

Ukraine

September 2022



On 28 September, UNHCR and NGO partner Proliska reached the people in Volokhiv Yar, Kharkivska oblast, one of the newly regained areas, who have endured months of shelling with limited access to humanitarian aid.

© Mission Proliska NGO/Artur Ulianytskyi

KEY FIGURES

17.7 million

People in urgent need of protection and humanitarian assistance*

6.24 million

Internally displaced persons in Ukraine**

11.5 million

People targeted for humanitarian assistance in the [Ukraine Flash Appeal](#).

4.3 million

People targeted to be reached with UNHCR assistance.

2.2 million

People reached with UNHCR assistance by end of September.

Source: *Flash Appeal Ukraine (March - December 2022) **International Organization for Migration.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

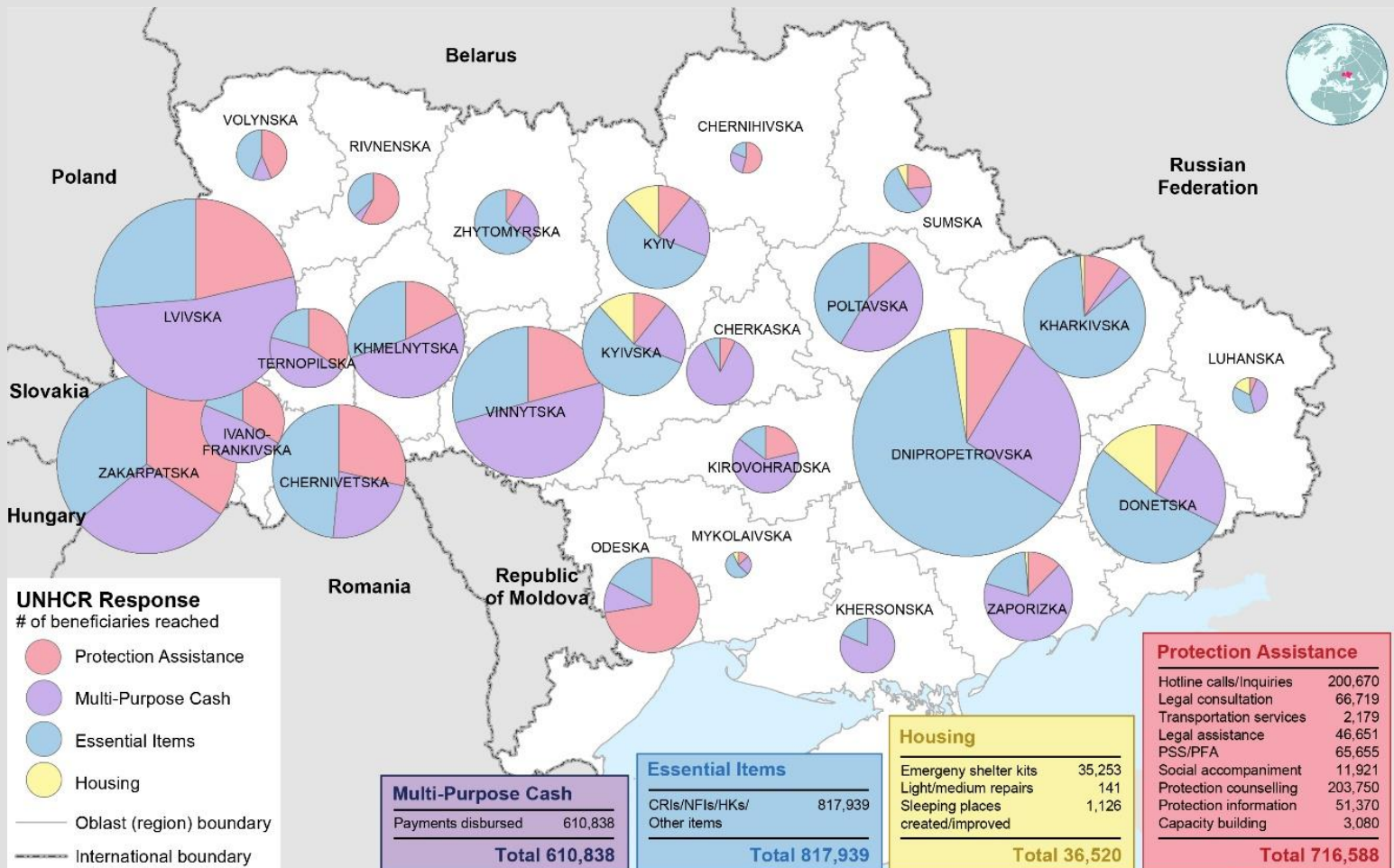
Seven months since the start of the war against Ukraine, hostilities continued across the country with deadly shelling and missile attacks causing civilian casualties, particularly in eastern and southern Ukraine. Ongoing damage to civilian infrastructure only increases the challenges towards preparing for winter – with more damaged buildings, energy supplies and homes in need of critical repairs. The [joint assessment](#) released by the Government of Ukraine, the European Commission, and the World Bank estimates that around 817,000 residential units were impacted by the war, 38 percent of them destroyed beyond repair as of 1 June 2022.

Meanwhile, the so-called referendums on joining Russia took place between 23 and 27 September in the non-Government-controlled areas (NGCA) of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, as well as in parts of Khersonska and Zaporizka oblasts. On 30 September, the “independence” of the two latter oblasts were declared by the Russian Federation. The UN Secretary-General [condemned the annexation](#) describing it as a violation of the Principles of the Charter and International Law.

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- Numerous areas in Kharkivska and Khersonska oblasts have been regained and become newly accessible to humanitarian agencies, allowing needs to be assessed and support to be provided to people who have endured months of heavy fighting. In September, [more than 270,000 people living in newly liberated areas](#) of Kharkivska, Khersonska, Zaporizka and Donetsk oblasts have been assisted by UNHCR and our local NGO partner Proliska with shelter materials, essential items such as blankets and pillows, cash and protection support.
- The winter response remains a top priority and UNHCR is intensifying communication and coordination with the Government in this respect. On 29 September, UNHCR and the Kyiv Regional State Administration [signed a memorandum of understanding \(MoU\)](#) to solidify ongoing collaboration.
- As the winter temperatures can plummet as low as –20 degrees Celsius in parts of the country, UNHCR is racing to repair as many homes as possible before the winter starts so people can stay warm in their homes. To date, [49 houses](#) were finished with repairs, reaching 147 people, and [356 are ongoing](#) with many more to be started.
- [Over 2.2 million people have been reached with protection services, assistance through cash or essential items, and shelter support.](#) UNHCR continues to work closely with local and national actors to lay the groundwork for recovery and durable solutions and ensure that our response is effectively reinforcing and complementing national systems.

UNHCR RESPONSE MAP (As of 30 September 2022)



UNHCR'S WINTERIZATION RESPONSE

With the harsh weather approaching, early interventions are essential to ensure **warm, safe, and dignified living conditions** for affected people. UNHCR aims to repair and insulate **8,200 houses through its programme of housing repairs**, and to create or improve **14,400 sleeping spaces in collective centres** for IDPs who cannot return home and do not have the means to secure private accommodation. Nearly **337,000 people will receive cash support** to cover increased costs associated with the winter period and **567,000 people will receive essential items** like thermal blankets, thermoses, and heaters. Strengthened protection referrals, with a particular focus on psychosocial support and legal assistance to support access to key civil and housing, land, and property documentation to support solutions from the start, accompany UNHCR's winterization response.

Overall, UNHCR aims to reach more than **940,000 vulnerable individuals in the winterization response to complement the Government's efforts.**

PROTECTION

- A total of 716,588 people received protection assistance, advice and referrals at border crossing points, transit and reception centres, multi-service protection centres and through hotlines and mobile teams to date. This includes protection counselling and services, such as psychosocial support and legal aid.
- In Zakarpatska oblast, mobile protection teams have been launched targeting IDPs living in collective centres located in schools in order to provide counselling and assistance to more vulnerable persons that require urgent support with alternative accommodation to avoid the risk of eviction.
- The Government has established a “Coordination Headquarters on De-occupied Territories”, consisting of multiple authorities that provide immediate response and plan for long-term activities in territories where Ukraine re-established control and to which access is ensured. Important protection issues identified in these areas by the authorities include high mine contamination, family separation and lost/destroyed documents. Moreover, due to destroyed infrastructure, there is a high risk of people being left without heating during the winter months.
- UNHCR has strengthened its cooperation with the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament’s Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsperson) by providing technical and expert support to the IDP Unit in the Ombudsperson’s office on data collection and analysis.
- Training sessions on GBV Risk Mitigation were facilitated for 128 partner staff. Participants included staff working on GBV, CCCM, border monitoring, shelter, NFI, child protection, cash assistance and community-based protection, with a view to strengthening GBV mainstreaming across sectors.
- In coordination with the GBV Sub-Cluster, UNHCR supported the development of the Sub-Cluster’s Capacity Building Action Plan, which seeks to coordinate capacity enhancement and institutional support of state and non-state GBV actors to deliver a quality GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response.
- In September, 113 staff from implementing and operational partners received PSEA training by UNHCR. Participants are active in the fields of protection, cash assistance, health, CCCM, food security, WASH, shelter/NFI and logistics.
- UNHCR Ukraine is conducting regular cross-border meetings with UNHCR offices in all five neighbouring countries along the Western border of Ukraine aimed at strengthening coordination mechanisms on cross-border joint monitoring.



A woman receiving PSS in Uzhhorod © UNHCR/Igor Karpenko

Psychosocial support helps displaced people turn towards the future

Psychosocial support from UNHCR and partners has been critical to help people manage the stress caused by their displacement, recover and to turn towards the future.

“Right after the war started, many people fled their homes. They were extremely shocked and refused to accept that they could not go back home” recalls psychology professor Nataliia Syunii, coordinator of the Psychosocial Unit at UNHCR’s partner NGO Nehemiia.

Today, people are trying to rebuild their lives. “We help displaced people integrate into their new communities. We are working with women, mothers and children as they prepare for the new school year.”

Read more [here](#).

Protection of Refugees, Asylum-seekers, & Stateless

- UNHCR and partners continue working to [identify and support refugees and asylum-seekers who remain in Ukraine](#). In September, [108 persons](#) from 17 different countries of origin, mainly asylum-seekers, were given psychosocial support, legal counselling, and social accompaniment to facilitate their access to services.
- In September, new asylum-seekers were still unable to register their refugee claims with the State Migration Service (SMS) in most of the regions, except Odeska oblast. [UNHCR has been jointly advocating with partners to address the issue of access and other gaps in the state asylum procedure](#). 32 new applicants were registered in Ukraine by UNHCR partners in September.
- UNHCR continues to advocate with the SMS to [resume the asylum procedure for applicants of all nationalities in all SMS regional offices](#).
- UNHCR has supported three Ukrainian asylum judges (members of the International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges – IARMJ) to attend the IARMJ Regional European Conference in Slovenia. This enabled the judges to [enhance their networking, exchange expertise on court practices in asylum cases and share with their European colleagues the challenges related to the work of the court during martial law](#).
- On 21 September, the Parliament of Ukraine adopted law #5795 on ‘[Employment of Foreigners and Stateless Persons in Ukraine](#)’. This law will enable asylum-seekers and recognized stateless persons to [apply for work permits free of charge and without a time limit so they can access the labour market](#). UNHCR welcomes this as a significant improvement. Nevertheless, as long as an asylum seeker’s certificate is not recognized as an ID document, formalizing the relationship between employer and employee will remain challenging.

DELIVERY OF NON-FOOD ITEMS

Critical items reach communities in newly regained areas with humanitarian convoys

UNHCR is racing to reach more people who have been living for months under heavy shelling in the areas that were temporarily occupied. Until recently, the residents in such areas did not have access to humanitarian assistance.

On 16 and 17 September, UNHCR contributed to the first inter-agency humanitarian convoy of 13 trucks to communities in the town of Shevchenkove and other areas of Kharkivska oblast with more than 35,000 items including thermal blankets, tarpaulins, and solar lamps.

On 19 September, UNHCR contributed to another UN humanitarian convoy of 11 trucks to the newly accessible communities in Chuhuiv, Kharkivska oblast, reaching some 6,100 people with more than 22,000 NFIs, including tarpaulins, jerry cans and high thermal blankets.



Critical items reach Shevchenkove and other areas of Kharkivska oblast
 © UNHCR/Svitlana Skokova

On 28 September, UNHCR delivered a truck with critical items such as solar lamps, jerrycans, blankets and sleeping bags to support 800 people living in the village of Volokhiv Yar in Kharkivska oblast. Watch the delivery video [here](#).

- September represents the beginning of the winterization response in which UNHCR aims to reach **567,000 people with winterized items**, comprising three thermal blankets, three quilts, three sleeping bags, and two thermos flasks per family in addition to the NFIs that are distributed as part of the regular programme. Heaters will be distributed to 10,000 households. As of end of September, **172,277 people have received winterization support through NFIs**.
- In addition to deliveries to newly regained areas, UNHCR distributions continued to support communities in need in locations such as Kirovohradska, Mykolaivska, and Odeska oblasts. Following serious problems with the water supply in Mykolaiv, UNHCR's partner TTA distributed **1,500 jerry cans** to families in need during the week of 21 September. Also, 88 conflict affected households in Mykolaivska oblast were supported with emergency shelter kits to rapidly fix homes damaged by recent shelling the same week.
- UNHCR is working with the local authorities to increase accommodation places for IDPs and improve the quality of reception and collective centres. To-date, UNHCR has improved **107,975 sleeping places in 392 centres** with beds, mattresses, blankets and other essential items.
- UNHCR's partner Stabilization Support Services (SSS) **provided technical equipment** such as laptops, scanners, hard drives and printers to the Department of Social Protection of the Population of the Podilsk District Military Administration in Odeska oblast. This assistance is part of the protection response provided by UNHCR and SSS in collaboration with the local social protection authorities to **enhance their capacity to conduct registration and improve the quality of services available to support IDPs and others affected by the war**.

CASH ASSISTANCE

- In order to respond to increased costs during winter, enrolment criteria for UNHCR's cash assistance programme have been **extended to all eligible conflict-affected persons to meet their basic needs** in line with the Cash Working Group. Eligible IDPs, returnees or other conflict-affected persons enrolled starting 1 September will receive regular MPC assistance for three months plus **a top-up in the amount of UAH 6,660 to cover additional costs during winter**.
- The programme complements the national social protection system. Under an **MoU** with the MoSP, and in-line with a **Cabinet decision**, UNHCR receives referrals from MoSP of registered **IDPs and other conflict-affected people with specific vulnerabilities**. To-date 143,338 vulnerable people referred by the MoSP received cash assistance from UNHCR. In September, **UNHCR received an additional list of 130,000 vulnerable people from the MoSP for winter cash assistance**.
- UNHCR currently maintains active enrolment in **13 oblasts through centres and/or mobile teams** in Cherkaska, Chernihivska, Lvivska, Dnipropetrovska, Kharkivska, Kirovohradska, Kyivska, Odeska, Poltavska, Sumska, Vinnytska, Zaporizka, and Zhytomyrska oblasts.
- **The enrolment centres are multi-service protection centres** ("one-stop shops") where persons can access a range of services, including legal aid, psychosocial support, information on accommodation, enrolment and other services and assistance programmes. All IDPs accessing the centres are interviewed to assess eligibility and are offered **access to protection services and referrals on the spot**.
- UNHCR supports families who are hosting IDPs under **the Prykhystok programme of the Ministry of Regional Development (MoRD)** and received complete lists of host families from MoRD in late August. Under the agreement, UNHCR has initiated the payment process to provide **one-off cash support to over 39,000 households hosting IDPs** to help meet additional expenses incurred.
- UNHCR actively participates in the **Cash Working Group (CWG)** and is leading the CWG Task Team on De-duplication and Registration.

SHELTER & HOUSING

- UNHCR's shelter and housing programme supports people impacted by the war through three activities: 1) providing emergency shelter for those with immediate needs, 2) helping to repair damaged houses, including work to prepare for winter and 3) expanding access to accommodation for those who cannot live at home.
- UNHCR stepped up its support in newly accessible areas including Kharkivska and Khersonska oblasts with emergency shelter support, providing Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs) and other essential building materials to 17,302 households in total. In addition, emergency shelter support continued in conflict affected oblasts (Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, Kharkivska, Kyivska, Mikolayivska, Odeska, Sumska and Zaporizka) where 15,711 households and 4,096 facilities were supported.
- The first of the house repairs in Kyivska oblast were completed. The roofs and walls of these houses were seriously damaged during the conflict as well as most of the windows and ceilings. Over 1,000 houses have been selected and approved for repair through direct implementation and work has started or is completed in over 300 houses. UNHCR partners have started to finalize their selections prioritizing those most in need.
- UNHCR is also expanding its support to facilities instrumental to those who have returned to conflict affected areas and provided materials to reconstruct a primary school in heavily destroyed Ivankiv community in Kyivska oblast. The school is almost complete and should be open to students for education very soon.
- Major construction tenders have been finalised and UNHCR will begin work in more collective centres to improve and create new sleeping spaces for IDPs. Partners also continue to finalize improvements across the country.

Working with the Government and oblast authorities to repair and insulate damaged homes before the winter comes

On 29 September, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories, Iryna Vereshchuk and UNHCR Representative, Karolina Lindholm Billing, visited homes in the Borodianka raion of Kyivska oblast. The homes, which were damaged during shelling earlier this year, were repaired through the UNHCR housing programme in support of the local oblast authorities' response.

In close coordination with the Ukrainian government, its local authorities and communities, UNHCR identifies families with specific vulnerabilities, like older age, disability or low income, who need support to repair their homes. This is part of UNHCR's contribution to the collective effort to provide people with access to dignified and warm housing during the winter.

Read the full story [here](#).

Homes in Borodianka raion were repaired through the UNHCR housing programme in support of the local oblast authorities © Ministry of Social Policy





CAMP COORDINATION & CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

- CCCM teams conduct regular visits to collective sites to assess and monitor the needs and coordinate with humanitarian partners and local authorities to provide services. UNHCR, through its partners supported IDPs hosted in around 300 collective centres in 11 oblasts of the country during the month of September.
- UNHCR's partner R2P selected 40 collective centres (CC) to implement regular CCCM activities: 16 in Dnipropetrovska oblast, 20 in Poltavaska oblast and 4 in Zaporizka oblast. The selected CCs have a significant number of IDPs and are in need of support and guidance to establish and ensure CCCM standards, in particular regulations to ensure the smooth and clear operation of the CCs.
- In Dnipropetrovska oblast, UNHCR's partner R2P organized eight training sessions on "Modern Job Search Tools" in which 46 IDPs participated.
- In September, initiative groups were created in 16 CCs. The initiative groups consist of representatives of IDPs, the CC administration and NGOs with the purpose of strengthening the interaction between the stakeholders and ensuring participation in decision-making. CCCM specialists advocated for the creation of the CC's institutional documents, which would provide displaced people temporarily hosted in CCs a legal framework that officialises their accommodation due to displacement.

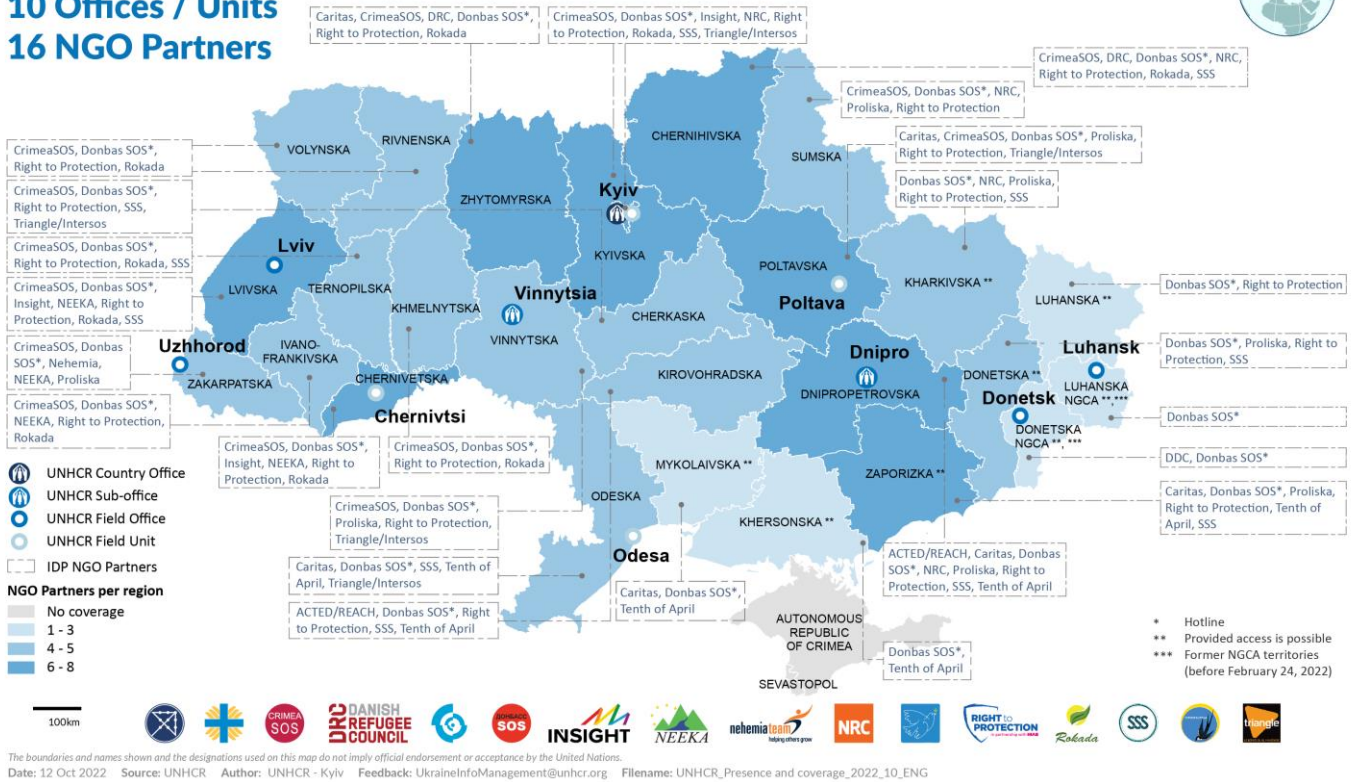


DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- UNHCR continues to promote, and integrate into its own response, an approach that seeks to not only address immediate needs but also support recovery and durable solutions and is engaging with key development partners to ensure coherence, complementarity, and collaboration of the humanitarian response in the context of Ukraine.
- UNHCR met with the Country Coordinator of ILO to discuss expanding collaboration for a project financed by Sweden (SIDA), recognizing the pivotal role that employment will play within a durable solutions framework for IDPs.
- UNHCR met with UN Habitat, who are currently planning an urban profiling project which will determine subsequent country interventions and are looking to engage with UNHCR more closely around sustainable housing solutions.
- UNHCR Uzhhorod Field Office organized a joint workshop with UNDP to focus on the Humanitarian Development and Peacebuilding Nexus (HDPN). The workshop brought together a variety of different local NGOs and IDP led organizations to discuss how to incorporate the HDPN led approach into programming to support sustainable IDP integration. The workshop included time for participants to explore joint programming around four thematic areas: Access to Justice; Community Empowerment; Social Protection and Economic Inclusion.
- The analysis of the first IDP Intention Survey which was conducted through 2,093 phone interviews with IDPs to obtain information on the challenges and enabling factors influencing the return intentions of IDPs within Ukraine, was completed. The majority of respondents do not intend to return within the next six months. The main barriers to return are safety and security concerns, lack of adequate basic services, lack of livelihoods opportunities and lack of access to adequate housing options in areas of return. The IDP Intention Surveys will be conducted on a quarterly basis in collaboration with the MoSP and the World Bank to monitor and analyse trends.
- UNHCR also published updated findings based on 4,800 survey responses from Ukrainian refugees hosted in countries across Europe and beyond. Support to enable people to return and rebuild their lives in a sustainable and dignified way is critical for Ukraine's recovery.

UNHCR COVERAGE

10 Offices / Units
16 NGO Partners



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Since the start of the emergency, UNHCR has expanded partnerships to enlarge coverage and capacity and now works with **16 NGO partners, including 12 local NGOs**, in Ukraine to deliver assistance and support the localization of the response.



UNHCR and the Kyiv Regional State Administration solidify ongoing collaboration

On 29 September, UNHCR and the Kyiv Regional State Administration signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to solidify ongoing collaboration in supporting people impacted by the war to recover and rebuild their homes and lives.

The MoU sets out concrete areas of ongoing cooperation aimed at supporting people living in and returning to Kyiv region and facilitates the transfer of relief items and building materials to the administration for further distribution to the communities. Read the full article [here](#).

UNHCR signed an MoU aimed at supporting people living in and returning to Kyivska oblast © UNHCR/Victoria Andrievska

COORDINATION

Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster (PC) led by UNHCR has [133 partner organizations](#). Since the onset of the war, **protection partners have reached a total of 5.7 million individuals with services and assistance** in areas of General Protection, Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence and Mine Action.
- The PC launched the **ActivityInfo Platform** which is an online reporting tool that will support the coordination of protection activities and programmes. The purpose of the Platform is to comprehensively track partners' achievements and ensure visibility of the response.
- The PC is working on the **revision of the Protection Monitoring Tool** launched in March 2022 to enhance the capture and analysis of protection risks the population is facing in Ukraine.
- **Key protection risks** reported relate to safety and physical security, restricted freedom of movement from NGCA or because of lack of ID documents, limited access to documentation as the State Migration Service in some oblasts is not functioning to full capacity, limited access to information and access to social services, underreported GBV cases and child protection. Moreover, protection risks related to social cohesion have been noted. Tensions between IDPs and host communities as well as between IDPs in collective centres and those living in more dispersed accommodation types have been reported.

Shelter and NFIs Cluster

- [The Shelter and NFI Cluster \(SNFI\)](#) has, as of end of September, **130 active partners** - 95 implementing partners and 35 reporting partners. Additionally, there are 25 partners planning to implement winterization activities.
- As of 23 September, a total of **1.39 million individuals** have been reached with assistance by Shelter and NFI partners, of whom 113,997 people have been reached with emergency shelter support: 1,237,938 with NFI support, and 74,252 individuals with winterization activities (1 to 23 September).
- SNFI cluster has refined the [Winterization Recommendations 2022-2023](#) to better support partners engaged in winterization activities, as they provide shelter response options, definitions, classifications, and scope of work.

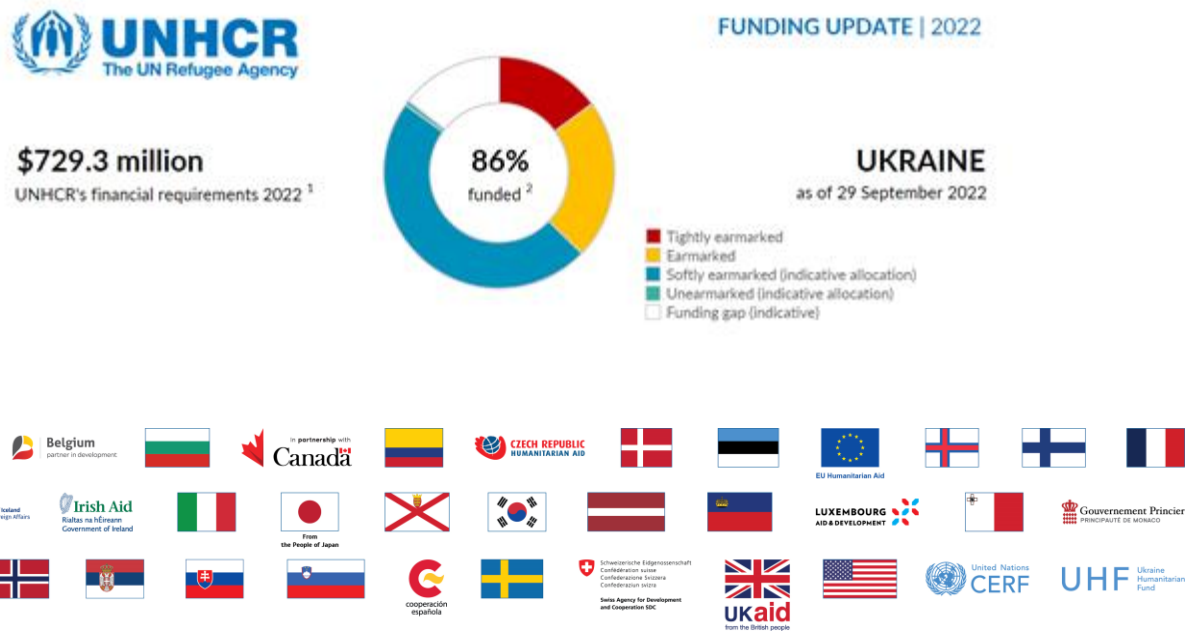
- The Shelter Cluster is improving its information collection method **to have a more comprehensive picture on the response delivery and remaining needs**. In doing so, the Cluster has started to collect more detailed information on NFIs and shelter assistance in specific collective centres (previously done at hromada level). This precise coordination is currently rolled out in Ivano-Frankivska and Zakarpatska oblast with the plan to gradually extend it to four additional oblasts (Lvivska, Rivnenska, Ternopilska and Volynska).

CCCM Cluster

- [The UNHCR-led CCCM Cluster](#) is working to ensure a **coordinated multi-sectoral response for the protection of IDPs residing in communal settings**, improving their quality of life and dignity during displacement, while advocating for **durable solutions**.
- During the month of September, **Round 3 of the Collective Site Monitoring (CSM) was finalized**. As a result, 1,397 sites were successfully monitored across 21 oblasts. In total, 60,278 individuals were staying in the assessed collective sites, of whom older adults, female-headed households, and people with serious medical conditions reportedly make up the majority of the collective sites monitored, **41 percent reported concerns about the site's heating** during the upcoming winter.
- Around **6,000 individuals were reached with 343 new CCCM activities** that were carried out by the Cluster partners in September including through community mobilisation activities, focusing on engaging with the IDP population in the sites. Other examples of activities include the establishment of site management teams and CCCM systems in the sites.
- The CCCM Cluster conducted several capacity building activities in September, including supporting ACTED and IOM on four **CCCM Induction trainings** delivered to 91 participants in three oblasts (Dnipropetrovska, Ivano-Frankivska and Poltavska) with the purpose of strengthening the coordination of collective centres and supporting local authorities, site managers and local NGOs.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this emergency as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with softly earmarked and unearmarked funds. Given the immense needs and the expanded scale and scope of the humanitarian response, UNHCR is continuing to seek support to deliver assistance inside Ukraine in the [Supplementary Appeal](#).



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INFORMATION

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