

Alert note*Ukraine conflict, 25 February 2022***Completed by:** Hungarian Interchurch Aid

Russian Orthodox Church

Date completed: 25th February 2022**Forum:** ACT Forum EUROPE**Type of emergency:** Civilians fleeing violence – armed conflict in Ukraine**Date of emergency (if rapid onset):** 24th February 2022 - ongoing**1. The nature of the emergency**

Please note information remains limited as actions on the ground are developing constantly and rapidly.

Armed conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine erupted on 24th February 2022 and within the first 24 hours extensive violence was presented causing loss of lives and massive movement of people. Martial law is invoked allowing authorities to impose restrictions on movement, block rallies, and ban political parties and organisations, by doing so civilians in Ukraine have to look to the military to enforce laws. Airports are now shut, few number of railways are operational. Since military governance is in place governors of each Oblast hold all the power. Millions of civilians fleeing the violence are heading towards Western districts and towards neighbouring countries such as Poland, Moldova, Romania and Hungary, final destination is not clear. Many roads are blocked, male Ukrainians (age 18-60) are halted at the borders. Damage to civilian infrastructure has left hundreds of thousands of people without electricity or water. Hundreds of homes have been damaged or destroyed, while bridges and roads damaged by shelling have left some communities cut off from markets.

Besides, even before that, i.e. in the beginning of February, the situation in the demarcation zone in Donbas has worsened. As a result more than 100,000 refugees from Donbass and Eastern Ukraine crossed the border to find refugee to the territory of the Rostov region of Russia.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information)

The conflict is nationwide, sources of information is from Hungarian Interchurch Aid's team in the country, UN OCHA communication

(<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/ukraine/document/ukraine-2022-humanitarian-needs-overview>) and worldwide news.

Population of the major cities of Ukraine both civilians and non-civilians are affected. Estimation for 2022 showed 2.5 million people, including residents of conflict-affected oblasts and internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing elsewhere in Ukraine, who require water, sanitation, or hygiene-related (WASH) assistance. This number is dramatically escalating due to the war. Based on UNHCR report, more than 160,000 people have reportedly been internally displaced and over 116,000 have been forced to flee across international borders into neighbouring European countries. Government estimates as many as 5 million refugees in worst-case scenario. OHCHR reports at least 240 civilian casualties, including at least 64 dead. According to the UNICEF statement, the current crisis poses an immediate threat to the lives and wellbeing of the country's 7.5 million children.

Civilian population has been affected by shelling and air strikes on major cities, resulting in destruction of homes, public infrastructure (etc. warehouse) and shortage of services etc., leading to civilians fleeing of places of residency. Primary needs are emerging in terms of security, relocation and in the destination areas: establishment of structures for the acceptance of IDPs, including supply of shelter, WASH entities, food, NFIs, health-, protection- and psycho-social services.

All civil defence, civilian protection bodies and law enforcement entities are all engaged in active armed conflict.

3. Local and national capacity

People are currently seeking shelter and refuge, moving to the Western districts and towards neighbouring countries such as Poland, Romania and Hungary.

Local structures (most NGOs, civil organizations) are not fully operative at the moment.

Local and central governmental bodies are engaged in active armed conflict. Although National Emergency Response Plan has been issued (annexed), it's not implemented nationwide. According to HIA's information, the government offered provision of infrastructure for sheltering IDPs in schools, community centres and other suitable entities (up to their limit). .

International coordination has been set up in Lviv, Ukraine. Most of the international actors have temporarily relocated their offices to Lviv and expat colleagues remaining in the country have been moved there.

UN OCHA is active. UN OCHA and UNICEF have launched flash appeals to mitigate the distress of the people affected. Cluster coordination mechanisms are being set up in the coming days and weeks.

On the territory of Ukraine, all parishes of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate have opened the doors of churches and church buildings to be used as bomb shelters and aid stations, many monasteries and church premises have organized temporary accommodation for refugees and ambulances.

In the Rostov region of Russia, parishes and social services of the Russian Orthodox Church provide assistance to refugees. For more than 4,500 the neediest people they organized distribution of hot meals, clothes, hygiene items, baby supplies, as well as accommodation. This work is supported by local authorities and communities.

4. Key needs and gaps

Internal displacement of affected population is to be expected and in development. For the non-displaced population as well, internal supply chains are expected to face obstructions on the short term already (huge buy-ups are being experienced for non-perishable food, petrol etc.) , in case of a prolonged crisis (weeks) stable provision of electricity, heating etc. is also going to face challenges resulting in longer blackouts of basic services for civilian population.

The latest UN OCHA situation report from 18th February 2022 referred only to the 1.8 million conflict-affected population in the contact line, the following days accelerated the crisis immensely.

A potential media blackout together with the difficulty of access will aggravate gathering information of actual needs on the ground.

Because of the ongoing conflict large numbers of refugees can be expected in the neighbouring countries with the huge numbers of IDPs inside Ukraine. Internal displacement raises issues in multisector aspect: shelter, WASH, food security, health and protection needs are expected to rise rapidly.

Emergency Steering Committee has approved to raise an appeal.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
Hungarian Interchurch Aid	Ukraine	Health, Child protection, GBV, PSS, emergency response	Public health WASH Food security MHPSS and CBPS	800 000 EUR
Russian Orthodox Church	Rostov region, Russia	Emergency response		
LWF	Tbc			

5. Potential responses

In conflict of 2014, Hungarian Interchurch Aid (working in Ukraine since 1998) was among the first agencies that provided medical and psycho-social assistance to the affected population and later provided food and NFI assistance to IDPs in Ivano Frankivsk and Lviv. In Ivano Frankivsk an IDP coordination centre has been established on the basis of an earlier HIA capacity building process for Western Ukrainian stakeholders.

HIA, as a registered humanitarian stakeholder in Ukraine requested the Governor of Transcarpathia to lift all restrictions on incoming humanitarian aid, and the free movement of HIA's staff from Hungary.

HIA will work through 2 main offices: Berehove and Lviv with experienced humanitarian staff; while significant resources are allocated for the support of the process from the Budapest HQ's side.

As for the first response, HIA is

- Purchasing of food and necessary non-food items for appr. EUR 52 000 is under way to be distributed among IDPs arriving in Western regions of the country
- in contact with the Governor of Transcarpathia to provide shelter for 1500 children, food and medicine – the immediate capacity of Transcarpathia to provide shelter for IDPs is approx. 30.000 people
- preparing an immediate relief operation for the refugees/IDPs including food distribution taken place on 27 February 2022
- registering the needs as more requests are incoming

HIA HQ has started its fundraising campaign to support the victims of the conflict, companies, churches, individuals have joined it.

ROC provides assistance to refugees in the Rostov region of Russia through its parishes and social services. Church institutions and believers are currently organizing fundraising, collect cloths, food and hygiene items, organize the accommodation for refugees.

Earlier, since 2014, a number of ROC projects have been implemented in Rostov region of Russia and in Ukraine to assist refugees affected by the conflict in Eastern Ukraine; some of these projects were implemented with the support of ACT and ecumenical partners of the Church.