Executive Summary

OHCHR have recorded more than 2,500 civilian casualties since the start of the military offensive on Ukraine, however the actual figure is likely to be considerably higher. Mariupol, Kharkiv and other urban centres have seen heavy use of explosive weapons with a wide impact area, including shelling from heavy artillery and multiple-launch rocket systems, and missile and airstrikes. These weapons have hit residential areas causing widespread devastation with hospitals and schools amongst those buildings damaged or destroyed.

It is estimated that 12 million (30%) people inside Ukraine will need relief and protection. Eastern Ukraine is the hardest hit area of Ukraine with the most pressing needs, recording nearly 45% of all civilian casualties across the country so far. Humanitarian needs are also high in the northern and southern regions of Ukraine.

6.5 million people have been internally displaced putting tremendous pressure on cities and towns in the west of the country. Another 2.2 million people have expressed the willingness to leave their place of residence but cannot do so due to insecurity, lack of money or not knowing where they can go. A further 3.7 million people have fled to neighbouring countries, the majority of whom are women and children, with the largest numbers arriving in Poland (2.1 million).

The most critical needs are those of civilians in trapped in encircled cities or in areas under constant bombardment. Residents face severe shortages of food, water and a lack of heating and electricity. There have been many attempts to establish safe civilian evacuation corridors to transport civilians to safety or provide a “silent window” in which to deliver humanitarian supplies. However, many have failed to materialise with convoys being shelled or attacked. In addition, 300,000 people in the city of Kherson which is allegedly under Russian control, are running out of food and medical supplies, and unable to evacuate.
The conflict has damaged key water infrastructure, and electricity and sanitation facilities, and has left critical infrastructure inaccessible. There have been 64 incidents of attacks on healthcare, affecting access to and availability of health services. The lack of clean water and access to health care is particularly concerning, increasing the risk of diarrhoea and communicable diseases. Supply chains are disrupted and many areas (even those outside of the conflict zones) are reporting shortages of goods.

Significant efforts have been made in neighbouring countries to accommodate the large number of refugees, but local amenities are close to being overwhelmed as the more and more people cross the border.

**Crisis Timeline**

**Timeline of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Main events</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 23</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Over 2,560 casualties of civilians reported</td>
<td>From 6 a.m. on 24 February 2022, when the Russian Federation’s armed attack against Ukraine started, to 24:00 midnight on 23 March 2022 (local time), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded 2,565 civilian casualties in the country: 1,035 killed and 1,500 injured. This included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 21</td>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>Ukraine rejects Russia’s demand to surrender Mariupol</td>
<td>Ukraine denied Russia’s demand that it surrender the besieged port city of Mariupol, where residents face acute shortages of food, water, and heat amid Russian bombardments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 21</td>
<td>Displacement</td>
<td>More than ten million people have been displaced internally or externally by the war</td>
<td>At least ten million people have fled their homes in Ukraine due to the war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 21</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Close to 2,560 casualties of civilians reported</td>
<td>As of 21 March, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reports 2,471 civilian casualties, including 655 killed, figures that are likely much higher and will continue to rise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 18</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Raid hits airport near Lviv full of civilians</td>
<td>In Ukraine, local officials said Monday that Russian missiles struck an airport near Lviv, where hundreds of thousands of people have gone to escape fighting in other cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 17</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>ICJ orders Russia to halt military operations in Ukraine</td>
<td>The United Nations’ top court found in favor of Ukraine, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and ordered Russia on Wednesday to halt its military operations in Ukraine, saying it was “profoundly concerned” by Moscow’s use of force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 16</td>
<td>Displacement</td>
<td>3 million people fled Ukraine</td>
<td>Some 3.083.331 people have so far left Ukraine, data from the U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR) showed. It is based its aid plans on 4 million refugees but has said the figure will likely increase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 16</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Raid hits Mariupol theatre full of civilians killing many</td>
<td>Ukrainian officials accused Russian forces of bombing a theatre hosting over 500 civilians in the besieged city of Mariupol. Moscow denied carrying out the air raid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 16</td>
<td>Displacement</td>
<td>6.48M individuals are internally displaced within Ukraine</td>
<td>Results of OIM’s assessment show that as of 14 March 2022, 14.7% of the general population are currently internally displaced within Ukraine, equivalent to 6.48M individuals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 15</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>35 hour Curfew imposed in Kyiv after civilians buildings hit by airstrikes and missiles</td>
<td>A curfew was imposed on the Ukrainian capital Kyiv from 8pm on Tuesday to 7am on Thursday after several apartment blocks were struck by Russian forces based outside the city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 14</td>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>Fourth round of talks between Ukrainians and Russians (2 days)</td>
<td>Ukraine declared it will not demand to join NATO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 14</td>
<td>Displacement</td>
<td>Evacuation of thousands of residents from front-line cities (including Mariupol after several days of failed attempts)</td>
<td>A survey of at least 140 cars left Mariupol on Monday in the first successful attempt to evacuate a humanitarian corridor out of the encircled Ukrainian city after over a week of fighting. More than 2,530 residents have been killed there since the Russian invasion on Feb. 24, a Ukrainian official said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 14</td>
<td>Fundings</td>
<td>$40 million allocated by UN from Emergency Fund for Ukraine</td>
<td>As humanitarian needs escalate rapidly in Ukraine, the United Nations humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths, today allocated $40 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to help fund humanitarian aid and food to the most affected communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 14</td>
<td>Fundings</td>
<td>$925 million dollars mobilized by the World Bank to support Ukraine</td>
<td>No World Bank today announced nearly $925 million in additional and reprogrammed financing to bolster Ukraine’s social services for vulnerable people. This comes on the $723 million mobilized for Ukraine and its people last week, of which $390 million has already been disburse to Ukraine. This financing is part of the $32 billion package of support that the World Bank Group previously announced it is preparing for Ukraine over the coming months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 14</td>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>Anti war protests held in Europe</td>
<td>Anti-war protests were held in Russia and in European capitals, including Berlin, London, and Warsaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 11</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Expansion of Russian air strikes to northwest and southwest of Ukraine</td>
<td>Russia extended the range of its air strikes to new reach parts of Ukraine’s northwest and southwest and ordered foreign fighters be deployed to the conflict zone. Russian forces have also attacked nearly six health-care facilities across the country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 11</td>
<td>Displacement</td>
<td>2.5 million people fled Ukraine</td>
<td>Some 2.5 million people have fled Ukraine since Russia invaded two weeks ago, and another two million have been internally displaced by the war, the United Nations said</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar, 11</td>
<td>Fundings</td>
<td>$13.5 Billion approved by US to support Ukraine</td>
<td>Measure supported by Biden will provide $6.8bn to the Pentagon for military assistance, $6.7bn to CARE for refugees</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Timeline of Events

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<tr>
<td>Mar 09</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Russian airstrike on a maternity hospital in Mariupol</td>
<td>Three people including a child were killed in a Russian strike on a maternity children's hospital in the city of Mariupol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 09</td>
<td>Fundings</td>
<td>$1.4 Billion approved by IMF to support Ukraine</td>
<td>The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) today approved a disbursement of US$1.4 billion (S$1.2,005.9 million) under the Rapid Financing Instrument (RFI) to help meet urgent financing needs and mitigate the economic impact of the war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 08</td>
<td>Displacement</td>
<td>More than two million people fled Ukraine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 07</td>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>Third round of talks between Ukrainians and Russians</td>
<td>Although agreements have been made for humanitarian corridors to allow for the evacuation of civilians, those plans so far have faltered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 06</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Second day of failure of cease-fire in Mariupol</td>
<td>The National Guard of Ukraine says Sunday's cease-fire was broken and the evacuation plans have been halted after Russian forces opened fire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 04</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Takeover of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station in Ukraine by Russian troops</td>
<td>Russian forces seized Europe's largest nuclear power plant, the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Station in Ukraine, after clashes at the plant caused a fire and sparked fears of a nuclear disaster.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 03</td>
<td>Displacement</td>
<td>A total of one million people fled Ukraine in the 7 days since the Russian invasion began</td>
<td>One million people fled Ukraine during the war's first seven days in what could become Europe's largest refugee crisis this century, the UN refugee agency said.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 03</td>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>Second round of talks between Ukrainians and Russians</td>
<td>Kyiv and Moscow agree on plan for safe corridors to evacuate civilians, notably in the city of Mariupol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 03</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Takeover of Kherson (South of Ukraine) by the Russian troops</td>
<td>Russian forces take over Ukraine's most strategic city. Kherson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 02</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>Investigation launch by ICC on war crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine</td>
<td>A war crimes investigation has been launched into Russia's invasion of Ukraine after an unprecedented number of countries backed the move and Boris Johnson called the military intervention “abhorrent”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 02</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>UN Resolution demanding the cessation of hostilities</td>
<td>The UN General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted a resolution on Wednesday demanding that Russia immediately end its military operations in Ukraine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 01</td>
<td>Fundings</td>
<td>Flash Appeal for Ukraine launched by the United Nations</td>
<td>With the scale and direction of the ongoing military operation, 18 million people are projected to become affected, including up to 6.7 million people projected to be newly internally displaced. Of the affected population, 12 million people are expected to need humanitarian assistance, and 6 million with the most urgent humanitarian needs will be assisted with the resources required under this Flash Appeal, including 2.1 million IDPs covering the initial period of three months. The Flash Appeal 2022 supersedes the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), as of 1 March.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>First round of Ukrainian-Russian talks</td>
<td>Russia and Ukraine hold a first round of ceasefire talks at the Belarusian border. They disbanded after five hours without an agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>Request from Ukraine to join the European Union</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>Adoption of a decree in Ukraine to give visas to foreigners wishing to join the Ukrainian army</td>
<td>On February 28, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky put out a call to foreign volunteers to join the Ukrainian armed forces, announcing the creation of an international legion. Two days later, the president signed a decree waiving visas for any foreign nations wishing to join the Ukrainian army, while the foreign affairs ministry launched a website providing details on how to apply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>Prolongation of curfew in Kyiv</td>
<td>A 3 days curfew was imposed in the city of Kyiv to protect from expected Russian attack. A prolongation was also decided for every night (6pm-8am).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Russian Launches military invasion of Ukraine. Missile and artillery attacks in Ukraine by Russia (including Kyiv)</td>
<td>Russian troops have quickly expanded their presence across Ukraine, with military clashes ongoing in other major cities: Chernihiv (north), Kharkiv (north-east), Kherson (south), Mariupol (south-west), Mykolaiv (south), Odessa (south-west), Sumy (north), among other cities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>Adoption of the Martial law in Ukraine</td>
<td>Ukrainian’s President Volodymyr Zelensky declared martial law across the entire country after Russia attacked early Thursday morning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 24</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>Curfew imposed in Kyiv</td>
<td>The mayor of Kyiv imposed a curfew on Thursday after Russia invaded Ukraine, running from 16pm until 7am.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 23</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>Declaration of a state of emergency in Ukraine</td>
<td>The state of emergency allows authorities to impose restrictions on movement, block rallies and ban political parties and organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 21</td>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>Recognition of Luhansk and Donetsk as independent states by Russia. Russian invasion in eastern Ukraine.</td>
<td>Russia orders forces into two breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine, after recognising them as independent.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Russian Federation launched a large-scale military offensive into Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Four weeks since the start of the conflict the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have recorded 2,685 civilian casualties (1,035 killed, and 1,650 injured). However, it is clear that the actual figure is likely to be considerably higher (OHCHR 24/03/2022). Weeks after the initial Russian invasion, fighting continues in and around major Ukrainian cities (CFR 21/03/2022).

**In Mariupol:** The city has been encircled by Russian soldiers since March 1, with Russian forces continuing to make steady territorial gains around Mariupol and are increasingly targeting residential areas (AP News 09/03/2022, ISW 17/03/2022). As of March 19, fighting has reached the centre of Mariupol (The Guardian 18/03/2022, CBS News 19/03/2022). Recent days have seen significant loss of civilian life, with several buildings used as shelters being hit by bombs or shelling. A recent Human Rights Watch report described catastrophic scenes in the city with reports of dead bodies in the street and mass graves on the edge of the city. Drone footage and reports from local authorities indicate that at least 80% of the cities residential buildings are damaged or destroyed (Euronews 24/03/2022, Al Jazeera 23/03/2022, HRW 21/03/2022). Reports from March 22 indicate that more than 7,000 people had escaped the besieged port city of Mariupol in the previous 24 hours, but that nearly 100,000 remained trapped in “inhumane conditions” without food, water or medication as the bombardment continued (France 24 22/03/2022).

**In Kharkiv:** After initial frontal assaults on the city during February 24 – 25, Kharkiv civil authorities reported Russian forces entering the outskirts of Kharkiv from several directions late on February 25 (ISW 25/02/2022). However, Russian forces failed to gain control of the city (ISW 26/02/2022, ISW 27/02/22). February 28 saw a change in tactics as Russian forces began using heavy artillery against central Kharkiv (ISW 28/02/22). As well as shelling, Kharkiv has been subject to airstrikes and the use of Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS) (OCHA 07/03/2022, OHCHR 01/03/2022). Latest reports indicate that the bombardment has continued over several weeks damaging many residential and government buildings (Al Jazeera 21/03/2022).
In Kyiv: Missile attacks and airstrikes have been reported since the beginning of the conflict including a rocket attack on a TV tower on March 1, that resulted in the deaths of five people. More recently, a 35-hour curfew was imposed (on Kyiv) on March 15 after several apartment blocks were struck by Russian forces based outside the city (Reuters 19/03/2022, DW 01/03/2022, OCHA 26/02/2022). However, although intense fighting on the outskirts of the capital was reported around March 18, Ukrainian resistance has been effective in repelling Russian efforts to encircle Kyiv and recent reports point to successful counter attacks by the Ukrainian military with Russian forces digging in and laying mines – indications that they have gone over to the defensive (ISW 23/03/2022, ISW 17/03/2022). However oblast authorities report that ongoing clashes on the outskirts of the capital push several communities to the brink of a humanitarian crisis, including Berezivka, Mykolaivka, Severnyivka and Tarasove in the Buchanskyi district (OCHA 23/03/2022).

The United Nations, G7, EU, and other countries continue to condemn Russian actions and support Ukrainian forces. In an emergency United Nations session, 141 of 193 member states voted in favour of a resolution which demands that Russia “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. (BBC 24/03/2022, CFR 21/03/2022, Al Jazeera 17/03/2022). Direct negotiations between Russia and Ukraine continue with signs of progress but no formal agreement (CFR 21/03/2022).

Context

Ukraine has longstanding links to Russia

Ukraine became an independent country in 1991 and remains as one of the largest successors of the Soviet Union, both in terms of economy and population. With over 41 million inhabitants, Ukraine stands as the 7th most populated country in Europe, as for 2022 (State Statistics Service 2022, Worldometer 2022). The latest official population census from 2001 showed that 78% of the national population identified as ethnic Ukrainians while 17% identified as Russians. Other nationalities include - but are not limited to - Belarussians, Moldavians, Crimean Tatars and Bulgarians, each group representing less than 1% of the overall population. The majority of the Russians in Ukraine were then living in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (representing in 2001 58% of the region’s population), Donetsk (38%) and Luhansk (39%) (State Statistics Committee of Ukraine 2001). These statistics are likely to have known major changes since the Crimea annexation and the recent invasion of Luhansk and Donetsk. Nonetheless, Russia and Ukraine remained historically linked with the majority of Ukrainians being able to speak Russian, whether as a primary or secondary language (Congressional Research Services 05/10/2021).

Origins of the conflict

The conflict can be traced back to 2013, however, Ukraine and Russia disagree on who provoked the start of the conflict. It erupted after Ukraine's then-President Viktor Yanukovych refused to sign an association agreement with the EU. Pro-Western demonstrations eventually forced Yanukovych to flee the country, after which an interim government took over Ukraine. The removal of president Yanukovych in 2013 was the trigger to Russia’s invasion in Crimea and establishment of Russian separatist entities in eastern Ukraine (DW 03/03/2022). The Minsk agreements were signed in 2014 and 2015 by Ukraine and Russia and formalised the cease fire and the restoration of the Ukrainian control over Donetsk and Luhansk, though with a special status for these areas. However, armed hostilities have continued on the 420km long ‘contact-line’. In 2020, a strengthened ceasefire was adopted but became very fragile as soon as 2021. Throughout the conflict, there was a build-up of troops by Russia in Crimea and OHCHR reported cases of human rights violations towards minorities. According to OHCHR and UNHCR, 10,000 combatants and 3,400 civilians died in the conflict before 2022 while 1.4 million people were internally displaced (OHCHR 06/05/2021, UNHCR 28/10/2021, Congressional Research Services 05/10/2021).

In October 2021, Russia began moving troops and military equipment near its border with Ukraine, reigniting concerns over a potential invasion. Commercial satellite imagery, social media posts, and publicly released intelligence from November and December 2021 showed armour, missiles, and other heavy weaponry moving toward Ukraine with no official explanation. By December, more than one hundred thousand Russian troops were in place near the Russia-Ukraine border and U.S. intelligence officials warned that Russia may be planning an
invasion for early 2022 (CFR 21/03/2022). On February 21, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree recognizing the self-proclaimed "Donetsk People's Republic" (DPR) and the "Luhansk People's Republic" (LPR) as independent (DW 21/02/2022).

The last decade has seen several crises negatively impacting Ukraine’s economy

Responsible for the agricultural and industrial production under the Soviet Union, Ukraine has since known several economic crises, notably with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the 2008-2009 global financial crisis, the 2014 Russian invasion and lately the COVID-19 pandemic (Congressional Research Services 05/10/2021). The country has been particularly hit by the pandemic and remains one of the countries most affected in Europe (World Bank 05/10/2021). After a 3.8% decrease of the real GDP in 2020 compared to 2019, the country saw a growth of 3.4% in 2021. Mainly exporting agricultural and industrial products, Ukraine is mostly trading with countries from EU and China while Russia was its largest trading partner until 2013. With a fifth of the labourers working in agriculture, the country has had a relatively stable rate of unemployment these past years with a score lower than 10% in early 2022 but higher scores in Luhansk and Donetsk (respectively 16.6% and 15.7% in 2021) (Congressional Research Services 05/10/2021, State Statistics Service 2022, OCHA 02/2022).

The president Volodymyr Zelensky was elected in 2019 and since then the government has passed anti-corruption and judicial reforms; adopted legislation to allow decentralisation in the country; introduced fiscal, trade and pro-business reforms and land reforms. This pushed the IMF to allow new loans to support these reforms (Congressional Research Services 05/10/2021). However, infrastructure in Ukraine has seen a marked level of deterioration this past decade. While scored 74th at the global level by the World Bank for the quality of its infrastructure, it lowered to the 119th place in 2018 (OECD 2020). In Eastern Ukraine, conditions of facilities and accessibilities of services have worsened due to the frequent clashes since 2014. This is particularly the case for health care, education, water, sanitation, gas facilities and heating, whether because of damages or because of the insecurity for the population willing to access these services (military presence, explosive remnants of war etc.).

Displacement

Displaced people who have crossed international borders to neighbouring countries since the military offensive on 24 February 2022, taken from the UNHCR Operations Portal for Ukraine

People Displaced Internally since the military offensive on 24 February 2022, taken from latest IOM Ukraine Internal Displacement Report

Note: there is a lack of disaggregated figures (by age, gender and vulnerable groups) and information on third country nationals for both IDP and refugee population groups.

Over 3 million people have fled Ukraine since the beginning of the Russian invasion

In the four weeks since the start of the Russian military offensive over 3.7 million people have fled from Ukraine to neighbouring countries (between February 24 and March 23). Among them, 186,000 third country nationals - out of 470,000 estimated to reside in Ukraine before the war- fled to neighbouring countries. The majority of the third country nationals living in Ukraine were from India, Morocco, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Nigeria, including tens of thousands of students (IOM 21/03/2022, Global Protection Cluster 03/03/2022, BBC 04/03/2022, IOM 01/03/2022).
An important part of the evacuations were done through railway trains (REACH 16/03/2022). Since Ukrainian men are restricted to leave the country as they are enlisted for the war, most of the persons leaving Ukraine are women and children. According to IOM displacement surveys conducted between the 4th and the 19th of March, 44% of the refugees were women aged from 18 to 65 years. Overall, 76% of the refugees were women. Elderly people are less represented in these refugees (8%) while they represent 16% of the general population, which can be explained by the difficulties encountered to cross borders. While the percentage of children amongst the refugees is not known at the general level, almost half of the refugees leaving to Poland were children (IOM 19/03/2022). Though very few information is available on the third country nationals fleeing the country, it was reported that the refugee population crossing to Poland is composed of citizens from Afghanistan, Algeria, Belarus, India, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Poland, Russia, the United States, and Uzbekistan (Kyiv Post 06/03/2022). Poland is the most common country of destination (2.2 million refugees) before Romania (600,000 refugees) and the Republic of Moldova (400,000), at a lower scale. However, after Poland, Germany (13%), Spain (7%), Italy (4%) and Czechia (4%) are the countries showing the highest intentions of destination for the refugees (IOM 19/03/2022).

On March 4, 2022, in order to tackle the massive displacement from Ukraine, the Council of the EU adopted a decision enabling all of the countries of the EU to host these displaced people. All persons fleeing Ukraine after February 24 can therefore benefit from the temporary protection status, defined by the council of the EU as such:

“Temporary protection is an emergency mechanism which can be applied in cases of mass influx of persons and which aims to provide an immediate and collective (i.e. without the need for the examination of individual applications) protection to displaced persons who are not in a position to return to their country of origin. The objective is to alleviate pressure on national asylum systems and to allow displaced persons to enjoy harmonised rights across the EU. These rights include residence, access to the labour market and housing, medical assistance, and access to education for children.” (Council of the EU 4/03/2022).
This is the first time that the EU has activated the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) (Washington Post 16/03/2022). These refugees will be able to get asylum for a year, duration which can be extended. Both Ukrainian nationals, third country nationals and stateless persons can benefit from this protection, as long as they can prove that they resided in Ukraine before February 24 (Council of the EU 04/03/2022).

According to IOM displacement surveys, it appears that most of the refugees intend to return to Ukraine when the country is safe again (80%) (IOM 19/03/2022).

Internal displacement due to war continues to increase with new estimates indicating there are nearly 6.5 million new IDPs within the country

By the 16th of March there were an estimated 6.48 million newly internally displaced persons in Ukraine, with about 13.5% of those having previously been displaced during 2014-2015. The largest number of displaced persons come from the Eastern region (36%) where the two disputed “republics” of Donetsk and Luhansk are located. Significant numbers of IDPs are also from Kyiv (30%) and from the North (20%) where Ukraine’s second city of Kharkiv is under assault. Currently the Western region (40%) is hosting the largest proportion of IDPs, whilst some remained closer to the fighting in the East (17%), North (16%) and in the Central area of the country (17%) (IOM 16/03/2022). As the conflict persists, 40% of new IDP arrivals expressed their intention to continue moving further away from the conflict to other locations, an increase from an average of 20% - 30% during the first weeks of the war (Protection Cluster 16/03/2022).

A recent survey by IOM found that many of the displaced family groups contain particularly vulnerable members. Over 60% of displaced households are accompanied by children (aged 5 - 18) and 56% by elderly (>60 y.o.). Just over 10% of respondents reported pregnant and breastfeeding women as part of their displaced family group, and a further 32% included members who were chronically ill. Finally 20% of the displaced households are accompanied by at least one person with disabilities. Of the respondents reached in the survey, 53.6% were women (IOM 21/03/2022, IOM 16/03/2022).

In addition to these 9.9 million displaced persons (internal and external), 2.2 million more people expressed the willingness to leave their place of residence in order to escape from war (IOM 16/03/2022). However, security issues were preventing many civilians living in besieged areas from leaving their homes (USAID 08/03/2022). Indeed, though humanitarian corridors have been agreed on during bilateral talks between Ukraine and Russia, they often do not hold on the ground with various reports of convoys being hit by shelling or attacked by military forces. Civilians are reportedly trapped in Eastern and Northern regions, including towns surrounding Kyiv (Bucha, Hostomel, Irpin, Makariv, and Vorzel) (Protection Cluster 16/03/2022). IOM assessment data found that 10% of the interviewees cannot leave because of safety concerns, while 8% have nowhere to go, 7% do not want to leave family members behind and 5% cannot afford the cost of displacement and 1% indicated that a health issue/disability was preventing them (Protection Cluster 16/03/2022).

Humanitarian Access

Access of affected population to assistance

While eight humanitarian corridors have been agreed upon between the parties to conflict, they do not always result in successful evacuations with indiscriminate shelling and targeted attacks on escape routes reported.

By March 21, IOM reported that eight humanitarian corridors had been agreed, including one in the Donetsk region (notably to evacuate Mariupol), several in the Kyiv region, and others in the Luhansk region and the Kherson region (IOM 21/03/2022, Presidential Office of Ukraine 19/03/2022). Ukraine 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 (PIN 21/03/2022). However, despite these challenges and failures, massive evacuations have occurred and enabled citizens to flee encircled cities. In a video message on March 18, President Zelensky indicated that more than 180,000 people had been able to flee through the corridors agreed upon with the Russians at the time (CNN 18/03/2022, International Refugees 21/03/2022). Many of those in conflict areas who were not able or willing to flee have had to survive in damaged houses for weeks without access to sufficient food, water, heat or medical care (PIN 21/03/2022).

Communication remains also a challenge for people residing in conflict-affected areas. Power outages and unstable telecommunications services are limiting the ability of populations to access hotlines and other information (USAID...
Overall more than 12 million people are estimated to be stranded in affected areas or unable to leave due to heightened security risks, destruction of bridges and roads, as well as lack of resources or information on where to find safety and accommodation (Protection Cluster 16/03/2022).

Access of relief actors to the affected population

While access to encircled cities and conflict-affected areas is still very limited and even dangerous, humanitarian organisations and UN agencies are scaling up operations to be prepared to implement as soon as possible

As mentioned above, humanitarian corridors to encircled cities such as Mariupol have been frequently attacked or postponed, leading the delivery of humanitarian relief supplies to be very difficult (OCHA 09/03/2022). Violations of international humanitarian law and constant insecurity is preventing actors from reaching the people most in need (PIN 21/03/2022). On March 8, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) convoy carrying life-saving humanitarian aid was destroyed after being caught in a crossfire (OCHA 09/03/2022, The Washington Post 17/03/2022). It must also be noted that there is a limited number of national partners available in-country, which highlights the need for establishing partnerships with INGOs and UN agencies to widen the reach of assistance (OCHA 21/03/2022).

Furthermore, security events involving humanitarian workers have been sporadically reported, but no centralization registration of these incidents is available so far (AWSD 18/03/2022). The Surveillance System for Attacks on Healthcare has reported 64 attacks on health facilities or assets, leading to the death of 15 personnel (WHO 24/03/2022). Recently, on March 23, president Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused Russia of seizing 15 rescue workers and drivers from a humanitarian convoy heading to Mariupol (Huffington Post 23/03/2022).

However, the first UN-organized convoy arrived in the north-eastern city of Sumy (reported on March 18), carrying medical supplies, water, ready-to-eat meals, and canned food for 35,000 people. It also included repair equipment for water systems that would enhance access to water for about 50,000 people. The convoy included items from the NGO People in Need, as well as from several UN agencies (International Refugees 21/03/2022). Another decision has been made lately in Ukraine in order to facilitate humanitarian assistance and ease administrative challenges. On March 22, the Government of Ukraine issued a resolution amending the rules for delivering humanitarian aid from abroad, which cancels the majority of requirements for bringing in relief items.

Furthermore, 14 European countries have agreed to a permission-free transit of humanitarian aid to Ukraine (OCHA 23/03/2022).

Administrative challenges are restricting and delaying response from humanitarian actors

Congestion at border crossing points (BCP) between Poland and Ukraine has been reported by the Logistics Cluster. Custom clearing processes continue to be delayed by long queues at the border and notably with a high volume of non-humanitarian cargo crossing (Logistics Cluster 21/03/2022, OCHA 17/03/2022). The Ukrainian State Border Guard Services is working on speeding up the clearance of humanitarian aid entering the country. Nearly 7,000 vehicles transporting humanitarian aid were able to cross the country between February 24 and March 14 (Logistics Cluster 14/03/2022).

Assistance to displaced is also facilitated by actors in Poland: the Ministry of Finance of Poland has indeed pushed actors to apply to custom duty and VAT exemption for assistance intended for refugees from Ukraine in Poland; the Ministry of Infrastructure of Poland has issued an exemption from the obligation to pay tolls for driving on public roads.
roads for humanitarian vehicle or convoy; and the logistic cluster is support actors to access common transport and storage services in Poland and Ukraine (Logistics Cluster 21/03/2022, TheDY 04/03/2022).

Security / physical constraints

Transport, fuel and supplies remain significant issues for humanitarian partners

Responding humanitarian organisations have reported difficulties to meet their expanding needs for vehicles and drivers to transport cargo from western to eastern Ukraine (Logistics Cluster 21/03/2022). Furthermore, the damages on infrastructures and roads are adding to the existing challenges in terms of access (OCHA 21/03/2022).

Local procurement strategies face substantial challenges as the capacity of markets and ability to procure supplies varies deeply in different parts of the country. Many distributors are not operational. Key stockpiles are made inaccessible by the ongoing clashes. Medical supplies are alarmingly running low in encircled areas (Mariupol, Kharkiv) (OCHA 18/03/2022). Moreover, competition over logistics assets and services within Ukraine and in border areas continues to be reported by OCHA access (OCHA 21/03/2022). At the beginning of the month, OCHA reported that bank systems were no longer operational in certain locations, limiting partners’ capacity to provide cash-based interventions (OCHA 02/03/2022). However, the local newspaper The Kyiv Independent reported otherwise (AniNews 12/03/2022).

Although the logistics cluster indicates that current assessments show no widespread shortage of fuel in Ukraine that could impede the delivery of assistance, USAID reported disrupted access to fuel in Eastern Ukraine (Logistics Cluster 21/03/2022, USAID 05/03/2022, Global Protection Cluster 03/03/2022).

Insecurity and offensives have been the biggest challenge hampering actors to respond to people in need

Ongoing hostilities and indiscriminate attacks continue to hamper the free movement of humanitarian cargo (i.e. aid material and support equipment). The increasing number of airstrikes and shelling hitting civilians and non-military infrastructures is the most significant barrier to humanitarian actors, in particular in hard-to-reach areas, putting civilians and humanitarian personnel at risk (Logistics Cluster 21/03/2022, OCHA 17/03/2022). The only confirmed use of UXOs is the Ukrainian forces resorting to anti-tank landmines. Monitoring experts expressed doubts over the ability of the Ukrainian army to keep records of their locations for later removal (PAX 16/03/2022).

Humanitarian Impact, Conditions and Response

Conflict Affected Areas in Ukraine

Civilian casualties across Ukraine continue to rise, while Eastern Ukraine continues to suffer the greatest human costs

The scope of conflict has been expanding across Ukraine since the beginning of the conflict. As of March 24, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) reports 2,685 civilian casualties, including 1,035 killed, though the actual figure is likely to be considerably higher as the full extent of civilian casualties cannot be confirmed at the moment due to ongoing hostilities (OHCHR 24/03/2022). Eastern Ukraine continues to suffer the greatest human costs of escalating hostilities, recording nearly 45% of all civilian casualties across the country so far. In less than a month, the confirmed civilian death toll has already reached the equivalent of 70% of all confirmed civilian deaths over the last seven years of fighting in eastern Ukraine combined (OCHA 21/03/2022).

Attacks on healthcare facilities and restricted movements are impacting access to healthcare

Since the beginning of the military offensive, 64 incidents of attacks on healthcare have been documented via the WHO – including health care facilities damaged or destroyed and ambulances hit, affecting access to and availability of health services (OCHA 23/03/2022, Protection Cluster 19/03/2022, Protection Cluster 11/03/2022). More than 300 healthcare facilities are located in areas experiencing active hostilities or with a significant presence of Russian Federation forces, while 600 facilities are within 10km of ongoing clashes, leaving the health system particularly vulnerable to infrastructural damages and severe interruptions in critical services (IOM 20/03/2022). As of 20 March, Donetska oblast authorities report damage to at least 10 health facilities (OCHA 21/03/2022). On March 9
alone, Russian airstrikes hit three hospitals in Ukraine, including two west of the capital and a maternity hospital in the besieged port city of Mariupol (AP News 10/03/2022).

**Key civilian infrastructure has been destroyed in targeted attacks, damaging residential buildings, hospitals, schools, water infrastructure and communication facilities**

Targeted attacks and destruction of residential houses and civilian infrastructure has been widely reported (Kyiv Post 03/03/2022). On March 5, the most extensive damages to civilian infrastructure were witnessed in Bucha (Kyivskyi oblast), Cherniv (north), Kharkiv (north-east) and Korosten (north) (OCHA 06/03/2022). The lack of safe passage for civilians is driving up risks and resulting in serious threats to the lives of thousands of people attempting to flee the hostilities (Protection Cluster 11/03/2022).

As of March 9, civilian infrastructure and civilian housing across the country continue to be attacked by heavy missiles and airstrikes (Protection Cluster 11/03/2022). Between February 24 and March 22, more than 650 residential buildings have been destroyed across Ukraine, while around 3,780 have suffered varying degrees of damages. The extent of damages is likely more considerable, as insecurity prevents the assessment of damages (OCHA 23/03/2022).

Although telecommunications infrastructure largely remains operational in Ukraine, there are reports of hacking and jamming of telecommunications in the country. A rocket attack on a TV tower in the capital, Kyiv, on March 1 resulted in the deaths of 5 people and the destruction of broadcasting hardware, impacting the city's communications infrastructure (Reuters 19/03/2022). Reports of 3G and 4G mobile network coverage are positive along the Ukrainian borders, but there are signs of saturation of the network due to the influx of displaced people (OCHA 10/03/2022).

According to the Ministry of Education and Science, as of March 23, 548 educational facilities were damaged and 72 completely destroyed, although this figure has yet to be verified (OCHA 23/03/2022). In Donetsk oblast alone, more than 320 educational facilities have been damaged as of March 20 (OCHA 21/03/2022).

Key water infrastructure has been partially damaged or completely destroyed. The conflict has also damaged electricity and sanitation facilities, and has left critical infrastructure inaccessible (IMC 02/03/2022). For example, in Luhanska oblast, constant shelling has destroyed around 80% of some localities, leaving nearly 100,000 users without electricity (OCHA 21/03/2022).

Ongoing hostilities have specifically affected the functionality of water infrastructure in areas close to the “contact line,” in eastern Ukraine (OCHA 08/03/2022, IOM 20/03/2022). Limited access makes it difficult to track and repair damage to WASH infrastructure (OCHA 10/03/2022). Additionally, the village of Demydiv in Kyiv Oblast is reported to be at risk of flooding due to destruction of a dam during fighting. If flooded it could negatively impact the ability to bring in aid and for residents to evacuate (Kyiv Independent 19/03/2022, uacrisis 26/02/2022). It is unclear if the Ukrainian military flooded the area deliberately to slow the Russian advance on Kyiv or if the flooding was due to a dam being damaged in fighting (rfier 23/03/2022, Business Insider 23/03/2022).

Air quality is deteriorating due to fires and regular bombardment

Fires breaking out across the country along with the bombardment of industrial sites is contaminating the air and reducing air quality (delo 07/03/2022, Kyiv Post 03/03/2022, Euronews 22/03/2022). For example, as of March 21, the air pollution level in Kyiv remains categorised as unhealthy, with the fine particulate matter (PM2.5) concentration in the capital currently more than 12 times higher than the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) air quality guideline value (OCHA 21/03/2022). There is also risk on the contamination of water and soil from heavy metals and chemicals from bombs and weaponry, and even the destruction of crops and wildlife (Euronews 22/03/2022).

**HUMANITARIAN NEEDS**

**Encircled cities in the north, east and south of Ukraine continue to be the areas with the highest needs, but the humanitarian situation in eastern Ukraine is the biggest concern**

The humanitarian needs across Ukraine continue to increase and it is estimated that 12 million people (30%) inside the country will need relief and protection (OCHA 23/03/2022). As fighting expands into new areas of Eastern Ukraine specifically, Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts the needs in these areas are intensifying, and exacerbating underlying needs accumulated over eight years of armed conflict (OCHA 21/03/2022). The needs in cities on the contact line and encircled cities are critical (OCHA 06/03/2022). Humanitarian situation in northern Ukraine and
the Kyiv area remains relatively better than in the east, but destruction is still high, with some cities remaining without electricity. The southern city of Kherson remains under the alleged control of Russian forces and in need of humanitarian supplies (OCHA 23/03/2022).

Hostilities have disrupted basic services for populations in many areas; according to the Energy Ministry of Ukraine, as of 22 March, more than 865,000 users in nearly 1,320 settlements across Ukraine remain without electricity. The power supply is slowly being restored in Donetsk, Kharkivska (north-east), Khersonska (south), Kyivska (north), Mykolaivska (south), Sumsa (north-east) and Zaporitxia (south-east) oblasts. However, repair works continue to be constrained by the current security conditions, while in some areas, restoration of power and other services remains virtually impossible due to ongoing hostilities. Moreover, as of 22 March, the number of users cut off from gas supplies rose to 291,000 compared with 281,000 a day before (OCHA 23/03/2022).

Thousands across the country are cut off from the water supply due to active hostilities and damage to basic infrastructure. For example, more than 200,000 people are now without access to water across Donetsk oblast, with new localities being affected each day. As the scope and scale of clashes in the oblast increase, there are growing concerns that all of Donetsk oblast could be cut off from the water supply in the coming weeks, leaving millions of people without access to water (OCHA 21/03/2022).

The lack of clean water and access to health care is particularly concerning. Contaminated water can cause diarrhoea, which in turn leads to further dehydration. There are many challenges to accessing health care, with active hostilities and a lack of public transport restricting movement (WHO 17/03/2022). Damage to health care infrastructure, curtailed access to referral hospitals and pharmacies, and personnel fleeing from conflict-affected areas are affecting the health system. In addition, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), surgical departments and intensive care units (ICUs) are becoming overwhelmed with trauma patients. Overcrowded shelters, lack of access to sanitation, water and healthcare increase the risk of infectious disease transmission (IOM 20/03/2022, MSF 11/03/2022).

According to the World Food Programme (WFP), the food security situation in Ukraine is worsening. Food needs are particularly acute in the east, including Mariupol (Donetska oblast), Luhanska oblast, Chuhuiv and Izium (Kharkivska oblast), and Sumsa oblast (primarily in Sumy and Okhtyrka) (OCHA 23/03/2022). Civilians in encircled cities are facing severe shortages of food, water and energy supplies. As insecurity persists and supply chains are disrupted, people might fall deeper into emergency levels of hunger and malnutrition. A recent market survey indicated many items were unavailable in areas of Luhanska, Sumsa, Khersonska and Chernihivska oblasts (OCHA 23/03/2022, REACH 17/03/2022, OCHA 16/03/2022).

Although evacuations remain difficult as cities come under increasingly intense attacks (OCHA 06/03/2022), there is a growing number of spontaneous evacuations out conflict-affected cities without any security guarantees for residents fleeing ongoing fighting (OCHA 21/03/2022). All humanitarian actors need rapid, safe, unhindered access to conflict-affected areas (Protection Cluster 11/03/2022).

PRIORITIES and RESPONSE

**Encircled cities:** Encircled cities in the north, east and south of Ukraine continue to be the areas of the highest volatility and most dire needs, outpacing the capacities of the local partners on the ground. People trapped within cities in conflict-affected areas such as Kharkiv and Mariupol are unable to meet their basic needs including food, water, electricity and medicines due to movement restrictions as a result of insecurity and inability for aid to enter these areas. Needs are exacerbated by the damage to basic infrastructure due to shelling. Additionally, civilians are at risk of the indiscriminate Russian attacks on populated areas which have destroyed residential buildings, shops and other civilian structures. The needs in encircled cities are critical especially as essential infrastructure and services are being targeted. The needs are getting worse as cities remain encircled and civilians unable to leave due to the lack of safe passages (OCHA 23/03/2022, WFP 22/03/2022).

While needs in the capital, Kyiv, are less severe, if Russian forces are able to besiege it, it could face large-scale needs similar or in excess of those in Mariupol and Kharkiv, if a sizable proportion of its pre-war population of around 3 million people remain in the city. Similar needs are arising in the suburbs of Kyiv where most of the fighting in the area is taking place.

**Cities under the alleged control of Russian forces:** The Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said 300,000 people in the city of Kherson, in Southern Ukraine, are running out of food and medical supplies. Kyiv also said Russia was preventing the evacuation of civilians to Ukrainian-controlled territory (DW 22/03/2022, Reuters 22/03/2022).
Russian troops have been accused of using stun grenades and firing guns to disperse a rally of pro-Ukrainian protesters in Kherson (Sky News 21/03/2022).

**Specific groups:** Vulnerable population groups such as women and children, people with disabilities or serious medical conditions, as well as older people and minority groups, are increasingly facing barriers in accessing critical services such as transportation, food, medicines, and emergency health care (UNHCR 18/03/2022). People with particularly high protection concerns include, single and/or female-headed households, unaccompanied/ separated minors, trafficking risks and sexual exploitation (WFP 22/03/2022). The lack of access to healthcare is affecting older people and pregnant women; perinatal and maternal hospitals in some oblasts have been severely damaged and are no longer operational, affecting access to these critical services for women (OCHA 10/03/2022). Lack of access to telecommunication increases vulnerabilities and exclusion (WFP 22/03/2022).

**Response:** In some places some assistance is getting through for example, on March 8, 12 wagons and seven trucks of humanitarian aid supplies arrived in Kharkiv. However, despite the dire humanitarian situation in Mariupol, most attempts to establish safe civilian evacuation corridors to evacuate Mariupol have mostly failed (CNN 17/03/2022, Al Jazeera 06/03/2022). Supplies stand ready for Russian forces to grant permission to allow aid to enter encircled cities and cities under bombardment. In some cases, humanitarian supplies have been waiting for days, regular bombardment and street fights have also restricted response (CNN 16/03/2022, BBC 16/03/2022, MSF 11/03/2022).

**IDPs in Ukraine**

**The scale and speed of the displacement close to overwhelming IDP systems and services**

Although huge numbers of Ukrainians have crossed the border into neighbouring countries, an estimated 6.48 million Ukrainians still remain displaced within their own country. Most have fled to the relatively safe western area of the country (40%), however many still remain close to the conflict in the East (17%), North (16%) and South (6%) regions, with the remainder in the Central region (17%) (IOM 16/03/2022). Data from the beginning of March has indicated that Zakarpatska, Lvivska, Chernivetska, Vinnytska, Odeska, Ivano-Frankivska are the oblasts with the highest concentration of IDPs followed by smaller concentration of IDPs in the central oblasts of Dnipropetrovska, Zaporizka, and Poltavska (Protection Cluster 10/03/2022).

The massive and rapid influx of people in the country’s central and western regions has overstretched the capacities of local authorities to provide accommodation and cover basic needs (Protection Cluster 10/03/2022). Some cities in western Ukraine are seeing extremely large numbers of IDPs. At the start of March approximately 30 trains transporting an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 IDPs arrived daily in Lviv city, which was hosting an estimated 400,000 IDPs by March 11, according to local authorities. Although many IDPs move on, oblast authorities have noted that increasing numbers of IDPs are opting to remain in the Lviv area, therefore there are plans to increase Lviv city’s IDP shelter capacity by up to 15% (USAID 18/03/2022).

The large majority of IDP households have successfully found somewhere to stay but it has been challenging for many

A recent IOM survey found that the majority of displaced households have been able to find a place to stay, but 21% indicated that it has been “hard” or “extremely hard” to find a place to sleep tonight for themselves and their family/household (IOM 16/03/2022). The majority of IDPs seeking shelter are using private accommodation although significant numbers are also using transit/reception centres. However, 2.4% of those interviewed in the survey did not know where they would sleep or were homeless. For those relying on accommodation arranged by authorities, hotlines were established at Oblast level to refer new arrivals, as well as registration/reception centres (IOM 16/03/2022, Protection Cluster 16/03/2022).

**Appropriate legislation and registration systems being developed by Government and local authorities**

In addition to procedures introduced by the Government in 2014, measures are being put in place to allow for the registration of IDPs after systems were overwhelmed at the start of the conflict. Registration options now include an online system, the Diya mobile application or through the centres for provision administrative services (TSNAPs) and local executive bodies. Currently however, only IDPs from Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk regions, who were...
registered before the Russian military offensive on 24 February are entitled to the targeted assistance although this may change in the coming weeks (Protection Cluster 16/03/2022).

IDP numbers may increase
It is possible that there will be further increases in IDP numbers as 12 million people are estimated to be stranded in affected areas or unable to leave due to heightened security risks, destruction of bridges and roads, as well as lack of resources or information on where to find safety and accommodation. (Protection Cluster 16/03/2022). A recent IOM survey estimated that 2 million more people expressed a willingness to leave their place of residence in order to escape from war (IOM 16/03/2022). With more people on the move, from more locations, displacement movements are complicated. Shelter and NFI needs are high and will increase (Shelter Cluster 15/03/2022).

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Concern over the large number of vulnerable people amongst the displaced
The high proportions of vulnerable groups reported in the displaced population are of particular concern. With almost one third of family groups containing someone who was chronically sick, access to healthcare will be a major need for IDP families. A further 10.2% of displaced families included pregnant or breastfeeding women who may also need medical support (IOM 16/03/2022). Monitoring visits in Vinnytsia revealed that the majority of arrivals in government-run transit centres are women, children, older people, and men who are exempt from military conscription (Protection Cluster 16/03/2022). In addition, support will be required for the high proportions of families with a disabled member (19.5%) or elderly relative (56.3%). Accessible facilities such as toilets and beds will be needed to accommodate these groups (IOM 16/03/2022).

Protection Risks Heightened
Women and girls continue to face severely heightened risks under the current conditions. Forced displacement, the division of families, accommodation in temporary or shared shelters all heighten risks of gender-based violence (GBV). Main reception and collective centres hosting IDPs are in Chernivetska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, Kirovohradska and all are subject to overcrowding, lack of basic NFIs including beds, mattresses and blankets. Lack of separation by gender or space for family units limits the ability to provide necessary privacy and increase protection risks (Shelter Cluster 15/03/2022, Protection Cluster 10/03/2022).

PRIORITIES and RESPONSE

Logistics hindering NFI provision for IDPs
There is a lack of NFIs available in the country due to logistical issues as available stocks and markets, and the purchasing capacity is insufficient to meet demand. Challenges exist for both importing stock and local purchasing. For transit centres (mostly hosted in dormitories, schools and sometimes churches), the most pressing needs are related to lack of NFIs (folding beds, mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, kettles, etc). Government authorities, local partners and community-based organisations who are providing immediate assistance require NFI kits and more operational actors are required to support the ongoing efforts. Stocks of relief items were prepositioned in the country prior to the military offensive but are insufficient given the volume and magnitude of critical needs (Shelter Cluster 15/03/2022).

Displaced people who have crossed international borders to neighbouring countries
Depicted as the largest refugee crisis in Europe since WWII, the influx of refugees from Ukraine is leading to overwhelmed services in neighbouring countries and reports of discrimination against third country nationals. With over 3.7 million refugees fleeing from Ukraine and crossing to neighbouring countries, the conflict has become a regional humanitarian crisis, impacting all the countries surrounding Ukraine (UNHCR 24/03/2022, IBC 13/03/2022). The refugee crisis has resulted in the largest exodus in Europe since World War II (Rador 17/03/2022). Within the neighbouring countries, the largest number of refugees have crossed into Poland, likely because of its 500-kilometre border with Ukraine and its cultural and linguistic similarity. Moreover, Poland has already over a million Ukrainians living and working in the country (Politico 11/03/2022). However, this major influx (about 50,000 individuals per day) has been saturating the borders and putting significant pressure on the existing health system (France24 20/03/2022, CARE International 04/03/2022, Project HOPE 03/03/2022).
Third country nationals have faced particular issues in fleeing Ukraine and in receiving assistance in Poland. Indeed, reports mention individuals being blocked from boarding trains to leave Ukraine, some being harassed by the Polish border guards, some being forced to pay for services in Poland offered for free to Ukrainians (such as transportation), and finally some being refused access to relief items at refugees reception centres (Refugees International 21/03/2022). Moreover, Poland does not have the same hosting policy for Ukrainians and for third country nationals. A law was passed to allow Ukrainians to stay in Poland for 18 months and receive an identification card that facilitates their access to cash assistance and services while third country nationals (TCNs) have 15 days to find a way out of Poland (CARE 16/3/2022).

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

While many refugees leaving Ukraine intend to stay with family and friends accommodation remains one of the biggest needs

REACH assessments – conducted with refugees leaving Ukraine – show that most of the respondents intend to stay with family and friends in countries of arrival (REACH 14/03/2022). Though, in its assessment published on March 19, IOM reported that accommodation remained the most important need for refugees in Poland (38% of the interviewees mentioning this as their main need) (IOM 19/09/2022).

Hundreds of thousands of people are fleeing from Ukraine to Romania, leading to difficulties at the borders and major needs in terms of shelters (CARE International 04/03/2022). Citizens are reported to show solidarity to the refugees notably by providing shelter. Moreover, thousands of refugees from Ukraine have applied for asylum, enabling them to benefit from the right to stay in accommodation centres as well as from material, financial, medical assistance, psychological and legal specialised counselling, access to the labour market and cultural adaptation activities (agerpres 11/03/2022). Nonetheless, with the continuous flux of refugees in the country (recipient of the second largest number of Ukrainian refugees), accommodation capacity is overcrowded and families must stay in hotels, dormitories, public institutions, schools and religious establishments (Rador 17/03/2022).

In Moldova, most refugees are housed in people’s homes (deschide 14/03/2022). The assessment led by REACH shows that 76% of the interviewees intended to stay with family and friends in Moldova (REACH 19/03/2022).

In addition to these challenges in-country, additional concerns can be noted in regards to emergency shelter. According to the OCHA situation report, shelter supplies are being ordered from abroad by humanitarian partners but face delays because of long queues at the borders and formal shipment procedures (OCHA 23/03/2022).

Winter temperatures, living conditions and saturated services exacerbate health risks for the displaced

The end of February and the first days of March witnessed temperatures below zero centigrade in the countries surrounding Ukraine, with occurrence of snow and rain (UN Women 16/03/2022). Despite these harsh conditions, refugees are still queuing at the borders, leading them to be vulnerable to potential health and protection risks. OCHA reports the growing risk of disease outbreaks, including a new wave of COVID-19, notably with the establishment of camp-like settings for displaced people (OCHA 21/03/2022). With only 35% of residents of Ukraine vaccinated for COVID-19, the risk can be considered as fairly high (Our World in Data 23/02/2022). Furthermore, people who have fled Ukraine may need immediate access to medical and mental healthcare as they may suffer from injuries or ailments, or may suffer from chronic conditions (Bursa 22/03/2022, Refugees International 21/03/2022).

Mental health needs are also likely to be heightened as many refugees have gone through psychological distress during the war. Women interviewed by Refugees International reported such concerns and hold mostly alone the burden of childcare compounded with stress, fear and distress (UN Women 22/03/2022, Refugees International 21/03/2022). Overall, refugees are distressed and heavily affected psycho-socially (IBC 13/03/2022). In Poland the government has stated that all Ukrainians would be able to access free healthcare (Office for Foreigners, Polish Government 28/02/2022).

PRIORITIES and RESPONSE

Protection Risks Heightened

The Council of Europe’s Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) has warned of the dangers of people fleeing the armed conflict in Ukraine falling victim to human trafficking and exploitation. Indeed,
the large amount of refugees coupled with the rate of children and women within these refugees (estimated to 90%) is aggravating the risk of sexual violence, GBV and abuse (UN Women 22/03/2022, Romania journal 17/03/2022, OCHA 08/03/2022). It is estimated that about 30-40% of those fleeing Ukraine are children under 14 years, many of whom are unaccompanied or separated. This could be partly explained by the fact that about 100,000 children, half of them with disabilities, lived in institutional care and boarding schools in Ukraine (Romania-insider 21/03/2022, Protection Cluster 16/03/2022, UNHCR 07/03/2022). A large number of single-female-headed households also comprises the refugees, thus specific needs of children must be responded to, including access to childcare, education and health (Refugees International 21/03/2022, timpul 20/03/2022).

Other vulnerable groups requiring a special focus include the elderly and people with disabilities (IBC 13/03/2022). Furthermore, third country nationals and particular ethnicities are at risk of discrimination and abuse in hosting countries. The reluctance of some countries to host them and offer them services should be rapidly responded to in order to allow all affected people fleeing Ukraine to receive unconditional assistance, as requested by the UN and the EU (Refugees International 21/03/2022, IOM 03/03/2022).

Thus, information on border-crossing points, family tracing, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), shelter, health care and education are amongst the most reported pressing needs (Protection Cluster 16/03/2022).

Challenges remaining at border crossing points and in hosting countries

At the border crossing sites and reception centres, humanitarian actors reported a lack of resources, organisation and coordination. Indeed, amongst issues, authorities did not have the time or capacity to impose a transparent system of registration and monitoring to track who is offering and accepting aid at reception sites. UN coordination processes are also facing challenges linked to the scale of the response, such as language barriers in coordination meetings where local partners cannot actively participate. While the borders of Ukraine are saturated with dozens of thousands people crossing everyday, volunteers have been willing to help refugees and facilitate the response. If their efforts have been successful and described as the “backbone” of the response, it has also led to confusion and could harm the displaced individuals’ rights and wellbeing. There were reports of volunteers willing to transport refugees from the borders to cities in Poland, which is an additional risk in terms of human trafficking. An additional issue deals with the lack of separated spaces, toilets and bathing areas by gender in the reception centres (Refugees International 21/03/2022, CARE International 16/03/2022, IBC 13/03/2022). 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).

Within the hosting countries, each country will face different challenges depending on their capacity to respond. Refugees International mentioned the case of Moldova - one of Europe’s poorest countries- which cannot rely on the financial and technical assistance from EU institutions as the country is not an EU member state. The country is however under pressure with the massive arrival of refugees, with about 100,000 people including 48,000 children remaining at the reception centres (by March 17). The large influx of refugees will inevitably impact countries’ systems and resources, affecting both residents and refugees (Refugees International 21/03/2022, ECRE 18/03/2022). Yet, host countries are doing their best to give access to services to Ukrainian refugees, whether in terms of healthcare, education services or shelter (Adevarul 23/03/2022, Romanianlibera 23/03/2022, Timpul 20/03/2022, Noi 15/03/2022).

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 412 documents (collected between February 24 and March 24), were reviewed, sourced from 108 publishers and a total of 2,803 entries were 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.