

UKRAINE – CONFLICT

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

FEBRUARY 18, 2015

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

1 million

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ukraine
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) – February 2015

672,700

Number of People Displaced to Neighboring Countries
OCHA – February 2015

5.2 million

Number of People Living in Conflict-Affected Areas
OCHA – November 2014

5,400

Estimated Number of Deaths Resulting from the Conflict
OCHA – February 2015

50,000

Estimated Number of IDP Returnees to Donbas Region
UN – October 2014

HIGHLIGHTS

- Protracted fighting in eastern Ukraine has displaced nearly 1.7 million people, including 1 million individuals inside the country
- Government of Ukraine (GoU) announces plans to establish humanitarian coordination structure to address bureaucratic impediments to emergency relief
- U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry announces \$16.4 million in additional funding for the Ukraine conflict. To date, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$26 million in humanitarian assistance to support conflict-affected populations

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO UKRAINE IN FY 2014 & FY 2015

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$7,389,422
USAID/FFP ²	\$3,000,000
State/PRM ³	\$16,075,000
\$26,464,422	
TOTAL USG ASSISTANCE TO THE UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On February 5, U.S. Secretary of State John F. Kerry announced an additional \$16.4 million in additional funding for the Ukraine conflict. The new funding includes support for relief commodities to conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine’s Donbas Region—comprising Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts*—and coordination for humanitarian activities.
- Since late January, fighting has re-intensified between GoU forces and pro-Russia separatists in eastern Ukraine, particularly in Donetsk, resulting in displacement and increased need for humanitarian aid. A temporary ceasefire on February 6 allowed for the evacuation of some civilians from areas of conflict. Leaders from France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine met on February 11 and negotiated a new ceasefire agreement that took effect on February 15; however, fighting continues between GoU forces and pro-Russia separatists in the town of Debaltseve, where Ukrainian forces are withdrawing, according to international media reports.
- On February 5, the GoU announced the establishment of a two-tier coordination structure—for policy and day-to-day operations—between the GoU and humanitarian organizations that will attempt to address bureaucratic impediments to emergency assistance and simplify processes for delivering aid. The UN also released guidelines, to both combatants and relief organizations, for humanitarian operations as protracted fighting continues to disrupt humanitarian assistance.
- In early December, the GoU announced the withdrawal of some government services in rebel-held areas—including social payments—resulting in large population movements.

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)

DISPLACEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- The Ukraine crisis has displaced nearly 1.7 million people—1 million of whom are internally displaced—and approximately 5.2 million people remain in conflict-affected areas, according to the UN. Since clashes began in March, nearly 672,700 people have fled to neighboring countries, primarily Russia.
- In late January, fighting between GoU forces and pro-Russia separatists had re-intensified, resulting in displacement or besiegement of civilians in areas of Donetsk—particularly in the towns of Avdviivka, Debaltseve, and Svitlodar. On February 6, a temporary ceasefire allowed for a GoU-led evacuation of civilians in areas of conflict, with approximately 3,000 civilians evacuated from territories most affected by fighting; however, the UN reports that several thousand civilians are still trapped in conflict areas and are unable to leave due to intense fighting. Evacuees were transported to government-controlled towns in northern Donetsk, as well as Kharkiv Oblast. Through local non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided blankets, sleeping bags, bed linens, warm clothes, and water containers to approximately 2,000 of the most-vulnerable new arrivals.
- The GoU announced the withdrawal of some government services—including social payments—in rebel-controlled areas in early December. In order to access benefits, the GoU required people to register as IDPs and transfer their social benefits and pensions to GoU-controlled territory by February 1, resulting in large population movements and additional strain on host communities and state social services. According to the GoU, the Ministry of Social Policy registered more than 100,000 people during one week in January alone.
- In February, the Humanitarian Country Team issued guidelines for relief operations in Ukraine, including non-government controlled areas (NGCAs). The guidelines emphasize the need for parties to the conflict to grant unhindered humanitarian access to all conflict-affected people and to facilitate the delivery of aid. The document also provides guidance to UN agencies and implementing partners based in Ukraine on how to conduct relief activities in line with humanitarian principles.
- On February 5, the GoU Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) launched a two-tier humanitarian structure—for policy and day-to-day operations—to address bureaucratic impediments to aid and improve the implementation and coordination of response efforts between the government and humanitarian community. The DPM also requested that the government security apparatus develop a simplified system for delivery of relief commodities to NGCAs and for financial authorities to remove taxes on humanitarian assistance.

SHELTER AND EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMODITIES

- Large population displacement, coupled with harsh winter weather, has rendered shelter and relief commodity assistance—including shelter repair, heating sources, and winter-appropriate relief items, such as blankets, mattresses, pillows, and warm clothing—a priority need among affected populations. Additionally, loss of livelihoods due to displacement is preventing affected populations from paying bills, further exacerbating vulnerability to winter weather.
- Through NGO implementing partners, USAID/OFDA is providing highly vulnerable households with cash transfers, valued at \$300 per package, for rental and utility subsidies; construction and insulation materials for the repair and winterization of one warm, dry room; and the local procurement of winter-specific commodities, including warm clothing. As of January 30, USAID/OFDA partners had distributed more than 11,600 cash transfers to beneficiary households in eastern Ukraine and the city of Kyiv.
- In mid-January, UNHCR, in collaboration with relief organizations, distributed an estimated 5,000 blankets, 4,000 bed linen sets, 1,500 winter coats, and 250 sleeping bags to conflict-affected people residing in NGCAs. UNHCR and a partner NGO also provided approximately 10,600 square meters of plastic sheeting to cover doors, roofs, and windows destroyed by fighting in the city of Horlivka, located in southern Donetsk.

FOOD SECURITY

- The UN World Food Program (WFP) reports that there is a risk of deteriorating food security due to rising food prices, depleted savings, unemployment, inability to access funds due to the closure of GoU banks in rebel-held areas,

and an overall lack of hard currency. Additionally, violence has hindered the replenishment of food supplies in conflict areas.

- To address increasing food needs, WFP has extended its Emergency Operation Plan (EMOP) for a total of eight months—to conclude in June 2015—and increased funding by approximately \$4.4 million. Through the extension and increased funding, WFP is aiming to reach an additional 68,000 beneficiaries for a total of nearly 188,000 people. As of late January, WFP had provided in-kind food commodities to an estimated 28,000 beneficiaries and distributed 10,000 food vouchers to IDPs in the Donbas region.
- To date in FY 2015, USAID/FFP has provided \$3 million to WFP to assist 50,000 food-insecure people in eastern Ukraine through the distribution of locally-procured food and food vouchers. To improve the availability of and access to food, WFP is targeting the most vulnerable individuals, including the disabled, the elderly, female-headed households, and the chronically ill.
- The UN Development Program recently announced an initiative to deliver approximately 30,000 food packages to IDPs and other vulnerable populations—particularly orphans, pregnant women, and households with children, disabled, and elderly women members—to supplement more than 25,000 food packages previously distributed to populations in need countrywide.

HEALTH AND WASH

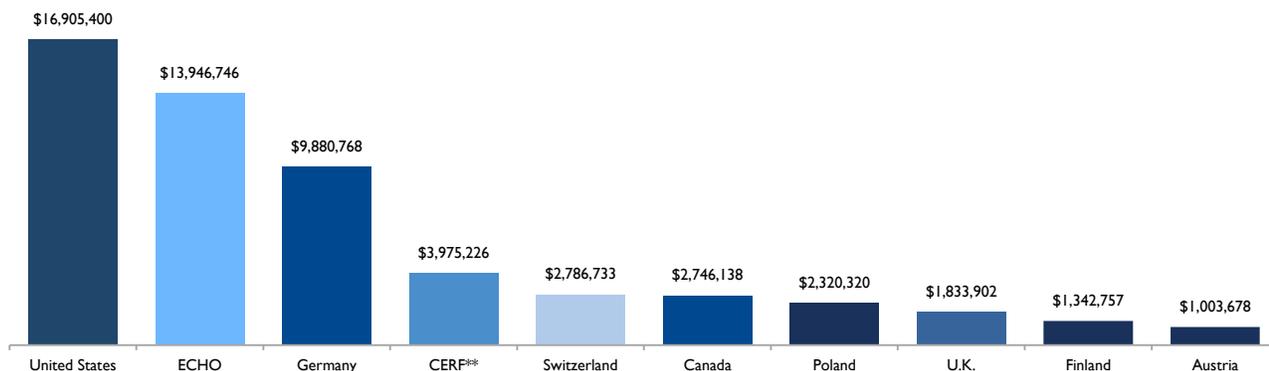
- Shelling damage to infrastructure has resulted in limited or inconsistent access to safe drinking water. According to a late 2014 assessment conducted by the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in GoU and rebel-controlled areas of the Donbas region, an estimated 161,200 people in Donetsk and nearly 47,000 people in Luhansk are experiencing water and sanitation disruptions. The crisis is also impeding the critical resupply of medical consumables. For example, hospitals in conflict areas, particularly in NGCAs, have depleted supplies of medical commodities—such as emergency medical consumables, insulin, and vaccines.
- UNICEF is finalizing an agreement with the Luhansk Regional Agency for Sustainable Development to provide emergency assistance in the conflict zone to ensure local populations have access to safe drinking water, particularly in areas experiencing regular water supply shortages.
- State/PRM contributions to International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA)—a total of \$525,000 in FY 2015—support efforts to provide essential medicines and supplies, including reproductive health kits, commodities and dignity kits, and psychosocial support for vulnerable IDPs, as well as assistance in other sectors.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Since the UN launched the Ukraine Preliminary Response Plan (PRP) in August, donors have contributed nearly \$32 million—96 percent—toward the \$33.3 million request. Due to the deteriorating situation since the launch of the PRP, the UN launched the 2015 Strategic Response Plan (SRP) in December, requesting \$189 million to address the needs of an estimated 1.4 million people. The UN is currently revising the SRP, which will reflect the increasing needs in eastern Ukraine, with an expected launch date before the end of February.
- On January 29, UNICEF launched the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal, which includes a \$32.5 million appeal for the agency’s Ukraine response. The HAC aims to increase the agency’s humanitarian response efforts for 600,000 children residing in affected areas.

- In late January, the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) announced an additional €15 million—nearly \$17 million—in humanitarian assistance to address the needs of affected populations, including those residing in conflict areas. In addition, ECHO coordinated the delivery of approximately 77 metric tons of relief items from the European Union, in collaboration with member states, to the city of Dnipropetrovsk in south-central Ukraine. The assistance included tents, plastic sheeting, blankets, and warm clothing.

2014 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of February 18, 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 2014 and FY 2015, which began on October 1, 2013 and October 1, 2014, respectively.

**UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

CONTEXT

- Since March 2014, conflict between the GoU military and separatists has escalated in eastern Ukraine, causing widespread damage to infrastructure and large-scale population displacement. 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 February 2015, the UN estimated that the conflict had displaced more than 1.6 million people. As many as 5.2 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			
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$700,000
	Program Support		\$38,586
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$738,586
USAID/FFP			
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance and Food Vouchers	Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts	\$3,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$3,000,000

STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$10,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$10,400,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE IN FY 2015			\$14,138,586

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE PROVIDED IN FY 2014

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
OCHA	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$271,536
Implementing Partners	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Eastern Ukraine, Kiev	\$6,250,000
	Program Support		\$129,300
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$6,650,836

STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Food Assistance, Health, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$2,300,000
IOM	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$405,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$120,000
UNHCR	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$2,850,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$5,675,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UKRAINE IN FY 2014			\$12,325,836

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

² Funding represents funding amounts as of February 18, 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:
 - The 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>