



## Ukraine

### ECHO FACTSHEET

#### Facts & Figures

Estimated number of people in need of humanitarian aid\*:  
**3,8 million**

Casualties\*\*:  
**23.246 injured**  
**9,900 killed\*\***

EU emergency and early recovery assistance:  
**€ 399 million**

European Commission's own humanitarian aid:  
**€ 88.1 million**

EU Member States humanitarian aid:

**€133.9 million**

Projects implemented in 2016-17 from Commission's own funding have **directly helped half million Ukrainians.**

\*OCHA February 2017

\*\*OHCHR February 2017



Crossing point at the contact Line of Contact, Photo Credit: EBS, February 2017:

Photo Credit: EU/ECHO

- In eastern Ukraine the security situation remains extremely volatile with daily hostilities and casualties particularly along the Line of Contact, despite renewed commitments by the warring parties to adhere to a ceasefire. The number of civilian victims is on the rise, while damage to housing and critical civilian infrastructures, particularly water supply and electricity systems is increasing. Conflict affected resident population and internally displaced persons (IDPs) face difficult access to **health care and other essential services**, socio-economic exclusion, loss of income and livelihood and suffer from **psychological distress**.
- The European Union and its Member States have contributed over **€399 million in humanitarian and early recovery aid** to the most vulnerable since the beginning of the conflict. This includes the **European Commission's humanitarian aid of €88.1 million** provided to all affected populations, including refugees in Russia and Belarus. Material assistance has also been mobilised through the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism**, in cooperation with Member States.
- Humanitarian access is needed to ensure that aid delivery is not hampered and reaches all the people in need.
- All parties to the conflict must ensure protection of civilians, respect civilian areas and critical infrastructures, in full compliance with international Humanitarian Law (IHL) and International Human Rights Law (IHRL).

European Civil Protection and  
Humanitarian Aid Operations

B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: (+32 2) 295 44 00

Fax: (+32 2) 295 45 72

email:

[echo-info@ec.europa.eu](mailto:echo-info@ec.europa.eu)

Website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo>



\* All the latest ECHO  
Factsheets:  
[bit.ly/echo-fs](http://bit.ly/echo-fs)

## Humanitarian Situation and Needs

The humanitarian needs persist in eastern Ukraine and the 2014 conflict between armed groups and government forces continues. It has affected over 4.4 million people, out of which 3.8 million are believed to be in need of humanitarian assistance. Around 2.9 million most vulnerable continue to need critical life-saving assistance (particularly the persons residing on the areas close to the line of contact and persons residing in NGCA). There have been cease-fire violations along the front-line in the last months, most notably in the Donetsk region, where repeated shelling on both sides has resulted in over 327 civilian casualties from January 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 - which represents a 88% increase compared to the same period last year. Shelling also damages critical vital infrastructure which leads to persistent disruptions in the provision of essential services, such as water and electricity.

The humanitarian situation is grim as freedom of movement and humanitarian access are restricted. The obligation imposed by the de-facto "authorities", in the NGCA in eastern Ukraine, to humanitarian organisations to register hampers humanitarian aid delivery. Only the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) can operate both in Luhansk and Donetsk, NGCA, while UNHCR and People in Need are operational in Luhansk only. Regulations imposed by the Government in June 2015 blocking commercial supply of food, medicines and other items to and from NGCA continue to have a negative impact on populations' needs and wellbeing. In addition the local "Akhmetov Foundation" was forced to stop its food assistance operations in February 2017. These operations were reaching out around 250,000 persons per month in Donetsk, NGCA. This is putting hundreds of thousands of people at risk of increased food-insecurity. The so called 'nationalisation' of large companies in NGCA will also severely impact an already extremely difficult socio-economic situation.

In February 2016, the government suspended state social assistance to a significant number of displaced people due to alleged irregularities, putting many of them at risk of increased poverty and vulnerability.

## The European Union's humanitarian response

Since 2014, the European Union and its Member States have **contributed to over €399 million in humanitarian and early recovery aid to help the most vulnerable people affected by the conflict**. The European Union addresses the basic needs of the population in the areas directly affected by the conflict, the internally displaced persons and refugees who have fled the conflict areas, and the returnees.

**Being one of the largest humanitarian donors to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine**, the European Commission has provided over €88.1 million of emergency assistance, half of which benefits vulnerable people in the non-government controlled areas (NGCA). This relief aid targets the most vulnerable populations, including female-headed households, the elderly, children and persons with disabilities. Projects implemented in 2016-17 from the European Commission's own funding have directly helped over 500,000 affected Ukrainians. The EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid office (ECHO) has been present in Ukraine since February 2014 and plays a key role in facilitating humanitarian coordination and information sharing with various stakeholders, including donors, authorities and partners. In addition to financial aid, material assistance has been mobilised through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The EU is also assisting Ukrainian refugees in Belarus and Russia through national Red Cross Societies in the respective countries.

The European Commission acts on the basis of international humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence, which are an 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, political or religious background. All EU humanitarian assistance is based solely on needs. The assistance is being delivered through the European Commission's humanitarian partners, including People In Need (PIN), ICRC, ACF, UNHCR, Save the Children, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Médecins du Monde (MDM), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), WFP, OCHA, UNICEF.

