

Addendum to UKRAINE: humanitarian response plan for the COVID-19 pandemic

Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster in Ukraine

Recommended activities on the different stages

In March 2019, as the reaction to the COVID-19 outbreak, the humanitarian community was mobilized to contribute to identifying which activities can be adopted or have been already planned to assist the population of concern in Eastern Conflict Area to deal with the new emergency. Shelter/NFI Cluster in Ukraine based on the several guidelines published by IASC, WHO, UNHCR, IOM, etc. has developed a set of activities that can be adopted by partners to provide a sector-specific response. The goal of this document is to provide a highlight of which **activities** in the Shelter/NFI sector shall be implemented **on different stages** of the development of the disease. Important note: these recommendations should be considered together with the developed COVID-19 Ukraine Assistance Delivery Protocol.

1. Outbreak stage

Triggering scenario: Cases are reported on the national level and continue to increase daily. Restrictive measures are implemented on the national level (restriction of movements, cancellation of events, closure of public spaces etc.).

Main task: to prevent further spread of disease by upgrading living conditions and distributing context-specific NFIs.

How:

- continuing shelter repairs for a vulnerable population with no physical protection;
- continuing acute emergency kits distribution to cover new damages;
- upgrading living conditions of IDPs in collective centers by providing adequate space for personal isolation;
- distributing PPE.

2. Scaling up of the area affected by a disease

Triggering scenario: The virus spread has dramatically increased – rates of reported cases and deaths have increased significantly compared to the previous stage. Persons of concern start flooding-up collective centers, medical facilities, and rural first-aid points. Additional restriction measures could be applied by the regional authorities.

Main task: to assist the healthcare system in coping with the new emergency.

How:

- planning and building isolation areas in hospitals and clinics;
- upgrading existing facilities (e.g. community centers) to provide safer spaces for testing;

- continuing direct or indirect NFIs distribution, PPE items, with special focus on isolated villages, keeping in mind individual protective measures for the humanitarian staff during the distributions (to prevent further spreading of the virus to those settlements);
- upholding inter-cluster activities such as support in the distribution of informational products; follow-up on referrals from beneficiaries and medical institutions; channeling of advocacy messages from persons of concern and beneficiaries related to COVID-19 epidemic.

3. High danger

Triggering scenario: The spread of the virus led to the extensive restrictions including to food shops/markets; the caseload for hospitals/clinics is non-manageable. Possible declaration of the national emergency with curfews and severe movement restrictions and operational burdens for humanitarian agencies.

Main task: to provide shelter solutions for temporary medical structures and help ensure proper patient triage and enough safe space for medical treatment.

How:

(in consultations with Health Cluster)

- installing temporary prefabricated healthcare shelters;
- distributing NFIs to existing healthcare facilities;
- repurposing existing buildings to fit healthcare purposes;
- adjusting responses to complement the state strategy including SESU participation and overall increasing of state and local capacities;
- rapidly deploying tents as a transitional phase in the response.