GoRF forces continue to launch attacks on population centers and critical infrastructure across Ukraine, including a countrywide missile attack on March 9 that resulted in at least nine deaths and damage to energy infrastructure.

The attacks on March 9 temporarily disconnected the ZNPP, Europe’s largest nuclear power plant, from external power critical for nuclear safety and security functions.

GoRF forces have intensified efforts to seize Bakhmut, threatening up to 4,000 civilians remaining in the city as evacuations become more dangerous.

A late 2022 assessment found that more than 40 percent of surveyed households in Ukraine faced extreme levels of humanitarian need.

8,173
UN-Confirmed Civilian Deaths Resulting From the Conflict
OHCHR – March 2023

8.1 MILLION
Refugees From Ukraine Recorded Across Europe
UNHCR – March 2023

5.4 MILLION
People Internally Displaced Across Ukraine
IOM – January 2023

17.6 MILLION
People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance in Ukraine
UN – January 2023

15.8 MILLION
People Reached With Humanitarian Assistance in Ukraine Since March 2022
UN – December 2022

TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING
For the Ukraine Response in FY 2023

USAID/BHA1 $400,015,750

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 7

Total $400,015,750

1 USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
**KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

**GoRF Aerial Attacks Threaten Civilians and Infrastructure Across Ukraine**

Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF) forces launched multiple long-range aerial attacks against civilian population centers and critical infrastructure in Ukraine in early March. Following three weeks without a major attack against areas of Ukraine far from the front line, GoRF forces launched a countrywide attack of more than 80 missiles and eight single-use unmanned aerial vehicles across 10 *oblasts* on March 9, resulting in at least nine deaths, injuries to at least 24 others, and damage to critical electrical power facilities, according to Government of Ukraine (GoU) officials and international media. A missile strike on Lviv *Oblast* resulted in the deaths of five people in a residential area. In Ukraine’s capital city of Kyiv, missile strikes injured at least three people and damaged a thermal power plant, international media report. The attack resulted in the loss of electricity and heating in parts of the city; as of March 10, electricity had been restored and approximately 30 percent of homes remained without heating, according to the mayor of Kyiv. Moreover, the aerial attacks affected energy infrastructure in multiple other *oblasts*—including Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Lviv, Mykolayiv, Odesa, Zaporizhzhya, and Zhytomyr—resulting in multiple power outages. During the attack, Ukrainian utility operators implemented emergency electricity blackouts across the country, including in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, and Odesa *oblasts*, to mitigate potential effects on the overall power grid.

Earlier in the month, two GoRF missiles struck an apartment building in Zaporizhzhya *Oblast’s* Zaporizhzhya city on March 2, resulting in the deaths of at least 15 people, according to international media. In response, humanitarian partners provided emergency supplies to residents, including bedding, cash, food, clothing, and hygiene kits, as well as psychosocial support. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Ukraine Denise Brown visited Zaporizhzhya to meet with local authorities at the site on March 5.

**Increased Hostilities in Bakhmut and Other Frontline Areas Drive Civilian Evacuations**

In eastern Ukraine, intense fighting continued in and around Donetsk *Oblast’s* Bakhmut city in early March as GoRF forces attempt to capture the town amid an ongoing offensive, international media report. The increased insecurity has impeded civilian evacuations from the area, with five to ten people evacuating the city per day as of March 5 compared to an estimated 600 people per day in prior months, according to a GoU official. On March 7, the GoU approved the mandatory evacuation of nearly 40 children remaining in Bakhmut. Overall, up to 4,000 people remain in the city compared to a population of approximately 70,000 people prior to the GoRF’s full-scale invasion. As of March 10, GoRF forces had surrounded the town on three sides, leaving only one remaining road connecting Bakhmut to GoU-held territory to the west.

Additionally, the GoU ordered a partial evacuation of civilians from Kharkiv *Oblast’s* Kupyansk city—located near the front line and approximately 80 miles northwest from Bakhmut—on March 2 due to frequent shelling by GoRF forces. The partial evacuation order applies to families with children and residents with limited mobility; more than 800 children and 700 people with disabilities are currently registered as residing in the city, according to the GoU. Evacuees from Kupyansk will receive food, housing, medical assistance, and other humanitarian support, according to Kharkiv officials. Ukraine has also repeatedly urged residents to evacuate southern Ukraine’s Kherson city, which was retaken by the GoU in November but remains subject to daily shelling by GoRF forces on the opposite bank of the Dnipro River. GoRF forces launched approximately 360 aerial attacks at Kherson *oblast* on March 6 alone, according to GoU officials. Other communities near the front lines in eastern and southern
Ukraine—including areas of Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk, Poltava, Sumy, and Zaporizhzhya oblasts—also continued to face frequent shelling attacks in late February and early March, resulting in civilian casualties and damaged infrastructure.

In response to the frequent attacks, humanitarian organizations are continuing efforts to reach vulnerable populations through a series of convoys to communities near the front lines. For example, a humanitarian convoy led by UN agencies—including USAID/BHA partners the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)—reached conflict-affected communities in Kherson Oblast on March 3, delivering solar lamps; water, hygiene, and sanitation (WASH) supplies; and other relief commodities sufficient to meet the needs of 4,500 people. During February, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) pre-positioned food and implemented additional distributions for an estimated 300,000 people in frontline areas amid the ongoing GoRF offensive.

**Ukrainians Continue to Face Severe Livelihood, Protection, and Shelter Needs**

The REACH Initiative and WFP recently completed a multi-sector needs assessment of nearly 13,500 households—approximately 33,750 people—across 22 oblasts, which found that more than 40 percent of assessed households were experiencing extreme or greater levels of humanitarian need. The highest levels of need are currently driven by a lack of livelihood availability, protection vulnerabilities, and poor shelter conditions. Overall, less than 15 percent of households reported extreme needs in more than one sector. However, a higher percentage of households in eastern and southern Ukraine reported extreme needs in more than one sector—nearly 30 percent and more than 20 percent of respondents, respectively—likely due to their proximity to front lines and active hostilities. Approximately 35 percent of households reported having received humanitarian assistance since the GoRF’s full-scale invasion began in February 2022.

**March 9 Missile Attack Disconnects ZNPP From External Power for Sixth Time Since February 2022**

The GoRF missile strikes on March 9 also resulted in the temporary disconnection of Zaporizhzhya Oblast’s Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) from the Ukrainian electrical grid, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The plant relies on external power lines to maintain reactor cooling and other essential nuclear safety and security functions. During the disconnection, the ZNPP was reliant upon diesel power generators to continue cooling its reactors; the generators have fuel on site sufficient for 10 days, according to international media. All six of the plant’s reactors remained in a shutdown state prior to and following the attack. The March 9 attack was the sixth instance that the ZNPP had been disconnected since the GoRF invasion began on February 24, 2022. Approximately 10 hours after the attack, Ukraine’s state-owned power company Ukrenergo successfully restored external power to the ZNPP, international media report.

The incident occurred approximately one year after GoRF forces seized the ZNPP on March 4, 2022, during active fighting in the area, which increased the risk of a nuclear incident in Ukraine. Relief actors have consistently expressed concern that any radiological incident at the ZNPP could generate large-scale displacement. The IAEA has maintained a permanent presence at the site since September to mitigate the risk of a nuclear accident. Following the attack on March 9, IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi reiterated a call to establish a protection zone around the ZNPP.
U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To meet increasing food needs since the GoRF invasion, USAID/BHA is supporting WFP and three international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) to scale up food assistance in Ukraine. WFP continues to prioritize food distributions in eastern and southern Ukraine, where fighting and supply chain disruptions hinder food access for vulnerable populations in frontline areas. During February, WFP reached more than 3 million people in Ukraine with in-kind food distributions, including children who received supplementary feeding to prevent malnutrition.

MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

The USG supports the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), IOM, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), WFP, and seven INGOs to provide multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help conflict-affected individuals meet their basic needs. Cash in the form of cash-based transfers and vouchers allows displaced or other conflict-affected people to meet their immediate needs—such as clothing, food, fuel, shelter, or utilities—through local markets and provides a more efficient means of reaching vulnerable communities than providing in-kind commodities. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, WFP provided cash-based transfers to nearly 770,000 conflict-affected individuals across Ukraine in February alone. As of February 23, U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner UNHCR provided MPCA to more than 1.1 million people across Ukraine. As of January 27, UNHCR provided MPCA to more than 476,000 refugees in Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. State/PRM is also supporting IOM to provide MPCA to refugees in neighboring countries, as well as UNICEF to provide cash assistance to vulnerable households with children in transit.

HEALTH

To support the health needs of conflict-affected populations, USG humanitarian partners are providing health care supplies, medicine, and other health assistance in Ukraine and neighboring countries. USAID/BHA is supporting the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and seven INGO partners to respond to emergency health needs in Ukraine. With USG and other donor support, UNICEF has provided medical supplies sufficient to treat more than 4.9 million people across Ukraine since late February 2022. Meanwhile, as of mid-January, USAID/BHA partner WHO had delivered nearly 90 generators and more than 2,100 metric tons of medical supplies to Ukraine since February 2022.

State/PRM is also supporting IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, and other
international organizations to provide health care services to refugees in neighboring countries. This support includes meeting urgent trauma care needs by deploying emergency medical teams, delivering essential medical supplies and equipment, and providing logistics support to fill urgent gaps. State/PRM health support in Hungary, Moldova, Poland, and Slovakia serves to strengthen the capacity of local health systems to support increased numbers of refugees.

**PROTECTION**

Armed conflict often exacerbates protection risks. Civilians must cope with threats such as sexual violence, family separation, exploitative labor, exclusion from life-saving humanitarian assistance, and domestic abuse. In response, USAID/BHA supports IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women—through USAID/BHA’s partnership with the UN Development Program—and WHO, as well as 12 INGOs and one Ukrainian NGO to implement protection interventions for conflict-affected populations in Ukraine. USAID/BHA partners provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services to children, persons with disabilities, and older people; operate mobile protection teams to reach remote communities with gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response activities, legal assistance, and MHPSS; and conduct other protection activities. Since February 24, 2022, UNICEF-supported MHPSS interventions have reached nearly 3.4 million children and caregivers to help them cope with the psychosocial effects of conflict and displacement. UNICEF has also provided approximately 352,000 women and children with GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response services.

In addition, State/PRM partners—including IOM, UN Women, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, an INGO, and other international organizations—provide protection and legal services to vulnerable individuals in Ukraine and neighboring countries. Services include GBV prevention and response, child protection, and MHPSS support; prevention and response to trafficking in persons; and establishment of child-friendly and women- and girl-friendly spaces. Partners are also establishing Blue Dots, which are multi-agency facilities that provide one-stop protection services and social service referrals to new refugee arrivals in neighboring countries. As of February 10, UNHCR had established 40 Blue Dots, which reach tens of thousands of people with protection services in Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

**WASH**

Disaster-affected populations are often more susceptible to waterborne diseases due to reduced access to safe drinking water, sanitation services, and hygiene items. In response, USG partners are providing WASH supplies to conflict-affected populations, including hygiene kits containing soap and other items; repairing damaged WASH infrastructure; and transporting and distributing safe drinking water in conflict-affected areas. Overall, USAID/BHA supports IOM, UNICEF, eight INGO partners, and one
Ukrainian NGO partner to address WASH needs in Ukraine. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, UNICEF has facilitated access to safe drinking water for more than 5.6 million people in Ukraine since February 24, 2022. State/PRM partners are also providing WASH assistance in Ukraine and to refugees in neighboring countries, including strengthening sanitation infrastructure in shelters and distributing hygiene kits to refugees.

**CONTEXT IN BRIEF**

- The GoRF commenced widespread attacks against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, after mobilizing hundreds of thousands of military forces and heavy weaponry near its border with Ukraine. Immediately prior, the GoRF had ordered forces into non-GoU-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts after recognizing the areas' independence from Ukraine on February 21.

- The GoRF invasion marked a major escalation of conflict in Ukraine, where fighting in the country’s eastern oblasts had caused large-scale population displacement and widespread damage to infrastructure since March 2014. The heaviest fighting had occurred in the easternmost oblasts bordering Russia, particularly Donetsk and Luhansk; however, the large influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from these areas had also impacted neighboring oblasts. The UN estimated that 2.9 million conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine required humanitarian assistance as of early 2022, prior to the February 24 GoRF 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; Chișinău, 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 Warsaw, Poland; Budapest, Hungary; Chișinău, Moldova; Bucharest, Romania; Bratislava, Slovakia; and Washington, D.C., also continue to support response activities.

- On October 21, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Bridget A. Brink renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for Ukraine for FY 2023 due to widespread displacement and continued humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations in Ukraine resulting from the GoRF’s full-scale invasion.

**USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UKRAINE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>USAID/BHA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementing Partners</td>
<td>Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, WASH</td>
<td>Countrywide</td>
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<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH</td>
<td>Countrywide</td>
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<td><strong>UNICEF</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelter and Settlements</td>
<td>Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Kirovohrad, Kyiv, Lviv, Mykolayiv, Odesa, Poltava, Vinnysya, Zaporizhzhya, Zhytomyr</td>
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<td>$17,475,728</td>
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<td>Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Protection; WASH</td>
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<td>Countrywide</td>
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<td><strong>WFP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Food Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Logistics Support; MPCA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Countrywide</td>
<td>$270,500,000</td>
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<td>WHO Health</td>
<td>Chernihiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, Kyiv, Luhansk, Lviv, Mykolayiv, Poltava, Rivne, Sumy, Vinnytsya, Zaporizhzhya, Zhytomyr</td>
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<td>Power Infrastructure Support</td>
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<td>Program Support</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</strong></td>
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</table>

**TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE UKRAINE RESPONSE IN FY 2023**

**$400,015,750**

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1. Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced FY 2023 funding that has been committed or obligated as of February 24, 2023. For information on the USG funding toward the response in FY 2022, refer to Ukraine Fact Sheet #29 released on September 30, 2022, available on the USAID website at https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work.

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**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.

- 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.org
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

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USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work