Housing needs remain high among the internally displaced population according to IOM’s third round of a rapid representative assessment of the general population in Ukraine:

- 12% reported the need for accommodation;
- 4% of IDPs indicating that accommodation was their most pressing need;
- 8% of all respondents indicated that their home (primary residence before the war) was damaged.

In terms of housing arrangements, IDPs reported: 35% are staying with family and friends; 19% are renting; 13% stayed in owned houses; 6% are in free accommodations and 4% in collective centres, 1% in hotels, 1% in bomb shelters and 3% in other arrangements. Access to accommodation and housing damage has been mentioned as one of the most cited priorities in all Southern and Northern Oblasts assessed by REACH Initiative for their rapid needs assessment.

Lack of housing was reported as a concern in 30% of assessed settlements in Southern Oblast, including Voznesensk (Mykolaiivska oblast); Izmail, and Odesa (Odeska oblast). Additionally, 40% of the settlements in Northern Oblasts, including Chernihiv (Chernihivska oblast), Irpin (Kyivska oblast), as well as Okhtyrka (Sumska oblast) reported damage to residential buildings since the beginning of the attack. Amongst this group, the highest proportion of damaged dwellings was reported in Irpin (more than 50%).

18 Key Informants Interviews with aid agencies, local authorities, and collective site managers in Vinnytsia, Kropyvnytskyi, Cherkasy, and Dnipro have been conducted as part of REACH Rapid Assessment. Informants noted that there has been a marked increase in arrivals at train stations and at collective sites in Dnipro, Vinnytsia, Kropyvnytskyi, Pavlohrad and Poltava. Local officials are bracing for the impact of the large-scale evacuations from the Donbass, coupled with continued arrivals from the Kharkiv area as well as Mariupol/Zaporizhia.

Centers hosting IDPs have been established in a large number of dormitories, schools, sports centers, hospitals and medical institutes, malls as well as private houses. These sites are often managed by municipal employees and are largely supported through private initiatives. The response is yet to be fully scaled-up and it is difficult to predict adequate supply of the necessary items. This, in turn, makes preparedness of future waves of displacement challenging. Local officials and collective sites managers mentioned the lack of bed linen, disposable tableware, drinking water as well as prepared meals/bread considering the lack of kitchens in most centers.
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Shelter and Non Food Items Response

Given the scope and scale of destruction of many urban areas, extensive reconstruction and repairs will be needed in the medium and long term, including in the cities mentioned above.

As of 13 May, 278,330 people have received shelter and NFI support from the SC partners since 25 February. In terms of immediate response, the SC partners are focusing on the distribution of NFI kits to collective centers (131,703 people assisted) and to individual households (118,745 people assisted). Additionally, 7,148 people have also received winterization support.

Although it remains challenging to access the areas directly affected by the military offensive, a number of SC partners have been able to reach some locations and carry out activities such as distribution of shelter kits (55,787 people assisted).

Partners continue to assess private and public buildings - other than schools and sports facilities - in cities that have received large numbers of displaced persons, such as Lviv and Uzhhorod, for potential refurbishment and repurposing as collective centers. This will allow schools and sports facilities to resume their original activities as soon as possible.

The Ukrainian Government’s hosting families support program was launched on 19 March with the aim to provide shelter support to internally displaced persons countrywide. The program offers an immediate alternative to collective centers, similar to many neighbouring countries that host refugees.
As IDPs stay for longer in Central and Eastern Oblasts, local officials highlight the need to address both the immediate needs, but also focus on providing more sustainable and durable solutions that will focus on long-term needs.

Key informants emphasize that sites in Central Oblasts are mostly former schools, and as such are not equipped for people to stay long due to lack of proper kitchens, shower installations and laundry facilities. Many reception centers are expected to turn into collective centers for longer term stays since many IDPs lack resources to pay for rent. In addition, in smaller settlements along evacuation routes, there is lack of available premises for housing.

Shelter Cluster Coordination

The SC was activated in Ukraine in December 2014 and encompassed 12 partners by the end of 2021. Currently, around 25 partners participate in the Shelter Cluster, with more organizations joining every week.

- Since 25 February, the SC coordination team has been reinforced with the deployment of a Global Shelter Cluster roving coordinator and a roving Information Management Officer.
- Since 23 March, the coordination between the SC and the Ministry of Regional Development continues on a regular basis and for specific purposes with the Minister of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories and the Head of the State Youth Fund for Construction.
- Four technical working groups (TWiGs) have been created which will focus on:
  1) the adaptation of the light and medium repairs approach to the current context;
  2) the development of a strategy for the implementation of activities related to rental support;
  3) the revision of the NFI kits and addressing the needs identified by the partners since the beginning of the response and;
  4) the coordination of refurbishment works in buildings used as collective centers.

Together with the Protection Cluster, the SC had one TWiG dealing with Housing, Land and Property rights that has been modified recently to discuss new areas of concern for both clusters. The need of an additional TWiG has been recently identified for the coordination of the assessments and the preparation of the shelter cluster assessment strategy.

Advocacy and Communication

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24 Documents
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13 Tweets
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