

Operational Update

August 2020

In August, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partners delivered **three humanitarian convoys** to Donetsk and Luhansk NGCA, installed **Wi-Fi hotspots at the checkpoint in Stanytsia Luhanska** and helped over **900 persons** to install the mobile phone application required to cross the 'contact line' and enter government-controlled areas. *More operational highlights on page 2.*

UNHCR provided 'cash for protection' to **twelve displaced families** affected by the **COVID-19 restrictions**. This activity was exceptionally introduced to support **one hundred IDPs** living in different regions of Ukraine and not only in locations along the 'contact line'. *More on page 6.*

In August, UNHCR jointly with UNDP, Council of Europe and Free Legal Aid Centre (FLAC) launched the **FLA Volunteers Project** for activists willing to become **paralegals** in eastern Ukraine. The training programme brought on board **thirty-one participants** from conflict-affected Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts. *More on page 4.*

KEY INDICATORS

9,529

Internally displaced (IDPs) and other conflict-affected persons have received **legal assistance** from UNHCR's NGO partners in 2020.

415

Shelters have been repaired in conflict-affected areas on both sides of the 'contact line'.

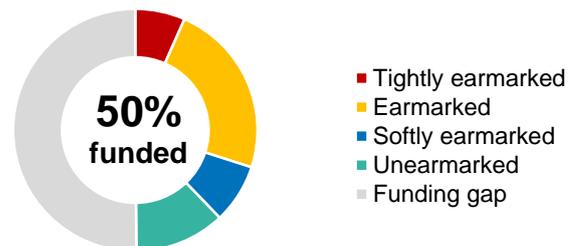
1,233

IDPs and other conflict-affected persons have benefited from **psychosocial support** in 2020.

FUNDING (AS OF 1 SEPTEMBER 2020)

USD 29.8 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2020



This united team of refugees and asylum-seekers demonstrates the unifying power of sport at the all-Ukrainian mini-football tournament in the city of Odesa. In August, eight teams, representing various communities across the country, participated in the event. The team of Crimean Tatars players showed the best performance and won the tournament, while two squads – one led by the members of the African community and the second by refugees – made it to the second and third place. UNHCR jointly with its NGO partner, The Tenth of April, supported the event by providing logistical support to the organizers.

Photo credit: The Tenth of April

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS)*

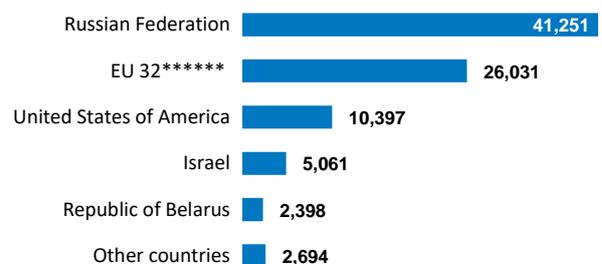
734,000**

OTHER CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS***

1,68 million****

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS FROM UKRAINE

87,832*****



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

**Source: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)

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

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

*****Source: UNHCR's Refugee Population Statistics, December 2019

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

Operational Highlights

During the reporting period, the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe \(OSCE\)](#)'s [Special Monitoring Mission \(SMM\)](#) recorded **585 ceasefire violations in eastern Ukraine**, representing a **95 per cent decrease** as compared to July. This trend was a result of the renewed commitment to the ceasefire reached by the [Trilateral Contact Group to the Minsk negotiations](#) in July. In August, the [UNHCR-led Shelter/NFI Cluster](#) recorded no new damages to civilian houses on both sides of the 'contact line' for the first time since 2017 when the Cluster started systematically tracking such damages and established a database.

UNHCR's Response to COVID-19: During the reporting period, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partner Proliska distributed [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\)](#) to [primary health care facilities](#) along the 'contact line' in the government-controlled areas (GCA) in Donetska and Luhanska oblasts. Since July, PPE items, such as [face masks](#), [medical goggles](#), [gloves and gowns](#), have been provided to **43 primary healthcare institutions** and **155 medical workers** along the 'contact line' in both oblasts. This assistance was distributed as part of UNHCR's [Quick Impact Projects \(QIPs\)](#) aimed at supporting medical workers during the pandemic and improving the provision of health services along the 'contact line'.



37,200 surgical masks



9,300 gowns



37,200 gloves



310 medical goggles

provided to **43** medical facilities

in **Donetska and Luhanska oblasts (GCA)** since July



Humanitarian convoys to NGCA: In August, UNHCR jointly with OCHA facilitated the delivery of **three convoys to the non-government controlled areas (NGCA) in Donetsk and Luhansk**. On 6 August, the convoy delivered six metric tons (MT) of humanitarian assistance for conflict-affected persons and social workers in Donetsk NGCA. This aid, including [electric bicycles](#), [household items](#), [water containers](#), [electrical appliances](#), and [bed linen](#), will be distributed among **28 territorial centres** and **53 first-aid points**, which remain primary health care providers in these areas. On 7 and 13 August, two convoys brought **123 electric bicycles**, **2,050 medical gowns** and other PPE, as well as **21 metric tons of construction materials** belonging to the NGO [People in Need](#), to Luhansk NGCA. These convoys were delivered through the [Entry-Exit Checkpoint \(EECP\)](#) in [Stanytsia Luhanska](#) in Luhanska oblast. As this checkpoint is designated only for pedestrian crossings, the humanitarian cargo had to be transferred manually by UNHCR's teams. *Photo by UNHCR on the left.*

Monitoring Mission to the construction sites of two new EECPs in Luhanska oblast: On 25 and 27 August, [UNHCR](#) jointly with [OCHA](#), [OSCE](#), [ICRC](#) and [WHO](#) participated in a field mission to the future construction sites at the EECPs in the towns of [Shchastia](#) and [Zolote](#) in Luhanska oblast. It is planned that these checkpoints will open in November. During the visit, UN agencies and humanitarian partners conducted a needs assessment and met with the representatives of the [Joint Forces Operation \(JFO\)](#), [State Border Guard Service \(SBGS\)](#) and [Civil-Military Co-operation \(CIMIC\)](#). UNHCR is considering the modalities of assistance to be provided to both new EECPs. *Photo by UNHCR on the right.*



Situation at the EECPs and UNHCR Response: During the reporting period, following [UNHCR's advocacy](#) for improving the provision of services at and near the EECPs in eastern Ukraine, [Oschadbank](#) (main state bank) installed [mobile centres](#) in amalgamated territorial communities in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA and at the EECPs. This will provide better and faster access to banking services for persons crossing the 'contact line'. On 10 August, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partner [Proliska](#) installed **three Wi-fi hotspots at the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska**. Free internet access will enable persons who cross to install the "Act at Home" mobile phone application (required by the Ukrainian authorities for tracking self-isolation), submit or check the validity of an electronic pass and access public online services.



In August, the [EECPs in Novotroitske](#) (Donetska oblast) and [Stanytsia Luhanska](#) (Luhanska oblast) remained the only two operating with a number of restrictions in eastern Ukraine. During the reporting period, the [State Border Guard Service of Ukraine \(SBGS\)](#) recorded **80,683 crossings across the 'contact line'**, which represents a **94 per cent decrease** compared to the same period in 2019 (see [UNHCR's dashboard "Checkpoint Crossing" here](#)). At the [Novotroitske/Olenivka EECP](#), **nine "humanitarian corridors"** were authorized by the de facto authorities according to pre-approved lists allowing for **2,919 persons** to cross the 'contact line' in both directions. At any given period, on average, **over 10 people who were not allowed to cross remained stranded at the checkpoint staying in tents overnight**. At the [Stanytsia Luhanska EECP](#), **77,742 crossings** were recorded in August. Of them, **14,149 individuals were transported by two electric cars operated by UNHCR and its NGO partner Proliska** to help persons with specific needs to cross an 800-metres long passage between the two sides of the checkpoint. In August, [UNHCR's NGO partner, The](#)

Right to Protection (R2P), assisted over 900 persons who were crossing the 'contact line' with installing the "Act at Home" mobile phone application. Technical issues with this app continue to present challenges for persons crossing, especially those who own phones with an older operational system. On 7 August, a collapse of the application was reported resulting in over 1,000 persons being unable to be processed to enter GCA, forcing them to queue for several hours. These challenges combined with an overall increase in crossings, high summer temperatures and queues led to over 30 persons losing consciousness at the EECPs in August.

Legal Highlights

- On 3 August 2020, Members of Parliament registered in the Verhovna Rada [draft law No. 3908-1](#) which would amend the Code of Administrative Procedures to make the liability for domestic and gender-based violence (GBV) stricter. While the original draft law No. 3908 registered in Parliament on 17 July focuses on increasing the fines, the alternative draft No. 3908-1 states that perpetrators among the military should also be held liable, with 120-140 hours of community services among the possible liability measures. The suggested measures may potentially enhance the [protection of SGBV survivors](#).
- On 8 August 2020, the Government adopted [Regulation No. 979-p](#) restricting crossing of the administrative boundary with the Autonomous Republic of Crimea as a preventive measure to the spreading of COVID-19. The restriction was in place from 9 to 30 August. The crossing was only allowed based on residence registration in Crimea, with some exceptions of a humanitarian nature. The list of humanitarian exceptions included restoration of family unity, need for medical treatment, death of a close relative, residence permit in a third country for those in transit travel, participation in the university enrolment campaign and other grounds requiring the urgent crossing of the administrative boundary to be assessed by the Head of the SGBS in coordination with the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories. On 12 August, through Regulation #985-p, the Government [allowed graduates and students with residence registration in Crimea](#) who plan to enroll into universities, or continue studying in Ukrainian educational facilities, [to cross the administrative boundary with Crimea by themselves or with one accompanying adult without staying in self-isolation](#). Regulation #979-p was abolished as of 28 August by Government Resolution #7575.
- On 12 August, the Government of Ukraine supported the draft law "On the passport of a citizen of Ukraine in the form of a booklet" drafted by the State Migration Service (SMS). It envisages a mandatory exchange of national passports in the form of a booklet for plastic biometric ID cards. The draft law stipulates that when a citizen of Ukraine needs to paste a new photo (reaching the age of 25 or 45 years), the passport in the form of a booklet will be replaced by a plastic ID card. The [main shortcomings](#) include the [absence of consideration for the exemption of the EUR 11 payment of administrative fees for obtaining the ID card for the most vulnerable categories of citizens \(e.g. unemployed Roma, homeless, IDPs, etc.\)](#).
- On 21 August, SMS published a draft Government Resolution "[Regarding some issues on recognition as a stateless person](#)" on its official website. Public consultations on the draft by-law are expected to be [finalized on 5 September](#). The published draft, in general, complies with the [Stateless Determination Procedure \(SDP\) law](#) which was adopted in June. However, it has one major shortcoming: the draft provides for the possibility to [terminate a case without any decision on the applicant's statelessness status](#). At the same time, the SDP law does not include this option. [UNHCR jointly with partners have provided comments](#) and suggested amendments to the draft by-law.

Key Advocacy Messages for August

- During the quarantine period, which was first introduced in March, many [banking cards of residents in NGCA](#) have expired. In a situation where freedom of movement across the 'contact line' remains restricted, pensioners residing in NGCA were not able to obtain new cards. Due to the [advocacy of UNHCR and its NGO partners](#), the [Oshchadbank](#) prolonged the [validity of its cards until 30 September](#). Further validity will not be prolonged. However, the bank automatically re-issues cards to exchange those with expired validity. Cards can be collected at the branches where people applied for them first. [UNHCR advocates with the Government of Ukraine to exempt from the self-isolation requirement](#) those people who are entering GCA from NGCA to access banking or other services.
- Under the current legislation, [persons who are placed on observation to comply with the 14-day isolation requirement](#), do not have to pay for their stay. However, they need to cover expenses for food. Currently, it is [impossible to buy food](#) at many observation points, including the facility in Hostre in Donetsk oblast which accommodates those who are crossing from NGCA. The Oblast Administration did not allocate funds to cover food for people staying there. [UNHCR and its NGO partners advocate with the Donetsk Oblast Administration for the allocation of such funds](#), as humanitarian actors will be able to provide food and in-kind assistance only until October.

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 (AUGUST): 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 adopted legislation which impacts the freedom of movement during the COVID-19 outbreak.

[REPORT] EECPS MID-YEAR SURVEY REPORT: This report provides an overview of the results of the survey conducted at all five Entry-Exit Checkpoints (EECPs) in eastern Ukraine from January to June 2020.

[SNAPSHOT] CROSSING THE CONTACT LINE (AUGUST 2020): this joint UNHCR/R2P thematic update presents key developments at the EECPS in eastern Ukraine in August.

[NEWS FEATURE] STORY OF A HUMANITARIAN WORKER AT THE FRONTLINE OF THE CONFLICT IN EASTERN UKRAINE: This article prepared for World Humanitarian Day tells the story of Yevhen Kaplin who leads UNHCR's NGO partner Proliska which works in isolated locations along the 'contact line'.

[PROTECTION CLUSTER] GUIDANCE NOTE ON COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION IN UKRAINE: This document provides an overview of good practices in Ukraine and suggests key actions for effective Community-Based Protection.



Humanitarian Development Nexus

- **Free Legal Aid (FLA) Volunteers' Project in eastern Ukraine:** In August, [UNHCR jointly with UNDP, Council of Europe and Free Legal Aid Centre \(FLAC\)](#) launched the [FLA Volunteers Project](#) for activists willing to become [paralegals in eastern Ukraine](#). [Thirty-one participants](#), representing opinion leaders and members of civil society organizations from [Donetska and Luhanska oblasts](#), were selected to join the programme.
- **Promoting Social Cohesion:** On 17 August, UNHCR participated in a [UNDP selection committee for grants to strengthen social cohesion in communities of Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Luhansk oblasts](#). These projects are to be implemented by UNDP and will use a community-based approach to strengthen social cohesion. During the committee, 21 grant applications were selected. Additionally, UNHCR was involved in the process of project proposal review and evaluation (four proposals were processed).



MULTI-SECTOR RESPONSE TO REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS

Protection of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- **Counselling Asylum-Seekers from Belarus:** In August, UNHCR's NGO partner R2P provided [legal counselling to ten potential asylum-seekers who arrived from Belarus](#). Two of them have confirmed their decision to apply for asylum in Ukraine and have been registered in UNHCR's database.
- **Supporting Asylum-Seekers with COVID-19 tests:** During the reporting period, [four COVID-19 cases](#) were reported by UNHCR's NGO partners in Kyiv and Odesa. To assist these individuals who are unable to access free health care services, UNHCR covered the expenses for the testing.
- **Resettlement Procedures:** During the reporting period [three households from Somalia \(seven persons in total\)](#) departed for resettlement to the [United States of America](#). Their cases were submitted for resettlement consideration in 2016-2017.
- **International Youth Day:** On 12 August, UNHCR jointly with other UN agencies organized a series of events to observe [International Youth Day](#). The online marathon [#100minutesforyouth](#) was the highlight of the day and brought together ten young prominent youth leaders who reflected on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#). Ali Torabi, a young refugee from Afghanistan who benefited from UNHCR's DAFI scholarship programme to pursue his university education in Ukraine, spoke during the event. He raised the issue of social inclusion and spoke of local youth initiatives that have the potential to become a driving force for better integration of refugees in their host communities.
- **Online Moot Court for Law Students:** On 25-27 August, UNHCR joined an [online Moot court](#) event, organized by its NGO partner [The Tenth of April](#) for [law students of several leading universities across Ukraine](#). The presentations covered topics related to the [national asylum procedure, refugee status](#) in international and national legislation, as well as [UNHCR's protection role vis-à-vis displaced populations](#).
- **Community-Based Protection Initiatives:** During the reporting period, UNHCR jointly with its NGO partners organized a meeting of the [Community-Based Protection Working Group](#). The discussion was focused on the

development of an [integration brochure](#) outlining the rights and obligations of asylum-seekers and refugees. It was also agreed that UNHCR's NGO partner, The Tenth of April will support the Regional Migration Service in Odesa with the establishment of a [Regional Refugee Council](#).

615

Persons received Legal Assistance

(including refugees and asylum-seekers) in Kyiv, Odesa, Zakarpattia and Kharkiv regions in August

75

Persons provided with language training for livelihood purposes

(including refugees and asylum-seekers) thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support in August

29

Persons received Psychosocial Assistance

(including refugees and asylum-seekers) thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support in August

220

Persons were assisted in accessing healthcare

(including refugees and asylum-seekers) thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support in August

Livelihood Interventions for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

- In August, UNHCR met with IKEA representatives to explore employment opportunities for refugees and persons granted complementary protection in Ukraine. IKEA is currently recruiting staff to work at its first physical shop in Ukraine which is planned to be opened in November. It was agreed that UNHCR will share available vacancies among eligible candidates in the framework of its global cooperation with the company.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR longlisted 50 applications out of 100 that have been received for the 2020 round of self-reliance grants provided to support livelihoods projects of refugees in Ukraine. The identified applicants will be advised on the development of their business ideas to be later presented for evaluation by the Livelihoods Grants Committee. Since the launch of this project in 2018, 73 refugees have started their own businesses thanks to this one-time assistance provided by UNHCR.



Shakil, a refugee from Afghanistan, always enjoyed working with wood and designing furniture. Having worked as a carpenter for seven years, he decided to take his skills to the next level and complete a furniture design course. Shakil benefited from UNHCR's vocational training grant which enabled him to cover the tuition fees and procure a laptop. During the training, Shakil greatly improved his skills, not just in design but also in the Russian language. He now receives more orders from clients and expanded his services which cover both the design and production of furniture. Recently, Shakil started organizing regular workshops and, with his business thriving, is able to offer jobs to other refugees and asylum-seekers in Odesa. Photo by UNHCR.*

Assistance to Stateless Persons and Persons at Risk of Statelessness

- During the reporting month, UNHCR's NGO partner NEEKA reported three COVID-19 cases in a Roma settlement in Zakarpattia oblast. These individuals, including one person of concern to UNHCR, were hospitalized for treatment. Following the outbreak, NEEKA advocated with the local authorities to ensure the disinfection of the Roma camp and the introduction of effective contact tracing.
- On 18 August, UNHCR's NGO partner, The Tenth of April, organized a [webinar](#) with Oleh Paliy, a [legal expert from Moldova on issues related to statelessness](#). During the presentation, he referred to several positive practices in [Statelessness Determination Procedure \(SDP\)](#) in the Republic of Moldova. This input has particular value for full implementation of the recently adopted SDP law in Ukraine.

8

Stateless persons (or at risk of) (37% female, 63% male) obtained a passport or other document certifying nationality

in August thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support

271

Stateless persons (or at risk of) (41% female, 59% male) received advice on the acquisition or confirmation of nationality

in August thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support

18

Persons obtained their birth certificates for the first time

in August thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners' support


PROTECTION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED AND OTHER CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS
Protection Cluster

- During the reporting period, the Protection Cluster finalized the **Free Legal Aid Directory for Internally Displaced and Conflict-Affected People in Ukraine for 2020**. This tool facilitates information sharing and legal aid referrals. It includes a list of organizations providing free legal consultations both in person as well as through hotlines and mobile teams, across Ukraine.
- In August, the Protection Cluster released its **“Guidance note on Community-Based Protection in Ukraine”**. This document was developed to ensure a common understanding of this approach amongst the growing number of Protection Cluster partners that implement Community-Based Protection (CBP) projects. The note also provides an overview of good practices in Ukraine and suggests key actions for effective CBP.
- On 27 September, the Protection Cluster presented the **guidelines on the collection of data on people with disabilities in Ukraine** to Food Security and Livelihood Cluster partners. The guidelines were developed jointly by the Protection and Health Clusters to provide concrete steps for improving the identification of people with disabilities in Ukraine.


UNHCR Protection Activities

- **Emergency ‘cash for protection’ for COVID-19 related cases among IDPs:** In August, UNHCR approved **twelve IDP cases who will receive Individual Protection Assistance (in cash)**. This activity was exceptionally introduced in July to support **one hundred internally displaced families** that have been affected by COVID-19 related restrictions. This assistance will be allocated to households throughout Ukraine excluding those in zones located in close proximity to the ‘contact line’, already benefiting from IPA.
- **High-level Panel on Internal Displacement consultations:** On 17 August, UNHCR hosted consultations with mayors, deputy mayors and representatives of city councils on behalf of the **UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement**. This event was organized to discuss **practical ways to address the evolving needs of IDPs during protracted displacement** lasting over six years. During the event, UNHCR reiterated that housing solutions, access to employment and the possibility to vote in local elections remain underlying pre-requisites for successful integration of IDPs into their host communities. *Photo by UNHCR on the right.*



Legal Assistance and Protection Counselling
916

Internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons (69% female, 31% male) received legal assistance from UNHCR and its partners in August

2,731

Persons (69% female, 31% male) benefited from individual protection counselling in August

9

Group consultations on protection-related issues were provided to 84 persons (82% female, 18% male) in areas along the ‘contact line’ in August


Social Accompaniment

- In August, UNHCR’s NGO partners provided social accompaniment to **887 individuals (9 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. This number represents a **52 per cent increase compared with July**, as many people **needed assistance with installing the “Act at Home” mobile phone application while crossing the ‘contact line’**.



Mykola*, 59, is a pensioner who lives in NGCA and is facing difficulties in receiving his pension due to the restricted movement across the 'contact line'. He had to obtain a new banking card in order to continue receiving his payments from the state. However, travelling to GCA to access banking services was impossible from March to June as the EECPs were closed. In August, Mykola benefited from the partial reopening of the checkpoints and crossed to GCA through the EECP in Stanytsia Luhanska. UNHCR's NGO partner Proliska helped him to install the "Act at Home" mobile phone application required by the Ukrainian authorities to track the self-isolation of all individuals arriving in GCA. Furthermore, Proliska's team accompanied Mykola to the bank office and

helped him to receive a new card in the shortest term. This enabled him to receive his pension payments accumulated in recent months, which were urgently needed to cover expenses for medicines and utilities. Photo by Proliska.



Psychosocial assistance

121

69% Female | 31% Male
Persons received consultations in August

During the reporting period, UNHCR's NGO partners provided **121 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 the quarantine restrictions.

In August, UNHCR's NGO partner Proliska reported about **three suicides committed in the town of Svitlodarsk**, located only two kilometres away from the 'contact line'. Proliska's psychologists note that the **quarantine lockdown has significantly reduced access to psychological support for conflict-affected persons** at a time when they are experiencing increased stress due to the pandemic and aggravated socio-economic situation.



Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

- During the reporting period, UNHCR's NGO partner Proliska identified **four new SGBV cases in the conflict-affected areas of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts**. The survivors received counselling support as well as psychosocial assistance provided by trained psychologists.
- On 6 August, UNHCR discussed ways to better integrate gender aspects into humanitarian programming with a **gender specialist at GIZ**. UNHCR provided its **analysis and recommendations on strengthening the promotion of gender equality** and presented its recent activities aimed at preventing SGBV in eastern Ukraine. Practical ways to improve the coordination between the various state service providers, as well as livelihood interventions for SGBV survivors, were identified as priority areas for joint support.



Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

640 296

IPA cash IPA in-kind

beneficiaries selected in 2020

In August, UNHCR continued to identify and provide the most vulnerable conflict-affected individuals in eastern Ukraine with '**cash for protection**'. This assistance is used to cover different types of needs, ranging from winterization and livelihood items to medical examinations and procedures. In areas where state services are not accessible, UNHCR and its NGO partners provide **Individual Protection Assistance in-kind**. In August, UNHCR approved the provision of '**cash for protection**' to **52 persons**. In addition, **36 persons with specific needs were supported with 'in-kind assistance'**.



Zinayida*, 83, lives by herself in the conflict-affected town of Makiivka. During the ongoing conflict, she lost her husband who died after having a heart attack. Zinayida's health has also deteriorated due to the everyday stress that she experiences while living near the 'contact line'. Her house was hit by shelling several times. She vividly remembers how she was running for her life to seek shelter in the basement of her house during shelling in 2017. Zinayida fell and was seriously hurt. Later, she was diagnosed with diabetes and cancer and is still undergoing treatment. Her pension is the only source of income which she spends to buy medicine and pay for utilities. Jointly with its NGO partner DDC, UNHCR supported Zinayida by providing 'in-kind' assistance which included a walking stick, a blood pressure measuring device and two sets of bed linen. Photo by DDC.



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

57

Projects
(47 COVID-19 related)
approved in 2020

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.



One hundred twenty-three brand new bicycles are now at the service of social workers who provide care to persons with specific needs in Luhansk NGCA. UNHCR procured and delivered these bicycles through a humanitarian convoy across the 'contact line'. This assistance was distributed as part of UNHCR's Peaceful Coexistence Projects (PCPs) and aims to increase the mobility of medical care and social services providers in isolated localities along the 'contact line'. A social centre in the town of Sverdlovsk was one of the facilities that received this assistance in August. In total, the centre supports 300 persons, many of whom are elderly, bed-ridden or persons with disabilities. Photo by UNHCR.



Community Support Initiatives (CSIs)

55

Initiatives
(46 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.



In August, UNHCR organized a summer camp for children from displaced and conflict-affected communities in Donetsk oblast. As part of this Community Support Initiative (CSI), UNHCR procured and provided outdoor equipment and also facilitated the participation of juvenile police, child services and local authorities in the activities. The CSI sought to provide an opportunity for children to learn about their rights, as well as reduce the impact of the conflict and COVID-19 related restrictions on their mental health. In total, 60 children participated in the summer camp which took place in the village of Shchurove in Donetsk oblast. Photo by UNHCR.



SHELTER / NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)

Shelter and NFI Achievements, Impact, and Identified Needs

- During the reporting month, UNHCR continued to implement shelter repairs in GCA after it took over this activity from its NGO partner, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), whose partnership agreement was concluded in June. **62 houses are now completed** while the repair of **73 houses (including 17 heavy repairs is ongoing)**.
- As of the end of August, UNHCR completed the **repair of 67 houses out of 215 planned to rehabilitate in Luhansk NGCA in 2020**. The repair of nineteen houses is in process.
- In August, UNHCR re-announced a **new tender for medium and heavy repairs in Donetsk NGCA**. In total, it is planned to repair **256 houses (including 26 heavy repairs)** that have been damaged during the conflict.



Voluntary Relocation

4

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

In 2019, with the conflict in Ukraine stretching into its sixth year and with many families with specific needs still living under very difficult conditions in affected locations, UNHCR initiated a **pilot project of voluntarily relocating families** who live in **dangerous areas along the 'contact line'**. Persons who benefit from this project are carefully selected based on **protection vulnerability criteria** and a **security assessment** of the settlements where they are relocated to.

Shelter/NFI Cluster

- During the reporting period, the UNHCR-led Shelter/NFI Cluster finalized its **2020 Mid-Year achievements report**. The document covers the finalization of the Norwegian Refugee Council's shelter program in Ukraine (in partnership with UNHCR), implications of COVID-19 related measures for the implementation of the shelter activities in eastern Ukraine, as well as the shelter repair programme of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU). The report highlights the **impact of the COVID-19 related quarantine restrictions** which prompted humanitarian actors, including UNHCR and its NGO partners, to halt their shelter activities in eastern Ukraine from mid-March until the end of May.
- On 14 August, the Shelter/NFI Cluster held a **national Cluster meeting** which was attended by twenty participants representing actors implementing shelter activities and NFI distribution, as well as by regional authorities in Donetsk oblast. During the meeting, the Donetsk Oblast Administration informed about plans to increase the target for the planned house repairs implemented by SESU.
- During the reporting period, the Shelter/NFI Cluster worked closely with the **Ministry for the Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories** to develop a **roadmap of the digital solutions for the destroyed houses compensation mechanism**. As a relevant decree (No. 947) is due to be finalized in the following weeks, the Ministry seeks to establish a unified governmental database to manage existing data on housing damages. It is planned that the Cluster's database on damaged dwellings will serve as a basis for this tool.

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 \$14,857,200**. 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.

Sweden 76.4 million | **Private Donors Spain** 45.9 million | **Norway** 41.4 million | **Netherlands** 36.1 million | **Denmark** 34.6 million | **United Kingdom** 31.7 million | **Germany** 25.9 million | **Private donors Republic of Korea** 23.9 million | **Private donors Japan** 15.2 million | **Switzerland** 16.4 million | **France** 14 million | **Private donors Italy** 10.8 million | **Italy** 10.6 million

SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region.

Germany 62.7 million | **United States of America** 34.3 million | **United Kingdom** 24.8 million | **Denmark** 14.6 million | **Canada** 8.7 million | **Private donors USA** 7.7 million | **Private donors Australia** 7.4 million | **Private donors Japan** 4.4 million | **Spain** 3.4 million | **Ireland** 3.3 million | **Sweden** 3 million | **Private donors Germany** 2.4 million | **Private donors United Kingdom** 2.2 million

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 5.6 million | **European Union** 1.7 million | **Canada** 0.436 million | **Sweden** 0.415 million | **Japan** 0.273 million | **Russian Federation** 0.25 million | **Norway** 0.241 million | **Estonia** 0.218 million | **Slovakia** 0.054 million | **United Nations Foundation** 0.2 million | **UN Programme On HIV/AIDS** 0.03 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.*