

UKRAINE

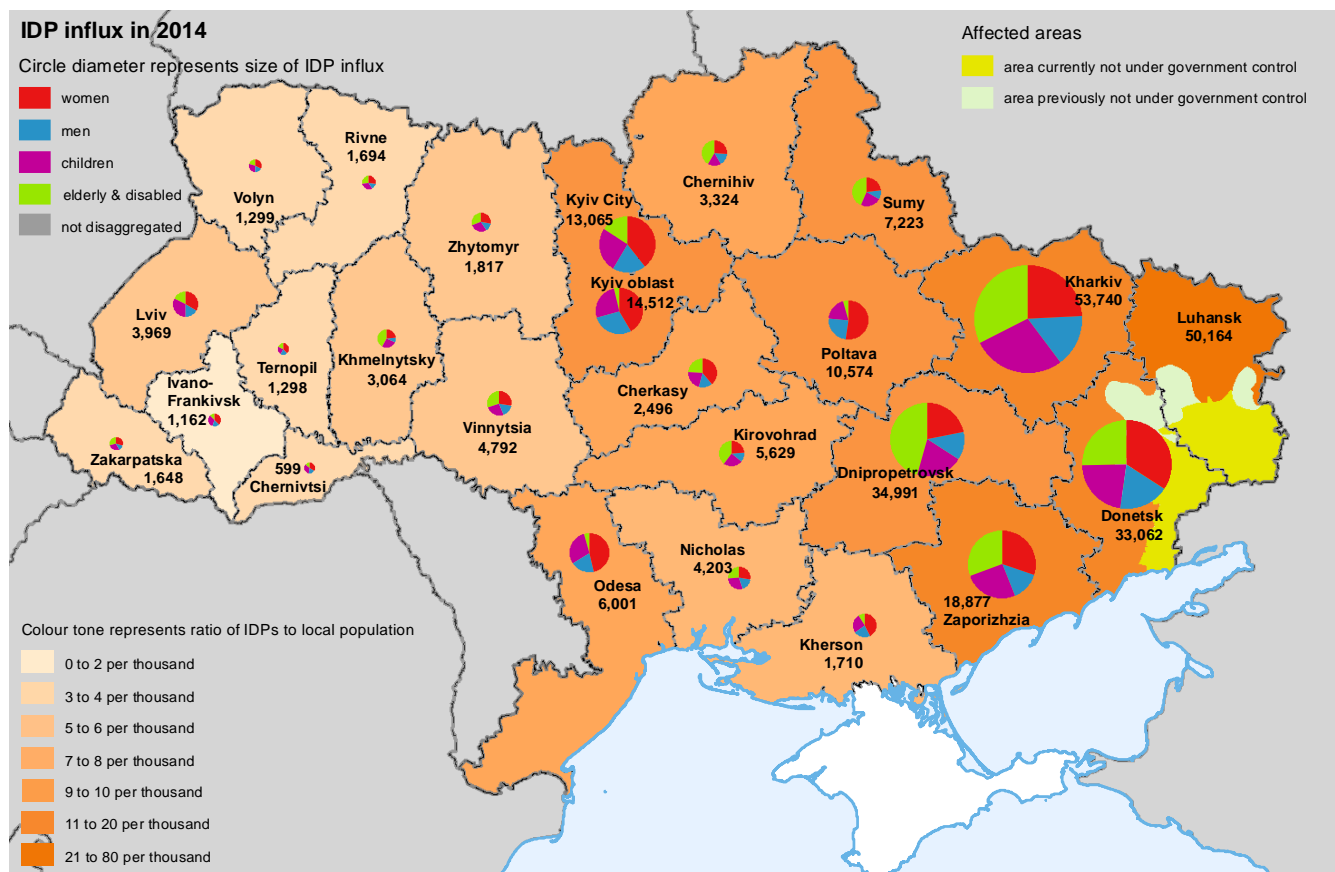
Situation report No.22 as of 26 December 2014



OCHA



This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers 13 December – 26 December 2014, unless otherwise noted. The next report will be published on 9 January.



Highlights

- According to the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) there is a large increase in the numbers of IDPs. The humanitarian community equates this increase with the 1 December decree.
- Ceasefire violations are reported daily even after a renewed commitment to the September ceasefire. In general, the scale of shelling has de-intensified in parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, nevertheless displacement is still on the rise and there is concern for civilian safety.
- The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has postponed the Ukraine launch of the Strategic Response Plan 2015 until January 2015. The exact date is to be announced.

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Estimated number of people living in conflict-affected areas

610,413 Internally displaced people as of 25 December (source: SES)

593,609 Fled to neighbouring countries as of 24 December

Situation Overview

With the enactment of the 1 December decree, there is a significant increase in the number of people moving from areas controlled by armed groups to Ukrainian government areas to register as IDPs and receive social benefits. The regional government authorities are overwhelmed with the long lines and requests for registration. Further exacerbating matters, the lack of an online system is hampering the registration process and creating a long wait

period. Inconsistencies in the law are further slowing down the registration process and causing many to miss out on benefits, including pension entitlements.

In the meantime, Ukraine announced that it would halt all train services to Russian-annexed Crimea due to security concerns. The decision by Ukraine's state rail company comes ten days after Russia decided to suspend its own train service to Crimea due to low-ticket demand. The total suspension of train services means most Crimea residents will only be able to reach mainland Ukraine by car or by crossing into Russia using an outdated ferry service.

The humanitarian community has witnessed two key developments over the last two weeks. The cluster system has been activated, allowing for more accountability, predictability and effective coordination. The UN has also established a humanitarian presence in Donetsk to facilitate and monitor the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

At least 4,771 people killed (including 298 from flight MH-17) and 10,360 wounded in eastern Ukraine as of 24 December (source: OHCHR/WHO)¹.

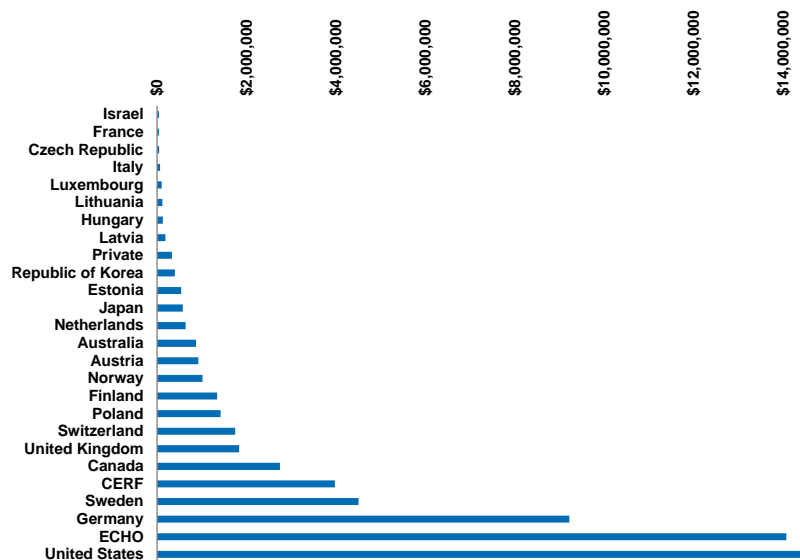
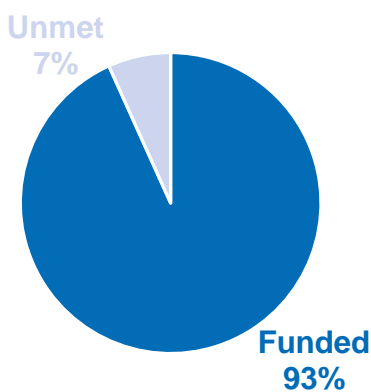
Funding

The Preliminary Response Plan (PRP) was launched on 14 August, against which UN agencies requested an initial \$33.3 million for immediate life-saving needs. Since the launch of the PRP, the situation has significantly deteriorated and needs have risen further. As of 26 December, donors have contributed \$31 million (UN only).

As of 26 December, the total amount provided by donors to international aid organizations for relief activities in Ukraine amounts to \$61.5 million.

Ukraine Crisis 2014

\$33.3 million requested



Humanitarian Response



Livelihoods and Early Recovery (sector lead: Inita Paulovica, Inita.Paulovica@undp.org)

Preparedness:

- The Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment preliminary draft was presented to the Ukrainian government on 16 December 2014. The report will be validated by the government by the end January.

¹ This is a very conservative estimate by the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine and the World Health Organization based on available official data. These totals include: Ukrainian armed forces casualties as reported by the Ukrainian authorities; 298 people from flight MH-17; casualties reported by civil medical establishments and local administrations of Donetsk and Luhansk regions; and civilians and some members of armed groups (without distinguishing them). OHCHR and WHO believe that actual fatality numbers are considerably higher.

- UNDP field mission to Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts was conducted from 16-20 December to assess the damages of several state care institutions and to establish contacts. Preliminary results show that glazing and roofing were changed in many institutions, but many need equipment and more costly improvements.
- IHRC specialized mission conducted situation monitoring in the areas outside of Ukrainian government control. The mission investigated services provided to the elderly, disabled and other vulnerable groups.
- A Rapid Economic Assessment was finalized by UNDP

Needs:

- There are continuing reports that vulnerable groups in areas outside of Ukrainian government control face significant issues with state services.
- Unemployment is a key issue raised by IDPs.
- Polyclinic #1 in Donetsk city is in need of winterization and glazing, specifically 380 windows and roof repairs.
- Winterization, especially insulation and glazing are need in many areas where IDPs live.

Response:

- Minor rehabilitations of the infrastructure in conflict affected areas are on-going. Local governments reported that glazing and roofing work have been performed in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.
- A call for proposal issued by IOM to provide micro-grants was completed during the week of 16-20 December.
- A mobile application and Website were created to monitor damages in conflict affected areas.
- DTEK is implementing a program on business environment development in Bolshoye Dobropolye. It has also carried out a number of capacity building activities.

Gaps & Constraints:

- On-going hostilities, though on a lesser scale than before, preclude operation in several areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblast.
- There are significant obstacles to accessing the territories currently under control of armed groups. Limited access hinders the ability to conduct effective needs assessments and respond to the crisis.



Education (sector lead: Oyvind Wistrom, owistrom@unicef.org)

Preparedness:

- UNDP/UNICEF mission last week in Ukrainian government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblast revealed that most damaged schools and kindergartens have been renovated and are working despite damages and loss. This has been made possible by the dedicated work of parents, teachers and volunteers.

Needs

- Based on feedback from teachers and headmasters, there is a need for psychosocial intervention in governmental controlled areas in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (UNDP/UNICEF mission).
- During a monitoring mission to Kharkiv and Volychansk, the International Renaissance Foundation (IRF) observed a lack of coordination in providing social services to Roma IDPs. Support is mainly delivered by the local volunteer groups. Despite missing IDs, Roma IDP children have access to schools.
- The Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) has reported a slight increase in the number of IDP children attending school, however there is evidence that some children are missing schools and not being registered as IDPs. By mid-December 70,261 IDP children were enrolled in schools throughout the country. The highest numbers were enrolled in Kharkiv and Kyiv city/regions, reflecting overall displacement numbers.

Response:

- UNICEF met with the Deputy Minister of Education to update on the work of the education sector and the transition to the cluster approach. The Deputy Minister of Education appointed a respective focal point in the Ministry to support the work of the sector/cluster.
- UNICEF Education Specialist visited 10 schools in government controlled areas in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast, to prepare a renovation plan and for the distribution of education equipment and furniture.
- 91 early childhood development kits (for 910 IDP children) were delivered to school psychologists who are carrying out psychosocial work with children in Severodonetsk, Slavyansk and Mariupol.
- IRF completed a selection of contractors to provide a monitoring and needs assessment in the education sector for IDPs in Luhansk, Zaporizhzhya, Kharkiv and Volyn. The assessment will take place in the end of December 2014 and beginning of January 2015. The Report will contribute to the situation analysis and response of all sector members.

Gaps & Constraints:

- In Donetsk and Luhansks oblasts the government has no reliable data on how many children are out of school, especially in non-Government controlled areas, according to findings of UNDP/UNICEF mission.
- The IRF recommended to the local authorities and volunteers to increase awareness about the importance of education as well as raise the level of responsibility among Roma mediators.

**Emergency Shelter and NFI** (sector lead: Igor Chantefor, chantefo@unhcr.org)**Needs:**

- In Lviv region, there are 121 IDPs in need of heating and some 84 IDPs that risk eviction because of utility debts.
- Coordination mechanism is needed in Luhansk to support and bring together all actors providing assistance.
- Utilities and fuel (coal/wood) are continuously reported as the most needed support in the conflict affected areas.

Response:

- **Cash assistance:** 9 Sector partners are now providing cash assistance for winterization: Caritas, Save the Children, DRC, ADRA, PiN, IRD, IOM, PCMC and UNHCR. To date, PiN has provided cash assistance to 1,096 IDPs, Caritas to some 2,089 IDPs, ADRA – some 562 HHs, IOM – 70 HHs, PCPM has distributed some 850 ATM cards, IRD, DRC and Save the Children continue their cash programmes as well. Areas of intervention are Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Poltava, Lviv, Kyiv regions and Kyiv city. UNHCR has provided so far cash assistance to 4,640 HHs (11,829 ind.) in 11 regions of Ukraine.
- **Collective Centers:** People in Need and UNHCR continue rehabilitation of Collective Centers and provision of construction materials, heating equipment and other NFIs to collective centers in Kyiv, Odesa, Kharkiv, Donetsk and Luhansk regions to cover some 2,200 the most vulnerable IDPs. 46 HHs have received assistance from Caritas, PiN, and ADRA with glazing, roofing and basic repairs in Donetsk region.
- **NFI in Kind:** Caritas has distributed 2,000 sleeping bags, 500 clothing sets and 400 heaters in Kharkiv region, 152 IDPs have received clothing from ADRA, distribution of 5,930 blankets provided by UNHCR has begun in Donetsk region by PiN, CrymSOS has provided assistance to some 150 HHs with NFIs and distributed some 500 blankets during the reporting period. UNHCR has provided some 4,800 blankets, 1,500 bedding sets, 678 clothing items and other basic relief items in Kyiv, Odesa, Luhansk, Donetsk, Kharkiv and Kirovograd regions.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Lack of effective system to cross check beneficiaries receiving one-time cash assistance- with already 9 organizations providing this type of assistance- hinders effective management of resources.

**Food and Nutrition Security** (sector leads: Sultan Mehmood, sultan.mehmood@wfp.org; Valeriya Taran, vtaran@unicef.org)**Preparedness:**

- The Food and Nutrition Security Cluster has been activated, in line with other clusters as recommended by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos.
- WFP is providing plans to preposition food in key locations, as per requests and in line with coordinated needs.

Needs:

- Due to the protracted nature of the crisis - including the compounding effects of long term displacements, high unemployment, lack of economic opportunity and eroded purchasing power - food security is increasingly threatened by economic inaccessibility. The surge in registered IDPs, in reaction to the 1 December decree, further aggravates an already concerning situation – including a strained host community, drained volunteer support networks, and overloaded state social services.
- Moreover, within areas not under governmental control, an overall lack of hard currency and exhausted savings means that what limited food is available in stores is increasingly difficult to put on the table at home.
- A WFP mission to the east (8-12 December) has reported urgent food needs in separatist controlled areas of Donbas. Tensions are growing with ongoing violence, checkpoints continue to hamper an increased

provision of assistance across the frontline, and overall lack of money and limited banking opportunities persist. The mission visited government controlled areas in Donetsk (Artmevisk, Kramatorsk and Slavjansk) and Luhansk (Lysychansk, Rubezhnoye, Staroblisk and Svierodonetsk).

Response:

- In the coming weeks, WFP in Ukraine, through its partner network, plans to distribute 10,000 food parcels in non-government controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk. Initial parcels have already been dispatched. The current package is composed of canned meat, fish, buckwheat, pasta, beans, as well as oil, sugar, salt and tea. During the winter months, WFP has increased the caloric requirements of the food basket to meet colder weather needs.
- Since 8 December, PIN has distributed over 6,300 food kits in Donetsk oblast – including 4,000 which were provided in Donetsk city and surrounding areas.
- Distributions of UNDP food parcels follows an ad-hoc request from its partner within Ukraine. Food procurement, food basket identification, distribution planning, and beneficiary targeting were done in close coordination with WFP and the Food and Nutrition Security Sector.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Over the past weeks there have been reported cases of restricted access of humanitarian cargo at government controlled checkpoints into Donbas. While said restrictions are not consistently enforced, the implications of such artificial access constraints are worrying. Access throughout non-government controlled areas continues to be restricted by security issues, and this additional complication will only further inhibit the humanitarian community from delivering assistance where it is needed most.
- Specifically, the Rinat Akhmetov Foundation's pipeline had been impacted by the above. The foundation has food stocks to last through the end of December, but resupplies of humanitarian commodities remain uncertain. Considering that the foundation provides 500,000 food sets per month, and planned to continue such large scale operations in the coming months, this access restriction could significantly impact the food security of affected individuals within Donbas.



Health (sector lead: Dr. Dorit Nitzan, DON@euro.who.int; Patricia Kormoss, kpi@euro.who.int)

Needs:

- As of 23 December, 6,053 people including 119 children were reported wounded and 2,934 people including 45 children were killed (including civilians and some members of armed groups as reported by emergency health care and forensic services of Donetsk and Luhansk regions).
- The need in pharmaceuticals/consumables (insulin, dialysis consumables, blood transfusion, emergency care, diagnostic consumables for the laboratories, vaccines) and food supplies for hospitals in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast is tremendously increasing.
- Almost 50 000 TB patients including near 9500 patients with drug resistant TB and 8290 people living with HIV and TB are at great risk of interrupted or totally unavailable treatment in 2015 year.
- More than 500 opioid substitution therapy (OST) patients (almost half being HIV-positive) under the follow-up of the healthcare facilities located on the non-government-controlled territory are deprived of the supply of narcotic pharmaceuticals for OST, which causes the threat of interrupting the life-saving treatment (source: ICF "International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine").

Response:

- WHO delivered Interagency Emergency Health Kits (90 Basic units, 9 Supplementary units, 5 Diarrheal and 2 Trauma units) to be distributed through "Ukrvaccina" to hospitals of Donetsk, Lugansk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk oblasts towards end of the year.
- UNFPA delivered 12 reproductive health (RH) kits containing medicines and 18 RH kits containing medical supplies and surgical equipment to be distributed through "Ukrvaccina" to hospitals providing obstetric and gynecological care in Donetsk, Lugansk, Kharkiv, Zaporizhzhia, Dnipropetrovsk, Poltava, Kyiv and Odessa oblasts towards end of the year.
- WHO is joining UN offices in the field for the regional coordination of humanitarian assistance.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Accessibility to health information from the non-government-controlled areas is a major constraint.

- Affected with the crisis people either do not have funds to procure full package of health care services, mainly pharmaceuticals and laboratory services (IDPs) or do not have access to cash (people who stays in the non-government controlled area), while medicines price is constantly increasing.
- Surveillance system and primary health services are not fully functional.
- Provision of specialized health care in the government-controlled areas of Donbas is unsustainable as most of tertiary and specialized health care facilities are situated on the non-government controlled areas.
- Health specialists face major security concerns operating within the boundary line due to unpredictable shooting and present explosive remnants of war in the area. Medical staff is further outflowing due to the non-paid salaries.



Protection (sector leads: Ilija Todorovic, todorovi@unhcr.org; Fiona Frazer, ffrazer@ohchr.org)

Preparedness:

- The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) continued to monitor casualties, detentions, enforced disappearances, torture, ill-treatment, reprisals and access to basic social services in the conflict area.
- The meeting of the working group on IDP registration was held with Ministry of Social Policy, State Migration Service, UNHCR, International Development Foundation, 'Right to Protection' and Krym SOS. The participants discussed practical aspects of registration process and issues related to pre-registration (which is supposed to be effectuated by the volunteers), such as information security.
- UNHCR urges the Government to adopt transparent and meeting international standards regulations for provision of humanitarian assistance to the populations of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. Current draft of those regulations raises many concerns.
- Mapping of all available services to survivors of violence initiated by UNFPA (will be available by mid-January).
- GBV Sub-Cluster members are in the process of elaboration of quick awareness raising activities, in order to disseminate information about existent services to survivors of violence and to ensure their referral. With the aim to provide practical advice to social workers/psychologists 3 publications will be printed out.

Needs:

- Guidance should be developed for local authorities on implementation of the IDP Law and registration.
- A need for a strong information campaign (social advocacy) among IDPs is still there, in order to provide them with information of existent institutions that can provide assistance in case they survived violence. There is also a need for psychological support, as IDPs have very low level of self-esteem.
- The mechanism of compensation for destroyed housing should be developed.
- There is a need for development of governmental motivation programs that encourage businesses to hire IDPs (e.g. grants, subsidies, simple taxation procedure for those who hire IDPs).

Response:

- The HRMMU followed a number of abductions by the armed groups, and cases of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and incommunicado by the Ukrainian law enforcement agencies.
- UNHCR IP "Right to Protect" successfully advocated for amending certain provisions of the Tax Code and the Customs Code of Ukraine in order to exempt from taxation international donors and funds and goods they import to Ukraine. The relevant amendments were submitted to Parliament on 12 December.
- 3W mapping of agencies' activities was conducted in order to identify gaps in provision of GBV assistance throughout the country.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Social protection departments in areas bordering with conflict zone are still overloaded with IDPs registration and working on social benefits issues. In some districts social workers check whether IDPs stay in the new place of residence that could be reason for refusal in registration. These factors add to creating long queues for registration, opportunities for corruption and services of "agents". The identification of the ATO zone remains an issue and needs to be clarified in line with the IDP law.
- Persistent lack of statistics on documented cases of GBDV in the eastern parts of Ukraine.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (sector lead: Rudi Luchmann, rluchmann@unicef.org)

Needs:

- The WASH sector lead was on mission in Donetsk and Luhansk oblast last week to assess the WASH situation and respond to the existing needs. Meetings were held in both oblasts with authorities and water supply companies such as Gorvodokanal and Voda Donbasa.

- According to secondary sources, there are various areas in both oblasts where WASH needs exist. Gorvodokanal (responsible for the provision of safe water in Slavyansk) requested UNICEF to support the repair of filters, which benefits 50,000 persons including IDPs in Slavyansk. Apart from it, Director of Voda Donbasa (a water provision company for Donetsk Oblast) highlighted the need for water purification plants as contingency due to the fact that six major cities were without water for 86 days in the summer of 2014 and needs could again arise at any time.

Response:

The following items were provided by UNICEF:

- 5700 hygiene kits benefiting 11,780 IDPs including over 4,700 children.
- 41,000 bottles (6 liters/bottles) of drinking water reaching more than 41,000 persons in Eastern Ukraine.
- 4,000 hygiene items benefiting at least 500 persons with disabilities in a social institution in Eastern Ukraine.
- 8,600 hygiene kits through local partners in both Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. Voda Donbasa will come up with a request for water purification plant needs and locations by the end of this week.
- Hygiene items were also provided to children and families living in bomb shelters in Donetsk.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Sector lead is carrying out a WASH assessment through a local partner to identify the WASH gaps in 33 locations and is also collecting information from sector partners to prioritize the needs accordingly.
- Lack of information is one of the WASH sector major constraints. There are some areas on the frontline where humanitarian access is hampered.

General Coordination

- The **NGO Forum** meets every second Tuesday at 10:00 am at People in Need (PIN). This meeting alternates with the **OCHA-NGO Forum** at 10:00 am at OCHA.
- The **Cash Transfer Technical Working Group** can be contacted through OCHA or WFP should your organization wish to receive information and guidance on cash transfer activities in Ukraine.
- The **Humanitarian Response website** aims to streamline information sharing among the humanitarian community in Ukraine and beyond. It is easy to navigate and provides useful overviews of contacts, events/meetings, key documents, maps and infographics, statistics and other operational data. Each sector has a dedicated page to upload sector-specific information.
- The next General Coordination meeting will take place on 9 January 2015 at 10:00 am at UN House.
- Regular sector meetings are held in Kyiv and the field, including Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Slavyansk and Zaporizhzhia. Please click [here](#) for the meeting schedule.

Background on the crisis

In April 2014, armed groups in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine (Donetsk and Luhansk) began to seize buildings and arms. As a result of ongoing fighting between armed groups and government forces, as well as the events which occurred in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) in March 2014, people have been forced to flee their homes and have become increasingly vulnerable as the conflict intensified and spread. Those staying in Donbas region, particularly in areas affected by fighting, face imminent security threats due to military activities by all parties to the conflict that are increasingly concentrated in densely populated urban areas. Provision of basic services has been disrupted, supplies are increasingly limited, and an upsurge in lawlessness has occurred. Ongoing daily ceasefire violations continue to be reported, despite the 5 September Ceasefire and 19 September nine-point Memorandum agreed in Minsk. Indiscriminate shelling and continued insecurity are placing conflict-affected people and humanitarian actors at risk.

The displaced population has significantly increased since early June 2014. To date, 570,162 people have reportedly been displaced and 593,609 people have reportedly fled to neighbouring countries. Of these, 489,836 have sought refuge in Russia. Most have left with few belongings and are in need of shelter, food and non-food assistance, placing pressure on neighbouring regions.

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