UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency Regional Bureau for Europe

UKRAINE SITUATION FLASH UPDATE #56

13 October 2023

Suceava, Romania - Refugees from Ukraine share their experiences integrating in Romania during a participatory assessment held with UNHCR on 4 October. © UNHCR Victor Vasilescu

PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE:

5,831,200*
refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe (as of 10 Oct)

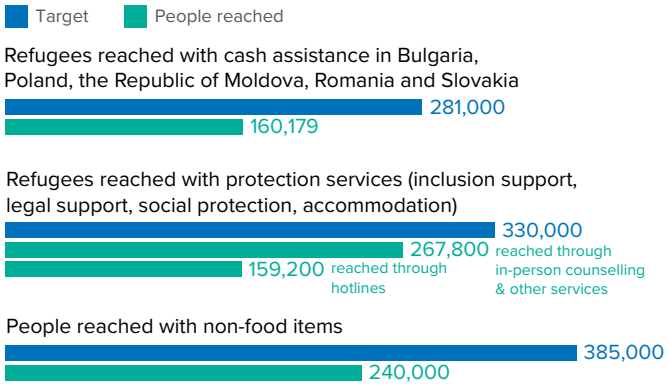
369,200
refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe (as of 19 Aug)

6,203,600
refugees from Ukraine recorded globally (as of 26 Sep)

5,088,000
Estimated number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ukraine (as of 25 May) (Source: IOM)

More details: UNHCR Operational Data Portal Ukraine Refugee Situation

UNHCR REFUGEE RESPONSE 2023 (as of 29 September 2023):



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- With the winter season approaching the UN issued a revised Winter Response Plan on 3 October, totaling US$ 435 million to deliver winter assistance to over 1.7 million people across Ukraine. The Response Plan will be carried out in support of the efforts of the Government of Ukraine, and complements regular humanitarian programming.
- Since 1 September 2023, in line with its 2023-2024 Ukraine Winterization Plan, UNHCR has supported 48,060 people with cash assistance and winterized non-food items, out of the 866,000 targeted; 180 people with heaters, rapid thermal kits or cash for rent, out of 16,000 targeted; and 5,043 with care and maintenance in collective sites, out of 18,000 targeted. In total, UNHCR aims to assist 900,000 displaced and war-affected people between 1 September 2023 - 29 February 2024.
- To find out more about the situation and the response in Ukraine and the region, see UNHCR's Ukraine Situation Operational Portal.

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* Europe corresponds to all Europe sub-regions as identified by Eurovoc (European Union, Thesaurus Eurovoc. Volume 2, Subject-oriented version, Publications Office, 2005), therefore including EU and non-EU countries belonging to Central and Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, and Western Europe, plus Türkiye.

UKRAINE SITUATION UPDATE

- Regular missile, drone and shelling attacks continue to strike communities across Ukraine, taking a heavy toll on civilians and damaging civilian infrastructure. On 5 October, Russian forces shelled a café in a village in Kharkivska oblast in eastern Ukraine, killing at least 52 people including a 6-year-old boy, and injured many more. UNHCR's local partner Proliska responded immediately with psychosocial support to the survivors, and continues providing counselling and assistance to people impacted by this devastating attack. The Humanitarian Coordinator for Ukraine condemned the attack and expressed heartfelt condolences to affected families.
- On 6 October, Russian forces strike on Kharkiv city killed multiple civilians, damaged dozens of homes and a hotel frequently used by humanitarian workers. UNHCR partner Proliska provided immediate assistance, including emergency shelter materials for over 250 people.
- On 4 October, the UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine released a new report on the human rights situation in the country. The report highlights that the war has caused millions of Ukrainian civilians to fall below the poverty line. Their plight has been further exacerbated by broad economic and social harm caused by attacks on vital infrastructure and agricultural facilities.
- From 1 to 24 September, OHCHR recorded 554 civilian casualties in Ukraine (111 killed and 443 injured), bringing the total number of civilian casualties since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine to 27,449: 9,701 killed and 17,748 injured.

UNHCR RESPONSE AND TARGETS INSIDE UKRAINE 2023 (as of 30 September 2023)*

2.2 million people reached with assistance in 2023, out of a target of **3.6 million** people, some of whom will receive several forms of support.

1,121,371 people reached with protection services, out of a target of **1.9 million** people.

695,778 people supported with essential items, out of a target of **1 million** people.

465,069 people supported with cash assistance, out of a target of **800,000** people.

194,200 people received shelter/housing support, out of a target of **720,000** people.

88,645 people supported with safe access to multi-sectoral services in collective sites, out of a target of **150,000** people.

Reached figures are subject to data cleaning and retro-active corrections may occur.

UNHCR RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Cash assistance:** In 2023, UNHCR has so far distributed US$ 83.7 million through its multi-purpose cash programme to 465,069 people, helping socioeconomically and otherwise vulnerable war-affected and displaced families cover the costs of basic items such as food, medicines, clothes and accommodation.
- **Documentation:** On 22 September, UNHCR and partner NEEKA organized a training for over 20 attorneys in Zakarpatska oblast, western Ukraine, on recording civil status events such as births, deaths, and marriages. Documentation remains critical, particularly to avoid the risk of statelessness.
- **Interagency convoys:** Assisting people living in frontline areas remains a priority. On 19 September, as part of an interagency convoy to Novoselivka Persha in Donetska oblast, UNHCR delivered 600 sleeping bags and 400 solar lamps to assist war-affected residents of Avdiivka. Since January 2023, UNHCR has participated in 98 interagency convoys reaching 70,000 people living in front-line areas with assistance.
- **Monitoring:** As part of programme monitoring, UNHCR has been verifying and assessing the quality of completed window installations. In September, UNHCR teams visited over 50 apartments in Kharkiv city, interviewed residents of 124 other apartments by phone, and visited three collective sites as well as one transit centre for displaced people in Zaporizhzhia. All those interviewed reported being satisfied with both the quality of the windows and installation works. Gathering this feedback is essential to ensure people's participation in monitoring the quality of assistance delivered, as well as to help identify gaps or deficiencies and inform future programming.
- Find more information in the regular Ukraine country operational updates

REGIONAL UNHCR KEY FIGURES AND COUNTRY UPDATES

BLUE DOTS

29
Blue Dots Hubs are operational in:

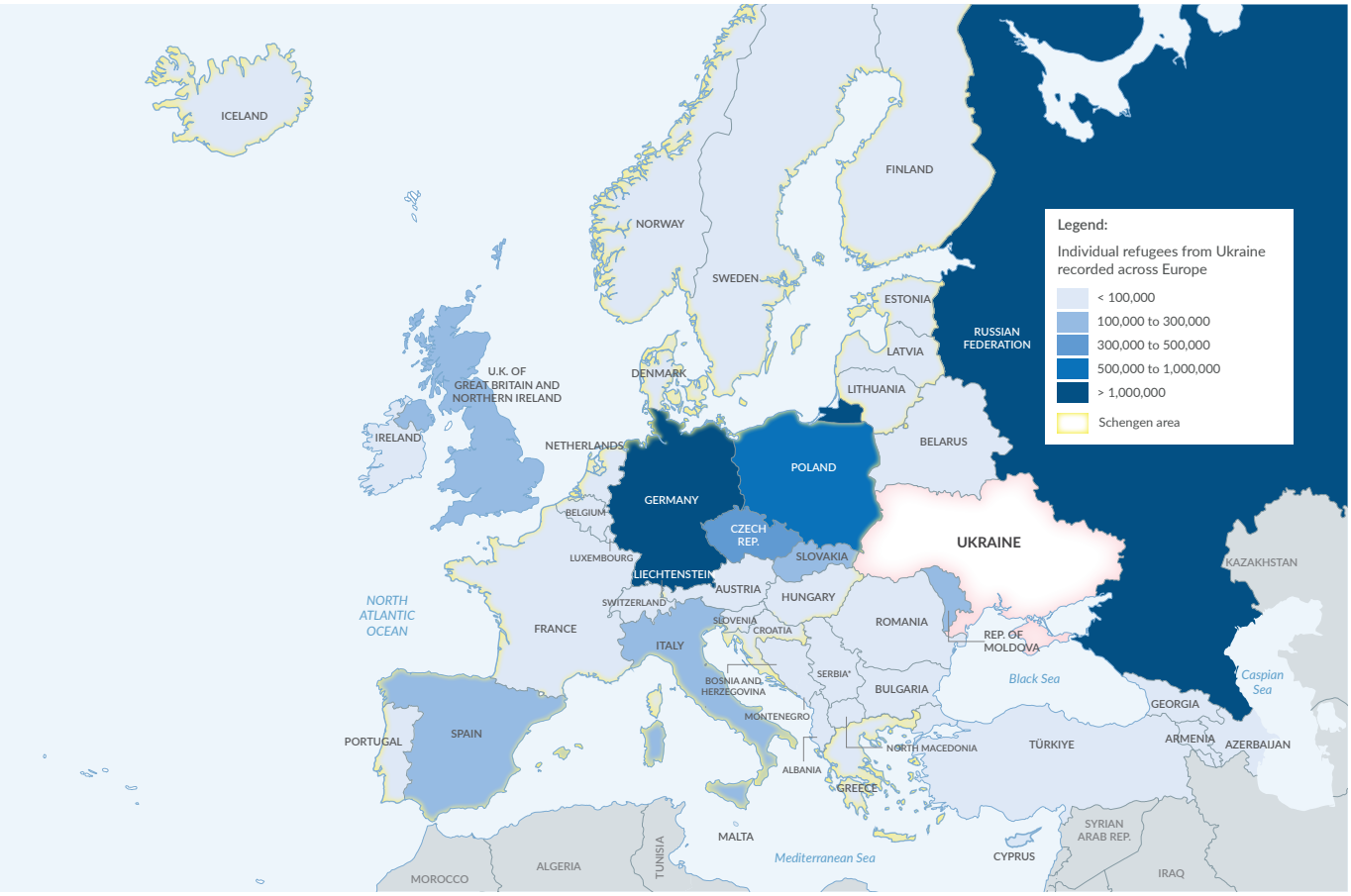
Bulgaria	5	Moldova	10	Slovakia	6
Hungary	3	Poland	4	Slovenia	1

All Blue dot hubs have closed in Romania.

190,525
refugees were reached through the Blue Dot Hubs in Bulgaria, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Poland and Slovakia so far in 2023 (as of 29 September).

The Digital Blue Dot is a regional website that provides localized and up-to-date information about services available in Bulgaria, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The website provides a map of existing Blue Dot Hubs with information on accommodation, childcare, disability support, education, legal stay, livelihood, medical care, protection services, social assistance, work and other services.

REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE ACROSS EUROPE (as of 10 October 2023)



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
*Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]) Source: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe

More information available on the UNHCR Ukraine operational data portal page.

COUNTRY UPDATES

BULGARIA

53,060
refugees have been recorded

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES (as of 29 Sep 2023)

84,500
refugees have received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

62,500
refugees have been reached through **5** Blue Dot Hubs

8,507
refugees received cash assistance

10,769
visits to the UNHCR Bulgaria Help Page

- **Capacity-building:** UNHCR partner Bulgarian Council on Refugees and Migrants organized a capacity building session 27 - 28 September for NGOs focusing on refugee inclusion, with broad participation from governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- **Coordination:** The 2024 RRP workshop took place on 26 September to detail the 2024 priorities, address any questions, and discuss fundraising opportunities. Online walk-in sessions for support on the submission of appeals are planned during the next two weeks.
- **MHPSS:** So far in 2023, over 9,007 refugees from Ukraine were provided with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). UNHCR, WHO, IOM, and the Bulgarian Red Cross are currently discussing modalities for a joint MHPSS training for front-line workers.
- **Socioeconomic inclusion:** On 6 October, UNHCR facilitated a roundtable on socioeconomic inclusion in Plovdiv, the second-largest city in Bulgaria. The roundtable gathered 221 participants from local businesses, institutions, municipality representatives and civil society organizations supporting refugees. UNHCR raised the prospect of launching a Refugee Employment Platform for job-matching between refugees and local businesses interested in employing refugees.

CZECH REPUBLIC

361,385
refugees have been recorded

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES (as of 29 Sep 2023)

10,619
refugees from Ukraine have received protection services

25,781
visits to the UNHCR Czech Republic Help Page

- **Coordination**: On 5 October, 51 staff from UN agencies, including UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, and WHO, and NGOs working with refugees from Ukraine assessed the refugee response in the Czech Republic and outlined priorities and recommendations for the 2024 RRP in cross-cutting areas, namely protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, assisting people with disabilities, as well as strengthening social cohesion and peaceful coexistence with host communities. Priorities highlighted by the participants related to improved access to health, mental health, secondary education, accommodation and basic needs for vulnerable groups, as well as socioeconomic inclusion.
- **Communicating with Communities:** On 4 October, in a meeting organized by UNHCR, 32 refugee-led (RLOs) and community-based organizations discussed the refugee response in the Czech Republic, focusing on protection, support for vulnerable persons, inclusion/self-reliance, and social cohesion. They highlighted the need to involve RLOs in discussions and decision-making processes related to refugees from Ukraine.

HUNGARY

53,375
refugees have been recorded

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES (as of 29 Sep 2023)

20,455
refugees have received protection and legal support by UNHCR and partners

16,645
refugees have been reached through **3** Blue Dot Hubs

57,642
visits to the UNHCR Hungary Help Page

- **Border monitoring:** On 26 September, UNHCR conducted a joint mission with the Hungarian Border Police to the border with Ukraine to monitor the application of the previous changes to entry requirements for both refugees from Ukraine and third country nationals, including those without biometric passports that need to fulfil Schengen requirements to enter.
- **Cash assistance:** From 27 - 28 September, two local NGOs began referring refugees for the pilot cash-based intervention for people with disabilities. The pilot project targets 50 people, with the aim of enrolling them in ongoing cash assistance by the end of the year. At present, Hungarian legislation does not foresee disability benefits for refugees and those with temporary protection (TP).
- **Coordination:** As part of the interagency RRP planning in Hungary, on 26 September UNHCR organized two workshops in Budapest. The first workshop brought together more than 12 refugee-led organizations and community-based organizations from across the country, including Roma-led community-based organizations. They discussed challenges faced by refugees in accessing TP rights and services in Hungary, priorities for 2024, and the support required from UN and NGOs. The second workshop involved approximately 25 local and international organizations, UN agencies, who identified sector-specific priorities for 2024. The outcomes of these discussions will serve as the foundation for the 2024 RRP strategy which will be presented to government counterparts in October.
- Find out more on the UNHCR Hungary data portal

POLAND

959,875
refugees have been recorded

UNHCR OPERATIONAL (as of 29 Sep 2023)

41,800
people were provided with protection support over the telephone

54,000
people were counselled at the **4** Blue Dot Hubs and **7** Community Centres

21,730
refugees received cash assistance

230,184
visits to the UNHCR Poland Help Page

- **Inclusion:** In Rzeszów, UNHCR collaborated with the Danish Refugee Council and Level Up association to commemorate 'International Day of Older Persons' on 30 September. More than 60 older refugees and members of the host community took part in the celebrations, while reflecting on achievements relating to inclusion so far including field trips and excursions, art and crafts workshops, dance classes, and inter-cultural exchanges. In Lublin, UNHCR launched the 'Making Friends' initiative on 26 September, which brought together refugees and host communities to and explore further intercultural dialogue and communication. By 5 October, more than 300 participants had signed up for the programme.
- **Job fairs:** In the reporting period, a series of job fairs for refugees from Ukraine with UNHCR participation took place across Poland, including in Katowice, Krakow, Poznan, Wroclaw, and Warsaw. In Rzeszów, a "NetworkPower Job Fair" will be held at the G2A Arena on 17 - 18 October. Participation is open to both refugees and host community members, and UNHCR is assisting job seekers with interpretation, sharing information about vacant positions, and providing guidance on job applications.
- **Socioeconomic inclusion:** The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has partnered with Santander Bank Polska to provide low-interest loans to refugees and refugee businesses, piloting the initiative in Poland. The bank will issue up to US$ 100 million in new loans aimed at refugees from Ukraine and micro, small and medium-sized businesses in Poland owned by refugees. At least 30 per cent of all loans will be provided to Ukrainian women refugees.
- Find out more on the UNHCR Poland data portal

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

119,375
refugees have been recorded

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES (as of 29 Sep 2023)

53,680	10,134	79,821	273,220
refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners	refugees have been reached through **10** Blue Dot Hubs	refugees received cash assistance	visits to the UNHCR Moldova Help Page

- **Coordination:** On 4 October, 104 staff from UN agencies, INGOs, local NGOs, and government officials attended the RRP 2024 Consultation for the Protection Sector, organized by UNHCR. The workshop resulted in a defining strategic objectives, activities, and indicators for the Protection Sector for 2024.
- **GBV**: As part of the GBV safety audit, UNHCR in coordination with the Union for Equity and Health, a women-led organization from Balti, carried out a focus group discussion with nine host community and refugee women from Ukraine currently engaging in harmful coping strategies. Women shared their concerns about online violence and GBV risks, including sexual harassment, and physical violence.
- **MHPSS:** On 7 October, to commemorate World Mental Health Day, UNHCR participated in the Mental Health and Wellness Fair in Chisinau. The fair aimed to raise awareness about MHPSS and promote mental health as a human right for the host community and refugees from Ukraine.
- **Refugee mapping**: On 3 October, UNHCR published an analysis and an interactive dashboard with a mapping of the Roma refugees from Ukraine in Moldova. The mapping was conducted between June and July 2023 among nearly 1,900 Roma refugees. Among immediate needs, Roma refugees reported financial assistance, basic needs (e.g., clothes, shoes, and hygiene products), access to healthcare services and education.
- **Temporary protection**: On 27 September, 219 refugees were pre-enrolled for TP during enrolment fairs organized by UNHCR and partners in Donduseni and the Transnistrian region. In addition, 20 refugees received legal counselling on site.
- Find out more on the UNHCR Moldova portal page

ROMANIA

85,120
refugees have been recorded

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES (as of 29 Sep 2023)

70,000	38,443	1,015	80,264
refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners	refugees received cash assistance	refugees have been provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid	visits to the UNHCR Romania Help Page

- **Inclusion**: On 2 - 3 October, UNHCR along with the Romanian National Council for Refugees and Sensiblu Foundation, held five participatory assessment sessions with 53 refugees in Constanta and Galați targeting young people (between 16 - 22 years old), and people aged 50+. The main issues discussed included healthcare and economic inclusion. Younger refugees raised concerns regarding access to employment and obtaining necessary documentation for work, professional trainings and cohesion between refugees and the host community.
- **NFIs**: During the first week of October, UNHCR delivered non-food items to 101 refugees in Constanța and Galați, including hygiene kits and bedding.

- **Protection:** On 2 October, UNHCR jointly with the Metropolitan Agency for Sustainable Development Brasov and Terre des hommes inaugurated the new KATYA centre in Brasov. It offers protection which offers protection and integration services for refugees—such as counselling, MHPSS, enrolment for cash assistance—as well as support for host community members. Around 40 participants from local authorities and humanitarian organizations attended the inauguration, which will support some 500 refugees from Ukraine each month.
- **Socioeconomic inclusion**: So far in 2023, 846 refugees from Ukraine have received career counselling and another 699 refugees have been supported with information provision on livelihoods/employment at RomExpo, Bucharest. 534 refugees have been enrolled in language courses by partners Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF) and HEKS EPER, and 130 refugees received vocational training. 170 refugees have acquired employment with the help of direct assistance from UNHCR and partners.
- Find out more on the UNHCR Romania data portal

SLOVAKIA

109,115
refugees have been recorded

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES (as of 29 Sep 2023)

38,485	52,539	11,678	200,551
refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR	people been assisted at **6** Blue Dots	refugees received cash assistance	visits to the UNHCR Help Page

- **DAFI**: At the end of September, UNHCR finalized the selection of new refugee students to benefit from the DAFI scholarship. 21 refugee students from Ukraine, out of the total of 23 students from eight Slovak universities will receive the scholarship for the academic year 2023/2024, bringing the total number of DAFI students in Slovakia to 31.
- **Socioeconomic inclusion**: From 16 - 30 September, some 670 refugees and over 550 host community members participated in art workshops, excursions, sport, and other activities organized across Slovakia by UNHCR partners, namely People in Need (PiN), SME SPOLU and Mareena. PIN also continued to provide counselling and assistance on key issues such as access to employment, housing, healthcare and education. SME SPOLU also continued its 3D modelling courses for 33 refugees (30 female and three male) to help refugees acquire new professional skills. As part of its awareness-raising programme, Mareena also organized educational sessions on hate-speech prevention.
- Find out more on the UNHCR Slovakia data portal.

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELARUS:

- As of 1 August, **32,435 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Belarus.
- **Inclusion**: On 28 September, UNHCR and partner RCS organized an art workshop in Gomel for refugee children of different age groups. The event was aligned with the UNHCR global art contest "Hope away from home." The workshop included participation from skilled art professionals, who guided the children to create distinct artworks and submit them for the contest. The workshop sought to foster the children's social inclusion, encouraging them to take part in inter-cultural exchanges while forming now connections.

ESTONIA:

- As of 1 October, **50,450 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded.
- **Protection:** Light data collection for multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA) is expected to be completed by 15 October. As of 10 October, 506 interviews have been carried out in Estonia by UNHCR's local partners the Estonian Refugee Council, and IOM. The number of interviews conducted so far has exceeded the initial target by more than double.

GEORGIA:

- As of 25 July, **27,000 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Georgia.
- **Healthcare:** On 27 September, the Decree of the Government of Georgia on access to healthcare services for refugees from Ukraine was officially extended until 1 November. The decree allows refugees from Ukraine to access a variety of healthcare services, although primary healthcare remains outside its scope. UNHCR encourages refugees from Ukraine wishing to benefit from a full access to healthcare services to apply for international protection.

LATVIA:

- As of 15 August, **32,470 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Latvia.
- **Inclusion:** On 26 September, UNHCR partner 'I Want to Help Refugees' held a regional meeting for municipalities in Cēsis, which was attended by 32 participants including representatives from seven municipalities, representatives of state institutions (including the Ministry of Education, National Centre for Education, State Employment Agency) and local association Be the Light. The meeting focused on education and reception of refugees in Cēsis, during which good-practices were also shared—including recent assistance provided by Cēsis Support Centre to over 1,000 refugees from Ukraine—as well certain challenges, including limited human resource for the Social Service under the Cēsis municipality.

LITHUANIA:

- As of 29 September, **49,970 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Lithuania.
- **Coordination**: On 9 October, UNHCR met with IOM in Vilnius to discuss local refugee response and areas of mutual cooperation. IOM updated on its planned integration centre that is due to open in Vilnius on 23 October, which will support refugees from Ukraine with information provision, legal counselling, MHPSS, and engagement with host communities.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, 14,617 refugees from Ukraine have been counselled in person by UNHCR and partners in urban areas, while 10,909 have been counselled in the border regions of Belgorod, Kursk, Rostov-on-Don and Voronezh. Over 45,209 refugees have been counselled via the telephone hotline by UNHCR and partners.
- **MHPSS**: So far in 2023, 20,742 refugees have received psychosocial support through partners in the Russian Federation.

COORDINATION

UKRAINE

In Ukraine, UNHCR leads three Clusters, namely Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Protection, and Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI). The CCCM Cluster was activated in March 2022 and coordinates eleven UN and NGO partners across three hubs, with the aim of supporting 400,000 people in collective sites in 2023. The Protection Cluster consists of 136 partners, including sub-clusters (57 partners under General Protection) and operates through five coordination hubs to reach an anticipated 7 million people in 2023. The Shelter and NFI Cluster coordinates 97 active partners across five coordination hubs, targeting 3.3 million people in 2023 with NFI kits, emergency shelter and housing repairs. UNHCR also co-chairs the Protection Strategy Working Group under the Humanitarian Country Team, and the Accountability to Affected Populations Working Group. Through its leadership in these areas, UNHCR promotes the centrality of protection, as well as meaningful engagement and participation across the response.

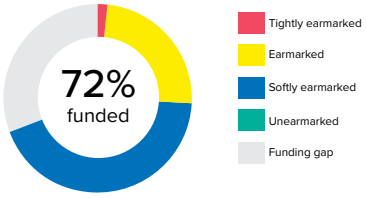
REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

The 2023 RRP aims to ensure refugees' access to protection and assistance on a non-discriminatory basis, with a particular focus on refugees at risk of becoming vulnerable. The 2023 plan also places an emphasis on refugees' socioeconomic inclusion, in recognition of the challenges faced by refugees due to their prolonged displacement. Support is foreseen to institutions, services and facilities used both by refugees and members of host communities, which remain crucial for promoting solidarity and social cohesion between refugee and host communities. Inter-agency Refugee Coordination Forums led by UNHCR, as well as specific sectoral groups, will continue working at country level in Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia to support the efforts of the concerned governments.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

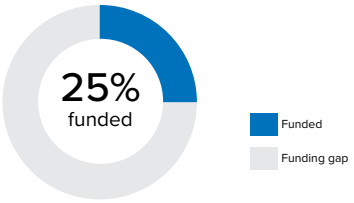
UNHCR UKRAINE SITUATION FINANCIAL UPDATE

US$ 1.1 billion
required
(as of 4 October 2023)



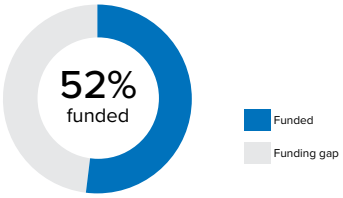
INTER-AGENCY FINANCIAL UPDATES

US$ 1.68 billion
required
(as of mid-2023)



Revised:
Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan

US$ 3.95 billion
required
(as of 12 October 2023)



Revised:
UN Flash Appeal (Ukraine)

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