



# UKRAINE SITUATION FLASH UPDATE #45

21 April 2023

## PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

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

**8,172,189**

Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe (18 April)

**5,044,039\***

Refugees from Ukraine registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe (18 April)

**5,352,000**

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

## UNHCR REFUGEE RESPONSE 2023

■ Target   ■ People reached

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



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



Refugees reached with non-food items



\* 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. Olga Chepak, 47, with her daughters Maria, 12, and Anna, 10, pictured in the Sviderskyi Shelter, a collective site for displaced persons in Bilyi Kamin in Western Ukraine. Olga is the resident caretaker and volunteers at the collective site. © UNHCR/Andrew McConnel

## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

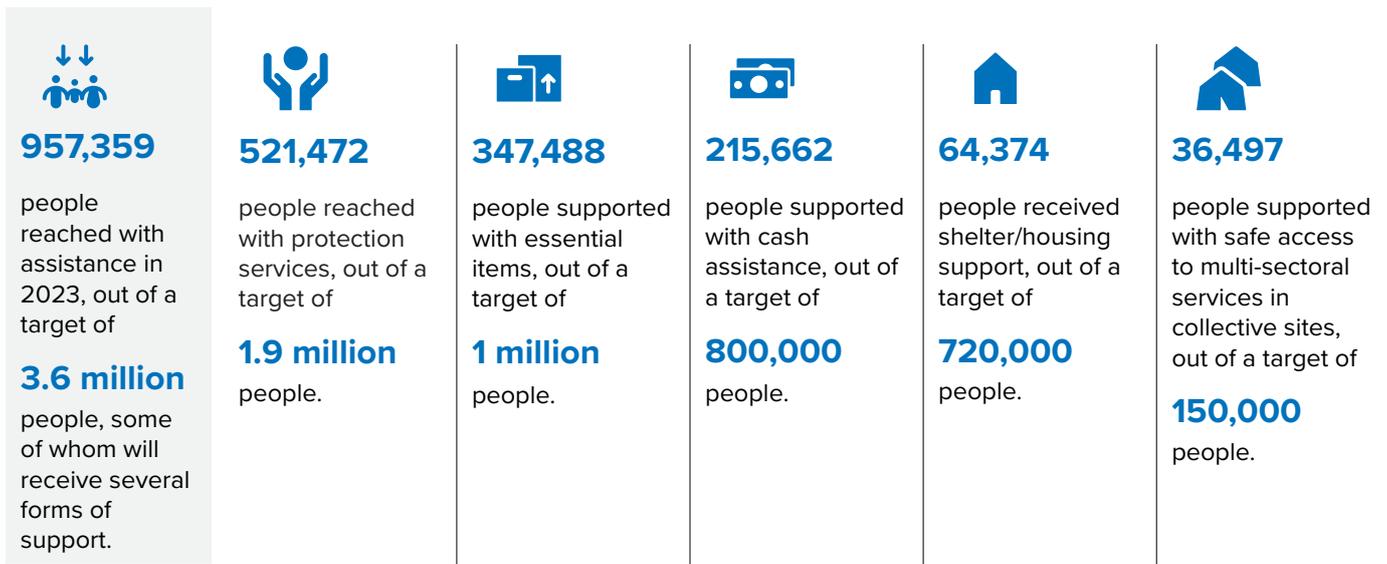
- UNHCR published the [Regional Protection Analysis #2](#) on 19 April, based on surveys, focus group discussions and border monitoring conducted between October 2022 and January 2023 in Hungary, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia. Findings point out that 22% of refugee households have at least one member with specific needs; these households encounter more difficulties accessing appropriate services, which potentially influences return decisions. Of all respondents, 27% were employed, albeit many were overqualified in low-paying jobs due to language barriers, limited childcare and non-recognition of qualifications. In 25% of refugee households, documentation issues were reported, with 30% being unable to replace documents in their host country. Among the recommendations in the report are the systematic early identification of people at heightened risk to support their access to adequate assistance and documentation, and addressing barriers to decent employment by expanding upskilling and language training, facilitating skills recognition and disseminating information about refugee rights in the labour market.
- 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

- Strikes by the Russian Federation continued, including a [missile strike on Sloviansk \(Donetska oblast\)](#), that killed at least eight civilians on 14 April. A week prior, in Kherson, a hospital was hit and damaged on 10 April and two health workers were injured on 8 April. [According to the WHO](#), there have been 24 attacks on health care in Ukraine in the first three months of this year alone.
- On 7 April, the Government of Ukraine [adopted](#) the State Strategy on Internal Displacement and its Operational Plan for 2023-2025, aiming to address challenges of mass displacement caused by the full-scale war. The strategy foresees State support to internally displaced people during all stages of the displacement cycle, including evacuation, adaptation, inclusion and integration in host communities, access to services and return to their home community.
- As of 18 April 2023, [OHCHR recorded](#) 22,904 civilian casualties in the country since the beginning of the full-scale war in Ukraine: 8,534 killed and 14,370 injured. This includes 324 civilian casualties so far in April 2023. The actual figures are estimated to be much higher.

## UNHCR RESPONSE AND TARGETS INSIDE UKRAINE 2023



## UNHCR RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Emergency shelter:** UNHCR continues to deliver emergency shelter assistance to those in areas directly impacted by shelling and attacks. Over the past two weeks, partner Tenth of April delivered 364 emergency shelter kits and 6,600 roofing slates to local authorities and families in Mykolaivska and Odeska oblasts.
- **Housing:** During a coordination meeting in Uzhhorod, UNHCR presented its new strategy for housing solutions to internally displaced people in Zakarpatska oblast. Solutions for collective engagement were discussed, including advocacy and support for the expansion of the social housing stock.
- **Humanitarian Convoys:** On 5 and 7 April, UNHCR joined two UN convoys with hygiene kits, non-food items (NFIs), food and medical supplies for 9,400 people in Donetska oblast. On 12 April, UNHCR joined another convoy with 3,300 NFIs for heavily affected communities close to the front line in Zaporizka oblast.
- **Legal assistance:** Close to 900 legal consultations, including on issues related to housing, land and property, were carried out by partners Right to Protection in Vinnytsia and Dnipro areas. Most queries related to social payments, housing and documentation of property damages.
- **Psycho-social support:** UNHCR partners are addressing increasing needs for psychosocial support. In the Vinnytsia oblast, partner NEEKA provided 172 psychological consultations, while Proliska offered psychosocial support to people affected by the above-mentioned missile strike in Sloviansk on 14 April, along with emergency shelter materials and NFIs.
- **Solutions:** UNHCR and IOM have organized the first coordination meeting on livelihoods in Zakarpatska oblast to map ongoing and planned activities, and seek avenues for collaboration and complementarity. So far, UNHCR, ILO, IOM and the local NGO Help have provided business grants and/or counselling to internally displaced people, and helped relocate businesses in the oblast.
- Find more information in the [regular Ukraine country operational updates](#) and on the [UNHCR Ukraine portal](#) page.

# REGIONAL UNHCR KEY FIGURES AND UPDATES

## Blue Dots

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

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

\*Three Blue Dot Hubs have recently been closed in Poland

## 72,000

refugees were reached through the Blue Dot Hubs in Bulgaria, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Poland and Slovakia so far in 2023.

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 18 April 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

<b>156,208</b> refugees have registered for temporary protection	<b>UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023</b>			
	<b>30,664</b> refugees have received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners	<b>28,585</b> refugees have been reached through <b>6</b> Blue Dot Hubs	<b>7,964</b> refugees received cash assistance	<b>3,600</b> visits to the UNHCR Bulgaria Help Page

- **Blue Dot Hubs:** Close to 28,600 people have been reached with protection support through the Blue Dot Hubs so far this year, including some 4,000 within the last two weeks. Blue Dot staff have observed increasing numbers of refugees enquiring about employment opportunities. Meanwhile, to initiate the transition of Blue Dot services to community centres, UNHCR and UNICEF have undertaken assessment missions to the cities of Varna and Burgas, which included discussions with local authorities, partners and refugees. The transition includes the discontinuation of the Blue Dot Hub at the Sofia train station due to fewer refugee arrivals.
- **NFIs:** UNHCR partner USRF assisted close to 1,300 refugee families in the last two weeks by distributing over 23,000 non-food items in over a dozen locations, including hygiene kits, blankets, bed linen and pillows. So far in 2023, 27,512 refugees have been supported with NFIs.
- **PSEA:** On 5 April, during the monthly network meeting on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), UNHCR and UNICEF presented the network’s Action Plan, which includes activities in response, prevention, and advocacy with institutions on PSEA, as well as complaint and feedback mechanisms on SEA. Members were invited to review the plan and provide their comments.

## CZECH REPUBLIC

<b>504,352</b> refugees have registered for temporary protection	<b>UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023</b>	
	<b>4,145</b> refugees from Ukraine have received protection services	<b>11,545</b> visits to the UNHCR Czech Republic Help Page

- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, over 5,250 people have been provided with psychological assistance, legal counselling and integration services by six UNHCR partners. Services are provided in offices, accommodations and in community centres, by targeted outreach, as well as on the SOS phone line.
- **MHPSS:** UNHCR partner AMIGA established new Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities and launched an online course to support the members of their informal network of Ukrainian refugee professionals in mental and physical health, who had increasingly been reporting signs of burn-out.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** At least 200,000 refugees from Ukraine have found work since March 2022, and 98,000 are currently employed, according to the [Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs](#). To address inclusion-related needs of other refugees, partner OPU recently launched a social media campaign to recruit volunteers to assist refugees with integration-fostering activities, in particular for refugee women and children.

## HUNGARY

**35,030**

refugees have registered for temporary protection

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

**7,750**

refugees have received protection and legal support by UNHCR and partners

**7,548**

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

**21,669**

visits to the UNHCR Hungary Help Page

- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, over 14,000 people have received information, legal counselling and assistance, including through five UNHCR partners, the dedicated hotline, the three Blue Dot Hubs and the Budapest Helps! Community Center, jointly run with IOM.
- **Protection monitoring:** UNHCR visited accommodation sites managed by the Hungarian Red Cross's (HRC) in Hódmezővásárhely, hosting 20 refugees in municipality-provided flats, and in Szentes, hosting 24 Hungarian-speaking Transcarpathian Roma refugees in a collective shelter. Accommodation was in good condition in both locations and refugees reported receiving a good level of services. Families in Szentes reported that all their children are attending local schools and kindergartens, and that their accommodation meets adequate standards.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** To amplify its work on job-matching and counselling, the Budapest Municipality's employment company has sought UNHCR support with interpretation and staff to co-organize forthcoming events focusing on refugee employment.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Hungary data portal](#)

## POLAND

**1,583,563**

refugees have registered for temporary protection

### UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

**17,425**

people were provided with protection support over the phone

**9,147**

people were counselled at the **5** Blue Dot Hubs and 6 Community Centres

**13,921**

refugees were reached with cash assistance

**203,671**

views to the UNHCR Poland Help Page

- **Mobile outreach:** During multifunctional mobile outreach visits to Masovian Voivodeship over the last two weeks, 212 refugees who are otherwise unable to reach UNHCR Community Centres, Blue Dot Hubs or cash enrolment centres received social and psychological counselling, and some were referred to specialised services. Main queries related to financial support, accommodation, employment, and healthcare.
- **NFIs:** In the last two weeks, UNHCR distributed 566 winter items in Lubelskie and Podkarpackie Voivodeships. So far in 2023, UNHCR delivered close to 29,000 non-food items for refugees from Ukraine, including sleeping bags, blankets and towels.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** To reinforce its collaboration with the government, UNHCR concluded on 14 April a [Letter of Intent](#) with the Minister of Integration, aimed at increasing cooperation to enhance integration and inclusion opportunities for refugees in Poland and conduct joint needs-based research and surveys on refugee issues.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Poland data portal](#)

## REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

<b>107,480</b> refugees from Ukraine recorded in the country	<b>UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023</b>			
	<b>8,876</b> refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners	<b>7,000+</b> refugees have been reached through <b>10</b> Blue Dot Hubs as of 9 April	<b>74,278</b> people have received cash assistance	<b>123,938</b> visits to the UNHCR Moldova Help Page

- **Coordination:** On 11 April, UNHCR and the Moldova State University [signed](#) a Memorandum of Understanding to solidify their commitment to educating students about UNHCR mandate, forced displacement and refugee protection. UNHCR will offer an elective course on the needs of refugees and other vulnerable groups and will develop on-the-job training opportunities.
- **Protection:** Within the last two weeks, over 125 participants from authorities, international and national NGOs, as well as 79 refugees participated in eight sessions about temporary protection organized by the General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM) and facilitated by UNHCR. A regular feedback mechanism on temporary protection was also established between IGM, UNHCR, and the refugee community in the cities of Comrat and Balti.
- **Protection monitoring:** During the reporting period, UNHCR visited eight Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs), hosting some 200 refugees, to help the authorities with technical support, including on communication with refugees and safe identification and referrals of protection cases. UNHCR took the opportunity to conduct eight inter-agency PSEA risk assessments, inform RAC residents of rights and services, and hold focus group discussions with 27 refugees. Since March 2023, UNHCR has carried out 23 such visits to RACs.
- **Social cohesion:** The “Roma culture week” events to mark the International Romani Day on 8 April were attended by some 600 people, including refugees and host community members. The Roma Task Force, co-led by UNHCR partner INTERSOS and “the Voice of Roma” Coalition, organized a concert in Chisinau on 8 April and UNHCR supported the event by providing transportation for 132 refugees, catering, as well as interpretation services.
- **PSEA:** On 11 April, UNHCR and WHO trained 12 enumerators who will assist in primary data collection for the Joint PSEA Risk Assessment in Moldova. They were trained in fundamental PSEA concepts and principles, safe referrals in case of disclosure, and confidentiality. So far in 2023, UNHCR has trained 130 people on various core protection activities and principles, including GBV, PSEA and child protection.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Moldova portal page](#)

## ROMANIA

<b>126,711</b> refugees registered for temporary protection	<b>UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023</b>			
	<b>25,247</b> refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners	<b>17,484</b> refugees were reached with cash assistance	<b>20,280</b> visits to the UNHCR Romania Help Page	<b>456</b> refugees have been provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, UNHCR and partners have supported nearly 24,000 refugees with protection and counselling services both in person and through hotlines. Current queries received from refugees are largely related to the revision of the government's 50/20 accommodation and food programme (on which UNHCR and partners will jointly develop further guidance), UNHCR's cash assistance, and access to temporary protection.
- **Fast-track transfers:** So far in 2023, UNHCR and IOM have helped 1,072 refugees to reach Romania from Moldova through the fast-track transfer agreement.
- **GBV:** On 3 and 6 April, UNHCR partner Sensiblu Foundation (SF) trained 11 people, including staff, local authorities, NGOs and police in Galati on how to address and prevent gender-based violence. Some 50 refugee women and girls attended four awareness-raising sessions in Bucharest, Radauti and Cluj in the first week of April on GBV, gender equality and inclusion.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** So far in 2023, HEKS/EPER enrolled 120 refugees in Romanian language courses, with 18 starting in April and 100 refugees completing the course so far. They have supported 10 refugees in finding employment. Meanwhile, Jobs4Ukraine has matched 200 employers with job-seekers. Further employment efforts are made by Ate-liere Fara Frontiere (AFF), who supported the hiring of 11 refugees this week. So far in 2023, AFF assisted 537 refugees with individual counselling and information.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Romania data portal](#)

## SLOVAKIA



- **Advocacy:** On 6 April, UNHCR submitted its comments to the draft law amending the Residence of Foreigners' provisions. UNHCR recommends granting temporary residence to temporary protection holders for the entire duration of their status. To align the national legislation with international law standards and the EU law, UNHCR recommends granting the right to self-employment to temporary protection holders.
- **Protection:** UNHCR partner HRL has extended their interpretation support to the Office of Labour (OLSAF) in Bratislava until April 2023. Since 6 March, two interpreters have been supporting assigned OLSAF social workers with disability assessments for refugees from Ukraine.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** UNHCR partner Mareena has trained 22 community volunteers in Bratislava and Košice in supporting vulnerable refugees through integration and inclusion in essential services (education, social protection, job market, etc.). Complementing these efforts, partner Mareena has also organised 14 events with refugees and host communities to promote refugee inclusion in their municipalities.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Slovakia data portal](#).

## OTHER COUNTRIES

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### BELARUS:

- As of 11 April, **22,411 refugees** from Ukraine had been recorded in Belarus.
- **Coordination:** At the Refugee Coordination Forum on 12 April, UNHCR announced the three-month protection monitoring and profiling exercise. Preliminary data from the first questionnaires covering 728 people, showed an increase in the proportion of people above 60 and children among the refugee population.
- **Counselling:** In March, over 210 refugees were assisted by UNHCR partners the Belarusian Red Cross Society and the Refugee Counselling Service with social and legal counselling, as well as accommodation.
- **Cash:** In March, 129 refugees from Ukraine received one-time multipurpose cash assistance distributed by UNHCR partner the Belarusian Red Cross Society.
- **NFIs:** In March, 65 refugees from Ukraine received vouchers for food/NFIs (some USD 200 per voucher), as well as 55 food packages and 64 hygiene kits.

### ESTONIA

- As of 18 April, **44,739 refugees** from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection.
- **Reception:** As numbers of arriving refugees have decreased to some 30-40 people a day, authorities have announced the termination of the off-shore short-term accommodation in Tallin's port by next June. It has been sheltering refugees since April 2022, and is currently accommodating 700 refugees. Authorities are working with families to find individual housing solutions in or near Tallin.
- **Protection monitoring:** UNHCR visited the Jõhvi municipality in north-east Estonia, a predominantly Russian-speaking area of the country that has welcomed more refugees from Ukraine recently, due to the possibility for refugees to communicate in Russian, and the availability of affordable housing compared to other locations in Estonia. However, access to adequately remunerated employment for refugees remains scarce in that area.

### LATVIA

- As of 18 April, **47,080** refugees from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection.
- **Protection information:** The Information Centre in Riga, managed by UNHCR partner I Want to Help Refugees (GPB) and other NGOs, continues responding to queries by refugees who visit the centre. Just last week, 57 refugees enquired about access to necessities such as food, clothes, hygiene items, and blankets, but also on visa extensions and employment opportunities and housing options.

### LITHUANIA

- As of 18 April, **76,540** refugees from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection.
- **Protection monitoring:** UNHCR met with child protection authorities to discuss monitoring findings on the reception of unaccompanied and separated children from Ukraine in Lithuania. Upcoming monitoring visits will be carried out jointly, to facilitate further improvement of procedural safeguards.

### RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, 6,148 refugees from Ukraine have been counselled in-person by UNHCR and partners in urban areas, while nearly 3,877 have been counselled in the border regions of Voronezh, Kursk, Rostov-on-Don and Belgorod. Close to 21,800 refugees have been counselled over the hotline by UNHCR and partners in the rest of the Russian Federation.
- **MHPSS:** So far in 2023, over 5,100 refugees have received psychosocial support through partners.
- **Meeting with refugees staying outside TAPs:** To meet with refugees from Ukraine staying outside the government-provided Temporary Accommodation Points (TAPs), UNHCR visited Vladimir and Voronezh on 7 and 13 April for participatory assessments organized by the Russian Red Cross. All interlocutors had left Donetsk and Luhansk regions, primarily to join or be closer to relatives. The challenges most often raised related to access to pension payments, confirmation of employment history, restoration of housing documents and access to employment.
- **Visits to TAPs:** In Tambov, between 11-13 April, UNHCR visited three TAPs with the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, the regional Ombudsperson, and the Russian Red Cross. The 270 refugees accommodated in TAPs are mostly from Mariupol and Donetsk, and have access to humanitarian assistance, clothes, and medical services through IFRC vouchers. According to the Russian authorities, 1,703 TAPs with a capacity of over 102,600 people are set up in 85 locations to accommodate arrivals from Ukraine. Currently TAPs are at 37% capacity.

# COORDINATION

## UKRAINE

In Ukraine, UNHCR leads three Clusters, namely Camp Co-ordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Protection, and Shelter and Non-Food Items. 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. The 2023 plan places an emphasis on refugees' socio-economic inclusion, in recognition of the challenges faced by refugees due to their prolonged displacement. Support is foreseen to institutions, services and facilities used both by refugees and members of host communities, which 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, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia to support the efforts of the concerned governments.

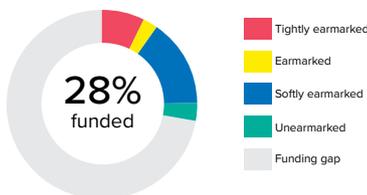
# FINANCIAL UPDATES

## UNHCR Ukraine Situation

### Financial Update

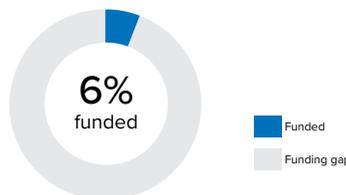
(as of 5 April 2023)

**\$ 1.1 billion**  
required (USD)



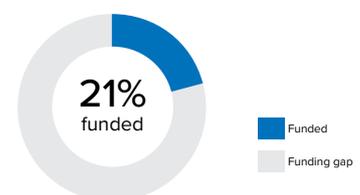
## Inter-Agency Financial Updates

**\$ 1.68 billion**  
required (USD)  
(as of 20 April 2023)



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

**\$ 3.95 billion**  
required (USD)  
(as of 20 April 2023)



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

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We are also grateful for the generous contributions from individuals and the private sector.