UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency Regional Bureau for Europe

UKRAINE SITUATION FLASH UPDATE #65

23 February 2024

Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine – Serhii, 57 was injured during an attack in his neighbourhood on 8 January 2024. A missile landed in his garden, severely damaging his house and property. Through UNHCR's partner Proliska and Right to Protection (R2P), he received immediate assistance, including emergency shelter, essential items, psychosocial support and legal counselling. © UNHCR/Elisabeth Arnsdorf Haslund

PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

6,004,100*
refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe (as of 15 Feb 2024)

475,600
refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe (as of 16 Feb 2024)

6,479,700
refugees from Ukraine recorded globally (as of 15 Feb 2024)

3,689,000**
Estimated number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ukraine (as of 31 Dec 2023) (Source: IOM)

More details: UNHCR Operational Data Portal Ukraine Refugee Situation

Lives on hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees, Refugee Returnees and IDPs from Ukraine

Regional Intentions Report #5 – Summary Findings (February 2024)

Read more here

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- This week marks two years since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine began on 24 February 2022. Ongoing shelling, missile attacks and widespread destruction continues to impact some 3.7 million internally displaced people, with some 111,500 people currently in collective sites. An additional 6.5 million refugees are seeking safety across Europe and beyond. This week also marks the tenth year since the war in Eastern Ukraine first began.
- As hostilities rage on, humanitarian conditions remain dire inside Ukraine, where some 40 per cent of the population are in need of humanitarian and protection support. An estimated 3.3 million displaced people are located in front-line communities, where airstrikes regularly target civilian infrastructure – heightening already acute needs. Meanwhile, the war continues to devastate Ukraine's economy, driving poverty and further dependency on humanitarian aid.
- On 20 February, UNHCR published the summary findings of its fifth Intentions survey report, 'Lives on Hold' based on interviews conducted in January - February 2024 among 9,900 Ukrainian refugee, internally displaced and returnee households, both inside and outside the country. Those surveyed cited the prevailing insecurity in Ukraine as the main factor inhibiting their return, while other concerns included a lack of economic opportunities and limited housing. The majority of Ukrainian refugees and internally displaced people surveyed (65 and 72 per cent, respectively) indicated a desire to return home one day.

* 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.

**There has been a significant reduction in the IDP figure in Ukraine based on the latest IOM Internal Displacement Report, Internal Displacement Report, from 5.1 million in mid-2023 to 3.68 million by end-2023. It is important to note that this is not due to a significant return of IDPs, but rather primarily to a change in the methodology used in calculating the number of IDPs. The new baseline population figure used to extrapolate IDP estimates now takes into account the absence of some 6.5 million refugees from Ukraine who are no longer in the country. Baseline data is consolidated by UNFPA.

- **Basic needs:** To help improve overall living conditions, 117 generators have been distributed so far in 2024 across the country. Between 8 - 14 February, UNHCR delivered 10 generators to locations in Ivano-Frankivska and Zakarpatska regions, western Ukraine, including to a shelter for survivors of gender-based violence (GBV); at 'Point of Invincibility' emergency sites, and at a hospital. Moreover, over 350 windows were installed by UNHCR in two dormitories of the Polytechnic University in Lviv, eastern Ukraine and two collective sites in Myrhorod and Poltava, central Ukraine. Finally, around 2,900 core relief items including mattrasses, blankets, and sleeping bags were handed over to local NGO partner Proliska for distribution at 35 bomb shelters in Sumska region, northeastern Ukraine, where up to 9,300 people can be accommodated.
- **Cah assistance:** In January 2024, UNHCR distributed multi-purpose cash assistance to around 44,200 war-affected and internally displaced families, returnees, and people with specific vulnerabilities to help cover the costs of basic items such as food, medicine, clothes, accommodation and utilities.
- **Community life:** In coordination with local authorities, UNHCR local NGO partner Neemia opened three community centres in Zakarpatska region, western Ukraine to hold trainings, seminars, educational and cultural events, as well as networking meetings for businesses. UNHCR and Neemia began the renovation and refurbishment of these centres in 2023, replacing roofs and renovating bathrooms. The centres will also offer psychological support sessions for the community starting in 2024. On 9 February, UNHCR and local NGO partner Rokada opened a new child friendly space in Gruzke village, Byshiv community in Kyivska region, central Ukraine. The space is located in a local school that was fully equipped by Rokada, who provided furniture, games and a projector (among other items).

2024 TARGETS INSIDE UKRAINE*

2.7 million people are targeted for different forms of assistance in 2024**

1.2 million people are targeted for protection*** information and services

350,000 people are targeted for essential items

600,000 people are targeted for multi-purpose cash assistance

467,500 people are targeted with shelter/housing support

125,000 people are targeted with safe access to multi-sectoral services in collective sites

*Includes individuals benefiting from multiple forms of assistance.
**The targets are subject to the receipt of the funding requirements.
***Also includes calls to hotlines.

Twice displaced by war in Ukraine, but refusing to give up - Yana's story

Kyiv, Ukraine – Yana, 41, has been displaced by the war in Ukraine twice – first in 2024 when she left Kadiivka in the Luhansk region of eastern Ukraine to seek refuge in nearby Starobilsk city, and then for a second time on 24 February 2022 when the war escalated into the full-scale invasion.

© UNHCR/Iryna Tymchyshyn

Drawing on her experience, she has become an advocate for other displaced people and now leads the Council for Internally Displaced People, which was created within the Luhansk region administration.

In November 2023, UNHCR supported the first All-Ukrainian Forum of IDP Councils, which was held in Kyiv. As the representative for her region, Yana joined a panel that included Paula Gaviria Betancur, the UN's Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced people, to help shed light on the plight of millions displaced within Ukraine.

REGIONAL UNHCR KEY FIGURES

2024 REGIONAL TARGETS*

850,000
people are targeted for different forms of assistance in 2024**

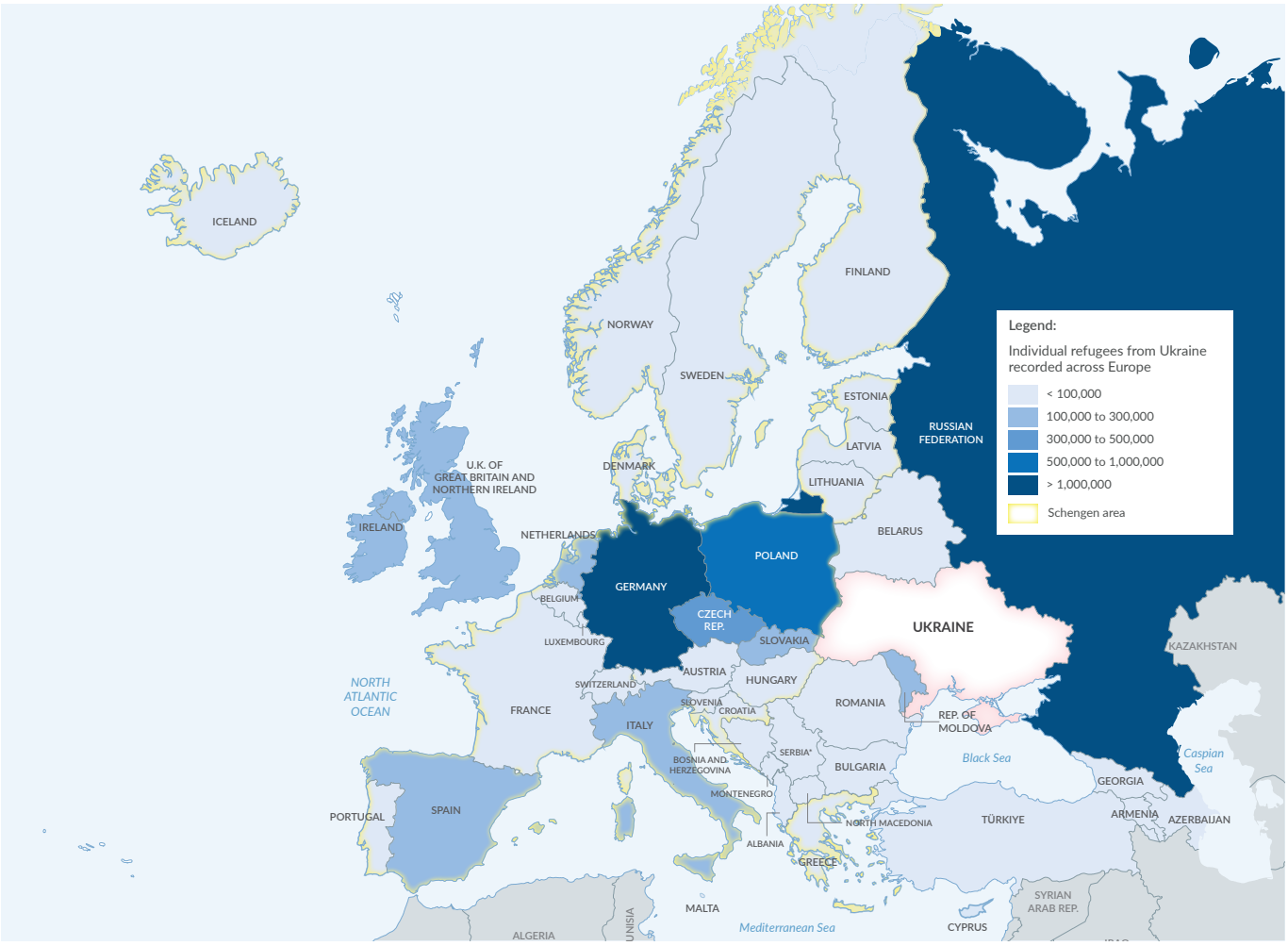
515,000
people are targeted for protection*** information and services

190,000
people are targeted for multi-purpose cash assistance

267,000
people are targeted with safe access to multi-sectoral services in collective sites

* Includes individuals benefiting from multiple forms of assistance.
**The targets are subject to the receipt of the funding requirements.
***Also includes calls to hotlines.

REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE ACROSS EUROPE (15 February 2024)



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.

PROTECTION

2024 TARGET

515,000

Refugees from Ukraine supported with protection information and services through UNHCR and partners.

- **Georgia:** UNHCR and World Vision finalized the third comprehensive Lives on Hold assessment of the needs, priorities and intentions of Ukrainian refugees in Georgia. The survey covered 403 households (some 1,200 individuals). According to the survey, 38 per cent of respondents intend to remain in Georgia long-term, while 57 per cent remain uncertain. There's also been an increase in the number of Ukrainians visiting their home country to assess the situation, visit relatives or friends or obtain documentation (from 9 to 20 per cent).
- **Bulgaria:** On 15 February, some 700 people attended the RRP 2024 hybrid launch in Sofia organized by UNHCR and humanitarian partners, including 70 people attending in-person. The event gathered central and local government representatives, members of the diplomatic community, private sector and academia. The event was broadcast live on social media. UNHCR issued a press release to mark the occasion.
- **Hungary:** Since the beginning of 2024, 2,178 refugees have been provided with access to information, legal assistance, and various social services by UNHCR and IOM at the Budapest Helps! Community Center. The center provides services such as language classes, as well as community support and cultural activities. During the reporting period, 172 refugees received information related to their status and access to services. Most requests for information received by UNHCR were related to financial assistance, accommodation and housing, registration and documentation.
- **Poland:** UNHCR and partners launched the 2024 Refugee Response Plan on 15 February, appealing for USD 377 million to help the most vulnerable refugees in Polan. Of 103 humanitarian organizations involved, the majority are grassroots local NGOs. Around 300 participants attended the event in-person, including the government, donors and the private sector. The event was also broadcaste live.
- **Republic of Moldova:** On 15 February, over 110 partners, including government officials, UN representatives, donors, private sector representatives, and refugees attended the 2024 RRP launch organized by UNHCR and the Moldovan government, which seeks USD 303 million to support 90,000 refugees and 35,500 vulnerable Moldovans.
- **Russian Federation:** In January 2024, UNHCR and partner hotlines received nearly 4,000 calls from refugees from Ukraine. Questions related to access to social benefits, housing, documentation and asylum in Russia. All callers were provided with information and referred to relevant partners.
- **Slovakia:** On 16 February, UNHCR and the Ministry of Interior signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of care for foreigners in asylum facilities, including forcibly displaced people. The Minister of Interior welcomed the support offered by UNHCR with verification of temporary protection holders in Slovakia, including exchange of relevant data.

BASIC NEEDS, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

2024 TARGET

190,000

People are targeted for multi-purpose cash assistance by UNHCR and partners.

- **Belarus:** UNHCR conducted field missions to Gomel in the southeast from 5 - 7 February, and Grodno in the west from 12 - 13 February to attend individual case management sessions, conduct vulnerability and needs assessments, and undertake profiling of forcibly displaced people. UNHCR also discussed opportunities for future collaboration with educational institutions.
- **Hungary:** UNHCR has started post-distribution monitoring (PDM) among 100 beneficiaries of the Winter Cash Assistance programme, targeting refugees and TP holders aged 60+. The PDM of cash assistance for refugees from Ukraine with a severe disability commenced on 21 February, carried out through mostly in-person interviews with 50 beneficiaries.
- **Poland:** UNHCR's hotline responded to 276 calls, bringing the total number of calls in 2024 to 1,575. In the reporting period, most of the calls were related to cash assistance (68%), followed by health (6%) and food assistance (4%).
- **Republic of Moldova**: On 5 February, the Inter-Agency Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network, co-led by UNHCR and WHO, published the 2023 Risk Assessment of PSEA in the Republic of Moldova. While the assessment examined the situation of both refugees and Moldovans, the report identifies higher SEA risks among refugees from Ukraine.

According to the report, refugee awareness of reporting mechanisms and available support services for survivors requires improvement, and safety levels vary across refugee accommodation centres. SEA risks are underpinned by a range of factors, including lack of access to decision-making processes by marginalized women and girls; a decrease in the level of humanitarian support; weak legal protection for survivors of GBV outside domestic violence frameworks; and limited capacity for SEA investigation, reference checks, and vetting.

- **Romania**: Since 15 January 2024, UNHCR has enrolled over 1,600 individuals for winter cash, including 67 families registered last week in Constanta, southern Romania, including newly arrived refugees. UNHCR has also processed remedial payments for over 100 individuals, who have not received cash assistance in 2023. Meanwhile, UNHCR helped 27 refugees from Ukraine and people from the host community in Casa Vieții and Iași, eastern Romania who received winter items including scarves, hats and thermoses.
- **Slovakia**: From 12 - 14 February, UNHCR conducted a field mission to Banská Bystrica, central Slovakia and Žilina, northwest Slovakia. UNHCR held exchanges with local authorities, partners, a refugee led organization, refugee volunteers, and DAFI students. The mission revealed pressing needs among refugees from Ukraine including gaps in healthcare provision (for refugees with temporary residence, health insurance is not covered by the state, while it is covered for those with temporary protection), the need for community activities, continuation of accommodation benefits, and advanced language courses. The anticipated launch of the "Žilina Lighthouse" centre supported by UNHCR aims to address inclusion and support needs.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LOCALIZATION

2024 TARGET

267,000

People are targeted for socio-economic inclusion, including livelihoods support by UNHCR and partners..

- **Czech Republic**: The Ministry of Interior is currently reviewing project proposals from municipalities to strengthen inclusion at the local level and foster social cohesion, replicating the cooperation from last year. In 2023, UNHCR supported 20 municipalities in activities such as language courses, community activities or public events.
- **Hungary:** On 13 February, some 50 participants attended an in-person and online information session organized by UNHCR on study programmes for refugees, admission to Hungarian higher education institutions and available scholarships. Additionally, on 19 February UNHCR agreed with the Tempus Public Foundation to support in disseminating information about the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship programme offering 1,000 places to university students from Ukraine; since the start of the war, the Foundation has supported 600 refugee students.
- **Republic of Moldova:** While the Refugee Accommodation Centre (RAC) consolidation process continues, four RACs have been identified for closure, affecting around 220 refugees. Residents without specific vulnerabilities are being encouraged to relocate to private accommodation where support including rental assistance and partial payment of utilities is provided for up to six months. Vulnerable individuals (i.e., older people, those with a disability, pregnant women, single mothers with children) will be eligible to relocate to other RACs. UNHCR is monitoring the situation closely and has launched a dashboard tracking the profile and intentions of people currently staying in RACs impacted by the closures.
- **Romania:** On 16 February, 13 participants attended a baking workshop for Ukrainian refugees in Timisoara, western Romania organized by partner AIDRom. During the workshop, participants learned vocabulary for different ingredients in Romanian. Meanwhile, on 14 February UNHCR organized an awareness session in Cluj, northwest Romania for 12 refugees from Ukraine, together with partners Jobs 4 Ukraine and World Vision, to understand the group's ability to access employment in Romania and to provide an orientation of relevant resources.
- **Slovakia:** On 15 February, UNHCR partner Mareena organized the second Roundtable with employers to exchange on successful strategies for hiring foreign workers, notably refugees. One of the key tools highlighted to enable the integration of refugees from Ukrainian into the workforce was comprehensive linguistic, social and economic support through case management. Meanwhile, on 17 February some 60 people participated in the "Day of Kindness" event organized by a network of families of children with disabilities and the Košice Youth Library. UNHCR and partners supported the event through creative activities promoting inclusion and intercultural exchange

> *As the full-scale invasion of Ukraine enters its third year, the humanitarian needs inside Ukraine remain tremendous, with the civilian population facing ceaseless attacks and threats to their physical and psychological wellbeing. Given the immense toll of this now protracted conflict on those displaced and impacted inside Ukraine, the humanitarian community remains committed to supporting the Government of Ukraine in responding to the urgent needs of people living in frontline areas. Across Europe, where some six million refugees are seeking safety — the majority women and children — UNHCR and partners continue to work with governments, the private sector, and civil society to ensure inclusion in host communities, including access to socio-economic rights, services, education and decent work opportunities that will support practical solutions. The solidarity we have witnessed so far has been unprecedented, and we hope to see this continue, until people can finally return home, in safety.*

– **Philippe Leclerc,**
Director, Regional Bureau for Europe
UNHCR

Ensuring access to continuous learning for war-affected children inside Ukraine

Kharkiv, Ukraine – In September 2023, a network of 'Metro Schools' opened in Kharkiv, Ukraine as part of an initiative by the city's authorities to ensure access to continuous learning for children during the war, while enabling them to stay safe in underground classrooms. At the request of the local authorities, UNHCR is supporting by contributing construction materials to help repair school facilities.

As of 12 February 2024, more than 2,200 children were taking part in the learning initiative across 19 metro classrooms

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COORDINATION

UKRAINE

In Ukraine, UNHCR leads three Clusters, namely Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Protection, and Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs). The CCCM Cluster was activated in March 2022 and coordinates 18 UN and NGO partners across three hubs, with the aim of supporting 157,000 people in collective sites in 2024. The Protection Cluster consists of 166 partners, including sub-clusters, and operates three coordination hubs to reach an anticipated three million people in 2024. The Shelter and NFI Cluster coordinates 98 partners across three coordination hubs, targeting 3.9 million people in 2024 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 (AAP) Working Group. Through its leadership in these areas, UNHCR promotes the centrality of protection, as well as meaningful engagement and participation across the response.

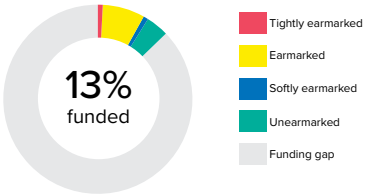
REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

Through the 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), 313 partners in Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia work towards ensuring refugees have effective access to legal status, protection and rights in their host countries and that refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance. The plan also aims at strengthening refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities and increasing their self-reliance, while at the same time reinforcing social cohesion between refugees and their hosts. In support of the government-led responses across the region, UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the inter-agency RRP in line with the Refugee Coordination Model, collaborating and consulting with authorities, aid agencies, civil society, and with affected populations.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

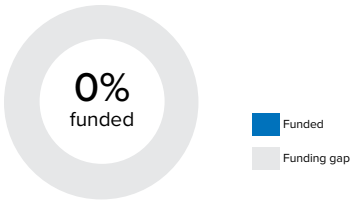
UNHCR UKRAINE SITUATION FINANCIAL UPDATE 2024

US$ 993.3 million
required (as of 31 Jan 2024)



INTER-AGENCY FINANCIAL UPDATES

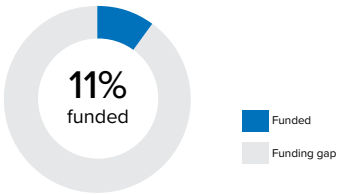
US$ 1.08 billion
required (as of 9 Feb 2024)*



Ukraine situation: 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan

*Funding is updated on a quartely basis

US$ 3.11 billion
required (as of 9 Feb 2024)



Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024

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