

Ukraine Conflict Threatens Water Supply to 4 Million

By [The Moscow Times](#)

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Children sit in a bus as they flee from fighting in Slovyansk, Ukraine.

Fighting in eastern Ukraine threatens water supplies to the city of Donetsk and could have serious consequences for 4 million people, monitors for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said Monday.

The OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission in eastern Ukraine quoted local officials as saying a water pumping station and a section of pipeline near the town of Semyonovka, close to the bitterly contested city of Slovyansk, had been damaged in fighting between government forces and separatists.

"This pumping station and pipeline constitute the main water supply for Donetsk city's population of 1 million, and a further 3 million inhabitants of the region," it said in a statement following talks with Donetsk Mayor Alexander Lukyanchenko.

The OSCE mission quoted the mayor on its Facebook page as saying that the water supply to Donetsk had not been affected yet, but that this was set to change "in a very short while."

Repair work was under way but help was needed to prevent it being interrupted by shooting, it said.

Semyonovka lies about 5 kilometers southeast of Slovyansk and 110 kilometers north of Donetsk, the main city in the Donbass coal mining region.

The statement is the latest sign of a growing humanitarian crisis in eastern Ukraine.

Water, food and electricity supplies have been affected in some areas and thousands of people have fled their homes for safe areas, including some who have taken refuge in Russia.

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