

Ukraine – Complex Emergency

APRIL 18, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

10,810

UN-Confirmed
Civilian Deaths
Resulting From
the Conflict

OHCHR – April 2024

6

MILLION

Refugees From
Ukraine Recorded
Across Europe

UNHCR – March 2024

3.4

MILLION

People Internally
Displaced Across
Ukraine

IOM – March 2024

14.6

MILLION

People in Need of
Humanitarian
Assistance in Ukraine

UN – January 2024

11

MILLION

People Reached With
Humanitarian
Assistance in Ukraine
in 2023

UN – December 2023

- Continuous GoR attacks on Kharkiv *Oblast* in late March and early April have resulted in civilian casualties, displaced thousands, and damaged critical infrastructure, disrupting daily life and exacerbating humanitarian needs.
- GoR attacks from March to early April intentionally targeted Ukrainian energy infrastructure, damaging power plants across multiple *oblasts* and causing widespread blackouts.
- The GoU revised the living allowance for IDPs in March, resulting in some vulnerable IDPs losing access to GoU assistance.



¹ FY 2024 funding for the Ukraine Complex Emergency will be included in future products when committed/obligated. For information on the U.S. Government (USG)'s funding toward the response in FY 2023, refer to Ukraine Complex Emergency Fact Sheet #22 released on September 30, 2023, available on the USAID website at <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work>.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Humanitarian Needs Increase in Kharkiv Amid GoR Attacks on Civilians and Infrastructure

Near-daily Government of Russia (GoR) attacks continued to target Kharkiv—Ukraine's second largest city with more than 1.3 million residents—in late March and early April due to its proximity to the Russia–Ukraine border, the UN reports. The attacks have resulted in civilian casualties, including health workers, and damaged or destroyed critical infrastructure, including houses, energy and water facilities, schools, and a dormitory serving as a collective center for displaced people across the *oblast* between March 22 and April 7. On April 6, GoR forces launched two single-use unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) attacks on Kharkiv city, resulting in six deaths, including three first responders who arrived to treat injured civilians, according to international media. The attack injured at least 11 other individuals and damaged civilian infrastructure, including nine apartment buildings, three dormitories, a gas station, and other administrative buildings, local media reports. Continuous aerial bombardment in Kharkiv has also resulted in electricity blackouts and reduced access to the water supply, with some residents still without electricity as of April 9, the UN reports. An overnight UAV attack on April 4–5 resulted in four deaths, injured 12 people, and damaged a power plant, severing power for approximately 350,000 residents, international media reports.

Additionally, a March 22 GoR attack damaged DTEK's—Ukraine's largest private energy company—two largest power plants in Kharkiv and Odesa *oblasts*, resulting in electricity blackouts for more than 700,000 residents in Kharkiv. The March 22 attack also destroyed Kharkiv's Zmiiv Thermal Power Plant, one of the largest plants in northeastern Kharkiv, international media report. Furthermore, the Government of Ukraine (GoU) Ministry of Energy reintroduced planned rolling power outages to conserve energy in Kharkiv following repeated GoR attacks on energy infrastructure in the *oblast* in late March, according to local media. In addition, DTEK power plants in Kharkiv are operating at 20 percent capacity due to three major power plants sustaining damage from GoR attacks, DTEK reports. Ongoing attacks against civilian infrastructure have also prompted further evacuations from Kharkiv. The GoU completed the mandatory evacuation of 18 settlements in Kharkiv's Kupiansk *raion* as of April 7 and announced mandatory evacuations for 47 additional settlements across four *hromadas* in Kharkiv due to increased hostilities as of the same date, local media report.

GoU Reduces Living Allowance for IDPs; Only 50 Percent of IDPs Remain Eligible to Receive or Apply for Assistance

The GoU revised the living allowance for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in March based on socio-economic vulnerability status, resulting in some IDPs losing access to GoU assistance, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. Under the new criteria, IOM estimates that only 50 percent of IDPs, or 1.8 million people, will remain automatically eligible for IDP assistance or can reapply for assistance, which may impact vulnerable populations' ability to meet their basic needs. In particular, certain IDPs—such as those with undocumented disabilities or unregistered unemployment status—will remain ineligible for assistance despite their additional vulnerabilities. As a result, individuals within these IDP profiles may still struggle to meet basic needs due to the absence of social protection mechanisms, the financial burden of managing unregistered chronic illnesses or disabilities without adequate support, limited earning opportunities, or lower incomes, according to IOM.

GoR Targets Ukraine's Energy Infrastructure, Causing Blackouts and Disruptions for Millions of Civilians

GoR forces continued to launch targeted attacks on energy infrastructure in Ukraine during March and early April, damaging or destroying power plants countrywide and resulting in electrical blackouts and disrupting access to heating and water for millions of Ukrainian civilians in large urban centers in the center, east, and south of Ukraine, according to the UN. A GoR countrywide aerial attack on April 11 damaged two DTEK thermal power plants and destroyed the Trypillya thermal power plant in Kyiv *Oblast*, which supplies electricity to nearly 3 million customers across Cherkasy, Kyiv, and Zhytomyr *oblasts*, prompting energy companies to advise consumers to limit energy consumption throughout the country, international media reports.

A previous overnight attack on March 30–31 in Odesa resulted in electricity blackouts for more than 170,000 households after debris from an intercepted UAV set fire to a DTEK energy facility. DTEK had restored electricity for affected households as of March 31; however, the company reportedly lost 80 percent of its generation capacity after five of its six plants sustained damage from the late March attacks, international media and the UN report. Moreover, a countrywide overnight GoR UAV attack on March 28–29 damaged thermal and hydroelectric power plants in Cherkasy, Dnipropetrovsk, and Poltava *oblasts*. In response, Ukrenergo—Ukraine's state-owned utility operator—implemented hourly electricity shutdowns across the *oblasts* as of March 29 to conserve the remaining energy supply, according to international media. Notably, GoR attacks have struck DTEK thermal power plants more than 160 times since the GoR launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Ukrenergo reports.

Health, Food, and Household Items are the Priority Needs in Ukraine

Health, food, and basic household items are the priority humanitarian needs for families in Ukraine according to the International Refugee Committee's (IRC) multi-sector needs assessment conducted in January across six *oblasts* in eastern and southern Ukraine, including Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kherson, Mykolayiv, Odesa, and Zaporizhzhya. Notably, respondents from Donetsk specifically identified access to health care as a critical concern, citing limited access to hospitals and doctors. Meanwhile, respondents from Kharkiv and Odesa emphasized the need for winter clothing and access to heating amid ongoing power outages. Approximately 45 percent of all respondents, 730 respondents in total, reported the inability to meet basic needs due to the lack of funds and the length of travel required to access basic items. In particular, the survey indicated that Kherson had the most elevated needs, with more than 60 percent of respondents reporting the inability to fulfill their basic needs. IRC's monthly monitoring reporting identified the inability to meet basic needs as one of the most prominent humanitarian impacts affecting civilians between November 2023 and January 2024, likely due to the ongoing conflict environment, which has influenced the rising costs of essential items and driven low household income and unemployment, resulting in many households adopting negative coping strategies to meet basic needs.

In response to the high needs, more than 70 percent of respondents reported adopting at least one negative coping strategy due to reduced income and increased insecurity. Survey respondents identified spending their savings, reducing their spending on essential non-food items and health care, accepting low-paying jobs, and moving to poorer quality dwellings as the most common coping strategies used. Respondents noted difficulties securing employment opportunities due to a lack of suitable jobs, informal employment practices, and the rejection of IDPs as job applicants due to their social status. Additionally, the ongoing mobilization of males to serve in the Ukrainian armed forces has limited job opportunities, as employers are required to submit a list of male employees between 18–60 years of age to a military registration and enlistment office. This practice has discouraged male IDPs from seeking job

opportunities and enrolling in official IDP registration, hindering their access to humanitarian assistance as IDP certification is often required to receive assistance.

KEY FIGURES



2.4 Million

People in Ukraine reached with USAID/BHA-supported in-kind food assistance via WFP in March



276

Individual facilities supported by Health Cluster assistance in Ukraine as of February

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To meet increasing food needs since the GoR invasion, USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) is supporting the UN World Food Program (WFP) and two international NGOs (INGOs) to provide food assistance in Ukraine. WFP continues to prioritize food distributions in eastern and southern Ukraine, where fighting and supply chain disruptions hinder vulnerable populations' access to food in frontline areas. WFP reached nearly 2.4 million people with food assistance, including approximately 1.5 million people with in-kind food supplies and 893,000 people with cash-based assistance, across Ukraine in March.

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), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and five INGO partners to respond to emergency health needs in Ukraine. In 2023 alone, Health Cluster² member organizations' mobile health teams reached approximately 7.6 million people with assistance. Humanitarian organizations—including USAID/BHA partners—reached more than 653,000 people across Ukraine with primary health care services, including medicines and supplies, between January and February.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) is also supporting IOM, UNFPA, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO, and other international organizations to provide health care services to refugees in neighboring countries. This support includes delivering essential medical supplies and equipment, connecting refugees with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, providing logistics support to fill gaps, and providing support for persons with disabilities. State/PRM health support in multiple countries in the region serves to strengthen the capacity of local health systems to support increased numbers of refugees from Ukraine.

² The Health Cluster is the coordinating body for humanitarian shelter activities and relief commodities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.



1.1 Million

People supported with WASH services through USG partner UNICEF since January

WASH

Disaster-affected populations are often more susceptible to waterborne diseases due to reduced access to hygiene items, safe drinking water, and sanitation services. In response, USG partners are providing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support to conflict-affected populations, including distributing hygiene kits; repairing damaged WASH infrastructure; and transporting safe drinking water to affected areas. Overall, USAID/BHA supports IOM, UNICEF, nine INGO partners, and one Ukrainian NGO partner to address WASH needs in Ukraine. State/PRM partners are also providing WASH assistance in Ukraine and to refugees in neighboring countries, including strengthening sanitation infrastructure in shelters. In 2024, USG partner UNICEF has provided WASH supplies to approximately 1.1 million people across Ukraine.



10

USG implementing partners providing MPCA

MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

The USG supports IOM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF, WFP, and six INGOs to provide multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA). Cash assistance and vouchers allow displaced or other conflict-affected people to meet their immediate needs—such as clothing, food, fuel, shelter, or utilities—through local markets and help reach vulnerable communities more efficiently than providing in-kind commodities. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, WFP disbursed more than \$20.4 million in cash assistance to nearly 893,000 conflict-affected individuals across Ukraine in March. State/PRM is also supporting IOM and UNHCR to provide MPCA to refugees in neighboring countries, as well as UNICEF to provide cash assistance to vulnerable households with children in transit from Ukraine to neighboring countries. UNHCR and its partners have reached nearly 1.7 million conflict-affected individuals, including IDPs and returnees inside Ukraine, with cash assistance since March 2022.



188,000

People reached with protection assistance by State/PRM partner UNHCR between January and March

PROTECTION

Armed conflict often exacerbates protection risks. Civilians must cope with threats such as domestic abuse, exclusion from life-saving humanitarian assistance, exploitative labor, family separation, and sexual violence. 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 ten INGOs and two Ukrainian NGOs to implement protection interventions for conflict-affected populations in Ukraine. USAID/BHA partners provide MHPSS services to children, persons with disabilities, and older people and operate mobile protection teams to reach remote communities with gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response activities, legal assistance, and MHPSS. UNICEF-supported MHPSS interventions reached more than 117,000 children and caregivers to help them cope with the psychological effects of conflict and displacement during February.

In addition, State/PRM partners—including IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, and

UNICEF—provide legal and protection assistance to vulnerable individuals in Ukraine and refugees in neighboring countries. Services include child protection, GBV prevention and response; MHPSS support; the establishment of child-friendly and women- and girl-friendly spaces; and prevention of and response to trafficking in persons. In particular, UNHCR provided protection counseling, information, and support to more than 188,000 individuals inside Ukraine between January 1 and March 31.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- The GoR commenced a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, after mobilizing hundreds of thousands of military forces and heavy weaponry near its border with Ukraine and subsequently launching widespread attacks. Immediately prior, the GoR ordered forces into non-GoU-controlled areas of Donetsk and Luhansk *oblasts* after recognizing the areas' independence from Ukraine on February 21.
- The GoR invasion marked a major escalation of conflict in Ukraine, where fighting in the country's eastern *oblasts* has caused large-scale population displacement and widespread infrastructure damage since March 2014. The heaviest fighting occurred in the easternmost *oblasts* bordering Russia, particularly Donetsk and Luhansk; however, the large influx of IDPs from these areas have also impacted neighboring *oblasts*. The UN estimates that approximately 2.9 million conflict-affected people in eastern Ukraine had required humanitarian assistance as of early 2022, prior to the February 24 GoR 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; Chişinău, 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 Brussels, Belgium; Chişinău, Moldova; Warsaw, Poland; Geneva, Switzerland; Kyiv, Ukraine; and Washington, D.C., also continue to support response activities. As of December 2023, USAID maintains staff in Krakow, Poland; Kyiv, Ukraine; and Washington, D.C.
- On October 14, 2023, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Bridget A. Brink renewed the declaration of humanitarian need for Ukraine for FY 2024 due to widespread displacement and continued humanitarian needs of vulnerable populations in Ukraine resulting from Russia's full-scale invasion.

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](https://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, 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.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)