OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Regular missile, drone, and shelling attacks continued to strike communities across the country during August, taking a heavy toll on civilians and damaging civil infrastructure. While marking World Humanitarian Day on 19 August, missiles struck Chernihiv city just north of Kyiv oblast killing seven people, including a child and a staff member of UNHCR’s partner Right to Protection (R2P), and injuring dozens more. UNHCR’s Representative in Ukraine issued a statement expressing deepest sympathies with the families and the R2P team, and with all the people who lost loved ones in this senseless attack.

As of 29 August, OHCHR recorded 26,717 civilian casualties in Ukraine, including 9,511 killed and 17,206 injured, since the start of the full-scale invasion. The actual figures are believed to be considerably higher.

UNHCR continues responding to the far-reaching and increasingly urgent humanitarian needs, while supporting people’s ongoing efforts to recover now, and achieve durable solutions. In 2023, UNHCR and partners have so far reached over 2.05 million people with assistance, including protection, emergency shelter, housing, cash and essential relief items.
**Protection services**

UNHCR's protection programmes are designed to complement or reinforce the capacity of the national system and local protection services and are centred on 4 objectives: (i) ensuring access to social, legal and other protection services; (ii) strengthening access to information, complaints and feedback mechanism and participation in decisions and solutions; (iii) strengthening national legal and policy frameworks; and (iv) promoting rights-based solutions.

### PROTECTION: KEY FIGURES

- **1,000,703** Reached as of August 2023
  - **70,115** Individuals receiving PSS/PFA
  - **132,925** Legal consultations provided
  - **2,545** Persons received targeted GBV services
  - **19,783** Individuals supported with case management services
  - **3,035** Supported with other protection services

- **990,898** IDPs and war-affected population
- **5,877** Stateless
- **3,928** Refugees & asylum seekers

### Highlights:

- **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS):** In August, UNHCR’s Regional MHPSS Officer completed a series of monitoring visits to UNHCR partners in Ukraine. The mission aimed to support partners to enhance their MHPSS approaches and interventions in response to the emergency, using both community-based approaches and brief scalable and evidence-based psychological interventions in line with the [Ukrainian Operational Roadmap for Prioritized Multisectoral MHPSS Actions During and After the War](https://www.unhcr.org/).

- **Legal developments:** UNHCR joined the working group established by the Ministry of Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories to review a new draft law on “ensuring the rights and freedoms of internally displaced persons”. Particular focus is given to non-discrimination, solution-oriented approaches, accountability and participation, in line with international standards and good practices.

- **Border monitoring & capacity building:** In August, a total of 1,425 people crossing the border received assistance from UNHCR border monitoring partners. This assistance primarily included legal aid, protection counselling, social assistance, and transportation services. UNHCR and IOM also conducted training sessions for Ukrainian border guards deployed on the western Ukrainian border. The training focused on combating human trafficking risks and enhancing the ability to identify and support unaccompanied and separated children, enabling them to better detect potential human trafficking cases, as well as identify unaccompanied and separated children at border crossings.
Cash assistance remains one of the most optimal means and most requested forms of support among IDPs and other war-affected people. UNHCR is implementing a multi-purpose cash assistance programme that is aligned with the national social assistance programme, enabling vulnerable war-affected, and displaced people and returnees to cover immediate basic needs, in line with the memorandum of understanding signed with the Ministry of Social Policy in April 2022.

This month the Ukraine Humanitarian Country Team has endorsed the recommendation of the Cash Working Group to increase the transfer value of multi-purpose cash assistance from UAH 2,220 to UAH 3,565 per person per month for a period of three months. The new value will be effective from 1 October.

UNHCR is conducting post-distribution monitoring of the multi-purpose cash assistance distributed from January to June 2023. The post-distribution monitoring aims to assess the effectiveness and coverage of the cash assistance distributed as well as to collect feedback from beneficiaries on the assistance provided.

UNHCR has expanded its multi-purpose cash assistance programme to Chernivtsi oblast through its partner R2P. Mobile teams are enrolling people who are unable to come to the centres so that they can receive cash assistance to cover their basic needs.

UNHCR continues to provide cash assistance for shelter repairs and rental support to ensure access to sustainable housing options. In August, over 300 families were supported with cash for shelter repairs and over 120 families received cash assistance to help cover rent.

In August, 186 refugees and asylum-seekers remaining in Ukraine received multi-purpose cash assistance to cover their basic needs.

UNHCR is providing support at the policy and technical level for the Perehid Initiative, which aims to operationalize and guide the transition of the humanitarian multi-purpose cash assistance programme to an inclusive shock-responsive social protection system. UNHCR provides technical assistance through the secondment of a Senior Social Protection Officer to the Technical Assistance Facility, responsible for formulating recommendations and guidance for, as well as operationalizing the decisions of, the Committee.

For more information, see UNHCR Ukraine August Cash Assistance Factsheet.
UNHCR distributes standard relief items, such as blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps, and non-standard items such as dignity kits, mattresses, and clothes to people in need, mainly in areas along the front line and to newly displaced people, as well as to people living in newly accessible areas who have endured months of constant shelling. NFI distribution is done through implementing partners, local administrations, direct distribution, or contribution to inter-agency responses.

Non-food items: Key figures

- **655,257** Reached as of August 2023
- 503,128 Individuals receiving standard NFIs
- 68,808 Individuals receiving hygiene kits
- 139,810 Individuals receiving other items
- 176,961 Individuals receiving non-standard NFIs

Humanitarian convoys

- 16 Regions covered
- 474 Number of convoys

Highlights:

- **Humanitarian convoys**: Assisting the people living in frontline areas remains a priority. In August, UNHCR participated in six UN interagency convoys delivering essential items to approximately 3,400 people in frontline towns in Donetsk, Kharkivska, and Zaporizka oblasts. Essential items included solar lamps, tarpaulins, mattresses, sleeping bags, blankets and jerrycans.

- **Winterization**: Plans for UNHCR’s winterization response were finalised and will be UNHCR’s priority over the coming six months. In coordination with the government of Ukraine and contributing to the broader *Ukraine Winter Response Plan*, UNHCR’s winterization response will target 900,000 vulnerable, displaced and war-affected people between 1 September 2023 and 29 February 2024. UNHCR’s winterization strategy aims to address three main areas to help people cope with winter temperatures: 1) cash support for winter energy needs; 2) support with winterized shelter and housing assistance; and 3) distribution of winterized non-food items. In line with this strategy, UNHCR plans to support 250,000 people with non-food item kits which include high thermal blankets, quilts, mattresses, bed linen, pillows, sleeping bags, thermos flasks, solar lamps, towels, and a kitchen set. Around 62,250 people will also receive jackets and boots to help them stay warm during the winter. For more information, see [UNHCR Ukraine’s Winterization Plan 2023–2024](https://www.unhcr.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Winterization-Plan-2023-2024.pdf).
UNHCR’s shelter and housing programme supports people impacted by the war through three activities: (i) emergency shelter for those with immediate needs in areas directly impacted by shelling and attacks (ii) repairs and housing solutions that can help people return to their homes, where possible and (iii) improvement or creation of accommodation in collective sites for IDPs who cannot live at home.

**Emergency Shelter and Housing: Key Figures**

- Reached as of August 2023: 174,289 people
- Individuals / Households supported by ESKs: 132,380 / 63,428
- Individuals / Households benefitting from repairs: 35,724 / 12,230
- Sleeping spaces created/improved: 4,868

**Benefits of repairs by modality**

- Cash for repairs: 23.2%
- Contractor led repairs: 22.8%
- Provision of materials: 54.0%

**Highlights:**

- **Emergency shelter kits (ESKs):** In August, UNHCR delivered 9,700 ESKs to people in need of shelter support. This represents the highest number of kits delivered per month so far this year. Due to safety risks and ongoing attacks on distribution sites, partners in coordination with UNHCR had to reroute to alternative distribution locations in Dnipro and Kherson.

- **Core homes:** UNHCR completed a pilot project of Core homes for vulnerable families whose houses were heavily damaged or destroyed during the hostilities in February and March 2022 in Kyiv and Chernihiv regions. A Core home can host a family of four and includes basic furniture and appliances. The pilot project is informing plans to expand to other parts of the country.

- **Materials:** During August, UNHCR provided 129 trucks of construction materials worth USD 1.1 million to various regions of Ukraine. These materials will be used both for self-repairs of private houses and repairs of multistorey buildings by local authorities. This includes the delivery of 550 windows to 11 multistorey buildings in Kharkiv city which will be installed by local companies. UNHCR is also donating materials in support of Kharkiv city’s initiative to establish school classes in subway stations to allow children to continue their education.
Collective sites

UNHCR provides support to the management of collective sites to ensure protection services are accessible, inclusive, and community-based and works to improve the quality of life and dignity of IDPs during displacement. As part of the CCCM response, conditions and needs in collective sites will be closely monitored. Socio-economically or otherwise vulnerable IDPs are likely to remain in collective sites until they consider their area of origin is safe for return, and they will have access to basic services there.

UNHCR and its partner NEEKA supported a community-led project to establish a new "bakery space" in a collective site in Chernivtsi. © NEEKA

Highlights:

- Given that most collective sites are accommodating families with children, UNHCR and partners continue to focus on supporting community-driven initiatives to create safe spaces for displaced children while also assisting families to rebuild their lives. In August, some of the new community-led projects that were launched included a bakery space in Chernivtsi, an outdoor playground for children in Zakarpattia, and socialization and child-friendly spaces in Poltava oblast.
- Promoting community participation and engagement is a priority for Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) teams. Capacity development and awareness-raising events were conducted for more than 3,500 displaced people in August. These included, for example, a session on nutrition by the R2P CCCM team in Poltavska oblast as well as outdoor events, such as sports competitions conducted by The Tenth of April (TTA) CCCM team in Mykolaivska and Odeska oblasts.
- In August, 180 collective sites benefited from care and maintenance interventions such as installing equipment to improve accessibility to WASH facilities, providing voltage stabilizers, detergents, garden tools, and replacing light fixtures in rooms. These interventions help improve the living conditions for more than 10,000 people residing in these sites.

### CCCM: KEY FIGURES

- **87,780** Reached as of August 2023
- **5,315** Site assessments conducted & recorded
- **87,780** People residing at sites supported with CCCM services
- **7,048** Individuals trained
- **15,191** Individuals participated in awareness raising sessions
- **45,643** Individuals benefitting from care and maintenance and community-led activities

### People reached by Month

- January: 20,359
- February: 60,622
- March: 28,537
- April: 66,108
- May: 27,907
- June: 27,214
- July: 61,246
- August: 33,676

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UNHCR provided 60 laptops to the Departments of Social Protection in Cherkaska and Kirovohradska oblasts, which host more than 180,000 internally displaced people. These laptops will help increase the capacity of the department to support displaced people. © UNHCR

UNHCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Luhansk Oblast Administration on 21 August to strengthen coordination and cooperation. © Luhansk Regional State Administration

**HIGHLIGHTS**

- In support of UNHCR’s livelihood programming, UNHCR met with its partners to review the process for targeting and supporting business grants for displaced people, helping to promote self-reliance within the community. Access to business grants will be supported through employment counsellors who will work with displaced people to develop and submit their business proposals.
- UNHCR provided comments and feedback on the State Strategy for Regional Development, a strategic document, supporting regional planning and financing of development initiatives that align with the sustainable development objectives. The strategy is managed through the Ministry of Restoration.
- The Government of Ukraine maintains a leadership role in responding to the needs of its population. UNHCR continues to maintain strong coordination with the Government of Ukraine to streamline common efforts in the areas of temporary accommodation and durable housing solutions, legal aid, and cash assistance for displaced people and other war-affected people.
- In August, UNHCR signed memorandums of understanding with the Regional Oblast Administrations of Donetsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk and Sumy to strengthen coordination and cooperation in response to the needs of war-affected and displaced populations.
- On 28 August, UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine signed an Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation to improve the living conditions of displaced people including in the recreational centre “Slava” and provide them with greater access to social protection services.
- UNHCR has joined the Government-led effort to revise the State Strategy of Ukraine of Regional Development until 2027 and its operational plan coordinated by the Ministry for Restoration. The revision is underpinned by the consequences of Russia’s war on Ukraine, its impact on communities, amendments to the legislation of Ukraine on regional policy and other factors. It will lay the foundation for elaborating development strategies and action plans at regional and community levels.
UNHCR’s humanitarian response is based on the needs and priorities set out in the 2023 Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan and in the 2023-2024 UN Transitional Framework. In addition to leading the Protection, Shelter and Non-Food Item (NFI), and Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters, UNHCR co-leads the Durable Solutions Steering Group with IOM, OCHA and UNDP. UNHCR also leads the Legal Aid Task Force under the national Protection Cluster, co-leads the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Task Force with OCHA, and is a member of the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Working Group.

**PROTECTION CLUSTER**

- **Protection monitoring:** In August, 12 protection partners interviewed 1,685 key informants, assessing a total of 764 hromadas in 24 oblasts. Some of the key highlights and major protection concerns identified include: social tensions and conflicts mainly over access to assistance, property or livelihoods; fear of conscription as a factor restricting freedom of movement; and housing, land and property issues. Psychological trauma, stress and anxiety is the main protection issue affecting children. Additional information is available through the Protection Monitoring Tool Dashboard.

- **Coordination and referrals:** In August, in an effort to strengthen inter-agency referrals and improve access to protection services, the Protection Cluster conducted 12 trainings for protection and non-protection actors on “Minimum Standards for Protection Referrals” in Cherkasy, Rivne, Ternopil and Volyn oblasts. A total of 65 specialists participated in the trainings from 30 organizations.

- **Capacity building:** The Protection Cluster completed two capacity-building trainings for 40 protection specialists from NGOs and UN Agencies. The training enhanced understanding of the legal framework in Ukraine including international humanitarian law, national law, human rights monitoring mechanisms in Ukraine, protection analysis and programming for protection. Additional trainings for partners are planned in the coming months in Dnipro, Kharkiv, Kyiv, and Odesa.

**SHELTER AND NFI CLUSTER**

- **Winterization:** The SNFI Cluster has been working closely with partners to prepare for the upcoming winter season and finalized guidelines on winterization 2023-2024. The SNFI Cluster also collaborated with the Ministry for Reintegration to gather information on humanitarian needs at the hromada level and has been working to ensure that humanitarian actors can support where required.

- **Coordination:** The Cluster established a Technical Working Group (TWG) for the Rental Market Initiative, which will focus on various aspects of the rental market in Ukraine and provide guidance and support to partners. The SNFI Cluster also conducted over 40 consultations with partners to support their applications for the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF) second reserve allocation 2023.

- **Collective achievements:** The SNFI Cluster released its mid-year report. SNFI partners have facilitated shelter, non-food item and cash assistance to over 1.45 million displaced and war-affected people across the country as of mid-year.

**CCCM CLUSTER**

- **Collective sites:** As a result of ongoing hostilities in Kharkivska oblast, local authorities opened five collective sites currently accommodating 270 people including children and people with disabilities. The CCCM Cluster is actively engaged with authorities and the managers of the facilities to monitor and conduct referrals to ensure minimum living standards in the new sites.

- **Winterization:** The Cluster’s Collective Site Monitoring results showed that 15% of collective sites need insulation to maintain acceptable temperatures during winter. Lack of financial resources to cover utility bills and fuel are expected to be among the most common issues for the upcoming winter season. The CCCM Cluster is following up to ensure available winterization resources are directed to sites most in need of investment ahead of winter.

- **Capacity building:** The Capacity Development Working Group, co-chaired by IOM, is working to update the CCCM training package and reinforce capacity-building activities among humanitarian workers, collective site managers and other key stakeholders including local authorities.
UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this emergency as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with softly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

$602.5M
UNHCR’s financial requirements 2023

Publications

- Ukraine Situation Winterization Plan 2023-2024
- Ukraine Cash Assistance Factsheet
- Lives on Hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees and IDPs from Ukraine #4
- Ukraine Situation: Supporting an area-based approach to durable solutions
- Ukraine Position on Voluntary Return to Ukraine - June 2023

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