



Ukraine

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): 275 489 registered* (UN OCHA)

Refugees to neighbouring countries: 341 000 (UN OCHA)

Estimated number of people living in conflict-affected areas: 3.9 million

Estimated casualties:
8 198 wounded*
3 219 killed*

European Commission's Humanitarian Assistance:

€ 7.5 million

€ 250 000 to the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent

* The figures are valid as of 18 September, 2014.



Key messages

- There are growing humanitarian needs recorded in the country. Humanitarian organisations report that the affected populations, especially in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, are in most urgent need of shelter, food, water and sanitation items, in addition to proper healthcare, education and protection.
- The European Commission is allocating € 7.5 million in humanitarian aid to address the immediate needs of some 5.1 million people affected by the crisis. This funding will help the affected populations prepare for the upcoming winter and will also be used to help with the registration of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) as well as provide shelter, health care, food, water, sanitation and other emergency aid.
- At the outset of the crisis, the Commission has previously already allocated € 250 000 to the Red Cross federation, while its humanitarian experts have been deployed to the region since February to monitor the situation and ensure a timely and coordinated EU assistance.
- The current cease fire, declared on 5 September in Minsk, needs to be upheld and used as an opportunity to alleviate the conditions of those in need.
- Protection of civilians (both the displaced and those remaining in the areas where the fighting is on-going) and unhindered humanitarian access to populations in need of assistance, should be ensured in line with humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence. The EU underlines its call upon all sides in the conflict to respect International Humanitarian Law.
- The EU is actively supporting the establishment of a centralised registration system for IDPs.

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Humanitarian situation and needs

The continued fighting as well as events which unfolded in March 2014 in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, have led to an increased displacement of the population inside Ukraine and beyond its borders.

As of 18 September 2014, over 275 000 people are registered as internally displaced and over 341 000 have reportedly fled to neighbouring countries. The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) has been rising at a rate of 1 200 per day since 20 July (UNHCR). However, the figures may be much higher due to the lack of a centralised registration system. As a result of the efforts of the Ukrainian military forces to regain the occupied territories in the east, and following a ceasefire declared on 5 September by all parties to the conflict, a substantial number of people are returning to the recaptured areas.

There is a growing need for humanitarian aid, especially in view of the upcoming winter season. Humanitarian organisations report that the people at risk are in most urgent need of shelter, food, water and sanitation items, in addition to proper healthcare, education and protection.

The isolation of people in the affected regions due to the conflict has also resulted in a shortage in supplies of food and non-food products, health needs, damages to the infrastructure, electricity grid and water supply systems. The economic recovery will require immediate restoration of basic services, as well as longer term infrastructure investments.

The European Union's humanitarian response

Due to the deterioration of the humanitarian situation, the European Commission is allocating an additional € 5 million to urgent winterization needs to assist the most vulnerable of those affected by the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

The €5 million for humanitarian assistance comes on the top of €2.5 million, which the European Commission allocated in August 2014 to assist the most vulnerable of those affected by the continued conflict in Eastern Ukraine. The additional funding is also a contribution to the United Nations-led Preliminary Response Plan for Ukraine that calls for a more substantial, and especially better coordinated international support to Ukraine.

Soon after the unrests in Ukraine started, the European Commission provided in line with the needs € 250 000 through the International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent to train volunteers, and to ensure the provision of first aid supplies, tents, blankets.

The Commission's humanitarian funding addresses the basic needs of the population in the areas directly affected by the conflict, the internally displaced and refugees who have fled the conflict areas, and the returnees who are going back home to recovered areas by the Ukrainian military. The funds will cover shelter, food, water, healthcare, psycho-social assistance and protection in preparation for the coming winter. In addition, support will be provided to improve the registration system for those who have fled the conflict areas, and those going back home to recovered areas by the Ukrainian military. The assistance will be delivered through UN agencies and NGOs.

In addition to the € 7.5 million for humanitarian assistance, the EU is allocating € 17 million in development aid for urgent winterization and recovery of Donbas.

The Commission works in close coordination with the UN and humanitarian partners.

EU humanitarian experts have been deployed in the region since February 2014 to monitor the situation and to ensure a timely and coordinated EU support. Furthermore, senior officials from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department ECHO visited Ukraine in order to meet with the UN Resident Coordinator and other ECHO humanitarian partners, as well as government representatives to address and discuss the humanitarian situation and the required response.

The European Commission acts on the basis of the international humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, which are integral part of the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid. This means that the European Commission provides humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable communities, irrespective of ethnic or religious background. EU humanitarian assistance is based solely on needs.

