



UKRAINE SITUATION FLASH UPDATE #53

18 August 2023



Hungary: Refugee children are attending a summer camp at the Budapest Helps community center in downtown Budapest. © UNHCR/ Zsolt Balla

PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

5,901,000*

refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe (as of 15 Aug)

367,000

refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe (as of 5 Aug)

6,268,000

refugees from Ukraine recorded globally (as of 15 Aug)

5,088,000

Estimated number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ukraine (as of 23 May) (Source: [IOM](#))

More details: UNHCR Operational Data Portal [Ukraine Refugee Situation](#)

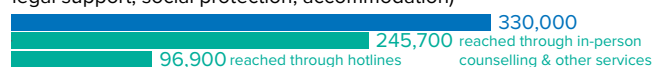
UNHCR REFUGEE RESPONSE 2023

■ Target ■ People reached

Refugees reached with cash assistance in Bulgaria, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia



Refugees reached with protection services (inclusion support, legal support, social protection, accommodation)



People reached with non-food items



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



UNHCR has published its [2023 mid-year report for the Ukraine Situation Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#), which highlights progress made against the RRP strategic objectives across the region in the first half of the year while identifying gaps and priority areas to address going forward.

- On 15 August, UNHCR published its report on [the impact of travel to Ukraine on refugees' legal status and access to rights in host countries](#), based on findings conducted by UNHCR in July 2023 across 38 countries in Europe (including all 27 EU Member States) and complemented with border monitoring data from government authorities, UNHCR protection monitoring, and intentions surveys. Findings showed that in 37% of countries surveyed, travel to Ukraine currently impacts refugees' legal status. In 42% of the countries, travel to Ukraine also impacts refugees' access to rights and assistance, while 29% of the countries do not provide refugees with information on the impact of travel, which may negatively affect refugees' abilities to take fully informed decisions on returning to Ukraine.
- To find out more about the situation and the response in Ukraine and the region, see [UNHCR's Ukraine Emergency website](#).

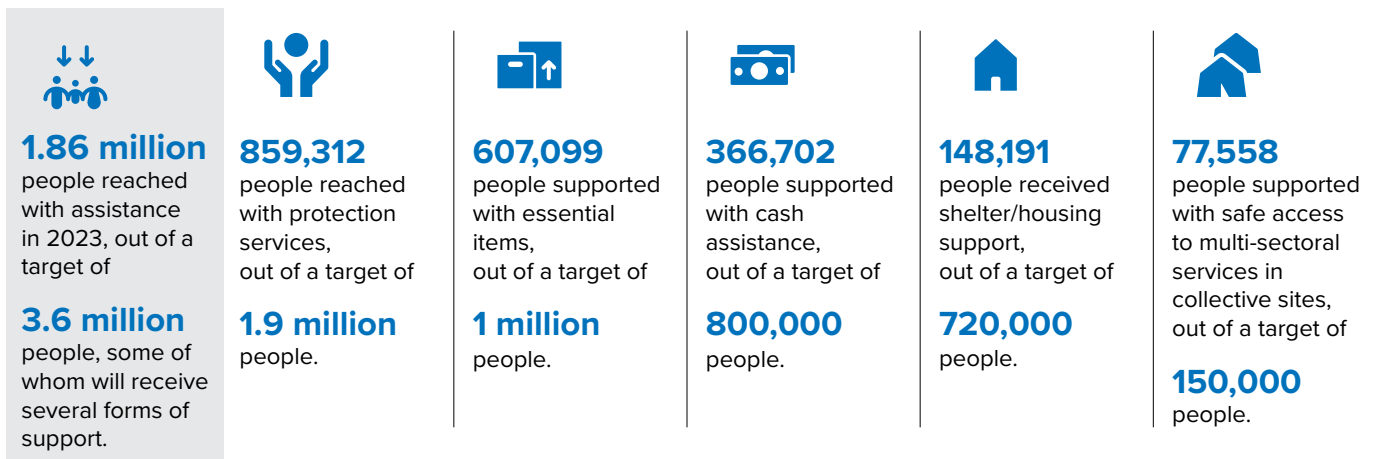
Join our mailing list to receive regular updates

* 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.

UKRAINE SITUATION UPDATE

- Between 1 – 13 August, airstrikes continued across various parts of Ukraine, [resulting](#) in 48 deaths and 210 injuries. Facilities were targeted in south-eastern Ukraine, including a [hospital](#) in Kherson, a [blood transfusion centre](#) in Kharkivska oblast, [Reikartz hotel](#) in Zaporizhzhia (frequently used by UN and NGO staff), and a [warehouse](#) of NGO ADRA in Kher-sonska oblast reportedly during offloading of humanitarian aid. On 7 August, shelling in Donetsk oblast, in Eastern Ukraine, [reportedly](#) killed seven civilians and injured 81 people, including rescue workers from Ukraine’s State Emergency Service. On 14 August, 28 Russian [missiles](#) struck the west of Ukraine – the city of Lviv and the Volyn region, bordering Poland. Multiple locations across the country were also targeted, including Cherkasy, Dnipro, Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia. In Smila in central Ukraine, Russian missiles [damaged](#) a local hospital and industrial facility, leaving half the town without water. In Lviv, debris [fell onto](#) residential buildings and resulted in fires, forcing locals to evacuate.
- As [reported](#) by OHCHR; since 24 February 2022, over 26,384 civilian casualties have been recorded, including 9,444 deaths and 16,940 injuries – with the actual toll estimated to be higher.

UNHCR RESPONSE AND TARGETS INSIDE UKRAINE 2023 (AS OF 31 JULY 2023)*



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

UNHCR RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Border monitoring:** In recent weeks, partners have [observed](#) an increase in the number of people entering Ukraine compared to those exiting, which is likely due to a seasonal trend. From 31 July - 14 August, UNHCR partners R2P, NEEKA and The Tenth of April conducted 124 monitoring visits to border crossing points with Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia, where they provided protection counselling, legal assistance, social accompaniment, and transportation services to people crossing the border from Ukraine.
- **Child protection:** On 7 August, UNHCR local partner Poruch organized an event in Kyiv where 257 children participated in art therapy, sports and creative activities to improve their psychosocial well-being.
- **Immediate emergency response:** In response to the airstrikes on 7 August in [Donetska oblast](#) and on 10 August in Zaporizhzhia, UNHCR partner Proliska was on-site to provide psychological support and emergency shelter items to affected individuals.
- **Statelessness:** On 9 August, UNHCR partner NEEKA jointly with the Berehovo Free Legal Aid Centre provided legal consultations to undocumented Roma individuals, including advising mothers on obtaining passports and birth certificates for children.
- **UNHCR Help page:** So far in 2023, 740,731 unique visits were recorded on the [UNHCR Help page](#) in Ukraine.

Housing/NFIs

- **Humanitarian convoys:** On 9 and 11 August, UNHCR joined two inter-agency humanitarian convoys to the frontline towns of [Toretsk](#) in Donetsk oblast, and Dobropillia in Zaporizka oblast of Ukraine, providing essential supplies including 1,500 solar lamps, 1,000 tarpaulins, 1,200 mattresses, 200 sleeping bags, 100 blankets and 100 jerrycans to war-affected people.
- **Housing:** In mid-August, UNHCR completed installation of 100 prefabricated houses by [QHome](#) as part of a pilot project to help 100 families whose houses were destroyed in Chernihivska and Kyivska oblasts.
- **Non-food items:** On 1 August, UNHCR delivered 40 bunk beds to the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Centre for Child and Family Social Support in Tlumach city. On 1 August, UNHCR partner Proliska donated 35 solid fuel heaters to local authorities in Sumy for use in safe shelters, which have a total hosting capacity to some 25,000 people.

REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE ACROSS EUROPE (AS OF 15 AUGUST 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 in the [regular Ukraine country operational updates](#) and on the UNHCR [Ukraine portal](#) page.

REGIONAL UNHCR KEY FIGURES AND UPDATES

BLUE DOTS

35

Blue Dots Hubs are operational in:

Bulgaria	5	Moldova	10	Romania	6	Slovenia	1
Hungary	3	Poland	4	Slovakia	6		

One Blue Dot hub has been recently closed in Romania.

169,600

refugees were reached through the Blue Dot Hubs in Bulgaria, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Poland and Slovakia so far in 2023.

The [Digital Blue Dot](#) is a regional website that provides 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, work and other services.

REGIONAL UNHCR KEY FIGURES AND COUNTRY UPDATES

BULGARIA

162,935

refugees have been recorded

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

70,900

refugees have received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

52,000

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

8,503

refugees received cash assistance

8,983

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

- **Capacity-building:** From 31 July – 2 August, 25 border police personnel were trained by UNHCR on refugee protection including safeguards for persons seeking temporary or international protection, identification, and referrals of persons with specific needs, including children at risk and survivors of trafficking.
- **Innovation:** So far, 14 essays related to innovation for refugee inclusion have been received through the [Digital Student Lab platform](#), supported by UNHCR and launched by the government on World Refugee Day. The call for submissions is open until 20 September.
- **MHPSS:** So far in 2023, over 6,000 refugees from Ukraine were provided with mental health and psychosocial support.
- **Protection:** Data collection for the 2023 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment for the Ukraine Situation is ongoing until 18 August. To date, 1,081 surveys have been conducted since data collection began on 22 July.

CZECH REPUBLIC

361,485

refugees have been recorded

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

7,307

refugees from Ukraine have received protection services as of 30 June

22,745

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

- **Inclusion:** As part of a project partnership agreement between UNHCR and the Czech Ministry of Interior on inclusion, a total of nine Czech language courses for children and adults have taken place since June 2023, while 23 summer city camps were launched. Furthermore, social counselling and integration courses have been opened in two municipalities, with more due to launch later this year.
- **Mapping:** UNHCR concluded a mapping of Ukrainian refugee-led organizations and community-based organizations across the country, the results of which will enhance coordination among Czech and Ukrainian actors involved in the response.

HUNGARY

52,290

refugees have been recorded

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

16,172

refugees have received protection and legal support by UNHCR and partners

15,164

refugees have been reached through **3** Blue Dot Hubs

43,508

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

- **Cash assistance:** In late July, UNHCR and partners began pre-registering applicants with disabilities (TP holders/applicants, tolerated status holders, asylum-seekers) into its cash assistance programme. The first payments are due to be issued in September.
- **Education:** On 10 August, UNHCR presented preliminary findings of the MSNA on Education at the Education sub-working group. Findings indicate that some 80% of refugee children from Ukraine are currently enrolled in the Hungarian school system.
- **GBV:** On 3 August, UNHCR met with partner Hungarian Inter-Church Aid (HIA) to review progress of their activities to address gender-based violence (GBV), which includes the recent launch of in-person crisis centre in Budapest, online counselling and awareness-raising activities. In particular, discussions touched on obstacles faced by refugee GBV survivors in accessing safe shelters due to limitations in the Hungarian law, for which HIA is working to establish designated areas for refugees from Ukraine in their safe shelters.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Hungary data portal](#)

POLAND

968,390

refugees have been recorded

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

33,603

people were provided with protection support over the phone

46,997

people were counselled at the **4** Blue Dot Hubs and **7** Community Centres

18,972

refugees received cash assistance

202,944

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

- **Legal Counselling:** From January until 11 August, 12,453 refugees from Ukraine benefited from legal counselling by UNHCR legal partners Association for Legal Intervention (SIP), Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). Main queries related to residency and documentation, social benefits, and employment.
- **Non-food items:** During the reporting period, UNHCR distributed clothes and shoes to some 268 vulnerable refugees.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Poland data portal](#)

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

117,340

refugees have been recorded

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

48,641

refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners as of 30 June.

9,828

refugees have been reached through **10** Blue Dot Hubs

78,215

refugees received cash assistance

226,430

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

- **Capacity-building:** From 31 July - 2 August, 46 staff from various NGOs were trained on child protection by UNHCR partner National Centre for Child Abuse Prevention to strengthen their capacities on this matter.
- **EU+ Air Transfer:** During the reporting period, 20 refugees departed to Liechtenstein and Switzerland. So far in 2023, 267 refugees from Ukraine have been transferred to EU+ countries through this instrument, jointly administered by UNHCR and IOM.
- **Mobile visits:** During the reporting period, UNHCR assisted 70 refugee households residing in rural and remote areas. In coordination with partners and local authorities, refugees received counselling on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, legal assistance, information on registration for TP and other issues.
- **Temporary protection:** On 12 August, around 120 refugees participated in awareness-raising events focusing on TP in five cities, including a movie screening and child-friendly activities organized by UNHCR in partnership with the General Inspectorate for Migration, IOM, and local authorities. The events aimed to provide insights into TP pre-registration and offer legal assistance to refugees.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Moldova portal page](#)

ROMANIA

95,195

refugees have been recorded

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

58,619

refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners

39,171

refugees received cash assistance

1,015

refugees have been provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid

56,591

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

- **Capacity-building:** From 9 - 10 August, 23 staff from the NGO Sus Inima (SIPRI) were trained by UNHCR in refugee protection, counselling, interviewing techniques, GBV and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), protection profiling and area-based monitoring.
- **Communicating with Communities:** From 7 - 10 August, UNHCR conducted a community questionnaire reaching 27 refugees in Galati county to identify community-based protection needs. On 7 August, UNHCR held a community activity in Galati Blue Dot hub for 27 people to facilitate socialisation, encourage communication with communities (CwC), and support the social inclusion of children.
- **Non-food items:** During the reporting period, UNHCR delivered non-food items (NFI), including hygiene kits and bed linen to 1,544 refugees from Ukraine in Constanta, Galati and Suceava counties. UNHCR also conducted a needs assessment with some 165 refugee families in Tulcea county, who will receive NFIs on 22 August.
- **Socioeconomic inclusion:** So far in 2023, over 1,200 refugees have been provided with career counselling and information, including at RomExpo in Bucharest. 465 refugees have been enrolled in language courses by partners Ateliere fara Frontiere (AFF) and HEKS EPER, and 94 refugees received vocational training. 153 refugees have acquired employment through direct assistance from UNHCR and partners.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Romania data portal](#)

SLOVAKIA

106,570

refugees have been recorded

UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023

30,218

refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners as of 27 March

45,508

people been assisted at **6** Blue Dots

9,945

refugees received cash assistance

155,493

visits to the UNHCR [HELP Page](#)

- **Coordination:** On 1 August, UNHCR discussed with Banská Bystrica municipality modalities for reinforcing data and assessment needs to support inclusion; UNHCR will support the municipality with both compiling existing and new data.
- **CwC:** During three focus group discussions in the Trenčin region organized by UNHCR on 1 - 4 August, 26 refugees shared concerns regarding access to health, education, and information services. On 11 August, UNHCR counselled 15 refugees in Tvrdošín and Námestovo about cash and other assistance for TP holders. Meanwhile, UNHCR launched an online feedback and complaint form on its Help Site, bringing the total number of feedback and complaint mechanisms to four, in addition to other mechanisms such as the Helpline, email inbox, and in-person counselling.
- **Socioeconomic inclusion:** On 31 July, the first cohort of 19 female refugees completed a course in 3D-interior design organized by UNHCR partner SME SPOLU, with a new cohort of 40 refugees due to begin the course soon. Meanwhile, nearly 70 refugees attended a series of community events organized by partner People in Need, including folklore festivals, nature outings, medical visits, counselling, mentoring, and employment assistance.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Slovakia data portal](#).

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELARUS:

- As of 1 August, **32,435 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Belarus.
- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, 1,440 individuals received protection services, counselling and legal support from UNHCR and partners.
- **Food and non-food items:** So far in 2023, UNHCR and partners have assisted 1,572 refugees with food items, and 594 with NFIs.

ESTONIA:

- **Border monitoring:** On 14 August, UNHCR and the Estonian Police and Border Guard Board [signed](#) a cooperation agreement. Under the agreement, UNHCR and partners will be able to monitor border crossing points and border areas to ensure access to asylum and monitor asylum interviews. UNHCR will also support the authorities to strengthen their knowledge and skills on refugee law and refugee protection standards.
- **Outreach:** On 11 August, UNHCR hosted a discussion, “Refugees in Estonia Before and After the Full-Scale War in Ukraine: What Has Changed”, facilitating a dialogue between the local community and refugees. The event took place during the Arvamus Festival in Paide.

LATVIA:

- As of 15 August, **32,470 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Latvia.
- **Protection:** During the third quarter of 2023, UNHCR and NGO partner ‘I Want to Help Refugees’ conducted 148 protection monitoring interviews. Regarding urgent needs, 31% of Ukrainian respondents indicated they had no urgent needs, while 13% listed accommodation and 12% listed employment. Among the participants, 21% are unemployed, who listed lack of knowledge of the local language as a primary obstacle to acquiring employment. Regarding accommodation, some respondents said they would benefit from more information on affordable accommodation.
- **Inclusion:** On 4 August, UNHCR partner GPB organized an event for older persons, including Ukrainian refugees and host community members, at a community garden, with support from Riga Active Seniors Alliance. Some 13 persons participated, including 10 refugees from Ukraine. Participants took part in extracurricular activities, as well as a lecture on the history of Riga provided by a local guide.

LITHUANIA:

- As of 15 August, **48,425 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Lithuania.
- **Inclusion:** Lithuania’s State Labour Inspectorate informed that eight complaints were received from Ukrainian nationals during the first half of 2023, with most related to wages or unsigned employment contracts. Approximately 40% of the disputes were solved in favour of the complainant, while another 15% ended in amicable agreements with the employer; the rest were rejected or resolved before they reached a dispute commission. Meanwhile, [media reports](#) indicate some 2,000 Ukrainians have a business license or are self-employed, while 90 businesses have been established by Ukrainian citizens in Lithuania.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, 12,277 refugees from Ukraine have been counselled in person by UNHCR and partners in urban areas, while 8,756 have been counselled in the border regions of Belogorod, Kursk, Rostov-on-Don and Voronezh. Over 38,362 refugees have been counselled via the telephone hotline by UNHCR and partners.
- **MHPSS:** So far in 2023, 17,284 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 (NFI). 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 Working Group. Through its leadership in these areas, UNHCR promotes the centrality of protection, as well as meaningful engagement and participation across the response.

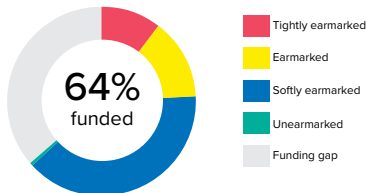
REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

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

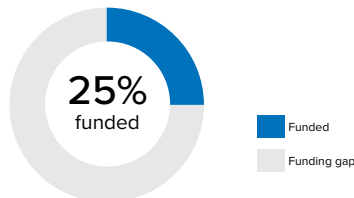
UNHCR UKRAINE SITUATION FINANCIAL UPDATE

US\$ 1.1 billion required (as of 15 August 2023)



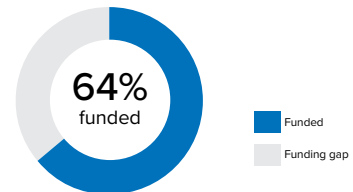
INTER-AGENCY FINANCIAL UPDATES

US\$ 1.68 billion required (as of 17 August 2023)



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

US\$ 3.95 billion required (as of 17 August 2023)



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

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked and earmarked funding:

Austria | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | Faroe Islands | France | Germany | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

Join our mailing list to receive regular updates