



UKRAINE SITUATION FLASH UPDATE #55

15 September 2023

As refugee children from Ukraine return to school across the region, Sophia (9) is looking forward to starting 5th grade at her school in Dobrich, Bulgaria. Sophia, her mother, older brother, and father arrived in Bulgaria on 1 March 2022 from Kyiv. Since the start of the full-scale war in February 2022, a considerable part of Ukraine's child population has been forced to flee to other countries, or is newly displaced inside Ukraine, affecting over 5 million children, resulting in a uniquely complex range of challenges with regard to access to education for children and youth from Ukraine. © UNHCR

PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

5,830,500*

refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe (as of 12 Sep)

369,200

refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe (as of 19 Aug)

6,199,700

refugees from Ukraine recorded globally (as of 12 Sep)

5,088,000

Estimated number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ukraine (as of 23 May) (Source: [IOM](#))

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

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Against the backdrop of regular missile, drone, and shelling attacks continuing to strike communities and taking a heavy toll on civilians and damaging civil infrastructure across Ukraine, UNHCR launched its winterization response on 1 September for a period of six months. UNHCR will target 900,000 displaced and war-affected people by providing rapid thermal kits for insulation of homes, distributing and installing heaters, supporting collective sites to ensure readiness for winter, distributing essential winter items, providing cash for rent and energy needs during winter, as well as delivering generators whenever needs arise.
- To find out more about the situation and the response in Ukraine and the region, see [UNHCR's Ukraine Emergency website](#).

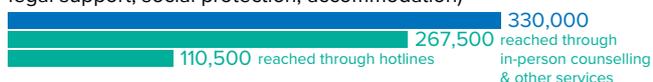
UNHCR REFUGEE RESPONSE 2023

■ Target ■ People reached

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



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



People reached with non-food items



On 30 August, UNHCR published [Education on hold](#) focusing on the main challenges in education and offering insights and avenues toward potential solutions for refugee education. Click [here](#) to learn how to support education for children from Ukraine!

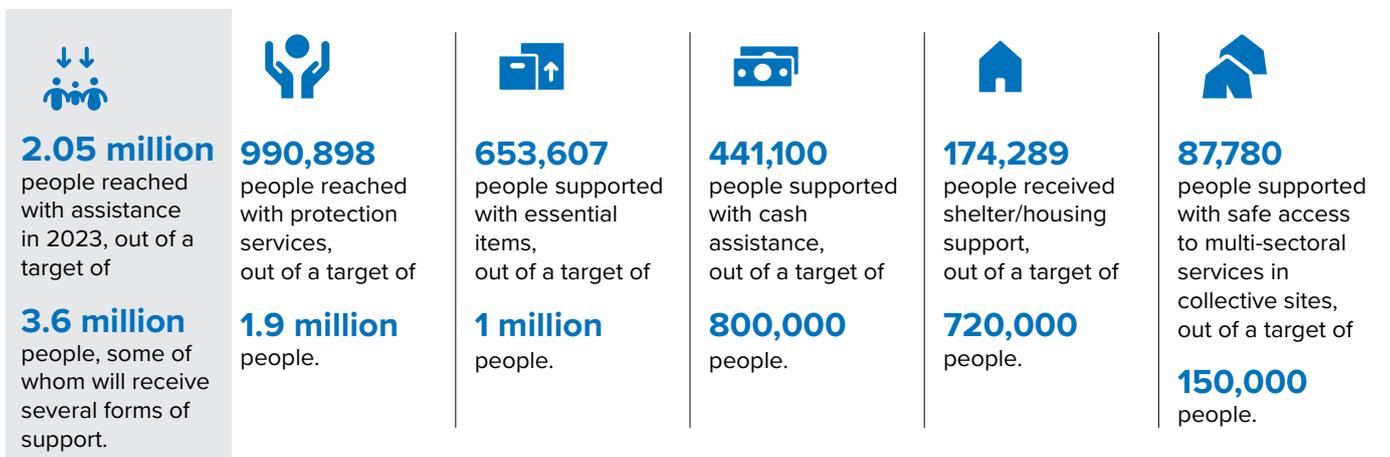
Join our mailing list to receive regular updates

* Europe corresponds to all Europe sub-regions as identified by Eurovoc (European Union, Thesaurus Eurovoc, Volume 2, Subject-oriented version, Publications Office, 2005), therefore including EU and non-EU countries belonging to Central and Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, and Western Europe, plus Türkiye.

UKRAINE SITUATION UPDATE

- Donetska oblast observed a major missile attack on [31 August](#), which reportedly killed three civilians and injured 11 others, and damaged 54 civil facilities, 43 residential buildings and agricultural facilities. Another major [attack](#) in Donetska oblast took place on 6 September, [killing](#) 17 and injuring 32 civilians.
- On 8 September, a wave of attacks was reported across the country, including: an attack on in Dnipropetrovska oblast [killing one and injuring 73 persons](#) and damaging residential buildings and a police administrative building; an [attack](#) on Sumy, injuring three civilians and inflicting heavy damages of the residential buildings; and a bomb [attack](#) in Khersonska region, killing three and injuring four civilians.
- Over the reporting period, two incidents affecting humanitarian workers were also reported: on 10 September, two aid volunteers from NGO Road to Relief were killed and two others injured in a Russian missile attack in Chasiv Yar, Donetsk region, while a further three persons from HALO Trust were reportedly injured in Khersonska oblast while undertaking demining activities.
- As of 10 September 2023, OHCHR [recorded](#) 27,149 civilian casualties in the country: 9,614 killed and 17,535 injured (actual figures are estimated to be much higher).

UNHCR RESPONSE AND TARGETS INSIDE UKRAINE 2023 (AS OF 30 AUGUST 2023)*



Reached figures are subject to data cleaning and retro-active corrections may occur.

UNHCR RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Border monitoring:** In the past two weeks, UNHCR partners Right to Protection, NEEKA and The Tenth of April conducted 117 monitoring visits, to the border crossing points with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova. During the monitoring visits 464 people received protection counselling, 98 people received legal assistance, social accompaniment was provided to 12 people and transportation services to nine people.
- **Coordination:** On September 6 - 7 September, a forum for IDP councils from Khersonska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetska and Zaporizka oblasts was held in Dnipro, organized by local partner Stabilization Support Services through support from UNHCR. The event was attended by approximately 100 representatives of councils of IDPs, the local administration, charitable foundations, and NGOs to explore solutions for IDPs, as well as inclusion within host communities.
- **GBV:** UNHCR partner Intersos delivered a five-day GBV case management training session with local authorities from Odesa, Mykolaivska, Kirovohradska, and Cherkaska oblasts, along with UNHCR's local partner the Tenth of April. The training included specifics relating to case management for male survivors of GBV, and survivors with disabilities.
- **Prevention of trafficking:** Together with IOM and Right to Protection, UNHCR delivered a training to State Border Guard Service staff in Chernivsti, Lviv, and Lutsk on the prevention of and response to human trafficking, and the identification of children at risk, and the application of relevant referral mechanisms.

Housing/NFIs:

- **CCCM:** In Uzhhorod, 105 IDPs who were living in collective sites in educational facilities moved into a newly renovated centre managed by the Department of Social Policy, and for which UNHCR and partners provided furniture and NFIs. The centre has capacity for 128 IDPs and will allow educational facilities to resume their original function.
- **Collective site refurbishment:** In Mukachevo in Zakarpatska oblast, UNHCR provided construction materials, including tiles, paint, cement, flooring, doors, and panels to support the rehabilitation of an IDP collective site, benefitting 28 individuals.
- **Housing:** In the city of Kharkiv, UNHCR finalized durable repair works on 12 houses, allowing families to remain or return to their homes.

- **Humanitarian convoys:** As part of a recent inter-agency convoy to Vovchansk, in Kharkiv region, in close proximity to the border with Russia on 6 September, UNHCR provided 1,000 bed linen sets and 600 solar lamps to people whose houses were damaged by shelling.
- **Non-Food Items:** During the reporting period in Kyiv and Zhytomyr oblasts, 354 recently arriving IDP households received core-relief items such as kitchen sets, water canisters, LED lamps, hygiene kits, pillows, mattresses, blankets, towels, bed linen, and blankets as part of a distribution conducted by UNHCR partner Right to Protection. The distribution addresses the basic needs of vulnerable households.
- **Winter assistance:** In cooperation with local NGO Peremoha, 9,000 items of clothing and 650 pairs of shoes were distributed to vulnerable IDPs in Boryspil, in Kyiv oblast.
- Find more information in the [regular Ukraine country operational updates](#)

REGIONAL UNHCR KEY FIGURES AND COUNTRY UPDATES

BLUE DOTS

35

Blue Dots Hubs are operational in:

Bulgaria	5	Moldova	10	Romania	6	Slovenia	1
Hungary	3	Poland	4	Slovakia	6		

One Blue Dot hub has been recently closed in Romania.

190,525

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, 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 12 SEPTEMBER 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

More information available on the UNHCR [Ukraine operational data portal](#) page.

COUNTRY UPDATES

BULGARIA

65,765 refugees have been recorded	UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023			
	80,500 refugees have received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners	57,370 refugees have been reached through 5 Blue Dot Hubs	8,507 refugees received cash assistance	8,983 visits to the UNHCR Bulgaria Help Page

- **Capacity-building:** On 31 August, 26 staff from nine UNHCR partners were trained by UNHCR in data protection regarding cash enrolment and community activities, strengthening partner’s operationalization of the standards for personal data protection in the context of their partnership programs with UNHCR.
- **Socioeconomic inclusion:** So far in 2023, over 2,300 refugees from Ukraine benefitted from job counselling, Bulgarian language courses and professional vocational trainings provided by UNHCR partner Caritas. In the second half of August, 20 refugees from Ukraine acquired employment with the support of Caritas. Meanwhile, 18 local and refugee artists from various countries, including Ukraine, will attend a training of trainers (ToT) in Sofia from 4 - 18 September organized by UNHCR in partnership with NGO Artolution. The ToT integrates mental health and psychosocial support components, and aims to enable participants to gain hands-on experience in conducting workshops and engaging with participants.
- **MHPSS:** So far in 2023, over 6,640 refugees from Ukraine were provided with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

CZECH REPUBLIC

368,300 refugees have been recorded	UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023	
	8,738 refugees from Ukraine have received protection services as of 30 July	22,745 visits to the UNHCR Czech Republic Help Page

- **Communicating with communities:** 43 project proposals have been submitted by refugee-led and community-based organizations to a UNHCR call for proposals for small grants. Selected projects will receive USD 4,000 for activities focusing on effective inclusion of displaced persons in local communities, strengthening the resilience of displaced people, legal/social assistance to improve and support access to rights, as well as on provision of specialized services for persons with specific protection needs/vulnerabilities.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** In collaboration with the government, UNHCR partner Romodrom will set up a new network of local Roma community ambassadors to promote social cohesion between refugees from Ukraine and Czech Roma communities.

HUNGARY

53,375 refugees have been recorded	UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023		
	18,543 refugees have received protection and legal support by UNHCR and partners	16,415 refugees have been reached through 3 Blue Dot Hubs	43,508 visits to the UNHCR Hungary Help Page

- **Accommodation:** To address information gaps and concerns about shelter evictions regarding the new accommodation subsidy scheme, UNHCR extended the Regional Call Centre working hours between 10 - 11 September. UNHCR followed up with municipalities operating collective shelters and private accommodation and monitored collective shelters in Salgotarjan, Hont, and Tata.
- **Multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA):** In the framework of the MSNA, refugee adolescents from Ukraine aged 14 - 17 informed during focus group discussions that bullying of refugee students from Ukraine (and in some cases Roma) remained prevalent in schools. They also cited language barriers as another common barrier.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Hungary data portal](#)

POLAND

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023				
<p>968,390 refugees have been recorded</p>	<p>39,000 people were provided with protection support over the telephone</p>	<p>54,000 people were counselled at the 4 Blue Dot Hubs and 7 Community Centres</p>	<p>21,730 refugees received cash assistance</p>	<p>202,944 visits to the UNHCR Poland Help Page</p>

- **Education:** In light of the 2023-2024 school year, UNHCR continues to address factors contributing to low enrolment among Ukrainian refugees. Translated versions of the ‘[Education on Hold](#)’ report are being released to inform parents and other stakeholders of the impact of the war on learning. In field locations, a joint campaign led by UNICEF continued to encourage parents to register their children in Polish schools. In Krakow, UNHCR teams conducted a training for partners, protection monitors and other frontline workers to train them on how to respond to parents’ queries regarding school enrolment. The team also launched a ‘[Back to School video challenge](#)’ to highlight positive aspects of attending Polish schools.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Poland data portal](#)

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023				
<p>116,615 refugees have been recorded</p>	<p>48,641 refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners as of 30 July</p>	<p>10,134 refugees have been reached through 10 Blue Dot Hubs</p>	<p>79,821 refugees received cash assistance</p>	<p>226,430 visits to the UNHCR Moldova Help Page</p>

- **Accommodation:** On 30 August, UNHCR discussed with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) the progress in implementing the Refugee Accommodation Centre (RAC) consolidation strategy, which foresees the closure of 20 out of 49 RACs in 2023, each with a two months notification period. UNHCR together with MLSP and partner ACTED, visited one RAC to identify spaces that could accommodate refugees with special needs and to undertake an estimate of repair costs.
- **Coordination:** On 5 September, 110 stakeholders from the government, Refugee Coordination Forum partners, and donors attended a meeting organized by the Government Commission on Migration and Asylum and co-hosted by UNHCR. The meeting addressed updates to the TP registration process, including easier proof-of-residence and enrolment of refugee children from Ukraine in public schools. Discussion also covered employment opportunities, financial support for TP beneficiaries, contingency plans, and the 2024 Regional Response Plan. UNHCR presented the RRP’s priorities and timeline.
- **Winterization:** UNHCR has issued the [2023/2024 Winterization Guidance](#) for coordinating winter activities in Moldova. UNHCR, together with partner ACTED, conducted a technical assessment of four community buildings in Palanca, Causeni and Stefan Voda as a part of the Inter-Agency Winterization Taskforce to determine all necessary repairs. On 8 Septem-

ber, UNHCR, in collaboration with IOM, WFP, ACTED, and DRC, completed two assessments focused on winterization needs of housing and community infrastructure. The household surveys reached 481 Moldovan households and 346 refugee households, while 12 communal facilities were assessed through community surveys.

- Find out more on the [UNHCR Moldova portal page](#)

ROMANIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023				
<p>86,810 refugees have been recorded</p>	<p>66,703 refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners</p>	<p>38,443 refugees received cash assistance</p>	<p>1,015 refugees have been provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid</p>	<p>56,591 visits to the UNHCR Romania Help Page</p>

- **Capacity building:** During a joint UNESCO and Center for Independent Journalism event in Bucharest from 7 - 8 September, 15 journalists from Bucharest, Brasov, Baia Mare and Suceava participated in the “Support for Ukrainian Refugees through Media” presentation conducted by UNHCR on ethical communications guidelines. The workshop aimed at increasing refugees’ access to reliable information on key issues of concern, increase their self-reliance and resilience, and foster favorable conditions for their inclusion.
- **Non-food items:** During the reporting period, UNHCR and partners JRS and World Vision delivered nearly 1,000 NFIs, including hygiene kits and bedding to 600 vulnerable refugee families in Constanța, Galați and Suceava. On 7 September, UNHCR visited the M11 collective centre in Galați to review accommodation arrangements and identify any needs. The centre currently accommodates 82 refugees from Ukraine. Refugees highlighted the need for drinking water, furniture, and clothing.
- **PSEA:** On 7 September, 19 participants from NGOs and authorities attended a day-long Training of Trainers on PSEA in Timisoara city organized by UNHCR, as co-lead of the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network in Romania. Meanwhile, during the reporting period UNHCR conducted two awareness raising sessions on PSEA for more than 40 refugees residing in the Emergency Transit Center in Timisoara and at the AIDRom service centre to raise awareness about safety, security risks and risk mitigation.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Romania data portal](#)

SLOVAKIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023				
<p>107,415 refugees have been recorded</p>	<p>30,218 refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners as of 31 July</p>	<p>52,539 people been assisted at 6 Blue Dots</p>	<p>11,678 refugees received cash assistance</p>	<p>155,493 visits to the UNHCR Help Page</p>

- **Coordination:** On 11 September, UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family to further strengthen collaboration regarding refugee inclusion in national protection systems, social assistance programmes, support for vulnerable groups, and advocacy. The MoU is valid for a period of three years until September 2026.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** In the second half of August, UNHCR partner Mareena organized 13 community events across five regions with 470 refugees and 212 host community members, including language cafés, sports activities, workshops, music and art performances, among others. In the same period, partner SME SPOLU organized diverse community activities for nearly 90 refugees, including a 3D modelling course. Meanwhile, on 8 September UNHCR monitored the

implementation of the livelihood project dedicated to handmade manufacturing of various products implemented by a community-based organization Centrum Rodiny. Beneficiaries also received psychosocial support by UNHCR partner League for Mental Health.

- Find out more on the [UNHCR Slovakia data portal](#).

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELARUS

- As of 1 August, **32,435 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Belarus.
- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, 1,741 individuals received protection services, counselling and legal support from UNHCR partners.

ESTONIA

- As of 1 September, **50,450 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Estonia.
- **MHPSS:** On 6 September, UNHCR participated in the second MHPSS coordination meeting, convened by the Mental Health Department under the Ministry of Social Affairs, to oversee MHPSS activities, response and preparedness. The meeting, which included participation from IOM and WHO, assessed the roles of government, NGOs and international actors during crisis periods and in routine operations.
- **Temporary Protection:** As of from 10 September, residence permits for temporary protection holders, previously issued annually, will be granted until March 2025. This change will be in effect for both initial and extended applications. The extension process now requires a new photograph at the Police and Border Guard Board's service office and may involve further inquiries about the applicant's arrival circumstances in Estonia.

GEORGIA

- As of 25 July, 27,000 refugees from Ukraine have been recorded in Georgia.
- **Coordination:** On 11 September, UNHCR organized a Coordination Meeting for refugee response partners to discuss current developments, observations and plans as well as to discuss gaps in priority areas. Participants exchanged information on matters related to access to education, healthcare, integration and employment avenues, care services for refugees with specific needs, including older people.

LATVIA

- As of 15 August, **32,470 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Latvia.
- **Education:** On 30 August, UNHCR published the Education policy brief "[Education on hold: Almost half of school-aged refugee children from Ukraine missing out on formal education](#)". The brief, which was translated into [Latvian](#), was shared with the Ministry of Education as well as other key stakeholders and implementing partners to raise awareness about challenges of education for refugees from Ukraine and possible solutions.

LITHUANIA

- As of 7 September, 49,970 refugees from Ukraine have been recorded in Lithuania.
- **Education:** On 1 September, the Ukrainian International School opened two new branches in Kaunas and Šiauliai cities, providing access to education for some 850 children. This adds to the two schools currently providing classes in Ukrainian to 1,200 refugee children in Vilnius and Klaipėda since 2022.
- **High-level Visit:** From 30 August – 1 September, UNHCR met with key Ministries, NGOs and refugee activists from Ukraine. Through the dialogue with refugees and partner organizations, refugees were able to voice their concerns related to access to housing, language opportunities, mental health services, and skills depreciation.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, 13,642 refugees from Ukraine have been counselled in person by UNHCR and partners in urban areas, while 9,934 have been counselled in the border regions of Belgorod, Kursk, Rostov-on-Don and Voronezh. Over 42,500 refugees have been counselled via the telephone hotline by UNHCR and partners.
- **MHPSS:** So far in 2023, 18,886 refugees have received psychosocial support through partners in the Russian Federation.

COORDINATION

UKRAINE

In Ukraine, UNHCR leads three Clusters, namely Camp Coordination 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.

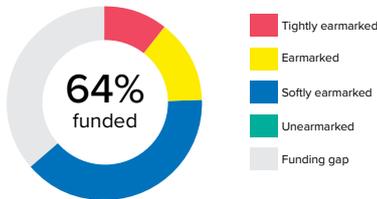
REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

The 2023 RRP aims to ensure refugees' access to protection and assistance on a non-discriminatory basis, with a particular focus on refugees at risk of becoming vulnerable. The 2023 plan also places an emphasis on refugees' socioeconomic 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 remain crucial for promoting solidarity and social cohesion between refugee and host communities. Inter-agency Refugee Coordination Forums led by UNHCR, as well as 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

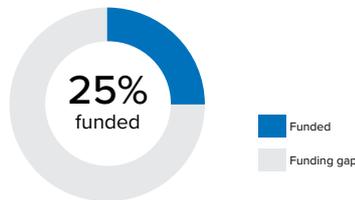
UNHCR UKRAINE SITUATION FINANCIAL UPDATE

US\$ 1.1 billion required (as of 31 August 2023)



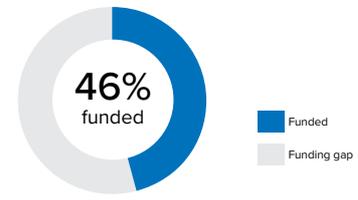
INTER-AGENCY FINANCIAL UPDATES

US\$ 1.68 billion required (as of 14 September 2023)



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

US\$ 3.95 billion required (as of 14 September 2023)



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

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked and earmarked funding:

Austria | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Faroe Islands | France | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

Join our mailing list to receive regular updates