

2023 ROUND UP

UKRAINE SITUATION
FLASH UPDATE #63
5 February 2024

Kyryvi Rih, Ukraine – During his recent mission to Ukraine, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi visited the site of a multi-story building in Kyryvi Rih (central Ukraine) that was damaged by a missile strike. The High Commissioner was accompanied to the site by city authorities, NGO partners, and UNHCR staff. ©UNHCR / Iryna Tymchysky

PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE:

5,974,800¹

refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe (as of 31 Dec)

470,000

refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe (as of 31 Dec)

6,444,800

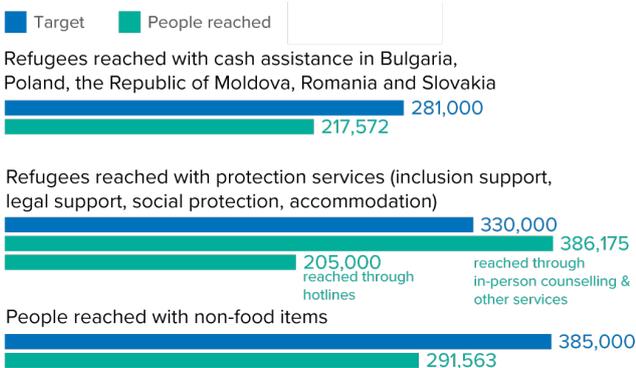
refugees from Ukraine recorded globally (as of 31 Dec)

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*:



*All figures are indicative pending end of year reconciliations.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- On 25 January, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, concluded a week-long visit to Ukraine, his fourth since the full-scale invasion two years ago. He **warned** of the dramatic humanitarian suffering throughout Ukraine and worsening conditions as war-affected civilians suffer in the depths of winter. Prior to that, the High Commissioner also visited the Republic of Moldova, where he **commended** the Government's commitment to safeguarding refugees and urged increased support for both refugees and the communities hosting them.
- On 15 January, the UN and partners launched the **2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP)** for inside Ukraine, which is appealing for US\$ 3.1 billion, and the **2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)** in refugee-hosting countries, appealing for US\$ 1.08 billion. In total, the two plans aim to support some 10.8 million people in Ukraine and the hosting countries. A summary of both plans is available [here](#).
- On 16 January, UNHCR published its **2024 plans and financial requirements** for the Ukraine Situation response. Inside Ukraine, UNHCR requires US\$ 599 million to reach over 2.7 million people with humanitarian assistance, protection, shelter and cash assistance. In refugee hosting countries across Europe, UNHCR requires US\$ 394.3 million to assist some 700,000 people. A high-level summary of the plan is available [here](#).

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

- Attacks against densely populated areas across Ukraine have escalated in the last week of December and in January, impacting civilian populations' safety as well as access to water, heating and electricity services in the middle of winter. An attack on Kharkiv city on 10 January injured 12 civilians and damaged a hotel frequently used by humanitarian workers and journalists.
- On 21 January, attacks on markets and a nearby residential area in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, left scores of civilians dead and injured, according to reports. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres **strongly** condemned all attacks against civilians and civilian infrastructure, including shelling of Donetsk city, adding that all such attacks were prohibited under international humanitarian law. OHCHR also condemned the attacks, **calling** for "thorough, prompt and independent investigations to be carried out to determine the facts and responsibility for the attacks".
- Following the Russian drone strike on the UNHCR partner NGO during a distribution of humanitarian aid in the frontline town Chasiv Yar in Donetsk region on 26 January leaving one aid worker injured and the vehicle damaged, Humanitarian Coordinator for Ukraine Denise Brown and UNHCR condemned the attack and said that the work of humanitarian organizations must be protected. The UN Humanitarian Coordinator **issued** a statement condemning attacks on aid workers. In her **statement**, the Humanitarian Coordinator said that at least seven attacks have directly impacted humanitarian facilities and assets in Ukraine since the beginning of the year. In the Kherson Region five humanitarian warehouses were damaged in December alone. In 2023, on average, there were four incidents harming humanitarian operations in Ukraine every week.

2023 UNHCR RESPONSE AND TARGETS INSIDE UKRAINE* (as of 25 January 2024)



* Reached figures are subject to data cleaning for 2023 and retro-active corrections may occur.

** The targets are subject to the receipt of the funding requirements.

***Also includes calls to hotlines.

UNHCR 2023 RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Cash Assistance:** In 2023, UNHCR distributed cash assistance to **899,039** war-affected and internally displaced families, returnees, and people with specific vulnerabilities to help cover the costs of basic items like food, medicines, clothes, accommodation and utilities, as well as to cover winter energy needs. This includes **565,236** people who have benefited from a three-month multi-purpose cash assistance payment, as well as **617,926** people who received cash support to help cover additional costs associated with winter (the latter includes a significant number of families with specific vulnerabilities who benefited from both programmes).
- **Interagency convoys:** In 2023, UNHCR contributed to **95 UN interagency convoys** (out of a total 107 during the year) to deliver crucial supplies to people in need.
- **Winterization:** Between 1 September – 31 December 2023, in line with its **2023-2024 winterization plan** contributing to the broader interagency **Ukraine Winter Response Plan**, UNHCR reached **some 907,000** people (exceeding the initial target of 900,000 people), including:
 - **617,926** people with cash assistance for winter energy needs;
 - **248,775** people with essential and winterized non-food items (NFIs);
 - **11,809** people with heaters, rapid thermal kits or cash assistance to cover rent;
 - **28,174** people with maintenance interventions in collective sites.
 - **84** generators distributed across 13 oblasts.

REGIONAL UNHCR KEY FIGURES AND UPDATES

BLUE DOTS:

291,959

refugees were reached by UNHCR and partners through the Blue Dot hubs in **Bulgaria, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia** in 2023 (as of 31 December 2023).

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 31 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 31 Dec 2023)

51,860

refugees have been recorded

68,722

refugees have been reached with protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

84,356

refugees have been reached through Blue Dot hubs in Bulgaria

13,932

refugees received cash assistance in Bulgaria

12,976

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

- **Advocacy:** In 2023, UNHCR and the government organized four multistakeholder roundtables for nearly **100 participants** on access to health services, child protection, and socioeconomic inclusion, as part of wider efforts for holistic inclusion of refugees into national policies and programmes.
- **Basic needs:** In 2023, UNHCR provided core relief items to **16,000 refugees** from Ukraine.
- **Coordination:** To further enhance coordination in refugee protection and socioeconomic inclusion programmes, throughout 2023 UNHCR established memoranda of understanding with various entities, including the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy; the State Agency for Refugees; the State Agency for Child Protection; the National Police; the National Institute of Statistics; academia; municipalities and the newly appointed regional governors in the Black Sea oblasts of Burgas, Dobrich, and Varna, hosting over 65 per cent of refugees from Ukraine.
- **Protection:** In 2023, UNHCR and partners provided support to over **65,000 refugees** with protection activities, including information on rights and services, legal assistance, counseling, community-based and focused psychosocial support, education, access to social protection, and targeted assistance for persons with specific needs. UNHCR and partners also trained **440 individuals** on UNHCR's mandate, refugee protection, child protection, and children's rights.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** In 2023, UNHCR and partners assisted **16,200 refugees** with livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion support services.

CZECH REPUBLIC

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023 (as of 31 Dec 2023)

375,590

refugees have been recorded

19,311

refugees from Ukraine been reached with protection services

8,790

Refugees have been provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

28,609

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

- **Capacity-building:** In 2023, UNHCR and partners trained nearly **500 people** among partners and the government on core protection principles. Together with the office of the public defender of rights, UNHCR delivered a series of seminars for frontline workers assisting refugees from Ukraine. In cooperation with the refugee facilities administration, UNHCR organized a training for social workers from NGOs providing integration services within the state integration programme.
- **GBV and SEA:** During the year, UNHCR and partners disseminated nearly 18,000 leaflets providing information and awareness on gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) as well as trafficking.
- **MHPSS:** In 2023, UNHCR and partners provided **8,790 refugees** from Ukraine with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).
- **Protection:** In 2023, UNHCR and partners provided over **19,300 refugees** from Ukraine with protection services (integration, legal support, social protection, awareness-raising sessions, etc.).

HUNGARY

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023 (as of 31 Dec 2023)

65,585

refugees have been recorded

39,000

refugees have been reached with protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

23,709

refugees have been reached through Blue Dot hubs in Hungary

79,990

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

- **Basic needs:** In 2023, over **80,000 refugees** received core relief items through UNHCR and partners, and over **1,200 refugee families** received cash assistance.
- **Coordination:** The Refugee Coordination Forum chaired by UNHCR facilitated discussions, resource sharing, and engagement with government and civil society around cross-cutting issues of [refugees of Roma background](#), [refugees with disabilities](#), reinforcing [Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse \(PSEA\)](#), and promoting school enrollment ([cross-sectoral collaboration](#) and [advocacy on enrollment](#)).
- **Protection:** In 2023, over **39,000 refugees** from Ukraine were reached by UNHCR's protection support, including information on rights and services, legal assistance, and counseling. **1,900 refugees** also received psychosocial support through partners in Hungary.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** In 2023, **6,774 refugees** were counseled and received integration-related support from UNHCR and partners, i.e. support with housing, employment, access to services and education. In 2023, 30 companies participated in events organized by UNHCR promoting refugee employment, and nearly 160 refugees and other displaced persons participated in a job fair in Budapest organized jointly by UNHCR and IOM.

POLAND

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023 (as of 19 Dec 2023)

956,635

refugees have been recorded

55,563

refugees were provided with protection support over the telephone

104,688

refugees have been reached through Blue Dot hubs in Poland

36,081

refugees received cash assistance Poland

276,626

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

- **Counselling:** In 2023, over **15,000 refugees** from Ukraine benefited from legal counselling offered by UNHCR's legal partners.
- **Localization:** In 2023, UNHCR established partnerships with 17 NGOs, including refugee-led organizations, to support 28 small scale projects aimed at helping refugees across Poland. In addition, [three projects](#) pioneered innovative solutions supporting refugees, such as green spaces to support mental and physical wellbeing.
- **MHPSS:** In 2023, nearly **10,800 refugees** received mental health and psychosocial support through partners in Poland.
- **Protection monitoring:** In 2023, UNHCR conducted over **20,300 interviews** as part of an Inter-Agency protection analysis. To better understand refugee needs and identify any gaps, UNHCR and partners conducted a multi-sector needs assessment in 2023, interviewing over **5,600 refugee families** throughout the country between July - August 2023.
- **Socioeconomic inclusion:** In 2023, UNHCR co-organized or participated in **23 job fairs** in Poland in support of refugees' livelihoods and self-reliance.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023 (as of 31 Dec 2023)

120,695

refugees have been recorded

113,853

refugees have been reached with protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

11,780

refugees have been reached through Blue Dot hubs in Moldova

85,911

refugees received cash assistance in Moldova

359,704

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

- Capacity-building:** UNHCR partner the Ombudsman's Office trained over **100 people** during four workshops on refugees' rights. UNHCR and partners conducted seven training workshops reaching **175 frontline workers** and service providers to combat trafficking in human beings. Some **70,000 refugees** received information on trafficking risks during distributions of non-food items.
- Child protection:** In 2023, UNHCR and partners conducted over **630 best interest assessments** for unaccompanied, separated and other children at risk, and made referrals to the Guardianship Authority and NGOs for provision of services. Child protection case management services were provided to over **500 children** by UNHCR partners, while **22,800 children** and caregivers received services at Blue Dot hubs.
- EU+ Air Transfer:** In 2023 through the [EU+ Air Transfer](#) programme, UNHCR and IOM jointly organized transfers of over **460 refugees** to EU+ member states via 73 flights, including 35 refugees in family reunification cases.
- GBV prevention:** Some **710 refugees** from Ukraine benefitted from gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and mitigation services through UNHCR's partners in 2023, including GBV case management, shelter, mental health and psychosocial support, legal aid and health assistance, basic counselling, and other services. Nearly **3,200 refugees** participated in empowerment and GBV prevention activities. Meanwhile, UNHCR trained almost **700 persons** on core concepts and risk mitigation of GBV.
- Health:** UNHCR provided life-saving HIV prevention and harm reduction services to over **570 refugees**, including through mobile units. These services were accompanied by counselling and psychological support. Furthermore, **615 refugees** participated in MHPSS sessions on raising awareness about available HIV services, as well as GBV risks.
- Protection monitoring:** In 2023, UNHCR and partners conducted nearly 7,000 interviews with over **15,600 refugees** to assess their protection needs.

ROMANIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023 (as of 31 Dec 2023)

85,710

refugees have been recorded

89,797

refugees have been reached with protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

59,709

refugees received cash assistance in Romania

2,608

refugees have been provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

111,361

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

- Capacity-building:** In 2023, UNHCR trained **1,200 officials** of local authorities, partners and volunteers on core concepts of refugee protection, including child protection, GBV prevention and response, and SEA.
- CwC:** In 2023, some **21,000 refugees** have followed UNHCR social media dedicated channels, including [Telegram](#) and [Facebook](#), with the greatest reach per post of over **80,000 persons**. The campaign, titled "[Born in Ukraine. Finding Hope in Romania](#)" highlighted stories of six Ukrainian refugees, reaching some 2.4 million people via digital

means (12 per cent of the population of Romania), and included 226 ads on seven TV channels, 75 digital outdoor advertisements in five cities and 102 press coverage pieces.

- **Fast-track transfers:** In 2023, UNHCR in partnership with the Department of Emergency Situations and IOM supported **2,300 refugees** to travel to Romania from the Ukraine-Moldova border through fast-track transfers.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** Through UNHCR's partners, nearly **25,500 refugees** were enrolled in employment services or other similar platforms with ANOFM and Jobs4Ukraine, nearly **967 refugees** were supported with employment coaching/counselling, and **751 refugees** with Romanian language courses.

SLOVAKIA

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023 (as of 31 Dec 2023)

114,270

refugees have been recorded

45,832

refugees have been reached with protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

71,369

refugees have been reached through Blue Dot hubs in Slovakia

21,106

refugees received cash assistance in Slovakia

251,942

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

- **Advocacy:** By building partnerships, including with the Justice Ministry's Legal Aid Centre and the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, UNHCR ensured that refugees have access to free legal counselling and representation. UNHCR advocated for the inclusion of refugee learners, including the most vulnerable groups of children and youth.
- **Education:** In 2023, UNHCR supported enhanced access to quality tertiary education for refugees through the expansion of the DAFI scholarship programme in Slovakia.
- **Protection:** Over **19,000 children and adolescents** received child protection services, including assistance at the Blue Dots Hubs and over **15,000 refugees** received assistance through the UNHCR hotline.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** In 2023, UNHCR and partners reached nearly **62,500 refugees** with livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion support services.

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELARUS

- As of 31 December, **39,900 refugees from Ukraine** have been recorded in Belarus.
- **Basic needs:** In 2023, UNHCR provided cash assistance to 510 refugees from Ukraine (287 families).
- **Protection:** In 2023, UNHCR provided protection activities, including information on rights and services, legal assistance, counselling, education, and access to social protection to over **1,600 refugees** from Ukraine.

ESTONIA

- As of 31 December, **50,450** from Ukraine have been recorded in Estonia.
- **CwC:** In 2023, some **5,260 people** were reached through communicating with communities (CwC) activities by UNHCR and partners, the majority undertaken by Estonian Refugee Council. Among them, UNHCR and partner Mondo reached **355 refugees and asylum-seekers** and 1,765 host community members, who participated in workshops at schools, focusing on two-way communication between refugee and host community youth.
- **Protection monitoring:** During the year, UNHCR and partners conducted a total of 331 protection monitoring visits at various locations across the country including Tallinn, Pärnu, Jõhvi, Kohtla-Järve and Narva.

GEORGIA

- As of 30 December, **26,660 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Georgia.
- **Basic needs:** In 2023, more than **1,000 refugees** from Ukraine were provided with multi-purpose cash assistance.
- **Counselling:** In 2023, over **5,200 refugees** from Ukraine received protection counselling from UNHCR and partners.
- **Health:** In 2023, nearly **190 refugees** from Ukraine were provided with mental health and psychosocial support and healthcare counselling, as well as referrals by UNHCR's partner, World Vision Georgia.
- **Help Page:** In 2023, the UNHCR Help Page received **45,850 unique visits**.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** In 2023, nearly **440 refugees** from Ukraine benefited from job counselling from UNHCR's partners.

LATVIA

- As of 31 December, **43,825 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Latvia.
- **Education:** In August 2023, UNHCR jointly with partner 'I Want to Help Refugees' (GPB) and the Ministry of Education and Science organized a discussion in Riga among refugees from Ukraine about the education system in the country. About 50 refugees from Ukraine, including children and youth, participated in the event.
- **Protection:** In 2023, over **5,540 refugees and asylum-seekers** were assisted by partner GPB through its Information Centre in Riga and in border areas and municipalities. UNHCR partner Shelter Safe House (SSH) provided legal counselling to over **270 refugees** from Ukraine.

LITHUANIA

- As of 22 December, **52,305 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Lithuania.
- **Monitoring visits:** In 2023, UNHCR conducted 64 monitoring visits in Lithuania to meet with refugees from Ukraine, officials at municipalities and NGOs. Findings from these visits were used to analyse protection risks, advocate with responsible ministries and agencies, as well as towards planning 2024 interventions.
- **Protection:** Between September – October 2023, UNHCR in collaboration with IOM and the Red Cross interviewed nearly **1,400 refugees** from Ukraine from some 550 families during the multi-sector needs assessment.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- **Counselling:** In 2023, **14,648 refugees** from Ukraine received in-person counselling from UNHCR partners in border regions in Belgorod, Kursk, Rostov-on-Don and Voronezh, as well as **18,810 refugees** in other parts of the country. Meanwhile, **56,019 refugees** from Ukraine were counselled via telephone hotline by UNHCR and partners.
- **Field missions:** In 2023, UNHCR carried out missions jointly with the Ministry of Emergencies (EMERCOM), the Russian Red Cross (RRC), and/or the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner in the Russian Federation to 27 regions of Russia, which hosted over **3,800 persons** in 48 temporary accommodation points (TAPs).
- **MHPSS:** In 2023, **27,913 refugees** from Ukraine received mental health and psychosocial support by UNHCR's partners the Russian Red Cross.

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 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 (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.

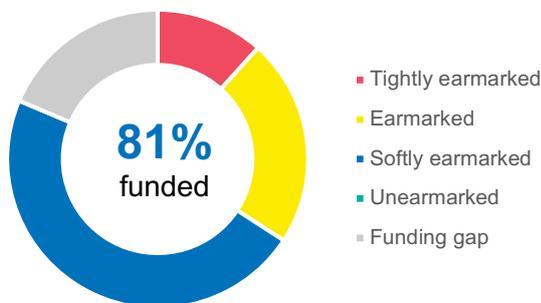
REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE (RRP)

The [2023 RRP](#) aimed 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 placed an emphasis on refugees' socioeconomic inclusion, in recognition of the challenges faced by refugees due to their prolonged displacement. Support was provided 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, continue to work 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

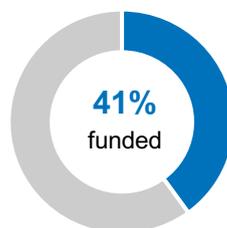
UNHCR UKRAINE SITUATION FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR 2023

US\$ 1.19 billion
required (as of 15 Dec 2023)



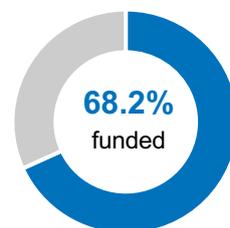
INTER-AGENCY FINANCIAL UPDATES

US\$ 1.68 billion
required (as of 31 Dec 2023)



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

US\$ 3.95 billion
required (as of 31 Dec 2023)



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

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