Ukrainian Crisis - Situational Analysis

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Contents

Executive Summary.................................................................1
Crisis Timeline..............................................................................2
Conflict........................................................................................3
Displacement..............................................................................6
Humanitarian Access.................................................................7
  Humanitarian Impact, Conditions and Response......................10
  Conflict-Affected Areas in Ukraine........................................10
  IDPs in Ukraine....................................................................14
Displaced people who have crossed international borders to neighbouring countries........16
Wider Context..........................................................................18

Executive Summary

Ukrainian forces have regained control of areas around Kyiv, with Russian consolidating their positions in the south and east. Nearly 300 people were buried in a mass grave near Kyiv, in the town of Bucha, with more bodies being found on the streets of the town and in nearby Irpin and Motyzhyn. Heavy bombardment of many cities such as Kharkiv and Mariupol continues.

Approximately a quarter of Ukraine’s population is now displaced with 4.28 million people fleeing across the borders to neighbouring countries and 7.28 million internally displaced. Although these numbers have increased by approximately 1.3 million over the past 2 weeks, the rate at which displacement is occurring has slowed significantly.

Efforts continue to negotiate humanitarian corridors to some of the most conflict-affected areas. The aim is to both deliver humanitarian aid and evacuate civilian residents. However, attempts to reach some areas, such as Mariupol have mostly been unsuccessful. The health and living conditions of those in these encircled cities is of mounting concern.
The impact of the conflict on the health sector continues with further damage to health infrastructure, challenges in accessing and distributing adequate medical supplies and increasing pressure on areas hosting large numbers of IDPs. There is a lack of information from some of the areas affected by the heaviest fighting where hundreds of thousands of residents are unable to leave or seek medical assistance due to the ongoing insecurity.

Attacks on food silos, loss of livelihoods and the ongoing impact of the conflict on agriculture is driving up food insecurity within Ukraine. IDPs cite financial support as their most pressing need.

Online learning has resumed for around three million children, but access to education remains limited in conflict-affected areas and the destruction of education infrastructure continues. Both IDP and refugee children also face challenges to accessing online education services or to integrate into host country education systems while at the same time dealing with the psychological impact of conflict and displacement.

Neighbouring countries continue to host residents from Ukraine fleeing the war, offering access to basic services including accommodation, healthcare and education. Some countries also provide cash assistance and support Ukrainians in finding work. Overall hosting conditions have been described as adequate though with a few gaps (notably WASH-related). However, discrimination towards third-country nationals is still being reported and protection risks are on the rise due to an important number of unaccompanied children and a high rate of women within the refugees. Whilst the immediate needs of refugees seem to have been met, there is uncertainty as to how the host countries can cope with the pressure of such a large-scale influx over the longer term.

About this report

The analysis provided is a synthesis of information collected and tagged using the DEEP platform from publicly available sources and supplemented by assessment data provided by humanitarian partners working in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. For this report, 825 documents (collected between March 21 and April 04) were reviewed, covering 6 countries and sourced from 165 publishers resulting in a total of 3,722 entries being tagged. This report has been prepared on behalf of the Information Management and Analysis Cell (IMAC) in Ukraine, but the analysis provided is conducted independently by Data Friendly Space (DFS). MAPACTION has provided mapping support to this product.
Crisis Timeline

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

3 March
Takeover of Kherson (Southern Ukraine) by the Russian troops.
A total of one million people fled Ukraine in the seven days since the Russian invasion began.
Second round of talks between Ukrainians and Russians and agreement on humanitarian corridors.

28 February
Adoption of a decree in Ukraine to give visas to foreigners wishing to join the Ukrainian army.
Request from Ukraine to join the European Union.
First round of Ukrainian-Russian talks.

26 February
Extension of curfew in Kyiv.

23 February
Declaration of a state of emergency in Ukraine.

9 March
$1.4 Billion approved by IMF to support Ukraine.
Russian airstrike on a maternity hospital in Mariupol.

8 March
More than two million people fled Ukraine.

7 March
Third round of talks between Ukrainians and Russians and agreement on humanitarian corridors.

6 March
Second day of failure of cease-fire in Mariupol.

4 March
Takeover of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station in Ukraine by Russian troops.

3 March
Mounting evidence of war crimes in Bucha and other areas around Kyiv.

31 March
24 hours ceasefire in Mariupol followed by failed attempt of civilians' evacuation.
OPEC decides to continue low oil production.

30 March
Over 7 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine.
10% of Ukraine's population has fled the country.

29 March
Areas around Kyiv retaken by Ukraine.
Peace talks in Istanbul between the two countries.

28 March
Ukrainian President says his country is ready to discuss adopting neutral status.

23 March
Over 2,500 casualties of civilians reported.
Agreement between Russia and Ukraine on 9 humanitarian corridors, excluding Mariupol.

21 March
Close to 2,500 civilian casualties reported.
More than ten million people have been displaced internally or externally by the war.
Ukraine rejects Russia's demand to surrender Mariupol.

18 March
Raid hits airport near Lviv full of civilians.

16 March
Raid hits Mariupol theatre full of civilians killing 300.
6.48M individuals are internally displaced within Ukraine. 3 million people fled Ukraine.

15 March
35 hour Curfew imposed in Kyiv after civilian buildings hit by airstrikes and missiles.

11 March
300 million euros disbursed by the European Commission for Ukraine. $13.6 Billion approved by US to support Ukraine.
Expansion of Russian air strikes to northwest and southwest of Ukraine.
2.5 million people fled Ukraine.

7 March
Third round of talks between Ukrainians and Russians and agreement on humanitarian corridors.

6 March
Second day of failure of cease-fire in Mariupol.

4 March
Takeover of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station in Ukraine by Russian troops.

2 March
UN Resolution demanding the cessation of hostilities. Investigation launch by ICC on war crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine.

1 March
Flash Appeal for Ukraine launched by the United Nations.

24 February
Russian Launches military invasion of Ukraine.
Missile and artillery attacks in Ukraine by Russia (including Kyiv).
Curfew imposed in Kyiv.
Adoption of the Martial law in Ukraine.

21 February
Recognition of Luhansk and Donetsk as independent states by Russia. Russian invasion in eastern Ukraine.
The Russian Federation launched a large-scale military offensive into Ukraine on February 24, 2022. As of April 03, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded 3,455 civilian casualties (1,417 killed, and 2,038 injured). However, the actual figure is likely to be considerably higher. Most of the civilian casualties recorded were caused by the use of explosive weapons with a wide impact area, including shelling from heavy artillery and multiple launch rocket systems, and missile and air strikes (OHCHR 03/04/2022).

Ukrainian troops have regained control of areas around Kyiv, with Russian troops continuing to withdraw from the Kyiv Oblast. Russian troops have been strengthening their position in Eastern and Southern Ukraine, where Russia has made significant territorial gains since the beginning of the war (ISW 03/04/2022).

Key cities are being encircled and continue to experience heavy bombardment, leaving people isolated and facing severe shortages of food, water and energy supplies (FAQ 25/03/2022).
Mariupol:
Fighting continues in and around Mariupol, with Russian forces continuing to capture territory in central Mariupol. Despite several sporadic convoys of private cars evacuating from Mariupol, tens of thousands of civilians remain unable to leave the city and without food or water. As of April 2, a Red Cross evacuation mission has yet to successfully evacuate civilians from Mariupol after being turned back for weeks now. Limited information of the humanitarian conditions inside the besieged city is known due to the communication blackout (ISW 03/04/2022, AP News 03/04/2022, BBC 03/04/2022, DW 02/04/2022, DW 01/04/2022).

Kharkiv:
The city of Kharkiv has been subjected to massive and indiscriminate missile and artillery strikes since the beginning of the war, with widespread damage. Russian forces have intensified their attacks on the city as part of the latest strategy to concentrate their efforts on capturing cities in Eastern Ukraine (Ukrinform 04/04/2022, The Economist 01/04/2022, France24 01/04/2022). Residents of Kharkiv have limited food and medicine (France24 04/04/2022).

Odessa:
Odessa remains fully under Ukrainian control but has experienced heavy attacks damaging residential areas and civilian infrastructure as Russia appears to shift focus south and east. Normal sea trade is challenging as the Russian navy is present close to the city (OCHA 04/04/2022, Forbes 04/04/2022, Euronews 03/04/2022).

Chernihiv:
The city lies in the Northern region, on the outskirts of Kyiv. It was reported on April 6, Russian forces completely withdrew from areas around Kyiv and Chernihiv to regroup in Belarus and Russia, according to a senior U.S. defence official. Civilians in the city of Chernihiv have been trapped without electricity, heating and water for weeks (The Hill 06/04/2022, Reuters 04/04/2022, Reuters 25/03/2022).

The city of Sumy has also been under regular bombardment, but Russian forces now appear to be retreating. The city of Kherson is allegedly under Russian control although fighting is occurring in close proximity to it as Ukrainian forces attempt to regain control, whilst the nearby city of Mykolaiv has also experienced heavy attacks (ISW 05/04/2022, OCHA 04/04/2022, Ukrinform 04/04/2022).

Kyiv region:
According to Ukrainian authorities, Ukrainian troops have regained full control of the Kyiv region. However, despite the withdrawal of Russian forces, there are still attacks being reported as recently as April 3, where missile strikes hit Vasylkiv – a small town of 36,000 people about 32 km outside Kyiv – leaving several civilians injured. Ukrainian forces have buried nearly 300 people in a mass grave near Kyiv, in the town of Bucha after retaking the area, with more bodies being found on the streets in the towns of Bucha, Irpin and Motyzhyn (OCHA 04/04/2022, DW 02/04/2022, Al Jazeera 02/04/2022).
In an emergency United Nations session, 141 of 193 member states voted in favour of a resolution demanding Russia to “immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.” (UN News 02/03/2022). The UK, European Union and United States have issued escalating sanctions against the financial assets of Putin and Sergey Lavrov’s, Russia's foreign minister, and other members of government, also removing Russian banks from the global SWIFT financial messaging system. In addition, the US and other countries continue to commit military assistance to Ukraine (The Washington Post 02/04/2022, BBC 24/03/2022, CFR 21/03/2022, Al Jazeera 17/03/2022).

On April 3, following the discovery of Bucha killings, the German Chancellor stated that Western allies would agree to impose further sanctions on Russia and potentially discuss ending Russian gas imports (Reuters 03/04/2022, Reuters 03/04/2022). Several rounds of talks have already failed to end the war, however, during the negotiations in Turkey last week Ukraine expressed willingness to discuss “neutral status”. Ukraine proposed a framework for peace under which it would remain neutral, with its security guaranteed by third-party countries through a treaty similar to Nato’s article 5 mutual defence commitment. No concrete results have been reached yet especially as Russia continues to bombard cities in Ukraine (Vox 01/04/2022, CFR 21/03/2022, The Guardian 28/03/2022).
Displacement to neighbouring countries tops 4 million but the rate of displacement is slowing significantly. Since the start of the Russian military offensive, approximately 4.28 million people have fled from Ukraine to neighbouring countries, an increase of around 580,000 in the past two weeks, with Poland hosting the majority of the refugees (2.51M).

Whilst this number is substantial, the rate of displacement is a lot slower than the first four weeks of the conflict when 3.7 million who fled across the border. Data indicates that the majority of refugees are women and children (UNHCR accessed 06/04/2022, OCHA 25/03/2022).
IDP numbers also continues to rise, but people who wish to leave face barriers that may stop them

As of April 01, there were an estimated 7.14 million newly internally displaced persons in Ukraine, a rise of around 660,000 persons over the past two weeks. This constitutes a considerable reduction in the rate of displacement, but the numbers are still significant (growing by approximately 47K per day) with an estimated further 2.9 million people indicating that they were actively considering leaving their place of habitual residence due to the war. A survey of those considering leaving cited a number of barriers including a lack of safety to leave (cited by 16% of respondents), not wanting to leave behind family members (6%), not knowing where to go (3%) and not being able to leave due to a health issue or a disability (IOM 05/04/2022, IOM 16/03/2022).

The western region of Ukraine is home to roughly 43% of IDPs with the most recent displaced leaving Kyiv and the northern region

The largest number of IDPs are in the West of Ukraine (3 million people), with the central region (1.36M) and the northern region (1.3M) also hosting over a million displaced persons (see Figure 3). However, there are still large numbers of IDPs in the eastern (0.86M) and southern regions (0.36M) near the conflict. Of those displaced, 30% of those surveyed indicated they were considering moving again.

In terms of IDP origin, the most recent IDPs appear predominantly from Kyiv and the northern region, with the number of IDPs from the east and south decreasing since the first IOM survey of March 09 - 16; for a full understanding of the various factors influencing these results refer to the IOM Internal Displacement Report round 2 (IOM 05/04/2022, IOM 16/03/2022).

Households with children are more likely to be displaced, whilst chronic illness appears a factor/barrier in preventing displacement

The IOM IDR survey indicated that the profile of displaced households within Ukraine compared to non-displaced showed some marked differences. Only 5% IDP households included an infant (0 – 1 years), compared to 18% of non-displaced households, although a higher percentage (8%) of IDP households include a member who was pregnant, or breastfeeding compared to 6% of non-displaced. These numbers appear somewhat contradictory as many breastfed children would be in the 0 – 1 year age range.

Other than this anomaly, IDP households were more likely to contain children, with 24% of IDP households including children aged 1 – 5 years, compared to only 5% of non-displaced households, and almost half (49%) of IDP households had children aged 5 – 17 compared to 41% for the non-displaced.

Being chronically ill was flagged as a barrier to movement and that was corroborated by household composition as only 30% of IDP households included a member who was chronically ill compared to 37% for the non-displaced. However, the percentage of households with older persons (57 - 58%), or people with disabilities (19 – 21%), were roughly the same for both groups (IOM 05/04/2022).

Humanitarian Access

The areas disputed by both parties are the areas with the most humanitarian access restrictions, mostly because of the continuous fighting, even if most encircled cities in these disputed areas remain accessible (OCHA 06/04/2022). Moreover, over half of the Ukrainian population live in territories not directly affected by the conflict¹, necessitating less assistance but hosting IDPs in need of support. Most of the humanitarian actors are present in these non-affected territories (Protection Cluster 24/03/2022, OCHA 23/03/2022).

¹ This is a pre-war estimation done with the statistical State data published in 2018. With 11.5 million people displaced by the current war, the number remaining in conflict affected areas is likely to be much lower (State Statistics Service of Ukraine 2018).
Access of affected population to assistance

The continuous fighting hampers the viability of humanitarian corridors and thus safe evacuations of civilians and aid convoys

By April 5, Ukrainian officials reported that seven humanitarian corridors had been agreed upon, including one in the Donetsk region (notably to evacuate Mariupol), one in Zaporizhia region and others in hard hit areas. The number and places of humanitarian corridors have changed frequently since the start of the war and many corridors have not been successful (RFERL 05/04/2022). Ukraine has accused Russia of repeatedly attacking protected areas and people using humanitarian corridors. In the past weeks, evacuation has been hampered by several postponements and even crossfire events. Some convoys have been hit by gunfire, including two convoys entering Chernihiv for evacuation which led to several deaths (OCHA 01/04/2022, UNICEF 30/03/2022).

Several ceasefires have been agreed upon to allow evacuation of civilians trapped in Mariupol but have mostly failed, notably at the beginning of April with buses convoy getting blocked before destination. Only a few thousand people were able to be evacuated in early April. This is pushing the Government of Ukraine to refrain from enforcing the evacuation of civilians from besieged cities “due to potential provocations along the routes” (OCHA 04/04/2022, RFERL 31/03/2022, The Guardian 28/03/2022). More than 831,000 Ukrainians remain without electricity, and 6 million have limited to no access to safe water, mainly in hard-hit areas (IMC 31/03/2022, IOM 30/03/2022).

Security / physical constraints

Security concerns including UXOs and shelling are the first limitations in access

Some incidents have been reported with humanitarian actors suffering from injuries due to UXOs or crossfire. Recently, two staff from a local organisation were injured on March 31 near Kharkiv and another NGO had its car damaged by shelling. These concerns restrict the access to conflict-affected areas while both parties to conflict have laid UXOs on the roads (UNICEF 02/04/2022, OCHA 01/04/2022).

Humanitarian actors have lost access to Chernihiv city due to the destruction of the main bridge over the Desna River leading to areas under Ukrainian control, on March 23 (OCHA, 04/04/2022, OCHA 01/04/2022).

Access of relief actors to the affected population

Restricted possibility to use humanitarian corridors and logistical bottlenecks are major constraints for humanitarian actors

Beyond limiting the safe evacuation of civilians, the lack of recognition for humanitarian corridors is restricting the access of aid convoys to the hardest-hit areas and thus to allow civilians to get food, water and drugs. Ukrainian officials objected that Russian forces blocked several aid convoys and even removed the content of humanitarian convoys in Melitopol at the end of March (Censor 31/03/2022, Kyiv Post 25/03/2022). As of April 5, Mariupol city remains the only city inaccessible to humanitarian actors (IMC 31/03/2022).

Moreover, logistical issues are delaying assistance. Long queues at land border entry points have been reported, as well as congestion of airports like Rzeszow (Poland). Supply imported from abroad leads to challenges in terms of speed and quantity as well as long border transfer processes (Logistic Cluster 28/03/2022, Shelter Cluster 16/03/2022). Identifying local partners for delivery also appears to be a challenge for some international actors such as WFP (The New Humanitarian 17/03/2022).
Humanitarian Impact, Conditions and Response

Conflict-Affected Areas in Ukraine

Extensive damage to Ukrainian critical infrastructure has caused over $119 billion in losses and likely to increase as cities across Ukraine sustain more damage.

As of March 24, an estimated $63 billion in Ukrainian infrastructure has been damaged or destroyed; this includes more than 4,400 residential buildings, 92 warehouses or factories, 138 health care facilities, 12 airports and 378 education institutions. Damages have also been sustained to roads, railroads and rail stations, and airports (IMC 31/03/2022, Kyiv Independent 28/03/2022, OCHA 28/03/2022). While active fighting is subsiding in some areas - primarily in the north - fighting is intensifying in Eastern and Southern Ukraine and likely to result in more damage.

Residential buildings have experienced severe damage, especially the east. For example, 80% of residential buildings in Kharkivska oblast have been destroyed. Similar percentages of destruction have been recorded to homes in the suburbs of Bobrovitsia and Kyinka, Chernihiv Oblast (60% and 70% respectively). In Mariupol city alone, approximately 90% of residential buildings – around 2,600 homes – have been affected by active fighting; about 40% have been completely destroyed (OCHA 04/04/2022, OCHA 28/03/2022, OCHA 23/03/2022).

Many homes in conflict-affected areas have lost access to electricity, impacting water supplies. As of March 29, more than 831,000 users in over 1,490 settlements across Ukraine remain without electricity. While last week it was reported that repairs to electricity infrastructure was delayed due to hostilities and access constraints, supply has been restored to more than 150,400 users including 82,000 in Kyiv.

However in some of the worst affected areas such as Mariupol and Chernihiv appear to remain without power, leaving civilians (160,000 and 130,000 respectively) unable to leave and without access to electricity (Caritas Australia, 04/04/2022, censor 04/04/2022, OCHA 30/03/2022, The Guardian 28/03/2022).

While restoration is taking place in some areas, damage to electrical infrastructure continues. On March 29, shelling reportedly left the town of Sievierodonetsk (Luhansk Oblast) without electricity as the 110kV transmission feeding the city was damaged, cutting the centralised water supply (IOM 01/04/2022, OCHA 30/03/2022).

Damages to WASH infrastructure have left thousands of civilians with limited or no access to water, and in turn people are turning to inadequate sources of water. Water needs are expected to increase with warmer temperatures.

Residents of Eastern Ukraine have been particularly impacted by the lack of water due to widespread damage to critical infrastructure by shelling, findings echoed by a recent IOM survey. For example, it is estimated that more than 200,000 people lack access to water across the Donetska oblast, and around 120,000 in Luhansk oblast. People in besieged cities such as Mariupol and Chernihiv also remain without access to clean water (OCHA 04/04/2022, Human Rights Watch 30/03/2022, OCHA 28/03/2022, UN CT 24/03/2022, WHO 24/03/2022, IOM 22/03/2022).

Due to damage to water supplies, residents of Chernihiv are using inadequate sources of water, such as relying on water from rivers and lakes, or melted snow. Similar negative coping behaviour has been reported in other besieged cities (OCHA 01/04/2022, Human Rights Watch 30/03/2022).

Warmer spring temperatures are expected to increase water needs, and coupled with disrupted access to WASH and healthcare may increase the risk of vector-borne diseases such as West Nile fever and tick-borne encephalitis (WHO 24/03/2022).
Online learning resumes for many, but access to education remains limited in conflict-affected areas as the destruction of education infrastructure continues

As of March 28, primary and secondary education has resumed in 13 regions out of 24, through a remote learning modality reaching 3 million children, however schools remain closed in many of the conflict-affected areas. Even for those children who could access online classes, many face difficulties due to the lack of computers, Internet access, electricity, books and stationery, as well as the lack of surroundings conducive to hours of studying (UNICEF 02/04/2022, UN Women 31/03/2022).

Some support is reaching cities such as Kharkiv and Kyiv with learning and development materials and social support being provided to children in metro stations (that are currently used as air raid shelters). However, the shelling and air raids continue, with 50 educational buildings destroyed in the besieged city of Kharkiv and Kyiv City Council reports that over 70 schools have been damaged in the capital due to the conflict. In total at least 869 education facilities– or about 6% of all schools in the country - have been damaged with 83 completely destroyed, according to the Ukraine Ministry of Education and Science.

Even where schools can open there are shortages of teachers, as many teachers have been displaced or left Ukraine. Also in Eastern Ukraine 30% of education facilities reported not having enough teachers before the conflict (OCHA 04/04/2022, Save the Children 04/04/2022, UNICEF 27/03/2022, OCHA 23/03/2022, Al Jazeera 21/03/2022).

Attacks on healthcare infrastructure along with travel restrictions and disruptions in supply chains are impacting access to healthcare²

As of April 7, 104 confirmed attacks on health care have been documented via the Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA), resulting in 84 deaths and 54 injuries. However, statistics for the number of Ukrainian medical facilities damaged vary widely.

Destroyed health infrastructure and disrupted chains of medical supplies, lack of public transport, restricted movement, and active hostilities impacted access to healthcare in conflict-affected areas. Attacks also curtailed access to referral hospitals and pharmacies. Approximately half of Ukraine's pharmacies are thought to be closed. Several hospitals have been repurposed to care for the wounded: a shift due to necessity – which comes at the cost of essential services and primary health care. It is expected that facilities will face staff shortages due to closure of facilities for security reasons and with some staff being displaced (Euractiv 03/03/2022, Health Cluster 03/03/2022, WHO 02/03/2022, IOM 29/03/2022, IOM 25/03/2022, WHO 24/03/2022, WHO 23/03/2022, Direct Relief 22/03/2022).

Medical supplies across Ukraine are running low

Supply chains have been severely disrupted due to the war, with increased demand on urgent medical supplies, and with many distributors not able to reach conflict-affected areas. Humanitarian organisations are also unable to send medical supplies as many locations remain blocked. Manufacturers are facing shortages of raw materials to produce supplies (Euractiv 03/03/2022, OCHA 29/03/2022, WHO 27/02/2022).

There is a lack of access to and availability of food due to continuous shelling

Some of the hardest-hit areas in Ukraine have dwindling food reserves, for example, in Chernihiv, Izium, Kharkiv, Mariupol, Okhtyrka and Volnovakha. In other areas, residents are becoming increasingly dependent on aid, the delivery of which remains unpredictable due to access constraints (UNICEF 02/04/2022, OCHA 25/03/2022).

The lack of food is causing starvation and forcing people in affected-areas to adopt negative coping mechanisms; WFP estimates that one out of five people in Ukraine might be already using some food-coping strategies like reducing size and number of meals and eating less food, and adults sacrificing meals or eating less so children can eat (Kyiv Post 30/03/2022, WFP 28/03/2022, OCHA 25/03/2022).

² See DFS analysis brief titled “The Impact of the Conflict on the Health Sector” for more in-depth analysis - published on 04/04/2022
Ongoing hostilities is likely to impact access to silos and storage facilities and the future food security of Ukraine

Damages to agricultural infrastructure, and disruption to markets and food supply chains are likely to have significant impacts on food security. While, according to the ministry of agriculture, Ukraine has enough reserves to cover its food security for one year, hostilities risk creating a 30% reduction in cultivated areas. Additionally, it has been reported that Russia has repeatedly targeted grain silos in Eastern Ukraine, destroying at least six grain storage facilities. Even for silos and storage facilities that remain intact and under Ukrainian control, access is likely to be impacted as railways have been damaged (Kyiv Independent 01/04/2022, Kyiv Post 29/03/2022, WHO 24/03/2022, FAO 25/03/2022).

The conflict has caused loss of livelihoods and impacted access to critical income sources

The conflict and presence of the Russian Federation forces in some regions such as eastern Ukraine, is likely to reduce the access of people to critical income sources, including government-provided pensions and social safety nets, impacting purchasing power and food security (OCHA 28/03/2022, FAO 25/03/2022).

In other areas, access to cash is limited or suspended (through for example ATMs), this is exacerbated by people's inability to earn their livelihoods due to the destruction and insecurity caused by the conflict. Even in areas where conflict is subsiding, livelihoods remain disrupted. For example, in Kyiv, some small businesses have re-opened on a limited basis, leaving many unemployed (COAR 25/03/2022, UN Women 22/03/2022).

Protection risks to women and children in conflict-affected areas

The risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and human trafficking increases during periods of conflict as a result of insecurity and absence of law, and therefore there are protection concerns for those with vulnerabilities such as women, and unaccompanied/separated minors.

Essential services have been stopped or demolished during hostilities and there is limited access to protection services. However, some social care services, including municipal services for GBV survivors, are still operational in certain oblasts and cities. This is particularly concerning as there are several reports of women being raped in conflict affected areas, (such as Bucha) which have recently seen the retreat of Russian forces. Additionally, there are 2,389 children from the Russian-controlled territories of Luhansk and Donetsk who have been reportedly kidnapped. Despite the aforementioned protection risks and limited services, women are reporting that they are excluded from important decision-making processes in humanitarian response and planning (censor 03/04/2022, OCHA 01/04/2022, WHO 31/03/2022, Inter Press Service 30/03/2022, OCHA 25/03/2022, WHO 24/03/2022, WFP 24/03/2022, UN Women 22/03/2022, The Guardian 22/03/2022).

Protection risks to LGBTI and gender-diverse persons in conflict-affected areas

LGBTI and gender-diverse persons are facing some protection risks, for example, transgender women are facing challenges securing exemptions from male compulsory military service at checkpoints and border crossing points - which increased the likelihood of them being forced to seek irregular routes to safety, and being more exposed to trafficking, exploitation and abuse (Global Protection Cluster 27/03/2022).

Many of the elderly and people with disabilities are left behind

There are many vulnerable people unable or unwilling to leave their homes, especially among the elderly and people with disabilities. They are often dependent on others for help and care, or sometimes due to stigma around disability and the lack of specialised services, adults and children with disabilities are often placed in institutions away from home leaving them behind. Additionally, persons with disabilities, and older persons have struggled to access bomb shelters as shelters largely remain inaccessible for people with physical impairments (UN Women 31/03/2022, OHCHR 28/03/2022, Global Protection Cluster 27/03/2022, AlJazeera 23/03/2022).
The war is having a massive impact on individuals mental health

War-affected civilians are at heightened risk of mental health problems, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression. Mental health impacts of the current crisis could be long lasting, including PTSD, anxiety, depression and relapse of alcohol (ABC News 22/03/2022, The Lancet 16/03/2022).

Children are especially vulnerable to mental health issues. Potential separation from caregivers or if caregivers themselves experience depression or anxiety can increase the risk of war trauma, affecting children's abilities to perform later in their lives (Al Jazeera 31/03/2022, The Conversation 07/03/2022).

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Efforts are needed to ensure that people in conflict-affected areas have adequate access to basic needs and housing with sufficient water and electricity

According to the most recent IOM survey (Round 2)³, the vast majority (93%) of non-displaced people surveyed were living in their own home, and given the widespread destruction in many of the cities in conflict-affected areas, this likely means that civilians are living in damaged homes in substandard conditions with limited water and electricity (USAID 31/03/2022, Kyiv Independent 28/03/2022). While some restoration to electrical supply is taking place, many besieged areas continue to suffer damage with no reported restoration. Therefore, there is a need to conduct partial repairs of damaged homes and establish heating solutions and backup generators for residential homes without electricity. Plans for emergency heating measures should prioritise households with children and the elderly (OCHA 04/04/2022, COAR 25/03/2022, OCHA 23/03/2022).

As the bombardment of cities continues, the need for access to water is increasing, especially with warmer months coming ahead, increasing the risk of vector-borne diseases.

The lack of clean water coupled with limited access to health care is particularly concerning (WHO 24/03/2022, WHO 17/03/2022).

Health needs are increasing amid increase in trauma patients and limited access to health facilities

The limited access to services has resulted in an urgent need to treat trauma injuries and chronic conditions where needs are becoming most acute. The loss of operating capacity due to conflict damage, reduced staff and lack of medicines all contribute to a more limited availability of health care which may increase the risk of wound infections and trauma-related deaths. It is also critical that safe windows are provided for the evacuation of patients from conflict zones and access for the delivery of medical supplies and equipment (MSF 03/04/2022, JAMA 01/04/2022, WHO 24/03/2022, MSF 11/03/2022).

The food security situation in Ukraine is worsening

Food needs, particularly baby food, are rising across Ukraine, especially in conflict-affected areas. WFP estimates around 45% of the people in Ukraine are worried about finding enough to eat. While country reserves are still available for short term needs, limited movement due to train stoppages and insecurity is limiting access to food. In addition, food silos and storage facilities are targeted in attacks and will likely result in an increase in food needs in the future (Kyiv Independent 01/04/2022, WFP 28/03/2022, Kyiv Post 29/03/2022, FAQ 25/03/2022, UN Women 22/03/2022).

Protection needs among women and children is urgent

During times of conflict the risk of exploitation and sexual violence increase among the most vulnerable population. Therefore, women and girls need continued access to sexual and reproductive health services throughout conflict and displacement, including access to safe delivery, family planning services, clinical management of rape and STI/HIV care (UNFPA 26/03/2022).

³ Between March 24 and April 1, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted the second round of a rapid representative assessment of the general population in Ukraine to gather insights into internal displacement and mobility flows, and to assess local needs.
Support to deal with the mental health impact of the conflict will be needed

At a time when mental health and psychosocial support needs of the population are intensifying, the availability of psychosocial support services is decreasing due to conflict-related disruptions and lack of access. Health care workers face overloading and understaffing and are themselves at increased risk of psychological distress and mental health disorders because of witnessing traumatic events (WHO 02/03/2022). Therefore, urgent support to strengthen mental health provision for the conflict-affected population, especially children and health professionals is required. Mental health and psychosocial support needs are expected to be high in cities where Russian forces have withdrawn in the north, and where the population has witnessed traumatic events (RFE/RL 04/04/2022, VOA 02/04/2022, UNFPA 26/03/2022, OCHA 21/03/2022).

IDPs in Ukraine

Most IDP households are still using private accommodation, but rising financial costs, overcrowding in collective centres and finding adequate shelter for vulnerable groups are issues being flagged

Private accommodation is still the main shelter solution for the majority of IDPs with 39% of households staying with a friend or family member, 16% in a place they own (but not their habitual residence) and 9% of IDP households are renting an apartment. A further 2% are using a motel/hotel. Given the cost implications (especially for renting/hotels) it is unsurprising that cash/financial support is the main need indicated by the majority of IDP households (56%). It has also been reported that rent prices are on the rise in Western regions, forcing people to cross into neighbouring countries in search for free accommodation (IOM 05/04/2022, ACAPS 29/03/2022, Global Protection Cluster 27/03/2022).

IDPs seeking accommodation in reception centres reported overcrowded conditions, a lack of basic materials (such as beds, mattresses and blankets) and a lack of separation by gender or family, increasing protection risks. Also of concern is the availability of suitable shelter for persons with disabilities, and older persons (including those with chronic health conditions), who are at risk of being particularly affected by inadequate shelter, which may cause their health to deteriorate (OCHA 01/04/2022, UN Women 31/03/2022, Global Protection Cluster 27/03/2022).

IDPs face difficulties in accessing water, sanitation and hygiene items

Some IDP households are facing issues accessing enough water. Reports from Vinnytska and Chernivetska, indicate a lack of running water, functional toilets and showers. IDPs who are staying in schools or ad-hoc shelters face similar issues. Overall, 8% of IDP households surveyed reported that they did not have access to water in their location and a further 2% said the access was unstable. Additionally, 9% of IDP households reported that they were in need of hygiene items such as menstrual hygiene items and diapers (for both babies and/or adults) (IOM 05/04/2022, Global Protection Cluster 27/03/2022, UN Women 22/03/2022).

IDPs face gaps in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services and care for the chronically ill

The city of Lviv is now hosting over 250,000 IDPs and the capacities of medical institutions are visibly stretched. Disruption to essential medical supply chains for sexual and reproductive health commodities are threatening to disrupt access to lifesaving sexual and reproductive health services. Access to contraception and emergency contraception is also limited (UN Women 31/03/2022, UNFPA 26/03/2022).

With approximately a quarter of Ukrainians now forcibly displaced, the latest data shows that 37% of displaced households contain at least one member suffering from a chronic health condition. Displacement will make it more difficult for those suffering from non-necrnoncommunicable diseases to access the treatment they require (IOM 25/03/2022, WHO 23/03/2022).
Concerns as vaccination status puts vulnerable groups and children at risk

IDPs in collective centres and households hosting IDP families face additional risks due to the suboptimal vaccination coverage for COVID-19 across Ukraine. This is particularly worrying due to the numbers of vulnerable people amongst the displaced. The current mass displacement could result in a new wave of COVID-19, especially for people staying in overcrowded shelters with poor ventilation. Several outbreaks of respiratory infections, including COVID-19, have already been reported in the shelters for IDPs in Lviv.

Crowded conditions are also putting children at risk due to low vaccination rates against some childhood diseases. The disruption of immunisation campaigns, including for polio and measles comes on top of already low vaccination coverage against these diseases prior to the conflict (WHO 31/03/2022, IOM 25/03/2022, IMC 24/03/2022, OCHA 15/03/2022, Health Cluster 03/03/2022).

Vulnerable groups face increased protection risks due to displacement

LGBTI and gender-diverse displaced people can be marginalised or excluded from many established evacuation and emergency response services and processes, especially those operating in environments where being of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity is seen to be politically sensitive. This can leave many to fend for themselves, exposing them to risks of abuse and violence along transport routes, at border crossings, in reception centres, collective shelters, camp settings and health facilities (OHCHR 22/03/2022).

Children in institutions, children with disabilities and long-term illnesses, and those deprived of liberty are among the groups of children that have diverse and complex needs which must be met to ensure their life, survival and development, including a sense of security, continuity and stability (UNCRC 24/03/2022).

IDP children in many regions are now able to access learning through online classes, though barriers remain

As of March 28, primary and secondary education has resumed in 13 regions out of 24, through a remote learning modality reaching 3 million children. Although school education is resuming online, many children and teachers—especially those displaced—may have difficulties accessing classes due to the lack of computers, Internet access, books and stationery, as well as the lack of surroundings conducive to hours of studying (UNICEF 02/04/2022, UN Women 31/03/2022).

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Access to financial support is the most pressing need cited by the displaced

When asked to identify their single most pressing need, cash (financial support) was indicated by 34.1% of IDP respondents, followed by medicines (9.8%). Overall, 56% of respondents indicated a need for cash (financial support), 27% cited a need for medicines/health services, 22% clothes and NFIs and 21% for transportation. Other needs identified included food, accommodation, information/means of communication and hygiene items. Finally, 23% of respondents indicated that they needed access to money (either ways to receive it or to ATMs that had not run out of cash) (IOM 05/04/2022).

Many IDP households will have critical Health and Nutrition needs

It is estimated that over two million children under the age of five and pregnant and breastfeeding women in Ukraine are in need of lifesaving nutrition assistance and many of those will be amongst the displaced. It is therefore important to ensure the availability of breastmilk substitutes. In addition, meeting the medical needs of people with long-term illnesses such as mental illness, renal disease, diabetes, and cancer is a key priority (WHO 31/03/2022, WHO 24/03/2022).
Displaced people who have crossed international borders to neighbouring countries

People fleeing from war out of Ukraine are highly vulnerable, particularly women and children

Refugees who endured war have often suffered from food and water deprivation, freezing temperatures, family separation and loss of their assets and money. When arriving in host countries, they are thus more vulnerable and in immediate need of medical assistance as well as support in terms of shelter, food and protection (Inter Press Service 30/03/2022, WHO 23/03/2022). Reports from UN Women indicate that women and girls constitute the substantial majority of all those displaced from Ukraine, putting them at particular risk of trafficking, exploitation and gender-based violence. Children are also at high risk as many unaccompanied children have been registered fleeing out of Ukraine. Reports from Missing Children Europe are warning of child disappearance at the borders. Polish media also report rape of women and of children at the border (UN Women 31/03/2022, IRC 31/03/2022, Inter Press Service 30/03/2022, UNICEF 30/03/2022, RadioEuropa 30/03/2022, Wyborcza 30/03/2022, Global Protection Cluster 27/03/2022).

While refugees have enjoyed support from local populations and volunteers this can increase the risk of human trafficking and exploitation at the borders and inside host countries. Some states’ authorities have even warned refugees to be careful with transportation and accommodation offers. (Romania_Insider 01/04/2022, Euronews 01/04/2022, Inter Press Service 30/03/2022, Refugees International 21/03/2022). Moreover, the population and states’ support are limited as third-country nationals do not receive the same assistance and rights when fleeing Ukraine. Reports of discrimination, violence and xenophobia have been made (Global Times 07/04/2022, Wyborcza 06/04/2022, UN_News 04/04/2022, UNHCR 21/03/2022).

Access to food is likely to become more difficult for refugees and host communities as prices are increasing

Displaced people from Ukraine have left most of their assets behind, some lack money while others struggle to exchange their cash into European currencies (OCHA 06/04/2022, HelpAge International 02/04/2022, IRC 31/03/2022, Financial Times 22/03/2022). Though hosting states, NGOs and civil societies are assisting the refugees, the rise of food prices could be an additional challenge for both refugees and host communities. The example of Moldova is alarming as exports and imports are being blocked as the port in Odessa port is not easily accessible. This is impacting fuel, electricity and food prices and putting about half of the Moldovan population at risk of poverty in the year to come (Deschide 05/04/2022, Kronika Online 23/03/2022, Timpul 23/03/2022, adevarul 23/03/2022). Inflation is also reported in Romania, Hungary, Poland and in Europe in general (ING 07/04/2022, Bloomberg 06/04/2022, Bursa Ro 06/04/2022, Kurier Lubelski 29/03/2022).

Neighbouring countries allow Ukrainians to work, leading to a rise in demands of jobs but also an increase of protection risks

Most neighbouring countries are supporting refugees to access jobs. Poland (the country hosting the largest number of refugees) enacted a law allowing Ukrainians to live and work for at least 18 months, leading to the employment of 30,000 individuals in polish firms (75% of whom are women) with high number of companies hiring Ukrainians (36% of 500 companies assessed in April). This is also mitigating the loss of labour force experienced by some polish companies as Ukrainian male workers returned to fight in Ukraine (up to 30% for some companies in transport, construction, welding and production) (NPR 06/04/2022, The First News 06/04/2022, The Warsaw Voice 06/04/2022, RP 05/04/2022). Likewise, in Romania and Moldova, Ukrainians can get a job without the need of the State approval, while in Hungary, the State financially supports employers hiring Ukrainians (Timpul 05/04/2022, ACAPS 01/04/2022, Zf 01/04/2022, noi 24/03/2022).

However, there is a high risk of exploitation of these refugees, firstly due to the lack of language knowledge of refugees in the host country.
Furthermore, refugees are mostly women responsible for children, making it difficult to find a job and ensuring childcare (IRC 31/03/2022).

**COVID-19 remains a threat for the host populations while only 35% of the residents of Ukraine had received a vaccine before the war**

The low COVID-19 vaccination coverage in Ukraine before the war risks driving increased COVID-19 infection rates amongst the refugee and host populations. This is aggravated by the low vaccination rates in hosting countries especially Moldova and Romania (respectively 13% and 28% of the population having received at least one dose, according to Our World in Data, while Hungary, Slovakia and Poland reach rates between 50 and 64%). To respond to this risk, some countries such as Romania have started to vaccinate refugees against COVID-19 (Our World in Data accessed 07/04/2022, Tradingeconomics 29/03/2022, Cotidianul 28/03/2022, WHO 18/03/2022).

**HUMANITARIAN NEEDS**

Refugees fleeing Ukraine are highly vulnerable and face major needs in all sectors

Cross analysis shows that the key immediate needs of refugees fleeing from Ukraine into neighbouring countries are transport, shelter, health, protection from violence and abuse, exploitation and trafficking, family-tracing and reunification, psycho-social care and NFI's. Less immediate needs also include economic support, access to education, access to work and to information on services. Transport stands as a main need for third country nationals (TCN) in transit expecting to return home, while financial support is one of the key needs for TCN's in centres as they are mostly not allowed to work, contrarily to Ukrainian refugees (World Vision 05/04/2022, IRC 31/03/2022, INTERSOS 30/03/2022).

Host countries are aiming at responding to the basic needs of the refugees

Most secondary data indicates that host countries are willing to respond to the refugees’ needs as fully as possible with those fleeing Ukraine vulnerable to health and protection risks and facing important needs in all sectors (OCHA 21/03/2022). Although access for refugees is granted to public health services in all neighbouring countries, the national services could face limits, notably in terms of capacities, potentially leading to long waiting lines and saturation of services.

Poland, for instance, is asking the EU to relocate Ukrainian long-term patients to other countries (Euronews 01/04/2022, IRC 31/03/2022, The First News 29/03/2022). ACAPS’s analysis on Hungary shows the potential overburden of the health services in case of an increase of refugees (ACAPS 01/04/2022). Specific and system gender-related issues can be additional burden, such as the lack of access to health for women in Hungary compared to the men's access or the lack of access to sexual and reproductive health in Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia due to legal limitations (Amnesty International 03/2022, UN Women 31/03/2022, ES 06/2018). Chronic diseases and latent pathologies including -but not restricting to- diabetes, blood pressure and tuberculosis, can worsen the health conditions of the refugees who wouldn't receive immediate and adequate care (HelpAge International 02/04/2022, WHO 31/03/2022).

No major gap in terms of shelter has been reported since the beginning of April as the influx of refugees in the neighbouring countries has slowed down, some refugees carrying their journeys towards other European countries or even returning to Ukraine (NYT 05/04/2022). Refugees have been hosted in emergency centres, public buildings but also in private housing, whether staying with friends and families, hosted by the host population or finding accommodation by their own means. In Poland and Moldova, placement shelters are emptying as the crisis evolves (Wyborcza 06/04/2022, Wyborcza 29/03/2022, IRC 31/03/2022, WHO 29/03/2022). In Romania, the occupancy rate of accommodation centres has fallen under 80% since April 03 and citizens hosting refugees can receive financial support from the government (Ministry of Interior 03/04/2022, Rador 03/04/2022). Access to safe water remains an issue in some of the temporary shelters in Moldova. The main issue in regards to shelter is the long term solutions for refugees which is reported in all of the hosting countries (ACAPS 01/04/2022, IRC 31/03/2022, WHO 29/03/2022).
Inclusion in schools for both children and Ukrainian teachers has been widely reported in all the countries, allowing children to have some stability and protection. Some children can even still access their Ukrainian school curriculum online. No major issue in the education sector has been highlighted so far (The First News 05/04/2022, World Vision 05/04/2022, REACH 03/04/2022, Euronews 01/04/2022, IRC 31/03/2022, Bursa 30/03/2022, zdg 30/03/2022, UNICEF 30/03/2022, dailynewshungary 28/03/2022).

Mental health issues will be long-lasting with specific needs for children

Literature shows that people affected by war face trauma and can suffer from mental health issues. This can be aggravated by displacement. Children are particularly vulnerable and require immediate mental health support (European Child and Adolescent Psychiatry 14/03/2022, WHO 31/08/2021). According to WHO, by March 22, 500,000 people fleeing the war of Ukraine to Poland required mental health support, including 30,000 people estimated to have severe mental health needs (USAID 25/03/2022, European Commission 25/03/2022). These figures are likely to be higher if looking at all the refugees fleeing from Ukraine. As the conflict continues, the risk of further mental health problems developing will increase including anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and depression (WHO 31/03/2022). Unaccompanied and separated children will also need specific psychosocial support in addition to child protection (UNICEF 30/03/2022, UNCRC 24/03/2022, OCHA 21/03/2022).

Wider Context

The war is not only having a major impact on the national economy but is also putting at risk the global economy and food security

The Ukrainian economy is highly suffering from the war, with an estimated decrease of the GDP of 20% to 40% depending on the sources by the end of the year. About a third of the businesses have already halted their production. The economic losses could exceed one trillion dollars according to the Ukrainian Prime Minister (Kyiv Independent 02/04/2022, OCHA 01/04/2022). According to Ukrainian officials, the country has already lost $564.9 billion because of the war, including lost economic growth, damages on infrastructure etc. In Moldova, reception centres and host families were reported to be in need of urgent support for food, hygiene, clothing, bedding and medicine (IBC 14/03/2022).

 Destruction of infrastructure alone has surpassed $119 billion in losses, including damage or destruction to nearly 8,000 kilometres of roads, railroads and rail stations, and airports. Losses suffered by civilians are estimated to reach $90.5 billion including 10 million square metres of housing and about 200,000 vehicles (International Medical Corps 31/03/2022, The Guardian 29/03/2022, OCHA 28/03/2022).

Ukraine's economy was relying mainly on the agricultural sector (a fifth of the labourers working in this sector before the war), notably through the export of agricultural products*. The Russian invasion of Ukraine has additional global economic impacts mainly with the rise of basic food item's prices. Indeed, Ukraine and Russia stood for 30% of the global wheat supply, 20% of the corn supply and 70 to 80% of the sunflower-oil supply. Countries such as Yemen, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Syria could see some of their populations suffer from famine if Russia continues blocking the Ukrainian grains' export (UNSC 30/03/2022, The Guardian 18/03/2022).

Demonstrations in Ukraine, Russia and neighbouring countries protest against the Russian invasion

Online media sources and NGOs have been reporting demonstrations led against the invasion since the beginning of the war. 3,500 people in Russia were said to be detained a month ago after protesting in various cities and 176 more people were detained in early April (Kyiv Post 02/04/2022). Likewise, in Ukraine itself, civilians have led demonstrations in Russian-occupied areas, notably in the Kherson and Zaporizhia regions. In Kherson city, Russian soldiers opened fire on a protesting crowd (ACLED 31/03/2022). Other peaceful protests have taken place in surrounding countries in support of Ukraine. Countries such as Poland, Hungary and Slovakia hosted large demonstrations this past month while a few did take place in Belarus despite the regime's alignment with Russia (RFI 03/04/2022, RFERL 21/03/2022, Axios 28/02/2022, Spectator 26/02/2022).

* To know more about the background of Ukraine before the war, please refer to the first Situational Analysis Report from March 24th.