

*“The most effective humanitarian relief is to silence the guns.”*

Opening remarks by UN Secretary General, António Guterres, at the “Joint Launch of the Humanitarian Flash Appeal and the Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan for Ukraine”

## ●●●● OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

### Protection of Civilians

- The protection situation in Ukraine is extremely volatile following the military offensive across the country. Between 24 February-01 March, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) recorded **688 civilian casualties in Ukraine**, 44% of which took place in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. At least 180 killed (26 men, 21 women, 4 boys, 3 girls, as well as 6 children and 120 adults whose sex is yet unknown) and 508 injured (37 men, 29 women, 7 girls, 2 boys, as well as 19 children and 414 adults whose sex is yet unknown). Figures are believed to be higher, especially in Government controlled areas, albeit figures are difficult to corroborate, due to ongoing hostilities across the county. Most of these casualties were caused by the use of explosive weapons with a wide impact area, including shelling from heavy artillery, MLRS, and air strikes.
- As heavy fighting continues across the country, reports of civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure increase and are of grave concern.



### Forced Displacement

- The military offensive has triggered massive displacement within and outside the country, adding to the already existing 850,000 IDPs within Ukraine. Based on a triangulation of data available at open sources, the Protection Cluster estimates that at least **1 million persons have been newly displaced inside Ukraine**. It is projected that over the next few months, over 6.7M people may become internally displaced.
- It is estimated that **12 M people living in affected areas are stranded, or unwilling or unable to leave due to the military action and heightened security risks, destruction of bridges and roads, as well as lack of resources or information on where to find safety and accommodation**. Establishing safe pathways for their evacuation and relocation is an urgent priority to protect their lives.
- According to UNHCR, as of 2 March 2022, around 875,000 refugees have fled Ukraine to neighboring countries due to the impact of the military offensive. UNHCR estimates the escalation could drive 4 million refugees.

### Protection Monitoring – Main Profiles, Protection Risks, Needs, and Access to Assistance

- **In the first 24 hours** since the Protection Cluster launched its **Protection Monitoring Tool for Emergency**, preliminary data collected by partners show over **53,000 new IDP arrivals in seven Oblasts**, mostly in the Western region, but also at a smaller extent in Kyiv and central regions. The majority of **new IDPs come from Kharkiv, Donetsk, Kherson and Dnipro Oblasts**, but also from Zaporizhyya, Sumy, Chernihiv and Kyiv.

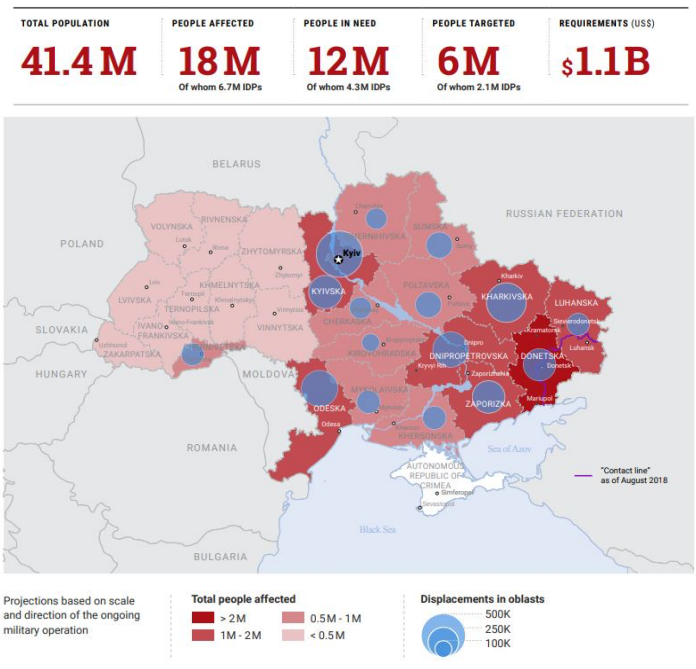
At least **30%** of the new IDP arrivals indicated the **intention to continue moving further away to other locations**.

- Most **vulnerable profiles among IDPs** identified so far include children, women and girls at risk, persons with disabilities and older people. Main reported **protection risks** to which the population is currently exposed include primarily family separation due to displacement as a result of the military action hostilities, exposure to shelling and restrictions on freedom of movement. Lack of access to education and lack of access to State Social Services were also reported, especially in areas still affected by active hostilities.
- Persons living with **disabilities**, including children, are reportedly facing increased horrendous conditions. Partners members of the Cluster’s Technical Working Group on Age and Disability report that shelters in Kyiv are inaccessible, resulting in persons with disabilities being forced to stay home without access to information, awaiting a safer option. Persons with disabilities living in institutions, already segregated from their communities, are at heightened risk of abandonment, given that staff themselves have had to evacuate with their families.
- All monitored locations reported that access to **social and administrative services** (provided by authorities) is still available, while the primary type of shelter being used by IDPs is private accommodation (rental and with families/friends). The most reported pressing needs include lack of access to transportation and lack of access to medicines and emergency healthcare
- The most pressing protection need raised by the authorities is for support **to evacuate vulnerable population groups** living in areas highly affected by the military offensive, including women at risk, children, older people, and people with disabilities.
- **Access to fuel** is reportedly scarce, particularly in southern, central and eastern regions, which delays delivery of assistance and limits authorities’ and partners’ capacities to access and/or evacuate affected population. **Power outages, unstable telecommunications** in certain locations are also limiting people’s access to hotlines and information. In locations along the contact line and severely affected by military hostilities, non-operational banking services limit partner’s capacity to provide cash-based interventions.
- For those already evacuated or displaced, **support to scale-up reception capacities in places of arrivals of IDPs** is another urgent need, including the possibility of provision of essential protection services such as psycho-social support and individual counselling.

## Flash Appeal

- On 1 March, OCHA Ukraine launched a [Flash Appeal](#) for three months (March-May 2022), requesting \$1.1B to scale up humanitarian response in Ukraine and support 6M affected people. **Within the Appeal, protection partners will target 2.8M people out of 5.3M of people in need with a total requirement of \$218M.** The protection response includes protection monitoring across the country and at international border crossing points; support local authorities to evacuate the most vulnerable groups of population; establishment of reception centers that work as ‘one-stop points’ to identify humanitarian needs and provide protection services; activities on raising-awareness on existing reception centres and availability of protection services. Also, in coordination with the Shelter Cluster, the partners will provide multipurpose cash assistance, where feasible, to the internally displaced population based on the identification of specific needs.

Ukraine Flash Appeal 2022\*



## ●●●● OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

- Protection by presence and direct provision of services and assistance is limited due to the highly volatile security situation, which hinders partners' safe access to the affected population and the expansion of protection services. Staff from protection partners are affected alike, and some are having to spend many hours in bombshelters or are in the process of relocating to safer areas where they can operate and adapt their programmes to the new emerging needs.
- On 26 February, **UNHCR** sent a truck with humanitarian assistance (including blankets, mats, jerry cans, kitchen sets) to Kyvyi Rig (Dnipro region) to support IDPs who fled the eastern part of Ukraine. In Donetsk NGCA, UNHCR provided roof repair assistance to seven households and shelter repair materials to 30 households.
- **Right to Protection** launched protection counselling, legal aid, and evacuation support in Vinnytsia, Khmelnytskii, Dnipro, Donetsk, Chernivtsi, and Kyiv regions. R2P monitors are present at the international crossing points with Romania.
- **Donbas SOS** expanded protection and legal counselling through the hotline and provided advice to more than 400 persons per day.
- **Norwegian Refugee Council** evacuated a family with non-mobile child from Komyshevakha.
- **NGO Proliska** supported evacuation of IDPs residing in conflict-affected 'Peredelski Dachi' to the northern part of Luhansk region. Proliska workers continue provision of PSS through the hotlines. Organization is planning to equip Child Friendly Spaces in bomb shelters in the conflict-affected areas of Donetsk region. Proliska also provided shelter kits, bread and water to 50 households affected by military action in settlements close to the contact line.
- **HelpAge** surveyed 459 older people residing along the contact line to assess the needs in evacuation – 100% people are not willing to relocate due to the deteriorated security situation, absence of 'green corridors for evacuation', lack of information on available accommodations. HAI volunteers continue to provide PSS support.
- **Ukrainian Foundation for Public Health** continue to provide PSS through mobile teams, where it is possible, and through remote modalities.
- **UNICEF jointly with NGO Ukrainian Child Rights Network** launched a hotline for families with children, foster families, and social workers, providing referral services.
- **FSD** provided EORE sessions for 657,000 persons across Ukraine.
- **Ukrainian Deminers Association** disseminated online EORE materials, reaching 602 000 people. UDA provided in-kind assistance for 70 people from Mariupol (Donetsk region) and 100 people from Borodianka (Kyiv region).

