

Operational Update

January 2021

UNHCR started 2021 by strengthening its **protection monitoring** system in conflict-affected areas in eastern Ukraine. To document protection gaps and context developments, UNHCR developed and piloted its **Protection Monitoring Tool** – a comprehensive mechanism which will cover over a hundred localities along the ‘contact line.’ *More operational highlights are on page 2.*

UNHCR prepared an analysis of the newly introduced **draft law on the state policy for a transitional period** which aims at becoming a single legislative base for all conflict-related issues. In its recommendations, UNHCR called for bringing the draft law in line with the UN standards. *See more on page 3.*

In January, UNHCR announced a call for application for the **2021 self-reliance and vocational training grants**. This financial assistance will be provided to eligible refugees and asylum-seekers to help them launch their businesses and learn new professional skills.

KEY INDICATORS

1,092

Internally displaced (IDPs) and other conflict-affected persons received **legal assistance** from UNHCR’s NGO partners in January.

248

IDPs and other conflict-affected persons benefited from **psychosocial support** in January.

858

Refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from **emergency assistance, medical support and social accompaniment** in January.



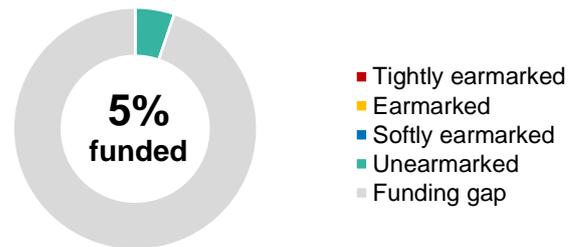
“Before I came to Ukraine, I saw snow only on TV. When I first saw it, I thought it was very beautiful. And at the same time, very dangerous. When low temperatures hit, our flat gets cold, because the windows are not properly insulated. Also, the floor gets cold, and it is really bad for our children who sleep on mattresses on the floor” (a refugee from Somalia).

This family with six children fled from Somalia and applied for refugee status in Ukraine. The COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult for them to meet ends as the family’s income relied on the informal labour market. To support the household, UNHCR provided them with financial assistance to cover needs which increased during winter. Read the full story [here](#). Photo credit by UNHCR.

FUNDING (AS OF 2 FEBRUARY 2021)

USD 28.9 million

UNHCR’s financial requirements 2020



INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS)*

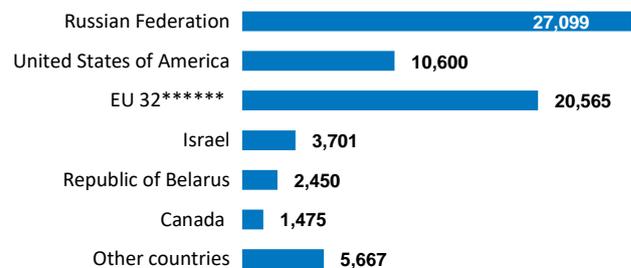
734,000**

OTHER CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS***

1,62 million****

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS FROM UKRAINE

71,557*****



*Residing more permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA)

**Source: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)

***Vulnerable, conflict-affected persons living along the ‘contact line’ in GCA and in non-government controlled areas (NGCA)

****Sources: Protection Cluster, UNHCR, December 2020

*****Source: UNHCR’s Refugee Population Statistics Database, June 2020

*****27 EU countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom

Operational Highlights



In January, the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe \(OSCE\)](#)'s [Special Monitoring Mission](#) recorded **3,153 ceasefire violations in eastern Ukraine**, up by **24 per cent**, as compared to the previous month. This was the second highest monthly level recorded since the ceasefire came into force in July 2020.

Amid the gradual increase of hostilities, the [UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) confirmed that **two civilians** were injured by mines and small arms. In January, the [UNHCR-led Shelter/NFI](#) reported about **eight civilian houses** damaged on both sides of the 'contact line'.



Shelter Repairs in Luhansk: As part of its shelter programme, UNHCR provided **construction materials to 45 conflict-affected families in the non-government controlled areas (NGCA) in Luhansk**. With this assistance, households will be able to complete light repairs of their homes that were damaged during the ongoing conflict. UNHCR delivered these materials to Luhansk by humanitarian convoys which UNHCR continues to facilitate despite the movement restrictions across the 'contact line'. *Photo credit on the right: UNHCR.*



COVID-19 Response: The Ministry of Health registered **322,400 new COVID-19 cases** in Ukraine, or a two-fold decrease, compared to December.

Even though the transmission dynamic slowed down, designated COVID-19 hospitals in eastern Ukraine (government-controlled areas, GCA) were reported as having the lowest levels of oxygen-supplied beds in the country. On 29 January, UNHCR jointly with the local authorities **opened newly rehabilitated laundry room at a hospital in the conflict-affected town of Volnovakha** (Donetska oblast). UNHCR provided **laundry machines, a tumble dryer and ironing stand** to ensure proper hygiene of bed linen and robes for medical personnel used during treatment of hospitalized patients with the COVID-19.



Monitoring Impact of Decentralization Reform: UNHCR jointly with its NGO partners noted a significant delay in implementation of **decentralization reform in some of the 18 amalgamated communities** near the 'contact line' in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts. As the local elections were not held in these localities in

2020 and the heads of the Civil-Military Administrations were not appointed, the communities face difficulties in accessing budget funds. This resulted in additional protection gaps in already affected areas, as some settlements reported lack of funds to cover municipal utilities, such as street electricity, pay for meals in schools and kindergartens, disburse salaries for the state-employed personnel. UNHCR prepared an analytical note on the identified gaps and shared it with the UN Resident Coordinator Office and UNDP.



Protection Monitoring Tool: In January, UNHCR piloted its new **Protection Monitoring Tool (PMT)** developed to collect and analyze data on protection situation in over **a hundred localities along the 'contact line' in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts**. Starting in February and on monthly basis, UNHCR jointly with its

NGO partner Proliska will collect data in these settlements, using a mixed methodology which include observation, key informant interviews and workshops with communities. The results will inform UNHCR's protection response and will be shared with the authorities, humanitarian and development actors.



Freedom of Movement: Crossing of the 'contact line' remained restricted in eastern Ukraine with only two EECPs functioning on both sides of the 'contact line': in **Stanytsia Luhanska** (operating daily) and **Novotroitske** (operating on Mondays and Fridays only). In January, the State Border Guard Service of

Ukraine recorded **28,724 crossings across the 'contact line'** (see [UNHCR's dashboard "Checkpoint Crossing" here](#)). This represents a **40 per cent decrease** compared to December and was linked to the harsh winter conditions in eastern Ukraine which also affected the functioning of the crossing points. Due to low temperatures, on several days, UNHCR and its NGO partners had to stop operating the two electric cars which transport people at the EECP Stanytsia Luhanska. Through this checkpoint, 27,714 crossings were recorded; and only 1,008 crossings were registered at the Novotroitske EECP.



COVID-19 testing at the EECPs: Free COVID-19 testing was gradually introduced at the EECPs in eastern Ukraine and on the border line with the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. This measure followed the Government's

resolution which allowed residents in NGCA and Crimea to end their self-isolation or observation in GCA upon presenting negative results of such test. During monitoring visits, UNHCR noted that no testing was available at the Stanytsia Luhanska EECP, and only limited testing was available at the Novotroitske EECP. Results of the test are received on the mobile phone application "Act at Home", and those who cannot install the app still require to self-isolate at designated observation facilities. In January, **46 per cent** out of 476 persons who were surveyed by [UNHCR's NGO partner R2P](#) at the EECPs, reported problems with installing the app. The survey also showed that over 70 per cent of those arriving from NGCA, travelled to visit relatives, withdraw cash and access their pensions. More information is available at the [online UNHCR-R2P dashboard "Eastern Ukraine Checkpoint Monitoring"](#). *Photo on the right shows UNHCR's NGO partner, The Right to Protection, counselling a woman at the EECP Novotroitske.*



Legal Highlights

- **Draft Law on the State Policy for a Transitional Period:** On 4 January, the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories shared for comments a complex [draft law on the state policy for a transitional period](#). The draft aims at consolidating in one document all issues related to the ongoing conflict, further de-occupation and reintegration of the non-government controlled areas (NGCA) in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol. UNHCR prepared a summary of observations and recommendations that will be submitted to the Ministry as part of the joint UN comments. In this document, UNHCR noted that the draft law announces that it has supremacy over any future international treaties that Ukraine may decide to join – in contradiction with the Constitution and the Law on International Treaties of Ukraine. The draft introduces a derogation procedure from international human rights treaties that is different from procedures embedded in treaties themselves. While the draft expresses an intention to comply with UN standards, it omits important elements of transitional justice, such as reparation, compensation, ensuring non-recurrence of human rights violations. In its comments, UNHCR recommended to : 1) take into account the UN recommendations regarding transitional justice; 2) address restitution and/or compensation for all types of property damaged or destroyed during armed conflict; 3) simplify humanitarian actors' access to NGCA; and 4) build on existing procedures for crossing the "contact line" in order to ensure the predictability of crossing and minimize any delays in implementation.
- **The decision of the European Court of Human Rights on the Admissibility of Ukraine-Russian Federation Inter-State Application:** On 14 January, the [European Court of Human Rights \(ECtHR\)](#) adopted its decision in the [Ukraine v. Russia case](#) regarding the admissibility of the inter-state application. The case concerns Ukraine's allegations of a pattern ("administrative practice") of violations of the European Convention on Human Rights by the Russian Federation in Crimea. The Court declared the alleged pattern of human-rights violations by Russia in Crimea during the relevant period, namely between 27 February 2014 and 26 August 2015, admissible. The ECtHR will continue the examination of the case and proceed to the merits stage.

Key Advocacy Messages

- **Ensure steady progress toward durable solutions for IDPs by adopting an IDP Durable Solutions Strategy and Action Plan, which will build on the strategy which expired on 31 December 2020.** After more than six years of displacement, IDPs in Ukraine say they want opportunities for [durable solutions](#). Ukraine's recent IDP Strategy expired at the end of 2020. Earlier in 2020, the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories opened public discussion about drafting an [IDP Integration and Durable Solutions Strategy for 2021-2023](#). UNHCR noted several positive aspects in the draft text: it focuses on facilitating [local integration of IDPs in their host communities](#) and [including IDPs in their host communities' planning and budgeting](#). The draft Strategy calls for [de-linking IDP registration from access to state services](#), housing and employment; this will make it easier for IDPs to access these services on a non-discriminatory basis. The draft also includes indicators for measuring progress. UNHCR supports this initiative and calls for adopting the Strategy, as well as an Action Plan to guide resource allocation and implementation.

UNHCR'S AND UNHCR-LED CLUSTER'S RECENT REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS:

[ONE-PAGER] LATEST INFORMATION PRODUCTS: This one-page factsheet includes UNHCR Ukraine's recent products, reports, thematic factsheets, dashboards and UNHCR-led Clusters' reports.

[THEMATIC UPDATE] LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (JANUARY 2021): This update provides an overview of UNHCR's legal analysis of laws and governmental policies that affect refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless, IDPs and conflict-affected persons in Ukraine. The latest edition also covers the legal response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

[SNAPSHOT] CROSSING THE CONTACT LINE (JANUARY 2021): This joint UNHCR/R2P thematic update presents key developments at the EECs in eastern Ukraine in January.

[ANALYSIS] KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON FOCUS-GROUP DISCUSSIONS (ON THE REQUEST OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT): This summary provides an overview of nine focus-group discussions with internally displaced persons in central, southern and western Ukraine conducted by UNHCR and its NGO partners in August 2020.

[VISUAL] MAP OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND QUICK IMPACT PROJECTS: This map presents a list of projects completed by UNHCR and its NGO partners in eastern Ukraine in 2020.



Humanitarian Development Nexus

- **Joint UNHCR-UNDP project in Popasna:** On 15 January, [UNHCR jointly with UNDP](#) undertook an assessment mission to the town of [Popasna](#) (Luhanska oblast). Both agencies decided to support a [joint project aimed at supporting the local centre for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities “Leleka”](#). UNDP will renovate two rooms at the facility, the local authorities will rehabilitate common areas while [UNHCR will provide Non-Food Items \(NFIs\)](#). At the rehabilitated centre, persons with disabilities will be able to participate in [socializing activities and access therapy sessions](#).



Donor Relations

- **Meeting with the Ambassador of Latvia:** On 18 January, UNHCR attended a meeting with the [Ambassador of Latvia](#) during his mission to Luhanska oblast. The meeting was organized jointly with OCHA, the UN Women and the ICRC. UNHCR briefed the visiting diplomats about its [assistance at the EECPs in Luhanska oblast](#), including the newly opened, but not operational crossing points in [Shchastia and Zolote](#).



MULTI-SECTOR RESPONSE TO REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS

Protection of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- **Strategic Litigation Case of a Syrian Asylum-Seeker:** UNHCR’s NGO partner, The Tenth of April, reported about the positive impact of one of its strategic litigation cases at the level of the Supreme Court. In 2020, the highest judicial body returned for the reconsideration a [case of a Syrian asylum-seeker](#) whose application was rejected. In January, the first-instance administrative court in Odesa region took a decision in favour of the asylum-seeker and ordered the State Migration Service to reconsider his asylum application. The judgement referred to UNHCR’s Guidelines and highlighted a situation of the [“legal limbo”](#) faced by some asylum-seekers after they fail to obtain refugee status, but cannot be returned to the country of origin because of the non-refoulement principle.
- **Advocacy on the Draft Law on Administrative Procedure #3475:** On 13 January, UNHCR’s NGO partner, The Right to Protection, and the Ombudsperson’s Office agreed to consider amendments providing for exclusion of the refugee and statelessness issues from the scope of the draft law on [administrative procedure #3475](#). UNHCR and its NGO partners advocated for this since summer 2020 amid concerns that inclusion of such procedures will create additional bureaucratic obstacles for UNHCR’s persons of concern. The Ombudsperson’s Office issued a formal letter in support of UNHCR’s position.
- **Training for the State Migration Service (SMS) staff:** On 21 and 22 January, UNHCR organized an online training on [prevention of vicarious trauma and burnout](#) for [14 SMS staff members](#) from 12 regions of Ukraine. The learning targeted practitioners, involved in the [Refugee Status Determination](#) procedure, primarily those who regularly work with asylum-seekers in detention facilities. The training was delivered within the joint UNHCR-ILO project supported by UNAIDS.

517

Persons received Legal Assistance

(including refugees and asylum-seekers) thanks to UNHCR and its NGO partners in January

177

Persons were assisted in accessing healthcare

(including refugees and asylum-seekers) thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners’ support in January

49

Persons provided with language training for livelihood purposes

(including refugees and asylum-seekers) thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners’ support in January

30

Persons received Psychosocial Assistance

(including refugees and asylum-seekers) thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners’ support in January



Livelihood Interventions for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- UNHCR jointly with its NGO partners announced the [start of the 2021 application process for self-reliance and vocational training grants](#). This one-time financial assistance is provided to refugees and asylum-seekers to help them start their own businesses or benefit from vocational training and learn or improve professional skills. Since the launch of the self-reliance grants programme in 2018, [130 persons have benefited](#) from this support and were able to start their businesses in [food and furniture production, agriculture, tailoring, graphic design and the beauty industry](#).



Assistance to Stateless Persons and Persons at Risk of Statelessness

- UNHCR's NGO partner, the Right to Protection (R2P), published a [brochure "On Legal Protection of Asylum-Seekers, Refugees and Stateless Persons"](#). This guidance includes key legislative and practical requirements for the protection of UNHCR's people of concern. In a special chapter on statelessness, the document highlights current challenges with confirming the nationality for residents of NGCA and Crimea.

10

Stateless persons
(or at risk of) obtained a
passport or other document
certifying nationality

in January thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support

253

Stateless persons
(or at risk of) received advice
on the acquisition or
confirmation of nationality

in January thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support

13

Persons obtained
birth certificates
for the first time

in January
thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support

Maksym from the town of Sloviansk in Donetsk oblast has never received a passport of a citizen of Ukraine. Maksym lost his eyesight and moves in a wheelchair, but was not able to access health care without identity documents. In 2016, Maksym tried to obtain the document on his own. The State Migration Service of Ukraine established his identity, but could not confirm his citizenship. He required professional legal aid to obtain a passport and turned for assistance to UNHCR's NGO partner, The Right to Protection (R2P), which helped Maksym recover his lost birth certificate. After that, R2P applied to the court to establish the fact of Maksym's permanent residence with his parents in Ukraine in 1991. To confirm this fact, R2P had to search for a witness and found a neighbour who had known the man since childhood and agreed to testify. With a court decision in his favour, Maksym finally received a certificate of registration as a citizen of Ukraine, and later, a passport. Photo credit on the right: Right to Protection.



PROTECTION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND OTHER CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS

UNHCR-led Protection Cluster

- On 21 January, the Protection Cluster hosted a meeting with [all Sub-Clusters and Technical Working Groups \(TWGs\) Coordinators](#) to identify [advocacy priorities for 2021 and the transition plan](#). It was agreed that priority in response should be given to [mitigating the impact of the movement restrictions](#) across the 'contact line' and enhancing advocacy for the [safe re-opening of the EECs](#). Protection partners will also monitor the impact of the [decentralization](#) on access to services and benefits, as well as the functioning of administrative services centres, opened at the EECs. The Protection Cluster will seek to amplify the call for durable solutions for IDPs, advocating for housing programmes.
- On 28 January, during coordination meetings in Sievierodonetsk and Sloviansk, [HelpAge International](#) presented a [report on humanitarian needs of older people](#) living along the 'contact line' in Donetsk oblast. The assessment showed that [95 per cent of respondents experienced psychosocial issues due to the ongoing](#)

conflict. The survey also revealed that only eight per cent of older people received humanitarian assistance during the last 3-6 months.

- Inter-Cluster Coordination:** The Protection Cluster Coordinator met with the WASH and Health Clusters' Coordinators to discuss areas for cooperation in 2021. Three Clusters agreed to promote a multi-sectoral approach in programming and include protection mainstreaming in the capacity-building sessions for partners in the health and WASH sectors. The Protection and WASH Clusters agreed to join efforts for advocacy actions, related to the Strategy on the Protection of Civilians and Civilian Infrastructure.



UNHCR Protection Activities

- Transport for People with Disabilities:** In January, UNHCR provided a special transport and office equipment to the NGO "Ami-Skhid" headed by the European Regional Nansen Refugee Award winner, Tetiana Barantsova. This NGO supports displaced persons with disabilities, helping them access financial, legal and psychosocial assistance. The minibus will be equipped with the wheelchair hoist and used for transportation of people with disabilities. *Photo credit on the right: UNHCR.*
- Supporting IDP Communities during the COVID-19 pandemic:** UNHCR provided hygiene products, Personal Protection Equipment, sewing and cooking equipment to an IDP community centre in the town of Irpin. It will be used during leisure activities organized for children and elderly persons. The centre also plans to relaunch its outreach program to assist older persons.
- Remote Access to Services for Residents in NGCA and Crimea:** On 19 January, UNHCR met with the representatives of the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories and the Ministry of Digitalization to discuss remote verification for pensioners in NGCA and digital solutions for birth registration. UNHCR will share its suggestions in writing for consideration by the government partners.
- Presentation of Findings from the Focus Group Discussions for the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement:** On 27 January, UNHCR and its NGO partner, The Tenth of April, held a joint meeting with IDP communities where UNHCR presented key findings from the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) for the UN Secretary General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement. The report summarizes results of nine FGDs in central, western and southern Ukraine organized by UNHCR and its NGO partners in August 2020. The main findings highlight a need to prioritize housing and employment opportunities to ensure IDPs' effective integration into host communities.
- Resolution #767 on Destroyed Housing:** On 29 January, UNHCR submitted to the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories its suggestions on amending the Government's Resolution #767 on destroyed housing. These recommendations were expressed through draft legal rules and concerns, prepared based on UNHCR's observations. In 2020, 74 families in Donetsk and Luhanska oblast received state compensation for their houses destroyed during the conflict. Allocations for 2021 are expected to cover over 300 eligible households.



Legal Assistance and Protection Counselling

1,092

Internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons (66% female, 34% male) received legal assistance from UNHCR and its partners in January

1,856

Persons (67% female, 33% male) benefited from individual protection counselling in January

4

Group consultations on protection-related issues were provided to 41 persons (76% female, 24% male) in areas along the 'contact line' in January



Social Accompaniment

- In January, UNHCR's NGO partners provided social accompaniment to **319 individuals** (22,6 per cent of them were persons with disabilities) who needed support in, inter alia, obtaining personal documentation, accessing administrative and other essential services, and receiving authorization to cross checkpoints.

Petro, 79, lives in the village of Hirske near the 'contact line' and is insulin-dependent. Due to his health condition, the elderly man is considered to be in the high-risk group for contracting COVID-19. During the pandemic, he was not able to travel to the nearest pharmacy to receive his much-needed medicine. As quarantine measures continue affecting access to essential services, particularly in remote locations near the 'contact line', UNHCR's NGO partner Proliska regularly delivers food, water and life-saving medicine to people like Petro. Photo credit: Proliska.*



Psychosocial assistance

248

75% female | 25% male
Persons received consultations in January

UNHCR's NGO partners provided **248 vulnerable persons** with psychological consultations. These sessions help conflict-affected persons deal with symptoms of psychological trauma, domestic violence, grief, depression, anxiety, and psychological tension, including the effects caused by quarantine restrictions.



Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

- UNHCR handed over furniture, construction materials and computer equipment to social services centres in the town of Marinka and Volnovakha in Donetsk oblast. With this assistance, the facilities will equip the rooms that serve as safe space for psychosocial counselling of women at risk of SGBV in locations along the 'contact line'.



Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

- In January, UNHCR continued identifying and providing the most vulnerable conflict-affected individuals in eastern Ukraine with "cash for protection". This assistance is used to cover needs, particularly for persons with disability. The assistance is delivered using a case management approach and with a focus on supporting people to access public services. In areas where state services are not accessible, UNHCR and its NGO partners provided Individual Protection Assistance in-kind.

954

IPA cash beneficiaries in eastern Ukraine benefited from "cash for protection" in 2020

878

beneficiaries were provided with IPA "in-kind" by UNHCR and its NGO partners in 2020

140

internally displaced persons residing in western, central, and southern Ukraine received IPA cash to help them cope with the impact of the COVID-19 in 2020



Meet Oleksii*, 12-years-old, who lives with his mother and sister in the village of Komyshuvakha in Luhanska oblast. He has a disability and can move around only in a wheelchair. This was especially difficult in winter as there was no ramp at the entrance of the house and Oleksii was not able to go outside without help. Social benefits are the only income the family could rely on. Since September, UNHCR’s NGO partner Proliska provided the family with social accompaniment by delivering essential and hygiene items. Recently, UNHCR and Proliska supported the family with “cash for protection” which was used to install the ramp. This brought a drastic change for Oleksii – he has now fewer difficulties with moving around and can play with other children outdoors. Photo credit: Proliska.



Peaceful Coexistence Projects (PCPs) and Quick Impacts Projects (QIPs)

89

Projects
 (55 COVID-19 related)
 approved in 2020-2021

UNHCR supports small to medium-scale infrastructure repairs proposed by communities or local authorities in eastern Ukraine. These Peaceful Coexistence Projects (PCPs) aim to create an atmosphere of peaceful co-existence between displaced populations and host communities and to complement the resilience of IDPs and affected communities.

Since the outbreak of **COVID-19**, UNHCR has also re-launched **Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)** intended to provide a rapid response to the pandemic by strengthening the capacities of the local health care system and supporting social services providers. In 2020, UNHCR completed 63 projects on both sides of the ‘contact line’ (**Map of PCP and QIP projects here**).

UNHCR jointly with its NGO partner Proliska opened newly built premises in a private elderly home in the village of Katerynivka in Donetska oblast. The centre was provided with construction materials, beds and furniture which were used to rehabilitate new rooms. The facility provides shelter to 35 elderly people who lived by themselves along the ‘contact line’. Most of them have children and therefore are not entitled to benefit from the public care services. The private home was founded by a local religious organization and supported by volunteers. Photo credit (on the right): by Proliska.



Community Support Initiatives (CSIs)

97

Initiatives
 (48 COVID-19 related)
 approved in 2020

UNHCR in Ukraine empowers communities of internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons throughout the country. Community Support Initiatives (CSIs) are implemented using a **Community-Based Protection** approach and include a range of activities designed to mobilize and empower communities, strengthen their ability to organize emergency responses and self-advocate with local and national authorities in order to find durable solutions for their own protection.

With the support from UNHCR, local activists in the town of Chasiv Yar are able to deliver hot meals to families with specific needs who found themselves in a difficult economic situation as they lost their jobs and income during the COVID-19 pandemic. These households have been already affected by the ongoing conflict. The pandemic made it worse as many children in these families were not able to receive hot meals at schools when most education facilities introduced distance learning. The activists decided to cook and deliver free hot meals for these children. UNHCR provided a fridge, an oven and other kitchen appliances to help volunteers. This initiative is now in full force with over 80 children from low-income families in Chasiv Yar receiving free lunches. Photo credit: UNHCR.



Voluntary Relocation

12

Conflict-affected families
(42 persons) relocated
to safer homes
in 2020

Since 2019 UNHCR implements a [project of voluntarily relocating families](#) who live in dangerous areas along the 'contact line' to safer locations. Persons who benefit from this project are carefully selected based on [protection vulnerability criteria](#) and a [security assessment](#) of the settlements to which they relocate.

Working in Partnership

The humanitarian response to displacement in Ukraine is a coordinated effort by the government, international organizations, national and international NGOs. In providing support to persons of concern, UNHCR works closely with the Government of Ukraine. In the case of IDPs, UNHCR has signed a Letter of Understanding with the [Ministry for Temporarily Occupied Territories](#). In the case of refugees and stateless persons, UNHCR cooperates closely with the [State Migration Service of Ukraine](#). UNHCR works together with [eight NGO partners](#). UNHCR leads the [Protection Cluster](#) and [Shelter/Non-food Items \(NFI\) Cluster](#). UNHCR together with OCHA also co-leads the Logistics Working Group that is mainly responsible for facilitating humanitarian convoys to eastern Ukraine.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for critical financial support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programs with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds. The indicative level of funding for the operation is [US \\$1,502,819](#). This figure is based on contributions earmarked to Ukraine, the indicative allocation of flexible funds and adjustments.

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

[Special thanks to the Major donors of unearmarked contributions.](#)

Norway 80 million | **Sweden** 66.9 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **Germany** 22.1 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **Ireland** 12.5 million | **Belgium** 11.9 million

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Please note that this report attempts to highlight the main activities implemented by UNHCR and its NGO partners within the selected reporting period. Please note that it is by no means exhaustive. For additional details about our work, do not hesitate to check www.unhcr.org/ua or, contact us directly at ukrkom@unhcr.org.

**Please note that the names of persons who appear in this report have been changed for their protection.*