

Ukraine

February 2022

Presence: The UN Refugee Agency has been working in Ukraine since 1994 and established a country office the following year. A host country agreement was signed in September 1996.

UNHCR works to ensure the protection of and solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers, stateless persons, persons with undetermined nationality, IDPs and conflict-affected persons.

Strategy: UNHCR's work in Ukraine is guided by its **Multi-Year, Multi-Partner Protection and Solutions Strategy**, which sets forth UNHCR's plans for engagement in 2018-2022.

POPULATION OF CONCERN*

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Refugees | 2,310 |
| Asylum-seekers | 2,621 |
| Internally displaced persons** | 854,000 |
| Stateless persons*** | 35,875 |
| Conflict-affected persons | 1.62 M |

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

| Refugees | | Asylum-seekers | |
|--------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|
| Afghanistan | 845 | Afghanistan | 708 |
| Syria | 494 | Russian Federation | 198 |
| Russian Federation | 175 | Tajikistan | 192 |

*Data source: UNHCR 2021 Mid-Year Statistical Report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

**Data source: [Humanitarian Needs Overview February 2022](#)

***UNHCR's estimation

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

At the time of updating this fact sheet, in light of the rapidly deteriorating situation and war in Ukraine, UNHCR is ramping up its response and capacity in Ukraine and neighbouring countries to provide urgent humanitarian assistance where possible, in coordination with the authorities, UN agencies, affected communities and other partners.

UNHCR is rolling out protection monitoring and providing basic assistance to some shelters hosting internally displaced persons. However, the security situation has made it extremely difficult to deliver assistance.

UNHCR declared a Level 3 Emergency for Ukraine on 25 February, and jointly **launched** with OCHA the **Humanitarian Flash Appeal** and the **Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)** for the Ukraine situation on 1 March.

HIGHLIGHTS

2,572

refugees and asylum-seekers received legal assistance in 2021.

10,385

internally displaced (IDPs) and other conflict-affected persons received legal assistance from UNHCR's NGO partners in 2021.

594 houses

were repaired in conflict-affected areas on both sides of the 'contact line' in 2021.

124 stateless persons

have been assisted with applying to the statelessness determination procedure since it became operational in May 2021.

STRENGTHENED PROTECTION FOR STATELESS PEOPLE IN UKRAINE



After receiving her stateless person status, Evelina now wants to get married to her partner and register him as the father of their child. For four years, UNHCR and its NGO partners have been providing legal support for people like Evelina to become more 'visible.' Read her story [here](#).

Asylum

- **Protection:** UNHCR monitors the situation of persons of concern and intervenes to ensure access to asylum procedures and protection for refugees.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR works with the Government to enhance efficiency and fairness of the asylum system through [capacity-building](#) of authorities, judges, lawyers and border guards. UNHCR advocates for [amendments to national asylum legislation](#) to align it with international and European standards. In 2020, UNHCR [published comments on the draft asylum law](#) with recommendations on the right to work for asylum-seekers and access to social protection. The draft law is pending first reading in Parliament.
- **Durable solutions:** UNHCR focuses on integration and self-reliance support, providing [language training](#) and [grants for starting a business or attaining vocational education](#) to refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR also advocates for the establishment of [certified State language courses](#).
- **Promoting social cohesion:** Since 2018, through its Community Support Initiatives programme, UNHCR assists [refugee community initiatives](#) and [funds projects to promote peaceful coexistence](#). UNHCR's [Community-Based Protection Working Group](#) engages NGO partners and government counterparts at the central and regional levels.

IDPs and Conflict-Affected Population

- UNHCR [advocates](#) for positive changes in [policies](#) on IDP inclusion, birth registration, freedom of movement, access to pensions, compensation for destroyed or damaged property for IDPs and residents of NGCA, and access to housing options to enable IDPs to attain durable solutions.
- UNHCR shapes its response through [protection monitoring](#) and jointly with NGO partners [supports](#)

- persons with [particular vulnerabilities](#) with legal assistance, protection counselling, psychosocial support, and cash and in-kind protection assistance.
- UNHCR capacitates IDPs to advocate for their rights and access services and durable solutions through [community mobilization](#).
- In NGCA, UNHCR [repairs](#) individual homes damaged in the conflict, and leads the [Protection and Shelter/Non-food Items \(NFI\) Clusters](#).

Statelessness

- Ukraine acceded to the 1954 and 1961 statelessness conventions in 2013. In June 2020, following years of UNHCR [advocacy](#), the Government adopted a [law introducing a Statelessness Determination Procedure](#), operational since May 2021.
- UNHCR and NGO partners identify and provide [legal aid](#) to persons with undetermined nationality and irregular stateless persons. UNHCR advocates with and builds the capacities of Ukrainian authorities to implement the [#IBELONG Campaign](#).

Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with the [State Migration Service](#), the [Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories](#) and other ministries. UNHCR facilitates, with OCHA, humanitarian [convoys to eastern Ukraine](#) and works with [eight local NGOs](#).
- **External engagement:** UNHCR cooperates with [recovery and development actors](#) on gradual transition of responsibilities to national authorities.

UNHCR Presence in Ukraine

Staff:

94 National Staff
 18 International Staff

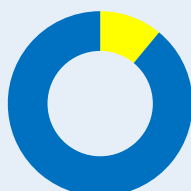
Offices:

1 Country Office in Kyiv
 1 Sub-Office in Sloviansk
 2 Field Units (Mariupol, Sievierodonetsk)
 2 Field Offices (Donetsk and Luhansk)

Financial information (22 February 2022)

Financial requirements
USD 22.5 M*

Funding gap
 89%
 20.1 M



Funded
 11%
 2.4 M

*This amount refers to the initial budget approved by UNHCR's Executive Committee for 2022, prior to the latest hostilities in Ukraine.

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2022 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

Sweden | Norway | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Switzerland | Belgium | Ireland

Unearmarked contributions provide UNHCR with vital flexibility in determining how best to protect and assist persons of concern who are in the greatest need or at the greatest risk.