



UKRAINE SITUATION FLASH UPDATE #54

01 September 2023

Ukraine. War-affected families are receiving assistance from the UNHCR partner "10th of April" as part of the humanitarian response in the Odesa city centre. 23 July © UNHCR

PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

5,834,100*

refugees from Ukraine recorded in Europe (as of 29 Aug)

369,200

refugees from Ukraine recorded beyond Europe (as of 19 Aug)

6,203,300

refugees from Ukraine recorded globally (as of 29 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](#)

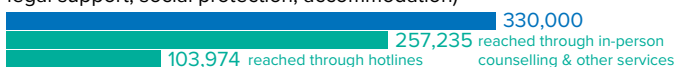
UNHCR REFUGEE RESPONSE 2023

■ 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

- On 19 August – World Humanitarian Day, missiles struck Chernihiv city, in northern Ukraine, and [reportedly](#) killed seven people, including a 6-year-old girl and a [colleague from UNHCR’s partner Right to Protection \(R2P\)](#), and injured 144 more, including 15 children and a colleague from UNHCR’s partner Proliska. More than 400 homes.
- Assisting people remaining in frontline areas remains a priority for UNHCR and partners in Ukraine. UNHCR joined four inter-agency humanitarian convoys in the last two weeks to frontline towns in Kharkivska and Zaporizka oblasts. UNHCR delivered essential supplies including 1,100 solar lamps, 1,050 tarpaulins, 400 sleeping bags, 400 bed linen sets, and 5 plastic sheets to war-affected people.
- While deadly air and missile strikes continued in the last two weeks, UNHCR and partners continued delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance. On 19 August, UNHCR’s partner Rokada [delivered](#) emergency shelter items and provided psychological support to people affected by the attack in Chernihiv in northern Ukraine. Rokada also provided immediate on-site psychosocial support and emergency shelter items to families affected by the attack in Khmelnytska oblast in central Ukraine. In response to the drone strike on 23 August in Sumska oblast, UNHCR’s partner Proliska was immediately on-site and provided psychological support and emergency shelter items to the affected people.
- To find out more about the situation and the response in Ukraine and the region, see [UNHCR’s Ukraine Emergency website](#).

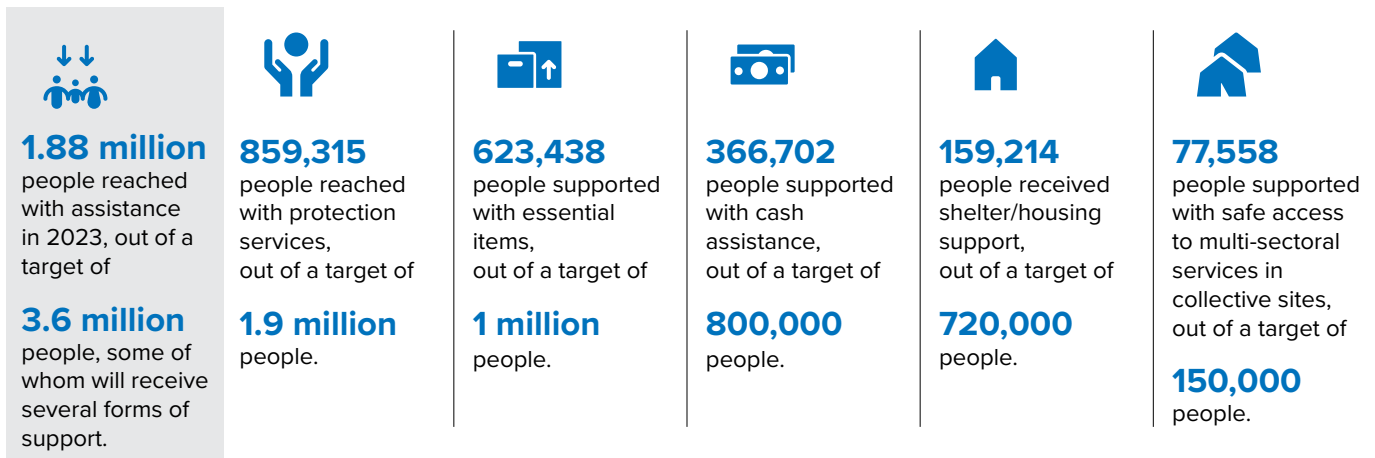
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* Europe corresponds to all Europe sub-regions as identified by Eurovoc (European Union, Thesaurus Eurovoc, Volume 2, Subject-oriented version, Publications Office, 2005), therefore including EU and non-EU countries belonging to Central and Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, and Western Europe, plus Türkiye.

UKRAINE SITUATION UPDATE

- On 22 August, Proliska [came under fire](#) in Khersonska oblast, in southern Ukraine, while they were distributing emergency shelter materials to people whose homes were damaged by previous shelling. On 23 August, shelling in Kherson city, [reportedly](#) injured six people and damaged a kindergarten and residential buildings.
- On 22 August OCHA shared the [UN inter-agency winter response plan for October 2023 – March 2024](#), through which humanitarian partners, in support to efforts by the Government of Ukraine, are appealing for over USD 268 million. This will be used to deliver winter assistance to over 1.3 million people across Ukraine, particularly to front-line communities and regions, ensuring that assistance is provided as close as possible to people in need. The Plan will be complemented by the regular humanitarian programming, which targets over 11 million people in need of assistance across Ukraine in 2023.
- As [reported](#) by OHCHR; since 24 February 2022, over 26,717 civilian casualties have been recorded, including 9,511 deaths and 17,206 injuries – with the actual toll estimated to be higher.

UNHCR RESPONSE AND TARGETS INSIDE UKRAINE 2023 (AS OF 15 AUGUST 2023)*



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

UNHCR RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

- Child Protection:** On 21 August, UNHCR’s partner Rokada opened a new child-friendly space in Lvivska oblast bringing together internally displaced children and children from the local community to improve social cohesion.
- GBV:** On 21 August, UNHCR’s partner Neemia organized the 4th Forum on Prevention and Combatting gender-based violence (GBV) in Zakarpatska oblast. The Forum was facilitated by UNHCR and UNFPA and brought together more than 150 participants from authorities and NGOs. Participants discussed key trends and current challenges such as the increased number of GBV cases reported since January 2023 and lack of sufficient specialized staff to respond to cases; and agreed on closer cooperation to establish common prevention mechanisms.
- IDP Councils:** From 17 - 18 August, UNHCR’s partner Stabilization Support Services organized a forum for the IDP Councils of Eastern Ukraine. During the two-day event, close to 100 participants composed of IDP Councils, authorities, activists, and NGOs from Kharkivska, Luhanska, Poltavska and Sumska oblasts exchanged experiences and best-practices on durable solutions for IDPs.
- IDP Movements:** In the last two weeks, under the leadership of local authorities, UNHCR’s partner The Tenth of April (TTA) supported IDPs evacuated from Khersonska oblast to Odeska oblast with accommodation, transportation, information on available services and legal counselling. Meanwhile in Khmelnytska oblast, UNHCR’s partner R2P supported 72 evacuees arriving from Khersonska oblast with legal assistance and enrolment in the cash programme.
- Protection assistance:** UNHCR and its partners in Kharkivska oblast continue to monitor the situation following mandatory evacuation in Kupianskyi raion and are providing evacuees with NFIs, legal assistance, and enrolment in the cash programme. On 18 August, UNHCR and its partner R2P opened a community space in a collective site in Kharkivska oblast, providing people who lost their homes due to the war with an area for recreational and educational activities.
- Preventing human trafficking:** From 21 to 22 August, UNHCR jointly with IOM conducted two trainings in Uzhhorod, western Ukraine, on prevention and response to human trafficking, including identification and assistance for unaccompanied minors. The training involved 36 staff from the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and UNHCR’s partner NEEKA.
- NFIs:** In the last two weeks UNHCR and its partners provided non-food items (NFIs) to over 3,700 people in Lvivska, Rivnenska, Ternopilska, and Volynska oblasts in western Ukraine.

REGIONAL UNHCR KEY FIGURES AND COUNTRY UPDATES REFUGEES

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.

179,291

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.

FROM UKRAINE ACROSS EUROPE (AS OF 29 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

More information available on the UNHCR [Ukraine portal](#) page.

COUNTRY UPDATES

BULGARIA

86,490 refugees have been recorded	UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023			
	75,000 refugees have received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners	57,000 refugees have been reached through 5 Blue Dot Hubs	8,507 refugees received cash assistance	8,983 visits to the UNHCR Bulgaria Help Page

- **MHPSS:** So far in 2023, nearly 6,400 refugees from Ukraine were provided with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).
- **MSNA:** Data collection for the 2023 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) concluded on 18 August, including over 1,000 households. A joint preliminary data interpretation session with authorities and other stakeholders took place on 25 August.
- **Protection assessments:** During the reporting period, UNHCR conducted protection assessments in multiple hotels and recreational facilities accommodating refugees from Ukraine in the regions of Burgas, Dobrich and Varna.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** In August, 30 refugees from Ukraine have started new jobs with the support of UNHCR’s partner Caritas. Through its regular programme, Caritas provides refugees with job counselling, Bulgarian language courses and professional vocational trainings in various fields.

CZECH REPUBLIC

364,885 refugees have been recorded	UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023	
	8,738 refugees from Ukraine have received protection services as of 31 July	22,745 visits to the UNHCR Czech Republic Help Page

- **Access to healthcare:** On 22 August, WHO and authorities convened a roundtable to present the results of a [survey](#) on Ukrainian refugees’ access to the public healthcare system. The survey found that the ability to access the healthcare system decreases proportionally among older people and that refugees from Ukraine are often misinformed. Only 42% of respondents are registered with a general practitioner and 50% have not visited any specialist during their stay in the Czech Republic.
- **Assistance for refugees:** On 18 August, the government released the [2024 call for NGO grants](#) focusing on integration and assistance for refugees from Ukraine, addressing gender inequalities and the risk of poverty as well as preventing and combating domestic and gender-based violence. The maximum grant ceiling is USD 27,000 per organization.

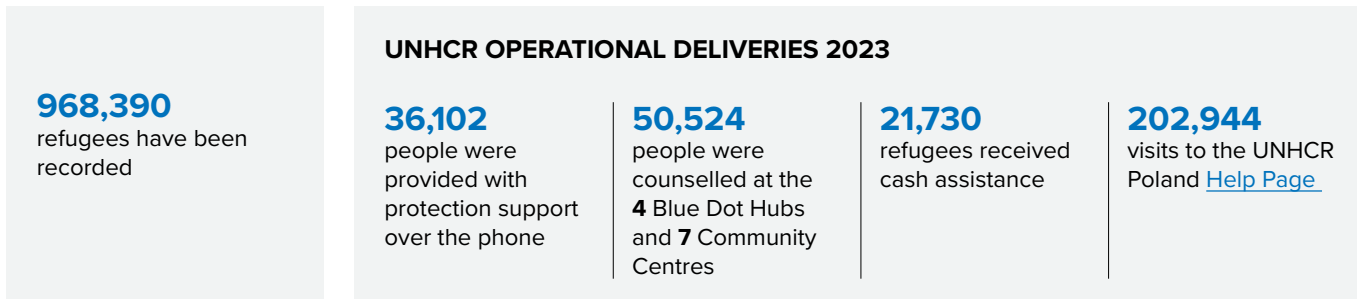
HUNGARY

52,290 refugees have been recorded	UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023		
	17,659 refugees have received protection and legal support by UNHCR and partners	16,167 refugees have been reached through 3 Blue Dot Hubs	43,508 visits to the UNHCR Hungary Help Page

- **Accommodation:** On 21 August, UNHCR conducted a site monitoring visit in a new collective shelter managed by the partner Hungarian Baptist Aid (HBAid) in Budapest. The shelter was renovated with UNHCR support and can host up to 70 people. Currently it accommodates 41 refugees. The HBAid also provides social counselling and referrals in the shelter.

- **Cash assistance:** UNHCR has so far registered 15 applicants for cash for protection aimed at refugees with a disability. Refugees qualifying for assistance will receive some USD 324 monthly. The CBI programme will start in September.
- **Education:** UNHCR has started disseminating online the [Back to School campaign](#) organized by the Education Sub-Working Group. The campaign provides information to parents on access to the Hungarian education system.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Hungary data portal](#)

POLAND



- **Advocacy:** Following advocacy by UNHCR and some 100 other partners, the government [has extended](#) the application of a special regulation allowing Ukrainian psychologists to work without recognition of their diplomas until 24 March 2024, providing a window of over six months for continued professional psychological support to Ukrainian refugees.
- **Education:** UNHCR has engaged refugees from Ukraine in a campaign aimed at addressing low school enrolment rates among refugees from Ukraine in Poland, while [more than half of the children](#) are not enrolled in public schools. Low enrolment rates can be attributed to frequent movement to and from Ukraine, obstacles, such as language barriers and the low capacity of schools to absorb new students.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Poland data portal](#)

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



- **GBV:** On 17 August, 14 members of the GBV sub-working group, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNFPA, attended a training on GBV monitoring and evaluation. The same day, UNHCR presented to the GBV sub-working group a checklist to mitigate GBV risks during the closure of Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) in the Republic of Moldova.
- **Temporary protection:** From 18 - 19 August, around 115 refugees from Ukraine participated in five discussions in Chisinau, Comrat, Donduseni, Otaci, and Ungheni cities organized by UNHCR in partnership with the General Inspectorate for Migration, UNHCR partners, IOM, local authorities and NGOs about temporary protection registration. So far, some 300 refugees have attended similar discussions in nine different cities, including in border areas.
- **Winterization:** In the framework of inter-agency winterization planning, UNHCR conducted winterization surveys in 259 households through visits and phone calls among refugees living in Cahul, Chisinau, Gagauzian Autonomous Region, Orhei and Stefan Voda regions. UNHCR, together with IOM and NGOs are currently conducting a winterization technical assessment of community facilities identified by local authorities.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Moldova portal page](#)

ROMANIA

92,420 refugees have been recorded	UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023			
	62,956 refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners	38,443 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:** On 22 August, 17 staff from NGOs were trained by UNHCR on prevention and response to GBV, covering key GBV concepts, guidance on safe disclosure and referral pathways. So far in 2023, UNHCR facilitated the trainings of 602 individuals in core protection activities, including GBV.
- **Non-food items:** From 21 - 25 August, UNHCR distributed 4,435 non-food items, including family hygiene kits, blankets, kitchen sets and sleeping bags to 539 refugees living in Bacau, Botosani, Constanta, Galati, Neamt, Suceava and Tulcea regions, as well as to refugees crossing the green border at Sighet.
- **Social cohesion:** On 23 August, 13 people, mostly community leaders in Galați, attended an awareness-raising session on education. The event included interventions by the Galați municipal sports club and the county library about ongoing activities with refugees from Ukraine.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** So far in 2023, 674 refugees from Ukraine have received career counselling and 632 refugees have been supported with information on livelihoods/employment at RomExpo, Bucharest. So far in 2023, 465 refugees have been enrolled in language courses by partners Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF) and HEKS/EPER, and 101 refugees have received vocational training. 153 refugees have gained employment through UNHCR and partners' direct assistance.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Romania data portal](#)

SLOVAKIA

107,415 refugees have been recorded	UNHCR OPERATIONAL DELIVERIES 2023			
	30,218 refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners as of 31 July	45,508 people been assisted at 6 Blue Dots	11,678 refugees received cash assistance	155,493 visits to the UNHCR Help Page

- **Education:** As of 23 August, over 1,000 children have requested support for registration in public schools and kindergartens for the school year 2023/2024, which is offered by the Slovak Ministry of Education (MoE). UNHCR is supporting MoE with the data collection and registration of these requests.
- **Socio-economic inclusion:** On 11 August, 19 refugee children from Ukraine aged 8-18 successfully concluded a two-week art summer camp in Bratislava funded by UNHCR and organized by a refugee-led organization. From 1 – 15 August, UNHCR's national partners Mareena and People in Need (PiN) organized several community events in Banská, Bystrica, Bratislava, Nitra, Košice, Prešov and Žilina regions engaging nearly 600 refugee and host community participants through language cafes, movie screenings, sport events, various discussions and other events.
- 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, 1,540 individuals received protection services, counselling and legal support by UNHCR partners.
- **Field visit:** On 23 August, UNHCR visited a migrant accommodation center (MAC) in the Polotsk border detachment in Vitebsk region. UNHCR discussed with the State Border Committee options for potential assistance in completing the MAC construction.

ESTONIA

- As of 20 August, **50,555 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Estonia.
- **Coordination:** On 16 August, UNHCR discussed with partners within the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) the multi-sector needs assessment plans, which will pave the way for 2024 RRP planning processes.

GEORGIA:

- As of 25 July, **27,000 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Georgia.
- **Coordination:** UNHCR has developed a mapping of programmes offered by inter-agency partners available to refugees from Ukraine in Georgia. The mapping is based on the data shared by various partners and information gathered through bilateral meetings. UNHCR will shortly organize a meeting to jointly discuss gaps identified in the response.
- **Socioeconomic inclusion:** So far, 20 refugee mothers with young children in Tbilisi and Batumi cities have benefitted from parenting clubs set up by UNHCR partner World Vision in Georgia. The clubs aim to strengthen their parenting skills, stress management techniques as well as enable their inclusion into the local society.

LATVIA

- As of 15 August, **32,470 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Latvia.
- **Community outreach:** During the reporting period, UNHCR partner Shelter Safe House provided legal counselling to 13 asylum-seekers and refugees, including from Ukraine, on access to asylum procedures, social benefits, family law and employment disputes.
- **Protection:** A joint protection monitoring survey conducted by UNHCR and its partner Gribu Palīdzēt Bēgļiem (GPB) from May to August 2023 found that the most urgent needs of refugees from Ukraine were education opportunities for children (15%), access to medical treatment or medicine (15%) and employment opportunities (12%). A common challenge in obtaining employment faced by 24% of refugee adults, was the lack of knowledge of the local language.

LITHUANIA

- As of 21 August, **43,015 refugees** from Ukraine have been recorded in Lithuania.
- **Advocacy:** On 27 August, UNHCR discussed with the Migration Department the challenges faced by refugees from Ukraine regarding applying for temporary protection for new-borns, which requires obtaining nationality certificates prior to doing so. UNHCR underlined that this process is particularly difficult for families living in remote areas and simplifying it on a case-by-case basis could facilitate the process for refugees from Ukraine.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- **Counselling:** So far in 2023, 12,980 refugees from Ukraine have been counselled in person by UNHCR and partners in urban areas, while 9,429 have been counselled in the border regions of Belogorod, Kursk, Rostov-on-Don and Voronezh. Over 40,500 refugees have been counselled via the telephone hotline by UNHCR and partners.
- **MHPSS:** So far in 2023, 17,469 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.

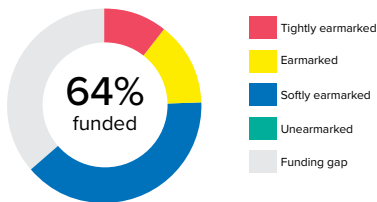
REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

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

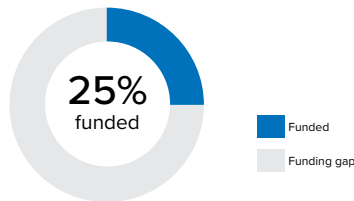
UNHCR UKRAINE SITUATION FINANCIAL UPDATE

US\$ 1.1 billion required (as of 28 August 2023)



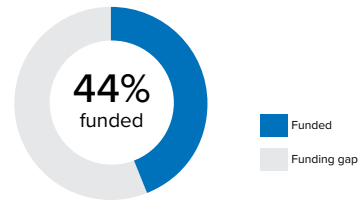
INTER-AGENCY FINANCIAL UPDATES

US\$ 1.68 billion required (as of 31 August 2023)



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

US\$ 3.95 billion required (as of 31 August 2023)



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

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