



UKRAINE SITUATION FLASH UPDATE #43

24 March 2023

PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

More details: UNHCR Operational Data Portal [Ukraine Refugee Situation](#)

8,156,960

Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe (20 Mar)

4,944,804*

Refugees from Ukraine registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe (20 March)

5,352,000

Estimated Number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ukraine (23 Jan) [Internal Displacement Report](#)

UNHCR RESPONSE IN 2023

■ People Reached ■ Target

Refugees reached with cash assistance in Bulgaria, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia

101,947 281,000

Refugees reached with protection services (integration, legal support, social protection, accommodation)

89,470 330,000

People reached with Non-Food Items

92,459 385,000

* The figure "Refugees from Ukraine registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe" may include multiple registrations of the same individual in two or more EU+ countries; registrations that remain incomplete for various reasons; or registrations of refugees who have moved onward, including beyond Europe.

Ukraine. UNHCR's protection work in the war-affected Dnipropetrovska Oblast, 9 February, 2023 © UNHCR/Aina Kovalenko

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

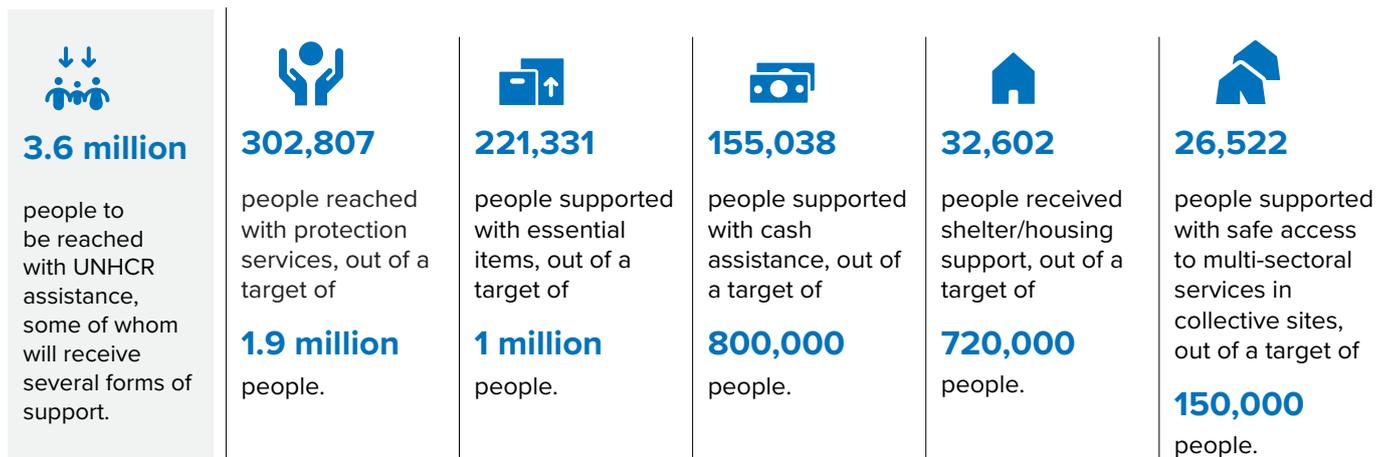
- To address the consequences of disruptions in critical services in eastern Ukraine, including education, health care, and social protection services, UNHCR continues prioritizing life-saving humanitarian assistance and interventions that help mitigate protection risks. UNHCR complements and reinforces the capacity of national and local systems through timely provision of protection assistance including legal aid, child protection, non-food items, emergency shelter and housing support, with the aim of enabling internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees to recover and attain durable solutions, where possible.
- In parallel, in refugee hosting countries UNHCR has been advocating for the effective socio-economic inclusion of refugees in national systems through expanding access to education, employment, housing, social welfare, medical and other services. UNHCR has been providing refugees across the region with language training and job counselling, whilst promoting social cohesion interventions to strengthen community support and expand refugee access to social and economic opportunities.
- You can find out more about the situation and the response in Ukraine and the region on the [dedicated UNHCR Ukraine Emergency website](#).

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UKRAINE SITUATION UPDATE

- Intense fighting continued in the Donetsk region, including around [Bakhmut](#), Avdiivka, and Zaporizhzhia, where a [missile struck](#) a residential area on 22 March. Evacuations of civilians continue from hot spots in the eastern region. According to the Lviv oblast authorities, over the past week, nearly 450 internally displaced people (IDPs) arrived in Lviv in evacuation transportation.
- During the Security Council [meeting](#) on 17 March, Council members called for unhindered humanitarian access to those in need in Ukraine and stressed that civilians must not be targeted during military operations.
- As of 20 March, OHCHR [has recorded](#) 22,209 civilian casualties (8,317 killed and 13,892 injured) since 24 February 2022. This includes a total of 469 civilian casualties recorded in March 2023 so far.

UNHCR RESPONSE AND TARGETS INSIDE UKRAINE 2023



UNHCR RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Border monitoring:** UNHCR, and its partners, conducted 100 monitoring visits to border crossing points with Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and the Republic of Moldova during the reporting period. In the course of the visits, 185 protection counselling, 44 legal assistance and 15 social accompaniment services were provided.
- **Child Protection:** On 14 March, a child-friendly space was opened in Khmelnytska oblast, which will benefit an estimated 1,000 children living in the area.
- **Coordination:** On 14 March, UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Khersonska oblast authorities to facilitate the coordination and implementation of joint actions and projects to provide support to war-affected people. This is the ninth MoU signed so far with regional authorities in Ukraine.
- **Humanitarian Convoys:** In the reporting period, UNHCR joined four UN humanitarian convoys: two to [Kharkiv](#) region delivering food, clothes, hygiene supplies, solar lamps and repair materials for over 5,000 people; and two convoys to [Donetska oblast](#) assisting some 3,500 people with food, solar lamps, tarpaulin, blankets, clothes, hygiene kits, medicine and other essential non-food items.
- **Legal assistance:** During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted over 120 monitoring visits to collective sites in Lvivska, Poltavska, Rivnenska, Sumska, Ternopil'ska, and Volyn'ska oblasts, during which legal advice was provided to 390 displaced people. In Ivano-Frankiv'ska, Dnipropetrovska and Zakarpatska oblasts, UNHCR partners provided legal assistance to more than 460 people.
- **NFIs:** Between 13 - 15 March, UNHCR and partners provided non-food items (NFIs), hygiene items, shoes, diapers to around 3,000 people affected by recent shelling in Chernivetska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetska, Kharkiv'ska, Kherson'ska, and Vinnytska oblasts. Distribution of winter relief items for more than 1,700 IDPs in Kyiv city was finalized last week jointly with the authorities.
- Find more information in the [regular Ukraine country operational updates](#) and on the [UNHCR Ukraine portal](#) page.

REGIONAL UNHCR KEY FIGURES AND UPDATES

After the launch of the 2023 [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) (RRP) for the Ukraine Situation in Geneva on 15 February, local launch events in each of the ten countries included in the RRP took place, with the closing one on 14 March in the Czech Republic. The local launches brought together members of RRP organizations, government authorities, the civil society, donors and other entities supporting the in-country response. The events provided an opportunity to reflect on achievements and challenges of 2022, to outline priorities for 2023, to acknowledge the extraordinary whole-of-society solidarity and generosity demonstrated to date, and to call further support for 2023

Blue Dots

40 Blue Dots have been established by UNHCR, UNICEF and other partners in:

Bulgaria	6	Poland	8	Slovenia	1
Hungary	3	Romania	7		
Moldova	10	Slovakia	5		

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

Refugees from Ukraine across Europe (as of 21 March 2023)



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

COUNTRY UPDATES

BULGARIA

154,590

refugees have registered for temporary protection

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

20,600

refugees have been reached through **6** Blue Dot Hubs

2,811

refugees received cash assistance

2,400

visits to the UNHCR Bulgaria Help Page

- **Coordination:** During a monitoring mission to Dobrich, Varna and Burgas from 8 to 10 March, UNHCR discussed with authorities the municipal services provided to refugees from Ukraine. To strengthen the ongoing coordination, a Letter of Understanding will be signed between the authorities and UNHCR.
- **MHPSS:** Over 2,300 refugees from Ukraine have been provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid (MHPSS) since 1 January.
- **Vulnerability assessments:** During re-registration and renewal of the temporary protection cards in Sofia and Burgas so far, UNHCR partner BRC has conducted 153 CBI/vulnerability assessments.

CZECH REPUBLIC

499,887

refugees have registered for temporary protection

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

2,088

refugees from Ukraine have received protection services

7,659

visits to the UNHCR Czech Republic Help Page

- **Coordination:** On 14 March, some 90 representatives from the government, donors and other stakeholders attended the [launch](#) of the 2023 RRP country chapter. On 8 March UNHCR discussed with the Department for Asylum and Migration Policy under the Ministry of Interior (MOI) their continued cooperation. MOI stressed that support is needed for ongoing programmes.

HUNGARY

34,248

refugees have registered for temporary protection

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

4,985

refugees have received protection and legal support by UNHCR and partners

4,438

refugees have been reached through **3** Blue Dot Hubs

16,403

visits to the UNHCR Hungary Help Page

- **Education:** To support their online education, UNHCR helped some 55 unaccompanied and separated children with 49 laptops and 6 tablets.
- **Integration:** So far in 2023, 824 refugees benefitted from integration-related support offered by UNHCR partner organizations Menedek, Hungarian Red Cross, Mandak Haz and ULE. Partners provide language courses and conversation clubs in both Hungarian and English, after-school education activities for children, women and children's club, as well as peer mentoring and social counselling on employment, healthcare, education and housing.
- **NFIs:** So far in 2023, UNHCR provided 16,260 non-food items for refugees from Ukraine, including winter clothes, blankets, hygiene kits, shoes, baby kits, non-prescription medicine, kitchen sets, and other items.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Hungary data portal](#)

POLAND

1,573,267

refugees have registered for temporary protection

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

13,751

people were provided with protection support over the phone

8,500

people were counselled at the **8** Blue Dot Hubs and 6 Community Centres

10,636

refugees were reached with cash assistance

154,125

views to the UNHCR Poland Help Page

- **Integration:** On 13 March, UNHCR participated in a job fair in Katowice and in Krakow, providing information about employment and job opportunities, distributing leaflets and advocacy materials, and supporting refugees in preparing their CVs. Meanwhile, on 9 March, 34 refugees attended an information session on entrepreneurship and how to set up a small business in Poland, which was jointly organized by UNHCR and local authorities in Rzeszow.
- **MHPSS:** So far in 2023, nearly 570 refugees from Ukraine have been provided with psycho-social support and psychological first aid.
- **Mobile outreach:** During multifunctional mobile outreach visits in Mazowieckie, Dolnoslaskie, Wielkopolskie and Lodzkie in the last two weeks, nearly 400 refugees received social and psychological counselling, and some were referred to specialised services. Main queries related to financial support, accommodation, employment, and healthcare.
- **NFIs:** Within two weeks, UNHCR distributed winter items for over 1,400 refugees in Podkarpackie and Lubelskie. So far in 2023, UNHCR delivered over 22,000 non-food items for refugees from Ukraine, including sleeping bags, blankets and towels.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Poland data portal](#)

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

102,277

refugees from Ukraine recorded in the country

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

8,193

refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

+6,000

refugees have been reached through **10** Blue Dot Hubs

73,517

people have received cash assistance

94,831

visits to the UNHCR Moldova Help Page

- **Communicating with communities:** The website [Services Advisor Moldova](#) went live during the reporting period. It informs refugees about services available in the Republic of Moldova. The platform currently provides information about over 500 services and is available in English, Ukrainian, Romanian and Russian.
- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, nearly 15,000 people have called the UNHCR counselling hotline.
- **NFIs:** So far in 2023, UNHCR distributed 88,483 non-food items to refugees and host communities alike.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Moldova portal page](#)

ROMANIA

122,362

refugees registered for temporary protection

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

20,000

refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

13,181

refugees were reached with cash assistance

17,000

visits to the UNHCR Romania Help Page

253

refugees have been provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

- **Fast-track:** So far in 2023, UNHCR and IOM have helped 848 refugees to reach Romania from Moldova through the fast-track transfers agreement.
- **Integration:** So far in 2023, UNHCR partner Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF) assisted 219 refugees with employment counselling and language classes in Bucharest. Partner HEKS/EPER in Cluj supported 61 people so far this year, including with job counselling and language classes.
- **NFIs:** 5,272 non-food items were distributed by UNHCR in Constanta, Botosani and Suceava from 13 to 17 March, including winter clothes, family hygiene kits, blankets and bed linens. Over 40,000 litres of drinking water have further been delivered to the Radauti Transit centre, which hosts over 150 refugees, as well as to authorities for distribution to refugees crossing the Romania-Ukraine border and living in Satu Mare.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Romania data portal](#)

SLOVAKIA

112,154

refugees registered for temporary protection

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

9,900

refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

13,630

people been assisted with legal counselling at **5** Blue Dots

1,802

refugees have received cash assistance

47,420

visits to the UNHCR HELP Page

- **Coordination:** On 7 March, UNHCR discussed with the Slovak National Olympic Committee (NOC) their collaboration in terms of sports for protection (S4P), integrating refugees into the National Olympic Day and other activities organized by the NOC, as well as joint communication campaigns and advocacy.
- **Inclusion:** On 16 March, 19 representatives of local authorities, associations and community interpreters were trained by UNHCR partner Human Rights League in labour law to strengthen their capacity to address issues related to refugee employment.
- **NFIs:** So far in 2023, UNHCR partners Caritas and SHC have distributed nearly 17,000 winter non-food items (NFIs), including winter clothes, jackets, hats and accessories to refugees from Ukraine.
- **PSEA:** UNHCR partner Human Rights League launched a protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) campaign on [Instagram](#) to increase awareness on PSEA.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Slovakia data portal](#).

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELARUS

- As of 14 March, **21,547 refugees** from Ukraine had been recorded in Belarus.
- **Coordination:** On 17 March, UNHCR and partner the Refugee Counselling Service (RCS) agreed on a list of action points to address issues in accommodation, financial assistance and awareness-raising.

ESTONIA

- As of 21 March, **44,232 refugees** from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection.
- **Accommodation:** During the reporting period, 53 municipalities received USD 3.5 million from the special State scheme to buy or renovate homes for refugees from Ukraine. This initiative will provide 243 housing units for refugees.
- **Coordination:** On 15 March, following the launch of the RRP Estonia country chapter, UNHCR convened the first inter-agency coordination meeting with 15 participants from NGOs, UN agencies, and government counterparts. During the meeting, UNHCR offered the RRP partners a possibility to attend the upcoming protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) training that is planned for implementing partners.

LATVIA

- As of 21 March, **46,341** refugees from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection.
- **Coordination:** Following the local launch of the RRP country chapter, UNHCR met with the Ministry of the Interior on 10 March to clarify roles in the coordination of the RRP and complementarity with other asylum-related activities, such as the ones funded by the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF).
- Following the local launch of the RRP country chapter, UNHCR met with government and civil society stakeholders clarify roles in the response and complementarity with other asylum-related activities, such as the ones funded by AMIF (Asylum Migration and Integration Fund).

LITHUANIA

- As of 21 March, **75,504** refugees from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection.
- **Child protection:** Upon a UNHCR visit of a social care centre for unaccompanied or separated children in Kaunas City on 10 March, UNHCR is seeking continuous collaboration with relevant authorities to address issues related to access to education, programmes for children with disabilities and effective best interest determination procedures.

- **Coordination:** On UNHCR carried out monitoring visits to NGOs Food Bank, Caritas and Lithuanian Red Cross in in Kaunas City. These NGOs assist refugees from Ukraine by supporting their access to health services, extensions of temporary residence, and provision of food and non-food items. The Lithuanian Red Cross implements individual counselling and community engagement activities in partnership with UNHCR.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, nearly 4,300 refugees have been counselled in person in urban areas by UNHCR and partners, while over 2,600 have been counselled in the border regions of Voronezh, Kursk, Rostov-on-Don and Belgorod. Nearly 16,000 refugees have been counselled over the hotline by UNHCR and partners in the rest of the Russian Federation.
- **MHPSS:** So far in 2023, nearly 4,300 refugees from Ukraine have been counselled in person in urban areas by UNHCR and partners, while over 2,600 have been counselled in the border regions of Voronezh, Kursk, Rostov-on-Don and Belgorod. Nearly 16,000 refugees from Ukraine have been counselled over the hotline by UNHCR and partners in the rest of the Russian Federation.

COORDINATION

UKRAINE

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

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

The [2023 RRP](#) aims at ensuring refugees' access to protection and assistance on a non-discriminatory basis, with a special focus on refugees at risk of becoming vulnerable. Whereas the 2022 RRP focused primarily on the urgent provision of protection services and humanitarian assistance, the 2023 plan places an emphasis on refugees' socio-economic inclusion, in recognition of the challenges faced by refugees due to their prolonging displacement. Support is foreseen to institutions, services and facilities used both by refugees and members of host communities, which will be crucial for promoting solidarity and social cohesion between host and refugee communities. Inter-agency Refugee Coordination Forums (RCFs) led by UNHCR, and specific sectoral groups, will continue working at country level in Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia to support the efforts of the concerned governments.

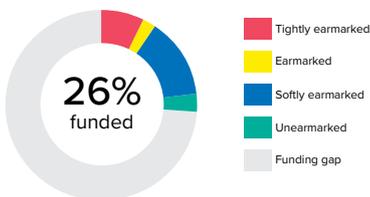
FINANCIAL UPDATES

UNHCR Ukraine Situation

Financial Update

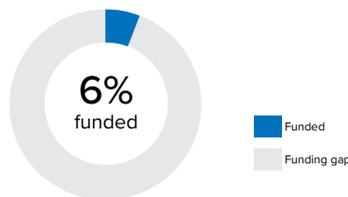
(as of 14 March 2023)

\$ 1.1 billion
required (USD)



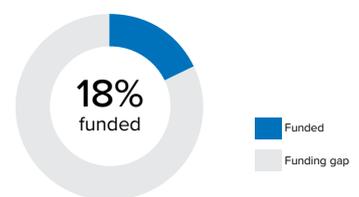
Inter-Agency Financial Updates

\$ 1.68 billion
required (USD)
(as 23 March 2023)



Revised:
[Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan](#)

\$ 3.95 billion
required (USD)
(as of 23 March 2023)



Revised:
[UN Flash Appeal \(Ukraine\)](#)

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