Call for applications for DERF funding of rapid response interventions answering to the following humanitarian crisis:
Title: Ukraine – Escalating Attacks on Critical Infrastructure
Country and location(s): Ukraine – nationwide. Applicants must justify their proposed geographic focus with evidence of the recent escalation, urgent humanitarian needs and relevance of rapid response.
DERF Funding Modality: Applicants are to apply for the DERF Funding Modality *Rapid Response* as per the DERF Funding Guidelines.

Call window for submission of applications: Applications are received and processed on an ongoing basis from 16.11.2026 until 25.11.26 at 12:00 noon CET.
Funds allocated for this call: The DERF allocates a total of up to DKK 2.6 million for this call. Applicants can apply for maximum DKK 749.999 each.

Alert title and location(s)	Alert type, source and date	Crisis type	Information on the humanitarian crisis and emergency relief needs	Known DK org. in crisis location(s)	Assessment of DERF relevance
Title: Ukraine – Escalating Attacks on Critical Infrastruc-ture **Country & locations:** Ukraine – nationwi-de. Applicants must justify their proposed geographic focus with evidence of the recent escalation, urgent humanitari an needs	**Alert Type:** Local Alert **Alerting Organisatio n:** International Aid Services (IAS) **Crisis Start:** 13 October 2026 **Sources supplemen-ted with:** UN/OHCHR – Civilian *casualties and attacks on energy infrastructur*	Spike in protrac ted crisis	**Background:** Since the Russian Federation launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the country has faced a protracted humanitarian crisis, with continued hostilities causing widespread civilian suffering and displacement. In recent months, the humanitarian situation has further deteriorated, with intensified attacks on civilian infrastructure, particularly energy and heating facilities. For the purpose of this call, the current spike is considered to have started on 13 October 2026, following a renewed wave of large-scale attacks on critical infrastructure. Further attacks throughout October and November have caused widespread disruptions to electricity and heating supplies, leaving vulnerable households increasingly exposed to life-threatening conditions as winter approaches (UN/OHCHR, October 2026; CARE, November 2026). This renewed escalation, combined with the onset of winter, is assessed to constitute a spike in the protracted humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, leading to the opening of this call for applications. **Humanitarian impact:** The intensification of hostilities and renewed attacks on energy infrastructure have significantly worsened the humanitarian situation across Ukraine. According to the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU), at least 328 civilians were killed and 2,105 injured in September 2026, representing an 85 per cent increase compared with September 2025. Civilian casualties were recorded across 22 regions and Kyiv (UN/OHCHR, 16.10.2026). <u>Electricity, Heating and Essential Services:</u> Repeated attacks on energy infrastructure have caused widespread power outages and disruptions to heating, water supplies and other essential services. Following attacks on 13–14 October, approximately 600,000 people in Kyiv were temporarily left without electricity. Further attacks in November have affected hundreds of thousands across several regions, increasing humanitarian needs as winter approaches (UN/OHCHR, 16.10.2026; CARE, 11.11.2026). <u>Shelter and Basic Needs:</u> Households living in damaged or poorly insulated accommodation face increasing exposure to cold temperatures. Urgent needs include shelter repairs, insulation, heating equipment, fuel, essential winter items and cash assistance to cover basic household expenses (OCHA, Winter Response Plan 2026–2027).	Number of organisations present in-country: 32 Number of organisations with external funding experience (both CSF and DERF grants): 24 Number of organisations present in specific localities: 32	Critical emergency and/or protection needs: Yes Particularl y vulnerable groups: Yes Timeliness of potential DERF funded interventio n: Yes Significant funding gap exist: Yes DERF funds

and relevance of rapid response.	*e*, October 2026 CARE – *Millions face another challenging winter amid escalating attacks*, 11 Nov 2026 UN/OHCHR – *Civilian casualties in Ukraine*, 16 Oct 2026 UN/OHCHR – A*ttacks on energy infrastructure and humanitarian consequences*, 29 Jun 2026 OCHA – *Ukraine Winter Response Plan* 2026–2027 Ukraine Logistics Cluster –		<u>Health, Protection and Livelihoods:</u> Prolonged power and heating outages increase health and protection risks, particularly for older people, children, persons with disabilities and people with chronic illnesses. Disruptions also affect healthcare, education, livelihoods and household incomes, further reducing the coping capacity of already vulnerable populations (CARE, 11.11.2026; UN/OHCHR, 29.06.2026). **Prioritized Emergency Actions** Based on the OCHA Ukraine Winter Response Plan 2026–2027 and the humanitarian needs arising from the recent escalation, the following emergency actions are prioritised: 1. Emergency shelter and winterisation assistance, including essential non-food items. 2. Emergency cash assistance to meet urgent basic needs. 3. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assistance. 4. Emergency health assistance. 5. Protection of vulnerable groups. 6. Emergency food assistance. Other lifesaving humanitarian interventions may be considered where applicants demonstrate a clear link to the recent escalation and urgent humanitarian needs and the purpose of the DERF Rapid Response modality. **Vulnerability** The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine is characterised by a wide range of needs and vulnerabilities, which vary considerably across geographical areas and population groups. Particularly vulnerable groups may include internally displaced people (IDPs), women and children, older people, persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses, and people living close to the front line. Applicants must identify and justify their choice of target groups, demonstrating their particular vulnerabilities, urgent humanitarian needs, and how these have been exacerbated by the recent escalation of the crisis. **Funding Situation:** According to OCHA's Ukraine Winter Response Plan 2026–2027, USD 358.4 million is required to provide critical winter assistance to more than 2.1 million people, including USD 58.1 million for emergency assistance following strikes. Funding requirements have increased compared with previous winter responses, partly due to rising costs of heating, utilities, insulation and aid delivery. In a context of constrained resources, humanitarian actors have prioritised the most critical and time-sensitive interventions.		available: Yes **Recommend:** Activate DERF.

	Gaps and Needs Analysis 2026		**Humanitarian Access:** Humanitarian access remains challenging across Ukraine, particularly in frontline and hard-to-reach areas. The continued suspension of civilian air travel, ongoing military operations, mines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs), and damage to transport infrastructure complicate humanitarian operations. Recent attacks on energy, railway and storage infrastructure have further disrupted supply chains. While commercial transport remains operational across most of Ukraine, transporters frequently refuse deliveries to high-risk areas or charge significantly higher rates. Checkpoints, damaged infrastructure and driver shortages further constrain humanitarian access.		