



Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan Summary and Inter-Agency Funding Requirements for Belarus March-December 2022 September 2022 Recalibration

Overview

The **inter-agency Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)** outlines the comprehensive response and activities to support countries' efforts to protect and assist refugees, and other persons in need of humanitarian aid, coming from Ukraine. It includes the financial requirements of partners in all countries under the Regional RRP (including UN agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations and civil society), covering the period from March to December 2022, and working closely with concerned host Governments.

Belarus

In **Belarus**, RRP partners support Government-led efforts through a multisectoral approach. The response focuses, among others, on protection services; cash assistance, information, basic household goods and items such as warm clothing for the winter period to the most vulnerable groups and people with specific needs; facilitating access to employment, education, and health; as well as strengthening of national capacities. The response will identify and address refugees' needs, with consideration for age, gender and diversity.

This summary of the Regional RRP in **Belarus** includes the **recalibration of the RRP** completed in September 2022. It presents the needs analysis and response priorities, as well as the financial requirements of partners, which are reflected under the "Other Countries" response chapter of the Regional RRP.

Since 24 February 2022 and as of 27 September 2022, a total of 55,998 border crossings to Belarus from Ukraine have been recorded with 244 border crossings relate to third country nationals. 23,530 persons have transited through EU countries before entering Belarus (32,565 through Poland, 6,427 through Lithuania, and 1,121 through Latvia), while 16,682 have crossed directly from Ukraine.¹ Since the second half of April 2022, border crossing points have remained closed on the Ukrainian side and direct border crossings remain very low.

The Government of Belarus allows all refugees from Ukraine to access Belarusian territory without visa requirements. Those who wish to seek international protection have access to asylum procedures, irrespective of their nationality. Third country nationals fleeing the war in Ukraine and traveling to their countries of origin or permanent residence are allowed to enter, transit, and exit Belarus visa-free. All COVID-19 restrictions have

¹ These statistics are provided by the State Border Committee of Belarus (SBC) and reflect all border crossings from Ukraine and EU countries. These may include pendular cross-border and transit movements.

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INTER-AGENCY
PARTNERS IN A
COORDINATED
RESPONSE PLAN

 TO ASSIST UP TO
30,000
INDIVIDUALS IN NEED
OF HUMANITARIAN AID

 WITH A TOTAL
\$11.5 M
OF INTER-AGENCY
REQUIREMENTS

been lifted at border crossing points with Ukraine and no PCR test is needed to enter Belarus for those seeking protection.

Since 24 February and as of 27 September 2022, 14,881 refugees from Ukraine have registered with the Ministry of Interior (MOI) for a legal status in Belarus. 8,559 Ukrainians have been recorded by the MOI's Department on Citizenship and Migration (DCM) as persons with permits for temporary stay up to 90 days. 1,788 Ukrainians have applied for asylum in Belarus. Out of those, 1,011 have been granted complementary protection. 3,053 have applied for 1-year temporary residence permits. 1,481 have applied for permanent residence permits.

On 14 September 2022, the President of Belarus signed an amendment to the Decree No. 420 of 30 August 2014 (issued on 16.09.22) "On the stay of citizens of Ukraine in the Republic of Belarus". This amendment provides the legislative basis for facilitated access of citizens from Ukraine to medical care, employment, education, and pensions (the latter only for Ukrainians with permanent residence).

Surveys have shown that most refugees arriving in Belarus come from the Donetsk, Luhansk and Kharkiv regions. Groups of people at heightened risk include women; female-headed households; children, especially unaccompanied and separated children (UASC); elderly people; people with disabilities; and people in need of medical support. Most refugees from Ukraine are hosted by relatives or friends, or settle in private accommodations, some of them linked to employment opportunities.

The Government leads the response to the Ukraine refugee situation in Belarus with the support of inter-agency partners. The Belarusian Red Cross Society (BRCS) is the recognized channel of international aid delivery and distribution. The number of people fleeing from Ukraine to Belarus is relatively small compared to other neighbouring countries. However, the crisis in Ukraine unfolds in an unpredictable manner and refugees from Ukraine continue to arrive through EU countries and through Russia.

Needs Analysis

Protection needs include identifying the most vulnerable refugees, including survivors of violence; victims of trafficking; elderly people; single women; female-headed households; people with disabilities; and children, particularly UASC. Protection services, referral pathways and follow-up systems will need to be strengthened in collaboration with relevant Government entities and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). This includes legal counselling and assistance, rehabilitation support, **child services** including Best Interest Procedures (BIP), as well as capacity building on **Gender-Based-Violence (GBV)**, including risk prevention and response, and temporary safe accommodation.

Complementing the capacity on **psycho-social and mental health** services was identified as one of the primary needs. Emergency **medical treatment** is generally provided free of charge in Belarus. According to the recent amendments made to Decree No. 420, citizens of Ukraine who arrived in Belarus after 24 February 2022 and have not yet applied for a residence permit will have access to medical care on an equal basis with citizens of Belarus. Some groups of people, such as third country nationals, will need support with their medical needs.

The most vulnerable groups, such as families and single parents with small children and elderly people, will need to be supported with **one-time emergency cash assistance** and **basic household** items and warm clothing to settle in private accommodations in the host communities and to be prepared for the cold **winter months**.

Recent amendments to Decree No. 420 grant all children from Ukraine access to all levels of **education**. However, (pre-)school-aged children from Ukraine will need assistance to start the new school year. School administration, teachers and other education specialists require additional support to identify and respond effectively to children's heightened levels of distress.

Recent amendments to the Decree No. 420 also simplify the recruitment of citizens and stateless persons from Ukraine for **employment opportunities** and waive some fees for the employers. A good understanding of socio-economic profiles, market opportunities and key stakeholders is vital to assist and enable refugees to protect their assets, adapt to local market needs, and contribute to local economies. The needs of vulnerable **host communities** must also be addressed in the planning of all interventions to foster social cohesion and a welcoming environment.

Response strategy and sector priorities

Priority will be given to the collection of **age and gender disaggregated data** to strengthen and promote an evidence-based protection response to the Ukraine refugee situation. These efforts will provide a better understanding and regional comparability of the profiles, intentions, and needs of refugees coming from Ukraine to Belarus. The capacity of local actors in data collection is being strengthened.

Within the **protection response** strategy, partners will continue to regularly monitor access to territory and asylum procedures, as well as reception conditions of new arrivals. Individual counselling is offered through available hotlines including for legal counselling and referrals to adequate services. Social services will be provided with particular attention to elderly people and people with disabilities. Third country nationals not in need of international protection will be assisted to voluntarily return to their countries of origin, when possible, and to do so in a safe and dignified manner.

Child protection response activities will focus on working with CSOs and local education and social protection administrations to strengthen the child protection system. Attention will be paid to creating child-friendly spaces for children and families. Child protection coordination will be strengthened to respond to immediate protection needs of UASC and other children at heightened risks and to prevent further risks.

Protection from GBV will be strengthened by using the existing social structures and capacities in Belarus including the national GBV protection network of social and healthcare service providers and CSOs that provide psycho-social counselling, case management and referral to other specialized services, as well as safe shelter. Safe spaces for counselling and referral, with particular attention to the specific needs of women, elderly people, girls, and boys with disabilities, will be established in the regions.

A key response priority is **psycho-social support** particularly for children and their caregivers, women, elderly people, and people with disabilities, who might have suffered from or witnessed violence, including victims of trafficking. A psycho-social mobile team has been established to provide individual counselling and capacity building for frontline workers working with children. RRP Partners are working towards the provision of psycho-social support to survivors and those at-risk of GBV. RRP Partners will facilitate access to **mental health services** by providing specialized services where needed and strengthening the capacity of the local healthcare system.

Depending on the needs, RRP partners will support with referrals and payments for **healthcare services and medications** as per the needs identified. Special focus must be given to the needs of people with terminal and chronic diseases and disabilities. RRP partners will also strengthen the provision of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, as well as antenatal, obstetrics and post-natal care in accordance with international standards. Early childhood services will include counselling on nutrition and vaccinations and providing multidisciplinary services to families with children affected by developmental delays or disabilities.

In cooperation with national authorities, RRP partners launched their emergency response during the first weeks of the crisis by providing and prepositioning of **basic** items for immediate assistance. The assistance will be adapted to the needs for the **winter months** and mid- to long-term needs to support refugees to settle in host communities. **One-time emergency cash assistance** for vulnerable groups will continue and be scaled-if needs assessed, to support payments for adequate accommodation and heating costs. Particularly vulnerable cases will be supported with temporary accommodation. Several crisis centers have been renovated over the summer and RRP partners are planning to further provide winter assistance for selected buildings.

RRP Partners will strengthen the outreach to (pre-)school-aged children to assist in accessing the national **education** system and will provide school supplies and uniforms to support the start and into the new school year. RRP Partners will also work with local actors to strengthen and scale-up safe space programmes in schools in the regions with a high presence of refugees.

Partners will develop a **livelihoods and resilience** strategy in collaboration with the Government to better plan mid- and long-term interventions. Joint assessments from a development perspective will be conducted together with local authorities. Refugees and host communities will benefit from skills mapping, job intermediation and placement, and awareness raising on employment, self-employment and other income-generating opportunities. Digital solutions will contribute to these efforts.

As women and children comprise most refugees from Ukraine, specific attention to **gender issues** will be cross-cutting in the response planning. Recognizing the need for communities' voices to drive decision-making, ensuring safe space, efforts will be made to support partners in meaningful engagement and **communication with communities**. To address potential **sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)** risks, all

national and international partners involved in the provision of support will be informed, coordinated, and trained on protection from SEA. Effective and accessible feedback and response mechanisms will be established and will include confidential and safe channels.

Coordination

RRP partners support the Government's efforts to respond to the Ukraine refugee situation. UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the RRP in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) and in close collaboration and consultation with relevant Government counterparts, and with the support of inter-agency partners and other stakeholders.

Within the framework of this RRP and building on existing country-level humanitarian coordination structures, an inter-agency Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF), composed of all partners involved in the response, has been established at country level. This has enabled RRP partners to work efficiently together to maximize the response, ensure complementarity and avoid duplications. It also aims at guiding joint advocacy initiatives and resource mobilization efforts.

Financial requirements March-December 2022 | USD

RRP partners are appealing for an estimated \$ 11.5 M for the period from March to December 2022. The below table presents the recalibrated financial requirements of appealing interagency partners per sector in **Belarus as of September 2022**, with very limited funds received. **In 2022, Belarus** was largely a country of transit for refugees from Ukraine and hosts a relatively small number of refugees in comparison to the number of border crossings, although a significant proportion are elderly vulnerable people compared to other hosting countries. Many adults who remained in Belarus were able to secure employment which compensated for the lack of funding to respond to needs. Such a limited funding situation will create an extremely challenging environment to respond should the situation in the region worsen

Organization	Protection (incl. GBV and CP)*	Food security	Health and Nutrition	Livelihoods and Resilience	Logistics, Telecoms and Operational Support	Education	Basic Needs (Accommodation / Shelter, NFIs, Transportation)	Energy and Environment	WASH	Total
UN-IOM	175,000	200,000	100,000	-	25,000	-	625,000	-	25,000	1,150,000
UN-UNDP	-	-	-	2,204,750	-	-	-	50,000	-	2,254,750
UN-UNFPA	400,000	-	195,000	-	-	-	-	-	65,000	660,000
UN-UNHCR	2,230,000	-	-	-	-	200,000	1,570,000	-	-	4,000,000
UN-UNICEF	850,000	-	70,000	710,000	617,200	600,000	-	-	250,000	3,097,200
UN-WHO	-	-	349,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	349,000
Total	3,655,000	200,000	714,000	2,914,750	642,200	800,000	2,195,000	50,000	340,000	11,510,950

*Breakdown of Protection requirements

Organization	Protection	GBV	Child Protection	Total Protection
UN-IOM	175,000	-	-	175,000
UN-UNFPA	-	400,000	-	400,000
UN-UNHCR	1,880,000	150,000	200,000	2,230,000
UN-UNICEF	335,000	135,000	380,000	850,000
Total	2,390,000	685,000	580,000	3,655,000

Total Cash Assistance requirements \$ 800,000
Basic Needs
\$ 800,000

** This is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is 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 persons of concern, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.

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[Ukraine situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan, March - December 2022](#)

[Addendum RRP Ukraine Situation, September 2022](#)