

COUNTRY CHAPTER  
**LATVIA**



# > At a Glance

## Country Planned Response (January 2025 - December 2026)



**54,000**

refugee population planned for assistance



**11M**

total financial requirements in USD



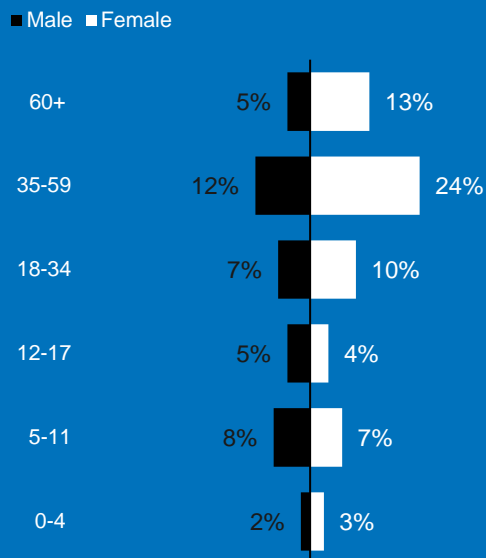
**8**

RRP partners

### Population planning figures

CURRENT POPULATION AS OF DECEMBER 2024	POPULATION PLANNED FOR ASSISTANCE	
	YEAR 1	YEAR 2
Refugee Population	48,000	54,000

### Age and gender breakdown



**7%**

People with disabilities



**61%**

Women and girls



**39%**

Men and boys



**29%**

Children

## Part 1: Current Situation

### Situation Overview

The number of refugee arrivals from Ukraine has led to Latvia's most substantial refugee response in history. As of September 2024, around 46,500 refugees from Ukraine had been registered as beneficiaries of temporary protection in Latvia. This is about 2.6 per cent of the entire population. In addition, from January to September 2024, almost 119,000 citizens of Ukraine have transited Latvia crossing through the Russian or the Belarusian border to reach other EU Member States or return to the government-controlled areas of Ukraine. The flow of new arrivals has remained moderate and stable in 2024.

Since the beginning of the Ukraine situation in 2022, Latvia has demonstrated a high commitment to receive and support refugees fleeing Ukraine, particularly through the early adoption of the Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Civilians. This law has enabled Latvia to offer effective protection and facilitate access of refugees from Ukraine to rights and services on an equal footing with Latvian residents. The Law has been reviewed and updated annually to ensure the continued provision of immediate assistance with expedited registration, social protection, healthcare accommodation, food and access to education.

Despite a comprehensive and well-coordinated response from government and civil society, refugees continue to face obstacles in fully supporting themselves and their families. The Refugee Response Plan (RRP) has been created to complement the government-led initiatives for Ukrainian refugees, addressing these ongoing difficulties.

To tackle these issues, RRP partners in Latvia will enhance humanitarian efforts through 2025-26, working in conjunction with government initiatives to support Ukrainian refugees. Given the small number of partners operating in Latvia, there are no specific sectors established. Therefore, key activities will be organized around four strategic objectives as outlined in this plan.

### Country Risks and Needs

In 2024, UNHCR-led workshops with NGO and Government partners, as well as the Socio-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS) identified critical challenges faced by refugees from Ukraine in Latvia across protection, education, healthcare, and livelihood sectors.

Though many refugee families support enrolling their children in Latvian schools, only around 62 per cent of school-aged children actually attend,<sup>76</sup> underscoring the need for additional resources to facilitate inclusion of refugee children and youth into the Latvian education system. The primary reason for children not attending Latvian schools, as identified by the SEIS, is their preference to continue following education remotely through schools in Ukraine. The education system also lacks

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<sup>76</sup> According to the SEIS 2024, approximately three in five children aged 7-16 (62.1 per cent) attend a school that is part of the national education systems in Latvia in 2023/2024.

sufficient resources, with a shortage of trained teachers and limited language courses for children under 17.

As highlighted in the SEIS, education challenges are compounded by language barriers, with 26 per cent of refugees citing the need for Latvian language courses as crucial for accessing decent employment and to their overall inclusion. High dropout rates from language programmes are common, as many refugees struggle to balance language learning with work and family demands.

Employment remains a pressing issue, with 60 per cent of Ukrainian working age refugees employed, 10 per cent unemployed, and many others occupied with family responsibilities.<sup>77</sup> Although 28 per cent of households identify stable employment as a top need, language barriers and the lack of targeted approach to facilitate labour market inclusion restrict access to higher-skilled jobs<sup>78</sup>. Single parents face additional challenges, especially due to the limited availability of childcare, which hinders both employment and language acquisition efforts.

Healthcare access is another area for attention. Although 94 per cent of individuals in need of health care could obtain it, 39 per cent of refugees highlighted it as a priority need due to long waiting times and inability to afford health care services. Additionally, almost 14 per cent of respondents highlighted a need for medication, reflecting health management challenges.<sup>79</sup>

Despite these hurdles, most refugees report positive relationships with Latvian communities, with 80 per cent describing their interactions as welcoming and expressing satisfaction with cultural activities that help maintain connections to their heritage. However, about 25 per cent of refugees have encountered some form of hostility, often in the form of verbal aggression or discrimination, particularly in employment and housing<sup>80</sup>. These findings reveal the layered complexities Ukrainian refugees encounter, as they strive to build stable lives in Latvia.

## Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

### Strategic Objectives and Cross-Sectoral Responses

Given the small number of partners operating in Latvia, specific sectors are not established. Therefore, the collective cross sectoral response of RRP partner activities in Latvia will be structured around the four strategic objectives as outlined below and aligned with government priorities. Further details of the specific activities which will be undertaken by each partner are provided in the partner activities table.

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<sup>77</sup> Source: State Revenue Service of Latvia (December 2024), calculated based on data from the Central Statistics Bureau of Latvia.

<sup>78</sup> SEIS 2024

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

**Strategic Objective 1: Support Latvia to ensure that refugees have continued access to protection, legal status, and rights, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups and including age and gender considerations.**

In 2025 and 2026, partners in Latvia will continue implementing activities to support effective refugee access to legal status, protection and rights. These will include protection monitoring to identify risks and needs, including gender-based violence and child protection issues, and advocacy with Government authorities to address systemic barriers. Partners will also provide consultations and information to refugees, ensuring referrals to relevant services in areas of legal status, protection, health and further mental health and psychosocial support, including legal counselling as needed.

Partners will offer basic needs services, temporary accommodation and multi-purpose cash assistance to support the most vulnerable refugees, in particular families and individuals with disabilities. Comprehensive assessments will be conducted to identify specific needs, supported by intention surveys and displacement pattern analyses to inform targeted assistance. Through these activities, UNHCR and partners aim to ensure that refugees have effective access to legal status, rights and services in Latvia.

**Strategic Objective 2: Support Latvia in their efforts to include refugees in national systems – decent work, social protection, health, education, child protection services – with a particular focus on outreach and inclusion of vulnerable groups and including, age gender and disability considerations.**

In Latvia, partners will implement activities to promote refugee inclusion in national systems. These efforts will enhance access to essential services, focusing on individual counselling and referrals to available services, such as housing, employment, social support, education and healthcare. Labour market integration will be supported through language courses, training programmes and professional consultations to strengthen refugee employability and entrepreneurship. To facilitate their access to housing, financial assistance for accommodation deposits will be provided to vulnerable refugees and new arrivals.

To support the inclusion of refugee children and youth into the national education system, partners will offer targeted initiatives such as academic support, cultural and recreational activities, community-building events, mental health and psychosocial support for both children and parents. Capacity-building sessions for municipalities and integration practitioners will strengthen local capacities in refugee inclusion efforts. Community-based protection and outreach efforts will raise awareness of refugee rights and available services, while protection monitoring at the municipal level will inform advocacy with Government authorities to address systemic challenges.

**Strategic Objective 3: Strengthen social cohesion between refugee communities and their hosts in Latvia.**

UNHCR and partners in Latvia will implement activities to strengthen social cohesion between refugee and host communities. Efforts will emphasize mutual understanding through inclusive

events and activities for children and families from both communities. Integration initiatives will include conversation clubs and socialization sessions to foster connections among refugee and local communities. Safe environments will be created for refugee children, while parents will have opportunities to participate in volunteer activities that support community engagement. To address mental health and well-being, partners will conduct needs assessments and provide tailored individual and group counselling, including activities to promote emotional development among children. Cultural events, educational workshops for parents and creative sessions for children will encourage participation from both refugee and local families, fostering dialogue and dismantling cultural stereotypes. These efforts aim to enhance social cohesion by building stronger connections and promoting acceptance within communities.

**Strategic Objective 4: Advance the localization of the response in Latvia, by supporting national and local civil society, municipalities and local authorities, as well as coordination structures, sharing and building capacities and supporting sustainable programming.**

The RRP for the Ukraine situation aims to foster a whole-of-society, inter-agency approach to ensure an effective response. In Latvia, UNHCR and partners will coordinate activities that complement Government efforts, prioritizing capacity development to empower national and local actors in addressing refugee needs effectively. UNHCR and partners will engage in capacity development and knowledge-sharing with national and local actors. Partners will develop policy recommendations to enhance the reception and inclusion of refugees, with particular attention to integrating refugee children into the national school system.

Through protection monitoring and evidence-based advocacy, UNHCR and partners will work to improve access to and the quality of services available to refugees. Coordination of RRP activities will align with the Government's comprehensive approach to the Ukraine refugee situation, ensuring a cohesive response.

By engaging national and local stakeholders through targeted capacity-building initiatives and consultations, UNHCR and partners aim to advance localization, fostering a more sustainable and effective response to the challenges faced by refugees in Latvia.

### Cross-Cutting Priorities of the RRP

- Accountability to Affected Populations
- Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- One-Refugee Approach
- Sustainability
- Government Ownership

*Read more in the Regional Overview p.21*

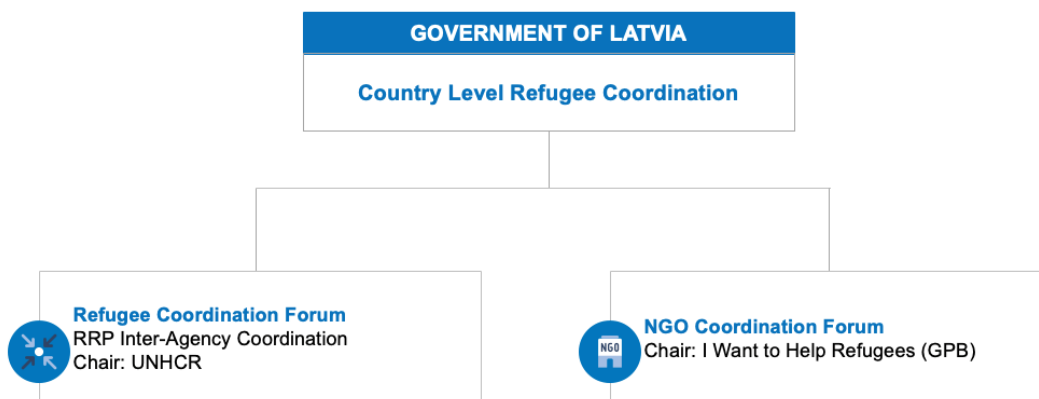
## Partnership and Coordination

In Latvia, the Government has established the Operative Management Centre as a coordination structure which organizes regular meetings with participation of Ministries, municipalities, civil society organizations, and UN agencies.

The Operative Management Centre is the key coordination body, led by the Ministry of the Interior. The meetings aim to strengthen coordination among government ministries, as well as between government and civil society and UN agencies, including maintaining the Action Plan for Support to Ukrainian Civilians in the Republic of Latvia. RRP partners and other NGOs also participate in weekly coordination meetings led by the NGO I Want to Help Refugees, to foster collaboration in optimizing resources, enhance information sharing on the response, including emerging needs and priorities NGO partners, and offer space to discuss challenges and find solutions, including through evidence-based advocacy.

While there are no specific sectors established in Latvia, UNHCR will also facilitate government and civil society interactions and exchanges as needed on specific topics such as conducting needs assessments and supporting planning activities. Partner's resource mobilization activities will be supported using information management tools to strengthen visibility and donor engagement on behalf of RRP partners, including refugee-led organizations.

## Country Coordination Structure



## Part 3: Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

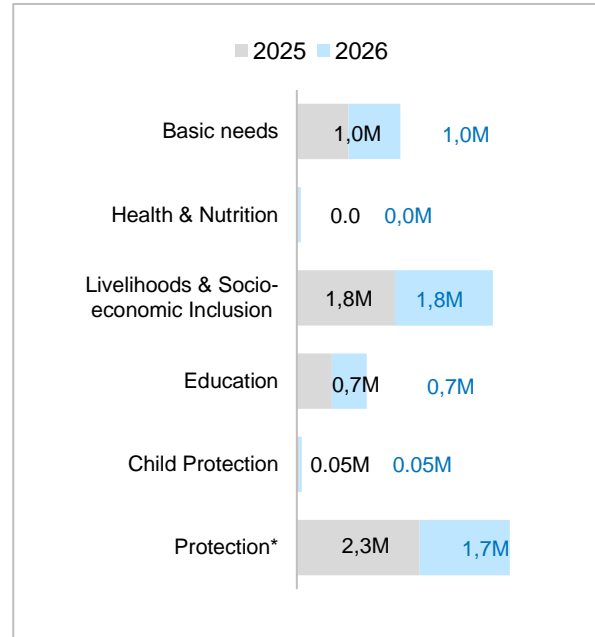
### Budget summary by type at country level

PARTNER TYPE	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD		
	2025	2026	TOTAL
<b>UN agencies</b>	5,008,458	4,454,136	9,462,594
<b>National NGOs</b>	822,504	756,900	1,579,404
Refugee-led organizations*	619,400	619,400	1,238,800
Woman-led organizations*	622,500	622,500	1,245,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,830,962</b>	<b>5,211,036</b>	<b>11,041,998</b>

\* One organization can be classified in multiple sub-categories (women-led, refugee-led, faith-based, etc.), the individual sub-categories can therefore not be added to arrive at the total.

Notes: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which also collaborate with implementing partners additional to those listed here.

### Budget summary by sector at country level








\* Includes Child Protection



## Budget summary by partner at the country level


Partner	Year	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Needs	Total in US\$	TOTAL
<b>UN Agencies</b>										
UN International Organization for Migration	2025	-	-	-	150,000	700,000	-	950,000	1,800,000	<b>3,700,000</b>
	2026	-	-	-	150,000	800,000	-	950,000	1,900,000	
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	2025	2,255,660	-	-	-	952,798	-	-	3,208,458	<b>5,762,594</b>
	2026	1,637,062	-	-	-	917,074	-	-	2,554,136	
<b>National NGOs</b>										
Biedrība "Ukrainu-latviešu pērlītes" (Perlyna)	2025	-	45,000	-	500,000	-	-	-	545,000	<b>1,090,000</b>
	2026	-	45,000	-	500,000	-	-	-	545,000	
Center for Public Policy PROVIDUS	2025	-	-	-	-	65,604	-	-	65,604	<b>65,604</b>
	2026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Creative ideas	2025	-	-	-	10,000	17,500	-	-	27,500	<b>55,000</b>
	2026	-	-	-	10,000	17,500	-	-	27,500	
Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem / I Want to Help Refugees	2025	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	50,000	<b>100,000</b>
	2026	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	50,000	
Order of Malta Relief Organization	2025	14,400	-	-	-	-	36,000	24,000	74,400	<b>148,800</b>
	2026	14,400	-	-	-	-	36,000	24,000	74,400	
Shelter Safe House	2025	-	-	-	-	60,000	-	-	60,000	<b>120,000</b>
	2026	-	-	-	-	60,000	-	-	60,000	
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,921,522</b>	<b>90,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,320,000</b>	<b>3,690,476</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>1,948,000</b>	<b>11,041,998</b>	<b>11,041,998</b>

## RRP Monitoring Framework

Sector	Indicator	Target		
		YEAR 1	YEAR 2	
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	<b>1,672</b>	<b>1,672</b>
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services	<b>200</b>	<b>200</b>
	Education	# of children and youth supported with education programming	<b>665</b>	<b>665</b>
	Health and Nutrition	# of individuals supported to access health services	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
	Health and Nutrition	# of health care providers trained to provide services to refugees	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>
	Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	<b>3,340</b>	<b>3,340</b>
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	<b>3,425</b>	<b>3,425</b>

## Partner Activities in Latvia

Sector	Partner	Activity Short Description	Contact
<b>Basic Needs</b> 	IOM	Providing transportation assistance to Ukrainians crossing into Latvia from Russia who lack means to continue to the EU. Temporary accommodation, food, water, and SIM cards will be offered to vulnerable transit refugees. Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) will support families and individuals with disabilities, along with WASH services and DTM surveys.	<a href="mailto:inese@rigabiennial.com">inese@rigabiennial.com</a>
	Order of Malta Relief Organization	Providing food and NFI relief packages. Conducting an assessment to identify the specific food and non-food item needs of Ukrainian refugees. Based on needs, will procure required non-perishable food and NFI items.	<a href="mailto:inesemotte@yahoo.fr">inesemotte@yahoo.fr</a>
<b>Education</b> 	Perlyna	Supporting the adaptation of Ukrainian children in Latvia through language, culture, and history courses, excursions, art classes, and sports activities. Promoting connections with Latvian children through joint events. Providing tutoring in key subjects, psychological support, and social activities. Offering socialization and psychological support for parents through events and volunteer opportunities.	<a href="mailto:jelena.frantskevych@gmail.com">jelena.frantskevych@gmail.com</a>
	Creative ideas	Providing Latvian and English language courses to Ukrainian refugees, facilitating their integration into the host country and the labour market.	<a href="mailto:putnina.sanita@gmail.com">putnina.sanita@gmail.com</a>
	IOM	Integrating Ukrainian children into the Latvian school system by directly assisting school-age children in their learning process. Efforts will focus on facilitating access for Ukrainian students to Latvian schools to ensure a smoother transition.	<a href="mailto:lpurina@iom.int">lpurina@iom.int</a>
<b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b> 	Order of Malta Relief Organization	Providing referral services to Ukrainian individuals requiring specialized support in protection, legal assistance, health, and mental health. Trained professionals will assess psychosocial needs and develop individualized support plans. Qualified psychologists and social workers will deliver services, including counselling, therapy, and psycho-education, to address specific challenges and promote well-being.	<a href="mailto:inesemotte@yahoo.fr">inesemotte@yahoo.fr</a>
<b>Livelihoods Inclusion</b> 	Creative ideas	Organizing integration activities between Ukrainian refugees and the host community such as joint discussions, excursions, conversation clubs, visits to museums and exhibitions.	<a href="mailto:putnina.sanita@gmail.com">putnina.sanita@gmail.com</a>
	Center for Public Policy PROVIDUS	Organizing capacity-development seminars for Municipalities in Latvia. Experience exchange seminars for integration practitioners in Latvia and the Baltic region.	<a href="mailto:darte.pelse@providus.lv">darte.pelse@providus.lv</a>
	GPB / I Want to Help Refugees	Offering financial support to Ukrainian refugees by providing the first deposit payment for accommodation when initiating a rental agreement, facilitating their access to housing.	<a href="mailto:linda@gribupalidzetbegliem.lv">linda@gribupalidzetbegliem.lv</a>
	IOM	Integrating Ukrainian children in the Latvian school system, as well as assisting adults on Latvian language learning processes for integration in the labour market.	<a href="mailto:lpurina@iom.int">lpurina@iom.int</a>
	UNHCR	Facilitating inclusion and strengthening social cohesion between refugees and the host community through community-based protection activities. Conduct protection monitoring during integration, advocating with authorities to address systemic barriers. Provide individual counselling and referrals to relevant services, focusing on access to housing, labor markets, education, and healthcare systems.	<a href="mailto:swest@unhcr.org">swest@unhcr.org</a>
	Shelter Safe House	Promoting the successful integration of Ukrainian civilians in Latvia through a job readiness program, a business incubator with consultations and internships, specialized Latvian language courses for beauticians and medical professionals, and cultural camps to foster community engagement and cultural exchange.	<a href="mailto:drosa.maja@gmail.com">drosa.maja@gmail.com</a>
	Perlyna	Supporting Ukrainian children who faced various challenges in local schools. Psychologist providing consultations.	<a href="mailto:jelena.frantskevych@gmail.com">jelena.frantskevych@gmail.com</a>

Sector	Partner	Activity Short Description	Contact
<b>Protection</b> 	UNHCR	Conducting protection monitoring to identify challenges and protection risks faced by refugees, including gender-based violence and child protection. Advocate with authorities to address systemic issues, provide information and counselling to refugees, and ensure referral to relevant services, including legal counselling and representation as needed.	<a href="mailto:swest@unhcr.org">swest@unhcr.org</a>