



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency



# UKRAINE EMERGENCY

## THREE YEARS ON

2025 UPDATE



## Contents

<b>Ukraine Emergency: Three Years On 2025 Update</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Response at a Glance</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Inside Ukraine</b>	<b>5</b>
Protection	6
Cash Assistance	7
Essential Items, Housing and Shelter	9
2024/25 Winter Response	10
People targeted for assistance by UNHCR and partners in 2025	12
Population planning figures relevant to the situation of as of end-2024	12
<b>Outside Ukraine – Country updates</b>	<b>12</b>
Bulgaria	13
Czech Republic	14
Hungary	15
Poland	16
Republic of Moldova	17
Romania	18
Slovakia	19
Other Countries	20
<b>Looking ahead</b>	<b>20</b>

### Cover photo:

**Mykolaiv, Ukraine** - Tetiana is a mother of three who recently returned to her home in Mykolaiv region in the south of Ukraine to start rebuilding and repairing her house after her village was occupied and later liberated. "My life before 24 February 2022 was much better. The kids were happy, we were happy, we had everything: a house, a family, the school, the nursery. There were more work opportunities available. We had a life and now it just stopped. And I really want this life to return to our village again."

©UNHCR/Nikola Ivanovski

2025 Update

# Ukraine Emergency: Three Years On 2025 Update

As the full-scale war in Ukraine enters its fourth year in February 2025, an escalation in hostilities and destruction and occupation of settlements in frontline areas of the war, coupled with massive aerial attacks targeting civilian infrastructure across the country, continue to drive further displacement, family separations and destruction of homes. Consequently, an estimated **12.7 million people** need humanitarian assistance in 2025 in Ukraine.

Within Ukraine, around **3.7 million people** are currently displaced from their homes while another **6.9 million Ukrainians** have sought safety abroad, including **6.3 million across Europe**, with UNHCR's assessments highlighting ongoing and emerging challenges, particularly as vulnerabilities increase over time. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is on the ground delivering critical protection services and humanitarian assistance, both within Ukraine and in countries hosting refugees displaced by the international armed conflict.

The war has had a terrible human toll and triggered a serious protection crisis. By December 2024, verified civilian casualties reached nearly 41,000, including nearly 12,500 deaths. More than 2,500 children were killed or injured<sup>1</sup>. Older people and those with limited mobility are particularly vulnerable due to the war as they face isolation and limited access to services. The war has also increased the risk of sexual violence, affecting women, men and children. Mental health challenges are widespread, with 63 per cent of households reporting distress linked to constant uncertainty and trauma. Children are particularly vulnerable, with 1.5 million at risk of post-traumatic stress syndrome and other issues<sup>2</sup>. Needs are particularly acute in front-line areas and regions bordering the Russian Federation.

Damage to infrastructure has been catastrophic, with attacks targeting power grids, water supplies



## PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

**6,346,300\***

refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe (as of 19 Feb 2025)

**560,200**

refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe (as of 17 Feb 2025)

**6,906,500**

refugees from Ukraine recorded globally (as of 19 Feb 2025)

**3,665,000\*\***

Estimated number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ukraine (as of Dec 2024).

\*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.

\*\*Source: [IOM Data Collection](#) (Round 19).

and transport systems, disrupting basic services and exacerbating vulnerabilities. Targeted attacks on energy infrastructure have significantly reduced power capacity, jeopardizing water, gas and heating during the cold winters, where temperatures regularly drop below zero. Nearly 3,600 educational institutions, including approximately 2,000 schools, have suffered damage since the escalation of the war, with 371 educational facilities destroyed.<sup>3</sup>

1. [OHCHR Ukraine: Protection of civilian in armed conflict](#) - December 2024 Update

2. [Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025](#)

3. World Bank, Government of Ukraine, the European Union, and the United Nations, [Ukraine Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment \(D3\)](#), February 2024 (Pending update)

Ukraine’s economy remained heavily impacted by the war in 2024. Agricultural and industrial hubs in the east have been devastated, rendering much of the country’s infrastructure inoperable. Urban economies have been strained, with many businesses closed or scaled back, and an estimated 3.5 million jobs lost due to the war. The [destruction of the Kakhovka Dam](#) in June 2023 further exacerbated agricultural losses and food insecurity. It is estimated that the direct cost of destruction from the war could be up to US\$152 billion, with the housing sector most severely impacted, accounting for nearly \$56 billion, or 37 per cent of the total damage. Disruptions to economic activities and production contributed to an estimated economic loss exceeding \$499 billion, including widespread unemployment.<sup>4</sup>

Alongside other UN agencies, INGOs and partners, UNHCR plays a key role in leading the coordination of the [Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#), in support of governments hosting refugees from Ukraine. In 2024 there were 313 partners combining efforts under the RRP, and a total of 266 partners, 80 percent of them local organizations make up the joint response through the RRP in 2025.

In 2024, the RRP aimed at ensuring refugees’ access to protection and assistance on a non-

discriminatory basis. The application of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) in the European Union (EU) and the Republic of Moldova’s Temporary Protection regime have provided positive frameworks to ensure protection and access to rights and services in host countries for refugees from Ukraine. Importantly, the TPD has been extended until March 2026. Challenges persist however, with the application of the TPD varying by country, which can leave certain groups more vulnerable when trying to access their rights and local services, including employment, education and social protection systems.

Within Ukraine, humanitarian organizations continue to support and complement the government’s and its regional and local authorities’ efforts to respond to the impact of the war on civilians under the [2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan](#), as coordinated through the inter-agency cluster system for internal displacement emergencies. Within this structure, UNHCR leads the Protection, Shelter/Non-Food Items and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Clusters in Ukraine. In its operational capacity, UNHCR implements large-scale life-saving programmes in partnership with a strong network of national and local partners.



**“Donors – governments, business, and private individuals – have been incredibly generous over the past year. This must be sustained if we are to provide people with the support they urgently need today and for the coming year. I hope all our donors will continue to enable the response to these humanitarian needs.”**

Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

4. *Ibid*

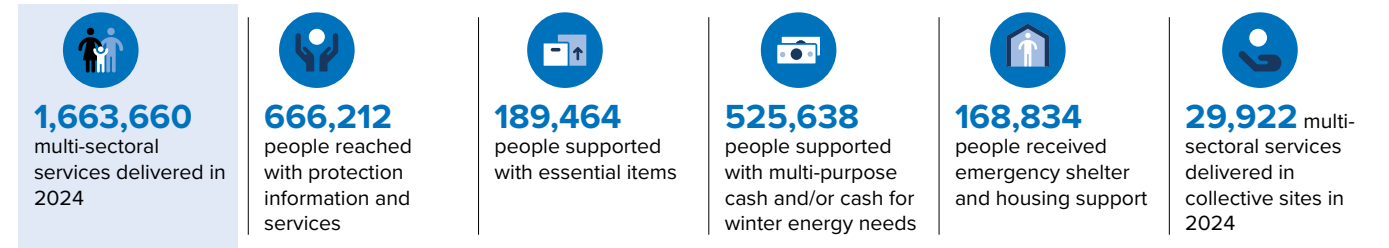
## Response at a Glance<sup>5</sup>

### Inside Ukraine

UNHCR has been working in Ukraine since 1994. Following the full-scale invasion in February 2022, UNHCR quickly scaled up its presence and operation as part of the inter-agency emergency effort, complementing the Government-led response with **protection services, shelter support, emergency cash assistance and**

**distributions of essential items to people affected by the war.** The priority is to reach the civilians whose lives and homes have been most severely impacted by the war, while also laying the groundwork for sustainable and durable solutions, working closely in coordination with state and local authorities, community-based actors and partners.

#### UNHCR 2024 Response inside Ukraine (as of 31 December 2024)



5. Delivered with partners between 1 January - 31 December 2024



**Kyiv, Ukraine** – As part of the winter response, UNHCR and NGO partner Rokada distribute Rapid Thermal Kits to war-affected people in Ukraine, helping families improve the insulation of their apartments and stay warm during the cold season, amid the wide-spread damage and destruction of energy infrastructure. During the 2024-2025 winter season, UNHCR aims to reach 625,000 people with winter assistance, in coordination with the Government of Ukraine and as part of the inter-agency response in Ukraine. © UNHCR/Elisabeth Arnsdorf Haslund



## Protection

As the full-scale war in Ukraine enters its fourth year in 2025, escalating hostilities, occupation of frontline settlements, and daily massive aerial attacks on civilian population and infrastructure continue to cause **further displacement, family separations**, and widespread destruction. As a result, an estimated 12.7 million people are in need of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance. Almost 80,000 of the most vulnerable displaced people continue to reside in nearly 1,800 collective sites throughout the country, in urgent need of durable solutions. Meanwhile, 3.7 million people remain displaced within Ukraine, with the severity of humanitarian needs increasing, compounded by continued displacement and economic disruption as the war continues. **The most critical protection and humanitarian needs are largely concentrated along the war's frontlines in the eastern, northern and southern parts of Ukraine**, where intensified fighting in 2024 has resulted in new displacement and increased protection risks for civilians. As of February 2024, more than 2 million homes had been damaged or destroyed, and civilian and critical infrastructure heavily impacted. Despite the ongoing war, recovery, reconstruction, and

returns are simultaneously happening, as people are determined to rebound and rebuild their homes and communities and revive the economy. In areas where IDPs who come from temporarily occupied areas are seeking to integrate and build a new life, UNHCR supports government-led efforts to increase access to affordable housing options, reskilling and jobs and expanding the availability of social protection services for families and individuals with specific needs – key enablers of durable solutions.

Reinforcing access to protection services and counselling for individuals at risk of abuse and violence remains a priority, including children and survivors of violence, older people, those with disabilities, and other vulnerable populations such as the Roma community. UNHCR works to strengthen the psychosocial recovery of displaced and war-affected people, to support their ability to rebuild their lives and contribute to the development of their communities. Working to strengthen community-level protective mechanisms, community outreach and information provision also continues.

## Cash Assistance

Multi-purpose cash assistance is one of the most efficient, dignified and effective ways to support people who have just had to evacuate and flee from towns along the frontline under attack, or who have become victims of drone and missile strikes on cities like Kharkiv, Dnipro and Zaporizhzhia. It provides life-saving, critical support to assist displaced and war-affected people in these situations to purchase food, medicine, hygiene products and cover initial costs of alternative accommodation before they can access government assistance programs. Monitoring of UNHCR's cash assistance programmes consistently shows that it is the most cost and environmentally-efficient way to assist people with critical needs and that it is their preferred choice, as it helps to address individual needs through the local market.

Using secure finance technology combined with strict data protection measures and post distribution monitoring, **UNHCR provides those most in need with cash securely and quickly**. Families can purchase essential goods and services from local businesses, thereby providing a boost to local markets. UNHCR also provides cash assistance for shelter repairs and rental support to ensure access to sustainable housing options, as well as winter cash assistance to help displaced

and other war-affected people meet their basic needs, including repairing war-damaged homes, securing dignified housing, covering utility bills and purchasing solid fuel.

Since June 2022, UNHCR has transformed its cash enrolment centres into multi-service protection centres, where people can access a range of services, including **legal aid, psychosocial support, counselling on accommodation, and be referred to national services**. UNHCR's partners also operate mobile teams that enable reaching vulnerable people and families in remote or rural areas.

**In 2024, UNHCR distributed cash assistance to some 600,000 war-affected and internally displaced people**, returnees, and people with specific vulnerabilities — including over 525,000 who received different types of multi-purpose cash assistance — to help cover the costs of basic items like food, medicine, clothes, accommodation, and utilities, as well as meet their winter energy needs.

**Since March 2022, some 2.1 million war-affected people have been supported with different types of cash assistance, totalling \$610.5 million**



**Kyiv, Ukraine** – Anna, along with her mother Nella and her twin boys Ivan and Vasia, fled their home in the frontline community of Kupiansk in Kharkiv region two years ago. They found shelter in a collective site in Kharkiv city. Nella's state pension and benefits for children are the only sources of income for the family. The family was enrolled in UNHCR's cash assistance programme to help them meet their essential needs. They also participated in information sessions, trainings and events for children, all organized by UNHCR through partner Proliska. Gradually, they got used to the new environment and the emotional state of the children improved. © UNHCR / Iryna Tymchyshyn

*In 2024, UNHCR has provided over 600,000 people with cash assistance, including 525,000 who received different types of multi-purpose cash assistance. UNHCR and partners also provided more than 666,200 people with protection information and services, including mental health support and legal assistance.*





**Karlivka, Ukraine** - Tetiana, 60, fled from Kramatorsk, Donetsk region to Karlivka, Poltava region, where she now lives in a collective site for internally displaced people.

She actively engages in volunteer work despite having a disability. She is committed to assisting others with disabilities by distributing humanitarian aid and providing transportation in her own car whenever necessary. Tetiana also cares for local cats and dogs, showing her compassion for both people and animals.

In 2023, Tetiana received cash assistance from UNHCR, which helped support her efforts in aiding her community. She is also actively involved in various community activities organized by UNHCR local partner NGO Right to Protection, contributing significantly to the well-being of her community. © UNHCR/Oleksii Barkov



**Kharkiv, Ukraine** – Construction teams supported by UNHCR and an NGO partner repair the windows of a home hit by attacks by Russian Armed Forces in Kharkiv region. Since 2022, more than 37,000 war-damaged homes were repaired by UNHCR and partners, while over 410,000 people have been assisted with emergency shelter kits and materials following attacks. © Angels of Salvation/Oleksii Hutnyk

## Essential Items, Housing and Shelter

With the massive destruction of private houses and apartments due to attacks by the Russian Armed Forces, UNHCR continues to support repairs of homes in the areas most directly impacted by hostilities, complementing the government's eVidnovlennia program which does not yet have the capacity to reach all who have had their homes damaged or destroyed.

As conditions become more difficult during winter, support to people in frontline communities is critical. Since 2022, **190 UN interagency convoys have provided essential items to some 829,000 people remaining in frontline communities, of which UNHCR has contributed to 132.**

Among other assistance, UNHCR implements a large-scale programme for light and medium repairs of homes, replacing shattered windows

and broken doors, and replacing damaged roofs and fixing walls, to help displaced and war-affected people remain in and return to their own homes after attacks. Since February 2022, **UNHCR and partners helped repair more than 37,000 private homes across the country.** UNHCR and partners also deliver emergency shelter materials, allowing people to immediately and temporarily fix damage, such as sealing broken windows in their homes to protect them from further damage. **Between January - December 2024, more than 168,800 people received emergency shelter and housing support,** while nearly 190,000 people were supported with essential items such as blankets, mattresses and winter clothing through UNHCR and its partners. **Since March 2022, more than 410,000 people have been assisted with emergency shelter kits and materials** by UNHCR and partners immediately after attacks.



## 2024-2025 Winter Response

The [winterization response](#) is currently a top priority for UNHCR. In coordination with the Government of Ukraine and as part of the inter-agency response, UNHCR is working closely with partners on an integrated, multi-faceted response to help people survive the harsh winter conditions in Ukraine, including displaced people and those living in frontline areas where access to critical services is severely disrupted.

During the winter season, UNHCR helps people create better conditions and insulate homes and living spaces, including those living in collective sites and people forced to evacuate from frontline communities due to intensified hostilities.

UNHCR's winter response includes cash assistance to cover energy costs and other pressing needs during the cold months, as well as distributing Rapid Thermal Kits, heaters, generators and repair of homes and collective sites hosting the most vulnerable internally displaced people. UNHCR's Rapid Thermal Kits include items which are commonly used in Ukraine to improve home insulation easily and cost-efficiently. This includes reflective insulation screens, transparent plastic sheets for window repairs, foam draft blockers and building tape.

### Services and assistance delivered by UNHCR and partners (as of December 2024)



**224,240**

people reached with cash to cover energy needs.



**33,140**

people provided with essential and winterized non-food items.



**17,950**

assisted with better-insulated homes and living spaces



**Kyiv, Ukraine** – War-affected people living in frontline areas receive essential items from UNHCR and partners, including Rapid Thermal Kits to help them insulate their homes and stay warm during the cold winter. Each Kit includes items which are traditionally used by people in Ukraine to improve home insulation: reflective insulation screens, transparent plastic sheet for window repairs, foam draft blocker, and building tape. © UNHCR/Iryna Tymchyshyn

*Since the start of the full-scale invasion, UNHCR and partners are providing urgent life-saving support to vulnerable displaced and war-affected people inside Ukraine, including protection information and services, emergency shelter and housing, and cash assistance. This would not have been possible without the support of our generous donors – your help has made an enormous difference!*

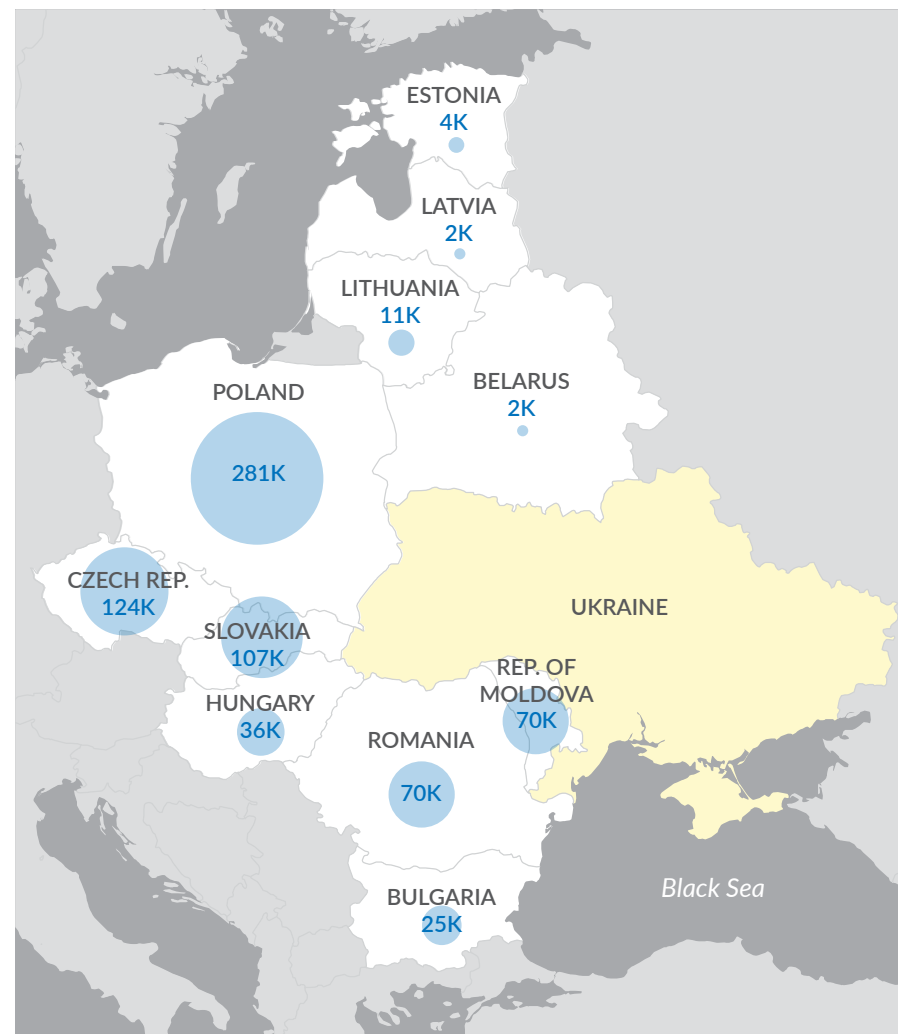
# Neighbouring countries hosting refugees from Ukraine – Country updates

Refuge hosting countries have done commendable work over the past three years to provide safety and a sense of normalcy to support refugees in rebuilding their lives within their new communities, all the while hoping for conditions to change in Ukraine allowing them to go home.

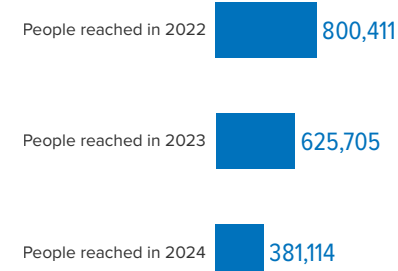
UNHCR welcomes the extension of the European Union’s Temporary Protection Directive for people fleeing the war in Ukraine until March 2026, while advocacy continues for a unified approach towards a possible transition from Temporary Protection.

## People targeted for assistance by UNHCR and partners in 2025

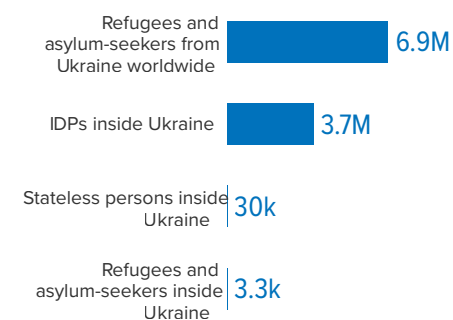
COUNTRY	PEOPLE TO BE ASSISTED	COUNTRY	PEOPLE TO BE ASSISTED
Belarus	2,000	Lithuania	11,000
Bulgaria	25,000	Poland	281,000
Czech Republic	124,000	Republic of Moldova	90,000
Estonia	4,000	Romania	70,000
Hungary	36,000	Slovakia	107,000
Latvia	2,000		



## People reached inside Ukraine by UNHCR and partners



## Population planning figures relevant to the situation as of end-2024



# Bulgaria

**75,250**  
refugees from Ukraine have been recorded

## UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2024 (AS OF 31 DEC 2024)

**9,158**  
refugees received cash assistance

**10,750**  
received MHPSS services

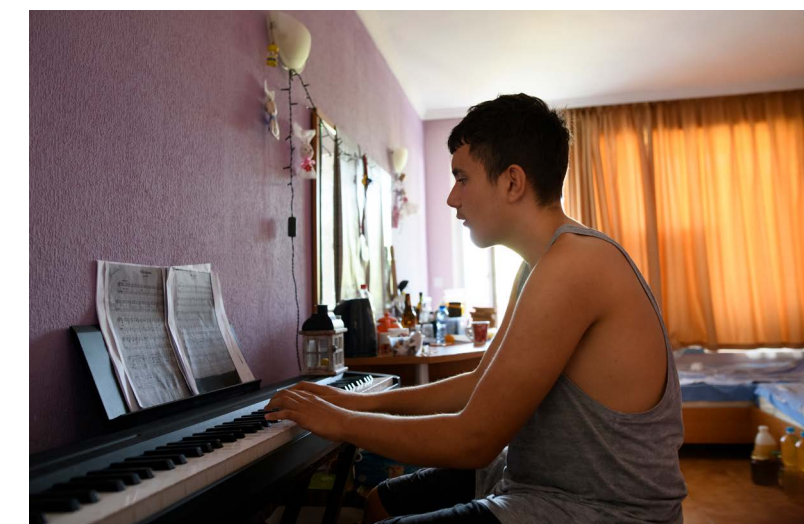
**5,600**  
refugees received inclusion support

**2,800**  
refugees received non-food items

UNHCR has been operating in Bulgaria since 1993, providing support and capacity building, as well as working to engage the public around refugee issues to promote social cohesion and inclusion. UNHCR cooperates with the Government, civil society, refugee-led organisations, academia and the private sector to ensure the protection and better future for displaced and stateless people.

The Government has extended its national humanitarian programme on several occasions, which includes accommodation support for new arrivals in state facilities and hotels. Continuing to work closely with municipalities and community-based and refugee-led organizations will be key during the fourth year of the response

In 2024, the Government of Bulgaria granted or renewed temporary protection to some 75,000 refugees, two-thirds of whom are women and children. Bulgaria has seen a slight increase in temporary protection registration rates throughout the year, as compared the previous year. Rapid protection monitoring during the summer months showed that most newly arriving refugees were from the most affected regions of southern and eastern Ukraine. The 2024 Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) findings illustrate that most refugees interviewed have been present in Bulgaria for an average of 23 months, indicating a stable population within the country who need continued meaningful inclusion within national systems and host communities. UNHCR has expanded its support through various programs aimed at improving access to education, employment and essential services.



**Bulgaria – Miron, 14, plays the piano in his room in Burgas, Bulgaria. Miron, who has autism, plays every day. He and his mother Svetlana fled from Dnipro, Ukraine, and were initially accommodated in a hotel and then moved to accommodation that was more suitable for Miron’s specific needs. Miron won second place in an international piano competition which was held in Bulgaria. © UNHCR/Dobrin Kashavelov**

In 2024, UNHCR together with local partners launched the **Compass Network of Protection and Inclusion Centres** in six refugee-hosting cities in Bulgaria, which promote collective empowerment, inclusion, and social cohesion for refugees and host communities. Services include legal assistance, child friendly spaces, psychosocial support, as well as livelihood and education support.



## Czech Republic

**390,000**

refugees from Ukraine have been recorded

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2024 (AS OF 31 DEC 2024)

**5,800**

refugees received protection information and services from UNHCR and partners

**5,000**

received MHPSS services

**1,900**

refugees received inclusion support

Detailed operational data and the latest figures for the Czech Republic can be viewed [here](#).

UNHCR has been present in the Czech Republic since 1992, working closely with government counterparts, national institutions and local partners to ensure refugees and asylum-seekers have access to basic services, essential rights as well as legal and protection assistance.

The Czech Republic hosts one of the largest populations of displaced Ukrainians in Europe, predominantly composed of women and children, while also hosting the highest number of refugees from Ukraine per capita in the EU. The Czech Republic has embraced an inclusive approach, with the Government adopting a generous stance towards refugees from Ukraine, including granting access to social protection, medical assistance, education and work. A subsequent change in legislation has seen greater emphasis placed on self-sufficiency, with exceptions for vulnerable groups.

The Government has reiterated its commitment to achieving greater inclusivity and solutions, moving away from the emergency response phase. Going forward, collaborative efforts between the Government and RRP partners will be indispensable to effectively tackle the emerging needs and evolving challenges, while delivering

essential aid to refugees. Cooperation with refugee-led and community-based organizations is paramount and will ensure refugees are also involved in the response, not only as aid recipients but as empowered actors.

Since 2022, UNHCR and partners have been working to enhance refugee protection in Czech Republic, with a focus on legal aid, access to housing, and the safety of vulnerable individuals, particularly survivors of violence. UNHCR and partners delivered legal support for refugees to maintain their legal status and access to essential services, while providing housing assistance and expanded access to health services. The PORT center for survivors of violence was launched, with nationwide referral pathways developed to further enhance support for survivors. UNHCR's housing interventions also eased accommodation pressures, while the introduction of a toll-free helpline and information portals has improved refugees' access to essential services. These collective efforts strengthened the overall protection landscape, expanding refugee inclusion and access to services.

## Hungary

**62,145**

refugees from Ukraine have been recorded

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2024 (AS OF 31 DEC 2024)

**8,100**

refugees received protection information and services from UNHCR and partners

**21,400**

refugees were reached with non-food items

**16,550**

refugees received inclusion support

**1,800**

refugees received MHPSS services

Detailed operational data and the latest figures for Hungary can be viewed [here](#).

UNHCR has been present in Hungary since 1989, working closely with state entities including local and municipal authorities, UN agencies and national partners.

Hungary has maintained an open-door policy for refugees from Ukraine since the beginning of the full-scale invasion in February 2022. The majority of refugees in Hungary have now been displaced for over two years and continue to navigate the complexities of socio-economic inclusion, such as adapting to the local language, finding stable housing, accessing healthcare, and securing decent employment. For many, the process remains challenging, and despite visible progress in inclusion, significant financial and non-financial challenges persist.

In line with other EU countries, the Government of Hungary has extended the temporary protection for refugees from Ukraine, following Hungary's proactive implementation of the EU directive on the TPD in February 2022. As of February 2025, temporary protection has been granted to 43,403 refugees from Ukraine; in addition, over 19,000 Ukrainian nationals are present in the country under other residence permits. Temporary protection in Hungary grants refugees residence, work rights, access to essential services, financial aid, and family reunification. However, many face challenges due to language barriers, service access difficulties, limited income and an uncertain long-term outlook.

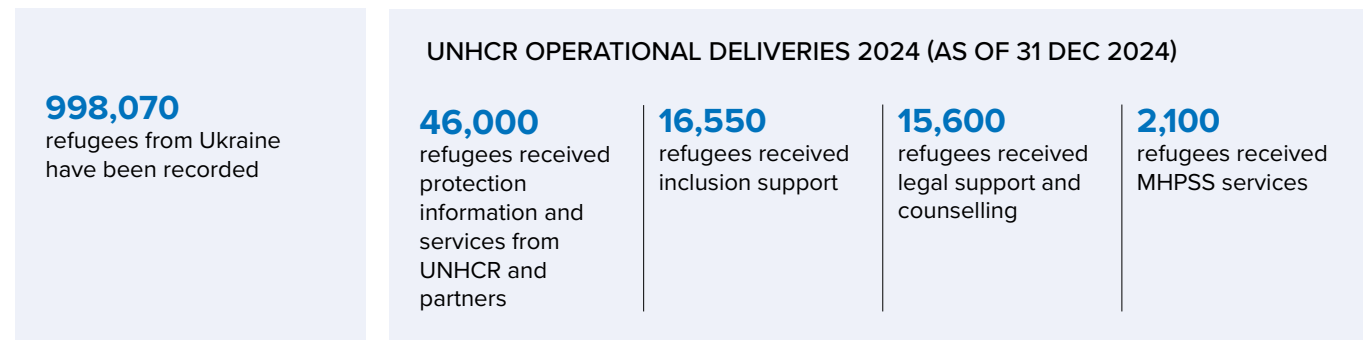
Local communities and various humanitarian organizations, such as charitable organizations, NGOs, UN agencies, and refugee-led organizations have been actively engaged in supporting government-led efforts in addressing the needs of refugees from Ukraine in Hungary. However, as the war continues unabated, the available services and assistance are gradually being recalibrated, with donor funding and individual solidarity gradually declining, leaving a gap in sustained assistance for the most vulnerable.



**Budapest, Hungary** – Ruslan, a 9 year-old refugee from Ukraine, enjoys a ride aboard the Children's Railway in Budapest in July 2024, as part of summer activities organized by UNHCR partner Hungarian Interchurch Aid, for refugee children from Ukraine. © UNHCR/Zsolt Balla



## Poland



Detailed operational data and regularly updated figures for Poland can be viewed [here](#).

UNHCR has been present in Poland since 1992. Since the start of the full-scale war in Ukraine, Poland rapidly and dramatically scaled-up its humanitarian response, from a country hosting relatively few refugees to one of the main refugee-hosting countries in Europe. As of January 2025, 993,795 refugees from Ukraine were recorded in Poland.

The support offered by the Government of Poland and civil society continued in 2024, positively impacting refugees from Ukraine seeking safety across the country. Temporary protection has widely improved the situation for many refugees and allowed them access jobs and services. In 2025, 77 partners have committed to supporting Poland in protecting refugees, with Polish organizations playing a vital role in sustaining the response and addressing the needs.

UNHCR and partners are reinforcing efforts to provide focused protection services, cash assistance and other support, and are present at border crossing points and in refugee-hosting areas to provide information on rights and services, to identify and support vulnerable refugees, to reinforce local reception capacities and support longer-term solutions. UNHCR and partners offer services and assistance to refugees in community centres run by local authorities or local NGOs in Poland's largest cities, and via mobile teams reaching remote locations. In 2024, these centers and teams reached over 55,000 people, offering various services such as legal aid, mental health support, language classes, and group activities.

UNHCR and legal partners also provided legal counselling on documentation, status and access to rights to over 15,600 refugees in 2024.

In September 2024, following ongoing advocacy by UNHCR school attendance became mandatory for refugee children from Ukraine in Poland, a positive development when over half of Ukrainian refugee children were not enrolled in the national school system the previous school year. UNHCR and partners work to support refugee inclusion in schools, sharing resources and materials, and supporting the "Back to Learning" campaign developed by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF.



**Warsaw, Poland** - As refugees from Ukraine spend a third winter in Poland, UNHCR and partners are providing the most vulnerable with highly needed humanitarian assistance, including clothes, shoes and hygiene items, as well as MHPSS services and inclusion support. (Pictured above) Iryna, 35, who fled her home in Dnipro, Ukraine in 2022 along with her children Bohdan, 14, Yaroslav, 9 and Dmytro, 6 months. © UNHCR/Anna Liminowicz

## Republic of Moldova



Detailed operational data and updated figures for the Republic of Moldova can be viewed [here](#).

UNHCR has been present in the Republic of Moldova since 1997. Three years since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, 135,860 refugees from Ukraine are present in the Republic of Moldova, which is among the top countries hosting refugees from Ukraine in Europe. The Republic of Moldova continues to display remarkable support at all levels to address the pressing needs of those seeking protection and support. The government's response has been supported by civil society, international NGOs, the private sector, committed volunteers, and UN agencies, with the shared goal of assisting forcibly displaced people. UNHCR intensified its advocacy efforts to ease the burden on the Republic of Moldova's asylum system while ensuring alignment with European standards.

Despite multiple compounding crises affecting the country, the Republic of Moldova has granted access to a wide range of services and rights to refugees from Ukraine, including the right to work, access to education, and emergency and primary healthcare, as well as some level of access to social protection. UNHCR has been engaged in monitoring, documenting, and analyzing the profiles, needs, and intentions of refugees, with the aim of enhancing and promoting evidence-based protection interventions in the country. UNHCR continues to work with national counterparts to meet the urgent needs of refugees from Ukraine in the Republic of Moldova, including legal assistance and access to documentation, psychosocial support and cash assistance.

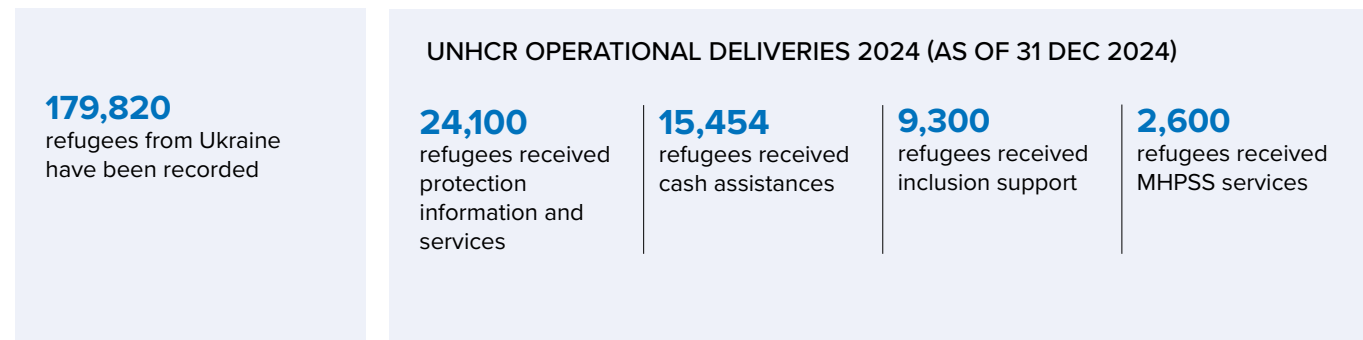
To help refugees meet basic needs, UNHCR supported nearly 52,500 refugees from Ukraine with cash assistance in 2024. This includes approximately 22,000 individuals who received additional financial support for winter needs. To improve economic inclusion, UNHCR supported the development of a new job-matching platform, in close collaboration with the National Employment Agency and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. UNHCR also worked to ensure refugee children from Ukraine had access to education in Moldovan schools, with over 1,000 Ukrainian students enrolling for the 2024/25 school year. To enhance learning spaces, UNHCR donated 496 desks, chairs and equipment to schools across Moldova, and rehabilitated three crèches to ensure access to early childhood learning for children aged three and under.



**Chisinau, Republic of Moldova** - Natalia was forced to flee Odesa, southern Ukraine, with her two children after an escalation in hostilities, arriving in Moldova in 2022. They found support at the Refugee Accommodation Centre, supported by UNHCR and its partners. © UNHCR / Mark Macdonald



## Romania



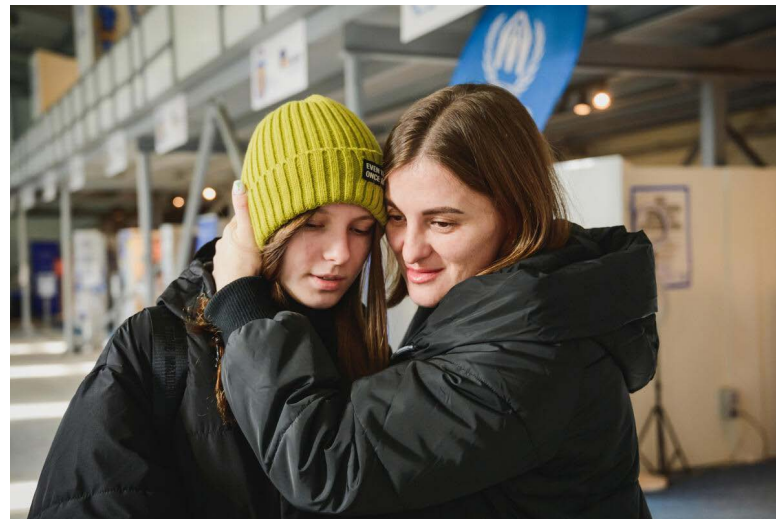
Detailed operational data and regularly updated figures for Romania can be viewed [here](#).

UNHCR has been present in Romania since 1992, supporting the Government's response to protect and include refugees through initiatives fostering inclusion and self-reliance, protection services, counselling and targeted assistance. Romania continues to extend a welcome to people fleeing the war in Ukraine, with support extended by civil society, NGOs and host communities. Romania remains among the top Ukrainian refugee-hosting countries in Europe, with over 192,500 registering for temporary protection. UNHCR and partners are working to advance the government-led response through delivery of complementary services and assistance in the areas of protection, education, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), as well as the provision of cash, hygiene kits, core relief items and food.

UNHCR works with authorities, partners and refugees to ensure protection for refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine, while enhancing their inclusion into national systems. UNHCR and partners also provide legal assistance and information for their inclusion into the national social protection schemes, provision or referral to services to those with specific needs and as well as assistance and interventions for specific groups such as children, survivors of violence, individuals with disabilities, older people, and members of the Roma community.

In 2024, UNHCR and partners reached over 24,000 refugees from Ukraine with information, legal assistance and counselling in person or via hotline, while 22,000 were reached through

dedicated social media channels. UNHCR provided over 15,500 refugees from Ukraine with multi-purpose cash assistance, and distributed 96,000 core-relief items to 50,000 individuals which included essential winter items. To enhance socioeconomic inclusion, UNHCR and partners provided 9,286 refugees with livelihood support by UNHCR and partners, while 7,500 received employment assistance including coaching and counselling.



**Bucharest, Romania** - Before the full-scale war in Ukraine, Maryna lived happily in Odesa. War forced her to flee with her daughter, organizing a convoy to Romania. In Bucharest, UNHCR cash assistance helped her start over.  
© UK for UNHCR/Ioana Epure

## Slovakia



Detailed operational data and regularly updated figures for Slovakia can be viewed [here](#).

UNHCR has been present in Slovakia since 1994. Slovakia has shown solidarity to those fleeing the war in Ukraine by welcoming and assisting new arrivals, including Ukrainians and third-country nationals alike. Over 162,200 have applied for temporary protection, with around 132,150 having been granted status and are currently present in the country. The Government of Slovakia has maintained a welcoming stance, providing support and access to vital services across multiple sectors aimed at addressing the needs of displaced Ukrainians. UN agencies, civil society, local authorities, NGOs, and refugee-led organizations collaborate to address refugees' urgent needs while enhancing inclusion through improved access to employment, education and healthcare.

With the situation in Ukraine entering its fourth year, the prospects for return still remain uncertain. It is estimated that population movements will continue throughout 2025 and that new arrivals of Ukrainians seeking safety and protection in Slovakia will join those who arrived earlier in the country. The projected population in need of assistance across Slovakia in 2025 may reach 150,000 individuals, including those who move due to winter needs, putting additional strain on overstretched services such as accommodation, education and health services.

Over the last three years, UNHCR's strategic priorities have shifted from emergency response

towards building sustainable solutions, focusing on inclusion and long-term solutions for refugees. Through continuous strategic advocacy, UNHCR has strengthened the protection environment and socioeconomic inclusion of refugees from Ukraine by actively engaging in legislative processes and human rights mechanisms, which has led to policy advancements, including granting temporary protection holders the right to self-employment, introducing compulsory education for refugee children starting in September 2025 and enhancing access to documentation.

Since the beginning of the response, UNHCR has led the coordination of inter-agency efforts through its co-leadership of the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) with the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior. Both the countrywide RCF and the RCF East have served as a platform for coordinating partners involved in the refugee response. Towards the end of 2024, UNHCR worked to transition the Blue Dot centres into a Slovak network of inclusive support centers. Strong local ownership has empowered local municipalities across the country to take charge of the support centres network under the umbrella of the Slovak Union of Cities. This unified approach aims to ensure the centres maintain a minimum standard of service provision, while local ownership ensures the network's sustainability.





*Olha, 18, from Izmail, southern Ukraine, is a first-year BA student of Managerial Mathematics in the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics at Comenius University, in Bratislava, Slovakia, on a DAFI scholarship. ©UNHCR/ Antoine Tardy*

## Other Countries

In other countries hosting refugees from Ukraine in the region — including **Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Latvia** and **Lithuania** — UNHCR continues to provide protection and assistance in line with the size of the refugee population and the needs. Key

activities provided by UNHCR in these countries include protection and border monitoring, cash assistance, mental health and psychosocial support, and job counselling. More information is available [here](#).

## Looking ahead<sup>6</sup>

As UNHCR and partners remain hopeful for a safer and more stable future for Ukraine, regrettably, **millions of people continue to be internally displaced by the war inside and outside Ukraine**. Shelling and targeted attacks on civilian population and energy infrastructure have become part of daily life for millions of Ukrainians. 12.7 million people inside Ukraine will need multisectoral humanitarian assistance in 2025, including some 3.6 million people who are internally displaced.

**In countries neighboring Ukraine, solidarity with refugees from Ukraine is expected to continue as**

**governments, municipalities and civil society strive to include refugees in national systems.** The number of Ukrainian refugees across Europe is foreseen to remain around 6.3 million, with short “go and see” visits to Ukraine continuing. The extension of the EU’s Temporary Protection Directive until March 2026, enables vital protection and access to national services including education, health, employment and social protection.

According to [UNHCR’s 4th Regional Intentions Report](#), security concerns are paramount for refugees and internally displaced people from

Ukraine when deciding whether to return. Other factors include access to basic services, housing and livelihoods. Many refugees originate from the areas which are currently occupied by the Russian Federation.

**UNHCR is continuing its humanitarian response in 2025, prioritizing the provision of protection services, emergency shelter and multi-purpose cash assistance to the most vulnerable who have been directly affected by the war**, while addressing early recovery needs such as shelter support for internally displaced people and returnees, as well as assistance to state-run temporary accommodation and winterization activities, as part of the inter-agency response.

If funding will be available, **UNHCR plans to provide 2.7 million multi-sectorial services inside Ukraine in 2025, with immediate humanitarian assistance, protection, shelter, and cash assistance**<sup>7</sup>. UNHCR will aim to reach 900,000 people with protection information and services, 1.1 million people with cash assistance, 250,000 people with essential items, 365,000 people with housing, and 37,500 people with various assistance in collective sites. Depending on availability of funding, in neighbouring countries hosting refugees from Ukraine, UNHCR plans to reach around 752,00 people, including: 209,000 people with protection information and services; 174,000 people with legal assistance to access rights and services; 56,100 people with cash assistance, 77,200 with support accessing decent work opportunities, and will maintain eight country-level coordination structures. Some individuals may require more than one form of assistance and contextual changes may affect goals. Critically, all goals are subject to the availability of funding.

UNHCR will continue working to find solutions and effectively include refugees in national systems and services.

Small-scale, multipurpose cash for protection programmes and limited stockpiles of core relief items in support of preparedness will remain in place in some countries, as will activities aimed at preventing and responding to violence, sexual

exploitation and abuse and trafficking. In addition, child protection response mechanisms and the shaping of law and policy remain a priority – given the high proportion of women and children in the refugee population.

Inter-agency Refugee Coordination Forums led by UNHCR, as well as specific sectoral groups, will continue working at country level in Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia to support the efforts of the concerned governments.

These efforts depend on sustained support to Ukraine and the regional response. UNHCR is appealing for \$803.6 million in 2025 to support the needs of affected populations in Ukraine, and those who have fled to other countries in Europe. In particular, the needs of people living in frontline communities are reaching levels of catastrophic severity. Underfunding will have grave consequences, including fewer people being reached with protection services, shelter support, cash assistance, and psychosocial assistance. Your continued support is a lifeline.

6. For more information on UNHCR’s response, latest updates and publications visit: [Ukraine situation | Global Focus](#)

7. For more details, see [Ukraine Situation: UNHCR’s 2025 plans and financial requirements](#)



***UNHCR is incredibly grateful for your generosity. Our ability to provide protection and assistance to millions inside Ukraine, and in neighboring countries, is only possible with the continued support of our partners around the world.***

**Thank you for your care and compassion – we could not do this without you!**

*Government donors and private sector partners worldwide are playing a vital role in supporting UNHCR's efforts to assist those impacted by this war, demonstrating remarkable solidarity. Predictable financial support ensures that UNHCR can maintain vital life-saving services. The ongoing commitment of donors not only helps address immediate needs, but also contributes to long-term recovery of Ukraine and stability in the region.*



**Odesa, Ukraine** - Mykyta, 10, and Vladyslav, 15, are currently under foster care. Their foster parent, Ruslan Voloshchuk, 54, became motivated to care for children in need of support following the tragic loss of his son. In July 2023, after a missile strike destroyed his home in Beryslav, Kherson region, Ruslan fled with his foster family to the suburb of Avangard in Odesa. In December 2024, Ruslan and the children were able to move into a new house, supported by state funding, making it the permanent home for his family-type children's home. Says Ruslan "We are very thankful that we were welcomed in Odesa and could find our new home here. I am grateful for all of the support we received here. Now my children and I have enough space and appliances to live comfortably and to start rebuilding our lives".  
©UNHCR/Oleksii Barkov



# UKRAINE EMERGENCY

## THREE YEARS ON

### 2025 UPDATE

## For more information

---

Visit [Global Focus](#), UNHCR's main operational reporting portal for donors and other key partners. The site provides an overview of the protection risks that refugees and other populations of concern to UNHCR face across the world, as well as regularly updated information about programmes, operations, financial requirements, funding levels and donor contributions. The situation page for the Ukraine situation [can be found here](#). Furthermore, visit the [Operational Data Portal](#) for up-to-date information on the Ukraine refugee situation.



UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe  
[www.unhcr.org/europe](http://www.unhcr.org/europe)