



UKRAINE SITUATION

# REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

January-December 2023



Regional Refugee Response  
for the Ukraine Situation

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# A word from the Regional Refugee Coordinator



**Pascale Moreau**

Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Ukraine Situation  
UNHCR, Regional Director for Europe

It is difficult to convey the enormity of the destruction and human suffering in Ukraine – and the impact the war is having across the region, where neighbouring countries have, since the outset, welcomed millions of refugees fleeing the violence.

The support offered to those fleeing Ukraine has been nothing short of extraordinary – from governments, civil society, individuals and volunteers, NGOs and local organizations, as well as private sector actors. In the European Union, the swift activation of the Temporary Protection Directive in March 2022 was historic and proved the EU can effectively receive and include refugees. Non-EU countries must also be commended. The Republic of Moldova has, in particular, shown exemplary leadership in extending protection to the refugees on its territory, modeled largely on that provided in EU Member States, despite significant challenges.

With much achieved in 2022, refugees and host communities are counting on our continued solidarity in the year to come. As in Ukraine, our immediate focus in the refugee-hosting countries must be on supporting national efforts to ensure that refugees in Europe have adequate and safe shelter during the difficult winter months ahead. At the same time, knowing that the conflict dynamics inside Ukraine may lead to further outflows, we continue to work with governments to develop contingency plans that will allow us to quickly respond to the urgent needs of new arrivals. This includes, among other things, providing targeted cash assistance, while supporting national and municipal efforts to ensure access to secure, dignified shelter through renovations and winterization of identified facilities. Prolonged stays in collective centres or group housing inevitably create protection risks, particularly for the most vulnerable. We must all redouble efforts to ensure they are safe through prompt identification and referral to appropriate services.

In the medium and long-term, the best way to protect refugees – and harness their potential to contribute – is through their inclusion in national systems. The implementation of the EU's Temporary Protection Directive ensures that refugees can find safety in EU countries in the region and provides a legal basis for refugees to access rights and services. This includes rights that allow refugees to access the labour market and secure decent work. Going forward, addressing the practical, administrative and legal barriers to the enjoyment of rights will be a vital part of supporting their sustainable stay in host countries. It is important to support their swift and effective

inclusion into national systems to promote self-sufficiency and mitigate protection risks that can result if refugees are unable to meet their basic needs.

We are aware of the challenges ahead: the ripple effects of the war are widening, causing economic impacts in refugee-hosting countries and beyond. Fuel shortages and inflation loom large in the coming months. Reception and accommodation capacities are stretched, as are social welfare systems. Notwithstanding these realities, I remain reassured by the solidarity and creativity, political will and hands-on support that host governments, communities and partners have demonstrated over the past ten months – the speed and comprehensiveness of the response to date is a testament to what can be achieved when we work together. I take this opportunity to, once again, highlight the critical role of national and local non-governmental organizations, including refugee-led organizations, as first responders to urgent humanitarian needs since 24 February. They will remain the bedrock of our collective preparations and response, and they need our support to further strengthen their capacities.

I do not underestimate the magnitude of what we are asking when we encourage our partners to stay the course. The situation remains unpredictable, and we must continue to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable refugees, particularly older persons, people with disabilities, and unaccompanied children and adolescents. I trust that together we can find ways to work together to ensure that people forced to flee Ukraine continue to find safety, assistance, and protection until they can safely return home.

**Pascale Moreau**

Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Ukraine Situation  
UNHCR, Regional Director for Europe

# > At a Glance

## Regional Planned Response (January-December 2023)



**4.035 M**

targeted refugee population



**120 K**

targeted host community members



**\$1.7 B**

total financial requirements in USD



**243<sup>1</sup>**

partners involved

REGION	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD	PARTNERS INVOLVED
Bulgaria	43,387,258	18
Czech Republic	81,578,288	4
Estonia	9,135,766	14
Hungary	62,741,799	37
Latvia	11,989,791	14
Lithuania	17,813,459	10
Republic of Moldova	426,961,899	73
Poland	709,399,440	83
Romania	153,603,900	34
Slovakia	80,126,073	28
Regional support	88,757,581	7

<sup>1</sup> This figure represents the total number of partners operating regionally, and counts partners only once even if operating in more than one country. The country chapters provide the absolute number of partners per country.



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



# REGIONAL OVERVIEW

## Executive Summary

Now approaching the one-year mark since the escalation of hostilities, the war in Ukraine has resulted in a displacement and humanitarian crisis of epic proportions. The response by the refugee-hosting countries has been characterized by a spirit of welcome and unwavering generosity, with families and communities opening their doors to millions of refugees from Ukraine. The local response, led by national and municipal authorities across the region, has been equally remarkable: legions of volunteers, national and local non-governmental organizations and civil society actors – including many of which had never previously worked in refugee contexts, Ukrainian diaspora communities, and refugees themselves all mobilized to provide protection and assistance to those fleeing violence.

At the same time, humanitarian partners, under the overall leadership of host governments, have supported and complemented the national response, through coordinated and inclusive interventions. Many of these activities were captured in the original Regional Refugee Response Plan, launched in early March 2022, revised on 25 April 2022 and ‘recalibrated’ in October 2022 to take into account winter-related needs and other priorities which emerged across the RRP countries.<sup>2</sup>

The situation at the start of 2023 remains of grave concern and continues to require a coordinated humanitarian response at the regional level. As of end December, some 4.9 million people have registered for temporary protection<sup>3</sup> or a similar national protection scheme in Europe, and looking forward, it is expected that refugees may continue to arrive, due to the ongoing conflict and a harsh winter exacerbated by the targeting of energy and civilian infrastructure in Ukraine.

This Plan, which covers activities from January to December 2023, outlines the multi-partner, multi-sector response strategy and financial requirements of 243 different partners supporting the host governments of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The RRP also includes financial requirements related to

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<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, [Ukraine Situation: Recalibration – Regional Refugee Response Plan – March-December 2022](#), October 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Temporary protection is defined by UNHCR as a pragmatic ‘tool’ of international protection, which is used at times as an emergency response to the large-scale movement of asylum-seekers, providing immediate protection from refoulement and basic minimum treatment. The EU triggered application of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) on 4 March 2022 in response to the war in Ukraine; see the [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022](#). While the TPD is an EU mechanism, similar national protection schemes have been implemented in non-EU Member States, including Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Montenegro, Serbia and the United Kingdom. This figure may include multiple registrations of the same individual in two or more EU+ countries; registrations that remain incomplete for various reasons, or registrations of refugees who have moved onward, including beyond Europe.

activities in Belarus as well as technical support provided by the partners to ensure regional coherence and coordination.

As in 2022, the 2023 RRP aims at ensuring refugees' access to protection and assistance on a non-discriminatory basis, including the rights associated with temporary protection or similar legal statuses in host countries. Special attention will be given to those refugees who are already or risk becoming vulnerable, as humanitarian support is reduced and they are no longer able to draw on savings or rely on assistance from family and friends and may also face challenges finding work. In this regard, the identification of people with specific needs for whom the provision of targeted assistance will be critical. In addition, whereas the RRP in 2022 focused primarily on the urgent provision of protection services and humanitarian assistance upon arrival, the plan for 2023 also places an emphasis on refugees' socio-economic inclusion, in recognition of the challenges faced by refugees as their displacement becomes more protracted. As the Ukraine Situation extends into its second year, supporting the capacity of communities to extend services and assistance to refugees will help to avoid overstressing resources and maintain the strong culture of solidarity witnessed in the hosting States. In this context, support to host communities will focus on support to institutions, services and facilities used both by refugees and members of host communities, particularly in urban areas. This is also crucial to promoting solidarity and social cohesion between host and refugee communities.

In 2023, particular attention will again be given to the Republic of Moldova, as a non-EU Member State. There, host communities will be included in the target population figures, where the pressures of hosting refugees have particularly strained local capacity and put pressure on scarce resources. In the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees, it is key to promote more predictable and equitable responsibility and burden-sharing to ease pressure on the Moldovan society and support it to address the needs of host and refugee communities in the country.

## Part 1: Current Situation

### Situation Overview

Since the escalation of hostilities in February 2022, nearly one-third of the population has been forced from their homes in Ukraine, making it one of the largest human displacement crises in the world today. Within Ukraine, there are over 17.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 6.3 million people internally displaced by the war.<sup>4</sup>

In response to the large-scale refugee situation, the European Union triggered on 4 March 2022 the application of the Temporary Protection Directive, the duration of which was recently extended until March 2024. As of end December 2022, over 4.9 million refugees from Ukraine have registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes across Europe.

According to latest available data in countries covered in the RRP, women and children represent 86 per cent of the overall refugee population. The overall proportion of children stands at approximately 39 per cent, while some 9 per cent are older persons. Moreover, findings from UNHCR's latest Regional Protection Analysis Report in countries neighbouring Ukraine<sup>5</sup> show that the majority of respondents (78 per cent) are separated from some of their immediate family members, the primary reason being the restriction of freedom of movement for men due to conscription. Among those who travelled accompanied, 5 per cent travelled with unrelated children. While 32 per cent of respondents are in rented accommodation, the majority – some 64 per cent – are either being hosted or are staying in collective sites, planned sites and reception or transit centres. Twelve per cent of respondents have relatives in their host country. According to the latest UNHCR's Regional Intention Report, while most refugees surveyed in neighbouring countries hope to return to Ukraine one day (81 per cent), for the time being the majority plan to continue to stay in their current host country, with only 13 per cent planning to return in the next 3 months. The main impediment to return reported by refugees is the safety and security situation in places of origin, along with concerns about lack of access to basic services and adequate living conditions.<sup>6</sup>

Mitigating the effects of a harsh winter, worsened by attacks in Ukraine on energy and civilian infrastructure, and of the rising prices globally will remain a focus of the humanitarian response within Ukraine and in neighbouring countries in the first quarter of 2023. Access to winter-specific assistances is particularly challenging – and crucial – for vulnerable groups, such as older persons and persons with disabilities, as well as the women and children who comprise the clear majority of the refugee population, and further support is required to avoid magnifying vulnerabilities and the potential rise of harmful coping mechanisms.

In 2023 the international response to the Ukraine refugee situation remains in support of government-led efforts and is grounded in the principles of partnership governing humanitarian

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<sup>4</sup> OCHA, [Global Humanitarian Overview](#), 29 November 2022

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR, [Displacement Patterns, Protection Risks and Needs Of Refugees From Ukraine - Regional Protection Analysis # 1](#), 26 October 2022.

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR, [Lives on Hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees from Ukraine #2](#), September 2022.

action, namely equality, transparency, a results-oriented approach, responsibility and complementarity. In addition to the tremendous support provided by hosting countries, local communities and local actors, including, among others, volunteers, municipalities, national and local non-governmental organizations, civil society groups as well as refugee-led organizations and women-led organizations, continue to play a central role. Present on the ground well before the crisis began, these stakeholders bring a wealth of experience, capacity and local knowledge crucial to a well-informed response, particularly as the focus shifts from emergency response to inclusion and social cohesion. Strong solidarity and practical support on the part of the international community, in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees, will be more important than ever, especially given the mounting strain on national and local capacities and services in a difficult and uncertain global economic climate.

## Targeted Population

Of the over 4.9 million refugees from Ukraine registered for temporary protection or similar national protection scheme across Europe by mid-December, it is expected that at least 80 per cent plan to stay in their current host countries until hostilities subside and the situation improves. The refugee response is, broadly speaking, moving away from the acute phase of the emergency towards effective and sustained inclusion in national systems and services, maintaining protection space, and targeted support to the most vulnerable. That said, new displacement from Ukraine is likely to continue, due to the ongoing war, the harsh conditions of winter and a lack of access to fuel and adequate shelter inside the country. These newer arrivals may face particular difficulties in meeting their basic needs and are less resilient to displacement-related shocks, necessitating continued investments in anticipatory action and emergency assistance.

In 2023, the RRP population figures include refugees from Ukraine, as well as third-country nationals (TCNs) in need of international protection and people who are stateless or at risk of statelessness.<sup>7</sup> Host communities are included among the target population figures for the Republic of Moldova only. Within the EU, host community members are not included in the RRP as individuals targeted for assistance, but the Plan does address the needs of impacted host populations at the community level, with a view to expanding community resources and services that may be under strain due to the arrival of the refugee population.

The planning figures in the RRP have been agreed following consultations with governments and inter-agency partners and reflect the projected population that will require assistance from RRP partners over the course of 2023. These figures allow for planning, programming and budgeting. The projected population that will require assistance in 2023 includes refugees already in the RRP countries as well as projected new arrivals who will receive assistance in transit and those who will remain in their country of destination. Some refugees in transit may require certain types of assistance in more than one country depending on their needs. Partners in a number of RRP

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<sup>7</sup> For the purposes of brevity, the term "refugees from Ukraine" will be used henceforth, and is understood to include refugees from Ukraine, as well as third-country nationals in need of international protection and people who are stateless or at risk of statelessness as appropriate. Third-country nationals are persons who have fled Ukraine but for whom Ukraine is not their country of origin, and who may be in need of international protection.

countries continue to provide assistance to many people who arrive but subsequently move onwards – this emergency assistance – such as monitoring the ability of arrivals from Ukraine to access territory, protection, and the enjoyment of rights without discrimination and supporting host governments to strengthen reception facilities, facilitate accommodation options, provide core relief items and cash to meet basic needs – is vital and needs to be supported through the RRP. At the same time, over the course of 2023, many refugees are likely to stay in their host country as their situation becomes somewhat normalized and seek opportunities for inclusion in the local society. Support to those partners facilitating socio-economic inclusion is vital, as their activities pave the way towards longer-term solutions.

These planning figures may not align precisely with population present across the countries at any given moment in such a dynamic and rapidly changing environment, but they do aim at capturing the extent of resources required for next year.

### Targeted refugee population

Country	Refugees registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes as of end Dec 2022 <sup>8</sup>	Targeted Population in 2023
Bulgaria	149,268	200,000
Czech Republic	473,216	500,000
Estonia	41,432	115,000
Hungary	33,273	200,000
Latvia	44,367	120,000
Lithuania	72,302	150,000
Republic of Moldova	102,000 <sup>9</sup>	200,000
Poland	1,508,338	2,000,000
Romania	101,733	350,000
Slovakia	104,764	200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,630,693</b>	<b>4,035,000</b>

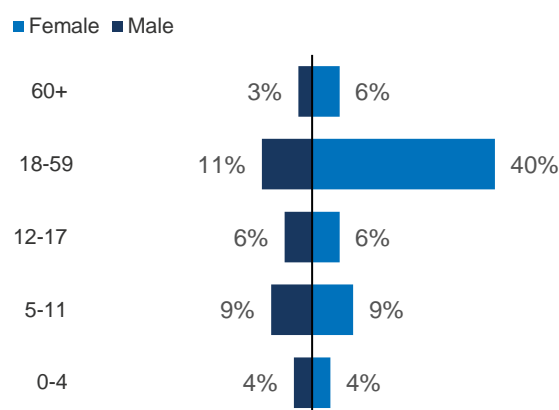
### Targeted host population

Country	Targeted Population in 2023
Republic of Moldova	120,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,000</b>

<sup>8</sup> This figure may include multiple registrations of the same individual in two or more EU+ countries; registrations that remain incomplete for various reasons, or registrations of refugees who have moved onward, including beyond Europe. Please see [UNHCR's Operational Data Portal](#). The figures for temporary protection are based on data available in late December 2022. They may be slightly different from the actual end-of-year 2022 figures as the reporting timeline of the countries differ from one another and there are usually retroactive updates and adjustments.

<sup>9</sup> As of December 2022, the legal status of the temporary protection was not yet in effect in Moldova. The figure included here represents the number of Ukrainian refugees who entered the country after 24 February 2022, and who were lawfully remaining in the country under the emergency law, based on government border crossing data.

## Age and gender breakdown



**13 to 15%<sup>10</sup>**

Persons with disabilities



**66%**

Women and girls



**34%**

Men and boys

## Regional Protection Needs, Vulnerabilities and Risks

UNHCR protection monitoring activities have identified several key protection risks for refugees from Ukraine in surrounding countries.

While the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) in the EU and similar legal regimes in other countries has ensured prompt access to protection and rights for many, research has indicated that a number of practical, administrative and legal barriers limit access to rights.<sup>11</sup> These barriers have an important impact on the ability of individuals to access a range of rights, including education, social protection, accommodation, decent work and health care. Gaps in harmonisation between states in respect of rights granted to temporary protection beneficiaries have also been noted. In addition, access to temporary protection registration procedures continued to be challenging in some contexts for third-country nationals and stateless persons. In some cases varying periods spent outside of the host country may negatively impact on the legal status and on the access to certain benefits, such as accommodation and financial assistance. All of these factors have the potential to limit effective inclusion in national systems, undermining possibilities for self-reliance and increasing protection risks and harmful coping mechanisms which can result if refugees are unable to meet their basic needs and contribute to their host societies.

According to UNHCR's Regional Protection Analysis,<sup>12</sup> family separation is a defining feature of the Ukraine refugee crisis, with 78 per cent of consulted refugees reporting that they had been separated from close family members as a result of their departure from Ukraine. In the current context, the high incidence of family separation has led to a significant proportion of single caretaker (predominately single female-headed) households. Family separation in a refugee context can exacerbate several protection risks including gender-based violence (GBV), human

<sup>10</sup> For planning purposes, it is estimated that the proportion of persons with disabilities is between 13% (pre-war estimates of People in Need with disabilities in 2021 Ukraine Humanitarian Needs Overview) and 15% (as per WHO benchmarks). Findings from Multi-Sector Needs Assessments (MSNAs) in some of the RRP countries show similar proportions.

<sup>11</sup> UNHCR, [The Implementation of the TPD Directive – Six Months On](#), October 2022.

<sup>12</sup> UNHCR, [Regional Protection Analysis #1: Displacement Patterns, Protection Risks and Needs of Refugees from Ukraine](#), October 2022.

trafficking, exploitation, isolation and exposure to potentially traumatic events, particularly for unaccompanied and separated children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Twenty-four per cent of protection monitoring respondents reported at least one household member with a specific need, including persons with disabilities, serious medical needs, older persons and separated or unaccompanied children. Persons with specific needs may face barriers that prevent them from fully enjoying their rights or accessing the services they need, and can face heightened risks of discrimination, abuse, violence and neglect during displacement and in their country of asylum. Data from protection monitoring indicates that households with one or more persons with specific needs may have fewer resources and more limited access to support networks in their host countries than other groups amongst the refugee population. Many may have limited access to information on existing services (including health) and face limitations in accessing employment opportunities, including family members who are required to provide care at home. Research has also demonstrated that persons at heightened risk face increased barriers in accessing their rights as temporary protection beneficiaries, with a lack of systematic identification of their specific needs one of the root causes.<sup>13</sup> The protracted nature of the crisis exacerbates distress situations and the consequent need for mental health and psychosocial (MHPSS) services. Unaddressed mental health needs, combined with the reluctance to receive such support due to stigma, can result in increased distress, marginalization and exclusion.

Access to civil documentation is also a key concern; 31 per cent of protection monitoring respondents do not hold international biometric passports, which permit a greater freedom of movement. In addition, data available prior to the escalation of the international armed conflict demonstrates that there are groups within the Ukrainian population who are stateless, or who may lack the civil documentation needed to acquire or confirm their Ukrainian citizenship and are therefore at risk of statelessness. This has also been confirmed by ongoing monitoring and legal assistance activities in hosting countries. Whilst States have implemented flexible approaches to documentation for individuals seeking to leave Ukraine as a result of the international armed conflict, reliable access to civil documentation is likely to become a pressing concern for many refugees in order to ensure their continued access to rights and services. A lack of civil documentation may also pose a barrier to return, once conditions permit.

Systematic identification and registration of unaccompanied and separated children by the authorities of the hosting countries remains a challenge, and significantly increases the risk that these children will remain outside national child protection systems, impeding their access to protection and services. In several countries, there is limited access to systems for appointment of legal guardians, or challenges in the revision of the existing care arrangements, which were in some cases established under time pressure due to the emergency situation. There is a reported shortage of suitable care-giver profiles and appointment procedures may be complex and time-intensive. RRP partners have observed a lack of systematic inclusion of unaccompanied and separated children into national child protection systems, resulting in the absence of national equivalents of best interest procedures being conducted in relation to these children. This particularly concerns the situation of children who arrived from care institutions in Ukraine.

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<sup>13</sup> UNHCR, [The Implementation of the TPD Directive – Six Months On](#), October 2022.

Continued advocacy and awareness raising is required on risks associated with potential returns of children to Ukraine, particularly during the winter, given the ongoing conflict and the precarious situation of accommodation and institutional care structures.

As in most refugee and conflict settings, risks of multiple forms of GBV increase, with women and girls placed at heightened risk at all stages of displacement. Conflict-related sexual violence in areas under military control in Ukraine, as well as risks of trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation at border points, during the journey, or after arriving in host country have been reported by refugees fleeing Ukraine. Exploitation, harassment, and abuse have also been reported in private and public accommodation, transport, and other basic services accessed by refugees. Adolescent girls, Roma women, and LGBTIQ+ individuals may face additional risks of GBV and trafficking, as a result of discrimination and/or harassment acting as a barrier to access to basic needs and protection services.

Barriers to access to services for GBV survivors are multi-fold and often parallel challenges to accessing other types of services, including language and lack of information on specialized services (both in terms of their availability and how to access them). Stigma around reporting GBV and accessing mental health services has also been noted as a challenge. For survivors, such barriers can have life-threatening consequences, including when relating to sexual violence where the need for time-sensitive intervention is critical. In some countries, Ukrainian mental health professionals are stepping in to fill gaps and are showing to be a successful entry point for GBV survivors. Mandatory reporting laws, as well as other legal, procedural or policy measures, continue to be major barriers for survivors' access to specialized health care, however, especially sexual and reproductive health care, including lifesaving post-rape care. Clinical Management of Rape Protocols are in some cases absent, lack effective systematic implementation, or do not fully comply with WHO guidelines. Access to sexual and reproductive health services is a challenge in many areas, particularly for adolescent girl survivors. Legal restrictions on emergency contraception or prescription requirements may also impede access to an effective GBV response, especially where refugees either cannot access a doctor or lack the funds to purchase them. Advocacy and systems strengthening on access to sexual and reproductive health remains an important intersectoral task for this response.

Refugees reported that cash was one of their most common urgent needs, as a modality to meet basic needs, such as accommodation and employment. Indeed, accommodation is likely to become a pressing need, as rental costs and energy prices continue to increase in refugee-hosting countries.



## Part 2: Regional Protection and Solutions Strategy

The Regional Protection and Solutions Strategy is focused on four key areas:

- Ensuring that all refugees from Ukraine continue to have access to territory, legal status and rights in host countries without discrimination, in line with the provisions of the Temporary Protection Directive or relevant national legal protection provisions and relevant international, regional and national refugee and human rights law.
- Reinforcing accountability to affected people through two-way communication with communities, effective feedback and response mechanisms, and a community-based approach, increasing access to information and awareness raising for refugees fleeing Ukraine on their rights and access to assistance and services through the community's preferred and trusted channels and working to support the meaningful participation and the capacity of community-based actors, including refugee- and women-led organizations and other community-based organizations.
- Supporting the prompt assistance to persons at heightened risk, with a particular focus on the prevention, risk mitigation of and response to GBV, human trafficking, protection of children and other refugees with specific needs and intersecting age, gender and diverse characteristics exposing them to further protection risks. This will include activities that focus on the promotion of mental health and psychosocial wellbeing.
- Finally, the strategy will focus on promoting effective inclusion into national systems, including health, education, accommodation, social protection, labour markets and others, without discrimination and on a par with nationals. Effective inclusion in national systems will be promoted as tool to enhance refugee protection, including by mapping barriers to refugees' access to and enjoyment of key rights and services, and by working to address those barriers with national authorities and other key stakeholders. Protection actors will also monitor the potential for rising tensions between refugee and host communities and work with national authorities and partners in support of peaceful coexistence.

Throughout the protection response, the primary role and responsibility of host countries to provide protection and access to rights will be emphasized. Protection interventions will be focused on building on, enhancing and scaling up national protection capacities as required, providing additional support and technical expertise where needed, with a view to enabling national protection actors and systems, as well as community-based and refugee-led initiatives, to stay the course for the longer term. Protection actors will also enhance and advocate for the meaningful participation and inclusion of refugees of different age, gender and diverse characteristics in the identification of needs, prioritization and design of interventions within the refugee response, in line with the Accountability to Affected People (AAP) and Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) approach. Partners working in the protection response will help promote access to a broad range of quality protection services and assistance through establishing effective partnerships with refugees, refugee-led, community-based and women-led organizations, national NGOs/civil society actors, governments, private sector actors, international NGOs and other UN agencies.

## Regional Strategic Objectives

### **SO1: Ensure refugees' access to protection and assistance on a non-discriminatory basis, including the rights associated with temporary protection or similar legal statuses in host countries.**

Although the pace of displacement outside Ukraine has slowed, data analysis indicates that over 80 per cent of refugees, while hoping to return home one day, are not planning to do so in the short-term.<sup>14</sup> In addition, population data indicates that some refugees have not sought temporary protection, which may prevent them from accessing rights and services, while others may face obstacles in accessing temporary protection after having returned to Ukraine and reentered the host country. In light of these challenges, ensuring effective outreach, providing information about legal statuses available, and supporting and monitoring access to procedures and services will remain key activities. As set out in the 2022 RRP, cross-cutting priorities of accountability to affected populations (AAP); Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA); Age, Gender, and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM), and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) will continue to be relevant in the next phase of the response. *Target population: Refugees*

### **SO2: Pave the way toward solutions and expand access to social and economic opportunities to facilitate social inclusion of refugees through a whole-of-society approach and in line with the Global Compact on Refugees, recognizing in particular the critical role played by national and local actors, including government ministries, municipal authorities, NGOs and RLOs.**

Given the rapid processing of temporary protection applications in most countries, almost immediately upon arrival to host countries, refugees from Ukraine were able to access socio-economic rights including education, access to the labour market, housing, social welfare benefits, and medical or other assistance. In the emergency context, this access to socio-economic inclusion constituted a key protective mechanism, helping to avoid potential resort to harmful coping mechanisms and mitigating some of the risks of GBV, SEA, and trafficking among a refugee population composed mainly of women and children. At the same time, many *de facto* barriers and challenges to inclusion remain. Available data shows that most refugee children have not been enrolled in schools in host countries to date. Low enrolment rates are due to a combination of factors, including limited capacity in schools as well as reluctance on the part of families to enrol their children. Early childhood education and day care is also difficult or impossible for many refugee families to access, which in turn limit work opportunities for carers, especially for women (who represent the majority of adult refugees). In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, meaningful inclusion requires continued advocacy and awareness-raising for effective access to socio-economic rights, services and opportunities, enhanced monitoring, and resolution

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<sup>14</sup> UNHCR, [Lives on Hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees from Ukraine #2](#), September 2022.

of challenges to exercising those rights, including through the development of multi-stakeholder partnerships. *Target population: Refugees*

**SO3: Ensure that refugees with specific needs continue to have access to targeted support and assistance, while also engaging with and strengthening community-level protective mechanisms.**

Over time, it is assumed that many refugees will become increasingly self-reliant, as they are able to find accommodation, work, access services and build ties with the refugee and host communities, as well as the Ukrainian diaspora. However, other refugees may become increasingly vulnerable, as humanitarian support is reduced and they are unable to draw on savings, find work, or access social protection and services. In this context, identifying persons with specific needs and providing targeted assistance, including through cash programming, will be critical to avoid exposure to serious protection risks and premature return. Older persons and those with disabilities, as well as the separated households headed by women which comprise the majority of the refugee population, will be assisted in view of their heightened risks and barriers. Given the “invisible” nature of refugee populations in urban areas, outside of refugee accommodation centres, this support relies upon effective community outreach and cooperation with refugee leaders, refugee-led organizations, and community networks, as well as upon an effective two-way communication with communities to identify and provide services in such settings. Strengthening these community-based structures will be critical to ensure that support reaches those refugees who need it most. Targeted support may also be required to complement or enhance government services to persons with specific needs, including in the prevention and response to GBV and human trafficking, disability inclusion, the inclusion of individuals with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, and the protection of children, and in the provision of community based and specialized MHPSS. *Target population: Refugees with specific needs*

**SO4: Advance social cohesion among refugee and host communities through targeted interventions.**

The response to the refugee outflow from Ukraine continues to be characterized by solidarity, generosity, and a strong spirit of welcome. This openness by the refugee-hosting societies, however, cannot be taken for granted, particularly as displacement becomes more protracted and the resources of volunteers, local civil society and host communities become strained. To support a welcoming environment, it will be important to put in place concrete measures that strengthen social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between the refugees and their host communities. Supporting the capacity of communities to extend services and assistance to refugees will help to avoid overstressing resources and maintain the strong culture of shared cause and community witnessed in the hosting States. In addition, the arrival of refugees has put national and local systems for service provision under significant pressure, particularly in urban areas. In some cases, social service systems were already functioning at capacity or overstretched before the refugee crisis. In this context, strengthening capacities and expanding the reach of national and local systems is critical to enable effective and meaningful inclusion of refugees. Examples of such interventions could include building additional classrooms, expanding community centers, or

expanding medical clinics, among other interventions, provided partners justify this will benefit equally refugees. This is also crucial to promoting solidarity and social cohesion between host and refugee communities. *Target population: Refugees and host communities (community-level)*

## Sectoral Responses

### PROTECTION



Protection partners will conduct protection monitoring to establish an evidence-based analysis of the protection situation of refugees from Ukraine and assess their ability to access territory, asylum, rights and services in host countries. To address the needs identified in the protection sector, partners will provide legal assistance, counselling and information to refugees from Ukraine on access to legal status, civil documentation and other rights in displacement in coordination with national authorities. Partners will additionally promote AAP, community-based and AGD-sensitive approaches to government counterparts, municipalities, service providers and other stakeholders involved in the response, including by engaging in joint activities, providing technical support and conducting capacity building, when needed. Outreach to and partnership with refugee communities, including with refugee-led organizations, will be enhanced as a key element of the response. Partners will strengthen the capacity of all actors to identify and support persons with specific needs through offering and providing training, technical expertise and advice to national and local governments, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, as well as through community outreach and engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ organizations. Partners will also map practical, administrative and legal barriers for refugees' access to and enjoyment of basic rights and services, analyzing resulting protection risks with particular attention to the experiences of and risks faced by persons with specific needs of diverse age, gender and other characteristics, including minorities. Partners will work with national authorities and other stakeholders, utilizing the results of such mapping to inform, influence and advocate with key interlocutors to preserve asylum space, address barriers, facilitate inclusion and improve protection outcomes for refugees.

## Blue Dot Information and Support Hubs

Blue Dots are one-stop-shops and safe spaces which provide children, families and people with specific needs with a rest stop where they can access critical services. Nearly 40 Blue Dots have been established by UNHCR and UNICEF in Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia at strategic locations frequented by refugees from Ukraine. [Digital Blue Dots](#) have been recently launched in Hungary, Italy, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania with websites providing localized and up-to-date information about services available to refugees in each country, a mapping of existing Blue Dots, including information on legal modalities of stay, work, livelihoods, accommodation, education, childcare, medical care, disability support, social assistance, protection services and other services.

## Sub-Sector: Child Protection



The overall proportion of children among the refugee population stands at approximately 40 per cent, with countries neighbouring Ukraine showing a higher percentage than other European countries. Many children have been separated from one or both of their parents. Some separated children continue to reside with adults not directly related to them as their de facto guardians. Many continue to require specialized child protection services, psychosocial support, and follow-up on care arrangements.

The relatively high number of children from institutions in Ukraine continue to require dedicated follow-up from child protection partners, in terms of care and accommodation arrangements as well as other needs, in line with best interests considerations. Strengthening the capacity of national child protection systems in the host countries and seeking ways to complement the national child protection response remains a priority. The needs of children at risk, particularly those with disabilities and specific protection needs, will be addressed through appropriate referrals and facilitation of access to specialized services, as well as enhancing the capacity of the relevant institutions and actors.

Further inclusion of refugee children into the national child protection systems will continue to be prioritized, including Best Interests procedures fully owned by national child protection systems, and alternative care arrangements. Supporting child protection systems has greater urgency and importance in cases involving onward travel of children and their potential return to Ukraine, as well as family tracing and reunification efforts. Partners will continue to support identification and referral of children at risk to the appropriate services and support, as well as case management.

Humanitarian advocacy and interventions will continue to be coordinated through the national-level child protection coordination mechanisms, as well as the Regional Child Protection Sub-Working Group, and the joint UNHCR-UNICEF Agenda for Action for Children Displaced from Ukraine will continue to serve as an overall framework for the child protection response.

## Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



To help ensure a coordinated, coherent and effective response and mitigate potential risks, GBV partners, through the GBV Regional Sub-Working group aim to identify key gaps and needs to inform high level strategic decision-making and advocacy, as well as formulate priorities for coordinated support. This includes identifying advocacy gaps and developing appropriate advocacy messages and tools to engage relevant key stakeholders. The Sub-working group will also ensure that GBV considerations are mainstreamed into the broader regional response through the provision of strategic guidance and advice to the Regional Protection Working Group and country-level Sub-Working Groups on courses of action related to GBV prevention, advocacy, risk mitigation and response strategies.

At present, on the response end, strengthening access to quality GBV services has been identified as one of the priority areas across the RRP countries.<sup>15</sup> The regional response will therefore aim to support countries in the strengthening of their referral mechanisms around specialized GBV services both internally and across borders through technical guidance, coordination, and tool development where needed. Regional actors will also aim to support the strengthening of the capacity of service providers around GBV and the application of a survivor-centred approach through coordination with the relevant sectors, resource identification, and training material provision where needed. Finally, on the advocacy front, the regional group, in coordination with protection, health, and others, will advocate for the removal of legal and administrative barriers to access to lifesaving response services, including but not limited to clinical management of rape and safe terminations to the extent of the law.

On prevention and mitigation, gaps identified centre around access to basic services, which increases women's and girls' vulnerabilities to trafficking and exploitation, as well as access to information around GBV and specialized GBV services. In addressing the risks and vulnerabilities, RRP regional actors will support in advocating for and coordinating resources around suitable mitigation and prevention interventions, including livelihood opportunities for those at heightened risk, and in addressing the gap on information, RRP actors will support the coordination and harmonization of messaging to be used in a wide-reaching GBV awareness raising campaign. Advocacy and assessment tools targeting collective accommodation shelters will be rolled out to mitigate GBV risks and support shelters in implementing international standards for safe collective accommodations. A specific regional task force will work to coordinate and support national actors in strengthening the health response for Survivors through enhanced coordination among the Health and GBV sector, with a joint interagency strategy in support of a survivor-centred approach.

Finally, regional partners, in collaboration with relevant sectors and stakeholders, will look to strengthen and support partnerships and funding to women- and refugee-led organizations working on empowerment, risk mitigation and response to GBV, and other activities that aim to challenge harmful gender norms, especially in relation to discrimination towards refugee women and girls and

<sup>15</sup> RGTF, Making the Invisible Visible (2022), found at [https://eca.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/RGTF\\_MakingTheInvisibleVisible\\_ENG\\_0.pdf](https://eca.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/RGTF_MakingTheInvisibleVisible_ENG_0.pdf)

persons with different sexual orientation and gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

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## EDUCATION



To limit time-out-of-school and to prevent long-term learning losses, regional RRP partners will continue to engage with States to develop advocacy and support programmes to ensure refugee children from Ukraine are enrolled in national school systems and have access to pre-school and tertiary education. Support and guidance will be provided to relevant stakeholders throughout the 2022-2023 school year and beyond to address capacity problems in schools, including expansion of learning spaces and school infrastructure, addressing teacher shortages and gaps in provision of essential language learning and pedagogical and MHPSS services delivered through schools. RRP partners will continue to advocate for the removal of administrative and practical barriers in access to education.

In addition to inclusion in the national school systems, regional RRP partners will support, where appropriate, initiatives aimed at ensuring continuity of learning and maintaining the link between refugee children and their country of origin, regardless of nationality or legal status, which may facilitate return to learning whenever circumstances allow. Regional RRP partners will work to prevent the establishment of unsustainable parallel education systems for refugees, and will work closely with all stakeholders to ensure the best quality education possible for refugee children.

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## HEALTH AND NUTRITION



In collaboration with national governments, RRP partners will support refugees' access to quality health and nutrition services in an equitable and inclusive manner to reduce morbidity and mortality. Partners will support national health systems and strengthen health sector response capacities, support capacity strengthening initiatives and work towards the inclusion of Ukrainian health workers in the national workforce. Recent health assessments confirmed that knowledge gaps on how to access health care remain an important barrier across countries. Communications with communities to raise awareness and knowledge on health services – including by linking refugees to the national health system through multiple means in reception, transit, and other service centres as well as the Blue Dots – will remain essential to foster effective access to care. In addition, health-related awareness-raising and information-sharing on prevention of non-communicable and communicable diseases, including COVID-19, and access to vaccination will be implemented.

Partners will strengthen the continuity of care, especially for patients with non-communicable diseases and communicable illnesses like tuberculosis and HIV and will link them to national programmes. Additionally, the delivery of comprehensive MHPSS, including access to focused MHPSS and specialized clinical services will be advocated for and strengthened within national government responses and RRP partner organizations. Sexual and reproductive health including access to quality clinical services for survivors of GBV will be among key priorities. Targeted support will be provided to address the specific needs of other groups including persons with

disabilities and older persons. Partners will monitor refugees' access to and uptake of health care services and strengthen disease surveillance as well as cross border collaboration. Across countries, partners will support adequate preparation and response for ongoing and new emergencies.

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## LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



The self-reliance of refugee families is dependent on their ability to find decent work. Priority areas will include facilitating access to jobs and livelihood opportunities, streamlining recognition of skills and qualifications, access to intensive and targeted language training, financial and business development services, safe and affordable childcare, promoting access to stable and affordable housing, and effective inclusion in social protection schemes.

Coordination mechanisms set up as part of the emergency response will be adapted to support longer-term inclusion. In line with a whole-of-society approach to socio-economic inclusion, partners will work with government authorities at the national and sub-national level, local service providers, civil society organizations, including refugee-led organizations, educational institutions and the private sector.

RRP partners will continue to map and monitor legal, administrative and de facto barriers to social protection schemes and services, advocate for effective inclusion and support refugees' effective access, while increasing data collection of socio-economic profiles and market opportunities to inform evidence-based planning on livelihoods, social and economic inclusion, taking into account considerations related to age, gender and diversity.

Continued support to cities and host communities with the potential to accommodate and provide opportunities to refugees – in a manner attendant to their specific needs, skills, interests, and long-term plans – will be essential. Given the often-limited access to own-source revenue streams faced by local administrations, the establishment of more direct alliances and coordination channels with the private sector can be supported.

Host community capacities are likely to become increasingly overstretched over time, exacerbated by inflationary prices, increased housing and energy costs, and aggravated economic inequalities, which may increase local tensions among socio-economically disadvantaged segments of the population to varying degrees across countries. Supporting governments at the national and municipal level to identify and implement a range of longer-term accommodation solutions, combined with expansion of public and private sector partnerships piloting affordable housing models for refugees, are an essential next step.



## BASIC NEEDS



In the first year of the response, humanitarian actors supported basic needs largely through a combination of in-kind and multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). MPCA was delivered at scale by multiple actors, helping refugees cover their basic needs for several months, in support of national responses that were not able to immediately integrate refugees into national systems due to the magnitude and speed of the influx. With the granting of temporary protection status to refugees from Ukraine in EU Member States, most hosting countries are now equipped with legal provisions for the inclusion of refugees into national Social Safety Nets (SSNs) that are generally mature and well diversified. However, the large numbers of refugees will continue to pose significant strain on even the most advanced and well-resourced national social protection systems.

In 2023 and with the consolidation of the humanitarian response, basic needs assistance will differ in EU and non-EU countries. In EU countries, a large proportion of assistance for basic needs through MPCA will be delivered by the Member States through their respective national social protection systems. Humanitarian actors will increasingly focus on cash assistance in support of specific vulnerabilities across the RRP sectors, such as health and education, complementing national systems. In the Republic of Moldova, humanitarian actors will continue MPCA at scale, while actively coordinating with bilateral actors for the strengthening of national, shock-responsive SSNs and also gradually introducing sectorial cash support.

Humanitarian cash actors will also consolidate cash coordination mechanisms across the entire response. In line with the commitments under the Grand Bargain and the Cash Coordination Caucus, Cash Working Groups (CWGs) will seek a systematic inclusion of national actors. CWGs will also support and provide the tools for the systematic de-duplication of cash assistance across humanitarian actors, as well as the assistance provided under national SSNs.

Provision of in-kind support will also continue, with a particular focus on emergency relief items and on winterized items including clothing, blankets and sleeping bags among others. Partners will also continue to support governments in the provision of in-kind food assistance in key locations, such as border transit and reception areas, as well as collective accommodation centres. The water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs of refugees will also be addressed in these locations, through the distribution of hygiene kits and support to ensure safe access and availability of WASH services.

In the same vein, RRP partners will carry out interventions in support of local authorities to improve emergency centres and other collective facilities to improve conditions and accommodation capacity, particularly in the winter months, while also engaging in the identification of solutions for growing longer-term accommodation needs. Support for refugee transportation needs will also be provided by partners, for example from border points to reception areas or transport hubs for onwards movement.

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## LOGISTICS, TELECOMS AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT



Logistics, Telecoms and Operational Support activities seek to ensure the appropriate preparedness and response capacity of partners to meet the needs of refugees from Ukraine. RRP partners will maintain the timely provision of humanitarian relief items backed by coordinated service delivery and an evidence-based prioritization of needs. Regional and country-specific logistics hubs have been established and will continue to support the stockpiling and onward distribution of relief items. Supply chain capacity to assess corridors and supply routes, analyze trends, procure goods and services, and optimize and ensure timely delivery of pre-positioned stocks will be strengthened. To this end, coordination and establishment of common supply frameworks and processes will be a priority, to support humanitarian operations across RRP countries. In the Republic of Moldova, RRP partners will continue to utilize common warehousing space and transport service delivery; a Refugee Emergency Telecommunications Sector focused on streamlining IT and communications to reinforce multi-sector coordination will also remain operational.

## Regional Cross-Cutting Response Priorities

### Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)



To ensure an effective and inclusive refugee response, the RRP is guided by partners' focus on age, gender, and diversity, including disability inclusion (hereafter referred to as AGD approach). Through this AGD approach, partners seek to make sure that all people of concern fully participate in the decisions that affect them, and that they enjoy their rights on an equal footing with others. The AGD approach can be achieved by using participatory methodologies to incorporate the capacities and priorities of women, men, girls and boys of diverse backgrounds into protection, assistance and solutions programmes. It also encompasses the collection and analysis of data disaggregated by age, sex, and diversity where contextually appropriate and possible, to inform programme design, monitoring and reporting.

The Regional Gender Task Force established in 2022 co-chaired by UN Women and CARE International, will continue providing technical support working closely with partners and sectors to promote the adequate integration of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls into the 2023 refugee response.

Additionally, efforts will be made to increase meaningful participation and leadership of national and local civil society organizations, focusing on women-led organizations, women's rights organizations, and minority-rights groups, through flexible funding, capacity building, and facilitating access to humanitarian coordination structures.

Partners, in cooperation with local authorities and host communities, will advocate and implement targeted, gender-sensitive coordination, programming and financing within responses in particular for those groups which are facing complex challenges, threats, and barriers, and often experience discrimination, abuse, and violence including youth, persons with disabilities and women, as well as LGBTIQ+ persons.

#### Gender Mainstreaming

Partners will ensure integration of gender equality measures, as well as age and diversity dimensions, into the cross-sectoral refugee response effort by ensuring that women, girls, boys and men — particularly those most at heightened risk of exclusion and marginalized — have equitable access to and benefit from relief, services and information.

Gender mainstreaming will also be advanced by facilitating the participation and leadership of women's organizations across coordination and decision-making structures and processes.

## Accountability to Affected People (AAP)



Activities designed to ensure accountability to affected people and inclusion will continue to be prioritized and will be grouped around the pillars of a) participation and inclusion in line with Age, Gender and Diversity principles for meaningful consultation; b) communication and transparency, including access to information; c) feedback and response; and d) learning and adaptation.

Effective two-way communication and consultation with communities will be achieved through continuous engagement of refugee women, men, girls and boys of diverse backgrounds in all the stages of the RRP's implementation by employing participatory methodologies. Feedback received from persons of concern will help to adjust the response where needed, informed by the use of common complaint mechanisms that are easy to use and access. Refugees will continue to access relevant, timely and up to date information through two-way communication and feedback mechanisms, such as UNHCR [HELP Pages](#), the Digital Blue Dot, the Regional Call Centre and other initiatives. The role of refugee volunteers, community-based and refugee-led organizations will continue to be reinforced, including through capacity development and small grants.

## Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)



Sexual exploitation and abuse directly contradict the principles upon which humanitarian action is based, inflicts harm on those whom the humanitarian and development community is obligated to protect, and jeopardizes the credibility of all assistance agencies.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) is therefore a key priority in the response. The Ukraine emergency is also characterized by a number of specific risk factors, such as an exceptionally high incidence of family separation and of female-headed households, as well as a wide range of actors involved in the response, some of whom have limited experience with PSEA. These risk factors may be further compounded by increasing socio-economic vulnerabilities, difficulties in finding suitable accommodation, and potential fatigue among host States and host communities as the emergency extends into its second year.

PSEA is an integral and cross-cutting component of the RRP and is mainstreamed across the response for refugees from Ukraine. In addition, it requires dedicated and proactive collective efforts to mitigate and prevent risks, such as joint PSEA risk assessments, partner capacity assessments, capacity building and training, as well as community outreach and awareness raising with the refugee community.

Dedicated PSEA Networks are coordinating this work at country level in all neighbouring countries, co-chaired by UNHCR and NGO partners Fundacja Dajemy Dzieciom, Plan International and VOICE. A Regional PSEA and Safeguarding Network has also been established, co-chaired by UNHCR and Save the Children, to support these networks and ensure consistency, exchange and the collection of best practices in line with PSEA global commitments.

## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)



The integration of MHPSS across sectors, including health, protection, child protection, GBV, education, and livelihoods, remains essential to the regional response. In line with this, ensuring the comprehensive access and provision of MHPSS services across all layers of support must continue to be advocated for and prioritized amongst all partners and actors. A multi-layered approach includes strengthening supportive systems for families and communities; providing focused psychosocial support through case management and the provision of scalable psychological interventions that can be provided by both trained and supervised specialists and non-specialists; as well as access to clinical mental health care for those in need of specialized services. Included in this is the use of psychosocial activities to also address and support the increasing social cohesion needs in the region. Fundamental to these layered supports is the mainstreaming of caring for carers and supportive supervision for frontline providers, who are often from Ukraine, to prevent burnout and promote well-being.

Active MHPSS working groups have been established in all neighbouring countries and will continue to coordinate and technically guide the national MHPSS response. Partners of the national MHPSS technical working groups will actively strengthen the capacity and coordination amongst all actors, including national governments, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society and community-based organisations, including organizations of people with disabilities, through trainings, updated referral pathways and ongoing service mapping. Additionally, to strengthen cross-sectoral interventions and learning between refugee receiving countries, regional coordination efforts will be introduced and supported by WHO-UNHCR focal points through the introduction of regional experience exchanges and thematic sub-groups.

## GBV Risk Mitigation



Mainstreaming Gender Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation is a cross sectoral responsibility that falls under the international humanitarian principle of “do no harm.”<sup>16</sup> It consists of ensuring that humanitarian programming does not inadvertently increase risks of GBV in the designs and implementation of its services. It also consists of mitigating GBV through provision of services in response to needs of women and girls, where lack of provision would itself increase the risks. Although GBV specialized programming exists to ensure mitigation, prevention, and response to GBV, mainstreaming of risk mitigation is a shared responsibility across all sectors and by all actors,<sup>17</sup> and can only be effective when owned and lead by each of the sectors, with GBV actors providing technical guidance and expertise.

<sup>16</sup> Inter-Agency Standing Committee. 2015. Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery (“GBV Guidelines”), found at [https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2015-iasc-gender-based-violence-guidelines\\_lo-res.pdf](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2015-iasc-gender-based-violence-guidelines_lo-res.pdf); See also, UNFPA, The Interagency Minimum Standards for Gender Based Violence in Emergencies Programming (2019), found at [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/19-200\\_Minimum\\_Standards\\_Report\\_ENGLISH-Nov.FINAL\\_.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/19-200_Minimum_Standards_Report_ENGLISH-Nov.FINAL_.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> See Call to Action, available at <https://www.calltoactiongbv.com/>; Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action, available at: <https://gbvguidelines.org/en/>.

Humanitarian actors can mitigate risks in advance through the implementation of minimum standards and protocols, training of all relevant staff on the GBV guiding principles and sector related risks ongoing consultation of women and girls across the cycle of the programme to assess any barriers to access, and by ensuring a robust and effective complaints and feedback mechanism to help ensure accountability and effective and timely response to risks raised. Sector lead agencies have the additional responsibilities for making sure appropriate action is taken and reflected within sector strategies and processes to reduce the risk of GBV and enhance the safety of women and girls.

The Ukraine Emergency is unique in its gender profile, given that the refugee population comprises a majority of women and children, including separated women headed households, many of whom are dependent on humanitarian assistance or social provisions provided under National schemes. Agencies have taken steps in the region to assess needs, risks, and challenges through the MSNA, protection profiling, and other assessments, the results of which serve as the basis for programme design and implementation. Sectors have utilized available global guidance for GBV risk mitigation, and specific tools have been designed or contextualized for the Ukraine emergency. These include a [GBV checklist for Reception Centers](#), [guidance for private hosts](#), a safety audit toolkit for assessing risks in different settings including collective shelters, and the recently launched Inter-Agency short [e-learning course Providing an Initial Response to Gender Based Violence](#) on safe handling of disclosures, based on the "[GBV Pocket Guide](#)", among several others. There remains much to do in this regard, however, including in terms of targeted assessments, additional GBV risk mitigation measures, and monitoring of implementation across all sectors. RRP actors will be supported in this process by GBV actors at the national and regional levels, with a continued focus on ensuring that the needs of vulnerable individuals and groups are taken into account throughout the programme cycle and reflected in risk mitigation measures.



### Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities

Providing targeted support to older persons and persons with disabilities is a priority across all sectors that requires dedicated attention and resources. The sectors will promote accessibility of services, information and accommodation, capitalizing on AGD data and analysis, to ensure that the participation of older persons and persons with disabilities is included in decision-making processes. Persons with disabilities have the same basic needs as other refugees but often face barriers to having these needs met and therefore may require specific attention and targeted interventions. RRP partners will engage based on the key principles of disability inclusion: (i) non-discrimination; (ii) awareness; (iii) participation; and (iv) accessibility. Close cooperation will also be sought with national and local organizations working with persons with disabilities.

## Partnership and Coordination

In support of the government-led responses, UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the inter-agency RRP in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) in a collaborative and consultative manner with authorities, aid agencies, civil society and with affected populations, including women and refugee-led organizations.

The RRP will broaden the scope of partnerships to mobilize resources and increase visibility for the needs of refugees from Ukraine, third-country nationals in need of international protection, stateless people and host communities. RRP partners and supporters will strive to ensure funding is channelled to frontline responders in a timely and efficient manner and in line with quality funding and quality partnership principles. The Global Compact on Refugees, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the UNHCR #IBelong campaign to end global statelessness by 2024 and the principle of "Leaving No One Behind" provide important frameworks for collaboration with partners.

Partners involved	243
UN Agencies	13
International NGOs	48
National NGOs	148
IFRC&RC	6
Faith-based Organizations	20
Academia	1
Regional organizations	1
Refugee-led organizations	6

*Note: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type.*

At the regional level, RRP coordination is led by the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe (RBE). The RBE Director was appointed in March 2022 as the Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Ukraine Situation to lead the implementation of the RRP through inclusive and effective coordination of all partners, in line with the regional strategic objectives. An inter-agency Regional Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) has been established and specific working groups, networks and task forces (Protection Working Group, Inclusion Working Group, Child Protection and GBV Sub-Working Groups, Anti-Trafficking Task Force, Gender Task Force, PSEA Network) have also been activated to ensure efficient situational information management and country-specific support as required. As the UN Agency mandated by the General Assembly to lead refugee responses, UNHCR is the reference entity on refugee data, facilitating and coordinating the provision of necessary data and information to support RRP partners' response planning.

Within the framework of this RRP and building on existing country level coordination structures, inter-agency RCFs have also been established in each of the refugee-hosting countries, in support of government-led coordination mechanisms. The country level RCFs are led by the UNHCR Country Representatives and work with all partners in the response, including with relevant sector working groups. This will enable RRP partners to maximize the response and avoid duplications and parallel systems. It will also guide joint advocacy initiatives and resource mobilization efforts in support of the country-level response plans. Through the RRP, UNHCR will continue to ensure that joint assessments, data and information management, monitoring and reporting systems, and communication and information-sharing tools are effectively implemented and strengthened in coordination with governments and relevant stakeholders.

By articulating the needs of refugees, impacted host communities and other people of concern, stating how and by whom these needs will be addressed and defining the financial requirements of all the partners involved, the RRP serves as an effective channel to more predictable and equitable

responsibility-sharing, to ease the pressure on host communities and foster social cohesion – two key objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

More specifically, the many positive actions taken by the hosting Governments, particularly in the areas of inclusion and refugee self-reliance, are examples of policy pledges that could be made at the upcoming Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2023, and that could be matched against continued support from the international community. Country-level Regional Coordination Fora and Working Groups can be venues where potential pledge cultivation and follow-up on the pledges made at the 2019 GRF can be discussed.

In addition, the RRP also serves to illustrate many of the good practices that have implemented across the response by the hosting Governments, such as the swift activation of a temporary protection scheme to facilitate prompt access to protection and services, mainstreaming of refugees in government protection schemes, and prompt access to the labour market, among others. This showcasing of good practices will be instrumental in sharing learnings at the upcoming GRF, to inform and inspire further international solidarity and facilitate comprehensive responses in future refugee emergencies in the region and beyond.

### **Information Management Coordination**

As part of the Refugee Coordination Model, UNHCR has established Information Management Working Groups (IMWGs) at the regional level and in the RRP countries to facilitate inter-agency coordination on data/IM initiatives. Through these coordination structures, UNHCR shares information related to the Ukraine Refugee Situation with IMWG members and ensures there is a harmonised approach to data/IM initiatives within the humanitarian community, and with government authorities and local actors.

In support of UNHCR's protection and coordination mandates, the Refugee Data Management Framework (RDMF) was rolled out in 2022 and will continue to be strengthened in 2023, to ensure a consistent and accurate refugee narrative. Through the RDMF, UNHCR, together with partners, will ensure there are updated refugee population statistics (both flow and stock figures), protection profiling and monitoring and intentions surveys, monitoring of collective sites, area-based assessments and multi-sector needs assessments to inform the response. UNHCR will also undertake other data/IM initiatives in partnership, or as inter-agency initiatives to understand the social economic integration of refugees in host countries. Furthermore, the RDMF will facilitate coordination of data/IM initiatives amongst humanitarian actors to avoid duplication and identify and fill information gaps.



## Regional Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

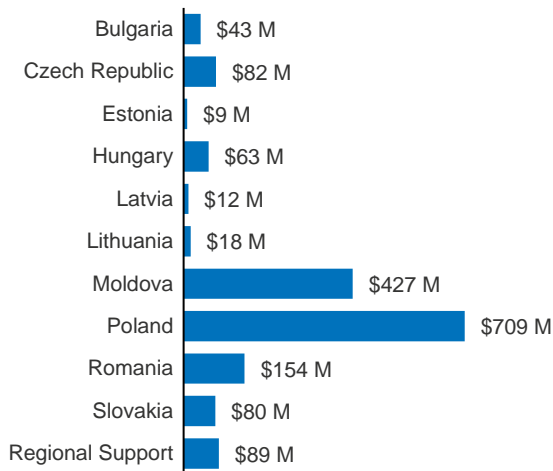


Total financial requirements in USD

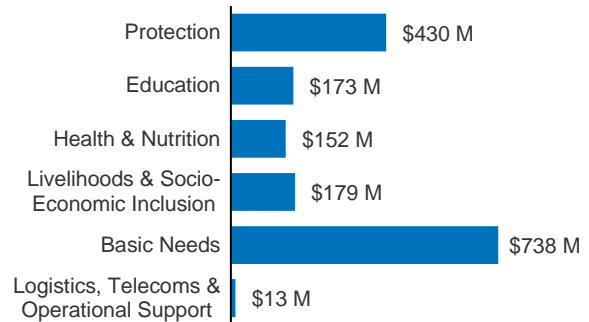
**\$1,685,495,254**


### Budget summary


By country in million USD



By sector at regional level in million USD



 Total Protection requirements	\$429,814,783
Other protection activities	\$256,603,244
GBV	\$57,604,368
Child Protection	\$115,607,171

 Total Cash Assistance requirements*	\$450,792,321
Protection	\$32,283,836
Basic Needs	\$401,651,006
Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	\$15,834,479
Health & Nutrition	\$175,000
Education	\$848,000

\* This is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. As the modality of choice of the people we serve, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.

## By partner type

Partners involved	243
UN Agencies	\$1,011,571,328
International NGOs	\$260,437,958
National NGOs	\$238,386,882
IFRC & Red Cross/Crescent Societies	\$110,310,569
Faith-based Organizations	\$62,614,217
Academia	\$76,000
Regional organizations	\$ 598,900
Refugee-led organizations	\$1,499,400

## By partner

Organization	Organization type	Budget (USD)
A.O. Serviciu pentru Pace	National NGO	\$125,380
ACTED	International NGO	\$8,541,000
Action Contre la Faim	International NGO	\$4,925,394
ActionAid International	International NGO	\$4,437,500
ADRA Moldova	Faith-based Organization	\$3,512,000
Aid for Ukraine	National NGO	\$847,520
Ak-Nordost	National NGO	\$25,000
Alliance of Organisations for Persons with Disabilities from Moldova	National NGO	\$20,000
American International School of Budapest	Academia	\$76,000
AO Asociația pentru Combaterea Izolării Informaționale ECOU	National NGO	\$38,000
AO Centrul de Drept al Avocatilor/Law Center of Advocates	National NGO	\$18,000
AO Centrul de Reabilitare Medico-Sociala pentru Persoane cu Vedere Slaba „LOWVISION”	National NGO	\$35,000
AO Societatea Invalizilor din RM	National NGO	\$1,014,525
AO SOS Autism	National NGO	\$466,200
Artscape	National NGO	\$142,828
Ashoka Innowatorzy dla Dobra Publicznego	National NGO	\$450,000
Asociatia Anaid	National NGO	\$175,000
Asociatia Eliberare	National NGO	\$500,000
Asociatia Four Change	National NGO	\$100,000
Asociatia LOGS – Grup de Initiative Sociale	National NGO	\$1,034,000
Asociatia Project Voiajor (Project Voyager)	National NGO	\$2,225,000
Asociația Tinerilor cu Diabet DIA (DIA Association of People Living with Type 1 Diabetes)	National NGO	\$2,590
ASSOC	National NGO	\$270,000
Association Energy	National NGO	\$112,211

Organization	Organization type	Budget (USD)
Association for Aid and Relief Japan	International NGO	\$1,076,095
Association MARTA Centre	National NGO	\$115,500
Be An Angel	National NGO	\$640,000
Bibliothèques sans Frontières	International NGO	\$820,000
Budapest Methodological Social Center	National NGO	\$3,268,527
Bulgarian Helsinki Committee	National NGO	\$166,972
Bulgarian Red Cross	IFRC and Red Cross	\$7,000,000
CARE	International NGO	\$23,000,000
Caritas Lithuania	Faith-based Organization	\$359,327
Caritas Bulgaria	Faith-based Organization	\$3,949,600
Caritas Poland	Faith-based Organization	\$27,766,000
Caritas Slovakia	Faith-based Organization	\$2,313,483
Carpathian Foundation Slovakia	National NGO	\$241,700
CASMED	National NGO	\$19,500
Catholic Relief Services	Faith-based Organization	\$4,055,112
Center for Public Policy PROVIDUS	National NGO	\$267,908
Center for Reproductive Rights	International NGO	\$710,000
Central Roma Council in Poland	National NGO	\$1,950,400
Centrul National de Prevenire a Abuzului fata de Copii	National NGO	\$301,500
Charity Centre for Refugees	National NGO	\$1,360,034
Church World Service	Faith-based Organization	\$2,744,220
CLEAR Global	International NGO	\$2,142,373
Clinica Juridica Balti	National NGO	\$356,500
Coaliția Vocea Romilor	National NGO	\$400,000
Comenius Foundation for Child Development (Fundacja RozwojuDzieci)	National NGO	\$9,500,000
Common Ground	National NGO	\$265,650
Community Organized Relief Effort	International NGO	\$6,550,000
Cordelia Foundation for the Rehab. Of Torture Victims	National NGO	\$150,000
Crisis and Counselling Centre "Skalbes"	National NGO	\$26,943
Crossborder Civilians	International NGO	\$20,000
CSO "Moms in Action"	National NGO	\$267,000
CultureLab Foundation	National NGO	\$500,000
Danish Refugee Council	International NGO	\$12,429,233
Daruso is helping Ukraine	National NGO	\$330,000
Dévai Fogadó (formerlyMandák Ház)	Faith-based Organization	\$335,000

Organization	Organization type	Budget (USD)
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe	International NGO	\$965,000
Dignita	National NGO	\$18,500
Diversity Development Group	National NGO	\$34,650
Doctors of the World-Belgium	International NGO	\$1,500,000
Dorcas	Faith-based Organization	\$462,000
Early Starters International	International NGO	\$194,200
Eluliin	National NGO	\$168,418
Equita	National NGO	\$1,103,200
Friends of Mariupol	National NGO	\$98,752
Hands for Ukraine	National NGO	\$173,250
Institute of Baltic Studies	National NGO	\$72,050
International House Tartu	National NGO	\$46,876
Johannes Mikkelson Centre	National NGO	\$165,197
Köömen	National NGO	\$45,150
Ukrainian Cultural Center	National NGO	\$5,000
Estonian Chamber of People with Disabilities	National NGO	\$52,140
Estonian Food Bank	National NGO	\$962,000
Estonian Refugee Council	National NGO	\$1,502,280
Erőforrás Alapítvány United Way Hungary	National NGO	\$537,881
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	UN Agency	\$4,000,000
Faros Elpidas	International NGO	\$2,410,000
Fondul pentru Prevenirea Criminalității	National NGO	\$31,074
FONSS	National NGO	\$5,215,000
Food Bank SOS in Warsaw	National NGO	\$560,000
Food Bank	National NGO	\$4,077,990
Foundation "Caritas Latvija"	National NGO	\$162,703
Foundation for Access to Rights	National NGO	\$173,340
Foundation of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church	Refugee-led Organization	\$150,000
Fundacja ADRA Polska	National NGO	\$38,525,500
Fundacja Autonomia	National NGO	\$275,104
Fundacja BloomPro	National NGO	\$170,000
Fundacja Centrum Praw Kobiet (Women's Rights Centre)	National NGO	\$600,000
Fundacja Dajemy Dzieciom Siłę (Empowering Children Foundation)	National NGO	\$1,180,000
Fundacja Dobrej Edukacji	National NGO	\$25,000
Fundacja DOSTĘPNYŚWIAT	National NGO	\$420,000
Fundacja Feminoteka	National NGO	\$450,000
Fundacja HumanDoc	National NGO	\$1,910,000
Fundacja In Corpore	National NGO	\$100,000

Organization	Organization type	Budget (USD)
Fundacja Kocham Dębni	National NGO	\$282,014
Fundacja Leny Grochowskiej	National NGO	\$1,450,000
Fundacja Zakręcie	National NGO	\$50,000
Fundacja Newstory	National NGO	\$3,808,000
Fundacja OneWorld–OneHeart	National NGO	\$5,000
Fundacja Profil	National NGO	\$401,782
Fundacja UN Global Compact Network Poland	National NGO	\$720,000
Fundacja UNDERSTANDING	National NGO	\$20,000
Fundacja Uniwersytet Dzieci	National NGO	\$300,000
Fundacja Zustricz	National NGO	\$282,000
Fundatia "DonBosco"	Faith-based Organization	\$361,200
Fundatia Romanian Angel Appeal	National NGO	\$3,000,000
Good Neighbours Japan	International NGO	\$1,500,000
Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem/Want to Help Refugees	National NGO	\$99,226
Habitat for Humanity International	International NGO	\$100,000
Habitat for Humanity Poland	National NGO	\$6,595,000
Habitat for Humanity Romania	National NGO	\$810,000
Halina Niec Legal Aid Center	National NGO	\$20,000
Handicap International	International NGO	\$1,196,430
Hands across Romania Association	National NGO	\$250,000
HEKS/EPER Romania Foundation	International NGO	\$800,000
HEKS/EPER	Faith-based Organization	\$1,270,000
HelpAge	International NGO	\$2,205,290
Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in Slovakia	National NGO	\$20,860
Helveta	International NGO	\$4,890,598
HIAS	International NGO	\$11,690,100
Hope Foundation	National NGO	\$500,000
Hope4	International NGO	\$286,000
Humanosh Slawa I Izek Wolosianski Foundation	National NGO	\$15,434,000
Hungarian Baptist Aid	Faith-based Organization	\$1,450,000
Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta	Faith-based Organization	\$1,520,000
Hungarian EMDR Association	National NGO	\$15,000
Hungarian Evangelical Fellowship/Oltalom Charity Society	Faith-based Organization	\$650,000
Hungarian Helsinki Committee	National NGO	\$224,900
Hungarian Interchurch Aid	Faith-based Organization	\$860,000

Organization	Organization type	Budget (USD)
Hungarian Red Cross	IFRC and Red Cross	\$500,000
Hungarian Reformed Church Aid	Faith-based Organization	\$4,923,000
HunHelp	Refugee-led Organization	\$62,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	IFRC and Red Cross	\$13,932,720
International Labour Organization (ILO)	UN Agency	\$1,935,000
IMPACT Initiatives	International NGO	\$1,060,000
International Centre for Migration Policy Development	Regional Organization	\$598,900
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	UN Agency	\$167,296,087
International Orthodox Christian Charities	International NGO	\$1,650,000
International Rescue Committee	International NGO	\$27,648,500
Internationaler Bund Polska	National NGO	\$2,008,000
Internews	International NGO	\$2,100,000
INTERSOS	International NGO	\$5,548,060
Jesuit Refugee Service	International NGO	\$33,695
Jesuit Refugee Service Romania	National NGO	\$6,950,000
Kalejdoskop Kultur	National NGO	\$300,000
Katalyst Education	National NGO	\$5,500,000
Keystone Moldova	National NGO	\$1,163,281
Klub Inteligencji Katolickiejw Warszawie	Faith-based Organization	\$1,150,000
Latvian Red Cross	IFRC and Red Cross	\$185,955
Latvian Scout and Guide Central Organization	National NGO	\$56,700
League for Mental Health in Slovakia	National NGO	\$200,000
Lexis-Vamos Foundation	Refugee-led Organization	\$450,000
Liszewska-Bowen Foundation	National NGO	\$955,000
LITERA Egyesület	National NGO	\$37,600
Lithuania Red Cross	IFRC and Red Cross	\$3,191,893
Lumos Foundation Moldova	National NGO	\$902,490
Lutheran World Federation	Faith-based Organization	\$3,561,600
Mareena	National NGO	\$1,273,000
Medair	International NGO	\$700,000
Médecins du Monde	International NGO	\$2,581,688
Medical Teams International	Faith-based Organization	\$623,151
MedSpot Foundation	National NGO	\$40,000
Menedék Hungarian Association for Migrants	National NGO	\$539,928
Menekültek Online Segítő Társasága (Refugee Help Digital Network)	National NGO	\$117,500

Organization	Organization type	Budget (USD)
Mentalnie Równi	National NGO	\$893,000
Metropolitan Orthodox Christian Charity ELEOS	Faith-based Organization	\$545,000
Migrant Integration Centre Brasov	National NGO	\$403,476
Migration Aid	National NGO	\$2,482,330
Misja Słowiańskaw Europie	National NGO	\$228,000
Multiculturalism & Migration Observatory	National NGO	\$20,000
Nasz Wybor (OurChoiceFoundation)	National NGO	\$1,030,000
National Youth Foundation	National NGO	\$5,400,000
NCUM	National NGO	\$2,520,000
Next Step Hungary Association	National NGO	\$376,270
NGO Young Folks LV	National NGO	\$295,016
Norwegian Refugee Council	International NGO	\$26,025,000
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	UN Agency	\$1,609,854
ONG Asociația profesorilor de limba ucraineană "Promini"	National NGO	\$30,625
Order of Malta Relief Organization	Faith-based Organization	\$203,524
OurWay	National NGO	\$287,000
Oxfam	International NGO	\$2,848,835
PCPM-Polish Center for International Aid	International NGO	\$2,775,628
Peace Winds Japan	International NGO	\$2,404,100
People in Need	International NGO	\$16,954,590
Pituary Foundation	National NGO	\$81,300
Plan International	International NGO	\$17,905,619
Platforma pentru Egalitate de Gen	National NGO	\$65,300
Polish Center for International Aid	National NGO	\$37,904,591
Polish Humanitarian Action	National NGO	\$8,817,004
Polish Migration Forum Foundation	National NGO	\$1,790,000
Polish Red Cross (Polski Czerwony Krzyż) & International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	IFRC and Red Cross	\$85,500,001
POLSKI INSTYTUT OTWARTEGO DIALOGU	National NGO	\$1,256,000
PRO UKRAINA	National NGO	\$6,750,000
Project HOPE	International NGO	\$2,634,655
Pszi Pont	National NGO	\$310,000
Public Association „DEMOS”	National NGO	\$290,340
Reachout Foundation	National NGO	\$42,193
RET International	International NGO	\$11,550,000
Rețea Femeilor pentru Democratie "Women`s Democracy Network"	National NGO	\$238,600
Roma Coalition	National NGO	\$500,000
Romaversitas Foundation	National NGO	\$150,000

Organization	Organization type	Budget (USD)
Salvati Copiii	National NGO	\$10,000,000
Samaritan Association of Latvia	National NGO	\$1,209,285
Samaritan Slovakia	National NGO	\$35,500
Save the Children	National NGO	\$23,235,816
Scouting Slovakia	National NGO	\$5,000
Situation Centre Open Doors	National NGO	\$492,575
Slovak Humanitarian Council	National NGO	\$2,573,422
SOK (Samodzielność od Kuchni) Foundation	National NGO	\$1,835,000
Soleterre	International NGO	\$1,200,000
Solidarités International	International NGO	\$1,698,859
SOS Children's Villages	International NGO	\$35,000
Stowarzyszenie MIASTO WSPÓLNE	National NGO	\$27,816
Stowarzyszenie MUDITA	National NGO	\$896,000
TENENET NGO	National NGO	\$2,976,000
Terre des Hommes CH	International NGO	\$1,640,000
Terre des Hommes	International NGO	\$3,298,749
The Human Rights League	National NGO	\$688,450
Trauma Center	National NGO	\$40,000
TUTU-Podkarpackie Stowarzyszenie dla Aktywnych Rodzin	National NGO	\$1,850,000
Ukraine Support and Renovation Foundation	National NGO	\$95,807
Ukrainians for Ukrainians	Refugee-led Organization	\$300,600
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)	UN Agency	\$5,789,927
The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	UN Agency	\$200,000
Union of Young Roma "TarnaRom"	National NGO	\$85,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	UN Agency	\$229,500,000
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	UN Agency	\$47,886,800
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	UN Agency	\$2,850,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	UN Agency	\$408,926,156
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	UN Agency	\$26,576,800
UNITY	Refugee-led Organization	\$295,000
Voice Amplified	International NGO	\$1,838,000
Volunteer Center Lublin	National NGO	\$527,750
We are together	Refugee-led Organization	\$241,800
We World	International NGO	\$2,037,131
World Food Programme (WFP)	UN Agency	\$34,490,180
World Health Organization (WHO)	UN Agency	\$80,510,524
World Vision International	International NGO	\$2,737,215



Organization	Organization type	Budget (USD)
World Vision Romania Foundation	International NGO	\$7,055,000
Za Dobroto Foundation	National NGO	\$819,114
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,685,495,254</b>

### Regional Technical Support Budget by Partner<sup>18</sup>

Partner / Acronym	Protection	Education	Health & Nutrition	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Basic Needs	Logistics, Telecoms & Operational Support	Total USD
UN Agencies							
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	3,320,000		1,450,000	1,000,000	5,670,000	1,700,000	13,140,000
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)				3,894,800		2,000	3,896,800
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	410,000		150,000		100,000		660,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	21,673,358			6,855,613	20,726,876		49,255,847
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	8,837,537	4,524,329	1,601,281	928,322	4,963,465		20,854,934
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)	500,000						500,000
World Health Organization (WHO)			450,000				450,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,740,895</b>	<b>4,524,329</b>	<b>3,651,281</b>	<b>12,678,735</b>	<b>31,460,341</b>	<b>1,702,000</b>	<b>88,757,581</b>

<sup>18</sup> This budget includes technical support provided by partners at the regional level to ensure coordination and coherence across the RRP countries, as well as requirements for Belarus.


## Regional Monitoring Results






Monitoring of the protection situation and response interventions remains a key component to ensure that protection outcomes are achieved for persons and where necessary corrective action is taken.

A set of common indicators across all RRP countries and agreed with partners will help to ensure the tracking of progress toward the strategic objectives in a consistent manner. This plan has been designed in a manner that allows it to evolve with the rapidly changing circumstances on the ground. To monitor context-specific aspects, additional indicators have also been developed at country level to measure specific outputs and outcomes. Achievements will be monitored through an online system “Activity Info” where partners report against the indicators set in the monitoring frameworks.

Data on indicators will be summarized in country and regional dashboards on a regular basis to support continuous analysis of progress. The Inter-Agency working groups will also outline a monitoring framework, which will among other things delineate what information is needed to gauge deliverables of the response plan. Importantly, the framework will allow disaggregation of results by gender, age and disability to ensure that persons at risk and specific groups, such as women and persons with disabilities are not missed in the implementation of this response plan. In order to maintain accountability to affected populations, feedback mechanisms will be established, allowing affected/target populations and RRP partners to regularly communicate. This is aimed at ensuring that the needs and concerns of affected people guide and adjust the response priorities based on feedback.

The targets below are based on partners’ budgets and capacities, informed by the needs on the ground. Achieving these targets will be subject to a timely receipt of the funding requirements.

Sector	Indicator	Target	
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	1,319,000
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services	678,000
	Child Protection	# of participants trained on child protection and children's rights	15,500
	GBV	# of persons reached through community outreach and prevention activities on GBV, disaggregated by age and gender	1,277,000
	GBV	# of GBV referral pathways established and functional	45
	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)	# of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	8,600
	Education	# of children enrolled in formal education in host countries	1,010,000

Sector	Indicator	Target
 Education	# of children participating in non-formal education programmes in host countries	304,000
 Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	1,527,000
 Health and Nutrition	# of consultations provided for mental health and psychosocial support	468,000
	# of individuals supported in accessing health care services	706,000
	# of individuals trained to provide health services to refugees and host populations	18,000
 Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who received support in livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion services and development programmes	910,000
 Cash	# of individuals who received cash assistance	916,000

COUNTRY CHAPTER

# BULGARIA



# > At a Glance

## Bulgaria Planned Response (January-December 2023)



**200,000**

targeted refugee population



**\$43.4 M**

total financial requirements in USD



**18**

partners involved



# BULGARIA

## Part 1: Current Situation

### Situation Overview

Since the escalation of the conflict in February 2022, more than 977,000 refugees have crossed into Bulgaria as of end-December, based on official data from the State Agency of Refugees and Chief Directorate of Border Police.<sup>19</sup> Among them, some 149,000 have requested and received temporary protection which grants refugees with access to a number of rights and national social protection networks and public services. The average number of daily arrivals and departures remain similar to each other (3,120 arrivals per day/3,020 departures per day). As of end-December, some 50,200 refugees from Ukraine currently remain in the country,<sup>20</sup> and reside mostly in the coastal area and larger cities, including Sofia and Plovdiv. New arrivals mainly enter Bulgaria via the Romanian-Bulgarian border (63 per cent), and through the Durankulak and Ruse border crossing points, and are dispersed across the country. Based on Government of Bulgaria temporary protection registration data, most refugees are women and children (respectively 50 per cent and 36 per cent), and older persons make up 12 per cent. The risks of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), forms of human trafficking and protection risks facing children remain high.

The national accommodation policy, which currently benefits some 9,800 refugees from Ukraine, has been extended by the Government of Bulgaria until 24 February 2023. Vulnerable new arrivals who have no means are expected to be accommodated in State and municipal facilities. A caretaker government has been in place in Bulgaria since 22 June 2022, and a taskforce created in mid-November 2022 under the new administration meets with the participation of UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, the Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC) and key responders.

The Bulgaria chapter of the regional RRP represents the strong commitment of 18 humanitarian partners to work jointly and through a coordinated response on the challenges affecting refugees and third-country nationals (TCN) fleeing Ukraine and in need of international protection,<sup>21</sup> as well as affected host communities. A significant emphasis of the inter-agency response in Bulgaria is focused on supporting the Government in providing key protection services, livelihoods support and inclusion opportunities. With the possibility of an increase in refugee numbers in 2023, the

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<sup>19</sup> Government of Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees, Temporary Protection registration database, <https://ukraine.gov.bg>, 30 November 2022.

<sup>20</sup> This figure is an estimate based on the number of arrivals and departures of Ukrainian nationals from Bulgaria tracked by the Chief Directorate of Border Police. The Government of Bulgaria does not deregister TP holders who have left the country, and the Border Police does not check the TP status of departing Ukrainian nationals. The targeted population planning figures for 2023 take into account the estimated numbers of refugees who remain in country and those expected to seek temporary protection next year.

<sup>21</sup> These include nationals of Russia, Moldova, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Belarus, and others.

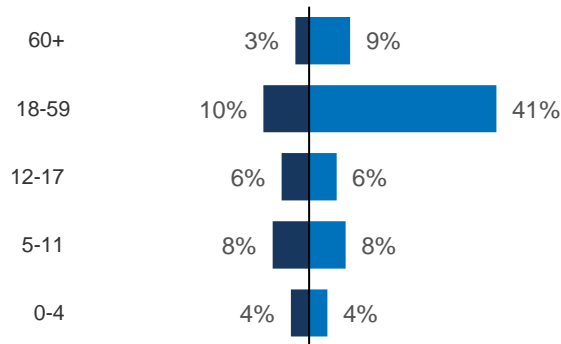
authorities' response efforts will be complemented by coordinated interventions of UN agencies, national NGOs, civil society actors, community-based and faith-based organizations and the International Federation of the Red Cross in a coherent and consistent manner.

## Population planning figures

Bulgaria	Refugees registered for Temporary Protection as of end- Dec 2022 <sup>22</sup>	Targeted population in 2023
Refugee Population	149,268	200,000

## Age and gender breakdown<sup>23</sup>

■ Female ■ Male



**68%**

Women and girls



**32%**

Men and boys

## Country Protection Needs, Vulnerabilities and Risks

While further needs assessments, profiling and intention surveys will be conducted, the greatest needs currently faced by refugees and third-country nationals in need of international protection, either in-transit or at destination, based on currently available data are:<sup>24</sup>

- Basic humanitarian needs, including access to food, health, nutrition, accommodation and core relief items;
- Protection needs, including information and counselling on rights, access and availability of services, legal assistance, child protection, GBV, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), support to persons with specific needs;
- Access to national systems, quality education and strengthened socio-economic inclusion, such as support to integrate into the labour market.

<sup>22</sup> This figure may include multiple registrations of the same individual in two or more EU+ countries; registrations that remain incomplete for various reasons, or registrations of refugees who have moved onward, including beyond Europe.

<sup>23</sup> Calculations based on the Temporary Protection registration database.

<sup>24</sup> This includes findings from UNHCR's Age, Gender and Diversity focus group discussions and data from site-profiling of government accommodation facilities which can be accessed at: [Opsmap Bulgaria \(cartong.org\)](https://opsmap.bulgaria.cartong.org).



*Ukrainian refugee Olga, 35, and her 10-year-old daughter Anya, from the city of Dnipro, sit in their room in the Severina Hotel in the Bulgarian Black Sea resort of Sunny Beach. © UNHCR/Dobrin Kashavelov*

Strengthening refugees' access to health services has been identified as a crucial need, as a shortage of medical supplies, stretched capacity for service delivery and limited health insurance coverage afforded through temporary protection present significant barriers. This includes supporting the nutrition needs of children, lactating mothers, older people and other vulnerable individuals, which the Government has highlighted as a gap. The provision of winter-related core relief items continues to also be a priority need. Across the response, communication with communities on available services and government support is a significant gap. As a top priority, there is a need to enhance communication with the refugee community and access to information for refugees on the available services, including health, education, employment, and state social services; monitor barriers to access; and advocate for inclusion in national systems.



## Part 2: Country Protection and Solutions Strategy

Bulgaria's Protection and Solutions Strategy will focus on the inclusion of refugees in national protection services and interventions to support their integration into society. National authorities will continue to have the overall responsibility for refugee protection – as well as the inclusion of refugees in national services and the larger community – with the support of a range of civil society actors, local NGOs, UN Agencies and other international organizations. RRP partners will promote the inclusion of refugees in government-led longer-term solutions within the strategies of the State Agency for Refugees and local/regional authorities based on vulnerability identification and intention assessments. They will also support the Government in conducting various needs assessments and profiling surveys to ensure continued accommodation and basic needs for the most vulnerable refugees before the governmental accommodation programme is currently scheduled to come to an end in February 2023. RRP partners will ensure reception standards are guaranteed by strengthening reception capacity and conducting protection monitoring of arrivals to ensure access to territory, rights, and services on a non-discriminatory basis, including for TCNs.

Interventions to facilitate protection and solutions will align with and complement the government social welfare system, aiming to address the gaps for the most vulnerable categories and support unmet specific needs. In coordination with national institutions and counterparts, the protection response will be harmonized to ensure integration of refugees into national social and economic systems, including through conducting gap analyses between legal and practical access to government benefits and services. In addition, RRP partners will engage in advocacy to eliminate barriers to accessing social protection schemes and public services. Concurrently, refugees will be supported with access to information, legal and social counselling, and eligibility advice in navigating governmental administrative procedures. Fostering social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities will remain an important cross-cutting response priority across all interventions to ensure longer-term social stability of refugees in Bulgaria. RRP partners will work in cooperation to promote the social inclusion and civic engagement of refugees and the local community, especially adolescents and youth, for social cohesion and peaceful and resilient societies.

Interventions will be focused on key locations which host the largest numbers of refugees, namely Burgas, Dobrich, Plovdiv, Ruse, Sofia, and Varna. The provision of Blue Dot services – i.e. legal aid, MHPSS, protection etc. – in six key locations of Burgas, Dobrich, Ruse, Sofia and Varna, will remain a priority. More locations will be considered, should additional needs be identified. Assistance will target the most vulnerable groups, including those who may be at risk of harmful coping mechanisms. It will also target those at risk of sexual exploitation, abuse, GBV and trafficking, children at risk – as well as those with MHPSS needs, older persons and persons with disabilities, and LGBTIQ+ persons. Strengthening the capacity of the education system together with national partners and key stakeholders is a priority for the integration of refugee children, including supporting schools in creating an environment supportive of integrating refugee children and adolescents in mainstream education as well as through extracurricular activities and non-formal education (including language acquisition, skills-building, civic participation and sports activities). Strengthening health systems, supporting the national health workforce, supporting immunisation efforts and providing MHPSS to refugees, many of whom are likely to remain in the

country, will also be a priority. Communication with communities will be further developed and strengthened to ensure greater information-sharing and combatting disinformation and stigmatisation.

## Country Strategic Objectives

The RRP in Bulgaria supports the operationalization of the overarching regional RRP Strategic Objectives (SO). It aims to uphold rights associated with temporary protection or similar legal status in Bulgaria; to ensure a whole-of-society approach in line with the Global Compact on Refugees, recognising in particular the critical role played by national and local actors, including government ministries, municipal authorities, NGOs and community-based organizations; and engaging with and strengthen community-level protective mechanisms.

### SO1: Ensure refugees' access to protection and assistance on a non-discriminatory basis

RRP partners will aim to monitor access gaps and advocate for inclusion in government services. In partnership with the government, partners will ensure that refugees have access to dignified reception conditions and essential protection services (protection, legal assistance, child protection, GBV response, provision of information, community-based MHPSS). RRP partners will also ensure that refugees have access to – and know how to access – the government accommodation scheme and social protection as well as formal education for children. Partners will support the Government's provision of accommodation, including through site monitoring. All of the above will be closely tied to RRP partners' efforts to improve refugees' access to information on the services available to them. RRP partners will develop a clear strategy and coordination mechanism on communication with communities to ensure greater information-sharing and combat disinformation and stigmatization. This will help partners to reinforce two-way communication systems and ensure that refugees are able to provide feedback and participate in the development of programming.

### SO2: Pave the way toward solutions and expand access to social and economic opportunities

To support the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, RRP partners will seek strategic partnerships and promote interlinkages with development actors and the private sector. Partners will focus on job market assessments linking the findings to refugees' skills and provision of job counselling, as well as capacity building initiatives. RRP partners will also work closely with local authorities to facilitate job placement of refugees in local businesses. All of these priorities will aim at enhancing the self-reliance of refugees.

### **SO3: Ensure that refugees with specific needs continue to have access to targeted support and assistance, while also engaging with and strengthening community-level protection mechanisms**

RRP partners will support the most vulnerable refugees with heightened protection risks and specific needs through targeted assistance. Partners will work with communities to strengthen the identification of persons with specific needs and ensure safe referrals to specialized services. RRP partners will also support the government to ensure that social protection services are age, gender and diversity sensitive – and accessible for those who may be at higher risk, including persons with disabilities, older persons, LGBTIQ+ individuals, GBV survivors, victims of trafficking, children at risk and survivors of abuse, exploitation and violence including unaccompanied and separated children. Partners will also complement and enhance government services by providing targeted support including psycho-social support and strengthening community-level protection mechanisms.

### **SO4: Advance social cohesion between refugee and host communities through targeted interventions**

In close coordination with local municipalities and civil society organisations, RRP partners will aim to strengthen interventions that promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence. This will include awareness raising for local stakeholders on diversity and non-discrimination. Partners will support local authorities to develop policies and services to facilitate refugee inclusion and integration. RRP partners will also support opportunities to enhance inclusive communities, including safe spaces, activities for social, cultural and recreational events, and positive dialogue and information exchange between refugee and host communities. This aims to enhance community-based support for refugee reception and integration.

All the above will be to build on, enhance and scale up national protection capacities by supporting and working with community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, civil society and informal networks established by refugees and host communities to build on their resources, capacities and improve reach and sustainability of reception and inclusion initiatives.

#### **Blue Dots in Bulgaria**

UNHCR, UNICEF together with Bulgarian Red Cross and Bulgarian Helsinki Committee, have jointly opened six Safe Space, Protection and Support Hubs, commonly known as Blue Dots, where refugees are supported with essential services, safe spaces, protection, and legal assistance – as well as referrals to other specialized service providers. Back-to-school and learning information campaigns have been organized in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, regional education, and health departments as well as NGO partners to ensure children's smooth enrolment and transition to the next school year.

## Sectoral Responses

### PROTECTION



Various protection activities will be provided by RRP partners, including:

- Identify and facilitate access of persons at heightened risks to appropriate services
- Legal information and assistance, including representation and counseling
- Protection monitoring
- Information on access to social and basic services
- Adolescent and youth engagement

Capacity building for local authorities to strengthen their knowledge on identifying and working with persons with specific needs and for service providers to capacitate their knowledge and skills on national arrangements and procedures for access to temporary protection holders.

All protection interventions will mainstream mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and community-based mechanisms. Blue Dot Hubs will provide key protection services and information for refugees with referrals for specialized services, with a particular focus on children at risk, persons with disabilities, those at risk of trafficking, survivors of GBV and refugees from the LGBTIQ+ community. The minimum package of services will include basic psychosocial support, legal aid and counseling, child and family friendly spaces, identification of vulnerabilities and protection risks and appropriate referrals.

RRP partners are closely supporting local authorities and communities in working with adolescents to address young people's needs and empower them to reach their full potential and become agents of positive change. This includes engaging and mobilizing young people to participate and contribute positively to their communities; skills-building; MHPSS support; and systems strengthening for meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes on national and local levels.

#### Sub-Sector: Child Protection



Priority will be given to strengthening the Government's child protection systems and services, including national, regional, and local authorities' capacity to support children at risk and families, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). This will include supporting the Government with documentation and identification of children at risk; best interests procedures; psychosocial support; family tracing and reunification; and alternative care arrangements. To support the above, appropriate capacity building to authorities as well as frontline professionals will also be provided. Interventions will ensure that children at risk have access to specialized services, social support and access to child-friendly information. RRP partners will provide UASC and caregivers with MHPSS, legal aid and information sessions in relation to the temporary protection, asylum and family reunification procedures. Support will also be provided for parents and caregivers to strengthen and expand their knowledge, skills and capacities on providing nurturing and responsive parenting and

caregiving for young children, and to facilitate their access to social services including health and developmental monitoring of young children.

### Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



RRP partners will prioritize strengthening GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response activities to ensure GBV survivors, including SEA and survivors of trafficking for sexual exploitation, have access to quality support services, GBV prevention programmes are in place and that all other sectors are supported to mitigate the risks of GBV within their interventions. RRP partners will support the government in reviewing and strengthening the existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on GBV prevention and response adopted by the State Agency for Refugees and ensure a comprehensive multi-sectoral response. The revision of the SOPs will include establishing and reinforcing GBV referral pathways.

RRP partners will continue to provide quality services to survivors of GBV, including SEA and trafficking for sexual exploitation, and work closely with other response sectors, including health and legal, to ensure a survivor-centered, multi-sectoral quality response. They will also implement prevention activities that include empowerment, establishing community-based prevention mechanisms, engaging men and boys in GBV prevention, awareness raising and information sessions. Partners will collaborate with local actors, particularly including women-led and refugee-led organizations, on the implementation of these planned activities to strengthen the community-based response.

RRP partners will support other sectors' GBV risk mitigation efforts, including by providing capacity development to frontline responders and community members on safe disclosure and referral of GBV survivors. This will also include support in assessment and analysis, including safety audits as relevant for each sector (Education, Basic Needs, Health and Nutrition, Livelihoods and Socioeconomic Inclusion).

Additionally, RRP partners will work in cooperation with government institutions, non-governmental organizations and other actors to reduce the risks of trafficking and provide targeted support to victims of trafficking, in collaboration with the National Commission for Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings.

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## EDUCATION



The Bulgaria RRP will continue to prioritize the integration and inclusion of Ukrainian children and adolescents in the formal national school system to ensure the continuity of their education, including early learning. Some 19,250 refugee children from Ukraine currently reside in Bulgaria, but only a small number of those are

enrolled in Bulgarian schools.<sup>25</sup> RRP partners and the government, including at the municipal level, will work together on back-to-school information campaigns to ensure the smooth enrolment and transition of children into the formal national education system in the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years. This will include advocacy for removal of barriers in access to education, contributions to capacity building in Bulgarian schools to host refugee children, and provision of learning materials for refugee children in preschool and primary school. Support will also be provided to teachers, social workers and psychologists working closely and supporting refugee children. Partners will engage service providers, host communities and refugees for social and behavioral change for inclusion in education.

RRP partners will support Bulgaria's national policy on Bulgarian language certification. In particular, there is a lack of state funding for free language classes and free certification of language skills for refugees. As this has been identified as a gap and a key first step of integration for refugees of all ages, RRP partners will provide language classes (Bulgarian, English, Ukrainian) for children. Digital education will also be explored.

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## HEALTH AND NUTRITION



The health response will prioritize supporting the national health response in providing timely and appropriate public health interventions, including emergency first aid response, basic health care, MHPSS services, information on accessing local health systems and informing on hygiene and public health measures. RRP partners will conduct refugee population needs assessments aimed at informing the national health system response. RRP partners will also build the capacity of health actors to ensure they have the necessary knowledge and skills to respond to the needs of GBV survivors, including clinical management of rape.

In Bulgaria, focus group discussions with refugees from Ukraine have found that a very small percentage minority of respondents are registered with a general practitioner due to various reasons, including lack of information about the health system, inability to pay health insurance, inability to find a general practitioner who would take them as a patient and lack of translation. Other difficulties include a lack of medical assistance in resort towns on the coast where many refugees are accommodated as well as a lack of assistive devices (wheelchairs, crutches etc.) for persons with disabilities. In light of the above, RRP partners will provide awareness raising and appropriate information on accessing medical care services including for persons with disabilities – as well as counseling on Infant and Young Child feeding for caregivers, and health promotion through community workshops. RRP partners will provide primary health care services including through mobile teams for vulnerable populations (e.g. pregnant women and children). Partners will also provide psychosocial support (particularly for caregivers of young children) including psychological first aid, physiotherapy and speech therapy for those with disabilities or specific needs, early intervention for children with developmental difficulties and disabilities, and transportation assistance to access health facilities to vulnerable refugees. The most vulnerable

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<sup>25</sup> Government of Bulgaria State Agency for Refugees, Temporary Protection registration database, <https://ukraine.gov.bg>.

will also be supported with medication and the costs of medical exams. For those in need of specialized MHPSS, timely identification, referrals and consultations will be provided. Capacity building on MHPSS for all frontline workers, including local authorities working with refugees, will also be provided. Partners will also monitor the access of refugees to health services in coordination with the public authorities to reinforce capacities where necessary, while responding to shortages of medical staff, health facilities and medical supply chains.

## LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



RRP partners' livelihoods interventions will reinforce access to jobs and employment opportunities and will include related childcare services and skill building for young people to facilitate refugee and host community members' ability to access decent work. To promote livelihoods, RRP partners will assess local markets for employment opportunities for refugees complemented by trainings and courses to enhance their practical skills. RRP partners will establish peer support networks, provide employment counselling, and support pilot employment initiatives. Direct support will also be provided for female refugees and refugee youth to enhance their employment and entrepreneurship competencies, including demand-driven vocational training for employment in the IT sector, such as business development and financial services. At the same time, RRP partners will continue to advocate with and expand partnerships with the private sector for the inclusion of refugee populations in employment opportunities. The private sector will be engaged on ongoing activities to identify potential collaboration and expansion of initiatives.

Priority will also be given to activities focusing on integration of refugees within the community. As national authorities do not provide comprehensive Bulgarian language courses to temporary protection holders – which are key for access to employment, integration and inclusion – activities will include Bulgarian and English language classes for adults. Social cohesion activities in community and education centres will target both Bulgarian and Ukrainian youth and be complemented by psychosocial support.

Furthermore, RRP partners will work with government authorities to improve data collection and analysis as well as monitoring and evaluation of refugees' socio-economic situation.

### Highlights

Language training and employment-enabling support is being provided by community-based organizations and enthusiastic volunteers for adults of all ages. These include Bulgarian and English language courses, with positive feedback that this support contributes to employment opportunities. Additional resources will serve to expand the territorial coverage and increase learning hours and class places of language training programmes provided by community-based organizations that have proved highly effective in linking refugees with decent work.

## BASIC NEEDS



Based on identified needs, partners will provide hygiene kits and WASH kits, with a particular focus on vulnerable refugee female headed households. Food vouchers and cash for emergency accommodation will also be provided to mitigate any imminent protection risks. For the winter months, the inter-agency response will include one-time cash assistance to the most vulnerable refugee households to meet their most basic additional household needs to survive the winter, as well as the provision of core relief items such as blankets, hygiene kits, kitchen sets, winter clothes and baby formula. RRP partners will also support the Government's efforts to provide dignified accommodation for refugees in state facilities, based on site profiling and joint inter-agency needs assessment.

RRP partners will support the Government in scaling up accommodation capacity including for temporary shelter while supporting local authorities in identifying additional reception facilities to accommodate those with both immediate and longer-term needs. The conditions of reception and accommodation facilities will be monitored to ensure safe and accessible conditions for all arrivals, including persons with specific needs, and to support national authorities on any identified gaps.

Across the response in Bulgaria, food, rental, and basic needs support continue to be priority needs. RRP partners will provide cash for protection in support of unmet specific needs, complementing but not replacing government social protection schemes. This will be accompanied by strong protection advocacy for inclusion and the continued provision of protection services. The provision of cash for protection and cash for winterization is an important protection intervention to mitigate the risk of exploitation and other protection risks. While Bulgaria is a member of the EU, it has yet to receive a budget allocation for the refugee response to cover some of the most vulnerable categories of refugees in the government social assistance programmes.

## Country Cross-Cutting Response Priorities

### Accountability to Affected People (AAP)



RRP partners will ensure Accountability to Affected People through both traditional and creative means, exploring online tools. RRP partners will furthermore support the Government to have a communication and community engagement strategy for the response. Effective and accessible feedback and response mechanisms will be put in place and socialised with communities, with inter-agency referrals and collective approaches as needed. Identification and protection referral for persons with disabilities and older persons with additional or specific protection needs, including access to counselling, sign language interpretation, referral to medical services, replacement of lost or damaged assistive devices, will be key. RRP partners will identify misinformation and disinformation through community engagement in digital and analogue channels to further inform appropriate messaging and engagement.



## Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)



Sexual exploitation and abuse directly contradict the principles upon which humanitarian action is based, inflict harm on those whom the humanitarian and development community protect, and jeopardise the credibility of all assistance agencies. In Bulgaria, RRP partners work closely with the Government to mitigate and prevent risks as well as to ensure a robust complaints mechanism is in place and further strengthened. This includes establishing PSEA focal points in each organization, joint SEA risks assessments, partner capacity assessments, capacity building and training as well as community outreach and awareness raising on the risks of trafficking and SEA with the refugee community. Information on SEA and risks of trafficking are being distributed at entry points and Crisis Centres.

PSEA is an integral and cross-cutting component of the RRP and is mainstreamed across the response to assist and protect refugees fleeing from Ukraine. The emergency is also characterized by several specific risk factors, such as an exceptionally high incidence of family separation and a prevailing percentage of female-headed households, as well as a wide range of actors involved in the response, some of whom have limited experience with PSEA. These risks may be further compounded by increasing socio-economic vulnerabilities, difficulties in finding suitable accommodation, and potential fatigue among host States and host communities as the crisis continues.

## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)



In Bulgaria, there is an important need for multi-layered community-based and specialized MHPSS services. MHPSS will be mainstreamed across all sectors as a priority response. Interventions will support refugees' access to MHPSS services while also strengthening community-level support by the government and humanitarian actors. Key priority areas for MHPSS are: 1) capacity building of government and frontline staff working in Protection, Child Protection, GBV, Health, Education and other sectors; 2) strengthening and integrating community-based MHPSS interventions into the national Mental Health Strategy and its action plan; and 3) enhancing coordination between RRP partners, the Government at central and provincial levels, academia, other I/NGO and professional organizations, the donor community and inter-ministries. Referral mechanisms will also be strengthened among service providers to cover multi-layered MHPSS interventions. All MHPSS activities will be planned, implemented and evaluated in alignment with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee guidelines on MHPSS in Emergency Settings, which will be translated into local languages for the government and frontline service providers.

RRP partners will coordinate MHPSS interventions with the Bulgarian Ministry of Health and under the national Mental Health Strategy (2021-2031), and the national Mental Health Advisory Board. The Inter-Agency Coordination group will also enhance linkages and coordination of MHPSS interventions in the RRP with other relevant government ministries, including the Ministries of Social Protection, Education and Labour. Additionally, an MHPSS Technical Working Group will be formed to ensure coordination and provision of evidence-based, culturally adapted and community-based MHPSS services.

## Partnership and Coordination

In Bulgaria, the Refugee Coordination Model has been activated in support of the Government's efforts with an established inter-agency coordination working group led by UNHCR. Sectoral discussions co-led by UNHCR, RRP partners and the Government will continue focusing on protection (including sub-sectors on child protection and GBV), education, basic needs (comprising shelter/accommodation, NFIs, WASH), health and nutrition, and livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion. Within the Inter-Agency Coordination group, an Accommodation Task Force is being activated to support the Government's assessments and needs for accommodating new refugee arrivals. An inter-agency Cash Working Group and MHPSS Technical Working Group are also being convened. The interim Council of Ministers has formed a new Task Force for the Ukrainian Refugee Response, focusing on inter-ministerial coordination related to the general refugee response. Meanwhile the inter-agency coordination group will closely communicate with the Government Task Force on thematic issues in support of national plans.

The Refugee Coordination Forum will continue to promote coherence and complementarity between the 2023 RRP and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-2027 as well as the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF). The 2023 RRP will count on the response of 11 national NGOs, four UN agencies, the IFRC/RF, one faith-based organization and one regional organization. Projects under the RRP will bridge the humanitarian response and longer-term development planning to build resilience at the individual, community and institutional level. The participation of refugees and women-led organizations will be reinforced. RRP partners will jointly work on joint assessments and monitoring of activities as key priorities, that help all actors ensure a needs-based response. The inter-agency Multi-Sector Needs Assessment and regional protection monitoring will also help identify key needs and priority areas for intervention in each sector.

Partners involved	18
UN Agencies	4
National NGOs	11
IFRC&RC	1
Faith-based Organizations	1
Regional organizations	1

*Note: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type.*

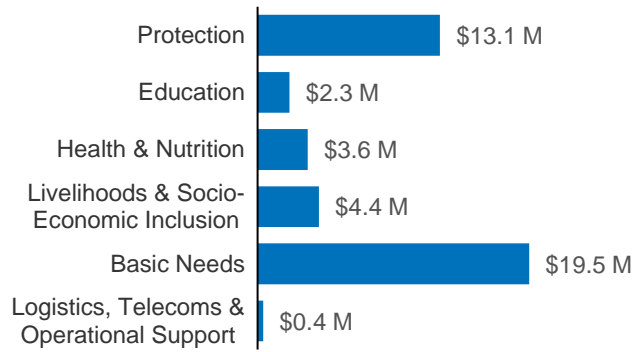
## Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

### Total financial requirements in USD



**\$43.4 M**

### By sector in million USD



Total Protection requirements	\$13,070,721
Other protection activities	\$11,056,539
GBV	\$633,736
Child Protection	\$1,380,446

Total Cash Assistance requirements*	\$18,853,999
Protection	\$1,500,000
Basic Needs	\$17,353,999

\* This is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. As the modality of choice of the people we serve, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.

### By partner type

Partners involved	18
UN Agencies	\$28,964,226
National NGOs	\$2,874,532
IFRC&RC	\$7,000,000
Faith-based Organizations	\$3,949,600
Regional Organizations	\$598,900

## By partner

Partner/Acronym	Protection	Education	Health & Nutrition	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Basic Needs	Logistics, Telecoms & Operational Support	Total USD
<b>UN Agencies</b>							
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	8,824,540			2,905,000	7,624,802		19,354,342
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	1,381,583	1,369,084	836,583		581,584	401,900	4,570,734
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	2,000,900	187,250	267,500	240,750	989,750		3,686,150
World Health Organization (WHO)			1,353,000				1,353,000
<b>National NGOs</b>							
Aid for Ukraine	75,000	151,800		414,200	206,520		847,520
Ak-Nordost			25,000				25,000
Association Energy				112,211			112,211
Bulgarian Helsinki Committee	166,972						166,972
Dignita	18,500						18,500
Foundation for Access to Rights	173,340						173,340
Pituary Foundation			81,300				81,300
Reachout Foundation		42,193					42,193
Situation Centre Open Doors		297,000	77,500	118,075			492,575
Ukraine Support and Renovation Foundation	61,607			34,200			95,807
Za Dobroto Foundation	168,279	276,930	81,078	15,423	277,404		819,114
<b>IFRC &amp; Red Cross/ Crescent Societies</b>							
Bulgarian Red Cross	200,000		900,000		5,900,000		7,000,000
<b>Faith-based Organizations</b>							

Partner/Acronym	Protection	Education	Health & Nutrition	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Basic Needs	Logistics, Telecoms & Operational Support	Total USD
Caritas Bulgaria					3,949,600		3,949,600
Regional Organizations							
International Centre for Migration Policy Development				598,900			598,900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,070,721</b>	<b>\$2,324,257</b>	<b>\$3,621,961</b>	<b>\$4,438,759</b>	<b>\$19,529,660</b>	<b>\$401,900</b>	<b>\$43,387,258</b>

**UKRAINE SITUATION**

# **REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN**

January – December 2023



**Regional Refugee Response  
for the Ukraine Situation**

UNHCR operational data portal  
[rbeext@unhcr.org](mailto:rbeext@unhcr.org)