UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Regional Bureau for Europe

UKRAINE SITUATION FLASH UPDATE #69

16 May 2024

Kharkiv, Ukraine – Following the recent escalation in Kharkiv region, UNHCR is scaling up delivery of emergency cash assistance to evacuees fleeing affected areas, while working through partner Right to Protection (R2P) to facilitate deployment of additional protection and enrolment staff for displaced people seeking to enroll for emergency cash and other services. © UNHCR / Taras Kutsyk

PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

5,942,300*
refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe (as of 16 May 2024)

541,200
refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe (as of 27 Mar 2024)

6,483,500
refugees from Ukraine recorded globally (as of 16 May 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

Helping Hands - The Role of Housing Support and Employment Facilitation in Economic Vulnerability of Refugees from Ukraine (April 2024)

To read more about this Inter-Agency analysis, click here.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Following a rise in hostilities in Kharkiv region, northeastern Ukraine that resulted in the evacuation of at least 8,000 individuals between 10 – 14 May, humanitarian partners are rapidly mobilizing to provide emergency assistance to both war-affected populations and those fleeing frontline areas:
  - UNHCR partner Proliska is providing transport assistance to persons fleeing frontline areas through ongoing regular evacuation trips.
  - Between 10 – 14 May, over 680 people evacuated from frontline areas were enrolled for emergency cash assistance at a transit centre in Kharkiv city through partner Right to Protection (R2P), to help cover their immediate needs.
  - Evacuees are also receiving psychosocial support through the State Emergency Service, and UNHCR partners Proliska and R2P. Additionally, R2P is providing legal assistance, including support with registering as an IDP and applying for financial compensation for destroyed property.
  - The UNHCR-led cluster response meanwhile is ongoing. The CCCM Cluster recently developed a preparedness plan to address potential new displacement from frontline and border regions. The Protection Cluster is working with the Ministry of Social Policy and other authorities to support evacuees from care facilities, and is coordinating provision of legal assistance, psychosocial support and other protection services. The Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster is coordinating the delivery of emergency shelter assistance as well as essential items. UNHCR is transferring additional core relief items to warehouses in the east, to ensure sufficient stocks are available.

* 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

- **Emergency support:** In response to the multiple attacks in southern Ukraine in April, over 160 families (around 500 people) received emergency support in **Odesa** including emergency shelter kits (ESKs), wooden boards and plastic film to help them repair and protect their damaged homes. Additionally, 57 families (around 170 people) in Mykolaivska region and 1,540 families (around 4,000 people) in Khersonska region received emergency support through local NGO partners including ESKs and other emergency shelter materials. In northern Ukraine, in response to attacks on communities in **Sumska region** in April, UNHCR's local NGO partner Proliska delivered emergency shelter kits to almost 700 people. Proliska also provided essential items including blankets, thermoses and solar lamps to 270 people and was on-site to offer psychosocial and legal support to over 200 people.
- **Protection**: UNHCR partner R2P in cooperation with Kharkiv city council opened a **new multiservice space** on 7 May in Kharkiv city that will serve as a "one-stop shop" where displaced and other war-affected people can receive a variety of essential services and support, as Kharkiv faces near daily attacks. People will be able to receive free legal aid, psychosocial support, enroll for cash assistance, receive career consultations, as well as access administrative and social protection services from city authorities. UNHCR and R2P helped renovate the space and equipped it with furniture and appliances, while local authorities will install a ramp to make the space accessible to people with low mobility.
- **Emergency cash assistance:** As of 3 May 2024, over 8,000 people received emergency cash this year to the amount of USD 270. The emergency cash assistance was delivered across 23 regions, with the highest number of people reached in Sumska, Donetska, Dnipropetrovska, Kharkivska and Odeska regions.
- **Livelihoods**: On 23 April, UNHCR and partner Rokada, together with regional authorities, opened a new "Digital Hub" in Chernivtsi in city in southwestern Ukraine. The project aims to contribute to local integration and socio-economic opportunities for IDPs. Rokada has helped equip the premises of the co-working areas of a new Digital Hub with furniture, office equipment, electronic devices, and learning materials. The Digital Hub project is implemented under the Business Incubator "Innovation Challenge" at the Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, which supports startups. Trainings offered at the Digital Hub will include the drafting of grant proposals and business planning, how to pitch business ideas and startups, and participants will have an opportunity to network, consult with experts and meet with business representatives.

UNHCR RESPONSE & TARGETS INSIDE UKRAINE 2024* (AS OF 30 APRIL 2024)

611,773 people reached with assistance in 2024, out of a target of **2.7 million** people are targeted for different forms of assistance in 2024**

264,416 people reached with protection information and services***, out of a target of **1.2 million** people

124,084 people supported with essential items, out of a target of **350,000** people

144,540 people supported with multi-purpose cash and/or cash for winter energy needs, out of a target of **600,000** people

49,512 people received emergency shelter and housing support, out of a target of **467,500** people

29,221 people reached with safe access to multi-sectoral services in collective sites, out of a target of **130,000** 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 IDPs with emergency repair materials and psychosocial support

Kharkiv, Ukraine – After a recent escalation in hostilities in Kharkiv region, UNHCR and partners are on site to provide support to affected individuals. Partner Proliska is providing transport assistance to evacuees fleeing frontline areas, and in mid-April delivered emergency repair materials and psychosocial support to people whose homes were damaged by recent strikes.

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REGIONAL UNHCR KEY FIGURES

2024 REGIONAL TARGETS*

251,622
people are targeted for different forms of assistance in 2024*

850,000
people, some of whom will receive several forms of support**

175,534
people reached with protection information and services***, out of a target of

515,000
people

58,000
people targeted for multi-purpose cash assistance, out of a target of

190,000
people

18,088
people are targeted for socio-economic inclusion, including livelihoods support by UNHCR and partners

267,000
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.

REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE ACROSS EUROPE (AS OF 15 MAY 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 along with partners and local stakeholders launched the Bulgaria Protection and Inclusion Network, which was followed by the official inauguration of the Sofia and Plovdiv Compass community centres in April 2024 (see story below). This is part of the formal opening of six community centres across Bulgaria, supported by UNHCR, which serve to promote collective empowerment, inclusion, and social cohesion for refugees.
- **Czech Republic:** To address gaps with regards to Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), UNHCR organized meetings with three partners to follow up on their capacity for strengthening implementation plans on PSEA. Moreover, UNHCR organized trainings for Refugee Lead Organizations (RLOs) currently receiving grants from UNHCR, on Code of Conduct and PSEA to ensure they remain equipped with relevant knowledge and tools to uphold standards of protection and accountability within their operations.
- **Estonia:** On 17 April, during a workshop with RRP partners, 12 participants from the government and other UN agencies provided feedback on the multi-sector needs analysis (MSNA) questionnaire, which focuses on refugee demographics, protection, education and health. MSNA will be launched in mid-May.
- **Georgia:** UNHCR conducted a training session for Action Against Hunger (AAH) data collectors engaged in the ECHO Multi-sector Needs Assessment, focusing on Ukrainian refugee communities in Georgia. The training covered essential aspects such as identifying protection risks, with a particular emphasis on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and child protection issues. Participants were briefed on the rights and available services tailored to refugees from Ukraine residing in Georgia. The training will help the data collectors to not only identify individuals but also appropriately refer them, complementing their primary duty of conducting interviews based on the questionnaire.
- **Hungary:** Since 1 January 2024, 5,304 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, as well as community support and cultural activities. During the reporting period, 149 refugees received information about their status and access to services. Most requests for information related to financial aid and assistance, accommodation and housing, registration, and documentation.
- **Poland:** UNHCR partner Fundacja Dajmy Dzieciom Siłę (FDDS), in collaboration with UNHCR, organized a Child Protection Standards Week from 8 – 12 April, aimed at promoting awareness of recent legislation concerning the prevention and response to violence against children through advocacy, community engagement, briefings and trainings.
- **Russian Federation:** During April, 981 refugees from Ukraine were counselled in person by UNHCR and partners in urban areas, while 2,108 were counselled in the border regions of Voronezh, Kursk, Rostov-on-Don and Belgorod. A total of 3,660 refugees were counselled via the hotline by UNHCR and partners during the month.
- **Slovakia:** On 24 April, UNHCR conducted its second awareness session at the community center of national partner SME SPOLU, focused on access to education and co-organized with national partner Platform of Families of Children with Disabilities and the National Institute of Education and Youth. The session addressed practical information about the national education system and school enrolment process (pre-primary, primary and secondary schools), including information related to access to educational opportunities for children with special needs.

BASIC NEEDS, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

2024 TARGET

190,000

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

- **Hungary**: From an overall caseload of 60 individuals, 14 beneficiaries of UNHCR's cash for TP holders with serious disabilities have received all six monthly instalments of USD 320, and will now enter the graduation phase of 3 months of lower amount (i.e. USD 100 per month). A further 36 beneficiaries continue to receive the higher amount, and three new cases were enrolled recently. UNHCR continues to advocate for the inclusion of refugees with serious disabilities into the mainstream disability support system.
- **Latvia:** On 12 April, 12 participants staff from "Shelter "Safe House" and Latvian Centre for Human Rights attended a training provided by UNHCR and IOM focusing on PSEA. It was the first training in series of workshops planned for various partners.
- **Republic of Moldova:** On 8 - 9 April, UNHCR conducted four PSEA trainings in Chisinau, reaching 50 humanitarian workers, legal counsellors, and doctors from Chisinau, Balti, Falesti, and Cimislia. The trainings focused on

PSEA fundamentals and principles, behaviour standards for humanitarian workers, and available complaint channels in Moldova. Additionally, UNHCR shared the PSEA Inter-Agency Standing Committee package with participants, and offered the possibility of registering for the investigators training, which will start in June.

- **Romania:** UNHCR continues enrolling refugees for its cash programme, reaching over 6,000 refugees since January 2024. In April, UNHCR's mobile cash enrolment teams enrolled 501 refugees from Ukraine at various locations in Romania. The mobile teams and the five enrolment centres have enrolled a total 3,423 refugees since the beginning of the cash assistance programme for people with specific needs.
- **Russian Federation**: So far in 2024, UNHCR partners assisted over 12,674 refugees with mental health and psychosocial support.
- **Slovakia**: During April, UNHCR through national partner Slovak Humanitarian Council conducted seven mobile verification exercises aimed at reaching families unable to access UNHCR´s registration sites directly. The mobile verification teams visited several locations including Nove Mesto (100 km northeast from Bratislava), Martin (230 km northeast from Bratislava, 8 cases), and Dolny Kubin (260 km northeast from Bratislava). Additionally, visits were made to Velky Meder (68 km southeast from Bratislava) ensuring comprehensive coverage of vulnerable populations.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND LOCALIZATION

2024 TARGET

267,000

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

- **Belarus:** In mid-April, UNHCR supported a one-day workshop in Gomel, southeastern Belarus titled "From CV to Employment" for 11 refugees from Ukraine, focusing on CV writing, interview skills, and job-seeking advice. This was the first workshop in a series that will be delivered in various cities during the year.
- **Lithuania:** On 18 April, UNHCR presented the findings of the Protection Profiling and Monitoring Survey in Lithuania (Oct 2023 – Apr 2024) to over 90 participants in an online inter-agency meeting led by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. Among refugees who arrived in Lithuania more than six months ago, 50 per cent are employed in Lithuania, 73 per cent rent an apartment, and 85 per cent of children are in the education system. Data indicates that more attention should be dedicated to the smooth integration of those newly arrived, including through access to the labour market, education, and housing. Enhanced efforts are also needed to facilitate the integration of a significant proportion of persons with specific needs, such as older people, people with disabilities, single mothers, among those who arrived in 2022.
- **Republic of Moldova:** On 26 April, UNHCR together with UNICEF supported an event on refugee inclusion as part of "Education Week." Panellists discussed topics such making schools welcoming for refugee students, how to support refugee children with language learning, and support to Roma refugee children.
- **Poland:** On 21 - 22 March, the Organization for Refuge, Asylum and Migration (ORAM) in collaboration with UNHCR delivered a training in Lublin titled "Supporting Displaced LGBTIQ+ People in Humanitarian Settings", which was attended by 20 participants representing LGBTIQ+ and humanitarian organizations, alongside UN staff and representative of local social services. UNHCR will organize a second round of trainings in May and June.
- **Romania:** On International Roma Day (8 April), UNHCR launched the Romani language version of Services Advisor to support a more inclusive refugee response in Romania under the Refugee Response Plan. On 11 - 12 April, UNHCR participated alongside NGO partners Aresel Platform and RomaJust participated in the Regional Dialogue on Protection and Inclusion of Ethnic Roma Refugees and Host Communities organized in Chisinau. Participants engaged in discussions on challenges and good practices of ensuring emergency assistance and facilitating integration prospects for Roma communities, with emphasis on their specific vulnerabilities.

Access to essential services through Community Centers in Bulgaria

Kharkiv, Ukraine – In late-April, UNHCR and partners launched the Community Center for Protection and Inclusion in Plovdiv (central Bulgaria). The event is part of the official launch of "Compass: Bulgarian Network of Protection and Inclusion Centers", a joint initiative in six cities receiving the largest number of refugees in Bulgaria: Sofia, Plovdiv, Burgas, Varna, Dobrich and Ruse.

The Compass Network offers a range of basic services, including legal assistance, social mediation, women and child empowerment activities, and livelihood support. © UNHCR

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.

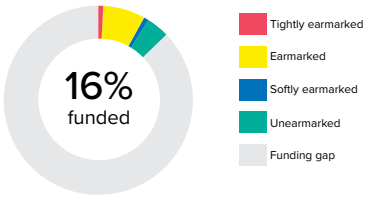
REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

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

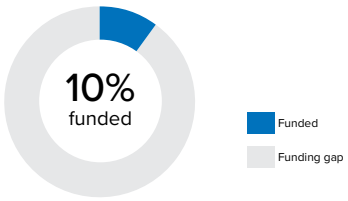
US$ 993.3 million
required



As of 30 April 2024

INTER-AGENCY FINANCIAL UPDATES

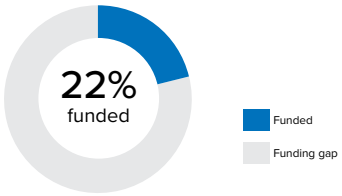
US$ 1.08 billion
required*



As of 31 March 2024

Revised:
Ukraine situation: 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan

US$ 3.11 billion
required



As of 16 May 2024

Revised:
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:

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