

# Ukraine

September 2021

In Ukraine, UNHCR responds for three populations: refugees and asylum-seekers, stateless persons and persons with undetermined nationality, as well as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other conflict-affected persons.

Since the beginning of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the temporary occupation of Crimea in 2014, UNHCR has provided protection and humanitarian assistance and support, including shelter repairs, to IDPs and conflict-affected persons on both sides of the contact line.

In September, in light of increasing COVID-19 cases, UNHCR delivered equipment to improve the WASH conditions in 14 centres supporting children in situations of vulnerability as well as hygiene kits and PPE to 16 institutions supporting older persons and persons with chronic illness.

## KEY INDICATORS

**636**

refugee and asylum seeker households **received individual protection assistance in cash** in September to help them cope with the impact of COVID-19.

**113**

Persons with undetermined nationality **obtained a passport or other document certifying nationality** in 2021.

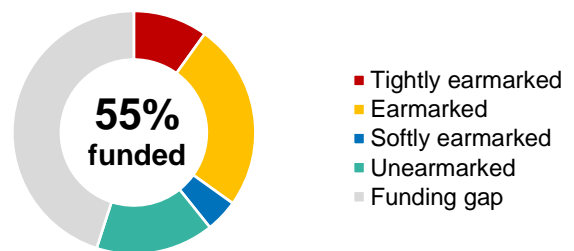
**705**

Internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons **received legal assistance** in September.

## FUNDING (AS OF 19 OCTOBER 2021)

**USD 28.9 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2021



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Volunteers and social workers have been provided with 228 bicycles and 35 electric tricycles to visit communities located near the contact line in eastern Ukraine. Tatiana helps older persons and those with impaired mobility to access food and medicines. Here she helps an older woman monitor her blood pressure.

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS)\*

**734,000\*\***

## OTHER CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS\*\*\*

**1,62 million\*\*\*\***

## REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN UKRAINE

**4,964\*\*\*\*\***

## STATELESS PERSONS AND PERSONS WITH UNDETERMINED NATIONALITY

**35,875\*\*\*\*\***

\*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: Government of Ukraine, June 2021

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## Context

- Armed conflict incidents along the line of contact intensified in September, with more than one dozen civilian casualties and damage to infrastructure reported.
- De facto authorities in Luhansk and Donesk NGCA signed an agreement to create a single customs territory, which will facilitate movement between the two territories for NGCA residents.
- In September, COVID-19 cases began rising, exceeding more than 12,000 daily cases by the end of the month.

## Working in Partnership

The humanitarian response to displacement in Ukraine is a coordinated effort by the Government of Ukraine, international organizations, national and international NGOs. UNHCR works closely with the Government, including its line ministries and central and local administrations and authorities to ensure the protection of, and the pursuit of durable solutions for, persons of concern to UNHCR. In relation to IDPs, UNHCR has signed a Letter of Understanding with the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories. In relation to refugees and stateless persons, UNHCR cooperates closely with the State Migration Service (SMS) of Ukraine. In 2021, UNHCR has agreements with eight local NGO project partners. UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and Shelter/Non-food Items (NFI) Cluster under the humanitarian coordination structure that responds for IDPs and conflict-affected populations in the east. UNHCR together with OCHA co-leads the Logistics Working Group responsible for facilitating humanitarian convoys to eastern Ukraine.

## Refugees and Asylum-Seekers



### Advocacy and Capacity Building

- On 23 to 24 September, UNHCR's NGO partner the Tenth of April carried out a training for the State Border Guard Service and heads of seven detention centres, known as temporary holding facilities. The training delivered information on the fundamental rights of asylum-seekers, including the right to access asylum procedures, as well as the mandate and role of UNHCR and its partners.



### Community Engagement

- UNHCR's NGO partner Right to Protection (R2P) continued the supporting a refugee women's group in Kharkiv region. A pottery class was held to help foster the informal network of refugee women and girls as a follow-up to a self-empowerment workshop held in August.
- On 10 and 24 September, UNHCR partner Tenth of April held trainings for 27 refugee community leaders on project management skills to help them apply for funding and implement small scale projects within their communities.
- On 16 and 17 September, UNHCR partner Tenth of April held the second stage of the Leadership School for Youth, working with 22 refugee youth in the development of communication and project management skills.



### Protection

- UNHCR continues to provide support for recently arrived Afghan nationals. In Kyiv, UNHCR partner

R2P is regularly assisting Afghan asylum-seekers at the regional SMS Office with translation, registration and protection counselling. UNHCR is also monitoring access to asylum procedures in Odesa through partner Tenth of April and confirmed that all 133 recent arrivals to the Oblast have been registered as asylum-seekers. UNHCR also continues to provide cash and material support, such as hygiene items and clothing, for recent arrivals.

- On 16 September, a centre for GBV survivors was opened in Odesa following UNHCR support under a joint initiative with UNFPA. UNHCR provided material support for the rehabilitation of the space and through partner the Tenth of April, will provide training for social workers and psychologists on working with refugees and asylum-seekers. The site can accommodate up to 20 people (survivors and their dependents) and will provide psycho-social support and support in accessing social services and healthcare.
- On 20 September UNHCR delivered furniture and equipment for the establishment of an educational centre in the recently inaugurated Afghan Cultural Centre in Odesa. UNHCR will also provide support with renovation works for the centre.

## Key Figures

Result achieved in September 2021

 **939**

**Persons received legal assistance**  
(refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **198**

**Persons were assisted in accessing healthcare**  
(refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **42**

**Persons received psychosocial assistance**  
(refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **89**

**Persons provided with language training for livelihoods**  
(refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **636**

**Refugee & Asylum Seeker Households received IPA cash to help them cope with the impact of COVID-19**

## Stateless Persons and Persons with Undetermined Nationality

### Advocacy and Capacity Building

- In September, UNHCR held two round table discussions with regional offices of the SMS to share challenges and best practices in the application of the Statelessness Determination Procedures (SDP) launched in June of this year.
- UNCHR, with partner R2P, carried out two trainings for staff of Free Legal Aid Centres (FLAC) on SDP.

## Key Figures

Result achieved in September 2021

 **12**

Persons with undetermined nationality **obtained a passport or other document certifying nationality**

 **278**

Undocumented persons **received advice on the acquisition or confirmation of nationality**

 **20**

Persons **obtained birth certificates**

 **14**

Persons **assisted with applying to the statelessness determination procedures**

## Internally Displaced and Other Conflict-Affected Persons

### Advocacy and Capacity Building

- On 30 September and 1 October, UNHCR participated in the Forum “Internal displacement in Ukraine: current challenges and prospective solutions” jointly hosted by the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories. Over 100 participants took part, including representatives of national executive authorities, local self-government bodies, international and national organizations. UNHCR’s Representative in Ukraine participated in the opening panel, raising key considerations for the achievement of durable solutions for IDPs in Ukraine. Read the full statement [here](#).
- Following sustained advocacy by UNHCR and other humanitarian actors, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine approved a Resolution to allow for the remote verification of the recipients of pensions and social benefits, which may facilitate access to pensions for persons living in NGCA. The final text is yet to be issued and UNHCR will continue to follow up on its implementation and potential implications for persons of concern.

### Community Engagement

- UNHCR, through our NGO partner Crimea SOS, organized a capacity building workshop for IDP community leaders on 23 to 24 September in Kyiv. During the workshop, community leaders were supported with the development of advocacy messages on housing, IDP registration, social protection and access to rights, which they had the opportunity to deliver to authorities through meetings with the Ministry of Social Policy and Ministry of Reintegration on the second day. The event aimed to build the capacity of communities to advocate on their own behalf.

### Protection

- In Sievierodonetsk, UNHCR provided support to the opening of a shelter for GBV survivors with children, equipping the kitchen and providing household appliances. The shelter is managed by SOS Children’s Villages and has the capacity to support five women and their families.
- On 24 September, a Rehabilitation Centre for children and parents was inaugurated in Toretsk, following support from UNHCR through the provision of equipment, appliances and other household items. The centre will provide speech therapy, physical therapy and psychological services.

- In Luhansk NGCA, UNHCR provided 29 water tanks, 14 water pumps and 10 water pressure controls to 14 centres supporting orphans and/or children in situations of vulnerability. The equipment will help the centres improve hygiene practices in light of the increasing number of COVID-19 infections in the area. In addition, UNHCR delivered 950 hygiene kits and PPE to 16 institutions supporting older persons, persons with chronic illnesses or others in situations of vulnerability.
- UNHCR launched a protection monitoring survey at international border crossing points (IBCPs) with the Russian Federation, Milove and Hoptivka, to monitor the conditions experienced by Ukrainian nationals travelling to and from NGCA through the IBCPs.

### Key Figures

Result achieved in September 2021


**705**

Internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons received legal assistance


**2,227**

Persons benefited from individual protection counselling


**22**

Group consultations on protection-related issues were provided to 192 people in areas along the 'contact line'


**390**

Persons were provided with social accompaniment

11.3 per cent of the individuals who were provided with social accompaniment in obtaining personal documentation, accessing administrative and other essential services, and receiving authorization to cross EECs have disabilities.


**79**

Persons received psychosocial assistance

Psychological assistance helps conflict-affected persons deal with trauma, domestic violence, grief, depression and anxiety, including the effects of quarantine restrictions.



### Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

UNHCR continued identifying and providing the most vulnerable conflict-affected individuals in eastern Ukraine with Individual Protection Assistance (IPA), in cash where possible. The assistance is provided within a case management approach and helps enable the beneficiaries, particularly persons with disabilities, to access public services. In areas where State services are not accessible, UNHCR and NGO partners provided in-kind IPA. Since June, UNHCR is also providing financial assistance to support IDPs with specific needs and help them endure the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This IPA targets displaced persons living in different regions of Ukraine and not only in locations along the 'contact line'.


**67**

IPA beneficiaries received cash assistance by UNHCR and its NGO partners


**71**

IPA "in kind" beneficiaries received assistance from UNHCR and its NGO partners


**10**

IDP Households received IPA cash to help them cope with the impact of the COVID-19

 **14**  
**Community Support Projects (CSPs) approved**

In 2021, UNHCR refined its Community-Based Approach in eastern Ukraine. To support the capacities of conflict-affected communities, UNHCR implements Community Support Projects (CSPs). These include small to medium repairs of social or community premises and provision of equipment, improving access to services and training activities. The CSPs aim at strengthening the capacity of communities (IDPs and conflict-affected) to access their rights and basic administrative and social services.

 **Shelter Assistance**

- In GCA, UNHCR continues to follow-up on the repair of 13 houses taken over from the Norwegian Refugee Council in June 2020 that could not be completed last year. As of 30 September 2021, the repair of 10 houses is completed (3 with light or medium and 7 with heavy damage), while the repairs of three houses are still ongoing (all with light or medium damage).
- In Donetsk NGCA, 85 houses have been repaired so far in 2021 and repairs of five more houses are currently ongoing through the direct distribution of construction materials. In addition, 13 houses were repaired while the repair of 29 houses is underway using a contracted construction company. Lastly, the replacement of windows on 251 more houses is ongoing.
- In Luhansk NGCA, 11 houses have been repaired through the direct distribution of construction materials, while the repair of 51 more houses is ongoing. An additional 33 houses (31 with medium and 2 with heavy damage) have been repaired with the use of a construction company, while the repair of 38 more houses is ongoing.

## Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical financial support provided by donors who have contributed to the Ukraine operation, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programs with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.



## Contacts

Meghan Froehner, External Relations Officer  
froehner@unhcr.org , Cell: +380 50 334 2293  
Tel: +38 044 288-9710

## Links

UNHCR Ukraine: [www.unhcr.org/ua](http://www.unhcr.org/ua) - Twitter: [www.twitter.com/UNHCRUkraine](https://twitter.com/UNHCRUkraine) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/UNHCRKyiv](https://www.facebook.com/UNHCRKyiv) - Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/unhcr\\_ukraine/](https://www.instagram.com/unhcr_ukraine/)