

# Winterization Achievements

March 2019



Within the framework of its 2018/2019 Winterization Program, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), together with partners, distributed 6,681 metric tonnes of coal to 2,227 vulnerable conflict-affected households in Donetsk (3 tonnes per household). Through its winterization programme, UNHCR was the first organization to reach conflict-affected persons residing in localities that had been cut off from humanitarian aid for over three years. Olya\*, the elderly lady seen in the photo lives by herself in a settlement near the 'contact line'. Both of her sons passed away and her husband had been hospitalized as a result of cardiac problems on the day UNHCR visited her. The elderly couple spend the little that they have on medicine. They are currently waiting for a legal review in a Ukrainian court to be able to restore their pension. Thanks to the coal provided by UNHCR, they were able to stay warm throughout winter and use their limited savings to purchase medicines and for the expenses needed to restore their pensions (transport, lawyers, court fees etc...). The distribution of coal is made possible thanks to the support and funds of EU's Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). Photo: UNHCR Ukraine.

## Background

Winters in Ukraine are renowned for being harsh, with temperatures dropping as low as minus 30 °C. Among those most negatively affected by the low temperatures include internally displaced and other conflict affected persons in east Ukraine. As a result, UNHCR in Ukraine has a contingency plan to respond to winterization needs in both the non-government controlled areas (NGCA) and government controlled areas (GCA). This winter alone, UNHCR partners reported around nine deaths of elderly persons crossing the Entry-Exit Check Points (EECP) as a result of low temperatures. This year, UNHCR implemented a winterization programme in the form of **coal** in NGCA and in **cash** for GCA. UNHCR managed to **surpass the number of planned beneficiaries for coal**. With an initial target of 2,012 households targeted for coal distributions, UNHCR reached 2,227 vulnerable households with 6,681 tonnes of coal (3 tonnes per household). Therefore, an additional 215 persons living along the 'contact line' belonging to the categories of elderly persons at risk and persons with serious medical conditions were able to benefit from coal distribution. Also, through its winterization program, **UNHCR expanded its humanitarian access to hard-reach areas**. This winter, UNHCR reached three conflict affected localities that had been cut off from humanitarian assistance for the last three years. In GCA, the distribution of winterization in the form of cash **empowered** the beneficiaries with the ability to choose their preferred winterization support by purchasing warm clothes, coal, heaters, among others.

## Winterization Results



# Coal

## 2,227

Households benefitted

## 6,681 T

of coal distributed

To meet the winter heating needs of vulnerable persons living near the ‘contact line’ in NGCA Donetsk, UNHCR provided **6,681 tonnes** of coal to **2,227 households** (3 tonnes per household) for **3,730 persons**. UNHCR’s coal also represents an important **protection intervention** in NGCA. The coal targeted the most vulnerable categories of persons living near the ‘contact line’ in NGCA, including: elderly persons at risk who have serious medical conditions and/or disability. Anecdotal evidence following this year’s distribution shows that the provision of coal resulted in positive **protection impacts for beneficiaries**. As coal represents a substantial financial investment for these vulnerable families, the distribution of coal allowed them to free up their savings to invest in school materials for children to access education, purchasing medicine, transport to access health services and even for food to complement their monthly winter basket.



*The distribution of coal in east Ukraine for the 2018/2019 winter was exclusively supported and funded by EU’s Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).*



# Cash

## 1,030

Households will benefit

## 10,000 UAH

per household

In government-controlled areas, UNHCR provided one-time unconditional winter cash grants of **USD 380 (UAH 10,000)** to **1,020 households** to help them meet winter costs such as heating and clothing. Among those most affected by the cold winters, UNHCR has prioritized the following vulnerable categories:

 LEGAL AND PHYSICAL  
 PROTECTION NEEDS

 SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITIONS  
 AND/OR DISABILITY

 SPECIFIC NEEDS  
 BASED ON AGE

 SEXUAL, GENDER-  
 BASED VIOLENCE

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