

CARE Ukraine Crisis Update

JUNE 9, 2022

Conflict is a tipping point for world hunger emergency

As the conflict in Ukraine enters its fourth month, its effects are being felt much more broadly than in Ukraine and neighboring countries, which continue to receive thousands of refugees, with millions more internally displaced. (See “By the Numbers,” p. 4.)

The conflict’s shockwaves are escalating a hunger crisis for an estimated 861 million people in 92 countries. Shortages and high prices of food, fuel, and fertilizers from Ukraine and Russia are having a compounding effect on already vulnerable people, especially women and girls.

If we do not act now, 48.9 million people who face emergency levels of food insecurity in the Global South could be on the brink of famine.

Meanwhile, the World Food Program is calling for the immediate reopening of Black Sea ports – including Odesa – so critical food from Ukraine can reach people facing food insecurity in countries such as Afghanistan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen, where millions are at severe risk. This export blockage is also severely affecting the livelihoods of Ukrainian farmers.

Within the region, CARE is working with partners to address the ongoing effects of the conflict. CARE and its partners have stood up systems and procedures to ensure effective information sharing, to ensure aid is delivered efficiently and effectively, and that partnerships run smoothly.

To address the burgeoning hunger crisis, CARE is launching a \$100 million comprehensive response, which will include immediate humanitarian assistance for families most at risk of hunger and severe malnutrition, plus accelerated alternative agriculture practices for smallholder farmers—especially women farmers—who are most susceptible to fertilizer and fuel shortages and thus, malnutrition.



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Dispatches from Lviv:

displaced women share stories

More than 6.8 million people in Ukraine have fled to neighboring countries since the conflict began, and more than 8 million have been internally displaced. All these people, most of them women and children, need support and protection.

CARE and partner Charity Foundation for Stabilization Support Services (CFSSS) are working together to deliver life-saving assistance for people in need inside Ukraine. CARE and CFSSS are providing food and water as well as distributing hygiene items and medical packages for internally displaced people. Recently, CFSSS food distribution has taken place in Lviv, Chernivtsi and Truskavets.

LIUDMILA, DNIPRO

Widow, one daughter, two grandchildren

"I am so grateful for this support; you can't even imagine. We really need food for our children. I am so grateful to all the volunteers and organizations that are helping us. Thank God we are safe now and so many people are willing to help. They really brought us everything we need right now – children's stuff, curtains, and everything else. People are very kind to us."

Photo: ©CF SSS/Alex Bondarenko

TETIANA, KYIV

Mother of five, fostering a friend's child

"These food packages are really helpful. We use a lot of cereal and cook soups for the kids. I also bake a lot because the kids like to eat something sweet, so flour is always appropriate. And for us it is quite expensive to buy it in a store."

"We live in the outskirts of Kyiv, not far from Boryspil Airport. As we heard a huge explosion – so strong that the walls began to shake – we realized that we had to flee. We lifted our children, who were still in their pajamas, into the car and drove away."



OLENA, SEVERODONETSK

Mother of four

"I was one of the first people to pack everything, a few days before the war broke out. The situation was very tense, and I called all my relatives and told them to pack everything and prepare for evacuation."

"We need a lot of things for our children. We could not take much of our belongings because it was freezing in February, but we found some clothes in the humanitarian centers. Food is very important, of course, and hygiene items."



Lviv and Kyiv - Lively everyday life vs. ghost town

By Sarah Easter

Lviv, in west Ukraine, normally has 800,000 inhabitants, but many more are now there seeking refuge. Most do not know how long they can stay and whether they might have better prospects in a neighboring country.

In the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, the picture is different. Officially, Kyiv has about 3.5 million inhabitants, but since the beginning of the war the city's population has been cut in half.

Kyiv presents a marked contrast with its neighbor, which is – for now – out of the conflict zone. In Lviv streets are busy and crowded, with people visiting parks and cafés, shopping, and walking their dogs. In Kyiv only a few pedestrians are spotted, hurriedly stepping to their destinations. A trailer has “hell” written on it in Ukrainian. Statues and monuments are protected with sandbags. Many of the houses and apartments are empty.

“It’s similar to a hard lockdown during Corona. But now it’s much more acute. This crisis is much worse than Corona ever was,” said the Kyiv-based Stansilav of International Renaissance Fund (IRF), a CARE partner. “You are the first international guests I have spoken to since February 2020.”

With nearly everything closed, space is now being used for humanitarian aid. The operators of a Kyiv market have given office and storage space to volunteers. Closed restaurants now cook for people in need, and cafes serve as volunteer headquarters. Meanwhile in Lviv, the need for shelter is great. Everywhere in the city there are unused buildings, such as offices or kindergartens, which now serve as temporary shelters.

You can help: give now to send emergency food aid that can save lives and help families build a better future.

BY THE NUMBERS

6,801,987

refugees fleeing Ukraine since Feb. 24¹
(Up 30% from April 24)

8 million

internally displaced²
(Up 3.9% from April 17 update)

Neighboring countries receiving refugee influx:

- Poland:** 3.63M
(Up 24.71% from 4/24)¹
- Romania:** 989K
(Up 27.12%)²
- Russian Federation:** 971K (Up 60.23%)³
- Hungary:** 683K
(Up 38.54%)¹
- Slovakia:** 491K
(Up 10.6%)¹
- Moldova:** 480K
(Up 10.6%)¹
- Belarus:** 30K
(Up 25%)¹

4,916 civilians injured⁵
(Up 66.87% from 4/25)

269 healthcare facilities damaged or destroyed⁶ (Up 64.02% from 4/21)

1,837 education facilities damaged or destroyed⁷ (Up 61.42% from 4/21)

SOURCES

¹UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), May 29, 2022; ²UNHCR, May 27, 2022; ³UNHCR, May 26, 2022; ⁴International Organization for Migration, May 26; ⁵UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), June 1; ⁶World Health Organization (WHO), May 31; ⁷Multiple Sources, May 26

