



# Belarus

1 November to 31 December 2022

The Government of Belarus upholds its obligations towards all refugees from Ukraine to grant unhindered access to its territory and asylum procedures.

All twelve border crossing points (BCP) between Belarus-Ukraine have remained closed since mid-April 2022. Most refugees, displaced from Ukraine arrive through the European Union (EU) countries.

An unknown number also continue to arrive through Russia. As per the bilateral agreement between the two countries, the border is not strictly monitored.

## KEY FIGURES\* (as of 31 December)

**74,432**

Recorded border crossings to Belarus

**244**

Are third country nationals

**58,542**

Entered Belarus through EU countries

## POPULATION BREAKDOWN

**33%**



**21%**



**26%**



**22%**



## RECALIBRATED 2022 REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN (RRP) FOR THE UKRAINE SITUATION\*\*

**USD 1.79B**

Overall RRP financial requirements

**USD 1.3B**

Overall RRP funding received

**73%**

Overall RRP per cent funded

**USD 11.5 M**

Financial requirements for the Belarus response

**6**

Partners involved in the Belarus response

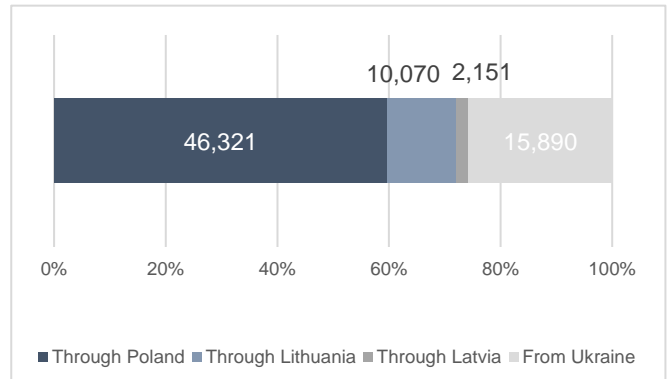
\*See the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#) for more details on refugee population figures and information resources. The statistics are based on data provided by the State Border Committee (SBC) of Belarus. The figures reflect border-crossings and may include pendular and transit movements.

\*\*See the [Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) and the [Belarus Summary Document](#) for a breakdown of sectoral response priorities and requirements. See the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#) for RRP funding information.

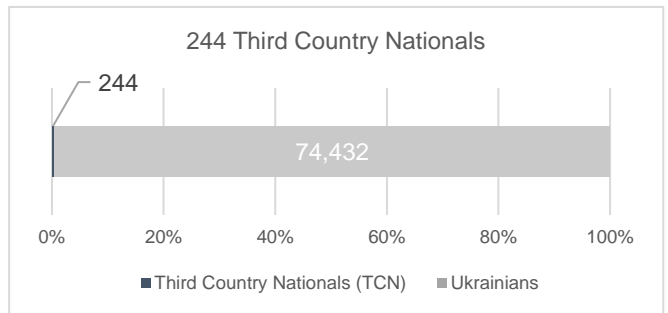
This report was produced by UNHCR in collaboration with inter-agency partners.

**Operational Context**

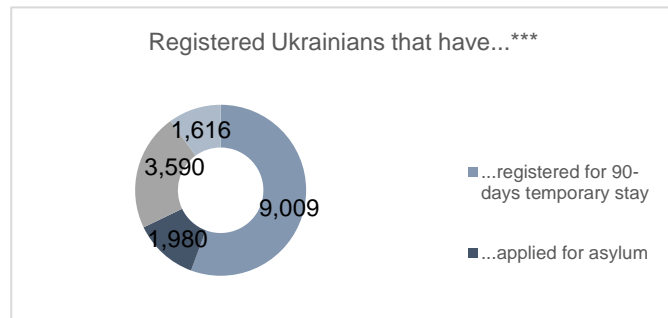
As of 31 December, **74,432** instances of border crossings to enter Belarus with **15,890** directly from Ukraine, including 244 third-country nationals. **46,321** through Poland, **10,070** Lithuania, and **2,151** through Latvia.



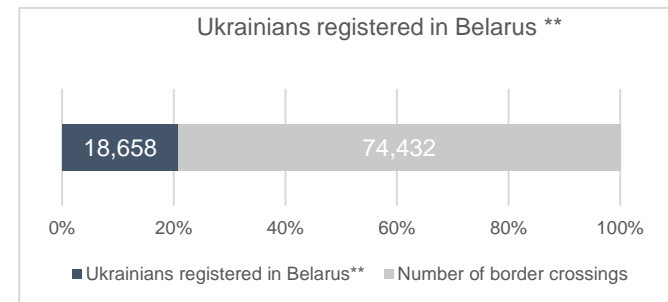
As of 27 December, the estimated number of citizens of Ukraine remaining in Belarus amounts to **18,658** persons<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, **9,320** Ukrainians have been recorded by Department on Citizenship and Migration (DCM) as persons with permits for temporary stay up to 90 days. **2,340** refugees from Ukraine have applied for asylum in Belarus. As of **31 December**, **1,519** have been granted complementary protection, **5,038** have applied for 1-year temporary residence permits. **2,004** have applied for permanent residence permits.



Refugees originate from Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Chernihiv and Kyiv. People at heightened risk are elderly women, children, especially unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), persons with disabilities and chronic health issues.



Belarus continued to be a country of transit and host refugees during the reporting period. The interagency refugee response supported government-led efforts in line with international humanitarian principles and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) under the Refugee Coordination Model and refugee coordination forums in Belarus.



**PROTECTION**  
 **Achievements and Impact**

UNHCR provides legal counselling and referrals to asylum procedures through the joint project “Refugee Counselling Service” (RCS). During November-December **347 persons (205 cases)** have been counselled by the RCS at their offices and through phone calls, reaching a total of **2,760** persons from the beginning of

<sup>1</sup> The statistics for the number of registered Ukrainians were provided by Department of Citizenship and Migration (DCM) as of 27 December 2022, and on the number of border crossings by State Border Committee (SBC) as of 31 December 2022.

March 2022. In addition, during **November-December** UNHCR has counselled **60 refugees** from Ukraine through its hotline and counselling sessions at its office in Minsk.



UNICEF and partner Belarusian Red Cross (BRC) opened the information center at the border between Belarus and Poland. It is a place where people can receive information, psychosocial support, and legal assistance. UNHCR and partner RCS are providing legal advice and information. <https://www.sb.by/articles/bezhentsy-zdes-poluchat-podderzhku-i-pravovuyu-pomoshch-shevtsov-na-otkrytii-informatsionnogo-punkta.html>

UNFPA supports functioning of two Orange Safe Spaces (Homiel and Brest) where psychosocial counselling, referral and information services has been provided. During **November-December** 2022, **689 women** were consulted (372 in Homiel, 317 in Brest). UNFPA consultants also conducted activities with self-care groups of older people to support their access to different services. After the December meeting older people were brought together with specialists from health and social care departments of the Gomel and Brest regional administrations to discuss and find solutions for several issues.

In **November and December**, UNHCR with partner BRC, assisted **648 individuals** with cash assistance for basic needs being a total of 1,200 individuals since the beginning of response.

On **22 December**, an official ceremony took place to open the BRC crisis center in Viciebsk. The Center was supported by UNHCR, UNFPA, UNICEF including electrical appliances and other items to facilitate access to temporary accommodation for the vulnerable refugees from Ukraine.



## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

### Achievements and Impact

IOM has hired one psychologist to receive referrals from psycho-social services and provide follow-up mental health consultations to those in need. In November and December, **92 consultations** were provided for mental health and psycho-social support.

UNFPA established a referral procedure for sexual and reproductive health services (SRH) to healthcare facilities in Minsk and Homiel regions. UNFPA covers the costs of women's health care above the national support threshold (e.g., some diagnostic procedures). So far, two high-cost medical interventions were covered for two Ukrainian women.



## FOOD SECURITY

### Achievements and Impact

IOM assisted **316 affected people** with food packages. **94 food** packages were provided by UNHCR with partner BRC in December.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Ongoing in-kind assistance will need to continue to the most vulnerable, including food packages.



## SHELTER AND BASIC NEEDS

### Achievements and Impact

UNHCR with partner BRC assisted 129 individuals receiving in-kind assistance for basic needs in November and December.

In November and December IOM provided in-kind assistance for basic needs, including hygiene items and NFIs, to **515 individuals**. As well, IOM supported **1 person** under the Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration Programme in November.

UNHCR is supporting refugees from Ukraine through providing them with household items. As of December 31, 3,179 were individuals assisted with NFIs from BRC and 297 from the RCS (male – 58, female – 89, elderly 56 (12– male, 44– female), children - 94 (49 – male, 45– female).

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Inter-agency partners face supply chain issues with the local market and local procurement due to the local production capacity and sanctions that have been applied to Belarus.



## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

### Achievements and Impact

**57 people** received legal aid assistance that was provided by IOM in November-December. By end December 2022, 144 people have benefitted from employment facilitation and legal aid services provided by IOM. 27 state fees for employment permits were paid, 90 people received employment related assistance and legal aid and 29 persons were assisted through IOM support to the vocational training.

UNDP Accelerator Lab partners with the BRC were working on a digital platform that better connects refugees with services available for them across Belarus. This includes opportunities on legal counselling, humanitarian aid, health, psychosocial support, and psychological assistance. Partnerships were established with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Education.

UNDP strengthens the Belarusian Red Cross' capacities to deliver crisis response through engaging UN Volunteers. UNVs assist with information management and conduct a continuous needs and capacity assessment of the refugees and local communities to inform the comprehensive activities for refugees' socio-economic integration.

In Grodno, Homiel and Brest, in the framework of the joint UNDP- Belarusian Red Cross' initiative, 3 round tables with key stakeholders were conducted on mechanisms for supporting refugees in accessing income generating opportunities in the framework of their socio-economic integration. As a result, a labour market niches were identified, algorithm for passing a medical examination for the employment of refugees was determined, information exchange agreements were reached and referral pathway for refugees seeking employment were determined.



## LOGISTICS, SUPPLY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

### Achievements and Impact

UNHCR operates a warehouse in Homiel region to store non-food items (NFIs) including prepositioning items including for winter to respond quickly. UNICEF and UNHCR with BRC is supporting transport costs for the most vulnerable individuals to reach distribution locations for cash or in-kind assistance. As of end of December, **29 beneficiaries** were assisted with transportation by IOM.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Within the regional Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) RRP partners support the government led response with a multisectoral approach based on synergies and complementarities among UN sister agencies.

Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) is co-chaired by UNHCR and the Department of Citizenship and Migration (DCM) with UN Agencies IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, WHO and the Resident Coordinators Office in an observer capacity, as well as the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and Belarus Red Cross (BRC), Médecins sans Frontiers (MSF) and Refugee Counselling Services (RCS).

RCF members ensure strategic direction oversight of RRP implementation among others. Standing operational forums and ad-hoc taskforces support the RCF with the technical capacities of humanitarian and development partners to the response. The Operational and Information Management Working Groups are central to promoting coordination and mitigating duplication for effective and efficient use of resources including inter-agency data collection, UNHCR's protection monitoring and profiling which evidence-base underpins the response.

The BRC is a main entity for channeling international humanitarian aid delivery and distribution with widespread presence across the country. UN Agencies also carry out direct implementation and implementation with other partners.

The Global Compact on Refugees, Agenda for Humanity 2030 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the UNHCR #IBelong campaign to end global statelessness by 2024 the principle of "Leaving No One Behind" and New Way of Working provide important frameworks for collaboration with partners. The humanitarian response in Belarus contributes to SDG 1- 5, 8, 11, and 16. While increasing community resilience contributes to fulfilling SDGs 1– 17 brings together humanitarian and development partners towards shared goals. Using cash instead of all in-kind, which can include unwanted and wasted items, will contribute to climate change mitigation (SDG 13).

IOM | UNDP | UNFPA | UNHCR | UNICEF | WHO

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### LINKS

[REGIONAL DATA PORTAL – UKRAINE SITUATION RRP – RRP RECALIBRATION – BELARUS RRP SUMMARY DOCUMENT – REFUGEE FUNDING TRACKER](#)