

# Update/Alert

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Ukraine, Russia

## **IDPs and Refugees in Ukraine and Russia – *follow on response to ACT Appeal UKR161***

Geneva, 8 May 2017

### **1. Brief description of the emergency and impact**

Since the beginning of the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine in 2014, nearly 10'000 people have been killed and another 22'420 have been wounded (as of February 2017). The conflict is in its fourth year and constitutes a protracted crisis. Thousands of people left their homes in Ukraine. From Donetsk and Lugansk regions, hundreds of thousands Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees fled to the neighbouring regions of Ukraine and Russia as well as to other countries. The number of displaced people continues to increase. By 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017, 1'583'827 IDPs in Ukraine had been registered and 3.8 million people are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance. As of March 2017, the total number of Ukrainians seeking asylum in neighbouring countries now stands at 434,284 with the majority going to the Russian Federation, Poland and Belarus. An additional 1.3 million is also seeking other forms of legal stay in these same countries. As of the end of 2016, countries of the European Union received 9'625 applications for international protection. Meanwhile, the position of the civilian population in the Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCAs = conflict parts of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions of Ukraine) remains extremely difficult. Much of the population of these regions - in particular people who reside along contact line - have difficulty in accessing basic needs like food, hygiene, clean and safe drinking water, medicines, medical services and other basic services.

### **2. Why is an ACT response needed?**

Humanitarian needs are still growing, while funding for humanitarian operations remains extremely low. According to UN-OCHA, only 13.5% of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2017 is funded (as of 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017)<sup>1</sup>. Most vulnerable IDPs, refugees and affected people of the host community in remote areas and NGCAs continue to be the most disadvantaged groups, as they receive the least assistance. Most IDPs and refugees from the Eastern region leave with limited belongings, and are in acute need for food and non-food items (NFI). As a result to above presented points, current humanitarian assistance in Ukraine and Russia is insufficient to cover all basic needs of People of Concerns (PoC).

### **3. National and international response**

Various support is provided to the affected people by the Ukrainian and Russian government. UN bodies, international aid organizations and local Non-Government Organizations (LNGOs) are active mainly in

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<sup>1</sup> The funding coverage of the different sectors are the following: Education 8.1%, Shelter & NFI 2.4%, Food Security and Livelihood 12.4%, Health and Nutrition 24.5%, Protection 10.2%, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) 0.3%.

central and western parts of Ukraine. Just a few international NGOs (INGOs) are helping in the war affected NGCA, and also in the Russian regions close to boarder territories with mass concentration of the Ukrainian refugees.

#### 4. ACT Alliance response

Responding to the conflict situation in Ukraine, Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) was among the first agencies that provided medical and psychosocial assistance to the affected population and later provided food and NFI assistance to IDPs. Until present, HIA provided assistance in ten regions of Ukraine supporting a total of 51'664 conflict affected people. Further on, Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) has been providing assistance to PoC in the conflict zone as well as refugees and IDPs in Russia and Ukraine. ROC and its self-governing part - the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Moscow Patriarchate - is the largest Church in Ukraine and Russia. Dioceses, parishes and church organizations have provided and continue to provide assistance to the tens of thousands of the most vulnerable people in all affected regions. The Department for External Church Relations (ROC /DECR), with the support of ACT Alliance, provided assistance to refugees and IDPs from Eastern Ukraine on the territory of Russia and Ukraine. ROC/DECR also implemented projects with the support of other international partners, in particular - Samaritan's Purse and Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. HIA and ROC/DECR have been responding directly to the conflict situation in Ukraine through the Appeal mechanism since 2015 through UKR151, UKR152 and UKR161.

#### 5. Planned activities

HIA and ROC/DECR plan activities in the sectors of Food Security, WASH, Psychosocial Support as well as Shelter & Non-Food Items in Ukraine and Russia, targeting the most vulnerable IDPs, refugees and conflict affected host community. While HIA will cover both Government Controlled Areas and NGCA in Ukraine, ROC/DECR target regions will be the NGCA in Ukraine and Russia. The follow-on ACT Appeal will start 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 and end 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018 with a total of project duration of 12 months.

#### 6. Constraints

Main constraints are: influence of political factors on the level of financing of the emergency humanitarian work; unstable security situation; cooperation difficulties with state authorities and changing rules transporting aid items to NGCA; obstructed movement of humanitarian shipments within Ukraine; outages in water, electricity and gas supply in NGCA.

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**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel ([Line.Hempel@actalliance.org](mailto:Line.Hempel@actalliance.org)).**

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