



**UKRAINE SITUATION
FLASH UPDATE #61**
12 December 2023

Huta-Mezhyhirska, Kyiv Oblast – UNHCR through partner Right to Protection (R2P) distributed rapid thermal kits on 1 December to meet the growing winter needs inside Ukraine. The kits include materials for quick and easy insulation of windows and doors to make homes more winter ready. © UNHCR

PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE:

5,905,000¹

refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe (as of 5 Dec)

403,600

refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe (as of 28 Nov)

6,308,600

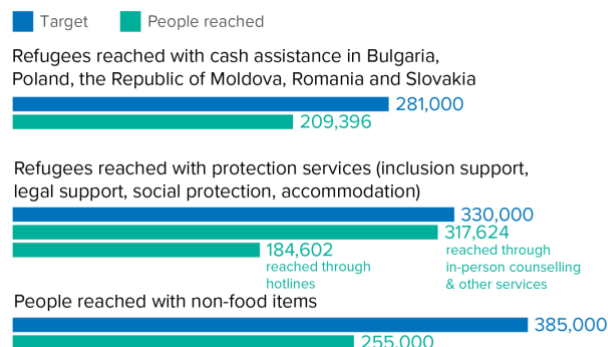
refugees from Ukraine recorded globally (as of 28 Nov)

3,674,000²

Estimated number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ukraine (as of 6 Nov) Source: IOM

For more details, see: [UNHCR Operational Data Portal Ukraine Refugee Situation](#)

UNHCR REFUGEE RESPONSE 2023:



REGENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Severe snowstorms hit Ukraine in late-November**, with the southern oblasts of Mykolaivska and Odeska among the **worst affected**. Ukrainian authorities reported at least **10 deaths** and over 20 people injured, including children. Rescue teams reportedly evacuated nearly 2,500 people from areas of Odesa, while more than 2,000 villages, towns and cities across 16 oblasts were **left** without electricity as a result of the storms.

- **Winterization:** In coordination with the Government of Ukraine, and contributing to the broader [Ukraine Winter Response Plan](#), UNHCR’s winterization response targets 900,000 vulnerable, displaced and war-affected people between 1 September 2023 - 29 February 2024. Since 1 September, in line with its [2023-2024 winterization plan](#), UNHCR has helped:

- **463,627** people in Ukraine with **cash support** for winter energy needs (surpassing its 450,000 target).
- **76,484** people with essential and winterized **non-food items (NFIs)**, out of 416,000 targeted.
- **4,062** people received **heaters, rapid thermal kits** or **cash assistance** to cover rent.
- **17,895** collective sites benefitted from **care and maintenance interventions**.

For more about the situation and the response in Ukraine and the region, see [UNHCR’s Ukraine Emergency website](#)

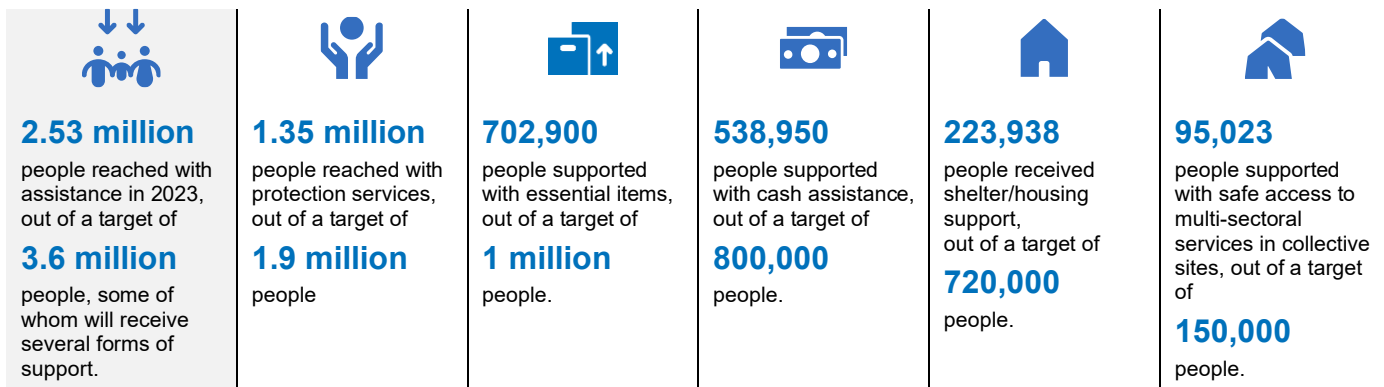
¹ Europe corresponds to all Europe sub-regions as identified by Eurovoc ([European Union, Thesaurus Eurovoc. Volume 2, Subject-oriented version, Publications Office, 2005](#)), therefore including EU and non-EU countries belonging to Central and Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, and Western Europe, plus Türkiye.

² There has been a significant reduction in the IDP figure in Ukraine based on the latest [IOM Internal Displacement Report](#), from 5.1 million to 3.7 million. It is important to note that this is not due to a significant return of IDPs, but rather primarily to a change in the methodology used in calculating the number of IDPs. The new baseline population figure used to extrapolate IDP estimates now takes into account the absence of some 6.2 million refugees from Ukraine who are no longer in the country. Baseline data is consolidated by UNFPA.

UKRAINE SITUATION UPDATE

- **Repeated military strikes continue to kill and injure civilians, particularly in the south and the east.** Between 28 - 30 November, missile **attacks** in Donetsk, Kherson, Sumska and Zaporizka oblasts resulted in civilian casualties, including the death of a seven year old girl in Sumska oblast, and damaged civilian infrastructure including hospitals and a pre-school. On 30 November, missile attacks and shelling were **reported** in Donetsk oblast (Myrnohrad, Novogrodovka, Pokrovsk, and Selidove), injuring 10 civilians including four children. On 5 December, attacks on civilian infrastructure including residential buildings, educational facilities and a community centre were **reported** in Donetsk, Kharkivska and Khersonska oblasts. An attack in Kherson **set fire** to a humanitarian NGO hub, damaging vital aid.
- **Kyiv and Kyivska oblast sustained the largest drone attack of the war on 25 November.** Ukrainian authorities **reported** that 74 out of 75 Russian drones were intercepted. The air raid alarm lasted approximately six hours and the attack injured five civilians, including a child. A kindergarten and several residential buildings were damaged, and thousands of people in Kyiv and Kyivska oblast were left **without electricity**.

UNHCR RESPONSE AND TARGETS INSIDE UKRAINE 2023* (as of 8 December 2023)



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

UNHCR RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Emergency Response:** On 30 November, Novogrodovka and Pokrovsk hromadas in Donetsk oblast came under aerial attack. People affected by the attacks received immediate support through UNHCR's local partner Proliska. Over 120 people received wooden boards and plastic tarpaulin sheets to quickly cover damaged parts of their homes, and around 70 people received essential items such as blankets and mattresses to provide more dignified conditions in the immediate aftermath of the attack.
- **Interagency convoys:** Helping families in frontline areas meet their basic needs remains a priority. On 24 November, as a part of the UN interagency convoy to Kurylivska hromada, Kharkivska oblast, UNHCR provided 500 thermal blankets, 500 sleeping bags, 500 solar lamps, and 500 plastic tarpaulin sheets. On 30 November, UNHCR participated in another UN interagency convoy to Chasiv Yar, Donetsk oblast, contributing 200 plastic tarpaulin sheets.
- **Capacity building:** UNHCR provided building materials, IT equipment and furniture to equip six work spaces in an administrative centre scheduled to open in Goncharivske hromada, Chernihivska oblast, north Ukraine. The centre will provide various services to 17 villages in the hromada, including registration for displaced people; issuance of passports and other documentation; support on issues related to housing, land and property; financial aid and more.
- **Cash assistance:** So far in 2023, UNHCR has assist 538,950 vulnerable individuals affected by conflict with US\$ 109.2 million in **multipurpose cash**, covering essential needs such as food, medicine, accommodation and utilities. Furthermore, in September UNHCR began distributing **cash support for winter** energy requirements at a rate of UAH 6,660 (US\$ 180) per person, to help cover additional costs associated with winter for 463,627 displaced and vulnerable people – exceeding the initial target of 450,000. This includes a winter top-up for 347,314 people who previously benefited from UNHCR's MPC, as well as 116,313 people receiving a one-off top-up to help with additional winter expenses.
- On 30 November, **UNHCR and partner Right to Protection (R2P) jointly organized a conference in Kyiv on access to birth registration** to mark the 9th anniversary of UNHCR's **#IBelong campaign** to end statelessness. The event took place under the patronage of the Ministry of Justice, with participation from UNICEF, the Office of the Ombudsperson, and national and international NGOs. Topics discussed included barriers to birth registration in times of war; registration of Roma, persons without documentation, refugees and asylum-seekers; registration of children born in territories under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation; and registration for children born in countries of asylum. UNHCR is **advocating** for facilitated birth registration in Ukraine and the adoption of draft law 9069, which foresees procedures for the recognition of birth certificates issued in areas under the temporary military control of the Russian Federation.

REGIONAL UNHCR KEY FIGURES AND UPDATES

BLUE DOTS:

26

Blue Dot hubs are operational in:

Bulgaria	5
Hungary	2
Moldova	7
Poland	4
Slovakia	6
Slovenia	1

249,862

refugees were reached through the Blue Dot Hubs in **Bulgaria, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Poland and Slovakia** so far in 2023 (as of 23 November).

The **Digital Blue Dot** is a regional website providing 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, employment and other services.

REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE ACROSS EUROPE (as of 5 December 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

Find more information, see UNHCR's [Operational Data Portal](#) for the Ukraine Refugee Situation

COUNTRY UPDATES

BULGARIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023 (as of 23 November 2023)

51,975

refugees have been recorded

99,129

refugees have received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

76,189

refugees have been reached through **5** Blue Dot Hubs

13,739

refugees received cash assistance

11,174

visits to the UNHCR Bulgaria [Help Page](#)

- **Coordination:** UNHCR and the State Agency for Child Protection (SACP) signed a memorandum of understanding on collaboration. The priority areas for the SACP in which they request UNHCR support include age assessment, consultations on the National Strategy on the Child before it is submitted to the Council of Ministers, and training of social workers and police involved in child protection case management (including design and facilitation). Further technical meetings are planned for January 2024.
- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, 65,234 refugees have received protection counselling, 33,985 have been counselled in-person at border-crossing, transit and information points, and over 1,887 counselled via hotline.

CZECH REPUBLIC

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023 (as of 23 November 2023)

370,815

refugees have been recorded

14,991

refugees from Ukraine have received protection services

7,065

Refugees have been provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

26,393

visits to the UNHCR Czech Republic [Help Page](#)

- **Capacity-building:** In late November, UNHCR jointly with the Ombud's Office delivered a series of seminars for frontline workers engaged in the Ukrainian refugee response in several regions, including Karlovy Vary and Plzen. Some 100 participants attended, with topics covering recent legislative changes in the Lex Ukraine; eligibility for humanitarian benefits and access to the national social benefit fund; recognition of vulnerabilities under related legislation; access to emergency accommodation through the national HUMPO system; access to education; inclusion in the labour market; and prevention of labour exploitation. Representatives of the National Institute of the Labour Inspectorate delivered sessions alongside UNHCR and the Ombud's Office, with additional seminars planned for 2024.
- **Protection:** UNHCR visited Maidan and Svitlo community centres to introduce new staff to Ukrainian refugees managing the centres, and to better understand their needs. Both centres are facing financial challenges due to limited funding. UNHCR discussed the possibility of strategic engagement with refugee-led organizations, through focus group discussions and collaborating on streamlined and consolidated communication channels with Ukrainian communities.

HUNGARY

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023 (as of 23 November 2023)

61,445

refugees have been recorded

28,458

refugees have received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

20,620

refugees have been reached through **2** Blue Dot Hubs

61,288

Visits to the UNHCR Hungary [Help Page](#)

- **Capacity-building:** On 21 November, UNHCR and the Border Police jointly organized a session for 35 border officers at the UKR-HUN border and the Nyirbator aliens policing detention facility in eastern Hungary. The training focused on identification of specific needs at the border, with interactive training sessions on communication with refugees, interviewing skills, and identification of vulnerable children and other groups at-risk (such as persons with disabilities and survivors of gender-based violence - GBV).
- **Cash assistance:** UNHCR's winter cash enrollment for persons aged 65+ closed on 30 November, with 530 individuals recorded as eligible for the one-time payout of HUF 105,000 (USD 300), to help cover winter expenses such as heating.
- **Socioeconomic inclusion:** On 25 November, UNHCR and IOM jointly organized a jobfair for refugees and third-country nationals at Devai Inn, UNHCR partner Mandak Haz's community center for refugees in Budapest. Seven employers offered on-the-spot recruitment including Lidl, Randstad and other agencies. The event was attended by 157 refugee jobseekers, who also had the chance to improve their CV writing skills, receive information on labor law and administrative procedures from counsellors of the labor department, and take part in a workshop by partner Menedék.
- **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS):** So far in 2023, 1,615 refugees have received psychosocial support through partners in Hungary.

POLAND

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023 (as of 23 November 2023)

954,600

refugees have been recorded

47,890

refugees were provided with protection support over the telephone

78,189

refugees have been reached through **4** Blue Dot Hubs

33,218

refugees received cash assistance

245,994

visits to the UNHCR Poland [Help Page](#)

- **Socioeconomic inclusion:** On 28 November, UNHCR organized an event on information and networking for refugees, together with [Empowerment Foundation](#). The event attracted some 50 refugees from Warsaw and other cities, who met to expand their knowledge on subsidizing business in Poland across different sectors, including education, music, beauty, retail and entertainment. The facilitator shared advice on entrepreneurial activities, both from an economic and cultural perspective. This is part of UNHCR's efforts to promote refugee employment, complementing other initiatives such as job fairs, individual activation projects and advocating for simplified access to loans for refugee-led businesses.
- **Protection:** UNHCR recently concluded a round of participatory assessments across Poland. Preliminary findings from Mazowieckie voivodeship show that children and adolescents face challenges in adjusting to school due to frequent relocation. Female entrepreneurs from Ukraine highlighted difficulties in earning sufficient income. Municipality staff managing city-run collective centres and relocations out of collective shelters, found that refugees living in collective shelters are most vulnerable, and usually reluctant to undertake employment. UNHCR is now compiling the data and finalizing its findings for upcoming reports.
- **MHPSS:** So far in 2023, 9,794 refugees have received psychosocial support through partners in Poland.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023 (as of 23 November 2023)

112,810

refugees have been recorded

58,242

refugees have received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

10,950

refugees have been reached through 7 Blue Dot Hubs

84,124

refugees received cash assistance

283,007

visits to the UNHCR Moldova [Help Page](#)

- **Capacity-building:** On 28 - 29 November, UNHCR teamed up with FRONTEX's Fundamental Rights Office to train Moldovan and FRONTEX Border Police at Chisinau International Airport, on improving communication with third-country nationals (TCNs). The sessions covered effective communication during border procedures, particularly for asylum-seekers, and covered communication techniques in tense or challenging situations. The sessions sought to equip approximately 40 border police with skills to enhance their interactions with TCNs arriving in the country.
- **GBV:** On 30 November, the GBV Sub-Working Group—co-chaired by UNHCR and UNFPA—and the MHPSS Support Technical Reference Group trained 22 aid practitioners on GBV and MHPSS, with a focus on Psychological First Aid. Participants were mainly from local organizations representing marginalized communities.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** On 28 November, UNHCR and International Finance Corporation (IFC) co-chaired a roundtable with several Moldovan banks, credit institutions, as well as Ukrainian entrepreneurs. IFC presented its market survey, which found 65 per cent of refugees have access to informal sources of income. During the roundtable, Moldovan financial institutions expressed interest in expanding services to refugees. Participants also noted that they would explore simplified procedures for opening of bank accounts.
- **EU+ Air Transfer programme:** During the reporting period, UNHCR assisted in the departure of five individuals to Switzerland on 30 November under the [EU+ Air Transfer program](#). So far in 2023, 430 people received assistance from UNHCR for departure to EU+ countries. UNHCR also referred 49 new individuals for review, clearance and onward processing to France, Norway and Switzerland. Clearance has been received for 16 individuals (Switzerland), while the rest are still under review.

ROMANIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023 (as of 23 November 2023)

83,405

refugees have been recorded

76,844

refugees have received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

62,270

refugees received cash assistance

2,488

refugees have been provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

83,452

visits to the UNHCR Romania [Help Page](#)

- **Capacity-building:** On 29 November, UNHCR held a community-based protection training session in Galați county on "Identification and Empowerment of Community mobilizers" with 26 members of the refugee community. The aim was to develop new or enhance existing community structures, support refugees' capacity to advocate for solutions, and plan for meaningful engagement with organizations, local authorities, and the host community. Further training sessions are planned during December.
- **Livelihoods:** So far in 2023, 949 refugees from Ukraine have received career counselling, and another 772 refugees have been supported with information on livelihoods/employment at RomExpo, in Bucharest. So far in 2023, 692 refugees have been enrolled in language courses by partners Ateliere Fără Frontiere (AFF) and HEKS EPER, and 152 refugees received vocational training. 226 refugees have gained employment with the help of direct assistance from UNHCR and partners.

- **NFIs:** During the reporting period, UNHCR provided NFIs including bedding, hygiene kits, and clothing to 62 refugees in Brăila, Galați, and Timiș counties. On 28 November, UNHCR in Galați met with the head of refugee community-led NGO Help Ukrainians to discuss future collaboration on distributions to 100 vulnerable refugee families. A letter of understanding is being prepared to formalize the agreement.

SLOVAKIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023 (as of 23 November 2023)

112,350

refugees have been recorded

41,431

refugees have received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

63,917

refugees have been reached through **6** Blue Dot Hubs

18,257

refugees received cash assistance

210,699

visits to the UNHCR Slovakia [Help Page](#)

- **Education:** During the Education Working Group meeting on 30 November, the Slovak Ministry of Education (MoE) highlighted that school enrolment of Ukrainian children increased by 17 per cent across all educational levels, compared to the end of the previous academic year. The MoE confirmed that efforts to introduce planned legislation making school attendance compulsory for all refugee children by September 2024 is also ongoing.
- **GBV:** On 24 November, UNHCR launched its '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)' campaign. Along with GBV experts, activists as well as diplomats, UNHCR took part in an event organized by the office of the President of Slovakia to [raise awareness](#) on the issue. Additionally, UNHCR supported a [video campaign](#) featuring several public figures (i.e. athletes, actors, business figures, and the partner of the President of Slovakia) standing up against GBV. UNHCR also launched its [online campaign](#) with messages related to GBV against refugees on social media. UNHCR national partners also organized over 20 community-based activities.
- **Protection:** During the reporting period, UNHCR and partners conducted 15 focus group discussions with 79 refugee participants in eastern Slovakia. The main protection concerns raised by participants related to accommodation, access to healthcare, and employment. Results of the discussions will inform UNHCR's future protection response.

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELARUS:

- As of 1 November, **37,040 refugees from Ukraine** have been recorded in Belarus.
Protection: On 23 - 24 November, UNHCR undertook a mission to Gomel, southeast Belarus following an increase in refugees approaching the Refugee Counselling Service (RCS) for counselling and support following recent heavy storms in the region. During the mission, UNHCR legal partner Refugee Counselling Service observed that refugees from Ukraine who have already settled in Belarus are increasingly seeking transportation arrangements for family members to travel from Ukraine to Belarus.

ESTONIA

- As of 3 December, **50,450** from Ukraine have been recorded in Estonia.
- **Protection:** During the reporting period, UNHCR took part in a group discussion with 24 refugees from Ukraine residing in a former vocational school dormitory at Tihemetsa, south Estonia, who cited obstacles in accessing employment, language programs, digital skills, and other challenges. Given the dormitory's remote location and limited transportation networks, there are few livelihood opportunities available. Some older people and those with limited technical skills also experience difficulties accessing the online language classes and government e-portals. UNHCR and partners are planning trainings to reinforce refugees' digital skills and awareness, while preparing related activities to promote and reinforce inclusion.

LATVIA

- As of 30 October, **33,035 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Latvia.
- **Protection:** On 27 November, UNHCR, through partner “I want to Help Refugees” (GPB), conducted protection monitoring in Krāslava municipality. The monitoring found that accommodation in Izvalta is not currently in use due to low demand; most refugees from Ukraine are renting apartments while some live in the so-called social apartments owned by the municipality. The results of these findings will inform future UNHCR and partner response.

LITHUANIA

- As of 4 December, **51,810 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Lithuania.
- **Capacity-building:** Between 27 – 30 November, UNHCR and IOM collaborated with INTERPOL to offer a pilot training for 85 border guard and police officers. The training aimed at strengthening participants’ capacity to protect refugees and other members of the affected population from sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and to promote a survivor-centred “do-no-harm” approach in responding to potential allegations.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, 16,846 refugees from Ukraine have been counselled in person in urban areas by UNHCR and partners, while 12,725 have been counselled in the border regions of Belgorod, Kursk, Rostov-on-Don and Voronezh. Over 51,089 refugees have been counselled via the telephone hotline by UNHCR and partners.
- **MHPSS:** So far in 2023, 24,515 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 (NFIs). 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 seven 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 (AAP) Working Group. Through its leadership in these areas, UNHCR promotes the centrality of protection, as well as meaningful engagement and participation across the response.

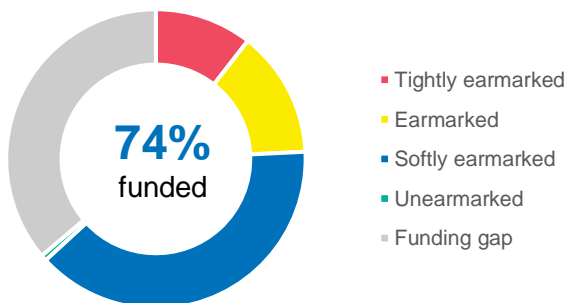
REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

The 2023 RRP aims to ensure refugees' access to protection and assistance on a non-discriminatory basis, with a particular focus on vulnerable refugees, as well as those 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

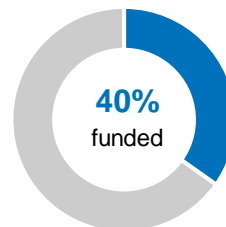
UNHCR UKRAINE SITUATION FINANCIAL UPDATE

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



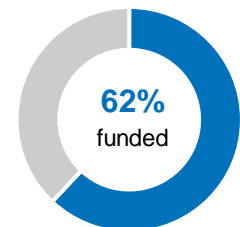
INTER-AGENCY FINANCIAL UPDATES

US\$ 1.68 billion
required (as of 23 Nov 2023)



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

US\$ 3.95 billion
required (as of 11 Dec 2023)



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

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