

Ukraine

August 2021

In Ukraine, UNHCR responds for three populations: refugees and asylum-seekers, stateless persons and persons with undetermined nationality, and 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 August, due to the escalation of violence in Afghanistan, 370 Afghan citizens, who were evacuated by Ukraine, applied for international protection to the State Migration Service of Ukraine.

KEY INDICATORS

578

refugees and asylum-seekers **benefited from legal assistance** in August 2021.

101

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

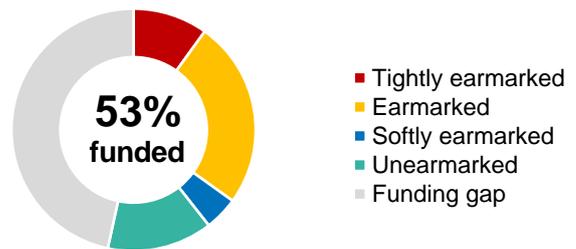
93

Houses have been repaired in conflict-affected areas on both sides of the 'contact line' since the beginning of 2021.

FUNDING (AS OF 7 SEPTEMBER 2021)

USD 28.9 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2021



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A UNHCR self-reliance grantee and the owner of two cafes in Ukraine, Mashrabchon (on the left), and Ukrainian famous chef, Iurii Kovryzhenko (on the right), are cooking Uzbek plov as part of the UNHCR's public information project "The recipes of new life" dedicated to the World Humanitarian Day, August 2021.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS)*

734,000**

OTHER CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS***

1,62 million****

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN UKRAINE

4,633*****

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: UNHCR's Refugee Population Statistics Database, June 2021

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Operational Highlights

- In August, due to the escalation of violence in Afghanistan, the Government of Ukraine facilitated six evacuation flights for Ukrainians, Afghans and third country citizens. As reported by the State Migration Service of Ukraine (SMS), 370 Afghan citizens who arrived on these flights applied for international protection to the SMS. UNHCR and its NGO partners coordinated with the SMS to help the new arrivals to access the asylum procedure. NGO partners assisted with interpretation services, legal counseling and preparation of asylum applications and provided social assistance, including food packages, clothing and cash assistance to people with specific vulnerabilities. Monitoring of the situation of the newly arrived Afghan applicants continues.
- In August, UNHCR organized three humanitarian convoys to the non-government controlled areas (NGCA). On 11 and 18 August, a total of 28 trucks containing medical equipment and construction materials arrived to Luhansk NGCA through the Entry-Exit Crossing Point (EECP) in Schastia. On 19 August, UNHCR delivered 10 trucks with water and non-food items (NFIs) to Donetsk NGCA through the EECP in Novotroitske.
- In August, COVID-19 rules in Ukraine were tightened to counter the proliferation of the Delta variant of the coronavirus, reintroducing the requirement for self-isolation with the *Vdoma* application at international borders, at EECPs along the contact line in the east and at the administrative boundary with Crimea. Self-isolation can be terminated by a negative test taken after crossing; However, there are some exemptions, such as fully vaccinated foreigners and stateless persons and fully or partially vaccinated Ukrainian citizens, people travelling to access vaccination in GCA and children, among others. People crossing the Novotroitske EECP from NGCA to CGA who could not install the application were sent to a centre for compulsory observation that did not provide catering or food during their stay. UNHCR's NGO partner Proliska provided a one-month food supply to ease the situation in the observation center.
- 435 applications for Statelessness Determination Procedure (SDP) have been registered by the State Migration Service of Ukraine (SMS) since applications started being accepted in May, of which 14 per cent (62 applications) were submitted with the assistance of UNHCR's NGO partners.

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 of Ukraine. In 2021, UNHCR has agreements with eight 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 4 and 5 August, UNHCR's NGO partner, The Tenth of April, together with the Odesa oblast Migration Service, the Coordination Centre for Free Legal Aid and the Fifth Appellate Administrative Court co-organized moot court competition in Odesa. The event was a simulation of court proceedings during which 16 participants from the Odesa oblast Migration Service, the local Free Legal Aid Centers (FLAC) and law students developed their skills in representing asylum cases at court hearings.
- On 26 August, UNHCR's NGO partner Right to Protection (R2P) conducted a training on Refugee Status Determination for seven participants from the regional and state Migration Service in Lviv. On 27 August, a similar training was conducted for 15 attorneys from the FLAC in Lviv.
- On 19 August, UNHCR's NGO partner The Tenth of April conducted a training for 23 medical and social workers in Odesa on working with asylum-seekers and refugees and challenges they face in the medical and social sectors.
- On 25 and 26 August, UNHCR shared its new global [Position on Returns to Afghanistan \(August 2021\)](#), calling on States to impose a moratorium on forced returns to Afghanistan, with the State Migration Service of Ukraine, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and the Supreme Court of Ukraine.



Community Engagement

UNHCR's NGO partner, The Tenth of April, identified a new Tatar-Bashkir community of 16 members and provided assistance with its official registration as a civic organization. The community's activities focus on integrating newly arrived asylum-seekers and conducting educational activities for children and adolescents.

Key Figures

 **578**

Persons received legal assistance

(refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **150**

Persons were assisted in accessing healthcare

(refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **37**

Persons received psychosocial assistance

(refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **70**

Persons provided with language training for livelihoods

(refugees and asylum-seekers)

Stateless Persons and Persons with Undetermined Nationality

Key Figures

 **14**

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

 **280**

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

 **34**

Persons **obtained birth certificates**

 **13**

Stateless persons **assisted with applying to statelessness determination procedures**

Internally Displaced and Other Conflict-Affected Persons



Advocacy and Capacity Building

- On 19 August, the President of Ukraine signed three laws cancelling the “Crimea” free economic zone. The zone was introduced in 2014 to regulate taxation and the use of currency and payments in Crimea. It resulted in a “non-residential status” for Crimean residents, who in the government-controlled area (GCA) are treated as foreigners even though they have Ukrainian citizenship when it comes to taxation and access to banking services. The new laws will end the discriminatory treatment of Crimean residents in their access to state services in GCA. The positive legal development follows years of concerted advocacy by the humanitarian community in Ukraine, including UNHCR, in addressing this issue.
- On 25 August, UNHCR provided technical advice on draft guidance for persons entering or exiting GCA through Russian Federation territory. It follows the recent [law #5478](#) on abolishing administrative fines for persons residing in NGCA for violating the procedures for entering or exiting NGCA by crossing through Russian territory. The guidance is aimed at raising awareness about the new rules and was developed by an informal coalition of NGOs involved in protection of IDPs and conflict-affected persons in coordination with the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories.



Community Engagement

- On 14 August, UNHCR’s NGO partner Crimea SOS organized the fourth annual “Festival of inspiration for communities” in Kyiv, a networking event that gathered civic initiatives working with IDPs and refugees. During the event, communities conducted workshops and presented their activities, and also shared best practices on topics such as engaging with local authorities, using crowd funding as well as theater to raise awareness about displacement. The festival was attended by 90 participants from 30 different organizations and initiative groups of IDPs and refugees and partner organizations from across 12 regions of Ukraine.

 **Protection**

- In August, UNHCR provided technical and material support to two centres for the provision of social services in Hirske and Shchastia, Luhansk oblast aimed at addressing gaps as a result of their restructuring due to the administrative reform in Ukraine.

Key Figures **688**

Internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons received legal assistance

 **2,271**

Persons benefited from individual protection counselling

 **12**

Group consultations on protection-related issues were provided to 118 people in areas along the 'contact line'

 **334**

Persons were provided with social accompaniment

12.6 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.

 **84**

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. This assistance is used to cover essential needs, particularly for persons with disabilities. The assistance is provided within a case management approach and helps enable the beneficiaries to access public services. In areas where state services are not accessible, UNHCR and NGO partners provided in-kind IPA. Since June, UNHCR also provided 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'.

 **104**

IPA cash beneficiaries were selected by UNHCR and its NGO partners in August

 **61**

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

 **18**

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

 **26**

Community Support Projects (CSPs)

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 aimed at

**approved in
August**

strengthening the capacity of communities to (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 31 August 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, as of 31 August 2021, 40 houses have been repaired so far in 2021 and repairs of 50 more houses are currently ongoing through the direct distribution of construction materials. In addition, four houses were repaired while the repair of 11 houses is underway using a contracted construction company. Lastly, the replacement of windows on 141 more houses is ongoing.
- In Luhansk NGCA, as of 31 August 2021, 11 houses have been repaired through the direct distribution of construction materials, while the repair of 31 more houses is ongoing. An additional 28 houses (26 with medium and 2 with heavy damage) have been repaired with the use of a construction company, while the repair of nine 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

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