



## UKRAINE SITUATION FLASH UPDATE #3

15 March 2022

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### UNHCR PUBLICATIONS

**14 Mar**

[Press Release](#): UNHCR - Private sector donates over US\$200 million to UNHCR's Ukraine emergency response

**8 Mar**

Flash Update #1 available [here](#)

**11 Mar**

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## REFUGEES FLEEING UKRAINE

# 3,000,381

Data as of 15 Mar 2022

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

### BACKGROUND

The Russian Federation launched a military offensive against Ukraine on 24 February 2022. In less than three weeks, some 3 million refugees have been forced to flee Ukraine, while an additional 1.85 million people have been displaced internally within the country. An estimated 12.65 million people have been affected in the areas hardest hit by the war within Ukraine.

The escalation of conflict has triggered an immediate and steep rise in humanitarian needs, both within the country as well as in the neighbouring countries receiving refugees.

Many people remain trapped in areas of escalating conflict and, with essential services disrupted, are unable to meet their basic needs including food, water and medicines.

UNHCR continues to call for the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, respect for international humanitarian law, and appealed to neighbouring countries to continue keeping their borders open to those fleeing.



People fleeing Ukraine sought refuge in a reception centre set up in the sports hall of a school in the Polish border town of Medyka reception centre set up in the sports hall of a school in the Polish border town of Medyka, March 2022. © UNHCR/Valerio Muscella

## UKRAINE SITUATION UPDATE

- As of midnight on 12 March, OHCHR had confirmed at least 1,663 civilian casualties, including 596 civilians killed; actual numbers are likely much higher.
- The humanitarian situation in Mariupol is dire, with residents facing a critical and potentially fatal shortage of food, water and medicines. UNHCR is closely tracking negotiations for organized evacuations and is preparing to send humanitarian supplies into the city as soon as conditions allow.
- The number of people without access to electricity and gas supplies across the country continues to increase. The Ministry of Energy reports that **some 960,000 families are now without electricity in the country and 264,000 families have been cut off from gas supplies.**
- **On the morning of 13 March attacks took place in western Ukraine**, including on a military facility located in Yavoriv, between Lviv and the Polish border, and on the airport in Ivano-Frankivsk, resulting in multiple fatalities.
- In **Odesa**, authorities have requested support for **general food assistance to cover the needs of some 450,000 people in the city, as well as support for medicine.** UNHCR also received a request for support from authorities in Kropivnytskyi to enlarge reception capacity in the city, including 500 accommodation spaces in school facilities.
- **The humanitarian needs in eastern Ukraine are becoming more urgent.** In Donetsk region, partners report an urgent need for construction materials and food, particularly infant formula. In Novoazovsk Raion, UNHCR is aware of 22 settlements in urgent need of water, food, medicine, shelter materials and hygiene items; most of these settlements remain without electricity, heat and water.
- In Luhansk region, shelling continues and some 97,800 families remain without power.
- Access to Kherson, which continues to experience widespread violence and urgent humanitarian needs, remains completely restricted. Access to Mykolaiv is also difficult.
- On 12 March, **more than 300 women and children were evacuated from Lysychansk and Sievierodonetsk.** The same day, **some 700 people were evacuated from Mykolaiv.** There is a need to provide assistance to those waiting for onward evacuation at the Odesa train station, where conditions currently remain extremely poor.

## UNHCR RESPONSE IN UKRAINE

### In Eastern Ukraine:

- Between 24 February and 11 March, UNHCR distributed 74 shelter kits, 30 core relief item kits, 220 linen sets and 195 towels to areas in Donetsk. UNHCR also provided 2,000 blankets, 191 mattresses, 800 pieces of tarpaulin, and 140 jerry cans to Bakhmut city in Donetsk, as well as significant volumes of frozen meat, fish, stewed meat, preserves and other foodstuffs.
- Across Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, UNHCR has further supported households and social institutions with construction materials for damaged houses and buildings, including almost 3,000 sq. mt. of plastic sheeting, some 1,800 sq. mt. of tarpaulin and 100 sq. mt. of wooden planks.

### In Central and Western Ukraine:

- In **Chernivtsi**, UNHCR and partners established a protection referral mechanism for individual cases and is helping coordinate actors in the local protection network.
- In **Chop**, UNHCR partner NEEKA distributed 500 food packs and water bottles to families and provided counselling and protection information at the railway station for new arrivals.
- In **Lviv**, UNHCR provided blankets to 3,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) through the district administration. An additional 1,000 blankets were distributed to people waiting at the Shegyni border crossing point.
- UNHCR continued visits to multiple locations with the local administration including Morshyn, Novyi Rozdil, Styri and Truskavets to identify locations for new reception centres and collective centres for longer-term accommodation, as IDPs continue to arrive in the west.
- UNHCR is continuing preparations to roll out a pilot multi-purpose cash assistance programme, in collaboration with WFP and local authorities for IDPs in Lviv. Enrolment data and tools have been agreed and finalized in coordination with the Cash Working Group, while training of the first team of enrolment officers is underway. Enrolment is due to be launched this week, while the first payments are scheduled for next week and will be followed by progressive scale-up and expansion to other locations.
- In **Uzhhorod**, UNHCR provided technical shelter support to authorities for the establishment of a reception centre which will accommodate up to 2,000 people in transit.
- In **Vynnytsia**, trucks with core relief items for some 1,200 people and food assistance dispatched from the warehouse reached Dnipro on 11 March; the items were originally intended for Mariupol but will be sent to Sumy due to security reasons and a lack of humanitarian access. UNHCR is working to pre-position another convoy for Mariupol as discussions regarding a safe passage to the city continue.
- On 13 March, UNHCR delivered baby formula, diapers, sanitary pads, shampoo, soap, pillows and bed linens, toothbrushes, toothpaste, towels and light bulbs to seven reception centres in Vynnytsia, based on the identified needs.
- UNHCR concluded assessments of the 26 reception centres in Vynnytsia city. Among IDPs in the centres, some 80 percent indicated intention to travel abroad. UNHCR also distributed blankets, mattresses and sleeping mats to the reception centres.
- In **Zakarpattia**, UNHCR provided 1,085 blankets to three temporary accommodation centres. An additional 2,000 people from communities across Zakarpattia Oblast received blankets through partners NEEKA and Nehemia.

### In Southern Ukraine

- In **Mykolaiv Oblast**, on 13 March, UNHCR delivered emergency shelter assistance, including 600 pieces of plastic sheeting, six rolls of tarpaulin and 600 timber planks to the Pervomaisk city administration for distribution to people whose houses were damaged by shelling.
- In **Odesa**, UNHCR partner TTA continues to provide food and blankets to IDPs transiting through the city's railway station, having reached well over 3,000 people to-date. It is reported that up to 800 people per day transit through the station.
- UNHCR has pre-positioned locally procured food, including 250 kg of sugar, 425 kg of rice, 144 cans of fish preserves, 200 packs of yeast and 30 packs of tea from Odesa in a warehouse in Mykolaiv for delivery to Kherson once security conditions allow.
- In **Mykolaiv Oblast**, on 13 March, UNHCR delivered emergency shelter assistance, including 600 pieces of plastic sheeting, six rolls of tarpaulin, and 600 timber planks to the Pervomaisk city administration for distribution to people whose houses were damaged by shelling.

## REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

### RESPONSE UPDATE

#### Hungary

- **Protection:** In coordination with the Municipality of Budapest, UNHCR partner Menedék established a mobile social care team to provide support to refugees housed in temporary shelters, including psychosocial counselling and support.
- UNHCR is also handing out information materials developed by Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC) on access to procedures at help points, collection points and at temporary shelters, while partner Cordelia is distributing information materials on international protection to persons staying in shelters.
- UNHCR is continuing monitoring missions to border crossing points, temporary shelters along the border and in Budapest, as well as to Keleti and Zahony train stations in Budapest, which serve as primary transit points for many persons travelling onwards to third countries. UNHCR partner HHC is also carrying out missions to conduct monitoring and provide information and legal counselling services to people arriving at border crossing points.

#### Republic of Moldova

- **Protection:** UNHCR Protection: UNHCR has installed heaters at the Palanca border crossing point and at the railway station to improve conditions for refugees.
- UNHCR has also installed internet at the Palanca Blue Dot hub, and a partner is working to install telecommunications systems at other Blue Dot hubs and key locations newly established across the country to better enable service delivery.
- Eight buses supported by UNHCR and IOM continue to transport refugees daily from Palanca border crossing point to Romania under the joint Government initiative to facilitate the movement of refugees fleeing Ukraine. A screening mechanism was established at the Palanca border in Moldova to identify vulnerable people including those with disabilities, older people, those with medical needs in order to respond to their needs upon arrival in Romania.
- As part of the European Union Solidarity Platform, EU member States have pledged to support transfers of refugees from countries bordering Ukraine. So far, five countries have made concrete pledges, with others showing interest. UNHCR will support with the identification of vulnerable persons in

Moldova and the development of tools to facilitate the transfers, as well as providing any technical advice required by States involved, based on our operational experience with such transfers in Europe and beyond.

- UNHCR and UN Women conducted a joint protection monitoring visit to a 500-person capacity transit centre for refugees at the Giurgiulesti checkpoint. The visit identified a need for additional hot meals, relief items for women and children, hygiene and sanitation facilities, and heaters, as well as recruitment of female staff. Follow-up is being coordinated with partners.
- UNHCR partners Law Center of Advocates, ACTED, and INTERSOS are stationed at three locations on the Palanca and Tudora border crossing points to provide protection monitoring, vulnerability screening, and counselling. The establishment of a referral mechanism is currently underway.
- UNHCR partner ACTED has also installed toilets at the Palanca border crossing point as well as Causin railway station. CTED is operating a bus service to transport refugees from border areas and is preparing a facility to serve as a registration site for cash assistance. Additionally, ACTED is preparing a facility to serve as a registration site for cash assistance.
- **Core relief items (CRIs):** UNHCR has dispatched 3,000 family tents for some 9,000 people and 3,000 winterization kits overland from Greece; 1,000 of each have arrived in Chisinau on 13 March with the remaining supplies scheduled to arrive in the coming days. The items will be stored in UNHCR's newly established warehouse in Moldova. Additionally, two UNHCR staff have recently arrived to increase logistics and supply chain capacity in country.
- UNHCR is conducting a comprehensive needs assessment of the refugee accommodation centres in Chisinau; initial needs identified include bed linens, blankets and hygiene items and a referral system for those seeking private housing. There is also growing demand for transportation to Chisinau and other urban areas from the border. UNHCR is planning additional support accordingly.
- **Multipurpose Cash Assistance:** UNHCR, with the Ministry of Social Protection and a local partner, started small-scale emergency cash distributions on 28 February, while the mechanism for larger-scale cash assistance has been set up, and the roll-out scheduled in the coming days. A one-off cash grant



The humanitarian situation in Mariupol is dire, with residents facing a critical shortage of food, water and medicines



Some 3 million refugees have fled Ukraine in less than 3 weeks



UNHCR currently has 116 staff on the ground in Ukraine with more on the way when the security situation allows. In neighbouring countries, UNHCR now has 147 staff on the ground with some 60 more currently being deployed.

for 50,000 host families is also being set up with the authorities.

- UNHCR has partnered with Catholic Relief Council to support enrolment and other activities related to the cash assistance program, including operation of a Helpline, production of communication materials, appointment of community liaison officers, and establishment of referral and accountability mechanisms.

## Poland

- **Protection:** UNHCR is working with actors on both sides of the border to distribute information leaflets about the UNHCR HELP page.
- UNHCR is currently testing the Protection Monitoring and Rapid Needs Assessment tool in reception spaces while identification of partners to administer the tool is ongoing.
- Protection concerns persist regarding both child protection and gender-based violence, linked to risks of trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse. UNHCR and UNICEF are rapidly advancing on the roll out of the Blue Dot system in Poland.
- UNHCR continues to conduct site visits to reception centres hosting refugees in urban areas to identify priority needs, distribute information materials, initiate protection monitoring activities and establish entry points for in-person presence and assistance. The centres, which are managed and supported by local authorities and volunteers, are overwhelmed in terms of resources and capacity available.
- UNHCR published a [Reference Map](#) showing locations of the 30 reception centres in Poland and 8 border crossing points with Ukraine. The Medyka, Dorohusk, and Korczowa border crossing points continue to receive the most people.
- **Multipurpose Cash Assistance:** As of 14 March, 84 vulnerable refugee families had been provided with emergency multi-purpose cash assistance following the programme's pilot launch in Warsaw on 11 March and in Lublin on 12 March, in collaboration with Caritas. The programme will extend to additional cities in the coming days.
- Community engagement and development of communication materials to support the identification and enrolment of people in the programme is ongoing. The programme will use a community-based approach to identify vulnerable refugees in need of assistance and will also serve as an entry point for the provision of other protection interventions.
- **Core Relief Items:** Since 8 March, UNHCR has airlifted some 10,900 blankets, 12,500 pieces of tarpaulin, 10,000 solar lamps, 4,000 jerry cans, and more than 2,000 kitchen sets to its warehouse in Rzeszow. UNHCR has also dispatched trucks to Ukraine from the Rzeszow warehouse containing 4,500 winter clothing kits and 30,600 thermal blankets.

## Romania

- **Protection:** UNHCR maintains a permanent presence at the Isaccea border crossing point -with missions to other three points and is supporting the Department of Emergency Situations with on-the-ground coordination of assistance and actors present. The priority needs among refugees include onward transportation, temporary housing, food and hygiene products. These are currently being met by actors present in the borders and in temporary transit centers.
- The continuous arrival of UASC remains of concern to national authorities and UN Agencies. The high mobility of refugees, including those in care of separated children, requires tailored systems to identify the final settlement locations in Romania for provision of specialized services.
- UNHCR partner Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) is present in eight border crossing points and throughout the network of temporary reception facilities providing asylum and specialized service information/referrals, conducting protection monitoring and mapping needs in order to plan additional response activities. As of 15 of March, more than 7,500 people have been counselled both on-site and by phone.
- UNHCR and partners are receiving and responding to an average of 220 calls per day requesting information on protection and services.
- UNHCR continues to support the movements of refugees from the Palanca border in Moldova, to Romania. The Moldovan and Romanian Governments are covering transport costs, with additional buses provided by UNHCR and IOM. The first convoys departed on 10 March and have been followed by daily transfers. By 14th March, some 3,600 refugees had been supported to travel from the Palanca border to Romania, while many have opted to move onwards after reaching Romania, according to the general trend.
- UNHCR Protection staff continue working directly at the National Coordination Cell in Romania to ensure the coordination of UN and partners with the Government emergency response and foster exchange of information.
- UNHCR and UN Agencies are formally engaged with national coordination structures to assess the critical areas where UN support is required and devise mechanisms to build synergies.
- The Government-run information and resource management platform [DOPOMOHA.ro](#) was launched last week, integrating both needs and resources for people fleeing Ukraine. UNHCR continues to provide updates and promote the platform widely online and through info materials at border points and transit centers.

## Slovakia

- **Protection:** Authorities have started moving assistance and service providers from border areas to multi-functional centres, and are organizing shuttle transfers for arrivals from the border areas to these centres. The first such center began operation in Michalovce on 14 March. The measure is intended to centralize services and ensure better conditions for those arriving, as new locations will be in heated buildings and will offer some accommodation facilities and safe spaces to function as short-term temporary shelters for those who need it. Some services, namely medical and psychological assistance, an information kiosk, veterinary care and refreshments, will remain at the border crossing points. UNHCR and partners are working to reinforce translation assistance and counselling at the border areas.
- UNHCR is in discussion with UNICEF regarding the launch of the Blue Dots concept in Slovakia.

### FINANCIAL NEEDS

Links:

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

UN: [Ukraine Flash Appeal](#)

UNCHR: [Supplementary Appeal](#)

## COORDINATION

### Ukraine

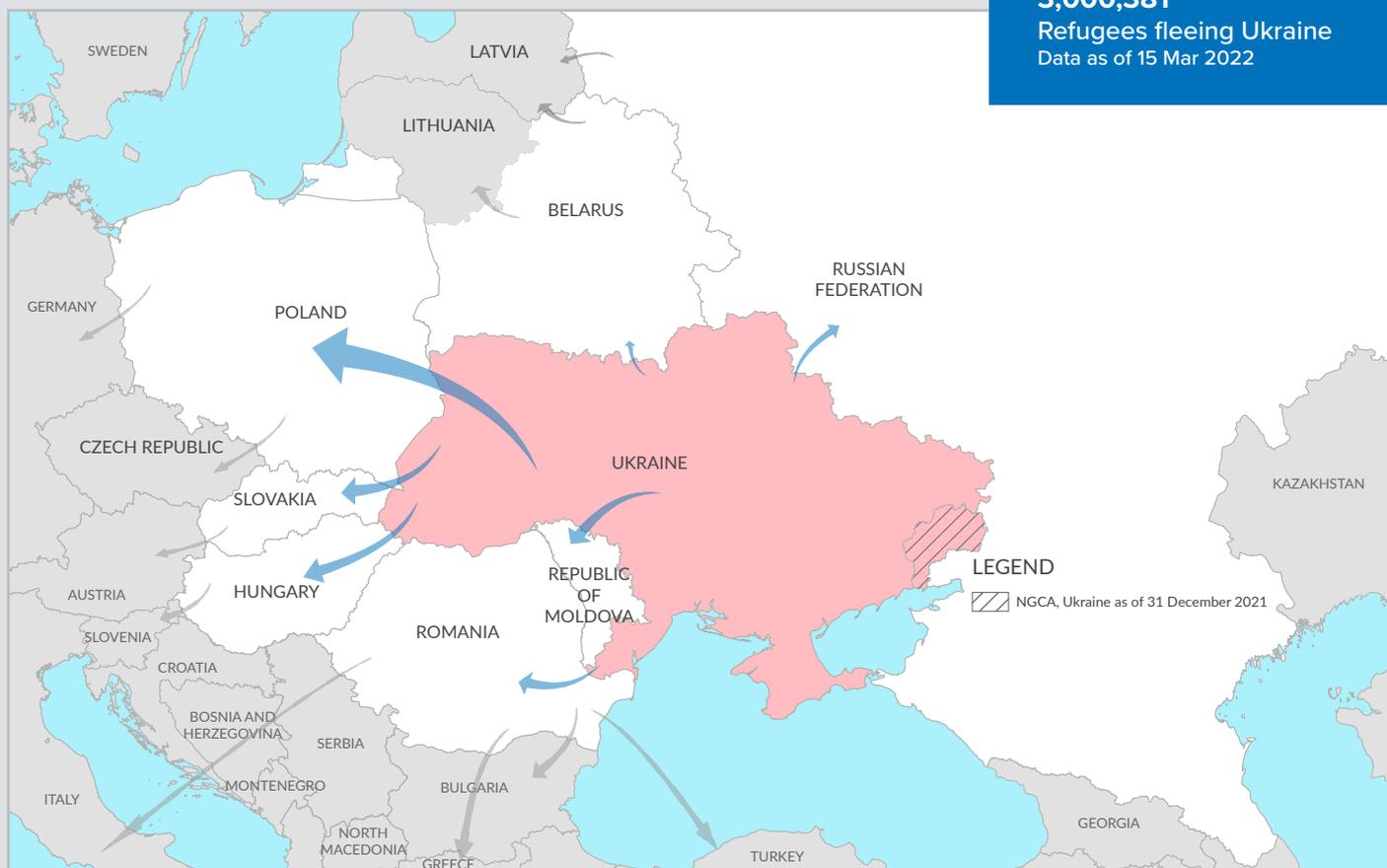
UNHCR leads the Protection and Shelter Clusters. As of 1 March 2022, the Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster was activated in Ukraine. In addition, as co-lead of the Logistics Working Group in Ukraine, UNHCR is facilitating the movement of humanitarian convoys in coordination with OCHA.

### Regional Refugee Response

UNHCR has facilitated the establishment of coordination structures in line with the Refugee Coordination Model. A Regional Refugee Response Plan has been developed and is currently under adjustment and more partners will contribute.

At regional and country level, relevant sectoral groups have been created, to maximize the response on the ground. The structures are meant to be agile and shall be adjusted as the situation evolves. UNHCR has deployed emergency coordination and protection experts including protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) emergency coordinators in Hungary, Moldova, Poland and Romania.

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.