UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency Regional Bureau for Europe

# UKRAINE SITUATION FLASH UPDATE #47

19 May 2023

Liudmyla, 59, standing in front of her home in Borodyanka, Ukraine. The house was repaired by UNHCR after suffering damages from shelling, Februrary 2023 © UNHCR/Victoria Andrievska

## PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

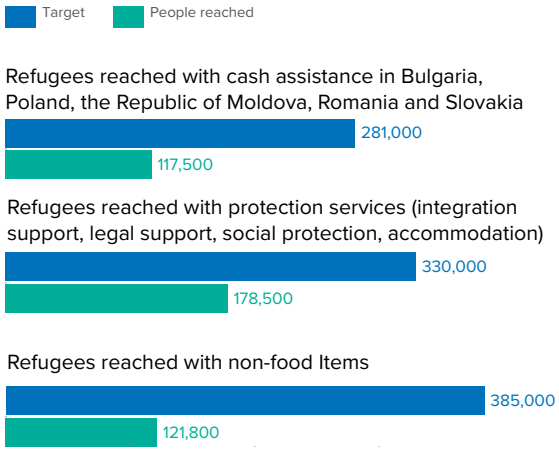
More details: UNHCR Operational Data Portal Ukraine Refugee Situation

**8,240,289**
Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe (16 May)

**5,124,575***
Refugees from Ukraine registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe (16 May)

**5,352,000**
Estimated number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ukraine (23 January) Internal Displacement Report

## UNHCR REFUGEE RESPONSE 2023




* 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.

## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Many communities along Ukraine's north-eastern border with Russia and the frontline of fighting, are encircled, without access to water, food, and medical care, said the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths during the briefing to the Security Council on 15 May. Against this backdrop, UNHCR has reached the milestone of supporting over 1,1 million people in Ukraine so far in 2023, exceeding 30% of its response target set for this year. People have been reached with life-saving humanitarian assistance at the frontline and in newly regained areas of the country. UNHCR continues prioritizing interventions that help reduce and mitigate protection risks and enable internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees to recover and attain durable solutions, where possible.
- 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

- Country-wide large-scale missile attacks continue affecting the civilian population inside Ukraine. On 8 May, a Russian missile attack destroyed a Red Cross warehouse with aid in Odesa. On 13 May, the premises of a WFP-contracted bakery in Mykolaiv were hit, causing damage to facilities used for storing and distributing bread to thousands of families in the region.
- As of 15 May 2023, OHCHR recorded 23,821 civilian casualties in the country: 8,836 killed and 14,985 injured. The actual figures are estimated to be much higher.

## UNHCR RESPONSE AND TARGETS INSIDE UKRAINE 2023 AS OF 5 MAY

**1.10 million**

people reached with assistance in 2023, out of a target of

**3.6 million**

people, some of whom will receive several forms of support.

**485,876**

people reached with protection services, out of a target of

**1.9 million**

people.

**393,204**

people supported with essential items, out of a target of

**1 million**

people.

**231,967**

people supported with cash assistance, out of a target of

**800,000**

people.

**81,162**

people received shelter/housing support, out of a target of

**720,000**

people.

**36,955**

people supported with safe access to multi-sectoral services in collective sites, out of a target of

**150,000**

people.

## UNHCR RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Assistance to evacuated people:** Following their evacuation from Donetska to Zhytomyrska oblast, 132 internally displaced people (IDPs) were supported by UNHCR partners, Rokada and Right to Protection, with essential items and protection-related services, such as psychosocial support and counselling to address their most urgent needs.
- **Community-based support:** UNHCR, together with partner CrimeaSOS, will support 12 grassroot projects in Kyivska, Zhytomyrska, and Chernihivska oblasts with grants of USD 1,200 to assist IDPs and war-affected communities, or to build civil society organizations capacities.
- **Humanitarian convoys:** On 3 May, UNHCR contributed 1,000 solar lamps and tarpaulin sheets to an interagency convoy that delivered aid to a front line village in Kharkivska oblast.
- **Integration:** The Integration Hub in Mukachevo was inaugurated on 8 May with the support of UNHCR, UNDP and local authorities. The hub, created by NGO Mariupol Youth Union, will help IDPs and locals to develop skills and foster social cohesion through professional trainings, workshops for youth, and other activities.
- **Legal Update:** UNHCR published a Thematic Legislative Update focused on the Government of Ukraine's newly adopted State Strategy on Internal Displacement (2023-2025) and its Operational Plan. The five central goals of the Strategy and associated objectives, include: 1) strengthening the State's capacity to respond to internal displacement; 2) ensuring safe evacuations; 3) assisting in the initial-stage integration of IDPs; 4) facilitating the integration of IDPs by creating conditions for the development and strengthening the capacity of host communities; 5) and supporting safe returns to home communities and reintegration of IDPs.
- **Protection monitoring:** During the past week, UNHCR's partner Right to Protection (R2P) conducted over 120 monitoring visits to six oblasts, where over 470 IDPs were supported with protection counselling and legal assistance.
- **Shelter assistance:** On 5 May, UNHCR distributed construction materials to 100 families in Vysokopillia in Khersonska oblast to support with the repair of houses damaged due to hostilities.
- 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

**36 Blue Dots Hubs** are operational in:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bulgaria | 5 | Poland | 5 | Slovenia | 1 |
| Hungary | 3 | Romania | 7 | | |
| Moldova | 10 | Slovakia | 5 | | |

## 81,500

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 localized and up-to-date information about services available in Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The website provides a map of existing Blue Dot Hubs with 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 16 May 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

**158,635**
refugees have registered for temporary protection

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

**39,435**
refugees have received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

**34,343**
refugees have been reached through **5** Blue Dot Hubs

**7,964**
refugees received cash assistance

**5,376**
visits to the UNHCR Bulgaria Help Page

- **Coordination:** On 11 May, UNHCR and the Burgas Municipality signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen their work on socio-economic inclusion of refugees. The Black Sea region of Burgas hosts thousands of refugees from Ukraine, including over 4,000 in state-sponsored accommodation.
- **MHPSS:** 4,182 refugees from Ukraine have been provided with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) since 1 January 2023.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** UNHCR has been actively engaging with the government during the preparation of the Integration and Inclusion Plan for temporary protection holders from Ukraine. Focusing on various aspects of inclusion, such as access to housing, Bulgarian language learning, education, employment, and access to social services, the draft plan should be finalized by end of May.

## CZECH REPUBLIC

**519,964**
refugees have registered for temporary protection

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

**5,245**
refugees from Ukraine have received protection services

**15,329**
visits to the UNHCR Czech Republic Help Page

- **Accommodation:** As of 2 May 2023, 71,812 refugees were staying in emergency accommodation, which is provided free of charge in various facilities, such as dormitories, school accommodation facilities and hostels.
- **Assistance:** As of 1 July, humanitarian assistance for temporary protection and holders will be provided for five months upon receiving temporary protection, as stipulated in the Lex Ukraine V, the new legal framework regulating refugee assistance. After five months, the need for assistance will be reassessed by the government based on the refugee's income, except for vulnerable people.

## HUNGARY

**35,030**
refugees have registered for temporary protection

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

**8,846**
refugees have received protection and legal support by UNHCR and partners

**9,435**
refugees have been reached through **3** Blue Dot Hubs

**26,700**
visits to the UNHCR Hungary Help Page

- **Child protection:** In line with the Hungarian Child Protection legal framework, UNHCR has published an overview of guidelines for organizations working with children from Ukraine on reporting suspected or confirmed child abuse cases. The guidelines were developed with the Child Protection Sub-Working Group and approved by the Ministry of Interior.
- **Coordination:** The Ukrainian school in Budapest, a refugee-led organization, has been appointed as a new co-chair of the Education Working Group. The Ukrainian school in Budapest will gradually take over this role from UNHCR, the interim co-chair.
- **Food assistance:** Throughout April, 2,580 refugees received basic food packages at the Zahony border crossing point and in Budapest from UNHCR partner Reformed Church Aid. A total of 8,432 people have been supported with food packages so far in 2023.

## POLAND

**1,602,062**
refugees have registered for temporary protection

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

**27,345**
people were provided with protection support over the phone

**13,741**
people were counselled at the **5** Blue Dot Hubs and 6 Community Centres

**13,681**
refugees were reached with cash assistance

**240,958**
views to the UNHCR Poland Help Page

- **Accommodation:** On 12 May, UNHCR and partner CORE finalized thermal shelter upgrades and minor repairs in three collective accommodation centres in the Podkarpackie region, bordering Ukraine. The centres have capacity to accommodate around 300 refugees. Since the start of the full-scale war in 2022, a total of 15 accommodation centres have been rehabilitated, enabling capacity to accommodate 2,376 individuals.
- **Capacity-building:** From 15 to 20 May, more than 120 Polish law-enforcement officials, were trained by UNHCR, IOM, and INTERPOL on Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) to enhance their capacities in the context of assisting refugees from Ukraine.
- **Mobile outreach**: During multifunctional mobile outreach visits to four regions, 235 refugees received social and psychological counselling, and some were referred to specialized services. Main queries related to financial support, accommodation, employment, and healthcare.
- **Non-food items:** From 8 to 12 May, UNHCR distributed hygiene kits and clothes to 1,500 refugees in Wroclaw city.
- Find out more on the UNHCR Poland data portal

## REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

**108,620**
refugees from Ukraine recorded in the country

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

**9,240**
refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

**8,119**
refugees have been reached through **10** Blue Dot Hubs as of 9 April

**74,278**
people have received cash assistance

**146,788**
visits to the UNHCR Moldova Help Page

- **Child protection:** From 2 to 4 May, eight child protection specialists from the Guardianship Authority were trained by UNHCR in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, UNICEF, and the partner AVE Copiii, on best interest determination, case management, and temporary protection. It was the second training session for the Guardianship Authority after a first session from 2 to 4 April.
- **Coordination:** From 11 to 12 May in Balti, over 60 staff from 37 organizations participated in a workshop to foster collaboration and ensure a coordinated approach to refugee assistance, as well as to establish local referral pathways. UNHCR plans to replicate similar events in other locations to establish localized referral pathways throughout the country.
- **PSEA:** On 5 May, 23 staff from women-led organizations were trained by UNHCR and UN Women in Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Meanwhile, on 2 May, 25 participants commenced the Investigators Qualification Training Scheme, supported by UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and IOM, aimed at strengthening local capacity and enhancing the response to PSEA incidents as well as establishing a pool of local investigators.
- **Protection access:** 19 Roma community mediators attended a training organized by UNHCR on 5 and 12 May about the temporary protection application procedure.
- Find out more on the UNHCR Moldova portal page

## ROMANIA

**131,462**
refugees registered for temporary protection

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

**33,796**
refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

**18,898**
refugees were reached with cash assistance

**31,931**
visits to the UNHCR Romania Help Page

**567**
refugees have been provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

- **Coordination:** On 12 May, over 50 officials, including from 22 municipalities, attended a municipal coordination conference in Bucharest organized by the Inter-Agency Coordination platform led by UNHCR to discuss good practices in refugee inclusion and enhancing refugee participation in municipal services.
- **GBV:** On 6 May, 34 refugee participants were trained in self-defence in Bucharest by the NGO Global Impact, through UNHCR's partnership with Sensiblu Foundation. The aim was to raise awareness of gender-based violence through practical self-defence training, identifying situations of potential abuse and violence, and peer support among participants.
- **Non-food items:** From 8 to 12 May, UNHCR and partners distributed 1,328 non-food items to over 800 vulnerable refugees residing in Brăila, Constanța, Suceava and Sighisoara counties. The distribution included hygiene kits, blankets, towels, and clothes.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** So far in 2023, a total of 1,800 refugees have been supported with livelihoods and employment services. This includes 316 refugees enrolled in language courses and 800 refugees who received individual counselling. On 12 May, UNHCR together with partner Jobs4Ukraine supported a job fair organized by the local employment authority AJOFM in Constanta with interpretation to facilitate communication with employers.
- Find out more on the UNHCR Romania data portal

## SLOVAKIA

**116,202**
refugees registered for temporary protection

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

**9,900**
refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners as of 27 March

**17,788**
people been assisted with legal counselling at **5** Blue Dots

**2,627**
refugees have received cash assistance

**86,597**
visits to the UNHCR HELP Page

- **Capacity-building**: On 10 and 12 May, UNHCR exchanged with Presov, Michalovce and Kosice authorities on inclusion and empowerment of refugees and capacity-building activities. The municipalities also requested UNHCR support to organize trainings on inclusive education, social and legal protection, as well as working with persons with specific needs.
- **Protection profiling:** From 3 to 4 May, 52 staff from UNHCR partners attended the protection profiling and monitoring (PPM) training aimed at scaling up protection monitoring interviews in the run-up to the upcoming PPM, including PPM methodology, provision of information about support services, safe handling of potential gender-based violence disclosures, and so on.
- **Social cohesion:** From 15 to 30 April, nearly 100 refugees in the Banska Bystrica and Zilina regions attended several community and inclusion activities organized by UNHCR partner People in Need to bring refugees closer to the host community, practice speaking Slovak and sensitize the host community.
- Find out more on the UNHCR Slovakia data portal.

Ukraine. UNHCR-supported centre for war-affected children and families in Dnipropetrovska Oblast February 2023 © UNHCR/Alina Kovalenko

# OTHER COUNTRIES

## BELARUS

- As of 1 May, **27,673 refugees** from Ukraine had been recorded in Belarus.
- **Counselling:** As of 30 April, 620 people were provided with legal and social consultations, as well as accommodation, by UNHCR partners the Refugee Counselling Service and the Belarusian Red Cross Society.
- **Non-food items:** So far in 2023, 440 refugees from Ukraine were assisted by the Belarusian Red Cross with non-food items, including 49 families who received vouchers of USD 180, blankets, food packages and hygiene kits.
- **Monitoring:** From 11 to 12 May, UNHCR visited the Gomel region to monitor the implementation of partner projects, including the joint UNHCR – Refugee Counselling Service warehouse and the Belarusian Red Cross Crisis Centre. UNHCR also visited the state-run Temporary Accommodation Centre and referred a refugee family hosted in the Centre to a partner's assistance.

## ESTONIA

- As of 15 May, **45,712 refugees** from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection.

## GEORGIA

- As of 6 April, **24,182 refugees** from Ukraine had been recorded in the country.
- **Child protection:** During the Child Protection, Education and Well-being Working Group meeting on 26 April, UNHCR, UNICEF, the government, NGOs and other partners discussed recent developments regarding children from Ukraine living in Batumi and Tbilisi cities. School enrolment, inclusion support, language learning, and mental health and psychosocial support were agreed upon as main advocacy points.
- **Communicating with communities:** From 30 March to 21 April, some 100 refugees from Ukraine attended information sessions provided by UNHCR and the Government in five cities, regarding international protection, access to healthcare services, citizenship and residence in Georgia. UNHCR and partners followed up on individual cases and identified future steps for addressing identified issued.
- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, UNHCR together with partners provided in person/hotline consultations to 2,874 refugees from Ukraine on social, legal and other related issues. The UNHCR Help Page was visited 28,494 times.
- **UNHCR policy brief:** In late April, UNHCR issued both a report from an intentions survey and needs assessment done together with World Vision, as well as a briefing note on the inter-agency response in Georgia, containing key findings related to the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Georgia.

## LATVIA

- As of 12 May, **47,787 refugees** from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection.

## LITHUANIA

- As of 12 May, **77,444 refugees** from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection.

## RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, 7,481 refugees from Ukraine have been counselled in-person by UNHCR and partners in urban areas, while nearly 5,013 have been counselled in the border regions of Voronezh, Kursk, Rostov-on-Don and Belgorod. Over 26,853 refugees have been counselled over the hotline by UNHCR and partners in the rest of the Russian Federation.
- **MHPSS:** So far in 2023, over 9,049 refugees have received psychosocial support through partners.

# COORDINATION

## UKRAINE

In Ukraine, UNHCR leads three Clusters, namely Camp Coordination 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

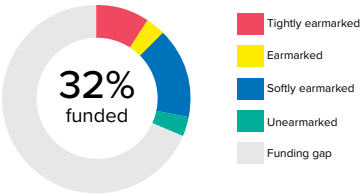
The 2023 RRP aims at ensuring refugees' access to protection and assistance on a non-discriminatory basis, with a special focus on refugees at risk of becoming vulnerable. The 2023 plan places an emphasis on refugees' socio-economic inclusion, in recognition of the challenges faced by refugees due to 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

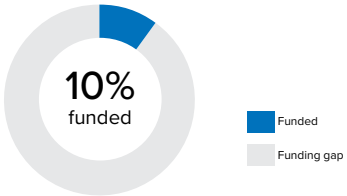
(as of 10 May 2023)

**$ 1.1 billion**
required (USD)



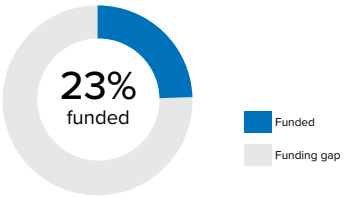

## Inter-Agency Financial Updates

**$ 1.68 billion**
required (USD)
(as 18 May 2023)




**Revised:**
Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan

**$ 3.95 billion**
required (USD)
(as of 18 May 2023)




**Revised:**
UN Flash Appeal (Ukraine)

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