGCAs of Donetsk; on July 21, a convoy delivered nearly 140 MT of shelter supplies to NGCAs of Donetsk; and on July 28, a convoy delivered more than 560 MT of shelter supplies to NGCAs of Luhansk.
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FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP), in coordination with implementing partners, provided food assistance to more than 37,300 people in July, reaching approximately 35,450 people with food parcels and 1,865 people with cash-based transfers. WFP reports that 65 percent of beneficiaries lived in GCAs and 35 percent of lived in NGCAs. WFP temporarily halted food distributions in August following identification of a quality control issue; the UN agency planned to resume food distributions in September.
- In August, WFP announced that funding shortfalls required the development of a revised plan to ensure that the most vulnerable people continue to receive food assistance despite the UN agency’s dwindling resources. The revised plan reduced the number of planned beneficiaries per month from 280,000 people to 100,000 people and prioritizes the chronically ill, disabled, and elderly, as well as female-headed households with more than two children. Geographically, WFP plans to target areas with highest levels of food insecurity.
- A report published by the OSCE in August identified limited livelihood opportunities as a significant source of anxiety and hardship among IDPs. The report also noted that unemployment contributed to tensions with host communities, particularly as deteriorating economic conditions have strained community resources. The same month, an International Labor Organization-supported assessment by the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy concluded that the provision of livelihood opportunities to IDPs is critical to IDP integration within host communities.

- In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided four partner NGOs with more than \$2.5 million in funding to support economic recovery and restore livelihoods in Donetsk and Luhansk. Supported activities included cash grants for IDPs to restart businesses, the provision of cash-for-work opportunities to help income-constrained households meet basic needs, and vocational trainings to strengthen employability.
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PROTECTION

- As of August 1, approximately 300,000 IDPs continued to encounter bureaucratic impediments to obtaining official GoU certification of their IDP status—a GoU requirement to receive government social benefit payments, such as pensions, according to OCHA. Humanitarian organizations continue to advocate that the GoU reinstate social benefits for IDPs residing in NGCAs.
 - USAID/OFDA provided more than \$6.2 million in FY 2016 to support protection programs in Ukraine, including child and youth services, gender-based violence programming, and psychosocial support targeting older populations. The funding included support to an NGO partner to provide elderly IDPs and members of host communities with activities to reduce social isolation and improve psychological well-being, as well as the establishment of a network of community volunteers to conduct home visits and monitor protection concerns.
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WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

- In late September, an extensive water system temporarily ceased operations in Luhansk due to unpaid electrical bills, affecting water availability for at least 800,000 people in GCAs and NGCAs of the *oblast*. Local media report that the International Committee of the Red Cross has announced plans to pay the bill, resulting in the short-term restoration of the water system.
 - In July and August, shelling on both sides of the contact line in Donetsk and Luhansk resulted in damage to key infrastructure, including gas networks, power lines, and water pipes, disrupting essential services and generating water shortages, OCHA reports. Clashes and artillery fire impeded efforts to repair the damage, lengthening the service disruption and exacerbating humanitarian needs. Conflict-related damages and insecurity constrained access to safe drinking water for approximately 950,000 people during the latter half of August, according to the WASH cluster.
 - Through more than \$1.1 million in FY 2016 assistance, USAID/OFDA supported WASH projects in Donetsk and Luhansk, including the distribution of personal hygiene materials to people in need, maintenance of WASH facilities at checkpoints along the contact line, and the rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure in both GCAs and NGCAs.
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SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

- Damage to homes, displacement, and limited opportunities to earn income in conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine have resulted in many individuals residing in inadequate housing, temporary accommodation, or collective centers, according to UNHCR. The lack of suitable housing in some areas, in conjunction with depleted personal resources and constrained movement across the contact line, significantly limits accommodation choices for many conflict-affected people.
- The onset of winter and declining temperatures will exacerbate needs among individuals residing in damaged homes and inadequately insulated accommodation, particularly IDPs and people in NGCAs, where heating and utility services may be less reliable, UNHCR cautions. The Shelter Cluster recently published updated guidelines to inform relief organizations' 2016–17 winterization support efforts. The guidelines identify four thematic areas of emphasis for winterization programming—the provision of personal items, such as clothing; support for heating systems within housing; insulation of rooms; and improvement of communal facilities and infrastructure.
- In August, State/PRM partner UNHCR reported that two convoys reached NGCAs of Luhansk for the first time in several months. From August 4–5, the convoys delivered shelter materials, including bricks, cement, and roofing sheets.

The UN agency intends to use the supplies to support shelter construction and rehabilitation initiatives in the area, including plans to rehabilitate 1,500 damaged homes by October.

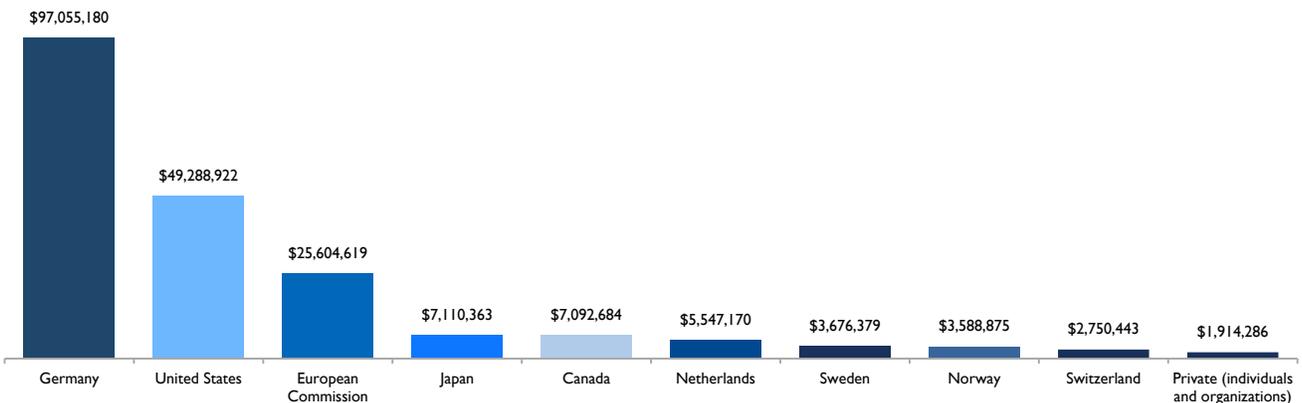
- With nearly \$1 million in FY 2016 support, a USAID/OFDA partner is conducting repairs, such as replacing windows and broken roof tiles, on 400 homes in GCAs and 700 homes in NGCAs of Luhansk, benefitting 2,530 conflict-affected people. In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided four NGO partners with more than \$2.7 million for shelter support and rehabilitation projects in eastern Ukraine.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On September 15, the Government of the United Kingdom (GoUK) announced £2 million, or nearly \$2.6 million, in funding for the Halo Trust, an organization engaged in removing mines and other ERW from conflict-affected areas of eastern Ukraine. The contribution will allow the Halo Trust to continue activities for two years, according to the GoUK.
- On August 16, the Government of Estonia announced €135,000—more than \$151,000—in funding for three NGOs supporting the needs of IDPs in Ukraine. In addition to providing food assistance and psychosocial support, the NGOs plan to deliver medicine to hospitals and support the operation of orphanages in eastern Ukraine.

2016 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING*

PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of September 30, 2016. All international figures are according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the 2016 calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect the most recent USG commitments based on the fiscal year, which began on October 1, 2015.

CONTEXT

- Conflict between the GoU military and separatists in eastern Ukraine that began in March 2014 has caused large-scale population displacement and widespread damage to infrastructure. The heaviest fighting has occurred in the easternmost *oblasts* bordering Russia, particularly Donetsk and Luhansk; however, the large influx of IDPs has negatively affected neighboring *oblasts*.
- As of November 2015, the UN estimated that the conflict had internally displaced more than 800,000 people. In addition, up to 2.7 million people remained in conflict-affected NGCAs of eastern Ukraine, where the volatile security environment and bureaucratic delays have impeded humanitarian access.
- On November 23, 2015, U.S. Ambassador Geoffrey R. Pyatt renewed the 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.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE PROVIDED IN FY 2016¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Implementing Partners	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, and WASH	Eastern Ukraine	\$15,127,821
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$400,000
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	WASH	Donetsk and Luhansk <i>oblasts</i>	\$800,000
WFP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, and Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, and Luhansk <i>oblasts</i>	\$500,000
	Program Support		\$161,101
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$16,988,922
USAID/FFP³			
WFP	Locally and Regionally Procured Food Assistance	Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhya <i>oblasts</i>	\$5,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$5,000,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partner	Capacity Building, Protection	Countrywide	\$300,000
ICRC	Food Assistance, Health, Protection, and Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$14,900,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UNHCR	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, and Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$8,100,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Protection	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$27,300,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2016			\$49,288,922

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

² USG funding totals represent actual committed amounts as of September 30, 2016.

³ Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

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>