



2023 Regional Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment

Concept Note

Update as of 15 May 2023

A multi-sectoral needs assessment (MSNA) is a collaborative process used to identify the most pressing needs of a particular population across various sectors such as protection, health, education, shelter, livelihoods, food security, and others. The goal is to gather comprehensive and accurate data that can guide the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs and interventions aimed at addressing those needs.

Background

More than one-year have passed since the start of the war in Ukraine. The hostilities have resulted in a displacement and humanitarian crisis of epic proportions. The response by the refugee-hosting countries has been characterized by a spirit of welcome and unwavering generosity, with families and communities opening their doors to millions of refugees from Ukraine. Nevertheless, the situation in 2023 remains of grave concern and continues to require a coordinated humanitarian response at the regional level. As of end December, UNHCR reported some 4.9 million people registered for temporary protection or a similar national protection scheme in Europe. The [2023 RRP](#) still expected that refugees may continue to arrive, due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine that might trigger additional waves of displacement.

Given the dynamic situation of refugee movements in 2022, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Romania, and the Republic of Moldova conducted multi-sectoral needs assessments at different times of the year and using somewhat different instruments. The Inter-Agency Regional Response Plan (RRP¹) and the Regional Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) have agreed on a regional approach to the implementation of Inter-Agency multi-sectoral needs assessments (MSNA) in 2023. This is to ensure the assessment is conducted at the same time of the year, using a similar methodological approach, and using a harmonized instrument aiming at having comparable results to better inform and prioritize the humanitarian response. Coordinated assessments and joint analyses are needed to establish a common Inter-Agency understanding of the situation² and to ensure a responsible approach to data collection and analysis, reducing the need for parallel or overlapping assessment and minimizing the intrusion into the lives of refugees³.

The 2023 Multi-Sector Needs Assessments (MSNA) will be conducted in 7 countries that are part of the 2023 Ukraine RRP (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia).

¹ In support of the government-led responses, UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the Inter-Agency RRP in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) in a collaborative and consultative manner with authorities, aid agencies, civil society and with affected populations, including women and refugee-led organizations.

² As agreed by donors, humanitarian organizations and UN agencies in [The Grand Bargain](#).

³ See [IASC Operational Guidance on Data Responsibility in Humanitarian Action](#).



Purpose and scope

The MSNA is an essential interagency tool for planning and prioritization, decision making and needs-based program designing. The main purpose of the MSNAs is to support the RRP planning cycle process and to enable planning among key humanitarian actors through the provision of updated information on multi-sectoral needs and priorities of refugees from Ukraine. Results of the MSNA will be used by all stakeholders under the Regional Response (RRP) to understand the evolving situation, unpack risk and vulnerabilities and to advocate for funding from donors.

For the 2023 Regional MSNA, the UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Europe and Inter-Agency partners are aiming at standardizing the process and core components of the MSNA to allow better comparison across countries but without losing the trend comparison with 2022. The key objectives of the regional MSNA are:

1. **To provide a multisectoral and comparable overview/update of the needs, capacities, and vulnerability situation** of refugees from Ukraine hosted in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia, to provide the evidence base to inform the 2024 RRP planning and prioritization process.
2. **To ensure that the needs and vulnerabilities of different refugee groups** are understood, including women, children, older people, people with disabilities, and others who may face additional risks and barriers.
3. **To ensure that the perspectives and preferences** of refugees from Ukraine are reflected in the strategic and response planning.
4. **To enhance targeting for the provision of assistance.** Aiming to collect enough evidence and data to better inform future data driven targeting.
5. **To improve the accuracy and completeness of comparable socio-economic indicators of refugees** to support evidence-based policy making and planning for inclusion.

The **target population** of the 2023 MSNAs will be refugees from Ukraine⁴ who are hosted / residing in the countries under coverage by the time of data collection. The assessment will have a country-wide **geographical coverage**, with specific sub-national stratification decided in each country.

Data Analysis Plan:

The identification of the core information needs to cover in the 2023 MSNAs has been informed by a revision of key analytical frameworks used in refugee settings, including:

- UNHCR's [Needs Assessment Handbook](#)
- The guidance on joint assessments and analysis from the [UNHCR-WFP Joint Hub](#)
- Vulnerability assessment frameworks developed in other refugee scenarios⁵
- The analysis plans used in MSNAs conducted in host countries in 2022

⁴ The term "refugees from Ukraine" is understood to include Ukrainian nationals as well as third-country nationals who fled Ukraine since 24 February 2022 and are in need of international protection, including people who are stateless or at risk of statelessness.

⁵ For instance [VASyR](#) in Lebanon or [VAF](#) in Jordan.

Based on this, a detailed analysis plan was developed to guide the collection of data for each sector in collaboration with Inter-Agency partners that are part of the RRP, identifying the priority indicators for measurement. Based on the data analysis plan, a harmonized regional questionnaire was prepared, using international standards for households' surveys or questions banks from relevant humanitarian assessments frameworks, whenever they were available. The data analysis plan, and questionnaire take as reference the sectoral coverage of the [2023 RRP](#), and include the following modules:

- Demographics
- Protection (including child protection and GBV)
- Accommodation
- Education
- Health
- Livelihoods & inclusion
- Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)
- Economic capacity / vulnerability (including food security and coping strategies)
- Intentions

Countries will work on contextualizing the questionnaire according to the availability of existing information and additional data gaps not covered in the core regional tool which could result in some modules not needed to be collected and/or others added. Countries will also identify needs to adapt some of the response options when needed as per the context.

Data Collection Methodology

The MSNAs will be implemented through a **sample-based household survey** with data collected through face-face interviews. All efforts will be made to ensure the use of probabilistic sampling methods, to ensure representativeness and accuracy of the estimates, review of available information in each country will be conducted to identify options for comprehensive sampling frames, including list-based and/or area-based sources. **Collaboration with government agencies and national statistical offices will be pursued** to explore options for sharing of data that can inform sampling frames as well as to support with quality assurance of sampling design selected.

Complementarity with qualitative research is encouraged if possible. This may include focus group discussions with refugees or interviews with key informants to provide a more nuanced understanding of the experiences and perspectives of refugees, as well as highlighting key issues or challenges that may not be captured by the quantitative data alone.

Appropriate measures will be put in place to ensure the protection of personal data and guarantee confidentiality in all data collection and processing activities⁶. Consent must be requested and recorded for all selected participants, with clear information on the purpose and expected use of the data.

⁶ Including agency-specific policies such as UNHCR's [GDPP](#) as well as relevant regional and national policies, such as [GDPR](#).

Joint Analysis

Once fieldwork is completed and data is cleaned and prepared for analysis (following common data cleaning and consistency checks procedures), a set of tabulations and visualizations with key results and indicators per sector (guided by data analysis plan) will be prepared and shared with all inter-agency partners. Joint analysis and interpretation sessions or workshops will be organized with sectoral experts to commonly agree on key findings and its interpretation, identify areas that need checks or additional analysis, ensure disaggregated analysis is considered to assess differences across specific population groups, and outline priority recommendations based on the findings. The exchanges and notes of the sessions will inform the narrative reports that will be produced for each country, which will follow a harmonized template.

Expected Outputs

- Tabulations and visualizations of key results per sector, broken down as per agreed-upon disaggregation levels
- Notes from analysis workshops
- MSNA narrative reports summarizing key findings and joint analysis outcomes per country
- MSNA regional report, summarizing key findings across all countries
- Metadata and microdata of each survey published in [UNHCR's Microdata Library](#) (after curation to ensure proper anonymization)

Coordination, Implementation and Timeline

MSNAs will be coordinated through the Information Management Working Groups (IMWG) set-up for the Ukraine response at country level (including through the creation of a specific sub-group or advisory committee), where Inter-Agency stakeholders will reach an agreement on the collection and processing of data. Host governments will be invited to participate in the analysis and interpretation of results. The Data, Identity Management and Analysis Unit (DIMA) within UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Europe, in coordination with the Regional IMWG, will provide methodological and operational guidance for the entire exercise.

Stage	Month
Data Analysis Plan and Questionnaire	
Regional development	April
Country level contextualization	May
Sampling Methodology	
Develop a sampling methodology in coordination (preferable with national statistical offices)	May
Training and Data Collection	
Agree on the level of engagement with IA partners	April / May
Conduct data collection	June / July
Data Analysis and Report	
Preliminary analysis and joint interpretation or results	August / September
Final Report	September / October
Publish Microdata	October / November

Accountability to Affected Populations

MSNAs will integrate and ensure accountability to refugees from Ukraine throughout the process, including:

- Inform / communicate affected population about the exercise prior to start of data collection
- Ensure all fieldwork staff is trained and adheres to code of conduct
- Test data collection tools with affected population prior
- When possible, conduct focus group discussions with different groups of refugees to ensure their priorities and preferences are integrated in the analysis
- Share back the results of the assessment with affected population and host communities
- Ensure information and reports are available in local and in refugee's language

Contacts

For more information about the MSNA, please contact:

Country	Inter-Agency Coordination	Information Management
Regional	Aslak Solumsmoen (solumsmo@unhcr.org) Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator Officer	Jad Ghosn (ghosn@unhcr.org) Senior Information Management Officer Milindi Illangasinghe (illangas@unhcr.org) Information Management Officer
Bulgaria	Hayoung Kim (kimh@unhcr.org) Inter-Agency Coordination Officer	Anastasia Ilieva (ilieva@unhcr.org) Senior Information Management Associate Aleksandar Naskov (naskov@unhcr.org) Associate Information Management Officer
Czechia	Lorenzo Leonelli (leonelli@unhcr.org) Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator Officer	Dasa Vasilova (vasilova@unhcr.org) Information Management Associate
Hungary		Bo Hurkmans (hurkmans@unhcr.org) Information Management Officer
Moldova	Diego Nardi (nardid@unhcr.org) Inter-Agency Coordinator Officer	Yurii Arnautov (arnautov@unhcr.org) Information Management Officer
Poland	Filippo Busconi Ricci Oddi (busconir@unhcr.org) Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator Officer	Andrii Mazurenko (mazurenk@unhcr.org) Senior Information Management Officer
Romania	Sebastiaan Der Kinderen (kinderen@unhcr.org) Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator Officer	Facundo Matias Palermo (palermo@unhcr.org) Information Management Officer Stefan-Florentin Lorint (lorints@unhcr.org) Asst Info Management Officer
Slovakia	Stylianos Kostas (kostas@unhcr.org) Inter-Agency Coordination Officer	Carmen Garcia (garcicar@unhcr.org) Associate Information Management Officer