OPERATIONAL CONTEXT:

- The latest wave of attacks by the Russian Federation, especially in Donetska, Kharkivska, Odeska, and Sumska oblasts, continue to cause civilian casualties and destruction to civilian homes and infrastructure. On 28 February, attacks on Velykiy Burluk and Kupiansk, Kharkivska oblast, killed four civilians, including a 6-year-old girl, and injured others. On 2 March, Ukrainian authorities reported that drone attacks hit Kharkiv, Odesa and cities in Sumska oblast. One of the drones hit a residential building in Odesa, destroying 18 apartments and killing 12 people, including five children. The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU) said this was one of the deadliest incidents for children in nine months. On 6 March, a ballistic missile hit the port in Odesa while a visit by President Zelenskyy and the Greek Prime Minister was ongoing. Five people were killed in the strike and more were wounded, according to local authorities.

- Russian forces have reportedly pressed westwards following Ukraine's withdrawal last month from Avdiivka in Donetska oblast and have occupied several additional small villages. As fighting continues, humanitarian access to people remaining in areas along the front line is becoming increasingly challenging.

- The UN HRMMU verified that at least 502 civilians were killed or injured in Ukraine in February 2024. This number constitutes a 24 per cent decrease in comparison with January 2024, after a spike in civilian casualties documented in December 2023 and January 2024.

- UNHCR continues to provide immediate protection and assistance to people living in impacted areas while supporting the early recovery and durable solutions for displaced people, returnees, and war-affected people remaining in their homes.
Interagency convoys to front line areas: Helping war-affected families living close to the front line meet their basic needs remains a priority. On 21 February, UNHCR contributed 300 solar lamps to an interagency convoy to Kurakhove, delivering assistance to people in Mariinska and Vuhledarska hromadas of Donetsk oblast, which are under constant missile attacks. On 26 February, UNHCR joined another interagency convoy to Mylove village, Khersonska oblast. UNHCR contributed 279 solar lamps for delivery to the local authorities and people living near front line areas.

Immediate emergency response: People affected by recent attacks continue to receive immediate emergency assistance. Following the devastating attacks on Odesa at the end of February and again in early March, UNHCR’s local partner TTA distributed emergency shelter kits consisting of materials to help affected families quickly repair their damaged homes. TTA also conducted monitoring visits to affected areas, providing psychosocial support and legal consultations to help families access financial compensation.

On 2 March, an attack on Shevchenkivskyi raion of Kharkiv city damaged windows and balcony frames in multiple residential buildings. Around 50 people received OSB sheets (wooden boards) and tarpaulins through our partner Proliska to help them quickly repair damaged homes, in addition to receiving psychological support and legal consultations.

In Khersonska oblast, almost 3,400 people were supported through emergency shelter kits between end-February and early March as part of Proliska’s emergency response to the continuous shelling and attacks in Kherson city, as well as attacks in the areas of Bilozerska, Beryslavska and Novorayska.

Multiple cities and villages in Sumska oblast were affected by Russian attacks in recent weeks. UNHCR’s local partner Proliska delivered emergency assistance to 169 people including emergency shelter kits, tarpaulins, and wooden boards. Over 100 people also received essential items such as blankets to help replace lost items, while Proliska staff were on-site to offer psychosocial and legal support.

UNHCR, jointly with its local NGO partner Angels of Salvation (AoS), have launched a new pilot project, "Workshop on Wheels", to support war-affected communities with technical advice and assistance to help repair homes damaged in missile, drone, or other attacks.

Five mobile teams of skilled construction workers, equipped with tools such as screwdrivers, angle grinders, or circular saws have since January 2024 been deployed in war-affected areas in Kharkivska oblast in east Ukraine. They help families who have received building materials to repair their war-damaged homes, but who lack the necessary tools or skills to complete the repairs.

So far, the AoS mobile teams have installed over 300 windows and three entrance doors, helping around 100 families. In 2024, the project aims to support a total of 1,500 families in Kharkivska oblast with loan of tools, technical expertise and assistance with repairs. Read more about this initiative here.
Protection

- UNHCR and partners organized a series of activities across Ukraine, from workshops, entrepreneurship events and art therapy sessions, bringing together displaced people and host communities on the occasion of International Women’s Day.
- On 20 February, UNHCR and its local NGO partner Rokada opened a child daycare centre in the city of Kalush, Ivano-Frankivska oblast in west Ukraine. The area (Bohorodchanska hromada) hosts about 2,000 displaced people, and many displaced families continue to actively search for employment opportunities. Among other advantages, the daycare centre will give parents the opportunity to work or seek employment while their children are looked after.
- On 29 February, UNHCR’s local NGO partner NEEKA opened a new integration and resource hub “Access Point” in the city of Tiachiv, Zakarpatska oblast in west Ukraine. Activities and social events aim to help displaced people integrate into the community while also supporting them with trainings and services.
- In coordination with local authorities, UNHCR and Rokada opened a community centre for older people in Chernivtsi to help strengthen their self-reliance and inclusion in the community. Around 700 students over the age of 60, including over 270 displaced people, will be able to gain skills and access psychosocial support.

Cash assistance

- So far in 2024, UNHCR has distributed multi-purpose cash assistance to 79,889 war-affected and internally displaced people, 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.
- UNHCR is providing emergency cash assistance (UAH 10,800) to people affected by recent attacks to help them address their most urgent needs. On 22 February, UNHCR met with local authorities in Lviv and families whose apartments were damaged by the missile attack on 15 February. UNHCR and local NGO partner Right to Protection (R2P) have started the enrolment process for over 300 families affected by the attack to receive emergency cash assistance. Meanwhile, in Donetska oblast in the east, UNHCR and R2P are enrolling 246 people whose homes were damaged by an attack on Selydove in early February, as well as approximately 400 people in Pokrovsk affected by the latest missile attacks on 3 and 5 March.
- In December 2023, the Ministry of Reintegration and UNHCR signed an agreement towards implementation of the Prykhystok programme, the largest national social initiative supporting free housing for displaced people in Ukraine. At the end of February 2024, UNHCR received the first list of people to be supported through this programme, which in 2024 aims to provide financial support to a total of 90,000 families hosting approximately 250,000 internally displaced people in their homes for a period of at least four to five months. For more information, see the latest Cash Assistance Factsheet here.

Mukachevo city authorities reduce document processing fees for several vulnerable groups

Following strong awareness raising by UNHCR’s local NGO partner NEEKA, city authorities in Mukachevo, Zakarpatska oblast, decided that several vulnerable groups will be exempt from paying 70 per cent of the administrative costs for processing identity documents and passports.

This is a significant step to help ensure that for example internally displaced people who lost their documents, undocumented Roma people, USSR passport holders, people without housing, and others with specific vulnerabilities, are able to obtain ID papers - which are often vital to access services and rights. See more here.
WINTERIZATION RESPONSE

In coordination with the Government of Ukraine, and contributing to the broader Ukraine Winter Response Plan (updated September 2023), UNHCR’s winterization response targeted 900,000 vulnerable, displaced and war-affected people between 1 September 2023 and 29 February 2024. As of end-February 2024, UNHCR and partners have assisted over 1 million people with specialized winter support. Strengthened protection referrals, with a particular focus on psychosocial support and legal assistance to support access to key civil and housing, land, and property documentation to support solutions from the start, accompanied UNHCR’s winterization response.

One-off winter cash payment

- Reached with cash support for winter energy needs: 664,199
- 148% targeted: 450K

NFI

- Reached with essential & winterized items such as quilts, thermoses and clothes: 353,471
- 85% targeted: 416K

Shelter/Housing

- Reached with heaters, Rapid Thermal Kits (RTKs) or cash for rent: 12,681
- 80% targeted: 16K

Collective sites

- Benefited from care & maintenance services in collective sites to ensure readiness for winter: 28,174
- 157% targeted: 18K

According to UN estimates, older people represent almost a quarter of the people in need of humanitarian assistance in Ukraine. © UNHCR

Cash support to vulnerable pensioners during the cold winter months

During the 2023-24 winter season, UNHCR has so far provided close to USD 23 million in direct cash support to more than 127,000 vulnerable pensioners to help them purchase household fuel during the harsh winter months. This assistance is delivered in support of the Ministry of Social Policy and the Pension Fund of Ukraine, under the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 1173 from 7 November 2023.

The cash support of UAH 6,660 per person is provided via bank transfers, directly to the bank accounts of the recipients. UNHCR will continue this support until the end of the heating season and provide cash assistance totaling more than USD 25 million. Read more here.

FUNDING UPDATE | 2024

UKRAINE

as of 31 January 2024

$598.9 million
UNHCR’s financial requirements 2024

12% funded

Tightly earmarked
Earmarked
Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
Funding gap (indicative)

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors and for the generous contributions from individuals and the private sector. Given the immense humanitarian needs, UNHCR continues to seek support to deliver assistance inside Ukraine. For more information, see Ukraine Situation: UNHCR’s 2024 plans and financial requirements.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Visit Ukraine’s Operational Data Portal for more information products here.
- UNHCR’s Regional Flash Update on the Ukraine situation can be found here.
- Ukraine Protection Cluster Response Dashboard can be found here.
- CCCM Cluster Collective Sites Mapping here.
- Shelter Cluster Response Dashboard here.

CONTACTS:

- Livia das Neves, Senior External Relations Officer, dasneves@unhcr.org
- Alessia Pignatti, Reporting Officer, pignatti@unhcr.org

Contact UNHCR’s Hotline 0-800-307-711 for feedback and advice on assistance and services.