



Latvia

End of year report of activities and achievements in 2024

Since 24 February 2022, 61,000 refugees from Ukraine have been registered for temporary protection (TP) in Latvia. As of December 2024, 47,600 remained actively registered with TP status. From the onset of the war in Ukraine, Latvia indicated its readiness to receive and support Ukrainians fleeing their country. The Ukraine refugee situation resulted in Latvia facing the largest influx of refugees in its history.

The 2024 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for Latvia supported the efforts of the national authorities in addressing the needs of refugees from Ukraine, with a focus on the most vulnerable. The plan was coordinated by UNHCR and brought together 17 humanitarian actors in Latvia. The RRP outlined the multi-partner and multi-sector response strategy and financial requirements of partners helping refugees from Ukraine.

This inter-agency report provides an overview of RRP partner activities under the 2024 RRP and other relevant programmes. The RRP provided a common plan and appeal to assist 47,600 Ukrainians with temporary protection in Latvia. While funding constraints did not allow all partners to fully implement their plans, by the end of the year, around 18,550 individuals had received humanitarian assistance through UNHCR and its partners.

KEY FIGURES



Current #ppl

Registrations

Latest update: 14 Jan 2025



47.6K

Current refugees with temporary protection



FUNDING: REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN 2024



\$ 9.7 million
REQUIRED (US\$)



\$ 7.2 million (Gap)
Needed

\$ 2.5 million (26.1%)
Received



Individuals reached by Sector

Basic Needs	9,449
Protection	6,166
Livelihoods & Inclusion	2,045
Education	593
Health & Nutrition	284
PSEA	38

REFUGEE POPULATION & REACH (39.0%)



(%) People reached

Population

47.6K

18,575
39.0%

29,071
61.0%

For key figures on the 2024 RRP in Latvia, visit the [RRP Baltics Dashboard](#). | For refugee population figures and other resources, visit the [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#). | For a breakdown of sectoral response priorities and requirements, visit the [Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) 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 worked 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 strengthens refugees’ socio-economic inclusion in their host communities, increasing their self-reliance, while reinforcing social cohesion between refugees and their hosts. In support of the government-led responses across the region, **UNHCR** led and coordinated 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 Latvia

By the end of 2024, Latvia had cumulatively received around 61,000 applications for temporary protection by Ukrainian citizens. Temporary protection enables refugees to access healthcare, education and the labour market. Starting from 1 January 2023, residents of Ukraine who apply for temporary protection status in the Republic of Latvia are issued a temporary residence permit valid for two years.

In Latvia, the response is led by the Government of Latvia. 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 included representatives of relevant state authorities such as the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture, the Society of Integration Foundation and the Ministry of Education. Through the inter-agency coordination platform, four UN agencies and thirteen NGOs engaged on their funding situation and its impact on programming. In addition, UNHCR’s implementing partner **Gribu Palīdzēt Bēgļiem (GPB)** chaired weekly coordination meetings with a wide range of NGOs supporting refugees in Latvia.

Appeals & Funding received by Sector (\$2,530,686)

Basic Needs	Protection	Health & Nutrition	Livelihoods	Education
\$120K (8%)	\$799,510 (23%)	\$207,989 (65%)	\$876,919 (26%)	\$135,300 (14%)
\$1,520,510	\$3,440,720	\$320,000	\$3,425,403	\$976,000

Funding received by Organization

(Millions US\$)



Donor contribution

(Millions US\$)



* "Others" includes internal allocations from UN agencies and international NGOs.

The 2024 RRP required US\$9.7 million for activities in Latvia, of which 26 per cent or US\$2.5 million had been funded as of the end of 2024. Consequently, there remained a gap of US\$7.2 million and several appealing partners had not obtained any funding for their activities. The sectors most affected were basic needs which received a mere 8 per cent and education which received just 14 per cent of required funds.

Sustained funding is essential to building on the progress made in 2024 and ensuring continued support for refugees in Latvia, complementing national efforts. Increased support for employment and language training, alongside tailored childcare support, is important in enabling refugees to pursue sustainable livelihoods. Additional resources for education, including teacher training, structured Latvian language courses, and comprehensive support for refugee children, are vital to ensuring long-term inclusion. Expanding MHPSS services and mitigating labour exploitation risks should also be prioritized to foster a safer and more supportive environment for refugees. These actions will support refugees in Latvia with achieving self-reliance and contributing meaningfully to their host communities.

Between May and July 2024, UNHCR and partners conducted the 2024 Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS), collecting a range of information from 600 refugee households around their situation in Latvia (accommodation, education, access to services) and outstanding needs. Prior to the data collection being carried out, RRP partners had contributed to the content of the survey. Findings from the survey formed the basis of planning and consultation activities with RRP partners in August and September, which in turn informed the development of the 2025-2026 RRP in the second half of 2024.

Partners' response to the Ukraine refugee situation

Addressing Immediate Needs Upon Arrival

Where needed, partners delivered targeted basic needs assistance to refugees from Ukraine either travelling to onward destinations or planning to remain in Latvia. Despite growing needs due to rising prices and housing shortages, the basic needs sector in the 2024 RRP remained severely underfunded. The primary focus was on the most vulnerable refugees, helping them meet basic needs during the gap between their arrival and enrolment in Latvia's social protection system.

By the end of the year, **RRP partners** had reached around 9,450 individuals with basic needs services, including food, temporary accommodation, cash assistance and transportation support. **Caritas** ran its humanitarian aid centre until the summer of 2024 providing basic goods, including food and hygiene items, to 8,365 Ukrainians.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided transportation assistance to Ukrainians crossing into Latvia from Russia who had no means to continue their journey into the EU. IOM also offered temporary accommodation for the most vulnerable refugees transiting near the Russian and Belarusian borders. They covered the costs of WASH services at the border crossing point with Russia. Additionally, IOM provided Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance to vulnerable Ukrainian refugees in Latvia who were not covered by other agencies. By the end of 2024, IOM had reached more than 1,080 Ukrainian refugees with basic needs services.

Tavi Draugi provided humanitarian assistance to Ukrainian refugees in Latvia through its warehouse and logistics centre in Riga. Refugees accessed essential items, including clothing, footwear, bedding, kitchenware, hygiene products and children's items. Targeted support was also provided through food packages and hygiene kits. Assistance extended beyond Riga, reaching refugees in Jēkabpils, Rēzekne, Ludza, Tukums and Kuldīga. In 2024, humanitarian aid reached over 24,600 refugees from Ukraine, including the distribution of 10,159 dairy product sets, 300 food packages and 550 hygiene kits.

Spotlight



World Refugee Day celebration in Riga was held on 18 June, organized by **Shelter Safe House**. The event's theme, "Feel Good in Latvia", created a welcoming and safe environment for refugees, helping them feel comfortable and free in their new home. Participants, both newcomers and residents of Latvia, engaged in a quiz about the stereotypical "average Latvian". The event featured workshops such as wreath weaving, bracelet making, and creating a large communal painting. Attendees enjoyed delicious snacks and collaborated in making a large pot of soup together. The evening concluded with a lively performance by the dance group "Rīgas Danči", allowing everyone to enjoy dances and games in the spirit of the upcoming solstice. © UNHCR

Protection Services

Ensuring the protection and well-being of refugees is critical for addressing their immediate and long-term needs, facilitating integration and promoting self-reliance. By the end of the year, **RRP partners** had reached a total of 6,140 individuals with protection assistance, focusing on providing comprehensive support to address the critical needs of Ukrainian refugees. This included legal counselling, consultations on local procedures and practices, and emotional support services.

IOM played a key role in providing support by offering consultations on safe transport routes, risks and necessary assistance for more than 3,900 Ukrainians and third-country nationals (TCNs) transiting through Latvia who opted not to apply for international or temporary protection. IOM also provided critical information about services in destination countries, rights in Latvia and potential risks, including phone consultations to deliver essential details about services available in border areas and other Latvian cities.

GPB supported Ukrainian refugees in integration and inclusion efforts through counselling, guidance, referrals and information provision on various issues related to residence permits, appeals against decisions by different authorities, social support, access to healthcare, housing and education, reaching a total of 106 individuals. This support aimed to assist refugees in navigating their integration process and accessing necessary resources.

Shelter Safe House delivered individual legal assistance to 489 individuals, including 197 refugees from Ukraine. These consultations addressed a range of topics including migration, employment opportunities and family reunification. Ukrainian refugees displaced by the ongoing war, sought advice on work-related and social issues. Additionally, Shelter Safe House prepared five legal claims on various matters for court

submission.

The Latvian Centre for Human Rights (LCHR), a UNHCR implementing partner, provided legal assistance to 73 asylum-seekers and refugees. The Centre also engaged in capacity-building activities across Latvia for lawyers and advocacy specialists.

UNHCR protection monitoring activities continued throughout 2024, in partnership with its implementing partner **GPB**, to expand knowledge about the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Latvia. GPB carried out 46 protection monitoring visits to border crossing points, registration, reception and accommodation sites, and engaged with refugees to understand their situation, protection needs, and intentions. Of these, 30 visits were specifically to detention centres where activities were carried out with detained individuals. This ongoing monitoring ensured that refugees had access to their rights and services and facilitated their effective inclusion and integration into Latvian society.

In terms of community outreach, **Shelter Safe House** engaged more than 400 individuals from both refugee and host communities through group activities, public event celebrations and awareness-raising sessions, fostering social cohesion. **GPB** also contributed to community outreach efforts, through organizing seminars, community-engagement activities and integration events, reaching 368 individuals. In 2024, **GPB** made some 211 communication interventions on various topics, including language courses for Ukrainian refugees, policy advocacy with authorities and sharing positive stories about refugees on social media, further supporting protection and integration efforts.

Child Protection

Children are among the most vulnerable members of any displaced population, making targeted protection and support crucial to their well-being. By the end of 2024, **the Latvian Scout and Guide Central Organization** had reached 51 children and youth from Ukraine through its “Scout house” initiative. This safe space provided by the organization offered opportunities for children and youth to forge new friendships, develop new skills and build a supportive community. The “Scout house” facilitated a range of educational activities, including language classes in Latvian and English, outdoor activities, mindfulness exercises crafts and other life skills training. These activities were designed to support both refugee and local children and youth.

In addition to directly supporting children, the organization focused on training volunteers, including scout and guide leaders, alumni and scout parents. This training covered essential skills in crisis management, first aid, personal care and communication. Furthermore, the Latvian Scout and Guide Central Organization actively worked to raise awareness about the rights of children and youth in the broader context of refugee issues through various external relations efforts.

Cross-Cutting Priorities

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

Recognizing the critical need for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), several initiatives were undertaken to address the complex needs of refugees from Ukraine in Latvia.

By the end of 2024, **Shelter Safe House** had provided psychosocial support to close to 200 individuals. This included delivering psycho-emotional support for war refugees and training specialists to address re-traumatization and volunteer burnout, as well as the delivery of a psychological e-course for professionals working with refugee children.

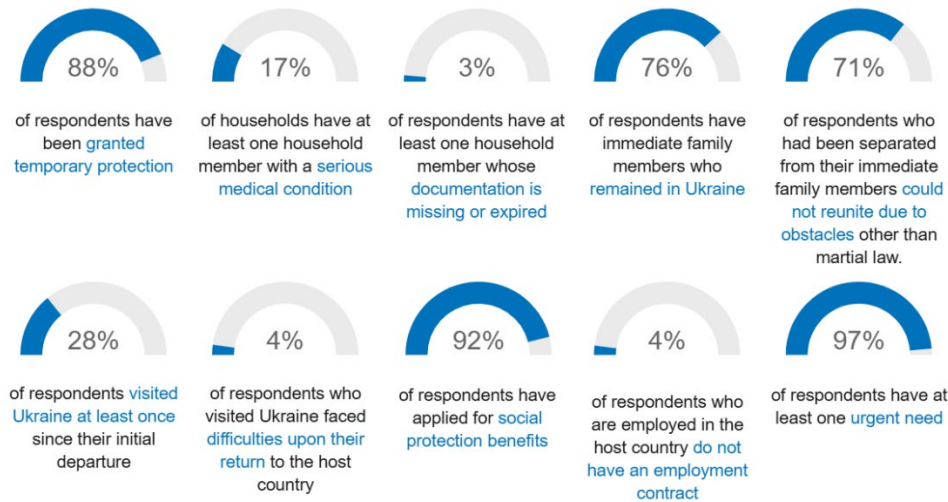
On 3 June 2024, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** held a conference in Riga titled “Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in the Time of Crisis”. The event brought together officials from the Ministry of Health, representatives from relevant ministries and institutions, NGOs, UN agencies, civil society organizations

engaged in MHPSS, as well as refugee community members and representatives from medical institutions and universities. The conference successfully engaged 55 participants.

The association **TEV** also made vital contributions by providing psychological and emotional assistance to Ukrainian civilians and soldiers undergoing rehabilitation in Latvia, including those who had been held captive by Russian forces. Additionally, TEV supported children with disabilities, including those with autism spectrum disorders, funding various treatments and activities such as ABA therapy, speech therapy consultations, massages, sand therapy and other interventions. By the end of the year, TEV had assisted 30 individuals.

Protection Monitoring

To strengthen and promote an evidence-based protection response, **UNHCR** and its partners in Latvia 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 2024, a revised questionnaire was rolled out. Between October 2024 and November 2024 some 324 refugees from Ukraine (representing 740 individuals) 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 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for 2025-2026, the **UNHCR Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS)** was conducted in 11 countries, including Latvia. This exercise covered 8,800 households (19,300 individuals) and involved a harmonized data analysis plan and questionnaire, incorporating the UNHCR and WFP Joint Analysis Framework and the UNHCR Protection Monitoring and Results Monitoring Survey. In 2024, 600 interviews were completed in Latvia with assistance from **GPB**, with a detailed report expected in 2025.

In April 2024, **UNHCR** held consultations with local partners in Latvia - including government representatives, NGOs, INGOs and refugee-led organizations - to localize the survey. This resulted in over 10 additional questions being added to the final version to better address local contexts.

Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion

The livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion sector in the 2024 RRP remained underfunded, with only 26 per cent of the required funding secured by RRP partners. Despite this, efforts were made to support socio-economic inclusion, reaching 2,045 individuals through various activities such as community-engagement activities, language courses and employability programmes. According to SEIS, 56 per cent of working age Ukrainian refugees in Latvia were employed in 2024, while 8 per cent were unemployed. Lack of knowledge

of local language was identified by 38 per cent as a major obstacle to securing employment.

Caritas played a key role in supporting Ukrainian refugees in Latvia by fostering social cohesion and integration through a range of activities. Initiatives such as creative workshops, language clubs, emotional support groups and cultural events introducing refugees to Latvian traditions reached 861 individuals. Caritas organized more than 140 activities at the Caritas Youth Centre, benefiting over 1,000 Ukrainian refugees, including children and youth. Weekly sessions included language clubs, fellowship evenings, sports activities, music lessons, and skill-building in marketing and entrepreneurship. Additionally, 170 individuals participated in cultural integration activities such as museum visits, master classes and field trips, while economic and civic engagement support was provided through courses on starting a business in Latvia and community participation.

Creative Ideas supported more than 400 individuals in their integration journey through cultural and economic integration activities, Latvian and English language courses and psychological support. Their project *"United in Culture - Welcoming Ukrainian Refugees"* garnered recognition, receiving the prestigious European Label of Recognition in Language Learning from the European Commission. This accolade was awarded in recognition of the project's positive impact on Ukrainian refugees, providing essential language training and cultural inclusion activities.

To support refugee integration, **Tavi Draugi** provided information on employment, housing, cultural events and education both on-site at the warehouse's information centre and through a Telegram channel followed by over 3,000 people. At its cultural and educational centre *"Tvorchi Zustrichi"*, the organization held creative workshops, educational lectures on self-employment and labour rights, Latvian language conversation clubs for A1-A2 learners and community activities such as board game nights and improvisation sessions. Weekly creative and developmental activities were organized for children aged six and older. In August 2024, Latvia's only mixed Latvian-Ukrainian choir was established, bringing together volunteers and staff from the organization.

As part of the *"Edge Up"* project, implemented by **Shelter Safe House** in collaboration with Estonian NGO partner **Estonian Refugee Council (ERC)**, 11 Ukrainian women participated in a 40-hour training programme titled *"Integration into the Latvian Labour Market"*. This programme aimed to facilitate the integration of Ukrainian refugees into the Latvian workforce. Participants gained valuable knowledge about labour legislation and improved their skills in preparing CVs and motivation letters, among other topics.

Education

The education sector in the 2024 RRP faced significant challenges due to underfunding, with only 14 per cent of the required funds secured by RRP partners. In the 2023/2024 school year, Latvian authorities reported that 3,327 Ukrainian refugee children were enrolled in the national education system, including preschools and schools.

To support refugee education, **IOM** provided learning process assistants for refugee pupils not covered by state and municipal funding. This assistance helped 464 children understand various school subjects in Latvian and improve their language skills. Additionally, IOM provided financial assistance to refugee pupils and students from Ukraine, covering costs related to schooling and study, such as housing and travel, which were not addressed by other actors. By the end of 2024, IOM's support had reached 854 individuals, alleviating some of the financial burdens associated with education.

Creative Ideas supported 129 adults and children through Latvian and English language courses and conversation clubs. **Shelter Safe House** launched a comprehensive 150-hour Latvian language course for Ukrainian refugees, with 30 participants enrolled in 2024. Additionally, under the *"Women's Power!"* project funded by the Riga City Council, a number of Ukrainian women benefitted from Latvian conversation courses held in spring 2024. To further support language learning, Shelter Safe House also distributed school bags with printed materials to support Ukrainian children in acquiring Latvian language skills.

RRP partners in Latvia



Caritas Latvia. Caritas Latvia's mission is to help marginalized people, by fostering their human dignity through works of mercy and projects that improve their socio-economic, psychological, and spiritual situation.



Common Ground. Common Ground runs a social initiative centre in Riga for persons forced to abandon their homes due to the war in Ukraine and those who want to support them. Common Ground is a space to create all the necessary conditions to communicate, to receive and share human warmth, support and cooperation.



Creative Ideas is an NGO from Latvia specialized in education, society integration, culture and rural development.



Drošā māja (Shelter Safe House). The non-governmental society SSH was established on 6 August 2007 with the aim of developing support services to (1) victims of human trafficking, (2) legal migrants, including asylum-seekers, refugees and persons granted subsidiary protection status.



Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem (I Want to Help Refugees). GPB is a registered association that aims to give practical, immediate, and voluntary help in integrating economically, socially, and culturally, based on the identified needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and individuals with alternative status.



Latvian Centre for Human Rights (LCHR). LCHR is an independent non-governmental organization established in 1993 working with issues concerning integration, discrimination, hate crimes, asylum, migration and fundamental rights issues, as well as human rights in closed institutions.



Marta Centre. MARTA works to support women and children that suffer from violence, or who are victim of trafficking and gender discrimination. MARTA provides rehabilitation, engages in advocacy, educating specialists and developing prevention programmes.



PROVIDUS Centre for Public Policy. PROVIDUS has been Latvia's leading public policy think tank since 2002 with a mission to promote evidence-based policy and open society values.



Skalbes Crisis and Counselling Centre. Skalbes provides professional help, support and information to people in crisis.



Tavi draugi (Your friends). Tavi Draugi has been providing coordinated humanitarian aid to Ukrainian civilians in Latvia and Ukraine by organizing and coordinating the voluntary involvement of Latvian people, organizations and businesses in providing help.



TEV is a charity organization that provides humanitarian support to Ukraine, its civilians, army personnel, medics, as well as refugees from the Ukrainian war in Latvia, including soldiers undergoing rehabilitation in Latvia.



The International Organization for Migration (IOM). *The leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration that benefits migrants and society. In Latvia, activities include assistance with basic needs (transport, cash assistance, shelter, WASH), protection services.*



The Latvian Scout and Guide Central Organization. *LSGCO educates and develops children and young people with the help of various non-formal education methods. The LSGCO has more than 20 units (in Latvia and abroad) and more than 800 members.*



The World Health Organization (WHO) *is a United Nations agency mandated to advance the global health agenda.*



UNESCO *is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. It contributes to peace and security by promoting international cooperation in education, sciences, culture, communication and information. UNESCO promotes knowledge sharing and the free flow of ideas to accelerate mutual understanding and a more perfect knowledge of each other's lives.*



Young Folks LV. *Young Folks LV is a non-profit youth organization that provides a safe and supportive environment in which youths discover and develop the cognitive and creative skills. They promote informal learning and meaningful communication, creating a welcoming, inspiring environment, and a friendly community.*

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LINKS

2024 RRP Baltics Dashboard – Regional Data Portal – Ukraine Situation RRP – Refugee Funding Tracker