

UKRAINE SITUATION FLASH UPDATE #39

27 January 2023

Ukraine. High Commissioner visits the war-affected oblast of Mykolaiv, January 2023
© UNHCR/Colin Delfosse

PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

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

7,968,510

Individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe (24 Jan)

4,952,938

Refugees from Ukraine registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes in Europe (24 Jan)

5,914,000

Estimated number of IDPs in Ukraine (as of 5 December)
Link : [Internal Displacement Report](#)

UNHCR RESPONSE FROM 24 FEBRUARY 2022 TO DATE*

476,180

People have received cash assistance in Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia

204,000

Refugees were supported through Blue Dot Hubs in Bulgaria, Hungary, Moldova, Poland and Slovakia

325,000

Refugees from Ukraine received protection support (integration, legal support, social protection, accommodation, awareness raising sessions)

*All figures are indicative pending end-year reconciliations.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

On his visit to the Republic of Moldova from 19 to 21 January, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees thanked the Moldovan people and government for their solidarity with refugees, praising in particular the decision to [activate a temporary protection scheme](#).

The High Commissioner also visited Ukraine from 21 to 27 January, where he [met with President Zelensky](#), the [Minister of Foreign Affairs](#) Kuleba, and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development Kubrakov. During his visits to Odesa, Mykolaiv, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Poltava, and Kyiv, the High Commissioner applauded the work of [civil society organizations](#), recognized the [resilience of the people of Ukraine](#), and appreciated the strong leadership of authorities at central and regional levels, vowing that UNHCR will continue [supporting displaced communities](#).

The 2023 OCHA Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the 2023 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for neighbouring countries will be jointly launched in Geneva on 15 February.

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UKRAINE SITUATION UPDATE

- The [OCHA Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023](#) was published on 23 January. Out of 35.6 million people living in Ukraine, 17.6 million people are estimated to be in need of multisectoral humanitarian assistance in 2023 (45% women, 23% children, 15% with disability). This includes 6.3 million internally displaced, 4.4 million returnees and 6.9 million who have remained at their homes throughout the war.
- In the reporting period, shelling continued in residential areas in Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Kherson, Sumy oblasts, killing and injuring civilians. Due to the damage to the energy infrastructure, emergency blackouts continue in five regions.
- Scheduled power outages continued, affecting heating at collective sites. Blackouts have in some cases lasted longer than expected, aggravating the situation of affected populations during the cold weather period.

UNHCR RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS - UKRAINE

- On 22 January, a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed by UNHCR and the Governor of Mykolaivska Oblast on cooperation related to humanitarian assistance and activities. This is UNHCR's seventh MoU with oblast authorities.
- During the High Commissioner's visit, the Ministry Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development and UNHCR launched a new collaborative platform called 'Ukraine is Home' that will help link humanitarian emergency shelter and housing programs with ongoing government recovery plans and programs, implemented with the support of international financial institutions, private sector and other actors. The UNHCR Representative in Ukraine signed an MoU with the Ministry formalizing the partnership, which aims to facilitate access to housing solutions for people whose homes have been damaged during the war.
- On 17 January, UNHCR contributed to the inter-agency convoy to the regained town of Vovchansk, in Kharkivska oblast, with tarpaulin sheets, blankets, sleeping bags, solar lamps, bed linen and jerrycans for 1,000 war-affected people. On 24 January, UNHCR joined the inter-agency convoy to the town of Siversk, in close proximity to the frontline in Donetsk oblast, and contributed 830 solar lamps and 100 mattresses.
- Almost 3,000 people in Mykolaivska, Odeska, Ivano-Frankivska, Khmelnytska, Kirovohradska and Zakarpatska oblasts received winter clothes and winter items. Meanwhile, 535 families in Kyrovohradska, Mykolaivska and Odeska oblasts were supported with heaters.
- Find more information in the [regular Ukraine country operational updates](#) and on the UNHCR [Ukraine portal](#) page.

KEY RESPONSE AND TARGET FIGURES (as of end 2022)*



*All figures are indicative pending the end-year reconciliations and therefore subject to change.

REGIONAL UNHCR KEY FIGURES* AND UPDATES

- The number of border crossings to neighbouring countries consistently exceed departures to Ukraine in the reporting period. UNHCR and partners remain present at border areas and provide information on transportation, accommodation, border crossing procedures, but also on psychological first aid, assistance to address specific needs and documentation.
- To continue helping to protect refugees in the region in 2023, UNHCR’s primary focus will be to advocate for their inclusion in national systems and to support govern-

ments in these efforts. Working hand in hand with national and local actors, UNHCR will aim to ensure that refugees have access to education, employment, housing, social welfare and medical or other assistance, which will also strengthen social cohesion. UNHCR will continue coordinating the inter-agency response in line with the 2023 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

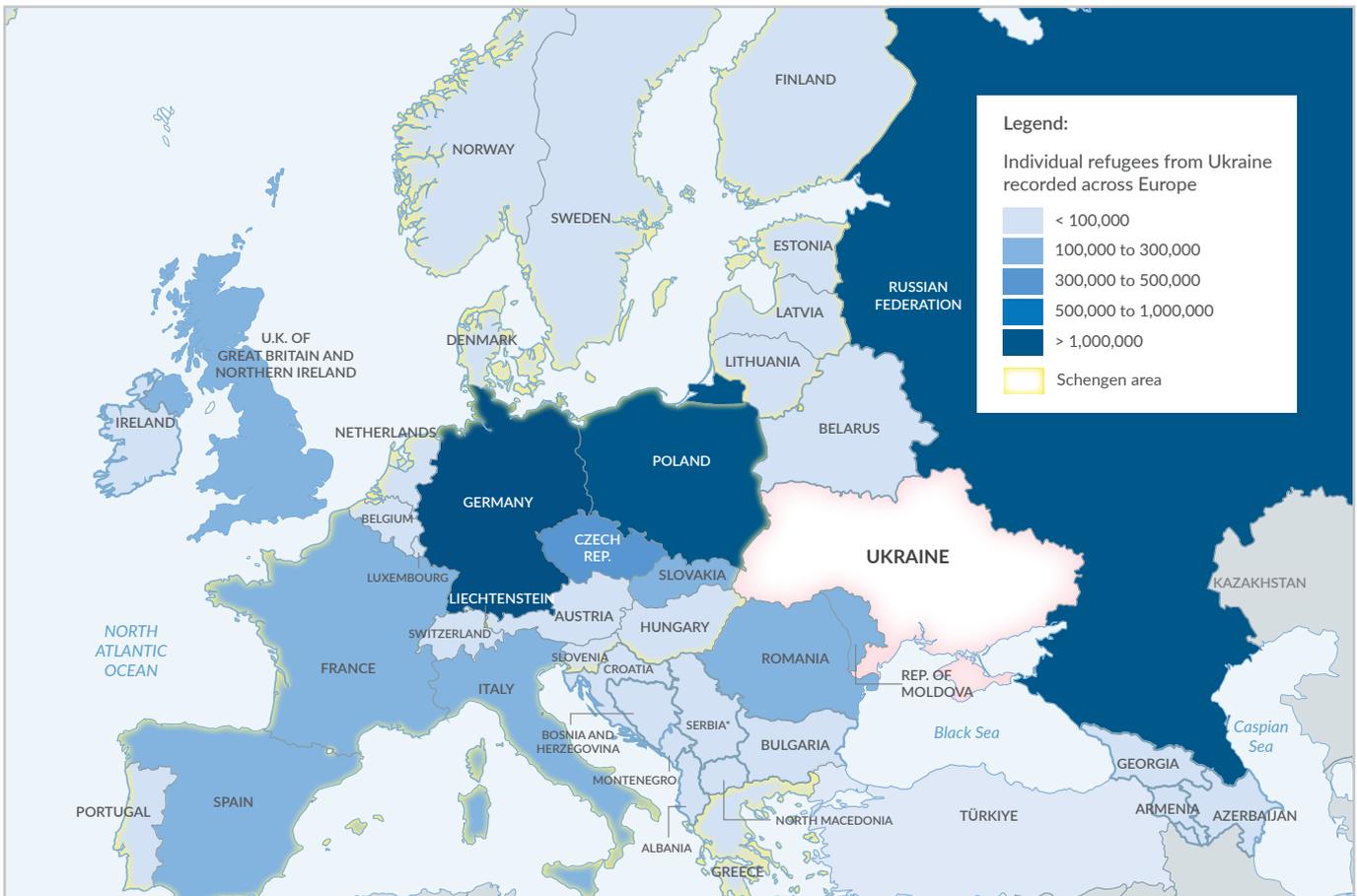
Blue Dots

39 Blue Dots have been established by UNHCR and UNICEF in :

Bulgaria	6	Moldova	10	Slovakia	3
Hungary	4	Poland	6	Slovenia	1
Italy	2	Romania	7		

The [Digital Blue Dot Hub](#) is a regional website that provides localised and up-to-date information about services available in Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Poland and Romania, a map of existing Blue Dot Hubs, information on accommodation, childcare, disability support, education, legal stay, livelihood, medical care, protection services, social assistance, work and other services.

Refugees from Ukraine across Europe (as of 24 January 2023)



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. *Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 [1999]) Source: UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe

COUNTRY UPDATES*

BULGARIA

151,332

refugees have registered for temporary protection

51,854

refugees were provided with protection support by UNHCR and partners to date

54,400

refugees have been reached through **6** Blue Dot Hubs to date

5,060

people have received cash assistance to date

- UNHCR and partners have completed the data collection for the multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA) that started in mid-December, with 1,311 submissions by refugees in different accommodations, refugees with children enrolled in Bulgarian schools, and refugees benefiting from the Blue Dot Hubs' services. Over 80% of respondents indicated having fled from Ukraine's south and eastern regions. Most of the interviewees were living in State-provided facilities and planned to remain in their current accommodation in the next three months. The majority raised having financial difficulties to meet basic needs within the 30 days prior to the survey. Final results of the assessments will be published in February.

CZECH REPUBLIC

482,618

refugees have registered for temporary protection

1,400

refugees from Ukraine who received protection services to date

34,758

visits to the UNHCR Czech Republic Help Page to date

- To date, UNHCR partners Romodrom, La Strada, Amiga, OPU and Slovo 21 has provided nearly **3,000 people** with psycho-social support and psychological first aid. Some 100 people were supported in January 2023.
- UNHCR partner "Organization for Aid to Refugees" has provided nearly **100 people** so far in 2023 with psychological assistance, legal counselling and services to foster access to services and inclusion. Services are provided in offices, accommodations, reception centres, and in community centres.

HUNGARY

33,603

refugees have registered for temporary protection

52,300

people received protection and legal support by UNHCR and partners to date

14,000

people had been reached through **4** Blue Dot Hubs to date

111,976

visits to the UNHCR Hungary Help Page

- So far in 2023, nearly 1,500 persons have received information, legal counselling and assistance, including through the dedicated hotline, four Blue Dot Hubs and the "Budapest Helps! Community Center", jointly run with IOM.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Hungary data portal](#)

*figures in boxes refer to cumulative figures from 24 February 2022 to date.

POLAND

1,563,386

refugees have registered for temporary protection

33,000

people were provided with protection support over the phone to date

51,236

people were counselled at the 6 Blue Dot Hubs and 5 Community Centres to date

5.8 million

views to the UNHCR Poland Help Page to date

293,073

people received cash assistance to date

- UNHCR has finalized thermal upgrading works in two out of four [accommodation centres](#) in the Podkarpackie region and handed them over to the authorities, along with a fully refurbished [sports hall](#). The four accommodation centres have the capacity to host 1,384 refugees.
- So far in 2023, **778** people were counselled at 6 Blue Dots and 6 community centres, and nearly 1,000 refugees received legal counselling by UNHCR's partners ELIL, Safe Passage and Halina Nieć Legal assistance (HNLAC). The main queries related to residency and documentation, social and financial benefits, travel to other EU countries and children's rights.
- To enhance communication with communities, the UNHCR community centre in Krakow launched a [Facebook page](#) with information about weekly activities in three languages, Ukrainian, Polish and English.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Poland data portal](#)

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

102,160

refugees from Ukraine estimated to have remained in the country

85,477

refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners to date

48,300

people had been reached through **10** Blue Dot Hubs, including nearly 25,000 children to date

491,949

visits to the UNHCR Moldova Help Page to date

107,705

people have received cash assistance to date

- In a welcome step, the government announced that its temporary protection scheme for refugees fleeing Ukraine will become effective on 1 March. It will provide a more secure legal status for refugees and facilitate avenues to socio-economic inclusion through access to employment, accommodation, basic medical assistance, education, as well as certain forms of social assistance.
- The High Commissioner, the Moldovan Prime Minister and the Minister of Internal Affairs [inaugurated](#) on 20 January the renovated and newly equipped building of migration and asylum authorities, including the registration office for beneficiaries of temporary protection. UNHCR provided over USD 1,5 million towards the renovation and registration equipment, to help modernize the provision of services.
- On 12 January, UNHCR trained government registration staff on core concepts related to gender-based violence (GBV), survivor-centered approaches, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), child protection, GBV disclosures and referrals to relevant services.
- As part of a pilot, UNHCR mainstreamed GBV and PSEA aspects in a post-distribution monitoring in the Comrat Community Center and two refugee accommodation centres on 17 January, following the NFI distribution by the International Blue Crescent and Development Foundation (IBC).
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Moldova portal page](#)

ROMANIA

109,413

refugees registered for temporary protection

68,620

refugees received protection information or counselling through UNHCR and partners to date

103,239

visits to the UNHCR Romania Help Page to date

43,129

refugees have received cash assistance to date

- To help refugees cope with winter conditions, UNHCR is enrolling vulnerable refugee families in the winter cash assistance programme and distributing NFIs. So far in 2023, 3,203 refugees have been enrolled for the winter assistance in Romania and over 23,000 people received clothing, cooking sets, bedding and hygiene materials in Bucharest and Brasov.
- Last week, UNHCR has initiated a mapping of protection and assistance services in Constanța to help identify gaps and needs in the delivery of assistance. Indicative results will be available in February. Meanwhile, UNHCR will also support setting up an online tool “Services Advisor”, with a mapping of all services provided by RRP partners and others.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Romania data portal](#)

SLOVAKIA

107,004

refugees registered for temporary protection

36,000

people been assisted with legal counselling at 3 Blue Dots to date

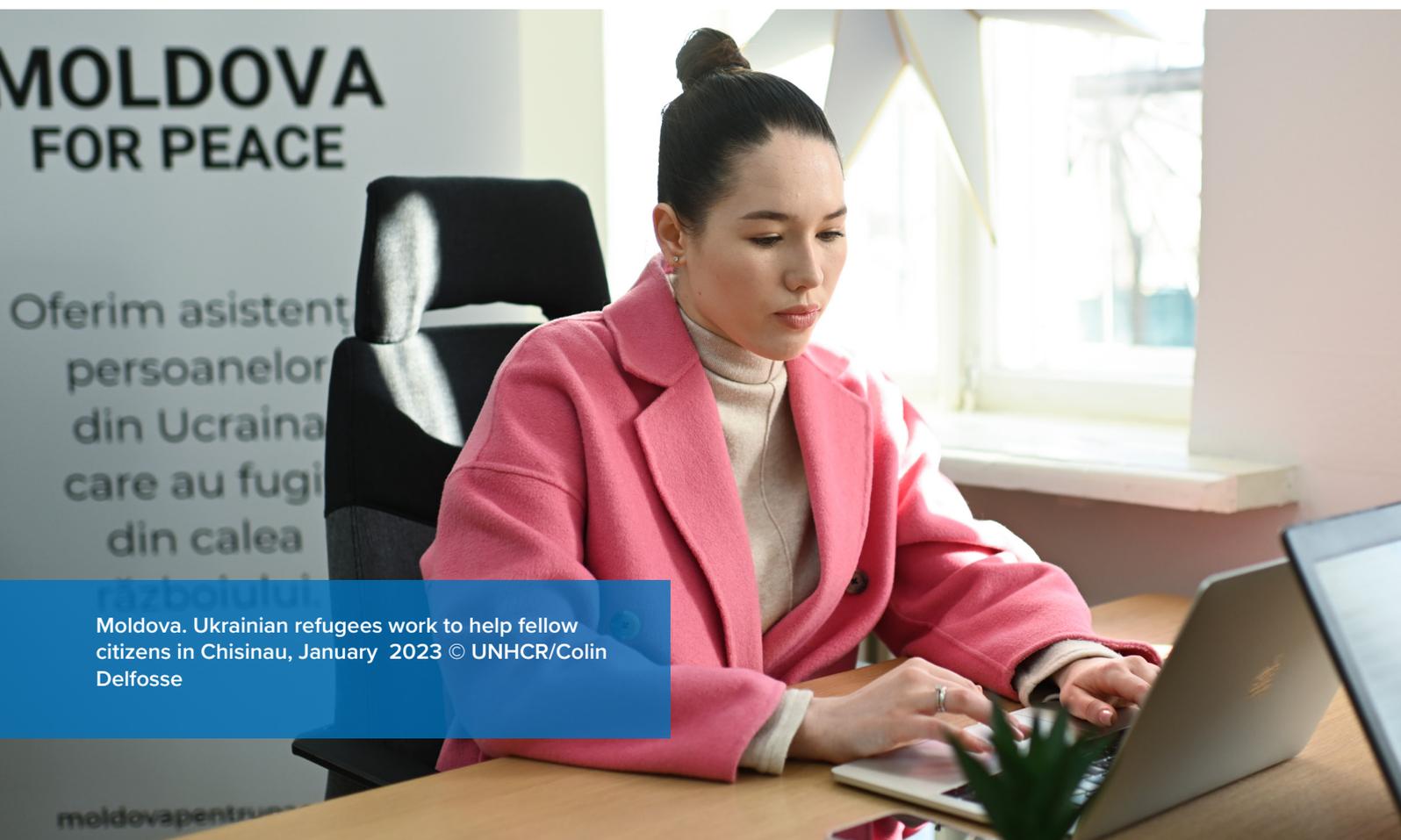
307,340

visits to the UNHCR HELP website to date

29,458

refugees have received cash assistance to date

- According to the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Task Force, in 2022, 69% of UNHCR and partner staff were PSEA-trained. UNHCR partner Sme Spolu reached 11,900 people with PSEA awareness-raising activities and community mobilization in 2022.
- Find out more on the [UNHCR Slovakia data portal](#).



Moldova. Ukrainian refugees work to help fellow citizens in Chisinau, January 2023 © UNHCR/Colin Delfosse

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELARUS

- As of 17 January, **19,415 refugees** from Ukraine had been recorded in Belarus.
- In 2022, 2,233 refugees were counselled in person, and 1,863 over the hotline. Moreover, 4,191 refugees were supported to get vulnerability assessments for assistance and referrals.
- In 2022, some 1,200 people received UNHCR cash assistance, of which 500 received cash for winter-related needs. Partners the Refugee Counselling Service and the Belarus Red Cross handed out NFIs to 3,179 refugees and food to 1,235 refugees in 2022.

ESTONIA

- As of 23 January, **42,342 refugees** from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection.
- TP holders can renew residence permits online, and can be invited for in-person interviews with the Police and Border Guard Board when information is missing on accommodation addresses, attendance of integration and language programs, or school enrolment. A collaboration with the Social Insurance Board allows for referrals to social caseworkers who can assist refugees in the above-mentioned procedures.

LATVIA

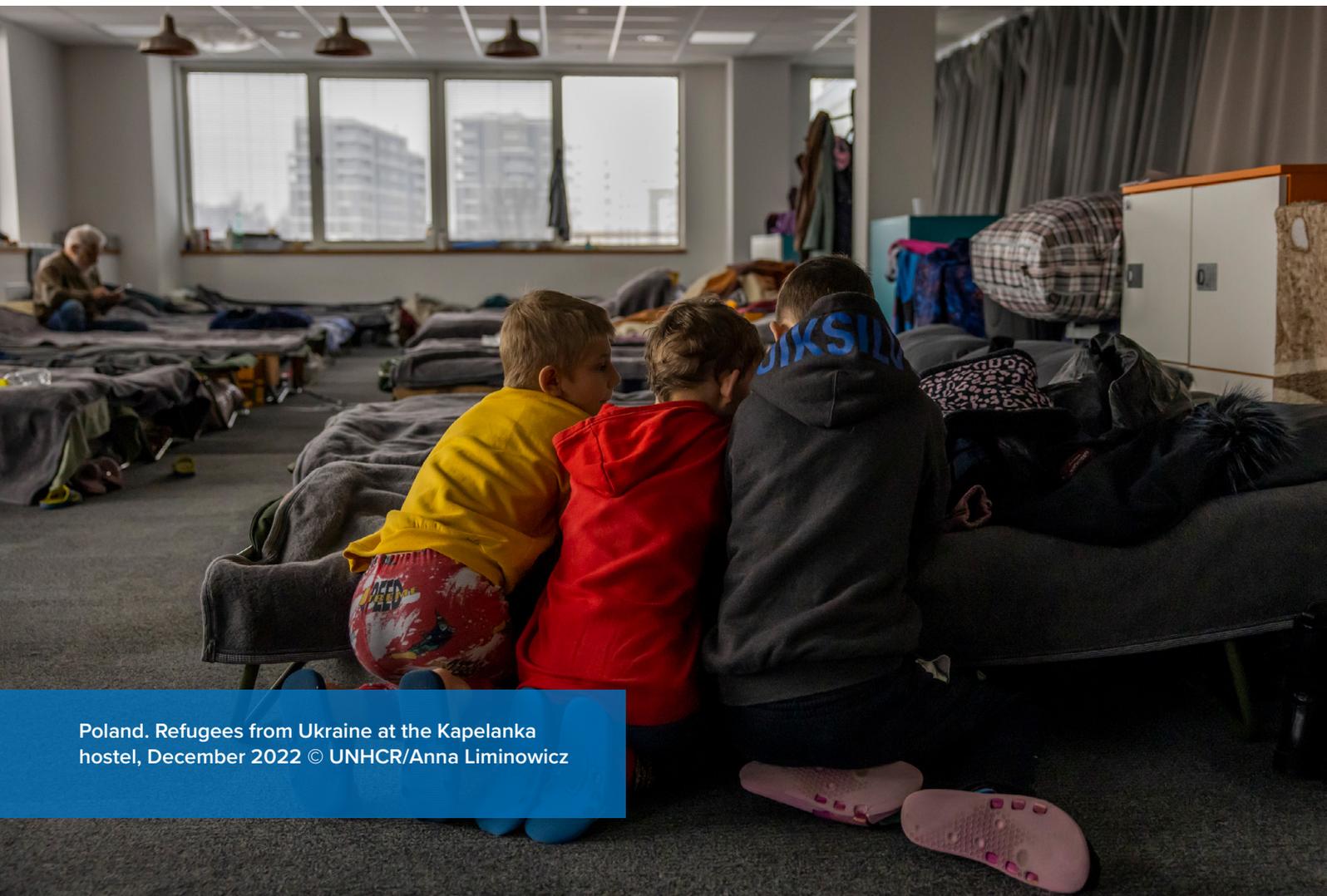
- As of 23 January, **45,085 refugees** from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection.
- Last week, UNHCR partner “I want to help refugees” assisted 49 people who approached the Information Centre in Riga to seek information on covering basic needs, employment opportunities, housing support, opening bank accounts, and visa extensions.

LITHUANIA

- As of 24 January, **73,292 refugees** from Ukraine had registered for temporary protection.
- Lithuanian authorities have started issuing new digital temporary residence permits to temporary protection holders. Requests for the extension of these permits are submitted online.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

- UNHCR legal partners continue advocating and intervening with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection on extending the State social support measures for vulnerable Ukrainian refugees, which ended on 31 December 2022.



Poland. Refugees from Ukraine at the Kapelanka hostel, December 2022 © UNHCR/Anna Liminowicz

COORDINATION

UKRAINE

In Ukraine, UNHCR leads the Protection, Shelter and Non-Food Item (NFI), and Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters. The CCCM Cluster was activated in March 2022 and coordinates nine UN and NGO partners who supported 245,000 people in collective sites by the end of 2022. The Protection Cluster consists of 126 partners, including sub-clusters (55 partners under General Protection) and operates through six coordination hubs, reaching 7 million people in 2022. The Shelter and NFI Cluster has 71 active partners across five coordination hubs, reaching more than 2.7 million people in 2022 with NFI kits, emergency shelter and housing repairs. UNHCR also co-chairs the Humanitarian Country Team Protection Strategy Working Group and the Accountability to Affected Populations Working Group. Through its leadership in these areas, UNHCR promotes the centrality of protection, as well as meaningful engagement and participation across the response.

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE

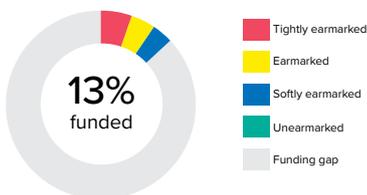
UNHCR has facilitated the establishment of coordination structures in the region, in line with the Refugee Coordination Model, in support of the Government-led response. An initial Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) was developed in early March, and then revised in April bringing together the joint efforts of 142 partners. The recalibrated RRP was published in October 2022, to adjust for winter-related needs and other emerging priorities. Inter-agency Refugee Coordination Forums (RCFs), led by UNHCR, and specific sectoral groups, have been established at country level in Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia to support the efforts of the concerned governments. The structures are intended to be agile and will be adjusted as the situation evolves.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

UNHCR Financial Update

(as of 23 January 2023)

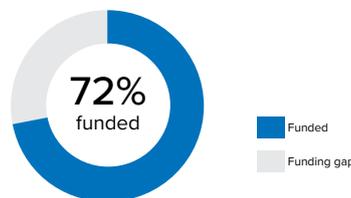
\$ 1.1 billion
required (USD)



Inter-Agency Financial Updates

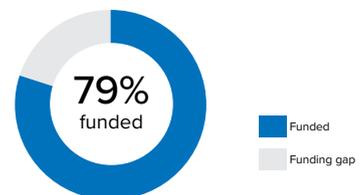
(as of 31 December 2022)

\$ 1.79 billion
required (USD)



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

\$ 4.29 billion
required (USD)



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

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked and earmarked funding for the 2023 programmes:

Belgium | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | Ireland

We are also grateful for the generous contributions from private individuals and the private sector: