UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Regional Bureau for Europe

UKRAINE SITUATION FLASH UPDATE #67

25 March 2024

Uzhhorod, Ukraine – UNHCR's NGO partner Neymia Ukraine, together with local NGO Tomoko and the city council, opened a new day centre for children to help internally displaced women with childcare, giving them time to pursue professional trainings and job opportunities. The centre offers various clubs and activities for children aged 6 – 12, including music, dance, theatre, and individual counselling with a psychologist. © UNHCR/Kseniya Bilozerova

PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

5,982,900*
refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe (as of 14 Mar 2024)

503,100
refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe (as of 27 Feb 2024)

6,486,000
refugees from Ukraine recorded globally (as of 14 Mar 2024)

3,689,000**
Estimated number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ukraine (as of 15 Dec 2023) (Source: IOM)

More details: UNHCR Operational Data Portal Ukraine Refugee Situation

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- On 21 March, Russian Federation forces launched airstrikes on Kyiv, leaving at least 10 dead and 17 injured. UNHCR and partners Rokada and R2P provided immediate psychosocial support and legal consultations to affected individuals. On 15 March, Russian missile strikes on Odesa killed 21 people and injured over 75, with a medic and rescue worker among those killed. Following a spike in hostilities, Ukrainian authorities evacuated around 4,500, including over 800 children, from the eastern Sumska region near the border with Russian Federation.
- UNHCR and local partners provided immediate support following recent airstrikes on Odesa. Along with partner Desyate Kvitnya, UNHCR provided affected people with psychosocial support and emergency shelter materials. Meanwhile, UNHCR's Representative in Ukraine, Karolina Lindholm Billing, was in Odesa on 20 - 21 March to assess the local needs, along with other UN agencies. UNHCR also provided support to affected individuals in other regions in Ukraine hit by Russian airstrikes. In recent days, UNHCR partners have immediately responded to people affected by Russian military strikes in Kharkivska, Mykolaivska, and Sumska, among other regions.

* 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.

**There has been a significant reduction in the IDP figure in Ukraine based on the latest IOM Internal Displacement Report, Internal Displacement Report, from 5.1 million in mid-2023 to 3.68 million by end-2023. 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

- **Basic needs:** So far in 2024, UNHCR distributed multi-purpose cash assistance to 79,889 war-affected and internally displaced people (IDPs), 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. In December 2023, Ukraine's 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 90,000 families hosting approximately 250,000 IDPs in their homes (for a period of at least four months).
- **Collective sites:** Renovation works supported by UNHCR were recently completed at a collective site where displaced people reside in Terebovlya, Ternopilska oblast in western Ukraine. A total of 52 rooms, 12 common kitchens, bathrooms and corridors were renovated, and 206 sleeping places have been improved. In mid-March, UNHCR also helped replace 119 windows in two collective sites in Cherkaska oblast in central Ukraine, improving living conditions for around 140 displaced people residing in these two sites.
- **Core-relief items:** In close cooperation with local authorities in Kyiv city, who have allocated temporary social housing for vulnerable displaced people and other war-affected people whose flats were damaged during recent attacks on the city, in mid-March UNHCR provided standard core-relief items such as beds, matrasses, and bed linen to equip 18 apartments allocated for 56 people affected by recent attacks in Holosiivskyi district of Kyiv city.
- **Winterization:** As part of its 2023 - 2024 winterization campaign, UNHCR has reached over one million people, including through one-off winter cash payments to 664,199 people for winter energy needs (surpassing the initial 450,000 target). Additionally, 353,471 people were reached with essential and winterized items, while 12,681 received heaters, rapid thermal kits, or cash for rent, and 28,174 benefitted from care and maintenance services in collective sites.

UNHCR RESPONSE & TARGETS INSIDE UKRAINE 2024* (AS OF 29 FEBRUARY 2024)

363,432 people reached with assistance in 2024, out of a target of **2.7 million** people are targeted for different forms of assistance in 2024**

133,479 people reached with protection information and services***, out of a target of **1.2 million** people

103,035 people supported with essential items, out of a target of **350,000** people

79,889 people are targeted for multi-purpose cash assistance **600,000** people

23,254 people received emergency shelter and housing support, out of a target of **467,500** people

23,775 people reached with safe access to multi-sectoral services in collective sites, out of a target of **125,000** people

*Includes individuals benefiting from multiple forms of assistance.
**The targets are subject to the receipt of the funding requirements.
***Also includes calls to hotlines.

Supporting refugees from Ukraine in Hungary through innovative mental health approaches

Budapest, Hungary - Dr. Lilla Hárdi, an award-winning psychiatrist based in Budapest and Director of UNHCR's partner Cordelia Foundation, has been providing counselling and psychosocial support to refugees from Ukraine since the full-scale war began in February 2022. She is an expert in the rehabilitation of survivors of torture and abuse, including those affected by conflict.

As the war rages on into its third year, Dr. Hárdi notes that refugees arriving to Hungary are suffering from more severe distress and mental health conditions in recent months after their prolonged exposure to hostilities.

Cordelia provides mental health treatment and psychosocial support for refugees and their families arriving in Hungary. Her team also offers trainings and consultation for professionals who work with refugees.

Photo © UNHCR/Zsolt Balla

REGIONAL UNHCR KEY FIGURES

2024 REGIONAL TARGETS*

850,000
people are targeted for different forms of assistance in 2024**

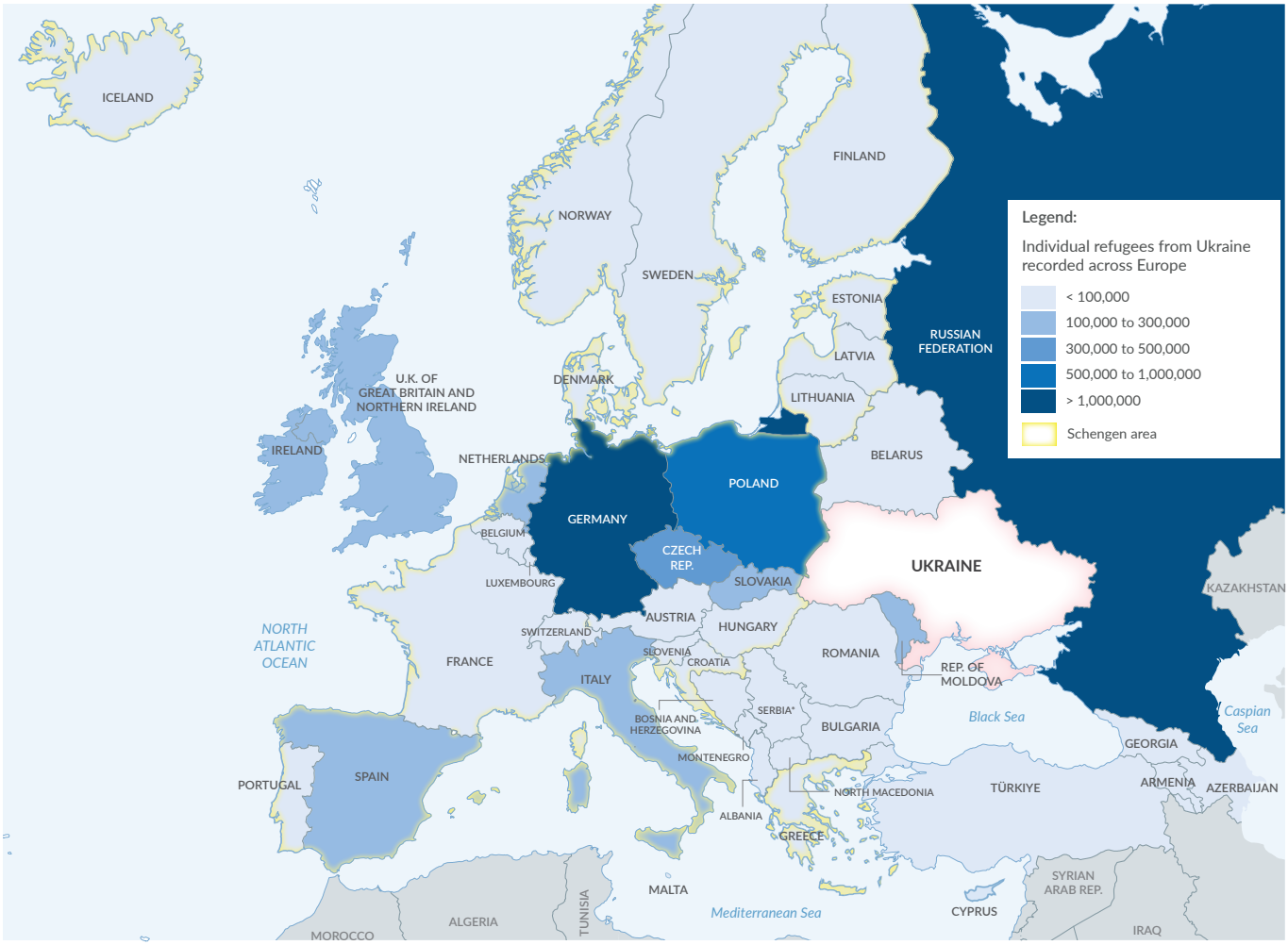
515,000
people are targeted for protection information and services***

190,000
people are targeted for multi-purpose cash assistance

267,000
people are targeted for socio-economic inclusion, including livelihoods support by UNHCR and partners

*Includes individuals benefiting from multiple forms of assistance.
**The targets are subject to the receipt of the funding requirements.
***Also includes calls to hotlines.

REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE ACROSS EUROPE (AS OF 14 MARCH 2024)



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

More information available on the UNHCR Ukraine operational data portal page.

PROTECTION

2024 TARGET

515,000

Refugees from Ukraine supported with protection information and services through UNHCR and partners.

- **Bulgaria:** UNHCR is undertaking a monitoring mission for the ongoing re-registration exercise for Temporary Protection with the Sofia Directorate of Internal Affairs (SDIA). According to the Commissioner of SDIA, the Directorate is able to accommodate a higher volume of re-registrations than planned before the exercise concludes on 31 March 2024, as well as continue conducting re-registrations in cases requesting an extension.
- **Czech Republic:** UNHCR's legal partners continued to provide counseling and assistance to individuals facing challenges in registering their extension of Temporary Protection online. Among the documents required, refugees need to provide proof of accommodation with a notarized signature from the landlord, resulting in multiple reported challenges. UNHCR is working to identify solutions to ensure effective access to registering this extension.
- **Hungary:** On 8 March, UNHCR partner Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) organized an event for some 70 refugees from Ukraine as part of International Women's Day, which included a training on self-defense. Through the partnership, HIA aims to build capacities to further strengthen prevention activities to combat gender based violence (GBV).
- **Latvia:** In early March, UNHCR through partner GPB began data collection as part of regular protection monitoring. Preliminary findings show that 40 per cent of respondents were employed, 24 per cent unemployed, and over 55 per cent having school-aged children enrolled in local schools. The top reported needs related to employment, accommodation and healthcare. Results of these findings will inform future UNHCR response.
- **Lithuania:** During March, data collection continued for the new round of UNHCR's Protection Monitoring Survey, together with partner Lithuanian Red Cross. As of 18 March, more than 180 interviews with refugees from Ukraine have been conducted.
- **Poland:** The 2nd edition of the Refugee Law School at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Warsaw was launched on 12 March, supported by UNHCR. Some 30 students of different faculties participated in the first lecture. The Refugee Law School comprises of eight meetings with experts in the field of refugee law and humanitarian aid. In Lublin, UNHCR in cooperation with the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University and the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin announced the second edition of the countrywide competition for the best thesis in the field of forced displacement and refugee studies. The aim of the initiative is to encourage research and greater overall awareness in this area.
- **Republic of Moldova:** On 13 March, the Child Protection Sub Working Group hosted a training on Trust Based Relational Intervention, an accredited method for working with children who have experienced trauma. The training was attended by 40 child protection workers from around the country, including from the Transnistria region in eastern Moldova.
- **Romania:** In mid-March, UNHCR visited the Sculeni Border Crossing Point (BCP) in eastern Romania to meet with local authorities and pilot a new border monitoring tool. UNHCR also conducted a monitoring mission to Galati BCP in eastern Romania on 14 March to observe border activities and dynamics following an increase in arrivals in mid-March.
- **Slovakia:** On 14 March, UNHCR and IOM initiated a new round of data collection for the joint Sites Needs and Sites Monitoring exercise, to better analyze collective accommodation sites in the country. This joint initiative began in 2022, with periodic rounds of data collection by UNHCR and national partner Slovak Humanitarian Council (SHC) to monitor the situation of 200+ accommodation sites. Findings will inform advocacy efforts regarding accommodation for refugees from Ukraine.

BASIC NEEDS, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

2024 TARGET

190,000

People are targeted for multi-purpose cash assistance by UNHCR and partners.

- **Hungary:** In mid-March, UNHCR completed post-distribution monitoring of 48 households (148 persons) benefitting from UNHCR's cash assistance for refugees with serious disabilities. Results show that most of the assistance was spent on food, medication and healthcare. The assistance improved the living conditions for 77 per cent of beneficiaries, and reduced stress levels for 90 per cent; however, one-quarter of respondents indicated having to rely on their savings even while receiving cash support.
- **Republic of Moldova:** UNHCR and partners have begun a verification exercise for 7,000 refugees who had not updated their legal status in Moldova with UNHCR as of late-February. The exercise is taking place across the country and aims to identify individuals who have difficulties obtaining legal status in Moldova, to ensure they are not excluded from receiving financial assistance.

- **Romania:** UNHCR's enrollment for cash for winter was concluded on 15 March, with over 3,000 individuals enrolled in the programme. Additionally, over 1,450 individuals have been assisted with one-off cash for winter assistance. The deduplication and payment process for remaining individuals is ongoing.
- **Russian Federation:** So far in 2024, UNHCR partners assisted over 8,382 refugees with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services.
- **Slovakia:** UNHCR's partner Sme Spolu expanded its popular 3D-modelling requalification courses to an online modality. These courses are attended by 71 students including refugees, in addition to the in-person sessions attended by 17 students, helping participants acquire technical skills they can apply to their professional development.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LOCALIZATION

2024 TARGET

267,000

People are targeted for socio-economic inclusion, including livelihoods support by UNHCR and partners

- **Georgia:** On 6 March, UNHCR convened a meeting of the Working Group on Socio-Economic Inclusion/Self-Reliance of Refugees. During the meeting, UNHCR briefed partners on highlights from a recent survey, which found that key challenges identified by refugees from Ukraine included lack of childcare services, language barriers, and difficulty securing employment. As part of the discussion, several actors including UNDP, AAH, Care Caucasus and World Vision presented on their initiatives and programmes which seek to promote access to employment in Georgia.
- **Czech Republic:** As a part of the Hello Czech Republic initiative, UNHCR through partner Slovo 21 delivered two workshops in mid-March for local students attending grammar school in Prague and Milovice to brief them on the plight of refugees, in order to combat xenophobia and encourage an inclusive environment. Some 45 children aged 13 to 15 took part in the sessions.
- **Hungary:** Since 1 January, 3,375 refugees have been provided with access to information, legal assistance, and various social services by UNHCR and IOM at the Budapest Helps! Community Center. The center provides services such as language classes, community support and cultural activities. Additionally, 112 refugees received information about their status and access to services during March. Most requests for information received by UNHCR related to financial assistance, housing, registration, and documentation.
- **Poland:** As part of localization efforts, and in addition to its ten funded partners for 2024 (all local organizations), UNHCR approved a new round of small grants for 19 grassroot actors in 2024. Activities to be funded include community-based projects related to youth engagement, empowerment of women, refugees of Roma origin, LGBTIQ+ individuals, and small business development. Among the organisations that receive grants are Ukraine Foundation, MOST – an NGO operating in Silesia, southwestern Poland focusing on social inclusion, and Harangos – a Roma-led organization supporting Roma refugees in the Małopolskie region in southern Poland.
- **Romania:** On 13 March, UNHCR's partner World Vision organized a group orientation session with refugees at RomExpo in Bucharest, aimed at understanding people's needs and presenting livelihood opportunities. World Vision supported refugee jobseekers by identifying 19 available job openings, 12 potential employers open to hiring and participating in one job fair in Cluj, northwest Romania to facilitate discussions with international companies regarding the profile of jobseekers matched through the pre-selection registration in the project.
- **Slovakia:** On 4 March, UNHCR donated laptops, tablets and interactive devices to the Prešov Self-Governing region and the United School of Taras Sevcenko in Prešov, eastern Slovakia, which is currently the only school in Slovakia teaching in Ukrainian language and curriculum for approximately 130 Ukrainian students. The donation will help the region respond to the learning needs of young refugees, while encouraging greater exchange between refugees and host communities.

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 18 UN and NGO partners across three hubs, with the aim of supporting 157,000 people in collective sites in 2024. The Protection Cluster consists of 166 partners, including sub-clusters, and operates three coordination hubs to reach an anticipated three million people in 2024. The Shelter and NFI Cluster coordinates 98 active partners across three coordination hubs, targeting 3.9 million people in 2024 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.

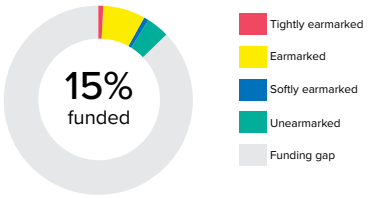
REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

Through the 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), 313 partners in Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia work towards ensuring refugees have effective access to legal status, protection and rights in their host countries and that refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance. The plan also aims at strengthening refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities and increasing their self-reliance, while at the same time reinforcing social cohesion between refugees and their hosts. In support of the government-led responses across the region, UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the inter-agency RRP in line with the Refugee Coordination Model, collaborating and consulting with authorities, aid agencies, civil society, and with affected populations. To learn more about the 2023 RRP response, please see here.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

UNHCR UKRAINE SITUATION FINANCIAL UPDATE 2024

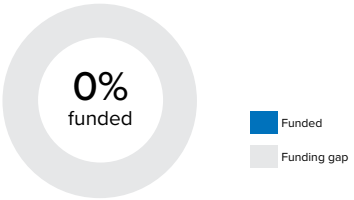
US$ 993.3 million
required



As of 29 Feb 2024

INTER-AGENCY FINANCIAL UPDATES

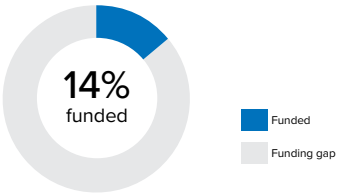
US$ 1.08 billion
required*



*The first financial data will be available in April 2024.

Ukraine situation: 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan

US$ 3.11 billion
required



As of 20 March 2024

Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2024

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

Australia | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United States of America

Join our mailing list to receive regular updates

UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe | www.unhcr.org/europe | rbeext@unhcr.org