



UKRAINE SITUATION FLASH UPDATE #6

30 March 2022

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30 March

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29 March

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25 March

[Briefing Note](#): A month since the start of the war, almost a quarter of Ukraine's population are displaced

24 March

[News Comment](#): Without international solidarity, Ukraine's displacement crisis could turn into catastrophe

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REFUGEES FLEEING UKRAINE



4,019,287

Data as of 29 March 2022

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

BACKGROUND

The Russian Federation launched a military offensive against Ukraine on 24 February 2022. **In 5 weeks, a quarter of the population of Ukraine have been forced to flee their homes.** As of today, more than 4 million refugees have fled Ukraine, making this the fastest growing refugee crisis since World War II. A further 6.5 million people have been displaced internally within Ukraine.

Some 13 million people are estimated to be stranded in affected areas or unable to leave due to heightened security risks, destruction of bridges and roads, as well as lack of resources or information on where to find safety and accommodation.

Many people who are trapped are unable to meet their basic needs including food, water and medicines. The delivery of lifesaving aid remains challenging, with a lack of safe humanitarian access. We continue striving to reach hard-hit areas with lifesaving assistance as part of inter-agency humanitarian convoys.

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



Key figures - UKRAINE

- **65,500** people reached with essential food and non-food items
- **22,500** people received protection assistance at border crossing points, transit and reception centres and through hotlines
- **11,862** families with damaged homes received emergency shelter assistance
- **8,913** people enrolled for multipurpose cash assistance and first payments initiated
- **8,100** people received assistance through three convoys to hardest-hit areas
- **73** reception and collective centres equipped with essential items to increase capacity

UKRAINE SITUATION UPDATE

- **As of March 26, the number of civilian casualties recorded by OHCHR had reached 2,909, including 1,119 persons killed and 1,709 injured.** The number of those killed includes at least **99 children**. Hundreds of thousands more people remain trapped in areas which are heavily impacted by fighting and shelling.
- **The situation in both Mariupol and Chernihiv remains dire.** Efforts are ongoing to establish humanitarian access, but these efforts have been unsuccessful to date. **Some 90 per cent of Mariupol's residential buildings have been affected by active fighting**, with some 40 per cent completely destroyed. Authorities in Mariupol estimate that 300 people were killed in the 16 March shelling of a theatre in the city.
- **Chernihiv remains under heavy bombardment and is effectively encircled**, impeding the evacuation of civilians, including those with severe injuries, as well as the delivery of aid. An estimated **130,000 people remain trapped in the city** without access to electricity, heating or water.
- Avdiivka, Marinka, Mariupol, Lysychansk, Popasna, Rubizhne, Sievierodonetsk and Zolote remain among the areas most heavily impacted by shelling, including of civilian infrastructure, in eastern Ukraine. Despite this, some evacuations continue. More than **1,400 people were evacuated from Luhansk Oblast from 24-27 March**. However, more than 100,000 families remain without electricity, with 40,000 families without a gas supply in the region.
- **Indiscriminate airstrikes hitting civilians and civilian infrastructure continue.** As of last week the World Health Organisation reported some 65 attacks on health care facilities resulting in injuries and fatalities. The Ukraine Ministry for Education and Science reported that some 550 education facilities had been damaged or destroyed.
- The latest Global Protection Cluster 'Protection Snapshot' (17 - 26 March) is available [here](#).

TARGETS



1.1 million people will receive protection assistance and information



550,000 NFIs to be delivered



200 reception and collective centres will be equipped with essential items



360,000 people will receive multipurpose cash assistance



Ukraine. UNHCR and partners provide cash assistance for displaced Ukrainians, 25 March 2022. © UNHCR/Oleksandr Radys

UNHCR RESPONSE IN UKRAINE

Multipurpose Cash Assistance

- Since enrolment began in UNHCR's programme for the distribution of multipurpose cash assistance in Lviv on 17 March, **8,913 individuals** have been enrolled and the first payments initiated. The pace of registration is increasing daily with the aim to register 6,000 people per day by the end of the week. UNHCR is preparing for the rollout of the programme in Chernivtsi Oblast in the coming days. **UNHCR aims to reach 360,000 people with multipurpose cash assistance** in the first three months.

Protection

- Access to information and targeted support for vulnerable displaced persons is a key priority. To date, more than **22,500 people have received targeted protection assistance**, including at border points, in transit, at registration and reception centres and in other places such as train stations, while **more than 8,000 people received counselling and information** through hotlines.
- In coordination with the national authorities, UNHCR continues to carry out needs assessments in transit and reception centres to provide targeted support to increase the reception capacity for IDPs. **73 centres have been newly equipped with essential items to enhance capacity.**
- With significant protection risks identified in border areas, **the Protection Cluster is developing a Protection Response Strategy for border areas. UNHCR and local partners have also launched a Border Monitoring Tool in 17 border crossing points with Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia to help identify risks and critical protection information needs, as well as assess the availability and accessibility of services.**

Core Relief Items

- To date, **more than 65,500 people have benefitted from core relief items and food assistance across eastern, central and western Ukraine.** This includes hygiene items, folding beds and mattresses, blankets, bedsheets, and more. Almost 10,000 people have benefitted from lifesaving food assistance.
- **More than 11, 860 more people received emergency shelter assistance** including emergency shelter kits and repairs. This is particularly vital in the areas hardest hit by shelling, where people remain living in precarious conditions, without access to basic needs.
- While security challenges persist and **humanitarian access** to the hardest hit areas remains extremely challenging, UNHCR delivered a humanitarian convoy to Kharkiv on 26 March delivering some **core relief items and food to support some 3,000 people.** Access to the city was facilitated by the Oblast Administration.

Protection

- **Provision of information remains key to ensuring refugees are able to access services**, make informed decisions, and actively participate in the response. UNHCR and partners are working to ensure those arriving from Ukraine have access to information through preferred channels, feedback response mechanisms, decision-making forums, and are able to participate in all stages of the response.
- **UNHCR, UNICEF and partners are preparing to launch Blue Dots hubs in Hungary.** Eight locations have currently been identified at information points and at train stations. The hubs will include child-friendly spaces, with services including information provision. The hubs will also allow refugees to provide feedback and seek clarification on temporary protection.
- UNHCR is identifying people with vulnerabilities—including those with specific needs, with disabilities, and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) for referral to specialized services. In coordination with local authorities, referral pathways are being developed to ensure that refugees can access necessary services. **UNHCR advocated for inclusion in the identification procedure for UASC and is following up with relevant government actors.**
- **Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and prevention of gender-based violence are being strengthened.** In this regard, on 25 March, UNHCR led the first meeting of the PSEA Task Force with partners to discuss overall objectives and key priorities of the task force, including accountability to affected populations.
- **UNHCR is coordinating with local authorities to reinforce reception conditions and identify additional reception facilities** to accommodate those with immediate and longer-term needs, while working to improve access to services including psychosocial support, legal counselling and interpreter services. UNHCR continues to monitor arrivals to ensure access to rights and services, including for third-country nationals, as well as those with specific protection needs including UASC, older people, and those with disabilities
- **On 27 March, UNHCR visited and provided counselling at the National Directorate-General for Aliens Policing (NDGAP) client service centre** in Budapest, where arrivals from Ukraine can apply for temporary protection status, humanitarian residence permits, or temporary residence certificates. UNHCR counselled refugees on-site, including students seeking to continue their studies in Hungary but who have received little information in this regard.



Key figures - REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

- **1,359** people have received multipurpose cash assistance so far
- **519** refugees departed to Austria, Germany and Lithuania as part of the EU Solidarity Platform
- **105** Government run refugee accommodation centres supported or refurbished

Core relief items delivered to support over 40,000 people, including:

- **15,000** people received sanitary items;
- **10,000** people received hygiene kits (soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo);
- **7,700** people received high thermal blankets;
- **5,000** people received solar lamps;
- **3,000** people received baby kits;
- **2,500** people received sleeping mats;
- **2,500** people received winterization kits;
- **2,000** people received emergency tents;
- **1,000** people received sheets of plastic tarpaulin to reinforce shelters;
- **1,000** people received respiratory masks

Protection

- In the context of the **European Union (EU) Solidarity Platform**, seven EU Member States including Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, Lithuania, Netherlands and Spain, as well as Norway have pledged to welcome 14,500 people transiting Moldova so far.
- **Out of the pledges made so far, 519 people have been transferred to Austria, Germany and Lithuania from Moldova. UNHCR assisted some 450 of these people to depart to Austria and Germany through vulnerability screenings. UNHCR is also training partners in conducting vulnerability screenings.**
- Through social media and outreach activities, **UNHCR continues to raise awareness about the EU air transfer programme** at border crossing points, refugee accommodation centers and reception facilities, and with refugees staying with host communities. UNHCR is working to ensure eligible candidates have access to accurate information to make an informed choice.



Poland. Refugees from Ukraine at Medyka border crossing, 23 March 2022.
© UNHCR/Maciej Moskwa

- The UNHCR-led Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Service (RETS) with UNHCR's Innovation Service **set up internet connectivity at Causeni railway station to facilitate humanitarian operational delivery and enable refugees to stay connected** with their families and access information and services online. Refugees connecting to the network are automatically redirected to the UNHCR Moldova Help Page.
- **UNHCR continues to support bus transfers from Palanca border to Romania** in support to the Moldovan and Romanian authorities as well as through partner ACTED, in order to reduce the pressure in border areas in Moldova.
- **UNICEF and UNHCR are operating three Blue Dots at the Otaci and Palanca border crossing points, as well as at the Moldexpo reception centre in Chisinau.** Additional Blue Dot locations are being discussed and decided upon by the national Blue Dot Task Force.
- **UNHCR maintains regular presence at border crossing points, accommodation centres and transportation hubs around the country.** UNHCR and partners have overseen the installation of heaters, WASH facilities, Wi-Fi, storage units, and containers for counselling and child-friendly spaces at the Palanca bus station and the Causeni rail station.
- **UNHCR and partner ACTED are conducting daily visits to reception facilities throughout Moldova to assess reception needs. 105 centres have already received support.** UNHCR and ACTED are providing on-site support at the Moldexpo reception site in Chisinau and have refurbished existing WASH facilities and installed washing machines and dryers and is also providing food, water, and hygiene products. UNHCR partner LCA provides a legal assistance helpdesk on site.
- UNHCR is leading an inter-agency effort to **coordinate the identification and referral of persons with specific needs.** Vulnerable persons are identified at key service points, including Blue Dots, transportation hubs, and reception centres. **UNHCR has trained more than 70 local NGO staff on the identification of vulnerable persons and will train at least 200 more in the next ten days.** Once identified, persons are referred to relevant available services.
- **UNHCR also launched a Referral Pathways Task Force under the Protection Working Group.** The Task Force is undertaking a service mapping exercise expected to be finalized by 31 March.

Multipurpose Cash Assistance

- **So far, 1,359 refugees have received multipurpose cash assistance in Moldova.** This number continues to increase while the programme will be **scaled up to reach some 150,000 people**, in collaboration with the Government of Moldova and WFP.

POLAND

Key figures - POLAND

4,367 refugees enrolled for multipurpose cash assistance from 21 to 29 March

Core relief items dispatched to warehouses in Ukraine to benefit more than 110,000 people including:

- **62,800** high thermal blankets
- **12,500** sheets of tarpaulin to repair shelters
- **10,000** solar lamps
- **8,400** sleeping bags
- **4,511** winter jackets
- **4,000** jerry cans
- **3,137** mattresses
- **2,300** kitchen sets
- **1,134** boxes of winter clothes

Protection

- Following the establishment with UNICEF of the first **Blue Dot hub in Warsaw** last week, UNHCR has been tracking the main priorities areas for refugees receiving counselling, including medical services, mental health and psychosocial support, financial support, social service and education. UNHCR will complete a mapping of all available services in order to better counsel refugees about self-referral opportunities.
- **UNHCR is enhancing its overall prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) support. UNHCR is leading the coordination of the national PSEA network** which was established last week. UNHCR is also ensuring staff presence at border and reception areas in Rzeszow, Krakow and Lublin to coordinate PSEA efforts and train staff and volunteers.
- **UNHCR has produced and disseminated PSEA and anti-trafficking information materials** on both sides of the border and at reception and transit centres. **UNHCR has also delivered trainings at the border with IOM** and will continue to work with IOM and the authorities to design PSEA training which would be used in their induction of volunteers.

- UNHCR visited the Katowice Reception Point, and various reception points in Krakow. UNHCR noted the need for paediatric care and specific arrangements for UASC as well as strengthened PSEA measures. **An increasing number of persons with specific needs was observed. This is being addressed with partners.**
- The **UNHCR Help Poland** page, a centralized source of key information and resources for refugees fleeing to Poland, has exceeded 118,000 visits and almost 223,000 page views, with 30 per cent of people accessing the page from inside Ukraine

Multipurpose Cash Assistance

- On 21 March, UNHCR and partners began the roll-out of the multipurpose cash assistance programme in Warsaw. **From 21-27 March, 3,372 people (1,440 families) were enrolled.** This programme is currently planned to reach some 450,000 people.
- **UNHCR has updated information materials on multipurpose cash assistance, including a programme overview, an explanation of the biometrics procedure as part of enrollment, and how to access the cash provided.** The materials are available in Ukrainian and English and will shortly be available in Polish.

Core Relief Items

- **Forty-two trucks have travelled from Poland to Ukraine to dispatch** tens of thousands of core relief items, including high thermal blankets, kitchen sets, solar lamps, winter jackets, sleeping bags, mattresses and other items to warehouses in Lviv and Uzhhorod for distribution to the increasing numbers of IDPs in need within Ukraine.

ROMANIA



Key figures - ROMANIA

- Over **5,000** refugees received in-person counselling and assistance
- Some **5,700** refugees provided with information and counselling over the phone
- **2 Blue Dot hubs** established, third being set up
- **3 permanent UNHCR Field Offices** established

Protection

- **UNHCR and UNICEF are developing of a strategy to guide establishment of additional Blue Dots in Romania.** The three-pronged approach entails: (a) Blue Dots located at border areas focused on provision of information, counselling and advice, as well as identification and referral of urgent cases with specific needs, (b) development of Blue Dots “on the move” to provide information when refugees are travelling within Romania, and (c) Blue Dots in areas of high concentration of refugees, where UNHCR, UNICEF and partners can deliver the full range of protection services.
- In addition to the first two Blue Dots already operational, Iasi has been identified as a potential location for the establishment of the third Blue Dot following an assessment mission to the area.
- **UNHCR has scaled up its presence in Romania with the consolidation of three permanent field presences in Suceava/Siret, Iasi/Husi and Galati/Isaccea.**
- UNHCR attended the first joint meeting with UNICEF and the National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption (ANPDCA). **ANPDCA welcomes UNHCR's support and collaboration and agreed to co-lead the Child Protection Sub Working Group with UNHCR and UNICEF.** The first meeting will be held this week. This follows the first Protection Working Group meeting led by UNHCR which was held on 28 March.
- To date, **more than 5,500 refugees received in-person counselling** and assistance related to accommodation, transport, rights and obligations, and special support services. **Almost 5,700 more refugees were provided with information and counselling over the phone,** related to medical services, school enrolment, accommodation, transportation, the asylum procedure, temporary protection and job opportunities.

SLOVAKIA

Protection

- In the past week, **UNHCR visited the Crisis Management Board in Sobrance, registration and accommodation centers as well as border crossing points to assess reception procedures and monitor protection needs** to provide further targeted support to refugees arriving from Ukraine.
- **New communication-with-communities (CwC) information materials are being developed** by UNHCR to provide information to refugees arriving to Slovakia on temporary protection procedures and referral to local services. Data is also being gathered on information and communication needs and preferences in order to provide information through trusted channels.

- **An Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Coordination Group has been set up** that will meet as part of the UNHCR-led Protection Working Group to collaborate on communication, feedback response and community engagement.
- The lack of comprehensive procedures for identifying persons with specific needs is resulting in significant protection risks, particularly UASC. **UNHCR is following up on this and other matters related to UASC with local authorities to ensure closer screening and monitoring of children arriving from Ukraine.**
- UNHCR organized the first protection against sexual exploitation and abuses (PSEA) Task Force meeting with partners on 25 March to discuss the task force's overall objectives and priority activities.

Multipurpose Cash Assistance

- **On 28 March, UNHCR met with the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Welfare to discuss the partnership for providing cash assistance to people fleeing Ukraine.** The Ministry of Labour will co-chair the Cash Working Group, to begin meeting on 1 April.

COORDINATION

Ukraine

UNHCR leads the Protection and Shelter Clusters. As of 1 March, 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, in order to support the overall coordination of the relevant governments. A Regional Refugee Response Plan has been developed and is currently under adjustment; some 100 organizations will contribute for a ten-month period through the end of the year.

Inter-agency Refugee Coordination Forums (RCF), led by UNHCR, and specific sectoral groups, have been established at country level in **Belarus, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia**, to support the efforts of the concerned governments. The structures are meant to be agile and shall be adjusted as the situation evolves.

In **Hungary**, on 24 March, UNHCR organized the first Protection Working Group meeting, led by UNHCR. This was followed on 25 March by the first PSEA Task Force meeting with partners.

UNHCR organized the third inter-agency coordination meeting of RRP partners in **Slovakia** on 21 March, co-chaired by the Ministry of Interior's Migration Office. Sub-working groups, including the PSEA Task Force were launched this week.

In **Romania**, UNHCR has set up the Refugee Coordination Model structure with several sector Working Groups co-led by UNHCR and other UN agencies, government counterparts and NGOs. The leads will report to the Inter-Sector Coordination group led by UNHCR and the Government. At the same time, working group co-leads, together with a National NGOs will participate in the Government-led working groups on Health, Education, Labour, Housing, the Vulnerable and Children to ensure coordination and harmonisation with the assistance of humanitarian and Government actors. The first Protection Working Group meeting was held on 28 March.

In **Moldova**, an Inter-Agency Coordination Group has been established with more than 100 participating members. Separate Sectoral Working Group meetings have also

begun, including Protection, Child Protection and Gender-based Violence (GBV), Education, PSEA, Gender Task Force, Accommodation, Health and Nutrition, Logistics and Supply, Durable Solutions and Resilience, and Information Management. The Government of Moldova has established a Single Emergency Management Centre under the Prime Minister's Officer, where UNHCR represents the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, ensuring coordination between the two.

In **Poland**, UNHCR has established an RCF that includes local and international actors across eight sectors and working groups. Specifically, UNHCR is currently leading the Protection Sector, GBV Sub-Sector, Technical Cash Working Group, Basic Needs Sector and the Logistics Sector. The Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Working Group, chaired by UNHCR, held its first meeting on 18 March.

FINANCIAL NEEDS

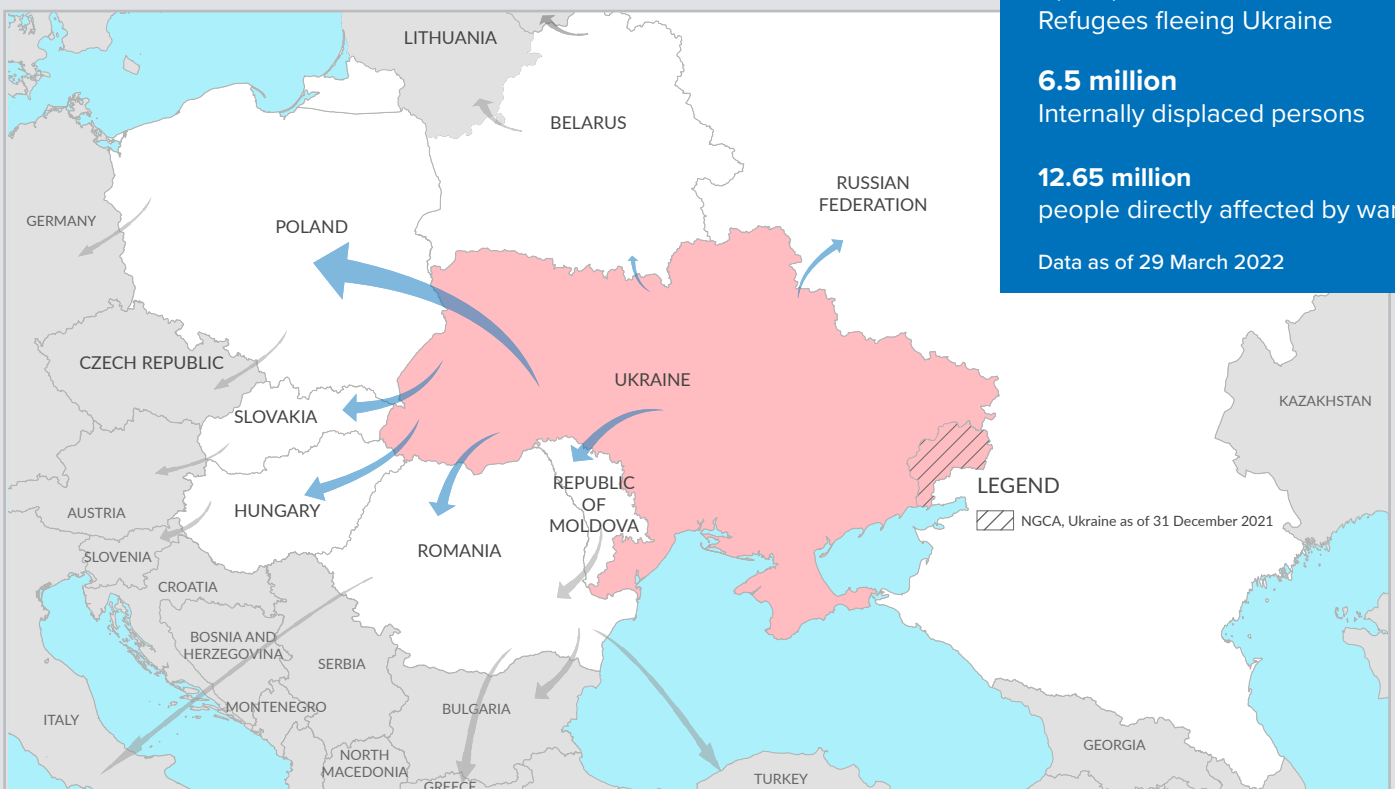
Links

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

UN: [Ukraine Flash Appeal](#)

UNCHR: [Supplementary Appeal](#)

► UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION



4,019,287

Refugees fleeing Ukraine

6.5 million

Internally displaced persons

12.65 million

people directly affected by war

Data as of 29 March 2022

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