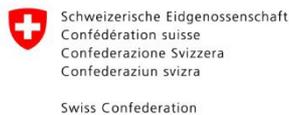


DRC



DRC Ukraine Newsletter: April 2022

Looking back at April 2022

As of 27 April 2022, the number of civilian casualties stands at 6,009 – including 2,829 killed – [according to](#) the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). Eastern Ukraine, and particularly the Donbas region, continues to bear the brunt of hostilities. This is also from where most civilian casualties are reported – notably from Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts bordering the Russian Federation, and with civilian casualties highest in Government-controlled areas (GCA). Actual numbers of casualties are expected to be considerably higher with active fighting ongoing. The use of heavy artillery, multiple launch rocket systems and airstrikes – all with a wide impact area – are reported as causing most of the civilian casualties.

The scale and magnitude of destruction continue to emerge across hard-hit areas that have recently seen windows of access, including in and around Kyiv to where civilians are returning despite warnings. The capital remains at risk of further hostilities and with heavy contamination of mines and unexploded ordnance yet to be marked and cleared.

Ukraine crisis response



DRC's Core Response Team in Ukraine is engaged in response planning, implementation and coordination.

With over 240 employees in Ukraine and a network of partners steadily growing, DRC has been able to continue to rapidly scale up and scale out the delivery of emergency aid and support to people in need.

Activities are currently implemented in 23 of 24 oblasts in Ukraine through direct responses and via partners – with services delivered being aligned with core DRC sectors.

Protection



Since 2018, the DRC Protection team has been helping people affected by mines and explosive remnants of war. After the escalation of the war in February, the implementation of this program has changed, primarily due to a change in the structure of the beneficiaries' needs. Many Ukrainians have lost their jobs and with it their livelihoods. In addition, due to the escalation of the conflict, the communication with a significant part of the people of concern was either completely lost or seriously complicated. This happened when their settlements became non-government-controlled areas or contact-line.

Since February 24, DRC continues to receive information about new mine survivor cases. For instance, in Lysychansk, Luhansk oblast, a woman was amputated with both legs and several fingers on her hands, as well as multiple shrapnel wounds to the body and burns as a result of a detonation of a cassette munition that was on the dirt road on which a young family was returning from receiving assistance. The mine victim-survivor received financial aid from DRC with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

In addition, during April, six beneficiaries who suffered from mines and explosive remnants of war received cash assistance to meet their needs: food, medicine, hygiene items, clothing, and communications.

Legal Assistance



In just two months, nearly every third citizen of Ukraine has been forced to flee their home. The entire country – from east to west, from north to south – is right now affected by active fighting and with a large number of people on the move, trying to escape.

For the majority of people who flee settlements in eastern Ukraine the first major point on the road is Dnipro city. For some of them, it is a transit centre where they can rest and then head further to western Ukraine or abroad, while others prefer to stay in the city.

These people need clarification of the legal procedures that most of them have encountered for the first time: registration of the status of "internally displaced person", recovery of lost documents, border crossing, etc.

The DRC is responding to this call resuming the mobile clinics. In addition, DRC continues to provide legal assistance through the hotline, as well as online through popular messengers.

These activities are possible thanks to the support of the European Union through its Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, as well as Switzerland through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and UK Aid from the UK government.

Capacity Building Programme



The building of Kharkiv Oblast Military Administration after a missile strike © Depositphotos, 1 March 2022, Kharkiv, Kharkiv oblast, Fotoreserg

Rapid Capacity Needs Assessment

The Capacity Building Programme conducted the Rapid Capacity Needs Assessment of Oblast Civil-Military Administrations (OMAs) in Ukraine from 18 March to 3 April 2022. The assessment enabled us to identify the immediate needs of the regional and local administrations in the protection of civilians and delivery of humanitarian assistance. The assessment looked at IDP registration and data collection to capture needs, humanitarian response and coordination, capacity gaps and relevant support needs of Humanitarian Hubs established and operational in all OMAs.

The Assessment was carried out in 13 regional and local administrations, including seven hotspot oblasts with hostilities and/or active combat activities. It revealed that the needs of Oblast Military Administrations are driven by the humanitarian situation in the oblast, which varies depending on geographic location and the severity of military activities within those oblasts.

Among the acute needs relevant for all oblasts are the software and information management systems for humanitarian logistics, IDPs registration and recording of their needs, office equipment (particularly for those OMAs' officials who lost access to the OMA buildings) and learning opportunities in flexible formats. The findings and results of the assessment may help the humanitarian community design rapid capacity building and technical assistance interventions to increase the efficiency of local actors' humanitarian response at the regional level.

The report is available at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3KiNXbl>

Economic Recovery Livelihoods



One of the 81 partners engaged in the emergency response is a centre called Women's Prospects in Lviv in western Ukraine. On 26 February, just two days after the conflict erupted Women's Prospects organised a shelter for displaced located near Lviv railway station where many arrived from all over the country, and many from eastern Ukraine. This shelter is a temporary home for over 400 women and children already, who found a safe haven – at least for a while. Here, people are offered hot meals and time to rest and recover.

“Our shelter is more than a place to sleep. Here, people can get away from stress, they can recover and get hold of their thoughts,” says Lubov from Women's Prospects.

Already now, Lubov sees a need for providing shelter that can accommodate people also in the longer term. *“We have started organising shelters for longer stays through a grant from DRC. We furnish rooms with basic items and use the funds also for meals to serve people who are now staying with us.”*

Humanitarian Disarmament & Peacebuilding



DRC invites you to register for online EORE sessions

The escalation of the conflict since February has made the presence of Explosive Ordnance (EO) ever-present in many parts of Ukraine, also in completely new areas from those in the past. For a great number of Ukrainians, this was the first time they started to experience the hidden dangers to their lives and livelihoods. The need for emergency Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) is evident.

DRC continues to assess needs related to the new context, checking any changes in the types of EO, the at-risk groups, and reliable communication channels. Simultaneously, DRC started to broadcast a digital EORE media campaign in the most affected cities across Ukraine – informing people of the dangers as well as safe behaviour around EO.

Currently, DRC's trained EORE staff is also providing online EORE sessions for children, adolescents, and adults. The sessions cover topics such as EO hazards (mines and other EO, including cluster munition), their consequences, indicators of dangerous territories, dangerous behaviour, and safety rules. **The sessions are open to any individuals as well as organisations – and can be registered for through the following link: <https://bit.ly/3J0JvAV>.**

The activities mentioned above are possible thanks to the support of the European Union through its Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations.