Context & Overview

- Housing conditions for millions of Ukrainians have become increasingly perilous since the start of the war. Displacement, property damage, sudden loss of livelihoods and disruption to supply and access to gas and fuel have left many families living in uncertain conditions or buildings ill-prepared for winter. The joint assessment released by the Government of Ukraine, the European Commission, and the World Bank estimates that around 817,000 residential units were impacted by the war, 38 percent of them destroyed beyond repair as of 1 June 2022. With the harsh weather approaching, early interventions are essential to ensure warm, safe, and dignified living conditions for affected people.

- The winterization response is UNHCR's top priority for the next six months. As coordinator of the Protection, Shelter/NFI and CCCM clusters, UNHCR led the development of the 2022 Interagency Ukraine Winterization Plan that has been consolidated into a comprehensive response by OCHA, which targets an estimated 2.4 million people with winter support. UNHCR has scaled up its current programme and will contribute with light and medium housing repairs and insulation, collective centre improvements and expansions, winterized NFIs and cash supporting needs during winter including heating and utilities. Strengthened protection referrals, with a particular focus on psychosocial support and legal assistance to support access to key civil and housing, land and property documentation to support solutions from the start, accompany UNHCR’s winterization response.

- Close coordination with central and local government counterparts has been and remains critical in developing and delivering effective winterization support. The assessment, capacity mapping and repair of critical infrastructure will be essential to much of the response by government and private sector providers. The humanitarian response seeks to fill more immediate gaps targeted toward vulnerable families and individuals.

- As much of the winterization response is focused on household and community-level support activities, the Shelter and NFI cluster is working to strengthen sub-national coordination structures and improve IM capacity for partner mapping and monitoring of implementation progress. UNHCR, as the cluster lead, will work to ensure that coverage of interventions and preparatory actions required are streamlined, demonstrable and coordinated with partners to avoid duplication and gaps.

Targeted Population Groups

- People living in war-damaged areas, particularly vulnerable people in isolated living conditions, not connected to main energy and heating infrastructure, and need prioritised technical support.

- IDPs in collective centres: A significant number of collective centres will require some form of repair to ensure they are winter-ready. The capacity of collective centres also needs to be expanded to accommodate new IDPs.

Intervention Areas

UNHCR will contribute to three areas of winterization intervention:

- Provision of winterized core relief items
- Shelter interventions for collective centres and damaged homes
- Cash for Winter

UNHCR Winterization Response Target

942,966 individuals
1. Provision of winterized core relief items

The winterization NFI response will, in addition to the standard NFIs, include the distribution of winterized household items comprising three high thermal blankets, three quilts, three sleeping bags, and two thermos flasks per household and winter clothing as well as the delivery of heating appliances.

PLANNING FIGURES: 567,000 people (189,000 HH) reached with winterized NFIs including 30,000 people (10,000 HH) with heating appliances

In priority 30% in east / 30% in central and south/ 20% in north / 20% in west

2. Shelter interventions for collective centres and damaged homes

Shelter interventions focus on two objectives:

a.) Supporting conflict-affected population and returnees with repairs including insulation. Coupled with UNHCR’s regular shelter programme, which includes light and medium repairs for damaged homes, additional repair work such as installing ceiling insulation, new PVC windows and fixing gaps around floors and windows, aims to help better sustain a warm home in winter.

PLANNING FIGURES: 24,600 people (8,200 HH) supported with repairs and/or insulation activities

Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovskva, Kyivska, Mikolaivska, Odeska, Poltavskva, Sumskva, Zaproizka, and Zhytomyrska.

3. Cash for Winter

In addition to the regular multi-purpose cash (MPC) assistance of UAH 2,220 per person per month for three months, a top-up of UAH 6,660 per person will be disbursed to help IDPs and other conflict-affected people meet increased costs associated with the winter period, including 130,000 vulnerable individuals referred by the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP).

PLANNING FIGURES: 336,966 individuals supported with winter cash assistance

Newly enrolled IDPs and conflict-affected people from 1 September have been targeted for UNHCR’s winter cash assistance in Cherkaska, Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovskva, Kharkivska, Kirovohradskva, Kyivska, Lvivska, Odeska, Poltavskva, Sumskva, Vinnytska, Zaporizka, and Zhytomyrska oblasts.

This figure includes 130,000 vulnerable individuals including from Donetska, Khersonska, Luhansa and Zaporizka oblasts referred by MoSP.