



# UKRAINE RESPONSE PROTECTION SNAPSHOT

06-09 March 2022

## OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

### Protection of Civilians

- From 24 February to 9 March, the **Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** recorded **1,506 civilian casualties in the country**: 549 killed and 957 injured, as a result of the Russian military offensive in eastern, northern, and southern regions of Ukraine - 40% of them in Donetsk and Luhansk regions. **The confirmed numbers of civilian deaths (549) in the first 12 days is already higher than the total number of deaths in the past six years of conflict (355)**. OHCHR estimates that the real figures are considerably higher due to delays in receiving information from conflict-affected locations.
- With the escalation of intense clashes, and direct shelling of infrastructures, **mine/ERW related incidents** pose alarming two-folded threats to civilians, for the ones who decided to stay in their homes hiding and for those fleeing the conflict.
- Civilian infrastructure and civilian housing across the country continue to be attacked by heavy missiles and airstrikes in breach of International Humanitarian Law. **According to the Government of Ukraine, relentless shelling across the country has damaged or destroyed more than 210 schools, 34 hospitals, and more than 1,500 residential buildings.**
- Kyiv region (Bucha, Irpin, Hostomel, Ivankiv), Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, Mariupol, Odesa, Kherson, Mykolaiv, Luhansk, Kramatorsk, continue to experience heavy shelling, with reported power and water cuts. The safe passage of civilians out of hardest-hit areas and safe delivery of humanitarian supplies into those areas was not agreed upon and residents are now facing critical risks due to lack of access to life-saving humanitarian relief, including water, food, and medical supplies.
- The volatile security in eastern, southern and central areas continue to pose risks to civilians and humanitarian actors alike. All humanitarian actors need rapid, safe, unhindered access to conflict-affected areas.

### Forced Displacement Trends

- Forced displacement continues to grow exponentially and **1.85 million persons are estimated to be already internally displaced in Ukraine**. Zakarpatska, Lvivska, Chernivetska, Vinnytska, Odeska, Ivano-Frankivska are oblasts with the highest concentration of IDPs followed by smaller concentration of IDPs in the central oblasts of Dnipropetrovska, Zaporizka, and Poltavska.
- The estimated number of **people stranded in affected areas or unwilling or unable to leave due to military action has now risen to 12.65 million people**. Heightened security risks, destruction of bridges and roads, as well as lack of resources or information on where to find safety and accommodation are additional barriers to their safe movement.
- Humanitarian corridors for the safe evacuation of civilians have still not been secured by both parties, and continue to be the most pressing and urgent need inside Ukraine**. The [ICRC](#) remains in dialogue with parties to

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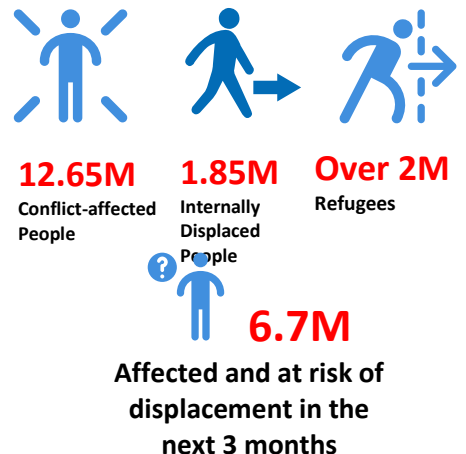
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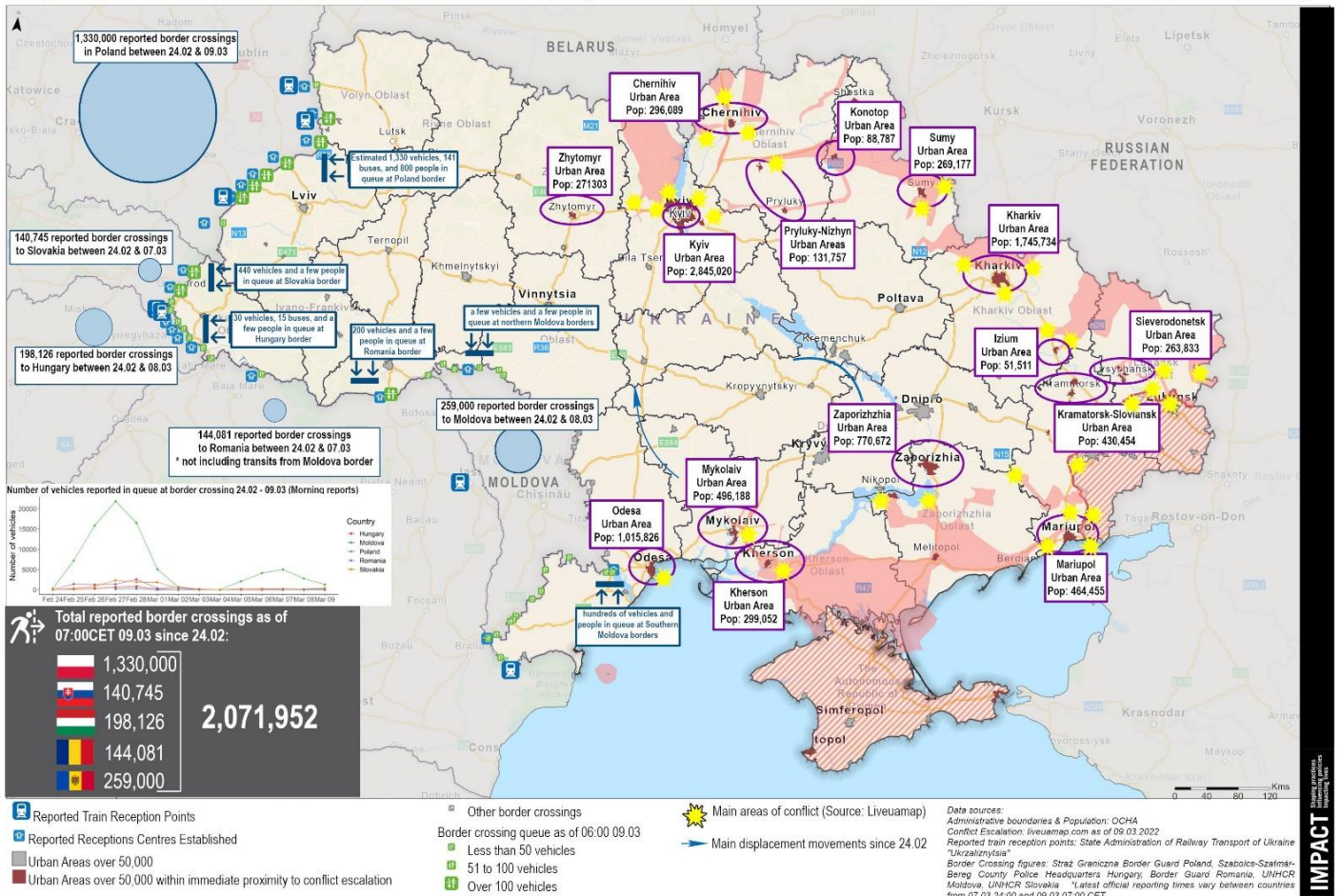
establish humanitarian corridors for the safe passage of civilians, with satisfactory security guarantees. The UN inside Ukraine continues to call for safe passage for all civilians fleeing, and for humanitarian aid to get in; and is actively working with all parties on a humanitarian notification system – as the UN does with neutrally and impartially in all such crises.

- During the reporting period, evacuations of civilians organized by local authorities took place from the northern city of Sumy and Irpin near Kyiv. Evacuees from Sumy, mostly women and children, and third-country nationals reportedly headed to Poltavaska.
- Lviv Service for children's affairs [supported evacuation of 371 children](#) from institutions of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kyiv, Kharkiv and Khmelnytsk regions. Children were evacuated together with their official representatives (adoptive and foster parents), as well as staff members of the institutions. A major concern is the evacuation of children [without](#) the corresponding coordination with authorities or accompaniment of adults, increasing the risk of family separation and human trafficking. The Protection Cluster, jointly with the Child Protection AoR, is developing guidance on protection standards for safe passage and evacuation of civilians, including children.
- Based on the interviews with the key informants across the country, IMPACT Initiatives has **mapped the major displacement routes from the most conflict-affected areas** (see the map below):

## Ukraine

### Displacement Overview of Conflict Areas & Border Crossings - as of 09 March 2022 06:00 CET

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- The number of people crossing the borders has fluctuated since the military offensive, and it is anticipated that the number of people crossing into neighboring countries will vary with the intensity and geography of the conflict over the next few days and weeks. According to 235 key informants interviews (KIIs) conducted by IMPACT with people crossing from Ukraine into Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Moldova, from 28 February to 09 March, the majority of people crossing the border originate from Odesa (24%), Kyiv (23%), Kharkiv (10%), Lviv (7%), and Zhytomyr (6%). KIIs showed reasons for selecting the border crossing points based on the most direct route to the border, shorter queues at borders crossings, reuniting with family and friends, and convenience of border crossing for future intentions. As of 9 March, [over two million Ukrainians fled to neighboring countries](#) – mostly to Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia.

## IDP Registration

- The centralized IDP registration system (administered by the Ministry of Social Policy) in place since 2014 is currently not being entirely applied due to high numbers of new IDP arrivals and overstretched capacities in areas receiving IDPs.
- Registration arrangements are available at the Oblast level<sup>1</sup> and vary in each regional administration. In locations where registration procedures are currently implemented by local authorities, IDPs are advised to register in reception centers with the purpose of allowing authorities to identify and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable and carry out referrals to relevant service providers. According to the information shared so far in locations where registration is in place, authorities were able to register 268,000 IDPs in six Oblasts, which is still far from providing the real magnitude of internal displacement in the country at the moment.

## Protection Monitoring Highlights

- **The Protection Cluster launched a Dashboard** (available in English and Ukrainian) reflecting results of data collection conducted by more than 20 partners in 16 regions of Ukraine. The majority of IDPs in the monitored areas come from Kyiv and Kharkiv regions. At least 38% of new IDP arrivals indicated the intention to continue moving further away to other locations. According to data available in monitored locations, women and children, people living with disabilities, older people and minority groups continue to comprise the majority of those displaced.
- Targeted attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure and lack of safe passages are spiraling protection risks and posing serious threats to the lives of thousands of civilians attempting to flee the hostilities. In Kyivska, Chernihivska, Vinnytska, and Zhytomyrska Oblasts (North- Center of the country), attacks on hospitals and dormitories were reported resulting in civilian injuries and deaths. In the southern city of Mariupol, attacks on a maternity hospital was reported by partners, which resulted in multiple civilian casualties of predominantly women and children.
- Violence and shelling endangering the lives of civilians and bringing to a halt planned evacuations, including buses of civilians trying to escape being fired and shot were reported in Makariv, Demydiv and Mykolaivska were also reported during the monitoring period. As a result, one police officer and three civilians died, with others wounded.
- **Key protection risks reported in the monitored areas include exposure to shelling and contamination by landmines, restrictions on freedom of movement, and family separation.** Women and children, persons with disabilities and/or serious medical conditions, as well as older persons and minority groups, are increasingly facing barriers in accessing critical services such as transportation, food products, medicines, and emergency health care in impacted areas. Humanitarian corridors allowing civilians to escape besieged cities to safety, as well as access to emergency assistance and information are urgently needed.
- 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.
- New arrivals in Vinnytsa, Lviv, Uzhgorod, and Zaporizhzhia particularly the most vulnerable are finding shelter in reception centres established by local authorities; the majority intend to move onwards with no intention to remain in their locations.
- 84% of key informants (including older people and people with disabilities) confirmed the availability of state services in their locations and 56% reported humanitarian assistance available.
- 84% have access to shelter. In locations where IDPs are hosted in collective centers, the main reported issues are overcrowding, lack of separation by gender or space for family units providing the necessary privacy, and basic services such as electricity and water are poor. Given the continuous growth of the displaced population, expectedly local authorities will face the lack of premises to host new arrivals shortly.



<sup>1</sup> So far, the Cluster received information that Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv, Chernivtsi, Vinnytsia Oblasts, as well as Ternopil, Khmelnytskyi, Kropivnytskyi introduced registration for persons forced to leave their homes and in need of emergency assistance.

## Gender Based Violence

- 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, increased military presence and the establishment of checkpoints all heighten risks of gender-based violence (GBV), which comes on top of an already high pre-existing prevalence in the country.
- GBV actors are receiving reports of sexual harassment and violence during displacement, and several media reports have highlighted allegations of rape. Information is spreading online about the risk of human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation in connection with women and girls travelling alone.
- Difficulties in accessing basic goods and services, and lack of access to safe shelter, render women and girls extremely vulnerable to violence and exploitation. Direct humanitarian assistance is essential to meet the immediate needs of women and girls and reduce the risk of GBV; GBV risk mitigation must also be integrated as a priority across the humanitarian response.

## ●●●● OPERATIONAL RESPONSE

- The UN and humanitarian partners continue to scale up their operations and consider the establishment of new offices and sub-offices across the country as close as possible to the affected population. Humanitarian hubs are being established in Lviv, Vinnytsia, Uzhgorod, Chernivtsi, Ivano-Frankivsk and Dnipro in addition to maintaining presence in Kyiv, Donetsk, and Luhansk regions.
- Service mapping is being updated across the Protection sector and new referral pathways will be developed for key locations where the humanitarian response was not previously operational, in particularly areas with sharply increased women and girls IDPs presence.
- **UNHCR** sent seven trucks with 8 600 high thermal blankets and 3025 IKEA mattresses to support the displaced population in Lviv and Zakarpathia regions. **UNHCR jointly with the partners NGO NEEKA** supported more than 1 000 displaced persons on the train stations in Chop and Uzhhorod with shelter, water, food, and clothing; 500 children were assisted in Mukacheve rayon with food packs, water, and warm clothes; 100 displaced children in Svaliava received food packs, water, and warm clothes; students dormitory in Mukacheve received 200 food packs, and warm clothes; three churches in Mukacheve were equipped with 150 beds and with food packs.
- **HelpAge** sent a truck with hygiene items for older people and people with disabilities in Sviatohirsk and psycho-neurological social care institution in Sloviansk (Donetsk region).
- **Ukrainian Deminers Association** (UDA) conducted evacuation and provided in-kind support for people with disabilities on the route Kyiv-Chernivtsi; 8 persons were evacuated from Kyiv and Boyarka. UDA provided food and medicines for 100 persons from the affected community in Chuguiv (Kharkiv region); 120 persons from Kyiv and Boyarka (Kyiv region); 10 persons in Shachstia and Severodonetsk (Luhansk region).
- Starting from 24 February, **NGO Proliska** supported the evacuation of 907 persons from the conflict-affected areas in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.
- **The HALO Trust** evacuated 47 persons from the heavily shelled Izum (Kharkiv region) and provided them with accommodation and food; 37 IDPs moved further to Uzhgorod by evacuation train. The HALO team is also providing clothes and water to IDPs in the shelters located in Kramatorsk and nearby.
- GBV actors on the ground report that although specialized services - including GBV hotlines - remain partially functional, access is extremely difficult for both staff and survivors due to ongoing conflict and movement restrictions.
- La Strada national hotline had switched to online operation, but will return to 24/7 phone operation (116123) as of 11 March. Online modality will remain available. 1547 Hotline continues to provide 24/7 services.
- UNFPA is planning to deliver 10,000 dignity kits and has developed GBV awareness-raising materials that include information about GBV risk reduction and specialized services in Ukraine and neighboring countries. The materials will be distributed jointly with WHO at border crossing points and in cities with highest numbers of IDPs.





- **NGO Slavic Heart** evacuated over 100 persons from Izum (Kharkiv region).
- **IOM** provided counselling for 118,369 persons through the hotline on Counter-Trafficking and Migrant Advice.
- **NGO Right to Protection** provided protection and legal counselling for at least 150 persons through the hotline. The most requested type of support – evacuation, accommodation, crossing the border, issues with documentation, humanitarian aid. R2P also evacuated 143 persons from Volnovakha. R2P monitors are present at the international crossing border with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, and Moldova.

- **Donbas SOS** provided protection and legal counselling for 813 persons through the hotline (on average over 200 persons per day).
- **Norwegian Refugee Council** provided remote legal assistance and counselling for 14 persons.
- **People in Need** provided online and face-to-face psychosocial support for 115 persons in Dopropillia and Kurakhovka (Donetsk region).
- **NGO Equilibrium** provided psychosocial support by phone for 18 persons.