



# Lithuania

## Mid-year report of activities and achievements in 2024

Since February 2024, 88,000 refugees from Ukraine have been cumulatively registered for temporary protection (TP) in Lithuania. As of mid-year 2024, 43,800 remained actively registered with TP status. The Government, civil society and host community united to work towards a whole-of-society approach to ensuring adequate reception and protection conditions for refugees arriving from Ukraine.

The refugee response is coordinated overall by the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, with municipalities and civil society as key actors supplementing central government programming. The system is based on inclusion in mainstream Lithuanian education, the social services and support system, as well as open access to the job market. As of 2023, Lithuania is included in the Ukraine Regional Refugee Response Plan, complementing the government-led response.

This mid-year report provides an overview of RRP partner activities throughout the first half of 2024. The RRP, which provides all actors with a common plan and financial appeal for each organization, targets the needs of Ukrainian refugees in Lithuania who have applied for temporary and international protection in Lithuania. At mid-year, some 14,305 individuals had received humanitarian assistance.

### KEY FIGURES



Current #ppl

Registrations

Latest update: 1 Jul 2024



## 43.8K

Current refugees with temporary protection

### FUNDING: REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN 2024



\$ 15.5 million  
REQUIRED (US\$)

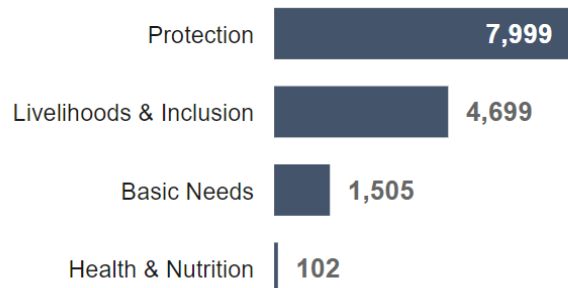


\$ 12.5 million (Gap)  
Needed

\$ 2.9 million (18.8%)  
Received



### Individuals reached by Sector



### REFUGEE POPULATION & REACH (32.6%)



# People reached

# Population

## 43.8K

14,305  
32.6%

29,531  
67.4%

For further information please see the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#) for more details on refugee population figures and information resources. | See also the [Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) for a breakdown of sectoral response priorities and requirements and the [Refugee Funding Tracker](#) for RRP funding information.

## Regional Refugee Response

Since 24 February 2022, more than 6 million people from Ukraine have sought refuge across Europe. 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.

## Refugee Response Plan in Lithuania

By mid-year 2024, Lithuania had cumulatively received around 88,000 applications for temporary protection by Ukrainian citizens. Temporary protection enables refugees to access healthcare, education and the labour market.

In Lithuania, the response was led by the Government of Lithuania. To complement this government-led response, the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners convened a forum to coordinate and advance RRP objectives. Chaired by **UNHCR**, the coordination body includes representatives of relevant state authorities such as the Ministry of Social Security and Labour. Through the inter-agency coordination platform, four UN agencies and fourteen NGOs engaged on their funding situation and its impact on programming.

The 2024 RRP requires US\$ 15.5 million for activities in Lithuania, of which only 18.8 per cent or US\$ 2.9 million are funded as of mid-year 2024. Consequently, there remains a gap of US\$ 12.5 million and seven out of eighteen appealing partners have not yet obtained any funding for their appeals. This has prevented the initiation of their proposed activities, and 29,531 individuals remain without access to services provided by partners. The sectors most affected are basic needs and health and nutrition. Despite this, by mid-year 2024, RRP partners had reached 14,305 individuals. The primary areas of focus during this period included the provision of comprehensive protection services, including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and the advancement of socio-economic inclusion initiatives.

Increased support is crucial to address critical funding gaps in the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for Lithuania. Specifically, underfunded programmes such as cash assistance and child-friendly spaces need immediate attention to meet the pressing needs of vulnerable Ukrainian refugee families. Priority should be given to funding housing support and integration programmes, including language education and job placement services. These initiatives are essential for fostering refugee self-reliance and successful integration into host communities. Despite significant progress in the first half of 2024, substantial gaps remain, necessitating additional funding and strategic efforts. Strengthened support from partners and donors is imperative to sustain the RRP's initiatives and ensure continued success in providing essential services to Ukrainian refugees.

## Partners' response to the Ukraine refugee situation

### Addressing Immediate Needs Upon Arrival

Where needed, partners delivered targeted basic needs assistance to Ukrainian refugees either travelling to onward destinations or planning to remain in Lithuania. Despite increasing needs due to rising prices and housing shortages, the basic needs sector remains severely underfunded, with only 3 per cent of the required funding secured by **RRP partners** for planned activities in 2024. The primary focus has been on the most vulnerable refugees, helping them meet basic needs during the gap between their arrival and enrolment in Lithuania's social protection system. Although the number of refugees seeking aid has decreased, the need remains substantial as new refugees continue to arrive.

By mid-year 2024, **RRP partners** provided essential basic needs services to 1,505 Ukrainian refugees, including food items, WASH supplies, non-food items and cash assistance. **Caritas Lithuania**, through its 37 Humanitarian Aid Centres, delivered essential support to Ukrainian refugees, providing food items and non-food items such as clothing, shoes and bedding, and provided vouchers for hygiene products (one card per person US\$ 42.12 /per month). As of mid-year 2024, they reached 1,000 Ukrainian refugees and distributed around 500 hygiene kits and issued 184 commodity cards. Additionally, Caritas offered targeted assistance for school-related needs, including uniforms, training clothes and supplies, and covered essential medications not funded by the Government.

**Save the Children** continued its cash assistance efforts in support of Ukrainian refugees, prioritizing new arrivals with children, single pregnant women and single-parent households with children under 6 years old, whose income falls below the poverty line set by the Government of Lithuania. By mid-year 2024, Save the Children had reached 505 individuals through its Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) programme. The MPCA programme is designed to ensure that the most vulnerable families have the financial resources needed to meet their basic needs and prevent the use of negative coping strategies. The assistance is calculated to bridge the gap between a family's income and the absolute poverty rate, with payments provided through bank transfers or vouchers equivalent to two to three months of support. Follow-up assessments are conducted to address ongoing needs.

Despite having reached more than 80 per cent of their target set for 2024 by the mid-year, Save the Children has highlighted a significant funding shortfall for the MPCA programme going forward, noting that demand remains high. While newly arriving families with children remain a priority, many earlier arrivals are also seeking assistance. These include single caregivers with small children, pregnant and lactating women, families with members who have disabilities or serious medical conditions, and those facing financial crises due to job or accommodation loss.

### Spotlight



*[Photo credit : Marija Frolova, ARTSCAPE]*

**World Refugee Day** celebration in Vilnius was held on 20 June with the “Cultural Rhythms” festival, organized by the **Ministry of Social Security and Labour** and **Artscape**. The event took place in Bernardine Courtyard, featuring performances by 17 musicians from eight countries, including artists from Ukraine, Zimbabwe and Sweden. Attendees enjoyed multicultural music, participated in creative workshops and learned about migration-focused organizations. The festival highlighted the resilience and contributions of refugees, with support from the **European Union** and **UNHCR**.

## Protection Services

Ensuring the protection and well-being of refugees is essential for addressing their immediate and long-term needs, facilitating their integration and promoting their self-reliance. By mid-year 2024, **UNHCR partners** had provided protection assistance to around 8,000 individuals, focusing on legal assistance, counselling, referrals and information provision to address the critical needs of Ukrainian refugees.

**Caritas Lithuania** observed a shift towards self-sufficiency among Ukrainian refugees in 2024, with an increased demand for professional support in their integration efforts. Initially focused on meeting basic needs, Caritas has now prioritized individualized case management, involving social workers, psychologists, lawyers and language teachers. The organization also underscored the crucial role of local communities in successful integration. In 2024, Caritas provided social consultations on benefits, employment and education, as well as financial aid for multi-child families and people with disabilities. They also offered counselling, psychosocial support, legal assistance and assistance with migration paperwork. Additionally, Caritas organized language lessons, seminars on violence and human trafficking and tailored training sessions to meet the needs of Ukrainian refugees. A key initiative was the family mentorship programme, which fostered friendships between Lithuanian and Ukrainian families across four municipalities, contributing to enhanced integration. This programme, along with self-help groups and summer camps, helped create essential social networks. Through these comprehensive services, Caritas reached 1,000 Ukrainian refugees by mid-year 2024.

**Lithuanian Red Cross** played a vital role in enhancing the reception, legal aid access and integration of refugees in Lithuania. By mid-year 2024, they had provided legal assistance to 511 individuals, including 93 Ukrainian refugees. They also offered individual counselling, guidance, referrals and information to a total of 1,492 individuals, including 1,261 Ukrainian refugees. Additionally, Lithuanian Red Cross conducted an online training for 60 State Border Guard Service officers, aimed at building capacity in the area of registration interviews with refugees.

**Save the Children** focused on delivering information, social and referral services to refugee families with children and pregnant women. Their initiatives also included individual psychosocial support and positive parenting group sessions for caregivers. Save the Children had reached 514 individuals by mid-year 2024.

**IOM** reached 167 Ukrainian refugees by mid-year 2024 through various targeted support initiatives. These included the Migration Information Hotline and live chat, providing refugees with accurate and up-to-date information on documentation, rights and services, helping them make informed decisions. IOM also organized orientation sessions, webinars, workshops and distributed leaflets and video tutorials on topics relevant to Ukrainian refugees. In counter-trafficking efforts, IOM conducted awareness-raising campaigns tailored for refugees and employers to prevent human trafficking and labour exploitation, along with capacity-building activities for partners. Additionally, IOM's protection team provided individualized support to vulnerable refugees using a case management approach, ensuring access to basic needs and specialized services. PSEA (Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse) capacity-building activities were also conducted for frontline workers, as well as workshops for refugees on SEA, associated risks and referral processes.

**Frida** reached 122 Ukrainian women, including those with children, by offering comprehensive legal, social and psychological assistance services. This initiative aimed to build an inclusive community of mutual support, helping women overcome the challenges of displacement and fostering resilience in their new environment. Main efforts included psychological support groups and workshops on overcoming trauma, resilience building, human rights and gender equality. These activities were accessible for those with children as childcare services were provided during the workshops and group sessions.

**Artscape** provided targeted protection assistance to individuals with specific needs, identifying and referring 10 individuals for essential services. In addition, the organization conducted 10 communication and advocacy interventions and reached 16 individuals through community outreach activities.

**UNHCR** protection monitoring activities continued throughout 2024, in partnership with the **Lithuanian Red Cross**, to expand knowledge about the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Lithuania, including the protection of refugee children. UNHCR and Lithuanian Red Cross conducted 35 protection monitoring visits to border crossing points, registration, reception and accommodation sites, and engaged with refugees to understand their situation, protection needs and intentions. This ongoing monitoring is aimed at ensuring that refugees have access to their rights and services and that their effective inclusion and integration into Lithuanian society is facilitated. Through community outreach activities, Lithuanian Red Cross reached 3,938 individuals, including 3,253 Ukrainian refugees. Additionally, they made 11 advocacy interventions, which included appeals to the Government of Lithuania, the preparation of advocacy papers and providing comments on draft legislation concerning refugees in Lithuania.

## Child Protection

Children are among the most vulnerable members of any displaced population, making targeted protection and support crucial to their well-being. By mid-year 2024, RRP partners provided psychosocial support, organized recreational activities and conducted capacity-building activities for professionals working with children.

**Artscape** provided psychosocial support through art-based activities, including the mentorship programme 'Young Refugee Talents', which focuses on artistic expression and content creation. By mid-year 2024, Artscape had reached 181 children through psychosocial, educational and recreational activities.

**Lithuanian Scouts** engaged 110 children and youth through weekly meetings, summer planning, camps and scouting challenges, focusing on developing teamwork, independence, social skills and civic responsibility. The activities included hiking, simulation games and sports, aimed at enhancing creativity, personal fulfilment and intercultural understanding. This initiative fostered positive interaction between Lithuanian and Ukrainian youth, allowing Lithuanian Scout leaders to gain experience with diverse cultural backgrounds while Ukrainian Scouts learned about Lithuanian culture. Participants were empowered to make decisions and take on responsibilities, building leadership and accountability skills. The programme provided a safe emotional environment and meaningful leisure activities, equipping young people with skills in leadership, time management, event organization and outdoor survival.

**Save the Children** continued its MHPSS programme for children, delivering individual psychosocial support and group activities through the "HEART" and "TeamUp" projects. They distributed MHPSS home kits for children and provided training in psychological first aid for professionals and humanitarian workers working with children. The organization offered guidance on refugee rights and access to social protection, education and health systems in Lithuania. Children also received services at Day Centres alongside local peers, and positive parenting groups were organized for Ukrainian parents. Save the Children highlighted ongoing high demand for MHPSS services and noted challenges such as accommodation issues and poverty risks, particularly in single-headed households with young children. By mid-year 2024, they had provided protection services to 1,769 children.

## Cross-Cutting Priorities

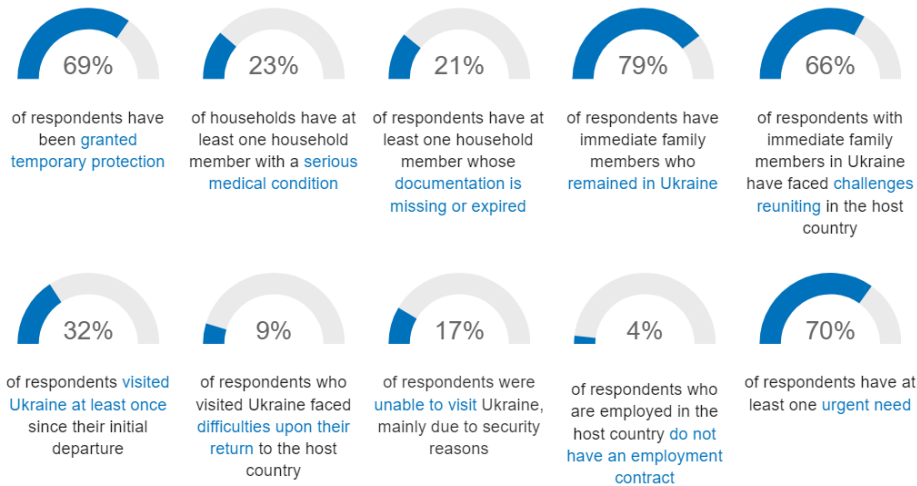
### *Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)*

Recognizing the critical need for MHPSS across sectors, several initiatives have been undertaken to address the complex needs of Ukrainian refugees in Lithuania. By mid-year 2024, **Order of Malta Relief Organization** provided a range of MHPSS interventions, reaching 102 individuals. They conducted 14 psychosocial group sessions on team building, art therapy and financial planning, including eight sessions for women focused on self-awareness, stress management and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Participants reported improvements in general well-being and a stronger sense of belonging. Group consultations for children aged 5 to 17 were also offered at the Order of Malta Relief Organization's daycare centre, accommodating both Lithuanian and Ukrainian children. On 8 June, the organization held a health day event that gathered over 90 Ukrainian refugees, including families with children and elderly persons. The event, funded by **World Health Organization (WHO)** featured workshops on first aid, integration information and art therapy. Going forward,

Order of Malta Relief Organization plans to expand its services to additional centres and implement community-based activities to further enhance refugee integration and foster social cohesion.

### Protection Monitoring

To strengthen and promote an evidence-based protection response, **UNHCR** and its partners in Lithuania have been implementing a Protection Profiling and Monitoring exercise to regularly collect and analyse data about the profiles, protection risks and needs of refugees from Ukraine and monitor changes over time. In October 2023, a revised questionnaire was rolled out. Between October 2023 and July 2024 some 681 refugees from Ukraine (representing 1,535 household members) were interviewed. Below is a snapshot of key findings. For more detailed information please visit the [Protection Profiling and Monitoring dashboard](#).



### Socio-Economic Insights Survey

To support an evidence-based response for the upcoming Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for 2025-2026, the **UNHCR Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS)** is being conducted in 11 countries, including Lithuania. This exercise covers 8,800 households (19,300 individuals) and involves a harmonized data analysis plan and questionnaire, incorporating the UNHCR and WFP Joint Analysis Framework and the UNHCR Protection Monitoring and Results Monitoring Survey. The 2025-2026 RRP will span from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2026, aiming to streamline processes. To date, 600 interviews have been completed in Lithuania, with a detailed report expected in October 2024.

### Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

By mid-year 2024, RRP partners had reached around 4,700 individuals through various activities aimed at improving economic opportunities and integration of Ukrainian refugees. These efforts include job placement, vocational training, language courses and community-based initiatives.

According to the UNHCR Protection Profiling and Monitoring exercise, 57 per cent of working-age Ukrainian refugees in Lithuania are employed, with 40 per cent working within the host country and 29 per cent remaining unemployed. Language barriers are identified by 20 per cent of Ukrainian refugees as a major obstacle to securing employment. Additionally, 66 per cent of respondents have applied for government-provided social protection benefits, with 52 per cent of these applicants receiving cash assistance.

**IOM** has significantly contributed to livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion efforts by developing a network of regional community leaders and enhancing their skills in leadership, organization and advocacy. They have organized community events for refugees and host communities and provided grants to foster unity and inclusivity. The 'Cultural Awareness Guide' created by IOM has become an essential resource for professionals, including educators and law enforcement, to effectively engage with refugees from diverse cultural backgrounds. IOM has also launched a mobile application offering information on Lithuanian culture, language, society and laws to support refugee integration. Moreover, IOM provided Lithuanian and English

language courses, seed funding grants and mentorship for small business development. They have facilitated internships and work placements to enhance both short-term and long-term employment prospects for Ukrainian refugees. By mid-year 2024, IOM had reached 1,638 individuals through these comprehensive initiatives.

**Order of Malta Relief Organization** observed that effective refugee inclusion improves significantly with greater access to local language training. In 2024, they initiated Lithuanian language clubs where Ukrainian refugees practice speaking Lithuanian with local community members. This approach enhances language skills through practical use and fosters community integration. These clubs, led by local facilitators, aim to support refugees' language development and integration into Lithuanian society. They have also launched an online platform for Ukrainian refugees to learn and educate themselves about labour laws and policy in Lithuania.

**Refugee Council of Lithuania** focused on improving digital literacy among Ukrainian refugees to enhance their access to employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. By mid-year 2024, they had provided digital and entrepreneurial skills training to 266 individuals, aiming to build competencies that promote sustainable integration into socio-economic life in Lithuania. The trainings targeted Ukrainian and other refugees interested in starting businesses, becoming self-employed or refining skills needed to manage existing activities. The programme was structured into three stages: 24-hour workshops on entrepreneurship, digital skills and cybersecurity, including seven groups of Lithuanian language courses and 60 social networking-entrepreneurial events.

**Diversity Development Group (DDG)** implemented the "PITCH" project, a gender-sensitive integration model utilizing personalized, participatory and local multistakeholder approaches. Engaging five mediators, including two migrant women, the project hosted over 10 "cozy corners" sessions starting June 2023, facilitating connections and experience-sharing among migrant women. The project provided personalized integration roadmaps featuring recreational activities, language clubs, employment skills training, digital literacy and psychological support. DDG also guided activity clusters of CV writing, networking and job applications, highlighting key aspects of labour market participation. By mid-year 2024, over 30 women had created personalized roadmaps and 44 women, including 31 from Ukraine, joined various clusters focusing on upskilling, social integration and awareness-raising. Participants reported significant improvements in self-confidence, social skills and digital literacy.

**Frida** organized consultations on employment, education and legal issues in collaboration with local authorities and public bodies. To support Ukrainian women, including those with children, Frida facilitated business opportunity fairs and provided childcare services during these events. In partnership with artist residencies, Frida co-organized empowerment and integration meetings for Ukrainian women and artists, focusing on art creation and participation in various artistic projects. The "Ukrainian Cultural Space" initiative brought Ukrainian artists and performers together for artwork creation and performances, fostering cultural exchange with the Lithuanian community. Additionally, Frida provided information on educational, employment, volunteering, cultural and recreational opportunities. They also hosted a roundtable discussion on refugee integration with Ukrainian community representatives, local authorities and civil society to promote collaboration and share best practices. To further support integration efforts, Frida conducted Lithuanian language conversation groups twice a week.

**House of National Minorities** has significantly supported the integration of Ukrainian refugees by offering Lithuanian language courses to over 400 individuals, mainly Ukrainian refugees. These courses were provided across 27 groups and led by four instructors. The online courses focused on both language acquisition and social integration. Participants received certificates upon completion, which aimed to enhance their job application prospects and facilitate their integration into Lithuanian society.

## RRP and extended partnerships in Lithuania



**Caritas Lithuania** part of the global Catholic Caritas network offers humanitarian aid to all in need, regardless of age, nationality, faith, or gender. It operates children's day care centres and family support services, addressing the needs of the sick, lonely, and elderly people. They provide food, clothing and other essentials to those facing homelessness, violence, and addiction.



**Diversity Development Group (DDG)** is a non-profit organization with an objective to carry out social (scientific, applied, and infrastructural) projects and research in the field of human trafficking, human rights, education, equal opportunities, diversity, migration and integration.



**Order of Malta Relief Organization** provides assistance for the lonely, elderly people, children from socially vulnerable families, the disabled, refugees, and for everyone who is in need.



**Save the Children Lithuania** was founded in 1991, and implements projects in the fields of child rights, positive parenting, poverty reduction, education and reduction of domestic violence.



**ARTSCAPE's** focus is on the power of art through artistic projects that bring social change and togetherness in vulnerable communities through participatory arts and advocacy.



**Food Bank (Maisto bankas)'s** mission is to fight food waste and feed people in need.



**Lithuanian Red Cross** provides assistance and relief to people affected by the crisis, as well as to other vulnerable society groups, including asylum-seekers, refugees, stateless people, and other migrants irrespective of their legal status.



**International Organization for Migration** is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.



**World Health Organization Country Office, Lithuania (WHO CO LTU)** promotes health, keeps the world safe and serves the vulnerable – so everyone, everywhere can attain the highest level of health and well-being.





**UNESCO** promotes peace and security through international collaboration in education, science, and culture. It works to build inclusive, sustainable societies by fostering educational opportunities, preserving cultural heritage, and advancing scientific research.



**Malva** provides comprehensive support for displaced Ukrainians. The centre offers material and moral aid, including food and essentials, and assists with job placement. It organizes educational activities, social events, and trips within Lithuania and the Baltic states. Additionally, Malva supports those remaining in Ukraine and collaborates with various NGOs to enhance its services.



**The Lithuanian Diversity Charter Association** is an NGO that brings together businesses, public institutions, and non-profits to promote open and inclusive work environments and enhance social responsibility.



**The Lithuanian Trade Union** is a national organization that defends the rights and interests of its members across Lithuania. It addresses issues related to labour, civil, criminal, and administrative law on a territorial basis.



**The Refugee Council of Lithuania** is a refugee-led organization dedicated to fostering refugee integration by collaborating with civil society, public institutions, and the private sector. The organization focuses on listening to refugees' needs and challenges, using advocacy to co-create innovative, long-term solutions. The aim is to build an inclusive, open society where refugees are empowered, integrated, and safe.

FRIDA

**FRIDA** is a non-governmental women's rights organization in Lithuania dedicated to advancing gender equality. It works to reduce discrimination, combat domestic and sexual violence, and support survivors of violence. FRIDA also promotes tolerance, integration, respect, and human rights through advocacy, education, and prevention efforts.



**The House of National Minorities** is a non-profit organization in Lithuania dedicated to culture, education, and science. It aims to preserve the cultural identity of Lithuanian minorities and integrate them into national life. The organization promotes intercultural dialogue, introduces diverse traditions, and fosters mutual tolerance. It supports minority organizations with knowledge, skills, and strategic development to align with democratic and civil society growth in Lithuania and Europe.



**Lithuanian Scouts** is the largest scouting organization in Lithuania, with over 3,000 members nationwide. The organization focuses on developing young people into active and responsible members of society through a range of educational programmes and activities.

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## LINKS

[Regional data portal](#) – [Ukraine Situation RRP](#) – [Refugee Funding Tracker](#)