

# UKRAINE



**Ukraine is a lower-middle-income country that, since 2014, has increasingly turned to the U.S. and other European countries to grapple with economic and governance challenges and withstand ongoing military aggression from Russia.**

## Country Context

Ukraine's 2014 "Revolution of Dignity" spurred the adoption of anti-corruption laws, civil society reform, and economic change that it hoped would enable integration with the European Union. The initiative faces significant internal and external challenges. In 2014, Russia invaded and annexed Crimea, and conflict between Ukraine and Russia now persists throughout much of the Eastern part of the country despite agreements on a ceasefire. Citizens bear the brunt of the conflict, which directly affects 5.2 million people. Near the conflict line, food insecurity, healthcare, shelter, education, and water/sanitation are all urgent concerns, especially during winter.

## Key Figures



**3.4 million**

in need of humanitarian assistance



**1.5 million**

internally displaced people



**16%**

of the population is in moderate poverty



**\$1.5 billion**

in U.S. security assistance since 2014



**\$158 million**

requested for humanitarian response in 2020

## How is the U.S. Involved?

Ukraine is a vital ally in the U.S.'s ongoing strategic dispute with Russia. The United States has supplied hundreds of millions of dollars a year for weapons and military training to build Ukraine's resistance.

## On-the-Ground Perspective

- Ukraine's attempts to stem corruption and adopt civil society reforms have run into difficulties. Local governments, mainly villages and rural settlements, have little or no experience exercising their new responsibilities.
- Military aggression, cyber-attacks, financial backing for opposition parties, and economic, trade, and energy pressures are all viable attacks from Russia. To prevent anti-Ukraine propaganda, the Ukrainian government restricts freedom of expression, information, and media. These restrictions are an ongoing concern to human rights activists in the area.

## Responses and Actions

- The Norwegian Refugee Council assisted 43,079 people in Ukraine in 2018, with an emphasis on legal, food security, and shelter assistance.
- Ukraine's efforts to develop civil society institutions and protect civilians in conflict environments benefited from close coordination with European countries, Canada, the U.S., and the U.N.

References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

