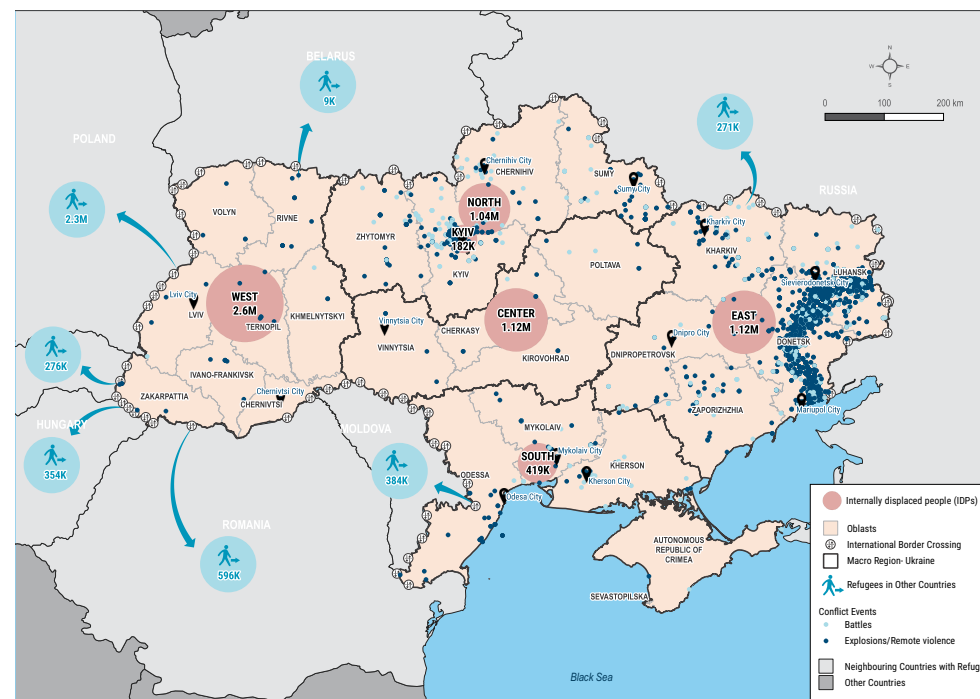


Pattern of movement, people's needs, and response

After more than one month, the Russian military offensive against Ukraine has displaced almost a quarter of the country's estimated population of 44.13 million. Around 3.72 million have had to flee the country, while around 6.47 million are estimated to be internally displaced (UNHCR accessed 25/03/2022; IOM 16/03/2022; WB accessed 25/03/2022). As at 10 March 2022, around 12.65 million people were unable or unwilling to leave conflict-affected areas (Protection Cluster 11/03/2022). Figures on the movement of people are likely to change, with areas of active conflict especially in its eastern, northern, and southern regions and Kyiv.

Attacks on civilian infrastructure continue to endanger civilian lives. As at 23 March, there were at least 2,865 civilian casualties, including 1,035 killed and 1,650 injured (OHCHR 24/03/2022). Actual figures are likely considerably higher and will continue to rise. As at 22 March, there were 64 verified incidents of attacks on healthcare facilities (WHO 24/03/2022). According to the Ministry of Education and Science, the conflict has also damaged almost 500 educational facilities (MoES 21/03/2022).

Overall needs for the population include safe shelter, food, water, access to information, psychosocial support, and medicine (especially for chronic diseases, such as insulin) (KII 22/03/2022 a). The conflict has disrupted access to essential services, such as water, gas, and electricity. As at 24 March, more than 865,000 people were without electricity across the country (MOE 24/03/2022). There are more specific needs and risks identified for those displaced and in transit (especially towards western and central cities, such as Lviv and Vinnytsia) and those unable or unwilling to leave affected areas, such as in Mariupol. Although needs are growing, there are constraints in humanitarian access (OCHA 01/03/2022; UN 18/03/2022).



See full map on page 9.

Disclaimer: Conflict events are between 24 February and 18 March 2022. Internal displacement figures are as at 16 March 2022. Refugee figures are as at 27 March 2022.

Source: ACAPS using data from ACLED (accessed 18/03/2022), IOM (16/03/2022), OCHA (23/03/2022), OCHA (31/01/2022), OpenStreetMap (10/03/2022), and UNHCR (accessed 27/03/2022).

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About this report

Aim: the report aims at providing an overview of the situation of displaced and stranded people inside Ukraine, including their humanitarian needs. It also analyses the information landscape to identify gaps.

Scope: the report focuses on the situation of people within Ukraine.

Methodology: secondary data review of public sources and key informant interviews.

Limitations: information on the situation of people within Ukraine is extremely limited because heavy fighting, indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks, and bombardments hamper the mobility of civilians, media, and humanitarian organisations.

PEOPLE TEMPORARILY SETTLED AND IN TRANSIT

Since it began, the conflict has internally displaced an estimated 6.47 million people or 14.7% of the Ukrainian population (IOM 16/03/2022; WB accessed 25/03/2022). The number of IDPs is expected to increase as the conflict continues. Many IDPs are temporarily settled in safer areas of the country, while others are still on the move, trying to reach a safer temporary location (IOM 16/03/2022; KII 22/03/2022 a). The distinction between those who have temporarily settled and those still in transit is fluid. While the situation is volatile and information is limited, this section aims to provide an overview of current internal displacement by location, type of accommodation, and the facilitation of their movements.

Displacement by location

Western: initial data from IOM suggests that nearly 40% of current IDPs (or over 2.58 million) are in this macro-region, with people moving away from the conflict-affected eastern, northern, central, and Kyiv macro-regions (IOM 16/03/2022). As at 9 March, local authorities of Lviv reported 200,000 IDPs staying in the city, with an estimated daily influx of 50,000 people, many of whom continue westwards (Shelter Cluster 15/03/2022). This number has started decreasing (KII 25/03/2022 a). As at 17 March, accommodation was no longer available in Lviv (Solidarités International 17/03/2022).

Eastern: initial data from IOM indicates that over 1.12 million (or 17%) of IDPs are in eastern regions. A large proportion of people there are displaced within the same cities or oblasts of origin, close to areas of active hostilities. As per this data, 26% of IDPs in eastern regions expressed intent to move again (IOM 16/03/2022).

Central: initial data from IOM indicates that 1.12 million (or 17%) of IDPs are in central regions (IOM 16/03/2022). In Vinnytsia, one of the cities hosting the highest number of IDPs, there are transit centres set up in dormitories, schools, and churches to accommodate IDPs that temporarily stay before moving to the next destination (typically abroad) (KII 22/03/2022 a; Shelter Cluster 15/03/2022).

Northern: initial data from IOM suggests that over one million people (or 16%) of IDPs are currently in the northern regions (Protection Cluster 18/03/2022; IOM 16/03/2022). While the majority of IDPs moved from the north to central and western regions, many displaced people remain in the northern region (IOM 16/03/2022).

Kyiv: initial data from IOM states that 30% (or 1.9 million) of IDPs are from Kyiv region and displaced to western, southern, and central macro-regions. Kyiv itself hosts 3% of IDPs, the majority of whom also originate from the region (IOM 16/03/2022).

Southern: initial data from IOM suggests that 7% of IDPs are in southern oblasts, where most have displaced within the same macro-region (IOM 16/03/2022).

Accommodation

The majority of those who were able to move to safer areas rent accommodations or live with a host, such as family members, friends, and other community members (IOM 16/03/2022). In some areas, especially in Lviv, the influx of people are diminishing accommodation options and increasing prices (KII 25/03/2022 a; The Kyiv Independent 18/03/2022). Authorities and civil society organisations provide shelter in public facilities, such as stadiums (Solidarités International 17/03/2022; Shelter Cluster 15/03/2022). The highest concentration of reception, transit, and collective centres are in Chernivtsi (which borders Romania and Moldova), Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, and Kirovohrad oblasts (Shelter Cluster 15/03/2022).

Movement

Modes of transport: people are using different transportation methods, including private transportation, and public transport where operational, such as buses and trains (KII 22/03/2022 a; URCS 17/03/2022; REACH 18/03/2022; Al Jazeera 14/03/2022; Protection Cluster 11/03/2022). Some national and local authorities organise evacuations, and there have been attempts to facilitate them through humanitarian corridors (where both parties halt hostilities). So far, they have often been unreliable and pose risks to civilians when agreements are not respected (**see section on movement restrictions**) (HRW 21/03/2022; AI 10/03/2022). Fuel shortages, particularly in the eastern macro-region, lead to private or organised transportation often being unable to operate, forcing people to travel long distances by foot (KII 22/03/2022 a).

Border crossing points: in the initial stages of the conflict, there were reports of border crossing points heavily congested with people waiting for hours to cross – sometimes on foot – in subzero temperatures and with little access to water or food (UN 21/03/2022; Visit Ukraine 13/03/2022; Solidarités International 17/03/2022). More recently, wait times have decreased with the diminished number of people crossing to neighbouring countries (State Fiscal Service of Ukraine accessed 24/03/2022; Visit Ukraine 13/03/2022).

Information-sharing: in areas of active conflict, there are short windows of opportunity of only a few hours to move safely, making access to information important. This information predominantly comes from the mayor of local municipalities and hromadas. The church also communicates essential information, particularly in central macro-region (KII 25/03/2022 b; KII 22/03/2022 a). Groups of individuals may collectively gather information on shelling and other risks and coordinate movement together without any security guarantee (KII 22/03/2022 a).

PEOPLE REMAINING IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS

As at 23 March, there were an estimated 12.65 million people unable or unwilling to leave areas of active conflict (OCHA 23/03/2022; Protection Cluster 11/03/2022). Reasons include barriers preventing the safe movement of people, including insecurity; the destruction of infrastructure, such as roads; a lack of access to information regarding safety and security; the financial cost of leaving; an unwillingness to leave behind family members; and the inability to leave because of a health issue or disability (Protection Cluster 11/03/2022).

Movement restrictions

Active hostilities: in areas with active hostilities, there is no guarantee of the safe passage of civilians and aid. Bombardments also significantly damage critical infrastructure and pose risks to civilians, forcing them to take shelter. Areas with the highest level of conflict and shelling are in the northern, southern, central, and eastern oblasts, particularly the cities of Chernihiv, Kherson, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Mykolaiv, Okhtyrka, Sievierodonetsk, and Sumy (NYT accessed 24/03/2022).

Damaged infrastructure and a lack of transportation: damages to transportation networks, including roads, and a lack of transportation options restrict people's movement (KII 22/03/2022 a; OCHA 10/03/2022 and 01/03/2022). On 22 March, shelling destroyed a railway station in Pavlohrad, Dnipropetrovsk (Al Jazeera 21/03/2022). Damages to the railroad hindered train evacuation from Luhansk oblast in early March (AEJ 02/03/2022; OCHA 01/03/2022).

Encircled cities: encircled cities in Ukraine are those surrounded by Russian forces, with no routes for citizens to leave or for goods to enter. These cities include Chernihiv, Mariupol, and Sumy (The Guardian 23/03/2022; Reuters 11/03/2022; HRW 09/03/2022). People within these cities are typically cut off from telecommunications, electricity, and water and have little access to essential services, such as healthcare. At the same time, the cities experience heavy bombardments, which destroy residential buildings, places of shelter, and infrastructure, leading to civilian casualties (NYT accessed 24/03/2022).

Failed humanitarian corridors: the establishment of humanitarian corridors for the safe evacuation of civilians and delivery of humanitarian aid is one of the most pressing needs in Ukraine (OCHA 21/03/2022; ICRC 05/03/2022). Humanitarian corridors are "specific routes and logistical methods agreed upon by all relevant parties to allow the safe passage of humanitarian goods and/or people from one point to another in an area of active fighting" (OCHA 03/06/2011). Since the beginning of March, there have been attempts to implement humanitarian corridors that, despite repeated calls for safe passage, proved to be slow, limited, unreliable, and dangerous (Protection Cluster 16/03/2022; OCHA 17/03/2022). As at 18

March, the assurance of a secure and safe evacuation of civilians through humanitarian corridors remained unconfirmed by both parties to the conflict (Protection Cluster 18/03/2022). As at 24 March, Ukrainian authorities reported an agreement for seven humanitarian corridors to evacuate civilians on 27 March (Reuters 24/03/2022).

Situation of people in areas of heavy conflict

Curfews: the Ukrainian Government imposed several movement restrictions on civilians, including curfews and identification checkpoints, which vary per region (The Kyiv Independent 23/02/2022). Local authorities have imposed night curfews in several cities, including Kharkiv, Kyiv, Lviv, and Odesa, since the beginning of the conflict (The Guardian 21/03/2022; MSF 08/03/2022; Kharkiv City Council 26/02/2022; BBC 26/02/2022). Heavy fighting led to the implementation of a 20:00–07:00 curfew between 21–23 March across all of Kyiv oblast (OCHA 21/03/2022).

Chernihiv: around 130,000 people (out of a pre-conflict population of 285,000) are stuck in Chernihiv without electricity and heating and with limited drinking water. The city is also experiencing the indiscriminate shelling of civilian infrastructure. On 23 March, Russian forces bombed the bridge over River Desna, which connected the city to the south with Kyiv and served as the passageway for humanitarian aid and the evacuation of civilians (The Guardian 23/03/2022; ECHO 25/03/2022; OCHA 24/03/2022).

Kherson: on 2 March, Russian forces entered the city of Kherson which counts 300,000 inhabitants. The city is being under Russia control for almost a month while residents continue to protest and resist (Al Jazeera 03/03/2022; BBC 16/03/2022; The Guardian 26/03/2022). According to Kherson oblast officials, there are urgent needs in food (including baby food), hygiene items for infants and seriously ill people, and medicine. 46,000 people are without water and electricity, and 4,000 people do not have access to natural gas (OCHA 23/03/2022). There have been reports of abducted and arbitrarily detained journalists and civil society activists (OHCHR 25/03/2022). Kherson may soon become the site of a Ukrainian counteroffensive (BBC accessed 27/03/2022; BBC 16/03/2022).

Kharkiv: Russian forces have continuously shelled Kharkiv, which is 25km south of the Russian border, since the start of the invasion. The attacks have destroyed over 500 buildings, including hospitals and schools (Al Jazeera 21/03/2022; The Washington Post 21/03/2022). According to officials, around half of its 1.4 million pre-war population remains in the city. Some of the residents still in the city have been sheltering in subway stations for a month. The Kharkiv City Council has reported urgently needing 50 tons' worth of food assistance per week (OCHA 21/03/2022).



Kyiv: nearly two million of the metropolitan area's nearly four million pre-conflict population have fled by train or road (The Atlantic 24/03/2022; Al Jazeera 10/03/2022). Kyiv is also a destination for people fleeing from areas experiencing more intense conflicts in Kyiv oblast (KII 25/03/2022 a). As at 13 March, the city has been subject to nine days of heavy bombardments (NYT accessed 13/03/2022). Further shelling has since been reported (Aljazeera 21/03/2022; NYT accessed 15/03/2022). According to local officials, the conflict has killed more than 200 people, injured 900, and destroyed at least 70 buildings within the city (The Atlantic 24/03/2022).

Mariupol: the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in the city of Mariupol, Donetsk oblast, with a pre-conflict population of 430,000, is a major concern (The Washington Post 21/03/2022). Russian forces encircled the city on 1 March, trapping people with no access to essential services; as at 26 March 100,000 people still required evacuations (Reuters 26/03/2022; BBC 21/03/2022). The people also face recurrent bombardment. On 16 March, attacks hit a theatre sheltering at least 500 civilians, which, according to local officials, killed 300 people (Reuters 25/03/2022; Al Jazeera accessed 24/03/2022). On 19 March, bombing destroyed an art school sheltering around 400 people (OCHA 21/03/2022). People within the city have to endure frequent shelling, which has damaged nearly 80% of homes. Of this percentage, shelling has destroyed 30% beyond repair. The level of destruction has forced people into the overcrowded basements of public buildings (OCHA 18/03/2022; BBC 15/03/2022). Food stocks are running low in the city, with people risking their lives to leave shelters to find food. There is a lack of telecommunications to receive information or connect with loved ones (ICRC 13/03/2022; MSF 12/03/2022). Ceasefire violations have prevented the safe evacuation of civilians and delivery of humanitarian aid or goods to the city (Bloomberg accessed 27/03/2022; OCHA 17/03/2022; The Kyiv Independent 16/03/2022; Al Jazeera 14/03/2022; ICRC 13/03/2022; MSF 12/03/2022; Al Jazeera 03/03/2022). There are also unconfirmed reports that civilians trying to evacuate have been forcibly deported to Russia (DW 23/03/2022; The Guardian 20/03/2022).

Mykolaiv: Mykolaiv is at the front lines between the push from Russian forces coming from the Crimean Peninsula and the Ukrainian counteroffensive, putting the city in a dire humanitarian situation (The Washington Post 23/03/2022). The city suffers from constant shelling from Russian forces, including the alleged use of cluster munitions, which risks civilian lives (AP News 20/03/2022; OCHA 18/03/2022).

Okhtyrka: around half of the city's population of 48,000 people has fled the city since the start of the invasion. Among those who remain, there are a lot of elderly people. The city is just south of the Russian border, and Russian forces have shelled it nearly every day. On 25 February, there were reports that cluster munitions hit a preschool sheltering civilians, killing two adults and a child and injuring another child (The Guardian 19/03/2022; Bellingcat 27/02/2022). The population has limited access to water, heating, and electricity, and there are reports of acute food needs (OCHA 23/03/2022; The Kyiv Independent 03/03/2022).

Sievierodonetsk: the Russian shelling of the city of Sievierodonetsk, Luhansk oblast began on 28 February, forcing citizens into shelters (The Kyiv Independent 25/03/2022; AOA 25/03/2022; Sergey Gaidai Facebook 28/02/2022). Since then, the city has experienced heavy fighting and shelling (Crisis24 22/03/2022 and 19/03/2022; Forbes 04/03/2022). Many citizens have fled the city, and those who remain face water and gas shortages and intermittent telecommunications (Forbes 04/03/2022; Netblocks 24/02/2022; Politico 28/02/2022).

Sumy: on 25 February, Russian troops encircled the city (which had a pre-conflict population of 250,000), preventing the evacuation of people, who are only able to leave through risky humanitarian corridors (Al Jazeera 21/03/2022 and 15/03/2022; HRW 09/03/2022; CNN 09/03/2022). Heavy fighting and shelling continue, which have left people without electricity (Al Jazeera 21/03/2022; The Kyiv Independent 03/03/2022). People trapped inside the city face food and water shortages. There is a lack of humanitarian access, making it difficult to deliver aid to the city (France 24 19/03/2022; UNHCR 18/03/2022). The first aid convoys to enter the city since the beginning of the escalation of conflict arrived on 18 March, but responders need regular access to cover the needs of the affected people in the city (UN 18/03/2022; France 24 19/03/2022).

OVERALL NEEDS AND ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Water: active hostilities have damaged and destroyed key water infrastructure, and insecurity has made it difficult to carry out repair activities (OCHA 17/03/2022 and 15/03/2022). As a result, people with limited or no access to water have resorted to melting snow, boiling water, collecting rainwater, or walking to wells. In Mariupol, people must walk up to 3km, sometimes under heavy fire, to reach wells (OCHA 17/03/2022; MSF 12/03/2022; The Independent 12/03/2022). The lack of access to water is also affecting people's ability to practice hygiene. In Mariupol, people have a limited amount of water to wash their hands with (MSF 12/03/2022). Limited access to water supplies increases the risk of outbreaks of communicable diseases like cholera (MSF 11/03/2022).

Food: there is a lack of refrigeration as a result of intermittent electricity, increasing the need for non-perishable food items (KII 25/03/2022 a). Overall, there is a need to ensure the supply of food. The availability of food for children, which is typically imported, is diminished across the country. People in encircled areas face severe food shortages because of the disruption of food supply chains (WFP 14/03/2022). As a result, food needs are increasing in the eastern macro-region, especially conflict affected areas including Mariupol, Okhtyrka, and Sumy (OCHA 23/03/2022).

Adequate housing and temporary shelter: people in areas at risk of shelling have to stay in bomb shelters (sometimes for weeks at a time), basements, and makeshift shelters (such as parking garages and metro stations) that are ill equipped, damp, and cold, increasing the risk of illness (KII 25/03/2022 a; URCS 17/03/2022; The New Yorker 03/03/2022; The Washington Post 25/02/2022). The need for accommodation for IDPs is growing, and the establishment of additional reception centres is a priority, particularly in central and western regions, such as Chernivtsi oblast (KII 23/03/2022 a; KII 23/03/2022 b; KII 22/03/2022 e; Shelter Cluster 15/03/2022). Reception centres are overcrowded and have limited resources. IDPs in transit cities require beds, blankets, food, and water (Shelter Cluster 15/03/2022; KII 22/03/2022 a).

Accurate and timely information: access to accurate information regarding safe passage from areas of active conflict is essential in protecting civilian lives (HRW 21/03/2022). For example, train timetables have been unavailable since the early stages of conflict, meaning people have had to directly access the station for information or wait for long periods (KII 25/03/2022 a). Registered IDPs can receive financial aid, but a lack of information prevents them from accessing available support (KII 22/03/2022 a). For people trying to leave the country, access to information regarding the least crowded border point is important to reduce wait times (Visit Ukraine 13/03/2022).

Documentation (including the registration of newborns) is an issue, as judicial services (typically provided at the lowest level of government) are closed in areas of heavy conflict (KII 22/03/2022 a). Acquiring death certificates is also an issue and poses particular concern for orphaned children (KII 22/03/2022 d). The closure of judicial services has an impact on people without documentation, including people released from prison and the Roma minority, or people who have identification that may not be internationally recognised. The latter includes people who did not change their passports from the former Soviet Union after the Ukrainian state stopped recognising them in 2005 or those in Luhansk and Donetsk who possess Russian passports (KII 25/03/2022 a; TCUP 07/01/2022; UNHCR 04/2021; SchengenVisaInfo.com 28/02/2020; Burkhardt 08/03/2020).

Protection from sexual exploitation and gender-based violence (GBV): the current situation exposes IDPs to an increased risk of GBV resulting from forced displacement, the division of families, accommodation in temporary or shared shelters, and increased military presence (Protection Cluster 11/03/2022).

Risk education and situational awareness: There are credible reports of Russia using cluster bombs within Ukraine, including in urban areas, which create an immediate threat and can leave dangerous remnants beyond their initial use (The Guardian 19/03/2022; Foreign Policy 16/03/2022; Bellingcat 27/02/2022; HRW 2014). The presence of unexploded ordnance also poses a short- and long-term risk to the safety and security of civilians in areas that experience

combat or shelling. In Lviv, frequent air raid sirens that do not amount to shelling have made people complacent about not seeking shelter anymore (KII 22/03/2022 g). Bombardments and complacency compromise the safety of people and present a need for risk education and situational awareness, especially for children.

Access to education has been disrupted by ongoing hostilities (OCHA 08/03/2022). As at 27 March, over 650 educational facilities have been damaged and 74 institutions completely destroyed, according to the Ministry of Education and Science (MoES accessed 27/03/2022). At the beginning of the conflict, schools across the country were closed, affecting 5.7 million students aged 3-17 (The Guardian 19/03/2022; OCHA 08/03/2022). Remote learning has begun for at least 3 million students at primary, middle, and high school. Some universities and colleges are also providing remote learning opportunities. However, 2,400 schools remain suspended as at 21 March in areas of active conflict (OCHA 23/03/2022; MoES 21/03/2022). Psychosocial support is needed for teachers and students (OCHA 17/03/2022).

Mental health and psychosocial support: the current conflict has also disrupted mental and psychological support services, which has become an increasing need for IDPs and others affected by the crisis, including educational personnel and volunteers (KII 22/03/2022 a; KII 22/03/2022 c; OCHA 17/03/2022; WHO 02/03/2022; OCHA 01/03/2022).

Access to healthcare: addressing the urgent medical needs of the population is a growing concern. Attacks on healthcare facilities, hospitals being repurposed to care for the wounded, diminishing medical supplies, and healthcare workers being forced to flee or take shelter in areas of active conflict further limit the response capacity to increasing healthcare needs (Direct Relief 22/03/2022; WHO 17/03/2022, 05/03/2022 and 24/03/2022; MSF 11/03/2022). In Lviv, the Western Ukrainian Specialised Children's Medical Center faces dwindling supplies alongside a significant increase in patients. At one point, the centre received six months' worth of patients in a single week (WHO 16/03/2022). People face challenges in accessing health facilities, including safety concerns, a lack of transportation, fuel shortages, and military checkpoints that restrict people's movement and prevent them from having timely access to health services (OCHA 08/03/2022; WHO 05/03/2022). As millions of people are on the move and forced to take shelter in crowded spaces with limited sanitation facilities and access to health services, the risk of infectious disease outbreaks continues to rise (OCHA 17/03/2022).

Supply of goods and essential items: the conflict has affected supply chains, particularly to eastern regions, reducing the population's access to essential items (KII 22/03/2022 a; Logistics Cluster 22/03/2022; Shelter Cluster 15/03/2022; KII 22/03/2022 b; OCHA 15/03/2022; WSJ 05/03/2022). There are significant logistical issues with supplying cities in the east, including Mariupol and Kharkiv (KII 23/03/2022 b; KII 22/03/2022 e; The Washington Post 12/03/2022;

OCHA 16/03/2022). People in encircled cities and areas with active conflict face a shortage of food, water, infant formula, and medicine – including antibiotics, cancer treatment, and insulin (KII 22/03/2022 c; HRW 18/03/2022; OCHA 16/03/2022; BBC 15/03/2022; The Washington Post 12/03/2022; MSF 12/03/2022; Vox 12/03/2022). Cities that have been heavily affected by bombardment require plastic sheets for destroyed windows (KII 22/03/2022 a).

Electricity, fuel, and gas: as at 24 March, the Ukrainian Ministry of Energy reported around 850,000 people without electricity and 289,000 without gas supplies (MOE 24/03/2022). Electricity cuts affect heating, cooking, and water supplies (such as water treatment plants and groundwater pumps) (HRW 07/03/2022). People are resorting to burning wood for cooking and heating, increasing the risk of burns and respiratory illnesses (MSF 12/03/2022 and 11/03/2022). More than 100,000 people in Luhansk oblast and almost 50,000 people in Kherson oblast are without electricity (OCHA 18/03/2022). Overall, heating has been intermittent in areas of conflict, which is a risk when outside temperatures reach as low as -4° C (HRW 18/03/2022). For those moving within or out of eastern oblasts, the lack of fuel for transportation is becoming an increasing issue (KII 22/03/2022 a; KII 22/03/2022 c; KII 22/03/2022 f; KII 22/03/2022 e). Fuel for generators in areas without electricity, particularly in eastern and central oblasts, is another emerging need (KII 22/03/2022 a).

Financial resources: there are limits on cash withdrawal across the country. Although some shops still accept cards, other retailers only accept cash, which may not be feasible for some consumers (KII 25/03/2022 a; KII 25/03/2022 b; KII 22/03/2022 a). IDPs have begun exhausting their financial resources, making cash an increasing need (KII 23/03/2022 a; KII 22/03/2022 f). Cash is essential for rental options for people in need of accommodation (Shelter Cluster 15/03/2022; UNHCR 15/03/2022; IOM 14/03/2022; OCHA 01/03/2022).

Telecommunications: as at 17 March, most areas in Ukraine had functional telecommunications, although a full picture of blackouts is unavailable. In areas of heavy fighting, people likely do not have access to information or lack the means for communication because of the damage to communication infrastructure, although there is a need for more information (KII 22/03/2022 c; OCHA 17/03/2022; MSF 12/03/2022; Reuters 07/03/2022; DW 07/03/2022).

IMPACT ON SPECIFIC POPULATION GROUPS

As men ages 18–60 are not allowed to leave the country, refugees fleeing Ukraine are mostly women, children, and older people (ICG 16/03/2022). Patterns for internal displacement are uncertain. While there is limited data on the population profile, gender, and age breakdown of those temporarily settled, in transit, and remaining in conflict-affected areas, different groups are clearly exposed to different risks based on their status, gender, age, and vulnerabilities.

Children: as at 24 March, conflict had displaced over half (or 4.3 million) of Ukraine’s estimated 7.5 million children, 2.5 million of whom were internally displaced (UNICEF 24/03/2022). Some children have left cities on their own, and there have been unaccompanied children crossing international borders (BBC 11/03/2022; Child Protection Sub-Cluster 23/03/2022). Children evacuated without coordination with authorities or an accompanying adult are at increased risk of human trafficking and family separation (Protection Cluster 11/03/2022; IOM 16/03/2022). Food access for displaced children is also an emerging necessity (KII 22/03/2022 b; KII 22/03/2022 d).

Men: men of conscription age (18–60) are banned from leaving Ukraine unless they are financially supporting three or more children, are a single father, or have children or are a guardian of children with disabilities (The Guardian 09/03/2022; Administration of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine 24/02/2022). The enforcement of conscription is unclear and seems to vary per oblast. Many families have had to make the difficult choice between staying together to endure the fighting or facing family separation and leaving their husbands, brothers, and sons behind (ICG 16/03/2022). Preventing certain men from leaving the country restricts their freedom of movement and directly affects their ability to seek asylum (Protection Cluster 07/03/2022).

Minority groups: the risk of discrimination against minorities, including the Roma community, remains high. There are reports of discrimination along the evacuation route out of Ukraine (OHCHR 16/03/2022; Al Jazeera 07/03/2022). The Roma community comprises between 200,000–400,000 people (CARE 01/03/2022). Many lack legal documentation and identification, which may restrict their access to critical services and potentially humanitarian aid (OCHA 03/03/2022; UNCHR 04/2021).

Older people and people with disabilities: there are over ten million people over the age of 60 in Ukraine and around 2.7 million people registered with disabilities, although this figure is estimated to be closer to 6.6 million (Statista accessed 17/03/2022; Protection Cluster 08/03/2022). Mobility challenges and other impairments further reduce their ability to safely evacuate from areas of active fighting. People with mobility issues often have difficulty accessing shelters forcing them to stay home (Mercy Corps 01/03/2022; EDF 24/02/2022). As a result, those who live alone or rely on caregivers are expected to find themselves isolated and

left behind, without community structures to support them in accessing basic necessities, including food (Mercy Corps 01/03/2022; HelpAge International 04/03/2022). Older people and people with disabilities are in heightened need of water supply, hygiene products, and access to healthcare, including medication for chronic illnesses (MSF 11/03/2022; HelpAge International 04/03/2022).

People with chronic illnesses: the precarious situation of people with chronic illnesses, who are displaced, in transit, or unable to leave, puts them at higher risk of not accessing treatment, healthcare, and necessary medicine (Protection Cluster 18/03/2022; WHO 16/03/2022). As conflict has severely affected the supply chain, specific medicines for people with chronic diseases, including insulin and asthma medication, are also difficult to find (KII 22/03/2022 f; KII 22/03/2022 e). The reduced capacity of the healthcare system worsens the situation for them (WHO 24/03/2022). Initial data indicates that one of three households among IDPs has a member with a chronic disease (IOM 16/03/2022). Ukraine has the fifth-highest number of confirmed cases of extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in the world. Health professionals have highlighted how the escalation of conflict and its impact on the healthcare system threatens care delivery for tuberculosis patients (Holt 22/03/2022).

People with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities in any armed conflict, face increased risks and barriers to humanitarian access. Transgender women may be unable to flee abroad because their legal identity documents identify them as men (OHCHR 22/03/2022; ICG 16/03/2022; NPR 04/03/2022).

People with lower incomes: people without access to financial resources have fewer opportunities to leave areas of active conflict. The chaotic situation with public transport in the initial days of the conflict meant the easiest way to evacuate was via private means, which were more costly. Another barrier for people with lower incomes to move to safety is the increasing price of accommodation, especially in western cities such as Lviv (KII 25/03/2022 a).

Third-country nationals: as at 9 March, 109,000 third-country nationals had fled Ukraine since the escalation of the current conflict (IOM 09/03/2022). They were mainly migrant workers and students from Africa and South Asia (VOA News 06/03/2022; OCHA 03/03/2022). Reports indicate that they faced discrimination inside Ukraine during evacuation and at the borders as they were trying to flee the country (CNN 04/03/2022; VOA News 07/03/2022).

Women: many women are internally displaced or en route to other countries, acting as the primary caregiver of children and family members. Some are scared to travel alone with children. Their future is often uncertain, especially in terms of employment opportunities, both within Ukraine and abroad (KII 25/03/2022 a). Around 80,000 women will give birth in Ukraine over the next three months. Pregnant women who are displaced or are unable to move from conflict-affected areas are at a higher risk of experiencing complications. Challenges in accessing healthcare, limited power and oxygen supplies, and attacks on healthcare centres, including maternity hospitals, disrupt the provision of antenatal care, emergency services (including caesarean deliveries), and neonatal intensive care (WHO 17/03/2022; BBC 10/03/2022).

RESPONSE

Coordination and capacity

The solidification of coordination structures is still underway, but initial information suggests that authorities at the raion (district) level, particularly mayors, have a significant role in gathering needs, information-sharing, and the implementation of response. Raion authorities collect data on needs from hromadas (municipality) and local organisations (KII 22/03/2022 a). Volunteers, churches, and civil society organisations also help address the needs of the population, including through food delivery and shelter provision (KII 25/03/2022 a; KII 25/03/2022 b). Civil protection mechanisms, such as fire and police services, also provide emergency response (KII 25/03/2022 b).

Data collection: since 2014, the Ukrainian Ministry of Social Policy has been responsible for monitoring and registering internal displacement. The dynamic conflict situation and continual movement of IDPs pose challenges in carrying out effective and consistent registration. To respond to this gap, on 13 March, the Government expanded and simplified the registration system to immediately respond to the most pressing needs, including accommodation and the provision of targeted assistance to newly registered IDPs (Protection Cluster 18/03/2022).

International humanitarian system: the cluster system is active with a hub based in Lviv for response within Ukraine. The coordination of the logistics cluster is set to take place in Lviv and Dnipro. There are forward logistics bases established in Dnipro, Kyiv, and Vinnytsia and cargo consolidation hubs in Chernivtsi and Lviv (Logistics Cluster 22/03/2022).

Challenges

Active conflict and the unreliable safe evacuations routes prevent the safe and timely delivery of crucial humanitarian assistance, such as food aid, to encircled cities including Mariupol (UN 24/03/2022; France 24 19/03/2022; UNHCR 18/03/2022; IRC 16/03/2022).

Movement of goods and last mile delivery: congestion at the Poland and Ukraine border crossing points are reported to delaying the delivery of essential goods into the country (Logistics Cluster 21/03/2022). Identifying truck drivers willing to move goods from logistic hubs, such as Dnipro, is a challenge, especially because of insecurity (KII 22/03/2022 a).

Local procurement: as mentioned above, supply chains, particularly to eastern regions, are heavily impacted (Logistics Cluster 22/03/2022; Shelter Cluster 15/03/2022). This creates challenges for local actors to procure essential aid in certain areas of the country.

Overstretched local capacity: the large-scale movement of people, decrease in workforce as a result of conscription and displacement, and corresponding surge in humanitarian response have strained existing private and public infrastructure (Logistics Cluster 22/03/2022). The rapid influx of IDPs in western macro-regions is overstressing local capacities to respond to the basic needs of the displaced population (OCHA 17/03/2022). The resources of local authorities are at risk of exhaustion (KII 23/03/2022 a). Volunteers supporting the response are also becoming fatigued (KII 22/03/2022 d).

Information gaps

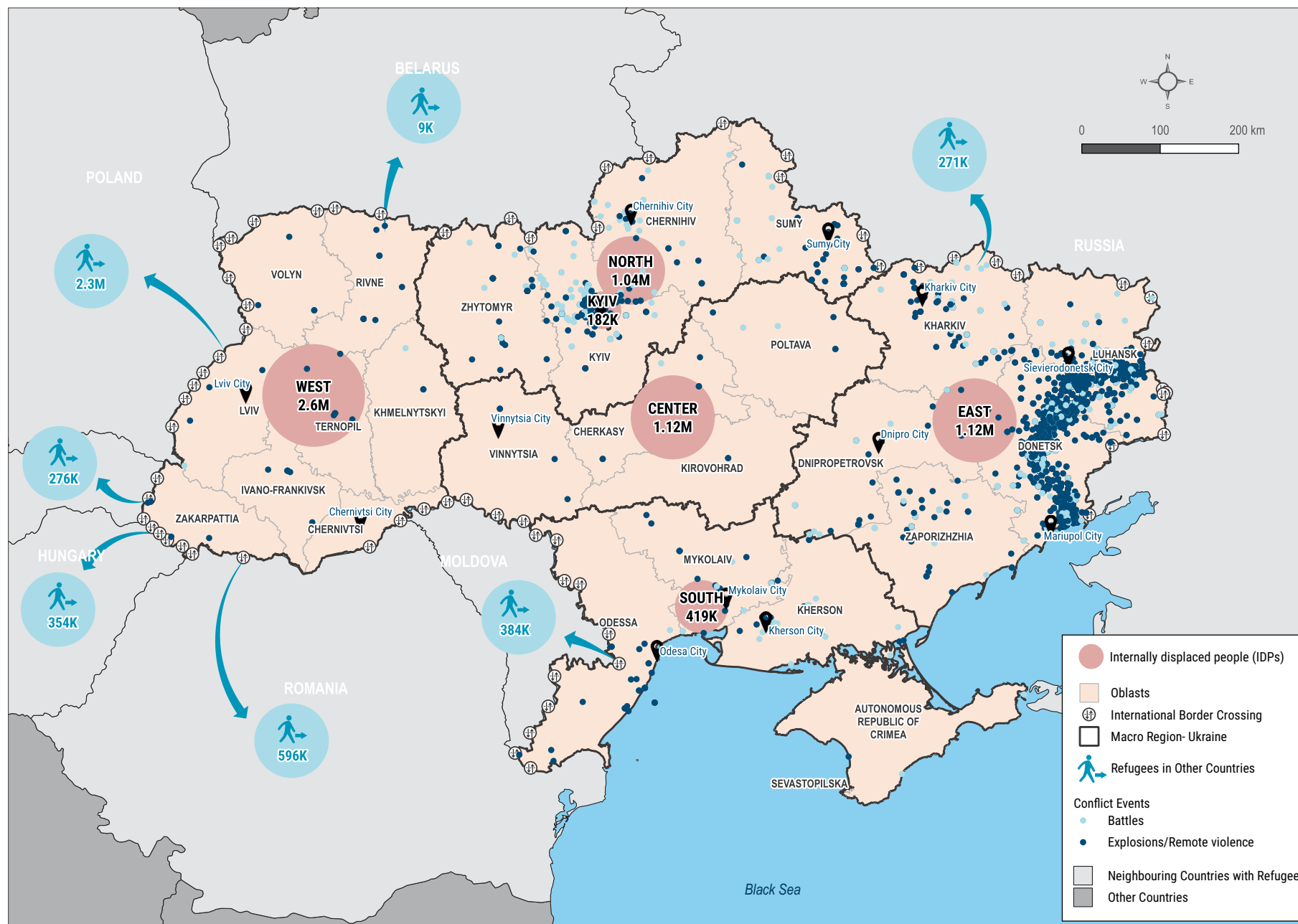
The rapidly changing context and constraints on assessments limit the availability of information on needs and humanitarian conditions. Overall, there is a lack of information regarding the structure and capacities of the local response.

Location and demographics: while data on IDPs at the macro-regional level provides a good overview, as the conflict protracts, it becomes essential to have more precise information on the location and demographics of IDPs at the oblast and municipality levels. There is also a need for a better picture of the demographics and location of people in conflict-affected areas.

Specific needs: there is also a need to assess the specific needs of IDPs, especially those in areas of active conflict. Challenges with the current IDP registration system and the inability to access and conduct assessments in certain locations continue to hinder the emergency response for IDPs (OCHA 17/03/2022; KII 22/03/2022 e). The specific needs of IDPs previously displaced by the 2014 conflict are unknown. The needs of people who may be forcibly displaced to Russia are also uncertain (The Guardian 20/03/2022).

Gendered impacts: while general gendered impacts of the conflicts are becoming clearer, more information is needed to understand gender-specific needs by location and vulnerabilities of groups to shape and address specific needs (KII 22/03/2022 d).

MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND KEY AREAS OF CONFLICT



Disclaimer: Conflict events are between 24 February and 18 March 2022. Internal displacement figures are as at 16 March 2022. Refugee figures are as at 27 March 2022.

Source: ACAPS using data from ACLED (accessed 18/03/2022), IOM (16/03/2022), OCHA (23/03/2022), OCHA (31/01/2022), OpenStreetMap (10/03/2022), and UNHCR (accessed 27/03/2022).