

ADRA's plea to the international community on the anniversary of the Ukraine conflict

Since February 24, 2022, the ongoing warfare in Ukraine, continues to cause severe human suffering - even one year after the initial attack. We condemn the attack in violation of international law. **We call for consistent compliance with international law and an immediate end to the conflict, as well as an immediate halt to all hostilities, bombings, attacks, and any violence against civilians and civilian infrastructure. All actors must ensure adequate protection for humanitarian personnel at once.**

Current situation

Over the past 12 months, approximately 7,000 civilians have died in Ukraine as a result of the war of aggression, approximately 8 million people have fled the country, while around 6 million people are internally displaced.¹ **In total, about 18 million people in Ukraine are in need of humanitarian assistance.** The reports of international organisations demonstrate the multiple violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights in the war zone, reliable humanitarian assistance on both sides of the conflict line is therefore not possible. As of October 2022, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that more than a quarter of people in need of humanitarian assistance live in areas where humanitarian access is extremely limited. Direct or indirect attacks on humanitarian workers have also been documented.

Armed conflict in Eastern and Southern Ukraine remains fierce. Shelling of residential areas continues, and civilians are injured or killed daily. Infrastructure, such as water and energy supply, is also under fire in large parts of the country.

Humanitarian principles and imperative - remembering all people affected by crises worldwide

Until the conflict comes to a peaceful end, humanitarian assistance will continue to be needed, and access to affected people is key. **All humanitarian activities are guided by the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence. On this basis, we affirm the primacy of the humanitarian imperative, which guarantees an equal access to aid for people affected by the conflict.** This form of assistance is our duty. Adherence to humanitarian principles, access to occupied and conflict areas, and (safety) guarantees for humanitarian workers are necessary to ensure the support towards the people in Ukraine. We expect

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/topics/ukraine-humanitarian-crisis>

compliance with international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles by all parties to the conflict and for the creation of access precisely to people in contested areas on both sides of the frontline.

The conflict has exposed structural inequalities and dependencies in the world.

Together with the economic and social consequences of the Corona pandemic and the increasingly obvious consequences of the climate crisis, it is worsening the living conditions of many vulnerable people around the world. Prices for staple foods, energy and fertilisers have continued to rise since February 2022 and global supply chains have collapsed. International humanitarian law applies in Ukraine and in many other tragic situations in our world, dependent and independent of the conflict, and we should keep this in mind during this difficult time. Therefore, we call for a principled humanitarian response – not just in Ukraine, but also in other humanitarian crises around the world with the same aim: Life-, dignity- and safety-ensuring support for people on the ground.

As a global, federally organized network, ADRA builds on sustainable partnerships. Our long-term and strategic engagement in Ukraine and around the world ensures close cooperation with the communities on the ground; therefore, we know and understand the challenges the affected population faces. As our work is rooted in local communities, our network can build responses on these established structures and capacities, as well as staff and volunteers. Despite the systematic destruction of the most important infrastructure in the middle of the cold winter, we drew on this strong point to provide the needed aid. **We will continue our work in Ukraine as long as the conflict persists, standing by the side of those affected by the atrocities and loss of armed conflict. But we appeal for more work to be done to achieve peace in this hopeless situation.**

About ADRA

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency is a global network of humanitarian and development organisation present in 118 countries. Its work empowers communities and changes lives around the globe by providing sustainable community development and disaster relief. For more information on ADRA Europe's work, including our recent press release see our [website](#).



Point of contact: Bianca Belger • Advocacy & Policy Advisor ADRA Deutschland e. V. •
bianca.belger@adra.de