Hostilities remain focused in the east and south and continue to force people to leave their homes and seek safety, either elsewhere in Ukraine or abroad. Efforts to evacuate civilians from Donetsk are ongoing and the government has reported that over 7,000 people have been supported to leave the region since 1 August. UNHCR works with local authorities to support evacuees with protection services and relief items.

Further instances of fighting close to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant have been reported and fears of a possible catastrophe continue to mount. On 18 August, the President of Ukraine met with the President of Türkiye and the UN Secretary-General in Lviv where they discussed nuclear security and a possible mission of the IAEA, the UN Nuclear watchdog, to the site. Talks to seek access for the IAEA continue.

UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner Kelly Clements met with Ukraine’s Vice Prime Minister Vereshchuk on 17 August to discuss UNHCR’s support to the government and local partners to repair housing and deliver lifesaving aid in advance of winter. A follow-up meeting took place with the Ministry of Reintegration on 22 August to discuss UNHCR’s winterization plan in greater detail. With winter only a few months away, responding to winterization needs is a key priority. UNHCR is scaling up programmes that enable IDPs, conflict-affected persons and returnees to access safe, warm and dignified accommodation during the harsh winter months.
UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner, Kelly Clements, meets with IDPs in Ukraine

The UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner, Kelly Clements, visited Ukraine to meet with displaced communities, those living in conflict affected areas, and to reassure government authorities of UNHCR’s steadfast support.

Locations visited included the Lviv Unbroken Mother and Children facility. The centre provides social housing and services for women who were forced to leave their homes due to the war. In particular, pregnant women can recuperate after childbirth in proper conditions.

UNHCR is supporting with essential winter items and protection services, such as legal assistance.

- IDPs affected by missile strikes at two collective centres on 18 August in Kharkiv received psychosocial support and humanitarian assistance from UNHCR partner Prolisla.
- Over the past week, UNHCR and partners conducted 58 monitoring visits to border crossing points with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Moldova. In the process, 483 people on the move received protection counselling, 98 received legal assistance, and 23 were supported through social accompaniment.
- UNHCR delivered 900 emergency shelter kits to hard hit areas in Dnipropetrovska and Sumska oblasts. Among these were emergency shelter kits and materials which were delivered to three dormitories hosting 200 IDPs affected by recent missile strikes in Dnipro.
- With winter approaching, winterization activities are gaining pace. In Zakarpattia, close to 500 IDPs received winterized NFIs, including thermoses and sleeping bags. With a view to upgrading collective centres to make them fit for winter, over 40 collective centres have been assessed to identify the work needed to make them better suited to host people.
- Over 2,200 IDPs in 11 collective centres in Dnipropetrovska, Poltavska, and Kharkivska received core-relief items to address basic needs.
- UNHCR’s representative in Ukraine met with the Minister of Social Policy on 22 August on continued and enhanced cooperation to reach and support the most vulnerable with cash assistance, protection services, and housing ahead of winter. So far, UNHCR has disbursed cash to 139,000 vulnerable people referred by the Ministry.

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