



UKRAINE

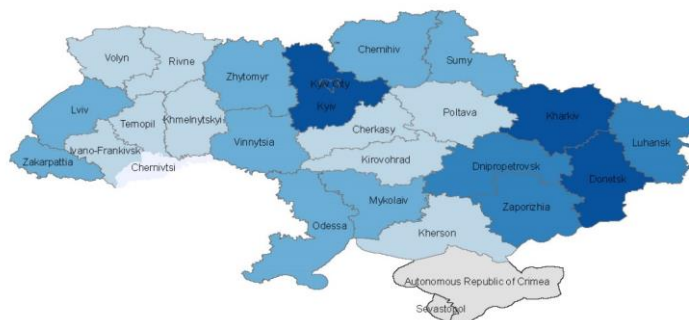
Protection Analysis Update

Unabated violations against civilians increase the impact of protection risks on the population

JUNE 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 24 February 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has led to an international armed conflict constituting regular direct and disproportionate **attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, forced displacement, destruction of civilian property, sexual violence, and infliction of psychological trauma and stress.** As of May 2023, an estimated 6.2 million people have fled Ukraine as refugeesⁱ and 5.4 million persons are internally displaced.ⁱⁱ According to the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), 15.4 million individuals, including IDPs, returnees and non-displaced people are in need of humanitarian protection assistance, including General Protection, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Child Protection and Mine Action interventions. 4.4 million people in the East near the frontline and in areas under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation are at highest risk.



People in Need Presence

Protection Cluster People in Need Map - Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2023

From February 2022 to June 2023, an estimated **4,043 acts of violence targeting civilians have been recorded across Ukraine** —with three quarters of incidents consisting of shelling, artillery and missile strikes, rendering Ukraine the deadliest country in the world for violence in 2022 and causing continued untold harm to civilian populations.ⁱⁱⁱ

Total PIN	Displaced	Returnees	Non Displaced	Males	Females	Children	Adults	Elderly
15,420,144	37%	26%	37%	44%	56%	24%	54%	22%

The protection risks requiring immediate attention in the period covered by this analysis^{iv} are:

1. **Attacks Against Civilians and Civilian Infrastructure**
2. **Impediments and/or restrictions to access Legal Identity, Remedies and Justice**
3. **Risks of Mines & Explosive Ordnance**
4. **Gender-Based Violence**
5. **Infliction of Trauma and Distress to Children through Violence, Abuse and Destruction**

URGENT ACTIONS NEEDED

The full-scale invasion of Ukraine has triggered the largest conflict in Europe since the Second World War. Repercussions are felt on a global scale, including, but not limited to, actions and policies of the Russian Federation, Member States of the North-Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO), the European Union and regions in Sub-Saharan Africa reliant upon Ukrainian grain and fertilizer exports. Urgent action is required to cease violations against civilians and mitigate the impact of war at regional and global levels. It is imperative that stakeholders responsible for violations of International Law, International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law are held accountable.

It is of utmost importance to:

- Ensure the Protection of Civilians by all parties to the conflict. Attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure must cease, and the use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas must be avoided at all costs.
- The most vulnerable persons, including older people, people with disabilities, children and survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and persons at high-risk of GBV, must be provided with access to humanitarian and social protection services, with specific needs integrated into humanitarian, early recovery and durable solutions response planning by humanitarian and development actors and the Government of Ukraine.

CONTEXT

VERIFIED CIVILIAN CASUALTIES ^v	VERIFIED CIVILIANS KILLED	VERIFIED CIVILIANS INJURED	IDPs ^{vi}	RETURNEES	NON-DISPLACED ^{vii}
24,425	8,983	15,442	5.09M	4.76M	7.3M

Summary of verified incidents and total numbers of affected population in Ukraine

Ukraine declared independence from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) on 24 August 1991. In November 2013, former President Viktor Yanukovich suspended an association agreement with European Union (EU) despite widespread support among the public, leading to intense protests across Ukraine, thereafter, known as the Maidan Revolution, which continued into 2014. The movement led to the ouster of Yanukovich and vocal aspirations by subsequent governments in moving toward eventual membership in the European Union (EU), which the Russian Federation has opposed.

Before 24 February 2022, the conflict in Ukraine was centred in parts of Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts in the East, following the Russian Federation's illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in 2014. According to government authorities, the 2014-2022 conflict led to the forced displacement of an estimated 850,000 persons,^{viii} resulting in a reported 3,106 conflict-related deaths and 7,000 injuries, including 102 boys and 50 girls.^{ix} On 21 February 2022, the Russian Federation formally recognised Donetsk and Luhanska oblasts as independent states, violating Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. On 24 February, the Russian Federation Armed Forces launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine with the rapid deployment of troops in Ukraine's South, East and North, and several locations fell under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation.

In September 2022, the Russian authorities held referendums in temporarily occupied areas of Donetsk, Luhanska, Khersonka and Zaporizka as part of their illegal annexation by the Russian Federation. On 12 October 2022, the Fourth Resolution of the Eleventh Emergency Special Session of the General Assembly condemned the so-called referendums, officially asserting that the four regions are under the "temporary control of the Russian Federation, as a result of aggression, in violation of the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine" and that any attempt at annexation of a State's territory by another State by threat or use of force is a violation of the principles of the United Nations Charter and International Law.

As of June 2023, the Government of Ukraine has retaken all of Kyivska, Sumska and Chernihivska and Kharkivska oblasts, as well as parts of Khersonka, Mykolaivska and Donetsk oblasts. In June 2023, the Ukrainian armed forces began a counteroffensive in Donetsk, Khersonska and Zaporizka oblasts. Other locations will most likely be targeted in the near future.

By the end of 2022, Ukraine's **gross domestic product (GDP) shrunk by 29.2%** and the World Bank estimates **poverty has increased by 24.1%** with **7.1 million people pushed into poverty**, reversing over 15 years of economic progress. As of February 2023, damage from the war resulted in over **\$135 billion USD in damage^x** in housing, transport, energy and commerce with clear indications that the impacts of war are uneven, with the greatest effects on women, children, older persons, people with disabilities. As of February 2023, the World Bank estimated **\$411 billion USD** were required for **reconstruction and recovery efforts**.

IMPACTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ARMED CONFLICT IN EASTERN & SOUTHERN UKRAINE

Donetska, Luhanska, Zaporizka and Kharkivska oblasts in the East are at the centre of the international armed conflict, with areas of the Khersonska, Odeska and Mykolaivska oblasts in the South also impacted. **Donetska, Luhanska, Zaporizka, Khersonska** and **Kharkivska** rank highest in severity of persons in need of humanitarian services, followed by areas of **Dnipropetrovska, Odeska** and **Mykolaivska**. Donetsk, Kharkivska, Luhanska, Zaporizka, Khersonka and Mykolaivska are regions most affected in terms of direct damage to civilian infrastructure and economic fallout.

The majority of displaced people following the full-scale invasion originate from Kharkivska oblast, followed by Donetsk, Zaporizka, Khersonska and Luhanska oblasts. Their main areas of displacement are Kharkivska, Dnipropetrovska, Kyivska, Odeska oblasts and the city of Kyiv.

The majority of IDPs reside in Kharkivska (689,000 IDPs) and Dnipropetrovska (625,000 IDPs) oblasts, frontline locations with strained government services and limited access for humanitarian actors. Kyivska oblast hosts 474,000 IDPs, many of whom require socio-economic and livelihood opportunities in an increasingly competitive and shrinking labour market. An estimated one in four IDPs report cash assistance from humanitarian actors is their primary source of

household income, totaling 24% of the total number of registered IDPs. The Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) registers all displaced persons and provides a small allowance for assistance, forming a limited source of

income. Some groups, however, are excluded from these social protection schemes due to inability to register, such as individuals without documentation, as well as some older people and persons with disabilities unable to evacuate from locations under temporary military control of the Russian Federation. Males between 18-65 are required under government decree to register for conscription, but some may not do so, and consequently they are also excluded.

Humanitarian organisations able to conduct interviews with persons in areas under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation report the top concerns include physical safety (54%), access to medicines (46%) and access to healthcare services (40%), while the top reported needs were food (69%), medicines (55%) and drinking water (36%). The overall scope of humanitarian needs of civilians living in these areas remains generally unknown due to lack of access.

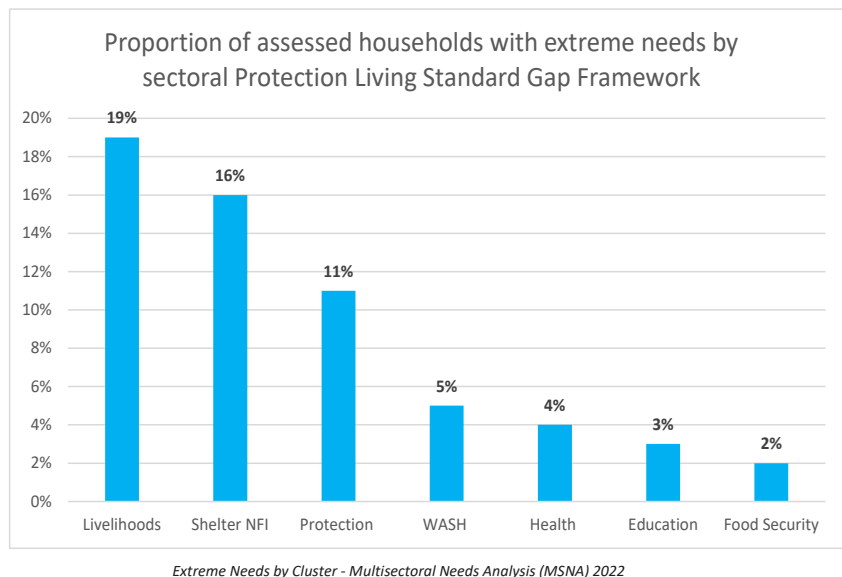
Across Ukraine, 42% of assessed households were found to be in extreme need with respect to livelihoods, shelter and non-food items and protection. 19% of households were found to be in extreme need of livelihoods assistance, with 17% in extreme need of shelter and non-food items and 15% in extreme need of protection interventions. The highest reported needs were reported in the East, with severity higher amongst families with members who have a disability or who are 60 years of age and above. Rural settlements were found to be in extremely high need.

Around 73% of families nationally report continued need for humanitarian assistance, with 35% saying they have received some form of assistance, mostly in the East, followed by the South.

NEXT PHASE OF CONFLICT: COUNTEROFFENSIVE

In June 2023, the Ukrainian armed forces launched a counteroffensive with a focus on retaking areas of **Donetsk, Khersonska** and **Zaporizka** oblasts, among other possible locations. Protection partners continue to engage with the wider humanitarian community, as well as affected communities themselves to ensure that the most vulnerable can evacuate if necessary—including older people and persons with disabilities—and that persons receive humanitarian services in their area of displacement.

On 6 June 2023, the Khakovka hydroelectric dam in Khersonska oblast was breached, resulting in widespread flooding across 180 km² of land. As of 14 June, an estimated 2,750 persons (including 228 children) had been evacuated to fourteen evacuation centres and seven existing Collective Sites in the oblast, with persons with limited mobility accommodated in hospitals. At least 10 persons died, 20 were injured and 30 remained missing at time of writing. The majority of evacuees opted to remain in the oblast, though an increase to other locations is expected as the extent of humanitarian needs is understood. The height of water levels was recorded at 5-6 meters, with 20 per cent of Kherson city estimated to have been flooded. At

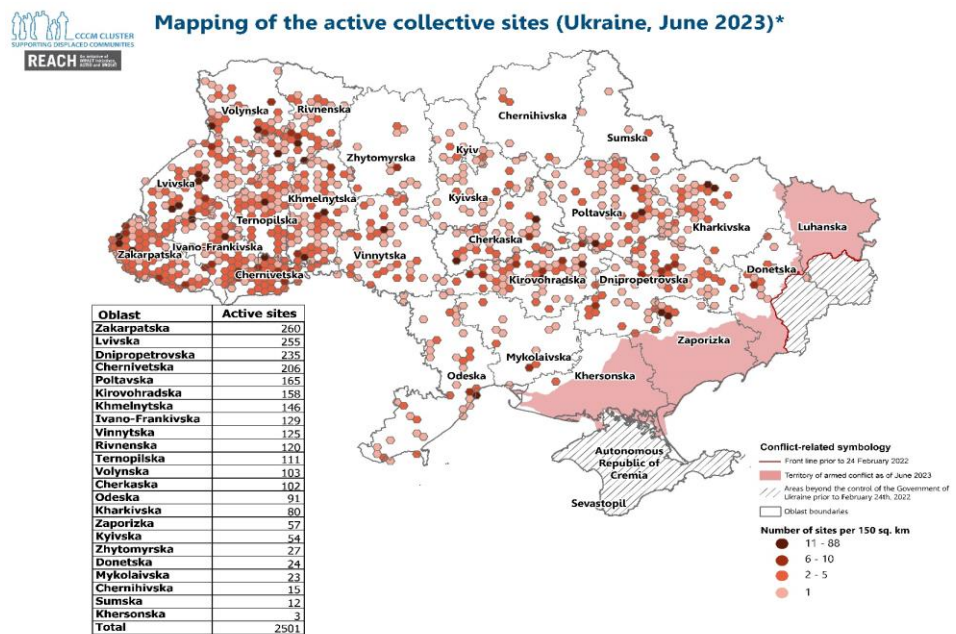


the end of June, waters had receded in urban centres with villages and other locations still impacted. At least 3,100 houses have experienced flooding across 45 towns and villages in areas under Government control, with 17 locations under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation also affected. According to OCHA, the Khakovka Reservoir serves as a source of drinking water for 700,000 people across southern Ukraine. The impact of the dam’s destruction will result in enhanced need for humanitarian and development assistance, placing further strain on areas already adversely impacted by conflict^{xii} with profound ecological consequences for many years to come.

COLLECTIVE SITES & SOLUTIONS

An estimated 122,738 IDPs reside in over 2,500 Collective Sites (CS)^{xiii} across Ukraine, with higher proportions in the less-conflicted affected oblasts of the West and Centre. CSs house the highly vulnerable IDPs, with 85% hosting elderly persons, 59% hosting persons with disabilities and 33% hosting female-headed households. An estimated 152 child-headed households reside in CSs where all household members are less than 18 years of age. 13% of IDPs living in sites are employed, with 79% of households with humanitarian needs assessed as severe, extreme or catastrophic. Notably, the severity index of the households does not correlate with proximity to the areas of hostilities.

As of March 2023, 89% of IDPs have remained in CSs for a period of longer than three months, with 18% saying they planned to depart within the next 30 days. While 58% of persons in CSs report receipt of humanitarian assistance. 79% of CSs require rehabilitation, repairs or construction works to improve sub-standard conditions and to provide sustainable sources of energy, as well as to accommodate vulnerable communities requiring specific configurations for their care, primarily accessibility elements for persons with disabilities and the elderly, and infrastructure to improve the privacy and security of women and children to reduce the risk of GBV.



CCCM Cluster/REACH mapping of the active collective sites (Ukraine, June 2023)

CSs are managed by a diverse array of stakeholders, including local government authorities, management of educational institutions and NGOs, depending on ownership and building type of the CS. While recognizing that a significant number of IDPs in CSs will not be able to return to their places of origin due to ongoing conflict or damaged and/or destroyed property, CSs are only intended to serve as temporary accommodation, and longer-term, affordable housing alternatives must be identified. Advocacy is ongoing with the Protection, CCCM, Shelter/NFI and Education clusters in conjunction with the Humanitarian Country Team and local and central authorities regarding planning for dignified, affordable, alternative housing options and other support for durable solutions.

PROTECTION RISKS

RISK 1 Attacks Against Civilians & Civilian Infrastructure

The Independent International Commission of Inquiry for Ukraine has established that the **full-scale invasion by the Russian Federation qualifies as an act of aggression** as established by General Assembly Resolution 3314 (XXIX)^{xiv}. Per the Resolution and in line with International Law, no territorial acquisition or special advantage resulting from aggression is or shall be recognized as lawful. All parties to the conflict remain obliged to carry out their responsibilities under International Law, International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law, including the obligation to protect civilians. The Independent Commission of Inquiry has established that **direct attacks have been carried out against civilian populations**, including the use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas, without regard to harm and suffering.^{xv} These attacks have included **direct, disproportionate and indiscriminate** incidents involving airstrikes, shelling and bombardments, with high risk to civilians in front line oblasts, in newly accessible areas and in locations under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation.

Civilian infrastructure has been regularly targeted by the Russian Federation, resulting in damage to **critical energy, health, education, cultural and water and sanitation infrastructure**. In October 2022, attacks against civilian infrastructure intensified, with heating sources, schools, hospitals, transportation and social protection services targeted and impacted. An estimated 3,304 air and drone strikes—in addition to shelling and grenades—have been utilised to target civilian infrastructure. From October 2022 to March 2023, more than 100 missiles were estimated to have directly hit large energy facilities. In 2022, the electricity sector suffered a 61% reduction in function, with pre-war capacity moving from 36 Gigawatt (GW) to 13.9 GW; around 10 GW is in locations under temporary military control of the Russian Federation, 6 GW of which is sourced from the Zaporizka Nuclear Power Plant.^{xvi}

The World Bank and UNDP estimate that over 12 million Ukrainians have suffered as a result of damage to energy sources, leading to rationing of electricity and heating. During the last quarter of 2022, continued attacks on energy infrastructure caused an energy crisis, testing the whole country's resilience and creating a new dimension of the humanitarian crisis, as the country entered the cold winter season. According to the Independent Commission of Inquiry, attacks on energy-related civilian infrastructure may amount to crimes against humanity.

RISK 2 Impediments and/or restrictions to access legal identity, remedies and justice

The lack of access to civil documentation for residents of territories under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation and internally displaced persons remains a serious concern, primarily with regard to undocumented births and deaths. At the end of 2021, up to 200,000 children born in areas not under the control of the Government of Ukraine in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, as well as Crimea, reportedly did not have a birth certificate. This number is expected to increase dramatically following the full-scale invasion.

At the end of 2022, the number of death certificates issued in the same locations was reportedly 120,000. Official figures, however, have not been published. It is expected that a number of deaths remain undocumented, with severe impacts on the ability of relatives to access compensation benefits, as well as Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights.

Inability to access (HLP) rights have led to profound challenges and displacement for civilians impacted by the conflict. From February 2022 to February 2023, 1.4 million units of housing were reported as either destroyed or damaged. 17% of urban households and 5% of rural households in the East reported conflict-related damage or defects to residences, compared to 14% of rural residences in the South and 7% of rural residences in the North.

Overall damage among rural households nationally is reported at 6%. Displaced households are most affected by conflict-related damage to residences at 16%, whilst 4% of returnees report conflict-related damage and just 1% of host community members report damage. 82% of households report they are property owners, with 96% stating they possess documentation proving their ownership. 11% of households rent, with 48% of renters saying they do not possess a formal rental agreement. 17% of renters, on average, cannot afford monthly living expenses to meet basic needs, with the highest number of respondents at 33% in the East; female-headed households (20%) are at higher vulnerability, in contrast to male-headed-

households (13%). Female-headed households with a family member with a disability report the most challenges in ability to meet basic needs. Before 2022, people with damaged or destroyed residential property had extremely limited access to compensation mechanisms, with legislation existent for Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, but specifying financial remuneration would only be made available to persons who had not relocated or engaged in repair works on their own accord or through the support of humanitarian programming. A budget was accorded by the State in September 2020 and an estimated 532 persons were compensated. The Government of Ukraine halted funding following the full-scale invasion.



In March 2023, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted legislation on compensation. The coverage of the law is limited in scope, as it applies only to residential properties damaged or destroyed after 24 February 2022, and only in areas under Government of Ukraine control at the time. Of concern to humanitarian actors are elements perceived as exclusionary, including lack of clarity regarding eligibility and repairs processes for persons who have undertaken restoration work with their own resources and/or with humanitarian assistance; persons with residential properties located in areas under temporary military control of the Russian Federation; and lack of inclusion for properties damaged or destroyed due to the conflict before 24 February 2022.

Concerns also exist regarding article 7, whereby compensation can be suspended if an individual or his/her heirs is charged with a criminal offence against national security. Further details are required to ensure that the compensation law covers all in need and is used without discrimination against persons perceived as collaborating with occupying forces or those who did not displace. The legislative process is ongoing at the time of writing.

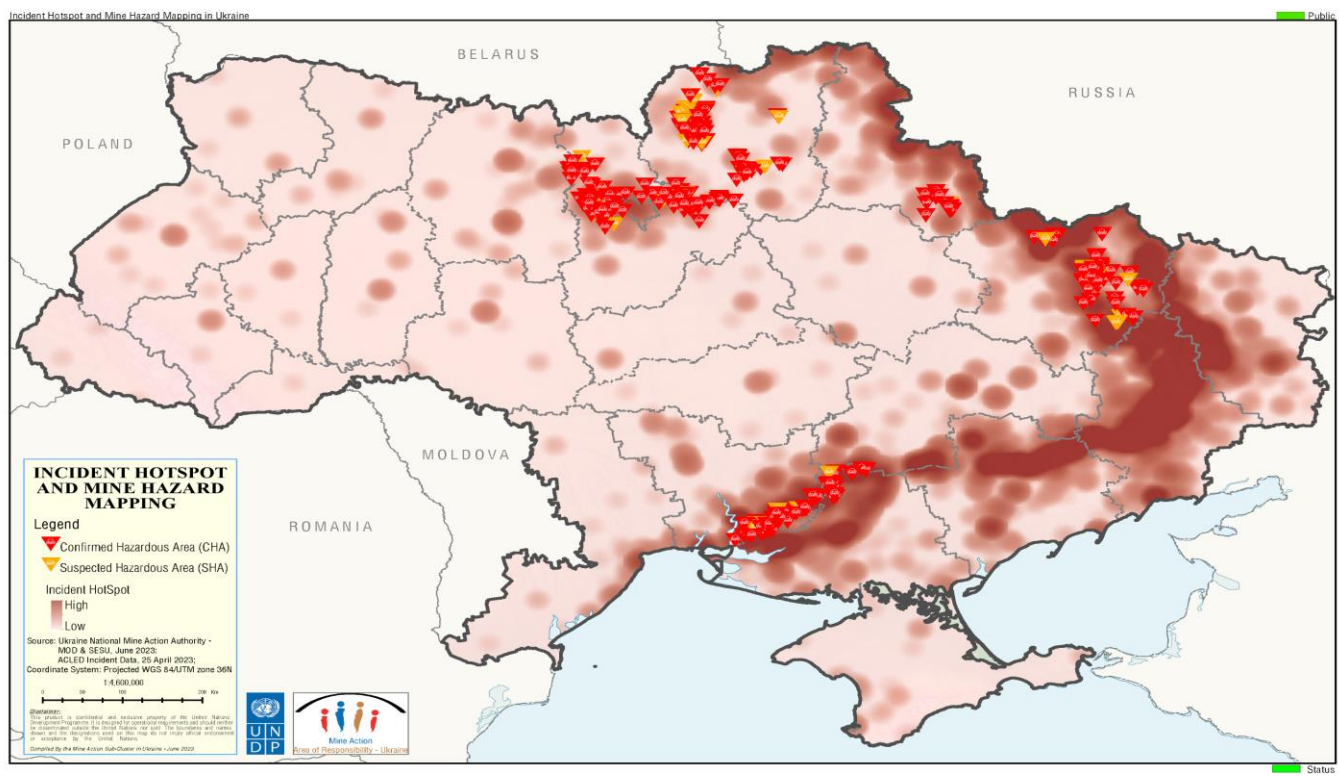
Persons living in areas under temporary military control of the Russian Federation face major barriers in access to legal remedies and justice. On 19 October 2022, the President of the Russian Federation signed Decree No. 756, which imposed martial law in areas under temporary military control in Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhka. The decree allows for *ad hoc* restrictions on freedom of movement and freedom of association, in addition to implementation of a curfew and seizure of property and internment.

Following the illegal referendums, the Russian Federation recognises all Ukrainian citizens and stateless people resident in these locations as citizens of the Russian Federation unless they refuse to take the oath of Russian citizenship or formally reject the offer of Russian citizenship. Residents who retain their Ukrainian citizenship are at risk of exclusion from social protection schemes, including health insurance and pensions from both the Russian Federation and the Government of Ukraine, leaving them uniquely vulnerable, coupled with regular reports of threats of physical and bodily harm from the Russian armed forces should they fail to obtain Russian citizenship.

RISK 3 Presence of Mines and Explosive Ordnances

According to the Mine Action Area of Responsibility, 160,000 square kilometers of land in Ukraine has been exposed to conflict since 2014, placing 21.3 million people at risk of exposure to mines and unexploded ordnances (UXO). Of those at-risk, 52% are female, 23% are older people, 19% are children and 15% are persons with disabilities, creating special challenges for Mine Action actors in needing to deploy a diversity of approaches in the provision of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and disposal interventions. ^{xvii}

From 2014 to 2021, Ukraine was among the most contaminated countries in the world, with mines, UXOs, submunitions and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Today, areas of Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetska, Kharkivska, Kyivka, Luhanska, Mykolaivska, Odeska, Sumska and Zaporizka oblasts are reported to be the most contaminated, with Kharkivska, Luhanska, Mykolaivska and Sumska containing raions with the most catastrophic severity levels of contamination, which is evident in both rural and urban areas.



Map of incidents and mine hazards in Ukraine

In April 2023, 12% of agricultural enterprises report partial areas of land as contaminated by UXOs, with over 32% of respondents in frontline oblasts reporting their presence.

From 24 February 2022 to 15 May 2023, OHCHR reported 280 civilians were killed and 561 injured as a result of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and mine-related incidents.

Contamination remains a major risk for persons going about daily activities, such as persons in newly accessible areas and children during recreational activities. Persons living in communities along the border with the Russian Federation and in areas under temporary military control by the Russian Federation are at severe risk.

As of May 2023, the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) has cleared 86,000 hectares of land and removed 356,030 EO.^{xviii} Challenges remain regarding EORE activities and sensitizing vulnerable groups, including children and persons with disabilities. Coordination of Mine Action activities, especially risk education, remains a key activity in order to avoid duplication and reduce gaps. Ensuring the physical safety of returnees to newly accessible areas will also remain a challenge with limited numbers of Mine Action partners and humanitarian access.

RISK 4 Gender-Based Violence

According to the GBV Area of Responsibility, an estimated 3.6 million IDPs, returnees and people who have remained in conflict-affected areas or under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation, require urgent access to GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response interventions. GBV was prevalent among conflict-affected people before the full-scale invasion with IDP women reporting higher prevalence of GBV in comparison to non-displaced women since 2014.^{xix}

From February 2022, however, risks and vulnerabilities arising from various forms of GBV including Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV), sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), trafficking for sex, domestic violence and other forms of GBV have sharply increased. Protection monitoring indicates the risks of GBV for women, men, boys and girls have increased following lack of independent access to livelihoods; violence, harassment and abuse within the household; and limited access to specialised GBV services, including lack of awareness caused by massive displacement, damaged infrastructure and reduced capacity of state services to provide quality support, including for sexual reproductive health. 8% of households report concerns about sexual violence, physical abuse, or verbal harassment or economic violence against women, with two-thirds unaware of where to seek assistance and 27% of households in the most war affected Eastern regions reporting non-availability of GBV services.

Women and girls living in CSs face unique risks given the communal living environment. These include lack of privacy in accommodation in sleeping spaces that are not partitioned, degrading and insecure WASH facilities that are not gender segregated and lack adequate sources of lighting. GBV safety audits conducted in CSs revealed that IDPs and those managing CSs have limited awareness of GBV prevention and response, including to SEA and trafficking, as well as what services may be available at a CS for humanitarian assistance,^{xx} where to seek help when exposed to GBV, and how to safely and confidentially report SEA allegations through the Community-Based Complaints Mechanisms (CBCM).

Instances of CRSV in areas under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation or closer to the frontline have been raised. From February 2022 to January 2023, OHCHR confirmed 133 cases of CRSV, 109 of which occurred in locations under the temporary military control and 24 of which took place in Government of Ukraine controlled territories. Survivors included 90 men, 45 women and 3 girls, with most persons impacted being male Prisoners of War (POW), although some male civilians were affected. High levels of interaction between civilian populations and armed groups continue to pose large risks for CRSV.

The capacities of state healthcare services have been severely strained by the war. Transport for persons in rural areas or in locations experiencing conflict and/or close to the frontline to reach towns and cities with available sexual and reproductive health services remains a barrier, particularly for persons with disabilities and people who require discretion in seeking care, such as male survivors and LGBTQI+ persons.

In 2022, Ukraine was the second country with the highest number of newly diagnosed HIV infections per 100,000 people in the WHO European Region, with UNAIDS estimating that over 250,000 Ukrainians are People Living with HIV (PLHIV). Ukraine also has one of the highest incidents of tuberculosis (TB) in Europe, with 11 per cent of people living with TB thought to be co-infected with HIV. Unaddressed needs of GBV, especially sexual violence and its consequences, constitute a health crisis with far-reaching consequences.^{xxi}

RISK 5 Infliction of Trauma and Distress to Children through Violence, Abuse and Destruction

Children across Ukraine have experienced forced displacement, family separation, loss of caregivers, disruption in education and routines and exposure to violence and abuse, resulting in deep stress and trauma. In addition, children from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts have experienced the psychological consequences of over eight years of conflict prior to 2022. 2 million children are internally displaced across Ukraine, with children making up 26% of the total IDP and returnee population. 54% of all IDP households contain at least 1 child, with 31% having two children. 3% of households have an infant less than one

year old; 5% of households have children aged 1 to 5 years old; and 47% have children aged 5-17 years old. A majority of children are girls and thus more susceptible to risks of GBV and trafficking.

An estimated 501 children were killed and 991 injured between February 2022 and April 2023, with real figures considered to be higher due to continued, widespread use of highly explosive weapons in populated areas and ongoing hostilities. UNICEF suggests the percentage of children living in poverty has almost doubled, from 43% before 2022 to 82% in 2023. More than 3,000 educational facilities have been damaged or destroyed across Ukraine, leaving many school-aged children without access to education.

In general, children are increasingly socially isolated, having lost contact with friends who were evacuated or unreachable due to communications outages. Without safe spaces, such as educational institutions and child friendly spaces, many out-of-school children are at heightened risk of violence, abuse, and neglect. An estimated 250,000 children have experienced regular shelling in areas of active conflict, leaving 7.8 million children at acute risk of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and 1.5 million at risk of depression and anxiety disorders.

To combat these risks, the Child Protection Area of Responsibility estimates 3.4 million children, including 10% of children with disabilities, require immediate protection services, including psycho-social support. According to protection monitoring, psychological trauma, stress and anxiety are the central issues impacting children, followed by lack of access to education. In Kharkivska, Poltavska, Zaporizka, Dnipropetrovska, Odeska, Vinnytska and Mykolaivska oblasts partners report 21.6% of children suffer from psychological trauma, stress and anxiety; 19.7% do not have access to recreational activities; 11.3% cannot access education; and 8.8% report experience of sleep disorders. Social protection services for children are partially disrupted in areas of Donetsk, Kharkivska, Luhanska and Zaporizka oblasts, with limited numbers of social workers resulting in decreased ability to monitor or intervene on behalf of children in situations of possible abuse and neglect.

The WHO estimates that 10 million Ukrainians are at risk of a conflict-related mental health disorder, leading to heightened burdens for parents and caregivers as they struggle with livelihoods, meeting basic needs and providing childcare. The loss of one or more parents or caregivers has increased the burden on extended family members, leading to some children requiring alternative care arrangements.

Further, the relocation of children from state institutions without accompanying documentation has raised concerns about possible difficulties in tracing children later. Children living in CSs often lack access to recreational spaces and areas to conduct online distance learning activities.

Nationally, 19 humanitarian partners provide Mental Health & Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) interventions targeting children, with 15 providing specialized PSS services and seven providing PSS through Child Friendly Spaces (CFS). Overall, 76% of households report they are unaware of the availability of medical, legal and social service support for children where they reside. The need for protection services for children across Ukraine is high, but children who experienced conflict from 2014 to 2022 must continue to be targeted by humanitarian planning, as well as children living in newly accessible areas.

RESPONSE

PROGRESS MADE ON PROTECTION

93 protection partners are responding to the protection needs (through 123 implementing partners across Ukraine) of over 15.4 million people in need through Ukraine. Approximately **2 million people (20% men, 52% women, 28% children - among these 3% PWD and 11% older people) were reached from January to May 2023**. The highest proportion of people reached were located in Dnipropetrovska, Kharkivska, Kyiv, Lviv and Zakarpatska oblasts, where humanitarian access and protection programming were possible. 75% of protection services included Child Protection and General Protection interventions, with a focus on protection counselling, legal assistance and awareness raising, psycho-social support for children and adults and child protection case management. Mine Action partners have successfully removed **3,120 explosive ordinances** and cleared **1,091,545 square meters** of contaminated land, and GBV partners have reached 51,438 women and girls with Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS). **18 partners** across **23 oblasts, 105 raions** and **1,017 hromadas** participate in the Cluster’s Key Informant (KI) Protection Monitoring Tool.

ACCESS-RELATED CHALLENGES AND ACTIONS

REPORTED ACCESS CONSTRAINTS

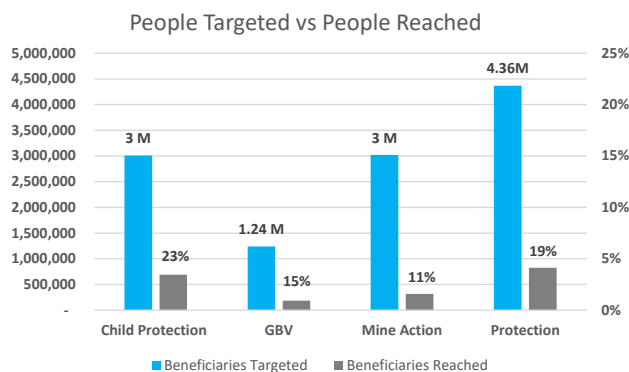
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SECURITY INCIDENTS

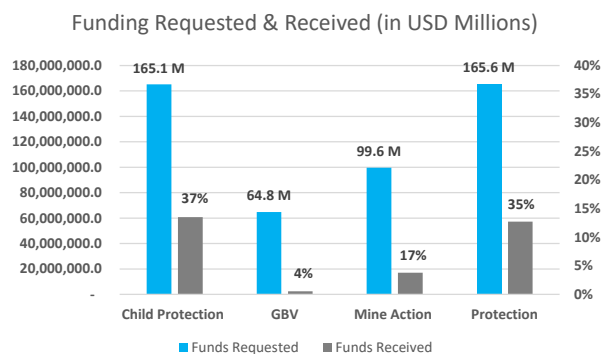
10,000+

From February 2022 to May 2023, **155 incidents** were reported regarding **humanitarian access constraints**. Out of these incidents, **67 involved violence against humanitarian personnel and assets**, some of which led to suspension of humanitarian activities and **10 involved the loss of life** of aid workers. **49 incidents** were related specifically to bureaucratic processes related to movement of personnel in and out of country, as well as operational interference in humanitarian activities. **29 incidents included the conscription of humanitarian staff**, hampering the ability to maintain human resource capacity necessary to operate and assist conflict-affected civilians. Both before and after the beginning of the June 2023 counter offensive, humanitarian organizations in areas close to the frontline in Zaporizka, Dnipropetrovska, Mykolaivska and Khersonska oblasts report stricter processes for obtaining access due to reported attempts by the Government of Ukraine to standardize its practices across all conflict-affected locations. The Humanitarian Operations Planning Cell (HOPC) has organised over **55 inter-agency convoys to communities in Luhanska, Donetsk, Kharkivska, Khersonska and Zaporizka oblasts as of May 2023**. For locations that are newly accessible or that remain under conflict, assistance is transported to alternate locations where it can be distributed by Last Mile Delivery (LMD) actors—organisations or groups of volunteer networks that have the capacity to take on high-levels of risk to ensure assistance reaches its destination. Despite the necessity and successes of IACs, challenges remain, including the risk of diversion of assistance and inadequate modalities in which to distribute assistance to the most vulnerable in areas of receipt. The HCT has committed to ensuring that one protection actor joins each IAC to provide on-the-ground guidance and for identification of potential protection programming where safe and ethical to do so.

CRITICAL GAPS IN FUNDING AND POPULATION REACHED



People Targeted vs Reached - Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 and ActivityInfo Response Monitoring Module (RMM) January – May 2023



Protection Cluster Ukraine funding status - OCHA FTS 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the period covered by this analysis, urgent action is required to stop attacks on civilians by the Russian Federation and to scale-up support for MHPSS, including for children, and support for survivors of GBV. Additional advocacy is required to ensure HLP compensation mechanisms are inclusive and that the risk of Mines and UXO do not hinder returns or Early Recovery programming. The Protection Cluster and partners consider the below listed actions necessary to avoid further harmful consequences.

RISK 1 Civilians face regular indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks

ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT

- **Fully abide by the principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**, which include **distinguishing between civilians and combatants, maintaining proportionality in the use of force, and taking precautions to minimize harm to civilians**. This entails avoiding the use of explosive weapons in areas with a high population density and refraining from deploying heavy weapons or other military targets in or near such areas.

RISK 2 Impediments and/or restrictions to access legal identity, remedies and justice

GOVERNMENT and AUTHORITIES

- **Compensation schemes must be inclusive** for all conflict-affected persons, including those impacted by conflict 2014 to 2022, persons impacted after the full-scale invasion and those affected by the 6 June events at the Kakhovka dam. Further, persons with damaged or destroyed residential property in areas under temporary military control of the Russian Federation must also have recourse to compensation. **A fair, transparent and inclusive compensation mechanism with clear messaging on eligibility will be key to rebuilding the social fabric and enhancing social cohesion.**

RISK 3 Presence of Mines and Explosive Ordnance

GOVERNMENT

- **Continued collaboration with the State Emergency Services and relevant line ministries for continuation of Explosive Ordnance Risk Education and disposal interventions.**

HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY

- As an essential activity for Early Recovery and Development, Mine Action activities must be prioritized in humanitarian-development nexus coordination.
- **Strengthened coordination of Mine Action partners to ensure an integrated response in line with Government of Ukraine priorities** to foster early recovery and contribute to economic growth.
- **Development of a comprehensive system for mine victim assistance**, including referral pathways and provision of trauma care and rehabilitation services that address the long-term needs of survivors, their families and affected communities, with accompanying capacities and capabilities to respond.

RISK 4 Gender-Based Violence

GOVERNMENT and HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY

- **Ensure access to Gender-Based Violence services.** Strengthened coordination of GBV partners should continue to advocate for access to quality GBV services for women, men, girls and boys, including psychosocial support, legal assistance, safe accommodation and sexual and reproductive health services, including timely provision of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and emergency contraception. GBV services should be provided in a manner that is confidential, respectful, sensitive to gender, and conducive to the preservation of dignity.

- **Prioritize and mainstream GBV across humanitarian activities.** Both the Government of Ukraine and the humanitarian community should work together to reduce the risk of GBV through the implementation of GBV prevention and mitigation strategies at all levels of the response, from emergency to Early Recovery.

RISK 5**Infliction of Trauma and Distress to Children through Violence, Abuse and Destruction****GOVERNMENT and HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY**

- **Psycho-social support for children affected by conflict must be central to social protection programming.** Education, Child Protection and GBV actors should work in concert with relevant authorities to ensure that MHPSS is available for children in need, with a focus on areas where social services are not functional.
- **Children must be protected from the six grave violations against children,** as well as other violations of child rights.
- **Prioritize and mainstream Child Protection across humanitarian activities.** Both the Government of Ukraine and the humanitarian community should work together to mainstream Child Protection considerations at all levels of the response, from emergency to Early Recovery, with a view to the diversity of children and their experiences from an Age, Gender and Diversity perspective.

Endnotes

- ⁱ UNHCR, 6 June 2023, UNHCR, Operational Data Portal, Ukraine Refugee Situation
- ⁱⁱ IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), Ukraine
- ⁱⁱⁱ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), 2 June 2023, Ukraine Conflict Monitor.
- ^{iv} All data is relevant as of 15 June 2023 unless indicated otherwise by source in the Endnotes.
- ^v OHCHR Ukraine: Civilian Casualty Update 5 June 2023. Figures are likely higher due to lack of access to areas under temporary military occupation.
- ^{vi} IDPs and Returnees estimates - IOM DTM, General Population Survey – Round 13 May 2023
- ^{vii} Non-Displaced estimate – OCHA Baseline of Population Affected – September 2022
- ^{viii} Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Conflict and Violence Data. <http://internal-displacement.org/countries/ukraine>. Figures derive from 14 2014 to 31 December 2021.
- ^{ix} OHCHR Ukraine: Conflict-related Civilian Casualties, 27 January 2022. Figures derive from 14 April 2014-31 December 2021.
- ^x World Bank, Ukraine, Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment, February 2022-February 2023
- ^{xi} Disaster Risk Management & Climate Resilience Section, 13 June 2023, United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT)
- ^{xii} OCHA Ukraine, Destruction of the Kakhovka Dam, 14 June 2023, Flash Update 6,
- ^{xiii} CCCM Cluster Ukraine. 40% of Collective Sites are situated in the dormitories of educational facilities, 11% situated in schools and 11% in kindergartens. 20% of sites are based inside of government social service institutions, followed by 13% located in religious facilities, office buildings, libraries and restaurants.
- ^{xiv} A. Res. 3314 (XXIX), UN GAOR, 29, U.N. A/77/533 (14 December 1974)
- ^{xv} A/77/533: Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine (18 October 2022)
- ^{xvi} World Bank, UNDP. Ukraine: Energy Damage Assessment, March 2023.
- ^{xvii} Mine Action AoR Ukraine – Source: Ukraine National Mine Action Authority (MOD & SESU) June 2023 and ACLED incidents data April 2023
- ^{xviii} Mine Action AoR Ukraine – 2023 Monitoring, 5 May 2023, 5W Situation Report
- ^{xix} OSCE, Survey on Violence Against Women: Ukraine, Well-Being and Safety of Women, 2019
- ^{xx} UNHCR Ukraine, CCCM Safety Audit Report (Pilot Phase), September 2022
- ^{xxi} WHO and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, HIV/AIDS surveillance in Europe, 2022

Methodology

This analysis is based upon a wide array of quantitative and qualitative data pulled from first and secondary sources, including protection monitoring, key informant interviews and the reports and analysis of UN agencies, clusters, international and national NGOs, the Government of Ukraine, community-based organisations and conflict-affected people.

Sources that cover the conflict from 2014-2021 and/or the full-scale invasion from 24 February 2022 to present are marked as such. Numerical sources were reviewed as of June 2023.

Limitations

Areas of Ukraine under the temporary military occupation of the Russian Federation are almost entirely inaccessible by the humanitarian community. Relevant information and data has been shared where possible as no large-scale assessments are available.

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