UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

UKRAINE EMERGENCY
FOUR YEARS ON

2026 Update

Contents

Four years on 4

Response at a glance — How has your support made a difference? 7

- Protection 7
- Cash Assistance 8
- Essential Items, Housing and Shelter 10
- 2025-2026 Winter Response 11

Neighbouring countries hosting refugees from Ukraine — Country updates 14

- Bulgaria 15
- Czechia 16
- Hungary 17
- Poland 18
- Republic of Moldova 19
- Romania 21
- Slovakia 22
- Other countries 23

Looking ahead 23

Cover photo: *Regional team leader at the Proliska local NGO office in Zaporizhzhia, visits Larysa Kalabukhova, whose home was hit by a Shahed suicide drone.*

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Four years on

As Ukraine's full-scale war nears its fifth year in February 2026, the situation is growing more dire. Escalating hostilities, relentless destruction, and the occupation of frontline communities — combined with devastating aerial strikes on civilian infrastructure — are tearing families apart, destroying homes and forcing millions to flee. The human toll is staggering: 10.8 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2026 alone[1].

Inside Ukraine, some 3.7 million people remain uprooted from their homes, while **5.9 million have sought safety abroad**, including **5.3 million across Europe**. UNHCR is on the ground, delivering life-saving protection and assistance — both within Ukraine and in countries hosting refugees but the needs are immense and growing.

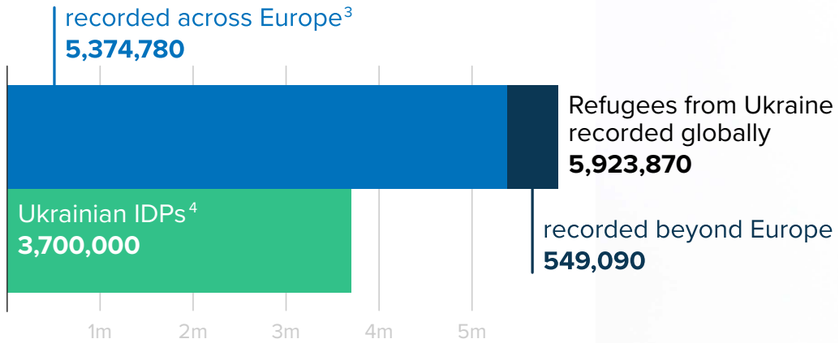
In 2025, civilian casualties rose by 31 per cent compared to 2024, and since February 2022, at least **14,383 civilian deaths and 37,541 injuries have been documented.** Although about one million refugees and IDPs have voluntarily returned, widespread insecurity, damaged housing and limited access to services hinder sustainable return. Displacement from frontline areas continues, straining transit centers and collective sites. Across the country, some 2.5 million homes being reported destroyed. Beyond the physical destruction, the prolonged war has exposed millions to trauma and psychological distress due to constant uncertainty, fear of attacks, grave protection risks and aggravated mental health among all age groups, with some 63 per cent of households reporting at least one form of mental health challenge. Children are particularly vulnerable, with an estimated 1.5 million children at risk of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression and other mental health issues. 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[2]. Older people, and those with limited mobility, are particularly vulnerable due to the war as they face isolation and limited access to services. Needs are particularly acute in front-line areas and regions bordering the Russian Federation.

In 2025, hostilities in Ukraine intensified significantly, with a marked increase in aerial attacks by the Russian Armed Forces (RAF) on Ukrainian

Figure 1

People forced to flee from Ukraine

as of 19 February 2026



1 **In 2026, humanitarian partners aim to reach 3.6 million people with assistance across the four strategic priorities,** maintaining a strong focus on vulnerable people living in front-line areas, with significant attention to internally displaced people and war-affected non-displaced people, including returnees. The planned reach for 2026 reflects a more targeted, severity and vulnerability-focused response, rather than a reduction in needs or an improved situation. It is driven by stricter issue-based prioritization, multisectoral targeting and a reduced funding environment. Response prioritization was informed by a thorough intersectoral severity analysis, supported by multisectoral needs assessment, cluster and thematic assessments, the 2025 HNRP mid-year response and gap analysis, and changes in the funding landscape.

2 OHCHR Ukraine: Protection of civilian in armed conflict December 2024 Update

3 Europe corresponds to all Europe sub-regions as identified by Eurovoc, therefore including EU and non-EU countries belonging to Central and Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, and Western Europe, plus Türkiye. Source: UNHCR Operational Data Portal

4 OHCHR Ukraine: Protection of civilian in armed conflict December 2024 Update

KYIV

Residential area in Kyiv damaged in aerial attack.

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critical infrastructure, including oil and gas facilities, resulting in major power outages and water cuts, raising concerns ahead of the 2025–2026 winter season.

Damage to infrastructure has been catastrophic, with attacks targeting power grids, water supplies 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 freezing winters, where temperatures regularly drop sub-zero degrees Celsius. Nearly 3,600 educational institutions, including approximately 2,000 schools, have suffered damage since the full-scale invasion, with 371 educational facilities destroyed.[5]

These challenges have been compounded by a sharp and sudden contraction in humanitarian funding, driven in part by the suspension of humanitarian programming by the Government of the United States in January 2025, but also by the reduction of the overall availability of humanitarian funding for 2025.

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 2025 there were 313 partners combining efforts under the RRP, and a total of 266 partners, make up the joint response through the RRP in 2026 — 80 per cent of them local organizations.

The year 2026 marks the final phase of the Ukraine Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), covering Belarus, Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia, which collectively continue to host more than 1.7 million refugees from Ukraine. Launched on 1 March 2022 following the full-scale war in Ukraine, the RRP has evolved from meeting urgent humanitarian needs to strengthening social cohesion, resilience, self-reliance and the inclusion of refugees from Ukraine into national systems. In this final year, partners will work closely with host governments to transition coordination and leadership to national and local actors to ensure sustainability beyond 2026; while remaining ready to adjust interventions should the situation change, including in the event of further displacement or returns. 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 2026 HNRP as coordinated through the inter-agency cluster system for internal displacement emergencies. Within this structure, UNHCR leads the Protection and Shelter/Non-Food Items Clusters in Ukraine, coordinating the protection, shelter and site coordination and management response by humanitarian partners in Ukraine. In its operational capacity, UNHCR implements large-scale life-saving programmes in partnership with a strong network of national and local partners.

5 World Bank, Government of Ukraine, the European Union, and the United Nations, Ukraine Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (D3), February 2024 (Pending update)

Response at a glance — How has your support made a difference?

UNHCR 2025 RESPONSE INSIDE UKRAINE

UNHCR has been working in Ukraine since 1994. When the full-scale invasion began in February 2022, UNHCR rapidly expanded its operations as part of the inter-agency emergency response, complementing Government-led efforts with life-saving protection services, shelter support, cash assistance- including emergency cash, winter cash and cash for repairs- as well as distribution of essential items to those impacted by the war. UNHCR's priority is clear: to reach civilians whose lives and homes have been devastated, while also laying the foundation for long-term, sustainable solutions. This work is carried out in close coordination with national and local authorities, community-based organizations, and partners.

Protection

Complementing Government efforts, UNHCR and national NGO partners continue to provide urgent protection and assistance to new evacuees and war-affected people — particularly in frontline areas and in response to new attacks — while supporting early recovery and durable solutions for internally displaced people and returnees. With intense fighting ongoing, new displacements from frontline regions continue, further straining transit centers and collective sites. Shifts in the frontline in 2025 triggered new displacements and evacuations, with more than 130,000 people evacuated with support from the Government or humanitarian actors, and many more fleeing on their own. UNHCR and partners continue

1,254,000
multi-sectoral services delivered

594,000
people reached with protection information and services

98,500
people supported with essential items, including in hard-to-access areas with other humanitarians

333,400
people supported with multi-purpose cash and/or cash for winter energy needs

203,300
people received emergency shelter and housing support

25,000
people supported with safe access to multi-sectoral services in collective sites, including winterization support

Inside Ukraine

KYIV

In the early hours of 14 November, the Russian Federation launched one of the most intense aerial attacks on Kyiv since the start of the war, striking the capital with hundreds of drones and multiple missiles. The attacks have left homes shattered, buildings burning, and families in shock. UNHCR and partners are on the ground, providing emergency shelter materials for rapid home repairs, psychosocial first aid, and legal assistance to affected families.

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to support evacuees in transit centers as well as in receiving areas as part of the interagency response. Many of these evacuees are extremely vulnerable, having resisted moving away from the frontlines for as long as possible, and include a significant number of older people and individuals with disabilities.

Today, **3.7 million people remain displaced within Ukraine**, and their needs are growing more severe as ongoing displacement and economic disruption compound the impact of war. The most urgent protection and humanitarian needs are concentrated along the eastern, northern and southern frontlines, where intensified fighting in 2025 triggered new waves of displacement and heightened risks for civilians.

Yet, even amid destruction, recovery and rebuilding are underway. Families are determined to return, restore their homes, and revive their communities and economy. In areas where internally displaced people from temporarily occupied regions seek to integrate and start anew, UNHCR supports Government-led efforts to expand access to affordable housing, reskilling and decent employment opportunities as well as social protection services for those with specific needs — key enablers of durable solutions and hope for the future.

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.

In 2025, UNHCR and partners provided more nearly 600,000 people with protection information and services, including mental health support and legal assistance.

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 lifesaving, 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' 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.

In 2025, UNHCR delivered cash assistance to more than 330,000 war-affected people. This includes vulnerable people who have been assisted because they are either in need of urgent support following aerial attacks or evacuation, were recently displaced within the last six months, or have recently returned home to war-affected communities. The assistance helps vulnerable people, including those with specific protection needs, to cover the costs of basic needs like accommodation, food, medicine, clothing and heating while enabling them to prioritize for themselves what is most urgently needed following the shock of sudden displacement or damage to homes.

LOZOVA

Valentyna (79) was evacuated from Kostiantynivka in Donetsk region at the start of November 2025 when hostilities reached the vicinity of the town. Due to regular shelling, critical civilian infrastructure has been severely damaged in Kostiantynivka, disrupting access to the most essential services, including water, heating and electricity supplies. Valentyna had been living by herself and has no family members to reach out for support. After being evacuated by UNHCR's NGO partner Proliska, she was brought to a transit centre for evacuees in Lozova, Kharkiv region, where she was accommodated for a few nights and received cash assistance, essential items, such as warm blankets, a mattress, as well as help to reissue her banking card to ensure that she can receive her pension benefits after a few months delay.

© UNHCR/Iryna Tymchyshyn

Across Ukraine, millions of people remain displaced and a safe and comfortable home remains a key challenge for many. UNHCR and partners are helping displaced families improve their living conditions in rural areas, where many have found longer-term housing and hope for a fresh start. The programme was launched in 2023 and aims to support more durable housing solutions for internally displaced families.

Larysa and her husband Anatolii fled from their hometown of Selydove in Donetska oblast to the village of Shvaikivka in Zhytomyrska oblast, central Ukraine, where Larysa's late parents once lived. They managed to buy an old house — but it was far from habitable. "The floorboards were rotten, but the biggest challenge was not having a sewage system and water facilities inside the house. Only when these were installed, and we had water running and a shower inside the house, I started to feel human again." UNHCR and its NGO partner Caritas helped Larysa and Anatolii improve the conditions in their new home.

Essential Items, Housing and Shelter

With the massive destruction of private houses and apartments due to attacks by the Russian Federation, UNHCR continues to support repairs of homes in the areas most directly impacted by hostilities.

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. 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. In 2025, UNHCR and partners provided over 200,000 people received emergency shelter and housing support in Ukraine, enabling them to quickly protect damaged homes in the aftermath of attacks, or to return to their homes thanks to durable housing repairs.

In 2025, UNHCR and partners reached a key milestone of repairing close to 55,000 homes damaged by the war since July 2022. This enabled families to return to, or remain in, their communities, while nearly 100,000 people were supported by UNHCR and partners with essential items including blankets, mattresses and winter clothing in 2025 alone.

2025-2026 Winter Response

As millions of people in Ukraine brace themselves for the fourth winter since the Russian full-scale invasion began, the coldest winter in a decade. UNHCR is delivering critical assistance during the 2025-2026 winter to help war-affected people stay safe and warm in their homes. UNHCR delivers its winter response in close cooperation with the Government of Ukraine and partners, as part of the broader inter-agency winter response plan, and prioritizes war-affected people with specific vulnerabilities.

UNHCR's response prioritizes people living in frontline regions, where the needs are particularly severe. The areas most affected by cold in winter are predominantly located in the east and north of Ukraine, where the hostilities remain most intense and destruction is extensive. The harsh winter conditions in these areas are compounded by the combination of war-related damage, disrupted power infrastructure, and heightened socio-economic vulnerabilities (including older people, people with disabilities, and people with chronic illnesses). With increased large-scale attacks against Ukraine's energy infrastructure this winter season, people are struggling to remain safe and warm in their homes amid extensive power cuts and as energy prices and household expenditures soar.

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 IN 2025

330,000
people in Ukraine provided with cash assistance including emergency cash assistance to evacuees and people impacted by attacks/missile strikes, as well as winter cash assistance.

200,000
people provided with emergency shelter and housing support.

590,000
people provided with protection information, counselling and support.

100,000
people provided with essential aid items including in frontline areas.

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 UNHCR's generous donors — **your help has made an enormous difference!**

ZAPORIZHZHIA

Nadiia Rudchenko, in her 80s and caring for her son with a disability, received a heater and Rapid Thermal Kit from UNHCR last winter which was installed by UNHCR Partner Proliska. Before receiving this support, Nadiia and her son struggled through winters with an old broken gas boiler and no way to properly heat their home. "We usually keep warm by wearing lots of layers of clothing, and this is how I sleep."

© UNHCR/Iryna Tymchyshyn

Neighbouring countries hosting refugees from Ukraine — Country updates

Refugee hosting countries have done commendable work over the past four years to provide safety and a sense of normalcy to support refugees in rebuilding their lives within their new communities, all while hoping for conditions in Ukraine to change and allow 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. Outside Ukraine, UNHCR leads and coordinates the 2025-2026 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), bringing together some 200 partners across ten countries to support government-led efforts for refugees from Ukraine. UNHCR and partners are directing limited resources to the most urgent lifesaving and protection needs, while supporting Governments in strengthening national systems and promoting the socio-economic inclusion of refugees.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

BULGARIA

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 organizations, academia and the private sector to ensure the protection and better future for displaced and stateless people.

Bulgaria currently hosts some 68,000 refugees from Ukraine. UNHCR provides protection and inclusion support to refugees from Ukraine who have passed through Bulgaria since the start of the full-scale war in Ukraine, of which some 67,880 are currently present in the country. UNHCR monitors reception conditions in collective accommodation centers, including through participatory assessment. UNHCR has expanded its support with assistance and protection, and facilitating their socioeconomic inclusion through various programs aimed at improving access to education, employment and essential services. UNHCR cash assistance supports refugees including those with disabilities, older people and single women with childcare duties. More than 275 people benefited from cash assistance in 2025.

UNHCR continues to prioritize empowerment, integration, and social cohesion through its Compass Network of Protection and Inclusion Centers, providing assistance through language classes, MHPSS, counselling and community outreach activities. Since the establishment of the centers in April 2024, 41,233 instances of service provision were recorded, with 31,923 of those in 2025 alone. UNHCR provided trainings for refugee-led organizations on Protection, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), risk management and data protection.

Bulgaria at a glance

75,250
refugees from Ukraine have been recorded

Operational deliveries
(as of 31 Dec 2025)

275
refugees received cash assistance

5,282
refugees received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services

4,548
refugees received inclusion support

Czechia
at a glance

397,408
refugees from Ukraine
have been recorded

Operational deliveries
(as of 31 Dec 2025)

28,318
refugees received protection information and services from UNHCR and partners

555
refugees received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services

22,063
refugees received inclusion support

CZECHIA

UNHCR has been present in Czechia 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.

Czechia currently hosts some 378,000 refugees from Ukraine. In Czechia, UNHCR and NGO partners provide information, legal aid, and integration support to refugees from Ukraine. In 2025, UNHCR worked with seven NGO partners in Czechia: the Agency for Migration and Adaptation (AMIGA), Association for Integration and Migration (SIMI), La Strada, Organization for Aid to Refugees (OPU), proFem, Romodrom, and Slovo 21. UNHCR in Czechia works with government authorities, including municipalities, NGO partners and Refugee-led Organizations (RLOs) to support responses for refugees from Ukraine, providing targeted support to vulnerable refugee households.

UNHCR and its partners:

- provide legal information tailored to diverse groups and their specific needs and offer enhanced legal counselling (for example, rejection of temporary protection)
- provide individual support to vulnerable refugees to help them find suitable housing, support families in collective accommodation and those facing challenges in accessing housing, and assist with accessing humanitarian benefits;
- support vulnerable refugees in accessing social protection benefits through information on financial aid, counselling and accompaniment by social workers, interpretation, and other targeted support;
- provide individual counselling and support on labour rights, including targeted help for the recognition of education and professional qualifications to help refugees find suitable jobs, and conduct outreach to identify and assist refugees at risk of exploitation and trafficking;
- offer individual assistance by providing information and accompanying vulnerable refugees to healthcare providers, particularly households with older refugees and those with disabilities.

UNHCR supports the Czech Government in strengthening refugee integration and social cohesion by providing support to municipalities involved in the response. Efforts focus on ensuring access to social services and benefit for the most vulnerable including healthcare, education, and affordable long-term housing. UNHCR supports the State-funded programme of the Ministry of the Interior through which municipalities can receive grants for implementing activities facilitating the integration of Ukrainian refuges at local level. Through UNHCR's funding in 2025 ($800,000), 70 Municipalities in all 14 regions were supported to implement integration projects. Additionally, three RLOs were financially supported by UNHCR in the last quarter of 2025 to provide targeted support to Ukrainian youth.

HUNGARY

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

Hungary currently hosts some 63,000 refugees from Ukraine. Since the start of the full-scale war in Ukraine, UNHCR and Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners supported nearly 28,000 refugees with protection services including information provision, mental health support and access to child-friendly spaces. UNHCR supports refugees living with a disability through a cash program, which households use for their most urgent needs, including medicine. UNHCR coordinates inter-agency response efforts within the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) for Ukrainian refugees. Sixty partners, including national and international organizations and refugee-led organizations are part of the coordination forum. UNHCR also provides support to refugees to access

Hungary
at a glance

62,145
refugees from Ukraine
have been recorded

Operational deliveries
(as of 31 Dec 2025)

6,912
refugees received protection information and services from UNHCR and partners

4,659
refugees were reached with non-food items

1,333
refugees received inclusion support

1,326
refugees received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services

BUDAÖRS | HUNGARY

Vyacheslav Khasanov (62), from the village of Vysokyi next to Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine lost his left leg below his knee in 2022 due to gangrene. His daughter, Aleksandra, fled to Hungary with her son, Yevgeniy, and nephew, Danilo, the son of her late sister, in the first days after the full-scale war began. Vyacheslav's surgery, however, took place only a couple of weeks before, so he had to stay at home with his wife, Tamara. They joined their family in December 2023 only. Vyacheslav was given a proper leg prothesis free by his doctors in Hungary, but the special stockings, medical aids and medications are rather costly. UNHCR supported Vyacheslav for nine months through its Cash Assistance Program for refugees from Ukraine living with severe disabilities what was an important source of income for him and his family.

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housing, employment, healthcare services, and education. UNHCR advocates for access to rights for beneficiaries of Temporary Protection as well as their inclusion into the national Hungarian social protection system.

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 three 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.

POLAND

UNHCR has been present in Poland since 1992, monitoring access to territory and reception conditions while working with authorities to ensure efficient and protection-sensitive asylum systems and policies.

Poland currently hosts some 1,000,000 refugees from Ukraine, making it the second-largest host country in the EU. Among them, approximately 26 per cent originate from temporarily occupied territories in the east of Ukraine, where forces of the Russian Federation are present. Furthermore, Poland is also home to approximately 600,000 Ukrainians who arrived before 24 February 2022, holding various forms of legal status and who are unable to return to Ukraine due to the ongoing war, pushing the total number of Ukrainians in Poland to **over 1 million people**. New arrivals continue, averaging 10,876 per month in 2025, with a sharp increase in September to 26,292. They include refugees fleeing frontline and temporarily occupied areas, as well as boys and young men aged 15–22 nearing military conscription. **Women and children** continue to represent most refugees in Poland, accounting for approximately **80 per cent of the refugee population**.

The steadfast support provided by the Government of Poland and society to refugees from Ukraine continued throughout 2025, helping hundreds of thousands of refugees across the country in the fourth year of the crisis. Since the escalation of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, 2,042,499 refugees have applied for temporary protection in Poland. The Government of Poland, along with humanitarian partners, will sustain the essential support needed for refugees to access rights and be included in national systems.

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, identify and support vulnerable refugees, 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.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

UNHCR has been present in the Republic of Moldova since 1997, working with the Government and partners to support forcibly displaced and stateless people. Four years since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, 133,000 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. The government's response has been supported by civil society, international NGOs, the private sector,

Poland
at a glance

1,001,832
refugees from Ukraine have been recorded

Operational deliveries
(as of 31 Dec 2025)

37,637
refugees received protection information and services from UNHCR and partners

14,959
refugees received inclusion support

7,707
refugees received legal support and counselling

6,404
refugees received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services

Republic of Moldova
at a glance

127,700
refugees from Ukraine have been recorded

Operational deliveries
(as of 31 Dec 2025)

24,985
refugees received protection information and services

22,883
refugees received cash assistance

1,690
refugees received inclusion support

5,027
refugees reached with non-food items

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 analysing 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.

In 2025, to help meet refugees' basic needs, UNHCR supported nearly 22.883 refugees from Ukraine with cash assistance. This includes approximately 6,598 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.

To enhance refugee representation and advocacy, UNHCR supported the establishment of a "Refugee Council" in Ungheni—a consultative body that provides a platform for meaningful engagement between refugees and local authorities. The council aims to promote refugee inclusion in local decision-making processes, empowering community members to advocate for their rights and address key challenges related to legal protection, access to services, and social integration. It also serves as a trusted space where concerns can be raised collectively, encouraging dialogue, collaboration, and mutual understanding and respect.

ROMANIA

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 nearly 200,000 having obtained temporary protection and refugee status as of end-November 2025. 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.

Romania currently hosts some 186,000 refugees from Ukraine. 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 2025, UNHCR and partners reached over 11,850 refugees from Ukraine with information, legal assistance and counselling in person or via hotline.

Romania
at a glance

197,699
refugees from Ukraine have been recorded

Operational deliveries
(as of 31 Dec 2025)

11,857
refugees received protection information and services

15,454
refugees received cash assistance

5,903
refugees received inclusion support

2,600
refugees received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services

Slovakia
at a glance

132,810
refugees from Ukraine have been recorded

Operational deliveries
(as of 31 Dec 2025)

71,190
refugees received protection information and services from UNHCR and partners

7,863
refugees received inclusion support

UNHCR provided over 15,454 refugees from Ukraine with multi-purpose cash assistance, and distributed core-relief items to 46,580 individuals. To enhance socioeconomic inclusion, UNHCR and partners provided 5,903 refugees with supported with livelihood and employment services by UNHCR and partners.

SLOVAKIA

UNHCR has been present in Slovakia since 1994, working with local and municipal authorities, UN agencies and national partners to support forcibly displaced and stateless people. Slovakia has shown solidarity to those fleeing the war in Ukraine by welcoming and assisting new arrivals, including Ukrainians and third-country nationals alike. Slovakia continues to host a significant number of refugees from Ukraine per capita (close to 144,000 people with valid Temporary Protection status as of November 2025 and additional 70,000 Ukrainians under other types of legal status, for a population of over 5,4 million). 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. **Compulsory education for refugee children with Temporary Protection status** took effect on 1 September 2025, bringing hundreds of refugee children into Slovak schools for the first time, often after years of disrupted learning, and increasing the need for smooth integration support, confidence-building and opportunities for positive interactions with their Slovak peers.

Despite the legal change introduced in 2025, school enrolment of refugee children has risen only modestly (+7 per cent between June and September 2025, according to official data from the Slovak MoE), indicating that many refugee children remain outside the Slovak system and continue online Ukrainian schooling.

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[6]

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. In Ukraine, UNHCR will remain actively engaged within the inter-agency response framework to support the Government of Ukraine and local authorities in addressing urgent humanitarian needs. UNHCR will deliver life-saving assistance and protection services while simultaneously promoting recovery for war-affected populations and communities and facilitating durable solutions for displaced people. Anticipating reduced resources in 2026, UNHCR led a validation exercise for the 2025-26 RRP to prioritize lifesaving and protection needs while sustaining longer-term inclusion. The response was informed by the UNHCR-led 2025 Socio-Economic Insights Survey. Regional coordination was supported through the Refugee Coordination Forum and working groups on protection, education, information management and inclusion. **10.8 million people inside Ukraine will need multisectoral humanitarian assistance in 2026**, including some 3.7 million people who are internally displaced.

In countries neighbouring Ukraine, **solidarity with refugees from Ukraine is expected to continue** as governments, municipalities and civil society strive to include refugees in national systems. In 2025, the EU extended TPD in MS until March 2027. UNHCR provided recommendations to EU MS on needs, including more information on available options after TP and encouraged MS to develop legal alternatives for those who may not be able to return once TP ends.

UNHCR is continuing its humanitarian response in 2026, 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, in 2026, UNHCR plans to provide multi-sectoral services to 2.1 million internally displaced, returnee and war-affected people in Ukraine[7], focusing on life-saving protection and early recovery support. Priorities include protection services for 955,000 people, cash assistance for 652,000 people, emergency shelter and housing support for 325,000 people, and core relief items for 178,000 people, alongside legal assistance, psychosocial support, strengthened access to social protection, and community-based protection mechanisms. The response will prioritise frontline areas, newly displaced and evacuated populations, and vulnerable groups at risk of exclusion from national systems, while reinforcing government services and promoting sustainable solutions from the outset. **Critically, all goals are subject to the availability of funding.**

6 For more information on UNHCR's response, latest updates and publications visit: Ukraine situation | Global Focus

7 Ukraine situation: UNHCR's 2026 plans and financial requirements

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 $614 million in 2026** 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.**

KOSICE | SLOVAKIA

Victoria, a Ukrainian mother opens safe space for refugees in Slovakia. Victoria is from Kharkiv, Ukraine. She arrived to Slovakia in 2018 and is a psychologist working on child-inclusion. "My job is to create a space where mother and their children can feel calm," she said.

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UNHCR is incredibly grateful for your generosity. Our ability to provide protection and assistance to millions inside Ukraine and in neighbouring 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.

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