

CONGRESS MUST NOT ABANDON UKRAINE

U.S. humanitarian and development funding for the Ukrainian people helps save lives and advances human rights.

THE CRISIS IN NUMBERS

8 million Ukrainian refugees

- 5 million Ukrainians in internal displacement
- 1 of 3 Ukrainians forced from their homes
- 1 of 10 Ukrainian hospitals damaged
- 11 million people food insecure
- 1 out of 3 Ukrainians unemployed
- Up to 30% of Ukrainian territory mined
- 6 million Ukrainians lack access to safe water
- 18 million people in need of humanitarian aid

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN UKRAINE

Ukraine is facing an unprecedented crisis caused by a war of aggression launched by Russia on February 24, 2022. According to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), over 8,000 civilians were killed in Ukraine, including 487 children. A further 13,287 civilians were reported injured. This number is almost certainly a vast undercount and represents only civilian deaths that the OHCHR has been able to verify. The Ukrainian government estimates that as many as 100,000 civilians may have been killed. Any casualty figures, however, cannot adequately account for the enormous toll that Russia's invasion has taken on the Ukrainian population as a whole.

Over a matter of months, the Russian invasion has precipitated a series of separate but deeply intertwined human rights, humanitarian, and macroeconomic crises. The Russian military has repeatedly launched deadly attacks on civilian infrastructure, displacing civilians from their homes, and ravaging basic services they rely upon such as health care, education, and heating. Amnesty International has documented how Russian forces have used indiscriminate and

internationally-banned weapons such as cluster munitions which are known to leave a lasting impact on civilians long after the conclusion of hostilities.

In one case, the Russian military deployed missiles designed to destroy warships against apartment blocks. Periodic Russian strikes against Ukraine's energy infrastructure have plunged parts of the country into darkness for long stretches of time. Civilians living in conflict-affected areas have often been completely cut off from water, electricity, and heating. The power outages have disrupted virtually all elements of civilian life, undermining schooling for children, forcing surgeons to operate by candlelight, and harming vulnerable groups such as older people and people with disabilities.

In actions that constitute a war crime and likely amount to a crime against humanity, Russian and Russian-controlled forces have forcibly deported Ukrainian civilians to Russia or transferred them to Russian-occupied territories. Ukrainian civilians have been forced to pass through an abusive screening process, known as "filtration," which sometimes results in their arbitrary detention or torture. Civilians who passed through this "filtration" process describe being denied access to medicine, food, and water.

Older Ukrainians, many of whom were already living in poverty on the eve of Russia's invasion, have suffered disproportionately. Amnesty International has documented how older people appear to face a greater likelihood of being killed or injured during hostilities and, even after being relocated away from areas of conflict, are often relegated to inadequate housing.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law perpetrated by Russian and Russia-aligned forces, have precipitated a humanitarian catastrophe of enormous proportions. Over eight

million Ukrainians have become refugees since the start of the invasion. Five million people are internally displaced, many of whom have been displaced more than once. One third of all Ukrainians are unemployed and millions more lack access to clean water, sanitation, food, or health care.

HUMANITARIAN & DEVELOPMENT FUNDING SAVES LIVES

For many people in Ukraine, U.S. humanitarian support means the difference between life and death. The U.S. currently spends \$3.9 billion on humanitarian assistance, providing food, health-care, sanitation, and other forms of support to people in Ukraine and surrounding countries. A further \$26.4 billion is dedicated towards financial support that shores up Ukraine's economy and helps keep Ukrainian civil society organizations' doors open. While support for Ukraine remains broad, a growing number of elected officials in Washington have expressed a desire to cut humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. Were their efforts to gain traction, the results would prove devastating to at-risk populations in their time of peril.

As people in Ukraine suffer under the Russian military onslaught, this assistance helps Ukrainians stay warm, access clean water, rebuild their homes, dismantle human trafficking networks, investigate war crimes committed on their territory, and defend human rights.

In many cases, U.S. humanitarian and development aid is the difference between life and death for Ukrainian civilians on the cusp of humanitarian disaster caused by the Russian government's war of aggression.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTS

On older people in Ukraine: "I Used to have a Home: older people's experience of war, displacement and access to housing in Ukraine," <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur50/6250/2022/en/>

On forcible displacement: "Like a Prison Convoy: Russia's unlawful transfer and abuse of civilians in Ukraine during 'Filtration,'" <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/eur50/6136/2022/en/>

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA RECOMMENDS:

Congress must maintain humanitarian and development assistance to Ukraine at current levels.

Please contact Daniel Balson, Advocacy Director for Europe and Central Asia, at DBalson@aiusa.org for more information.