



Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

2026 Snapshot of Updated 2025 - 2026 Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan



1.7 million

refugees

41,500

host community members in
Moldova

In January 2025 the UN High Commissioner for Refugees launched a two-year RRP for the Ukraine Situation covering 2025 and 2026. When the planning parameters were developed to inform the 2025-2026 RRP, it was agreed that a validation exercise of budgets and targets would be conducted at the half-way point of the plan, i.e. for the year 2026.

This snapshot document summarizes the main elements of the 2026 part of the two-year plan. The full updated plan for the two years will be available on UNHCR's data portal at the end of 2025.



\$381 million

regional financial
requirements



190 partners*

*Please note that across the two years, a total of 276 partners appealed. The figure of 190 refers to those active in 2026 only.

Countries covered¹



1 Czech Republic's last inclusion in the RRP was as a one-year plan for 2025.

Crisis Overview

Over 5.7 million refugees from Ukraine have sought safety globally since February 2022. Of this number, 5.3 million are in Europe,² where States continue to demonstrate solidarity and support, including by providing protection and legal status, and taking concrete steps to support the inclusion of refugees from Ukraine in national systems and services.

Governments have been in the lead of this response since the beginning, with local actors, communities and civil society, including refugee-led organizations, also playing a critical role as first responders to humanitarian needs. Partners across the region have come together through four consecutive Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRPs) to support and complement the national response, through coordinated and inclusive interventions in 11 countries.

Based on population movement trends since the start of the full-scale war in 2022, it is expected that refugee movements to and from Ukraine will remain largely stable in 2026, barring any unforeseen significant developments inside the country. Indeed, while most refugees continue to express their intention to return to Ukraine when the situation allows, insecurity and concerns around access to housing, employment and services continue to pose significant obstacles to return.

Over the past three years, the regional response to the displacement from Ukraine has evolved from an emergency humanitarian operation into a nationally-led and sustainably managed system of support. Governments across host countries have taken significant strides to include refugees in national systems and services – expanding access to education, extending temporary protection status in EU countries through March 2027, and opening pathways into the labour market.

But some refugees from Ukraine continue to face challenges, particularly households which include a person with a disability or a serious medical condition and households comprised solely of older persons. Data shows that these groups face increased challenges accessing rights and services in host countries and are more likely to take the decision to return to Ukraine, where those who return report serious challenges meeting their basic needs.³

Although temporary protection has been extended across EU countries until March 2027, many refugees from Ukraine are increasingly exploring longer-term legal status options that offer greater stability. Ensuring that refugees have accessible, reliable information and practical support will be critical to enable well-informed decisions about their futures. At the same time, tailored solutions may be required for more vulnerable groups who are unable to meet eligibility requirements for existing forms of alternative forms of status (e.g work, study) in host countries, should they be unable or unwilling to return to Ukraine once temporary protection ends.

Family separation continues to be one of the defining features of the Ukraine refugee crisis, which is one of the most stressful experiences for children, as evidence shows.

In the area of gender-based violence, awareness of relevant services remains critically low, with both women and men demonstrating limited knowledge of access to services, particularly in rural areas. Barriers to reporting and accessing services include stigma, trauma-related considerations, lack of privacy, and limited mobility.

Mental health and psychosocial needs are widespread and a significant concern for refugees from Ukraine. Around one in four individuals report emotional distress or difficulty in daily functioning; yet access to appropriate support remains limited. These needs are closely interlinked with broader stressors such as insecure housing, employment challenges, financial strain and social isolation.

Recent data also show that one in five refugees from Ukraine still live with an income below the poverty line.⁴ When factoring in the disproportionately high accommodation costs refugees face, largely due to the region's high homeownership rates among locals, the poverty rate rises to 40%, more than three times that of host communities. Economic inclusion remains a struggle, with many refugees limited to informal, lower-wage work due to language barriers, skills mismatches, delays in qualifications recognition and limited training opportunities.

² UNHCR Data Portal for the Ukraine Situation.

³ See [UNHCR report](#) on the situation of vulnerable refugees from Ukraine, January 2025.

⁴ Defined as 50% of the median equivalized income in the host country. See [Inter-Agency analysis](#) on the role of Housing Support and Employment Facilitation in Economic Vulnerability of Refugees from Ukraine, April 2024.

Selected achievements in 2025 as of Q3



US\$224 million

Funds received as reported by partners, or 32% of total appeal



317,000

Individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services, or 24% of target



111,000

People who benefited from specialized GBV programmes, or 50% of target



118,000

Individuals who received assistance for basic needs, or 32% of target



136,000

Individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities, or 29% of target

Response priorities in 2026

Coordinated efforts are needed to address these needs and ensure refugees' stability and continued inclusion amid ongoing displacement. Looking towards 2026, the response will therefore continue to focus on effective access to legal status, rights and services as well as address refugees' needs and vulnerabilities in the host countries and communities, with targeted multisectoral support as necessary in the areas of protection, health, mental health, education, socio-economic inclusion, basic needs, and social cohesion. Empowering community-led initiatives (including grassroots, refugee- and women-led organisations serving at-risk groups), and recognizing displaced people as agents of protection will also be essential, as much as the inclusive participation of all age, gender, and diversity groups in protection planning (especially due to the fragmentation of the communities and the risk of exclusion of marginalized groups).

As in 2025, partners participating in the 2026 RRP are guided by the following four strategic objectives:



Support host countries to ensure that refugees have continued access to legal status, protection, and rights, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.



Support host countries in their efforts to include refugees in national systems – decent work, social protection, health, mental health, education, child protection services, protection from gender-based violence – with a particular focus on outreach and inclusion of vulnerable groups and including, age, gender and disability considerations.



Strengthen social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugee communities and their hosts.



Advance localization of the response, by supporting national and local civil society, municipalities and local authorities, as well as coordination structures, sharing and building capacities and supporting sustainable programming.

Mainstreamed across these four strategic objectives are several cross-cutting response priorities, including government ownership, sustainability, one-refugee-approach, accountability to affected people, age, gender and diversity, and the protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.

For 2026, the Ukraine RRP seeks \$381 million to protect and assist more than 1.7 million refugees and an additional 41.5 thousand affected host community members in Moldova. To promote equitable support for all those fleeing other conflicts and situations, the response plan includes refugees from Ukraine and refugees of other nationalities - embracing a one-refugee approach - and people who are stateless or at risk of statelessness.

Transition

In addition, as 2026 is the last year of the Ukraine Situation RRP, the focus will also be on ensuring the sustainability of the response, including consolidating or transitioning coordination mechanisms to the Government and local civil society, where feasible, appropriate and not already done. This sustainable transition of the coordination mechanisms and structures will be context-specific and will be developed at country level, in line with Objective 4 of the Plan focused on supporting localization and governmental ownership.

This shift will be based on sustained capacity-sharing with Government and civil society actors, already underway through the RRP, and reflects a mature, nationally owned system capable of addressing ongoing needs. As we look toward 2026, the focus will shift from direct humanitarian delivery to consolidating this transition – ensuring that the response remains sustainable, accountable, and firmly rooted in national systems.