

1. Crisis overviewⁱ

4.5 / 5	12.7 million	6 million	\$2.63 billion	17%
Inform severity index	People in need of humanitarian aid (HNRP 2025)	People targeted in the response plan (HNRP 2025)	Required to reach the target (HRNP 2025)	Of the required funding secured (HNRP 2025)
108 MSEK	3 MSEK	-	111 MSEK	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible funding	Total Sida funding 2025	

The Russian war on Ukraine continues to devastate the country, causing mass displacement and severe humanitarian impacts. Initially beginning in 2014, the conflict escalated dramatically with Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022, displacing over one-third of the population. Millions of internally displaced persons endure prolonged hardship, unable to return home due to ongoing insecurity and destruction. Tens of thousands of civilians, including children, have been killed or injured, leaving immense humanitarian needs unmet. In 2024, fighting has devastated civilian infrastructure, repeatedly damaging homes, schools, hospitals, and disrupting essential supplies of energy, water, and gas. Frontline areas face continued destruction, new displacements and restricted aid delivery amidst heightened security risks. Needs in Russian-controlled regions are presumed severe, including violations of international humanitarian law. Local organisations play a vital role in meeting the vast needs despite immense challenges, with a much-needed shift toward locally-led responses already underway. By mid-November 2024, only about 60 per cent of the required humanitarian funding had been secured. This shortfall forces organisations to prioritise urgent needs while highlighting the critical importance of recovery and reconstruction funding to meet basic needs, foster durable solutions, and build resilience amid the ongoing crisis. In March 2025, a partial ceasefire on critical energy infrastructure and for just 30 days has materialized, but there is limited clarity on how it will unfold. The humanitarian community is monitoring this closely and are preparing for three possible scenarios: a scale up of the response or contingency planning for an extended ceasefire; an escalation in the war for which there are lessons for planning from the escalation in 2022; and a continuation of current situation of the ongoing war.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

By late 2024, intensified attacks in the north-east, east, and south have worsened the humanitarian situation. The impact is most severe in frontline areas, where displacement, destruction, and lack of basic services are most acute. Humanitarian assessments in Russian-controlled areas are severely limited, but conditions there are presumed to be similar or worse than in Ukrainian-held frontline areas.

By the end of October 2024, a total of 12,162 civilian deaths and 26,919 injuries had been recorded since the onset of Russia's full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022, according to the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine. The actual number is likely to be significantly higher.

The war affects the entire country, displacing millions, destroying livelihoods, and exacerbating protection risks while depleting coping mechanisms. Civilians face immense hardship as critical infrastructure including homes, schools, hospitals, and water supply systems is systematically destroyed. Over half of Ukraine's electricity supply has been damaged by Russian attacks, heightening concerns for the winter.

The war has led to mass displacement of Ukrainians within the country and abroad. According to International Organization for Migration (IOM), 3.7 million Ukrainians are internally displaced. The Government has increased evacuation efforts in frontline oblasts. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) are joining the effort to help people to leave the most dangerous areas. In the safer parts of Ukraine, longer-term needs lead to cumulative problems. Almost 80,000 people live in collective centers throughout Ukraine.

The humanitarian crisis also raises significant protection concerns. Attacks on civilians and infrastructure, alongside the risks posed by mines and unexploded ordnance, drive urgent protection needs. Barriers to accessing legal identity and justice continue to harm individuals and communities. Multiple forms of gender-based violence (GBV) are being reported, with particularly high insecurity and risk for women and girls on the move, at border crossing points and in collective centres. In addition to physical destruction, the war has had given rise to widespread psychological distress and trauma.

Humanitarian assessments in Russian-controlled areas are severely limited, but conditions there are presumed to be similar or worse than in Ukrainian-held frontline areas. Among a wide range of challenges, civilians in occupied territories face coercion to adopt Russian citizenship to access limited basic services.

3. The humanitarian response

In March 2025, the joint Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) is facing tough prioritisation, mainly because of the global freeze and scale-back of US humanitarian funding announced in January 2025 but also due to other European donors statements that humanitarian funding will decrease. This is having major consequences on aid operations, and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is adapting the response in light of the new funding landscape targeting only 4.8 million instead of 6.1 million originally planned for at the beginning of 2025. There are still 12.7 million people in need and the focus will be on those with the most severe needs. The response is expected to adapt to the shifting needs of the seasons, and to the unpredictability of warfare.

Since the first year of the full-scale invasion, when assistance was often provided on a blanket basis, the response has become more targeted, and the relative weight in the response shifted to the frontline regions. There is a need for this shift to continue to address existing gaps. Humanitarian partners also need to focus on the situation for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in collective centres or other temporary accommodation settings. Prolonged displacement has pushed many to the brink, and returning home will not be an option until the security can be guaranteed, houses have been rebuilt, and basic services restored in their areas of origin.

The humanitarian response in Ukraine continues to face significant challenges, with pervasive access issues being the primary hindrance. Frontline areas remain highly insecure, with ongoing threats such as short-range drone attacks, artillery fire, and the presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance. In Russian-occupied territories, stringent restrictions on international humanitarian aid have severely limited the delivery of essential assistance, leaving civilians in dire need. These access challenges, compounded by a lack of respect for international humanitarian law (IHL), increase risks for aid workers and obstruct the ability of organisations to operate effectively in these high-risk areas.

Additionally, disinformation and harmful narratives further undermine the credibility and safety of humanitarian operations. False information erodes trust in aid organisations and creates an environment of suspicion, while violations of IHL endanger both aid workers and civilians. Together, these factors have a chilling effect on the humanitarian response, deterring organisations from engaging in the most vulnerable regions and limiting their ability to address critical needs. As the situation evolves, particularly with Russia gaining ground along the frontline in late 2024, ensuring access and maintaining a principled humanitarian assistance will be essential for meeting the immense needs in 2025.

In the summer of 2024, Ukraine made an incursion into Kursk oblast in Russia, and has held a large area since then. So far, there has been no assessment of humanitarian needs in the area and humanitarian actors are not responding there.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion, local and national NGOs, alongside volunteer networks, have grown significantly in capacity, becoming essential to delivering humanitarian assistance and

protection services. International organisations heavily rely on these actors, but the prolonged strain risks leading to burnout and diminished capacity, threatening aid delivery in frontline areas. There is growing recognition of the need for more equitable partnerships, where local and national organisations play a central role in planning and decision-making and are equipped with the resources and holistic duty of care necessary to sustain life-saving assistance in hard-to-reach areas.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

With a considerable reduction in Sida's initial humanitarian allocation for Ukraine in 2025 compared to the year before, stringent prioritisation will be necessary, guided by the principle of impartiality. While needs persist across Ukraine, Sida will focus on organisations with a strong presence in particularly hard-hit areas near the frontline, where the humanitarian situation remains most critical. It is also in these areas where humanitarian organisations have the clearest added value vis-à-vis other actors, such as local authorities and development organisations.

The reduction in humanitarian funding for Ukraine reflects Sida's updated methodology for allocating resources proportionally across crises. While the allocation to Ukraine has decreased, this decision stems from severe needs and low financial coverage in other crises rather than any improvement in Ukraine's humanitarian situation.

Sida will prioritise partners with a proven ability to reach those in extreme and catastrophic need, while also demonstrating strong capacity to contribute to a well-coordinated and cohesive humanitarian effort. Partners will be selected based on their track record in delivering targeted assistance, adapting to rapidly changing conditions, and working together with local actors through equitable partnerships. Sida will prioritise partners who effectively integrate protection risks across their programmes, recognising that this remains essential in Ukraine's context of attacks on civilians, forced displacement, sexual violence, and heightened psychological distress.

INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)		
PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION
DRC	Cash, Shelter, Protection, WASH	15,000,000
ICRC	Health, Food Security, Protection, WASH	25,000,000
IRC	Cash, Health, Education, Protection	15,000,000
Save the Children	Education, Food Security, Protection, Shelter, WASH	28,000,000
UHF	Multi-sectoral	25,000,000
TOTAL		111,000,000

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING ¹	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
East SOS	-	3,000,000
TOTAL	-	3,000,000

ⁱ The 2025 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.

¹ Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.