

# Humanitarian Response in Ukraine

February 2025



Country/Location Ukraine

Title of the emergency Humanitarian Response in Ukraine

Dates covered by report 24 February 2025 – 31 December 2025

Situation Report No. 5

## Context Overview

**Three years of full-scale war in Ukraine** have led the country and its civilian population to the verge of catastrophe. Since the escalation of the war in February 2022, an estimated **3.7 million people remain internally displaced**, with over 78,000 of the most vulnerable housed in nearly 1,800 collective sites across 24 Oblasts, constituting around 2 per cent of the displaced population.

In 2024, hostilities intensified significantly, with the length of the front line in Ukraine expanding by 15 per cent, notably in northern Kharkivska, while the intensity of violence doubled in Sumska and Chernihivska Oblasts. In recent months, the most significant incidents impacting civilians and leading to mass evacuations occurred in Kharkivska, Donetsk, and Sumska oblasts. In Donetsk Oblast, authorities evacuated families with children from over 40 towns and villages between August and September, significantly reducing front-line town Pokrovsk's population from 50,000 to 10,000. With expanded Government-led evacuation mandates, more people continue to be evacuated and displaced from and within the eastern and northern part of the country. However, some of the most vulnerable people, including children, single female household, elderly and people with disabilities, have remained in areas with active hostilities. Meanwhile, an estimated 12.5 million people who were not displaced from their homes have limited access and availability of basic services. This includes those who were initially displaced and returned to their places of origin. Although returnees are distributed throughout all the country, the highest concentration is in front-line regions and areas along the border with Russia.

**Humanitarian needs in Ukraine remain critical**, affecting civilians in every region. Compared to 2024, extreme and catastrophic levels of need persist in front-line areas, while extreme needs have expanded within northern areas due to the impact of the intensified hostilities. Intersectoral catastrophic conditions are occurring in Donetsk, Dnipropetrovska, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Luhanska, Zaporizka, with sector specific catastrophic conditions also occurring in Cherkaska, Mykolaivska, and Sumska. Overall, there has been an average increase in the severity of humanitarian conditions across all regions, except for Kyiv City and Kyivska oblast, where there has been a small reduction in the overall severity of needs. It should be recognized that vulnerable groups are more likely to face higher severity levels, often with multiple compounded needs.

The number of **people in need of humanitarian assistance is estimated to be 12.7 million, including 2 million children**. 2.8 million internally displaced people are in need of assistance and 9.9 million people have been acutely affected by the war. The concentration of people in need remains high in the oblasts in the eastern, northern, and southern regions.

Children are the most affected. The impact of the war on children's emotional and psychological well-being and their motivation to learn has contributed to a decline in learning, while psychological distress and digital fatigue have contributed to non-attendance. In addition, an estimated 9.8 million people will need humanitarian protection services and assistance in 2025, including children's physical and psychosocial safety and well-being.

In anticipation of continued hostilities in 2025 the impact of the war is expected to continue and further exacerbate the humanitarian situation and correlated needs, with subsequent displacement, damage to critical civilian infrastructure, and disruption of essential services. The battle for territorial control is characterized by escalations and intensified hostilities, which creates a fluid situation. This will likely lead to new waves of displacement and mandatory evacuations, particularly in the front-line oblasts, such as Donetsk, Kharkivska, and Zaporizka.

## Overview of WeWorld Response

WeWorld has been providing humanitarian aid in Ukraine through an integrated approach covering the sectors of Protection, Child Protection, MHPSS, Shelter, NFI, WASH, Education and Cash Assistance. WeWorld teams were deployed in Ukraine on March 2022, just few days after the full-scale war. In these three years' response reached **502,264 beneficiaries, including 204,396 women and girls, and 97,340 children**. Through three years WeWorld has targeted the most vulnerable war-affected IDPs and resident in 8 Oblasts, focusing on children and women. The approach included both directly implementation leveraging on technical expertise and field presence, and reliability on local partners, who contributed their in-depth contextual knowledge and on-the-ground experience.

Currently, WeWorld directly operates in several Oblasts (Kharkiv, Donetsk, Kherson, Mykolaiv) through its team deployed in offices in Kharkiv, Mykolaiv and Kyiv. The activities are managed and overseen by the coordination office in Kyiv and carried out by the common effort of local partners and WeWorld field Staff.

In 2024 WeWorld interventions reached almost 176,531 unique vulnerable people, about 20% of whom are children, through an intervention composed by an integrated approach with a specific attention to children, women, elderly and people with disabilities. This approach fostered strong synergies, enabling simultaneous capacity building for local partners to ensure the sustainability of interventions. The collaboration with other international partners allowed WeWorld to expand its efforts in the new sectors. This cooperation facilitated the exchange of experiences and expertise, further strengthening the sector and providing invaluable knowledge for future interventions.

WeWorld has supported several Vodakanal (water utilities), by providing essential materials for repairs for their water supply and wastewater systems that have suffered significant and ongoing damage due to attacks, making these supplies crucial for restoring water access to local communities. WeWorld has carried out interventions to repair infrastructure and WASH facilities also in hospitals, outpatient clinics and medical laboratories. Furthermore, WeWorld has provided cleaning kits and materials for hospitals and has distributed hygiene kits – both standard and tailored for Persons with Specific Needs – to the most vulnerable households along the frontline.

In the Shelter sector, WeWorld supported families along the frontline by providing financial assistance for small - and medium-scale repairs to homes damaged by attacks, ensuring safer and more dignified living conditions. In the Education sector, the organization is then building bomb shelters to ensure the safety of the students and the school staff.

Additionally, WeWorld provided financial assistance to the most vulnerable groups to help cover protection and healthcare expenses. The well-being and safety of the communities is also promoted through MHPSS activities and mine awareness sessions.

WeWorld's response has been supported by AICS (Italian Agency for Development Cooperation), ADC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), OCHA, AECID, ChildFund Alliance, and others. The organization's operational capacity consists of +30 personnel deployed in 4 offices, and cooperating with +80 staff from local partners.

● Current Operations

○ Operational Presence



## Next Steps

The team of WeWorld in Ukraine is committed to provide essential humanitarian support to the population in need. In accordance with the Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, the main objective of these interventions is to provide principled and timely multisectoral lifesaving assistance to three vulnerable population groups impacted by the escalation of hostilities: **people remaining in front-line areas, those who are displaced, and those in conflict-affected urban areas.** Vulnerable groups, such as children, elderly and people with disabilities, will be prioritized.

The interventions aim to provide immediate relief and enhance resilience in communities severely impacted by conflict, displacement, and refugee crisis. This integrated multi-sectorial response is composed aims at supporting vulnerable people in the sectors of Education, Protection, Shelter, NFI, and WASH. The response strategy is informed by last year's experiences, lessons learned, and stakeholder feedback. The national Government and local authorities of lead responses' initiatives, while humanitarian agencies play a complementary role. In summary, the intervention will include the activities outlined below.

## Education and Protection (Child Protection, MHPSS, Mine Action)

- Set up of child and adolescent friendly spaces (CFS/AFS), and provision of psychosocial support both individually and through group sessions  
These spaces provide psychological, recreational and material support, enhance overall resilience, and assist children and young people in coping with war-related losses and trauma. Their needs in terms of personnel, materials, and infrastructural improvements are assessed and addressed. Psychosocial services within the CFS/AFS are organized and supported to more effectively assist vulnerable populations, including IDPs, children, women, and adolescents.
- MHPSS support for children and women in community centers and community spaces/women safe spaces  
Provision of mental health and psychological support to IDPs and local communities, with a particular focus on women and children. This support is delivered through equipped community centers and community spaces/women safe spaces, hubs, orphanages, mobile units, etc.
- Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)  
Awareness campaigns are launched for both children and adults, focusing on the dangers of mines and explosive remnants of war, as well as strategies and techniques to avoid accidents.

## Shelter and NFI

- Distribution of winter emergency aid  
A kit made up of essential winter related items is provided to assist families in coping with the cold. The composition of the kit is tailored to address specific needs of vulnerable groups (children, women, elderly, people with disabilities). The kit will also be distributed to beneficiaries hosted in collective centers, hubs, orphanages, etc.
- Distribution of solid fuel  
The provision of solid fuel (e.g., wood, fuel briquettes) is crucial for households in areas where traditional energy sources are either unavailable or unreliable. Each household receives sufficient solid fuel to meet with their heating needs throughout the winter.
- Repair of damaged houses  
Through the cash-for-shelter modality, financial assistance is provided to vulnerable households residing along the front line whose homes were damaged by the attacks. This support enabled them to carry out minor repairs, helping to restore dignified living conditions.

## WASH

- Distribution of tailored hygiene kits  
Hygiene kits are distributed to promote good health and hygiene practices. Kits are tailored on the characteristics of the beneficiaries, with a particular focus on the needs of elderly and people with disabilities.
- Rehabilitation of WASH facilities in collective sites and health care centers  
Following a thorough assessment, is conducted the rehabilitation of heating systems, water supply and waste-water systems in several healthcare facilities, ensuring the operational functionality of the structures and improving conditions for patients.
- Rehabilitation of water supply systems  
In coordination and cooperation with the water utilities (Vodokanal), identified water networks are rehabilitated, along with the provision of spare parts, materials, and equipment enabling their

effective management and prompt repair, thus ensuring continuation of access to clean water for local communities.

WeWorld continues to provide support to both frontline communities and major cities. All interventions are based on **needs assessments** of households, disaggregated by sex and age, in accordance with the HNRP 2025. These efforts adhere to the principle of **deduplication** to ensure that beneficiaries are not already receiving adequate state subsidies. Coordinated with **UN-led sectorial clusters** and other relevant bodies is conducted. This includes regular participation in cluster meetings, information-sharing sessions, and joint planning. Additionally, partnerships are established with local organizations and community leaders, and collaborations will be pursued with national and local government agencies.

Sector of intervention	Required actions	Funding Appeal (USD)	Beneficiaries	Already committed (USD)
Education and Protection (Child Protection, MHPSS, Mine Action)	Set up of child and adolescent friendly spaces (CFS/AFS) MHPSS support for children and women Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)	600,000	12,000 individuals, including 6,000 children	50,000
Shelter and NFI	Distribution of winter emergency aid Distribution of solid fuel Repair of damaged houses	1,000,000	16,000 individuals, including 4,000 children	300,000
WASH	Distribution of tailored hygiene kits Rehabilitation of WASH facilities in collective sites and health care centers Rehabilitation of water supply systems	400,000	52,000 individuals, including 22,000 children	150,000
		<b>2,000,000</b>	<b>80,000 beneficiaries, including 32,000 children</b>	<b>500,000</b>

Although WeWorld has already committed 25% of the needed resources, amounting to 500,000 USD, this integrated programming needs to be scaled up and implemented through swift action. This **immediate effort will facilitate reaching a total of 80,000 beneficiaries, including 32,000 children**. To continue responding to their needs and ensure safe and adequate access to basic services, an additional 1,500,000 USD is urgently needed.

**1,500,000 USD is needed**