

This report is produced by OCHA Ukraine in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 5 p.m. (EET) 27 February 2022 to 3 p.m. (EET) 28 February 2022.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- As heavy fighting continues, reports of civilian casualties and civilian infrastructure damage continue to increase. Government-controlled areas of Donetsk, Luhanska and Kharkivska oblasts in eastern Ukraine are among the hardest-hit areas, with several cities, towns and villages within oblasts at the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe.
- The human cost of the violence is becoming more apparent with each passing day. Between 4:00 a.m. 24 February and midnight on 27 February, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) confirmed at least 406 civil casualties, including 102 deaths, with the real figures feared to be much higher.
- Across the country, especially in eastern Ukraine, water infrastructure has suffered severe damage; repair works have been hindered by ongoing shelling and de-mining is required. The continued operation of critical hospital services is being threatened by constant power outages and the persistent risk of ambulances and health personnel being caught in the crossfire.
- As thousands of people flee towards the western part of the country, there is a desperate need for food, water and shelter to complement overstretched response capacities at local levels. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) estimates that more than half a million people have fled to neighbouring countries; more than 100,000 people have been displaced within the country amid below freezing winter temperatures.
- Despite immense response challenges, UN agencies and humanitarian partners, especially local non-governmental and civil society organizations, continue to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance, including in hard-to-reach areas.
- On 1 March, the UN and humanitarian partners will launch a Flash Appeal to address the acute humanitarian needs of crisis-affected people within Ukraine. This appeal is coordinated with the Regional Refugee Response Plan, led by UNHCR.



### SITUATION OVERVIEW

Despite continued attempts at reaching a diplomatic solution to the crisis, violence across Ukraine rages on. The human cost of the conflict continues to become more apparent with each passing day. Between 4:00 a.m. 24 February and midnight on 27 February, OHCHR confirmed at least 406 civil casualties, including 102 killed, with the real figures feared to be much higher.

More than half of all civilian casualties so far have been recorded in the conflict hotbeds of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts, with the Government-controlled areas of these oblasts particularly hard-hit by ongoing hostilities. Casualties have also been reported in the capital Kyiv, Cherkasy (central Ukraine), Chernihiv (north), Kharkiv (north-east), Kherson (south), Sumy (north) and Zaporizhzhia (south-east). OHCHR reports that most civilian casualties have been caused by explosive weapons, including shelling from heavy artillery and Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS), and air strikes.

In the early hours of 27 February, a missile hit the radioactive waste disposal site of the State-operated Radon company in Kyiv, an ominous reminder of the possible environmental health consequences of ongoing hostilities. Preliminary assessments suggest that the incident does not pose a direct threat to people outside the protected zone of the disposal site. In the morning of 28 February, more than 300,000 people across certain parts of Ukraine were without electricity, while

more than 11,600 people no longer have access to gas supply in Chernihivska (north), Kharkivska (north-east), Kyivska (north), Rivnenska, Sumska (north), Zaporizka (south-east) and Zhytomyrska (north) oblasts.

In Kyiv, grocery stores and public transport re-opened after a mandatory curfew; constant warnings of airstrikes still force people into hiding. Despite heavy fighting in Chernihiv (north) and Kharkiv (north-east) Government-controlled areas of eastern Ukraine continue to be the worst-affected part of the country. After days of continuous shelling, people in Stanytsia Luhanska and Shchastia in the Government-controlled Luhanska oblast are in desperate need of emergency assistance.

Around 21,000 people in Volnovakha in the Government-controlled parts of Donetsk oblast are on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe as shelling damaged numerous homes and critical infrastructure, including a hospital with some 400 patients. People have been cut off from water, food and fuel for three days. Accessing communities with aid, however, is extremely challenging; the severe security situation is also preventing the possibility of evacuation, exacerbating

The ongoing Omicron-driven surge in COVID-19, with around 1,700 patients currently in hospitals across the country, further complicates the already-difficult health response amid ongoing hostilities. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the oxygen supply in Ukraine is running dangerously low, with most hospitals at risk of exhausting their oxygen reserves in the next 24 hours, putting thousands of lives at risk. Compounding the situation, the continuance of critical hospital services is being threatened by constant power outages and the persistent risk of ambulances and health personnel being caught in the crossfire. Safe and sustained provision of essential medical supplies and uninterrupted access to emergency medical is critical.

Across the country, especially in eastern Ukraine, water infrastructure has suffered severe damage. The repair works have been hindered by ongoing shelling and mine contamination. As of 27 February, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster reports that around 2.7 million on both sides of the “contact line” receive water twice per day, while some 124,000 are without any access to water. The most affected people are those across nine settlements in Volnovakha (60,185 people), Avdiivka (34,000 people), and in Dokuchaievsk, Yasne and Olenivka (29,056 people) in the non-Government controlled area of Donetsk oblast.

As thousands of people continue to flee violence towards western part of the country, there is a desperate need for food, water and shelter as raions (districts) and oblasts (regions) are running out of resources to deal with the massive influx of internally displaced people.

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) estimates that more than half a million people have fled to neighbouring countries, while more than 100,000 have been displaced within the country amid frigid winter temperatures. Displaced people at international borders are reportedly stuck in lines 15 km-long for as many as three days.

## FUNDING

---

As of 3:00 p.m. on 28 February, the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund, the Country-based Pooled Fund managed by OCHA, has received more than US\$1 million from over 10,300 individual online donors. Neighbouring governments and donors have also stepped-up support for the humanitarian response.

On 27 February, the US Government also announced almost US\$54 million in additional humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. The US Agency for International Development’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) has already provided more than \$13 million to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), and WHO to pre-position critical relief items.

The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) has provided around \$26. million to UNHCR to support multi-sectoral emergency response activities targeting displaced people. In addition, USAID/BHA is supporting OCHA to deploy additional surge staff to help bolster response coordination.

The European Union has announced an additional financial contribution of around \$100 million to support food, water, health, shelter and other basic needs of affected people. The UK Government announced around \$54million humanitarian aid to Ukraine to help humanitarian organizations deliver life-saving assistance to affected people. The Government of The Netherlands has allocated approximately over \$22 million to support humanitarian relief efforts in addition to around \$600,000 for reception centres in Moldova to cover 7,000 people with blankets, sleeping bags and tents, among other basic items.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

---

National authorities and national non-governmental organizations (NNGOs) are carrying out search-and-rescue and evacuation operations. However, access challenges have prevented first responders from reaching the injured and people trapped under rubble. The Government is providing free access to public transport, including trains, for people looking to move out of Kyiv en route to western Ukraine, prioritizing women, children and the elderly. Additionally, the Government is working closely with humanitarian partners to establish reception centres in the western parts of the country to receive displaced people.

De-escalation of the conflict and guaranteed humanitarian access will be essential to rolling out an effective, principled and well-targeted response to the unfolding crisis. Ongoing hostilities severely limit the operational space for national response actors and humanitarian organizations to safely carry out relief activities.

Despite seemingly unsurmountable response challenges, UN agencies and humanitarian partners, especially local non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, continue to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance in areas made increasingly harder-to-reach by worsening hostilities. In border areas in the west, the Government and humanitarian partners are quickly scaling up humanitarian activities.

Partners are running more than 25 centres providing food, clothing and shelter to people fleeing from Kyiv and eastern Ukraine. National authorities and humanitarian organizations continue to conduct rapid assessments to identify the most pressing needs and providing information to displaced people on what to expect when they eventually cross into neighbouring countries.

IOM has established two hotlines (527 toll-free from mobiles and 0-800-505-501 from landlines) to provide updates to people leaving Ukraine, including information on border crossings, required documentation and other entry requirements, as well as available assistance services in neighbouring countries. The hotlines operate from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 pm daily.

**For further information on receiving OCHA Ukraine products**, please subscribe to the [mailing list](#) or contact Sofiia Borysenko at [sofiia.borysenko@un.org](mailto:sofiia.borysenko@un.org)

**For further information on the content of this report, please contact:**

**Lizaveta Zhuk**, Public Information Officer, Head of Public Information & Reporting Unit (OCHA Ukraine) at [lizaveta.zhuk@un.org](mailto:lizaveta.zhuk@un.org).

**Anthony Prassoulis**, Reporting Officer (on surge to OCHA Ukraine) at [anthony.prassoulis@un.org](mailto:anthony.prassoulis@un.org)

**Valijon Ranoev**, Humanitarian Affairs Officer (OCHA Geneva) at [ranoev@un.org](mailto:ranoev@un.org).