



Despite the challenges caused by the war, children across Ukraine returned to school on 1 September. © UNHCR/Viktoriia Andriievskia

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The war in Ukraine continues to take a heavy toll on civilians. Vital port and grain facilities continue to come under [regular attack](#), while attacks impacting humanitarian assets have also escalated. On 19 September, a Russian attack on Lviv in western Ukraine [destroyed](#) a Caritas-Spes warehouse which contained approximately 300 tons of relief supplies. On 21 September, a [largescale](#) Russian attack hit energy facilities across the country resulting in power cuts in five regions. In frontline areas in the south and eastern parts of Ukraine, repeated attacks during September have killed and injured civilians as well as damaged schools, homes and hospitals. As of 24 September, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) [recorded](#) 27,449 civilian casualties since the start of Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, including 9,701 killed and 17,748 injured.

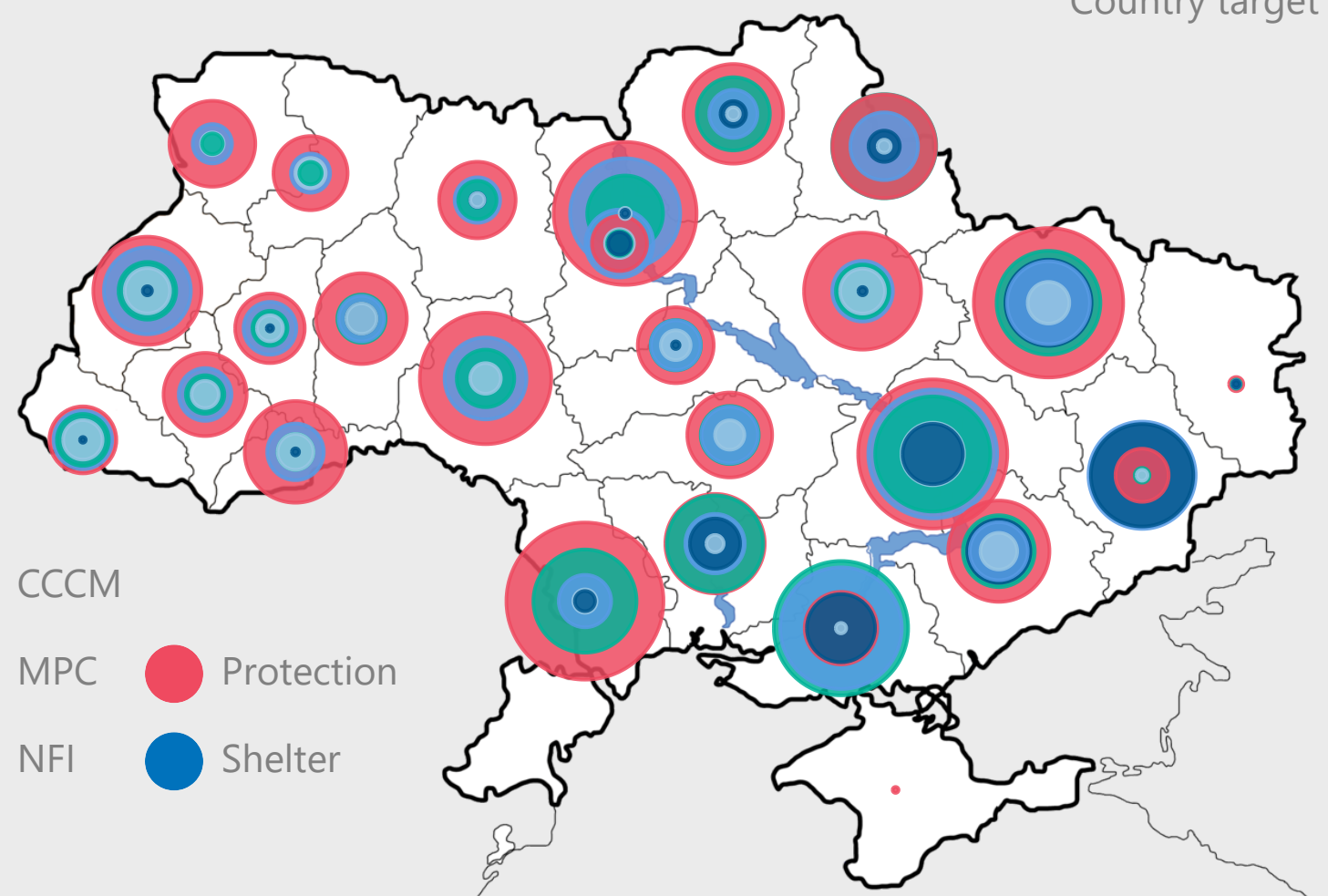
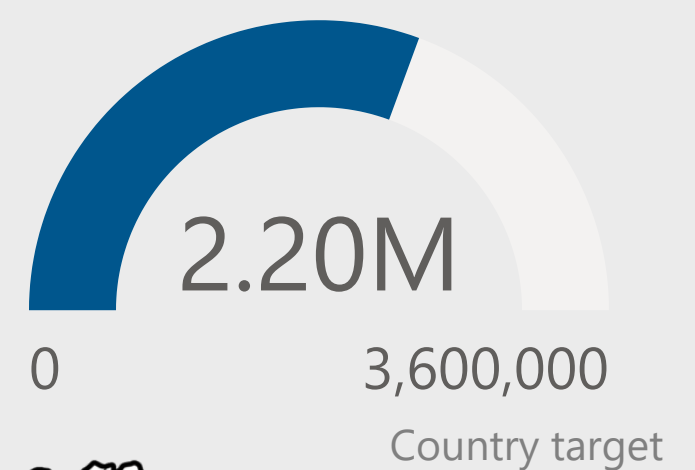
The first of September also marked the beginning of a new school year for children in Ukraine. Despite the ongoing war and all its consequent tragedies and uncertainties, around 13,000 schools across the country [resumed classes](#) either in person or online, allowing the children of Ukraine to regain some sense of normalcy and stability.

KEY FIGURES



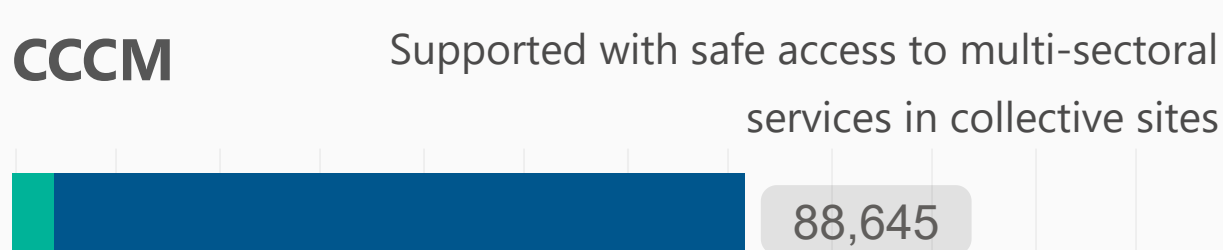
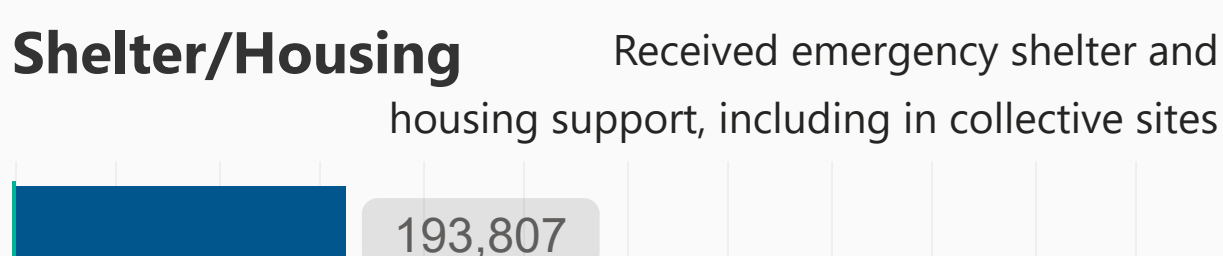
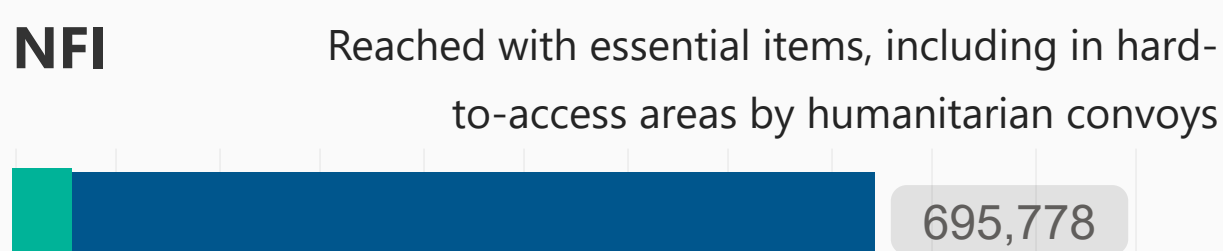
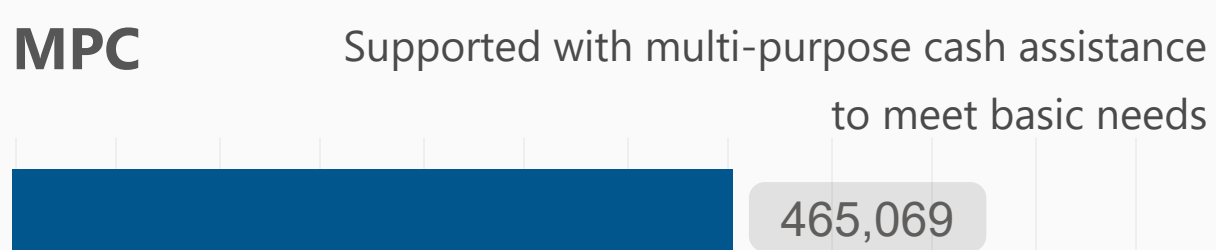
People Reached in 2023

2,203,837



2.20M People reached with assistance between January to September 2023

■ Winterization Response (pg. 3)



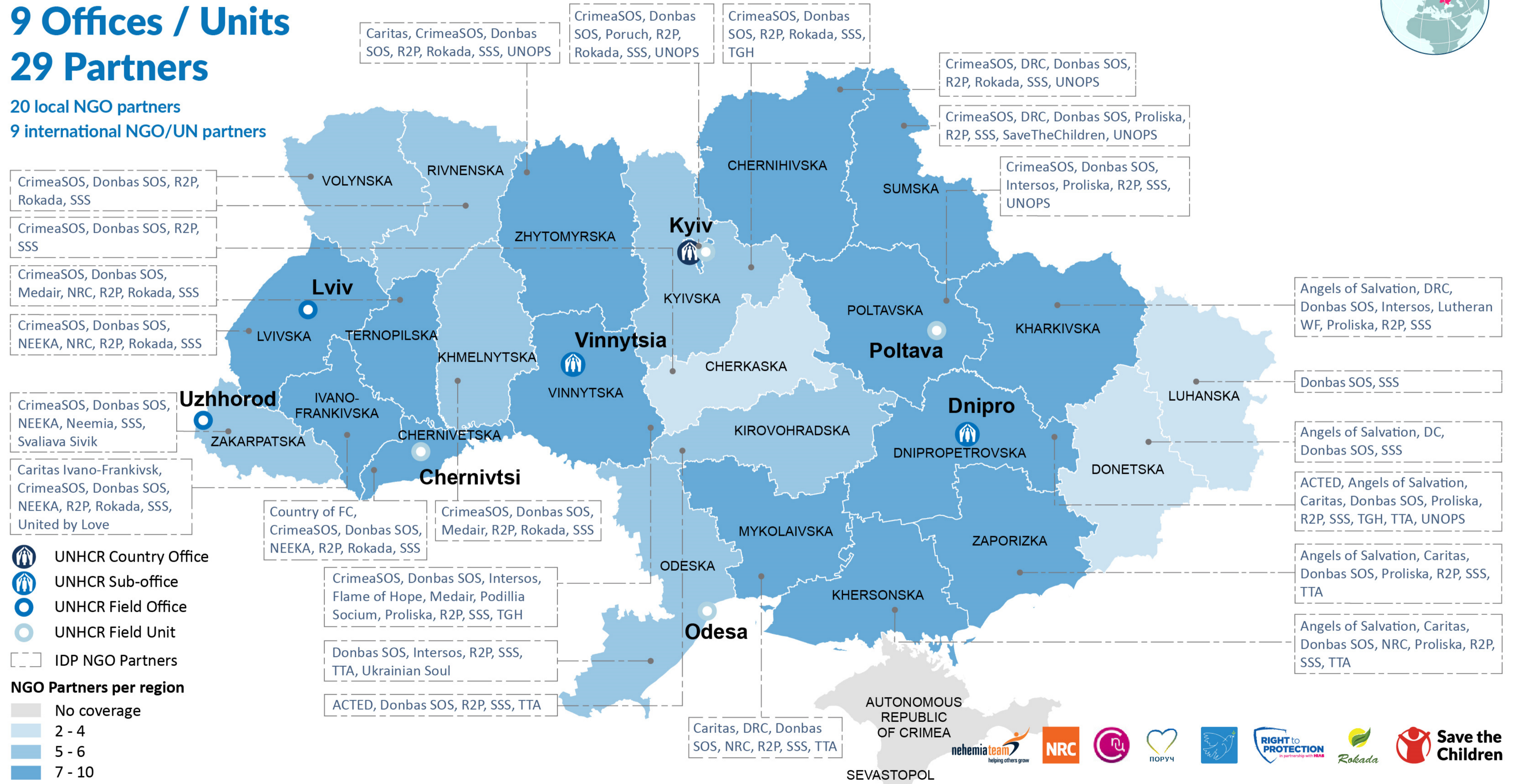
* The targets are subject to the receipt of the funding requirements



9 Offices / Units 29 Partners

20 local NGO partners

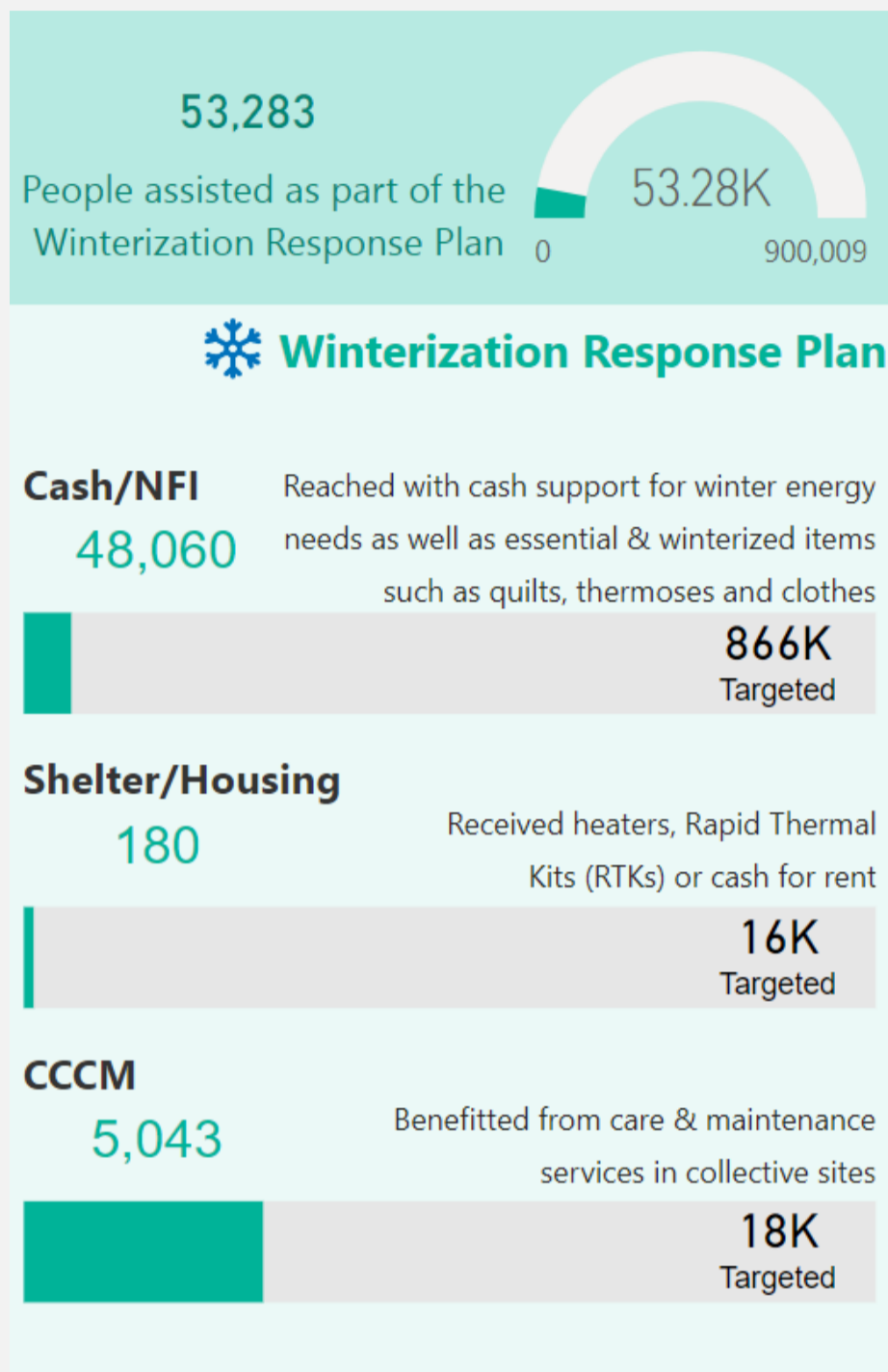
9 international NGO/UN partners



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

WINTERIZATION RESPONSE

The winterization response is UNHCR's priority over the coming months. In coordination with the Government of Ukraine, and contributing to the broader [Ukraine Winter Response Plan](#) (updated September 2023), UNHCR's winterization response will target 900,000 vulnerable, displaced and war-affected people between 1 September 2023 and 29 February 2024. **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.



SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

- In September, UNHCR started providing cash support for winter energy needs in the amount of UAH 6,660 per person to vulnerable individuals and families. As of end-September almost 10,700 war-affected and displaced people with specific vulnerabilities had received this cash assistance to help cover the additional costs associated with winter.
- Distributions of winterized non-food items started in September, already reaching almost 30,000 people as of the end of the month. Items distributed as part of the 2023-2024 winterization plan include high thermal blankets, quilts, mattresses, bed linen, pillows, sleeping bags, thermos flasks, solar lamps, towels and a kitchen set. In addition, 7,700 people received winter clothing to help them stay warm during winter.
- Camp coordination and site management (CCCM) partners started implementing care and maintenance interventions in September to prepare collective site premises for the upcoming winter. This includes the replacement of wooden windows and doors with triple glazed windows and more sturdy doors made of metal, and the upgrade of electrical wiring systems and heating systems. A total of 492 sites accommodating 5,000 displaced people benefited from these interventions and will be more resistant to harsh winter conditions.

UKRAINE WINTERIZATION PLAN 2023-2024

Main response areas:

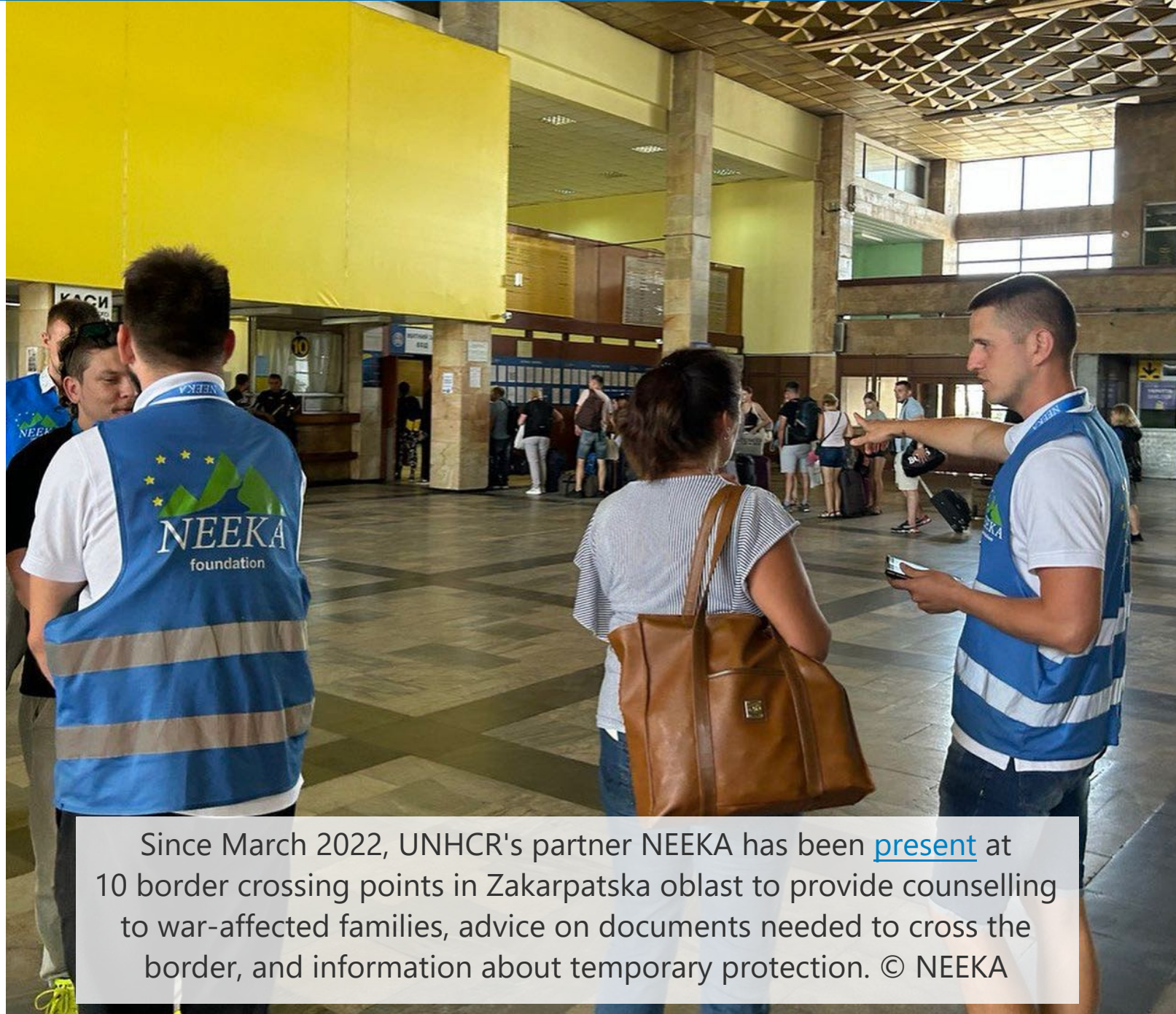
1. **Cash support for winter energy needs** to vulnerable families to meet additional costs during the winter months.
2. **Rental support** to help vulnerable displaced people to find warm, safe, and dignified accommodation in winter.
3. **Insulation of sub-standard houses** for improved heat retention and reduced energy needs throughout winter.
4. **Distribution and installation of heaters** in rural houses targeted by UNHCR's house repair programme.
5. **Winterized non-food items**, where cash assistance is not possible or most appropriate, including winter clothes, and generators.
6. **Support to collective sites to ensure readiness for winter** through small insulation improvements and maintenance to heating and electrical systems.

For more information, see the [UNHCR Ukraine Situation Winterization Plan 2023-2024](#).



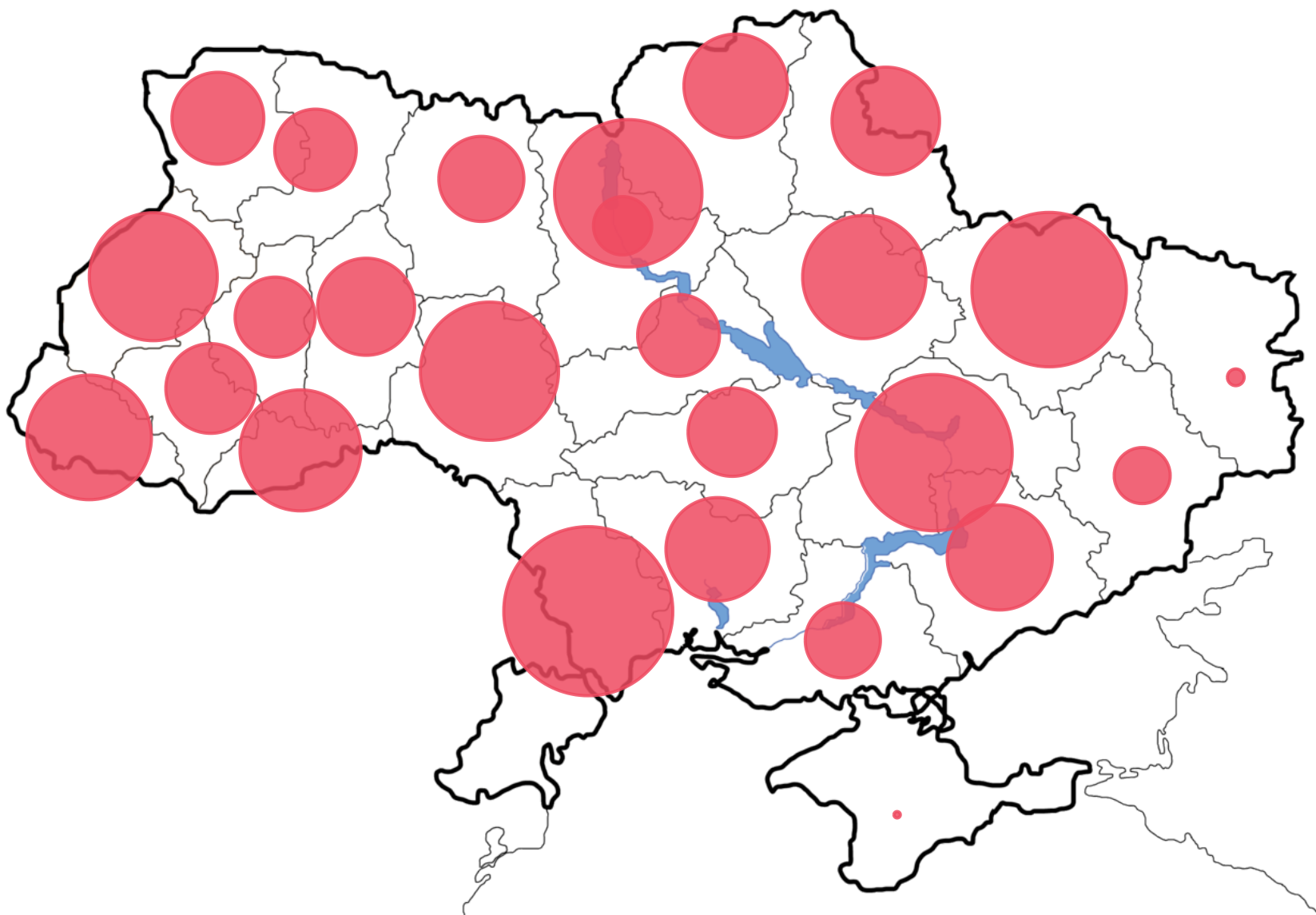
The winterization response is UNHCR's priority for next six months. UNHCR met with Ternopil State Administration at the beginning of September to agree on plans to support 6,000 people in the region with winter assistance so they feel safe and warm. © Ternopil State Administration

Protection services

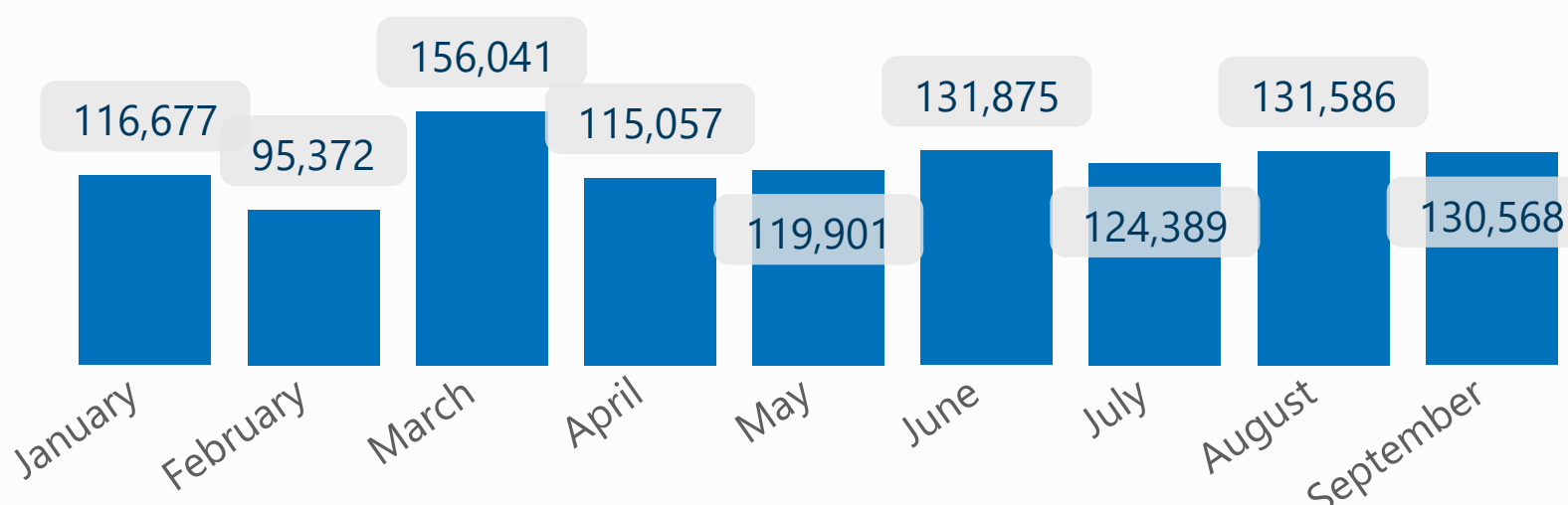


Since March 2022, UNHCR's partner NEEKA has been [present](#) at 10 border crossing points in Zakarpatska oblast to provide counselling to war-affected families, advice on documents needed to cross the border, and information about temporary protection. © NEEKA

UNHCR's protection programmes are designed to complement or reinforce the capacity of the national system and local protection services and are centred on 4 objectives: (i) ensuring access to social, legal and other protection services; (ii) strengthening access to information, complaints and feedback mechanism and participation in decisions and solutions; (iii) strengthening national legal and policy frameworks; and (iv) promoting rights-based solutions.



People reached by Month



PROTECTION: KEY FIGURES

1,131,213 Reached as of September 2023

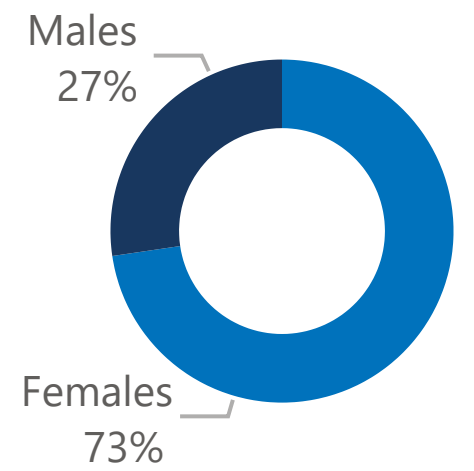
78,206
Individuals receiving PSS/PFA

145,869
Legal consultations provided

2,730
Persons received targeted GBV services

22,621
Individuals supported with case management services

3,593
Supported with other protection services



1,121,466
IDPs and war-affected population

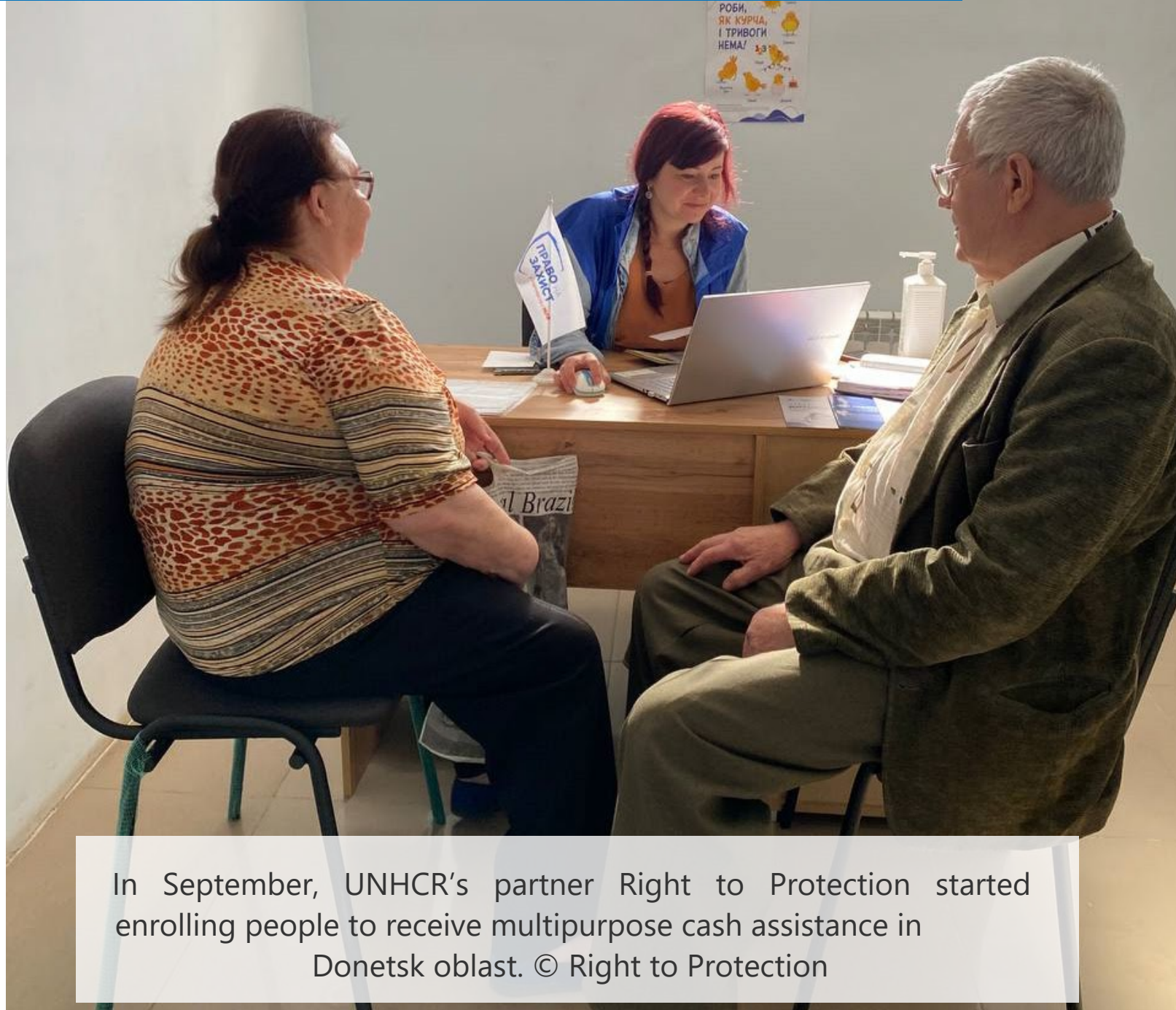
6,709
Stateless

3,038
Refugees & asylum seekers

Highlights:

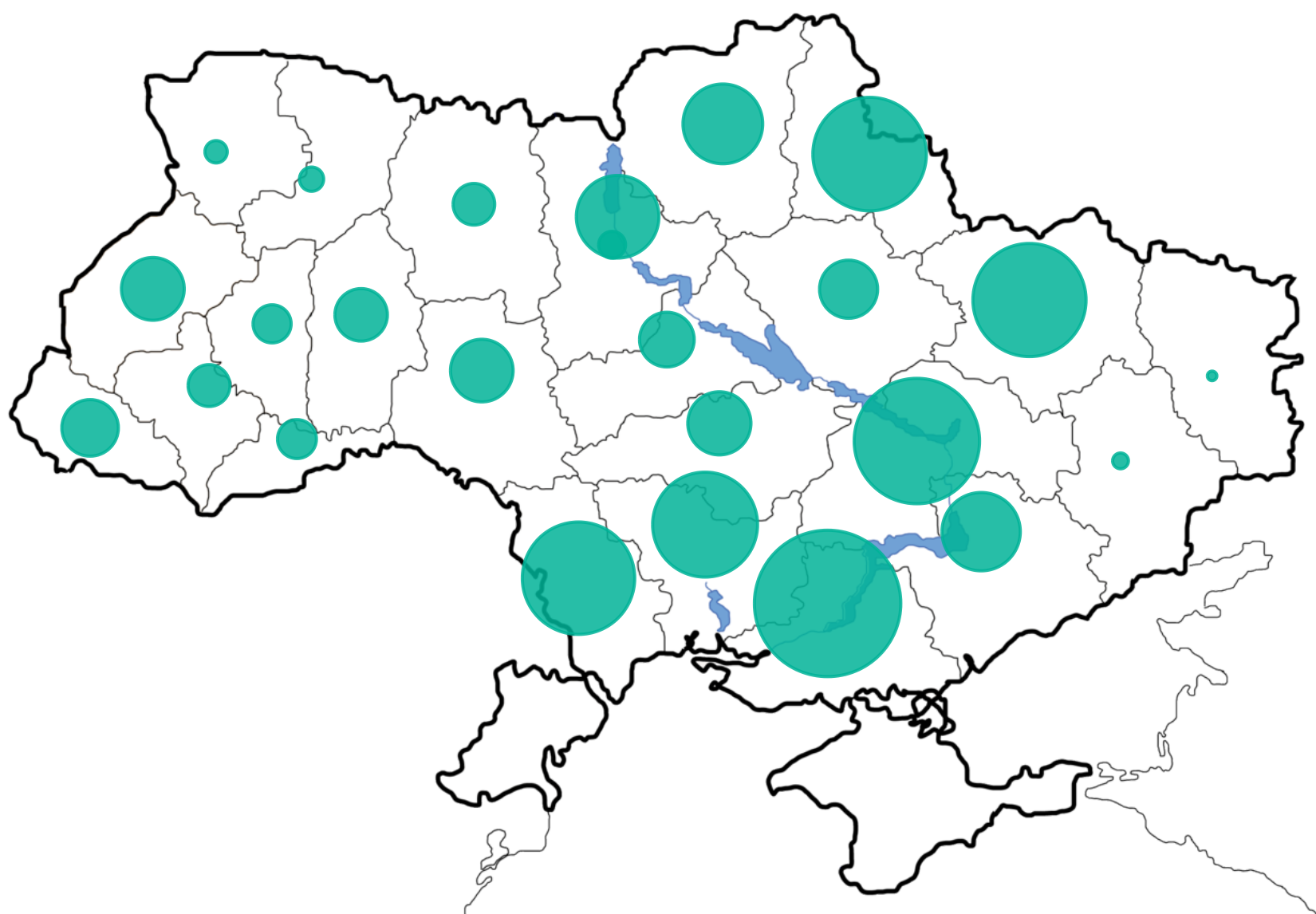
- **Border monitoring:** In September, UNHCR partners Right to Protection (R2P), NEEKA and The Tenth of April conducted 320 monitoring visits to the border crossing points with Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. During these visits, partners provided protection counselling to almost 1,200 people, in addition to legal assistance and transportation services to people crossing the border.
- **Community-based protection:** From January to September, UNHCR and partners have supported a total of 143 community-based projects in displaced and war-affected communities. These projects help ensure communities can engage meaningfully and substantively in programmes that affect them. Projects selected this year focus on supporting children (25%), women (27%), youth (27%) and people with disabilities (7%). Examples include sports activities for youth, psychological support sessions for women, and establishing coworking spaces.
- **Legal developments:** In response to the dramatic increase in displacement since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Government of Ukraine is working on a new draft law on the rights and freedoms of internally displaced people. UNHCR shared comments to the draft law prepared by the Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories during consultations organised in August and September. The Ministry held consultations with various branches of the government, civil society and UN organizations, and is now expected to submit the draft to Parliament.
- Between end-August and early October, **UNHCR and IOM conducted nine training sessions for State Border Guard Service staff members** centred on combatting human trafficking risks and enhancing their ability to identify and support unaccompanied and separated children.

Cash assistance

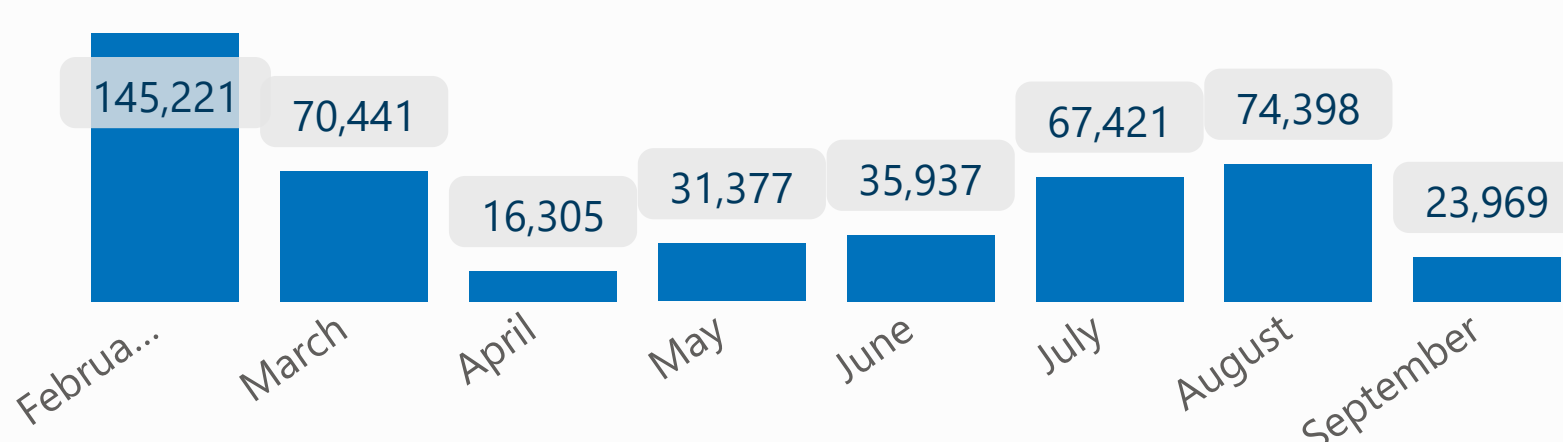


In September, UNHCR's partner Right to Protection started enrolling people to receive multipurpose cash assistance in Donetsk oblast. © Right to Protection

Cash assistance remains one of the most optimal means and most requested forms of support among IDPs and other war-affected people. UNHCR is implementing a multi-purpose cash assistance programme that is aligned with the national social assistance programme, enabling vulnerable war-affected, and displaced people and returnees to cover immediate basic needs, in line with the memorandum of understanding [signed](#) with the Ministry of Social Policy in April 2022.

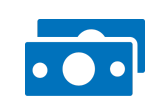



People reached by Month

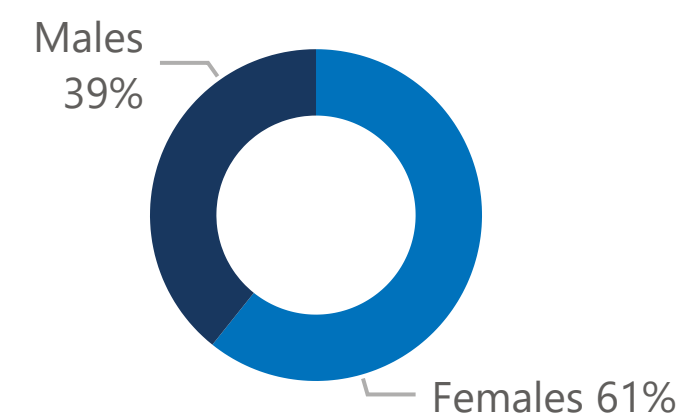


MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE: KEY FIGURES

 **465,069** Reached as of September 2023

 **\$83.7M**
disbursed so far to assist IDPs and war-affected people

 **18**
oblasts with active cash enrolment through centres and/or mobile teams with combined protection screening and services



Highlights:

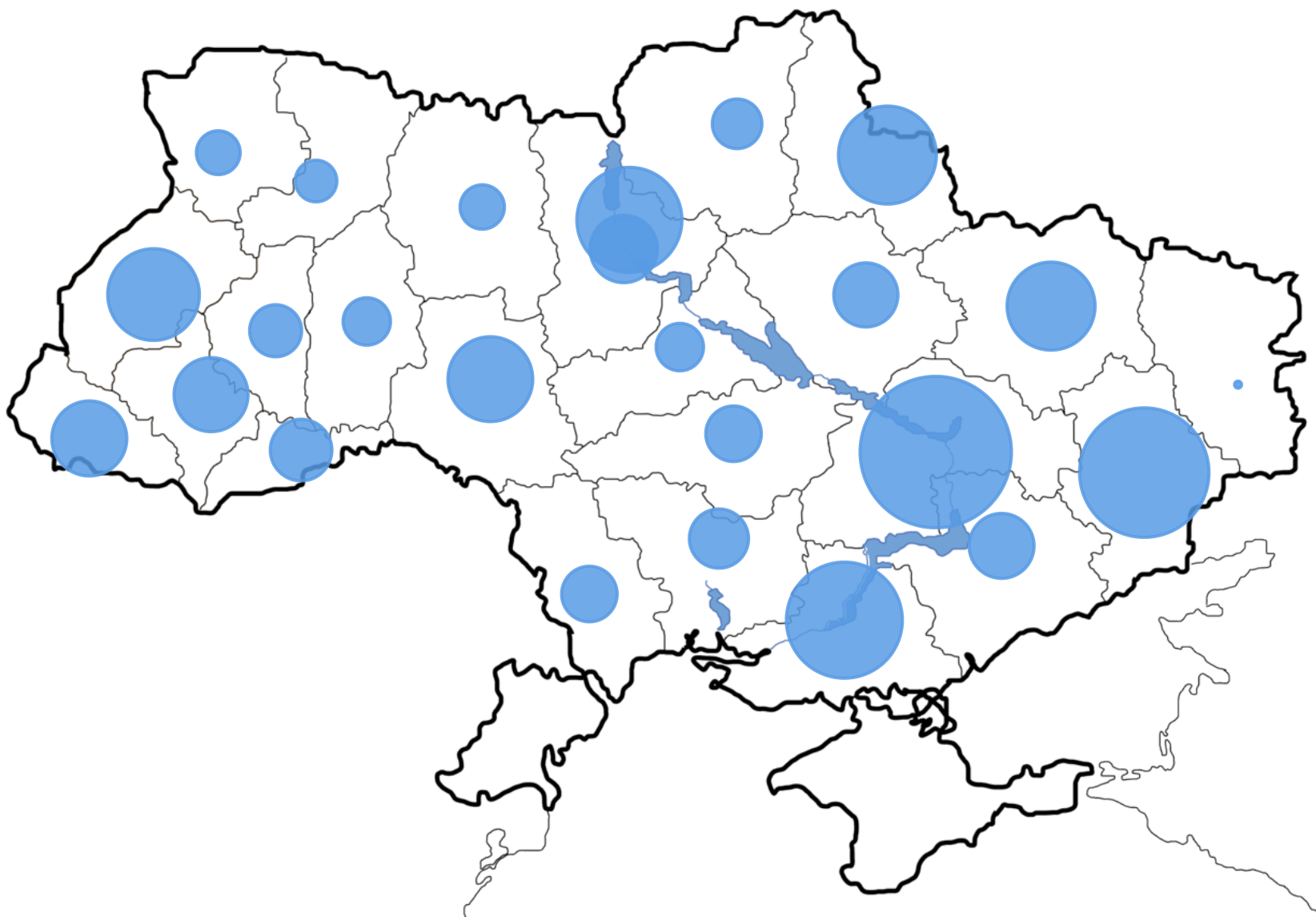
- In 2023, **UNHCR has so far distributed US\$83.7 million through the multipurpose cash programme to over 465,000 people**, helping socioeconomically and otherwise vulnerable war-affected and displaced families cover the costs of basic items like food, medicines, clothes, accommodation and pay for utilities. **In September, UNHCR expanded its multi-purpose cash assistance programme to Donetsk oblast** through its partner R2P.
- In addition, UNHCR provides cash assistance for shelter repairs and rental support to ensure access to sustainable housing options. In September, **294 families** were supported with cash for shelter repairs and **76 families** received cash assistance to help cover rent.
- UNHCR and partners in the Cash Working Group are preparing to implement the **new monthly transfer amount of UAH 3,600 starting from 1 October 2023**, which was endorsed by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and is based on the new humanitarian [Minimum Expenditure Basket \(MEB\)](#) and the updated basket pricing. The revision of the transfer amount was prompted by increased prices of essential commodities and the overall cost of living. It aims to ensure people receiving the assistance continue to have resources to meet their most immediate needs.
- For more information, see the [UNHCR Ukraine September Cash Assistance Factsheet](#).

Essential items

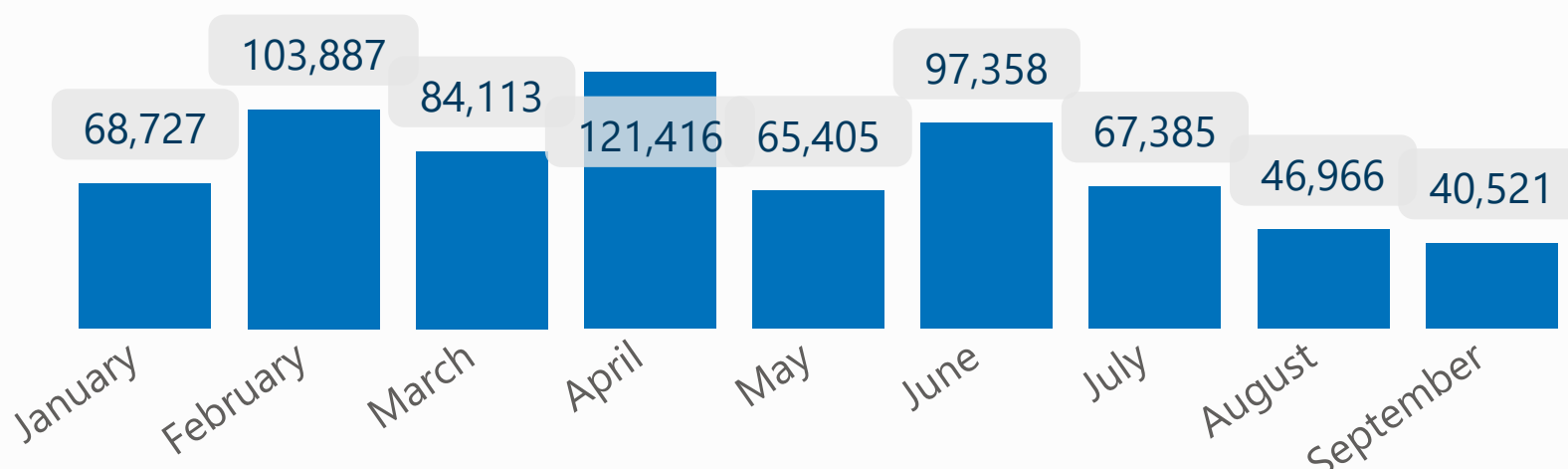


During an [interagency convoy](#) to Siversk in Donetsk oblast on 19 September, UNHCR delivered 1,000 tarpaulins, 400 solar lamps and 20 plastic sheeting rollups to war-affected families. © UNHCR

UNHCR distributes standard relief items, such as blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps, and non-standard items such as dignity kits, mattresses, and clothes to people in need, mainly in areas along the front line and to newly displaced people, as well as to people living in newly accessible areas who have endured months of constant shelling. NFI distribution is done through implementing partners, local administrations, direct distribution, or contribution to inter-agency responses.





People reached by Month




NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs): KEY FIGURES

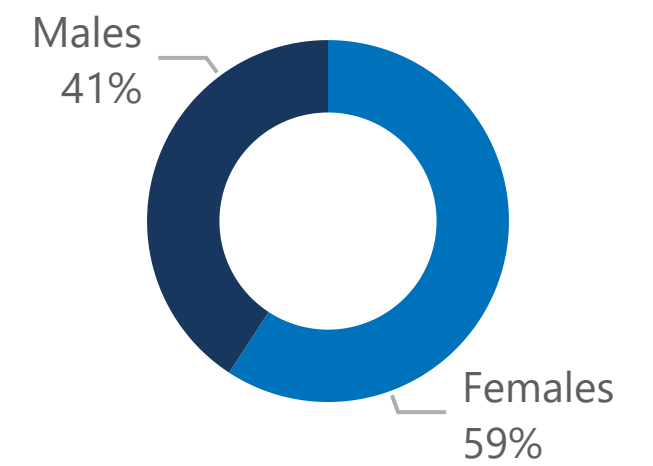
 **695,778** Reached as of September 2023

 531,012
Individuals receiving standard NFIs

 282,285
Individuals receiving hygiene kits

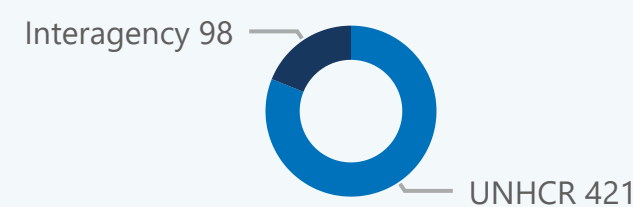
 147,529
Individuals receiving other items

 189,470
Individuals receiving non-standard NFIs

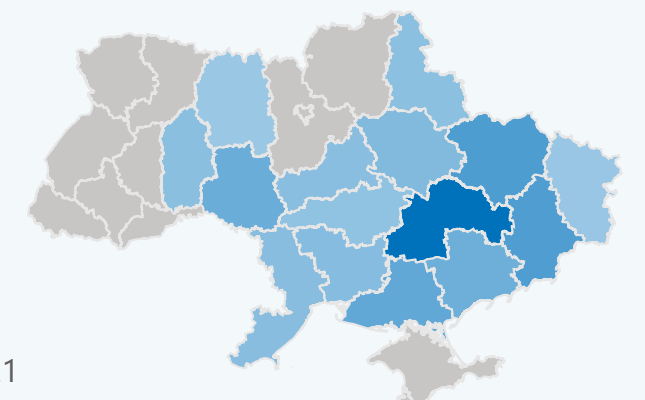


16
Regions covered

519
Number of convoys



Humanitarian Convoys



Highlights:

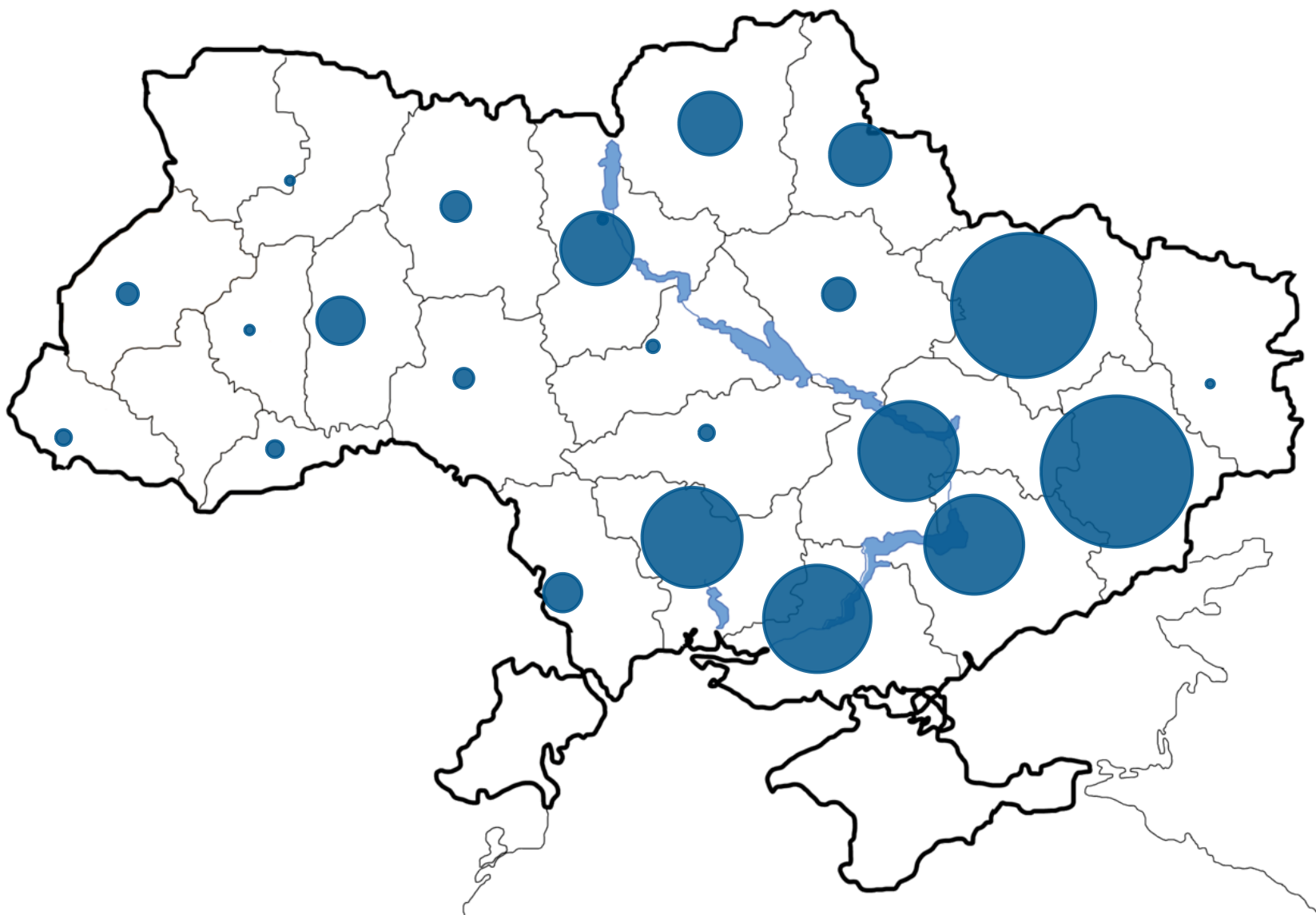
- **Interagency convoys:** Assisting the people living in frontline areas remains a priority. UNHCR participated in three interagency convoys to Vovchansk on 6 September (Kharkivska oblast), Avdiivka on 15 September, and Siversk on 19 September (Donetska oblast). UNHCR contributed essential non-food items including 1,400 solar lamps, 1,000 bed linen sets, 1,000 pieces of plastic tarpaulin, 20 rolls of transparent plastic sheeting, and 600 sleeping bags to support war-affected residents in frontline areas. Since January 2023, UNHCR has participated in 98 interagency convoys reaching 70,000 people living in frontline areas with assistance.
- **UNHCR humanitarian convoys:** Since the start of the emergency in February 2022, UNHCR has delivered life-saving assistance and shelter materials by means of 1,489 trucks in 1,047 convoys reaching almost 827,400 people throughout the country. In September alone, assistance reached nearly 15,000 people with 42 convoys.

Shelter and Housing

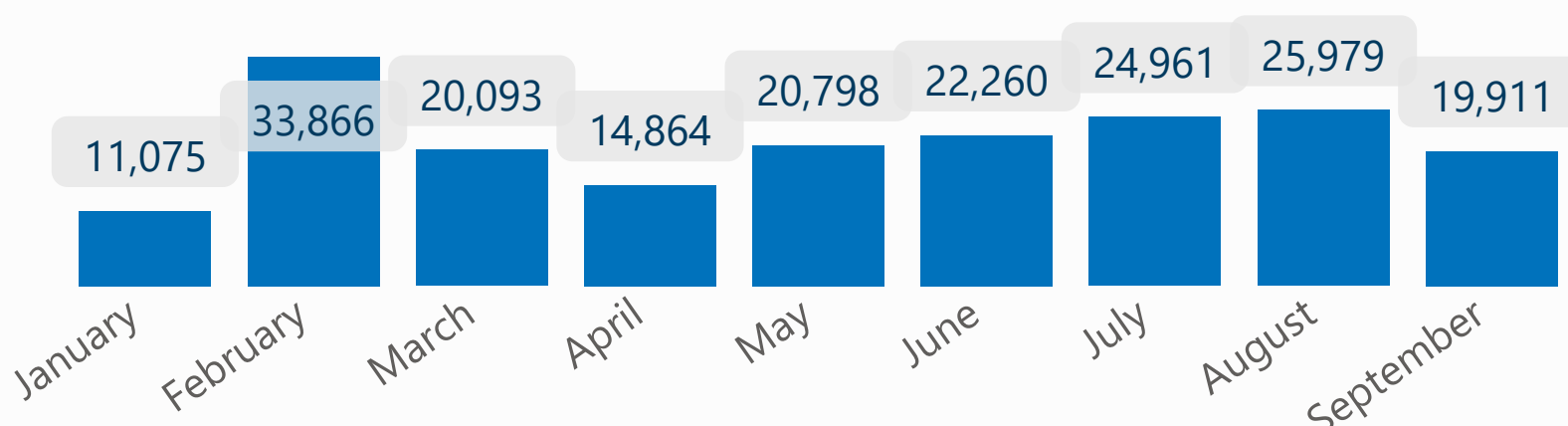


Emergency shelter materials [helped](#) Liudmyla quickly repair shattered windows and doors to protect her house in Nikopol, Dnipropetrovska oblast, from vandalism. She is unable to live in her home because of the constant shelling. © UNHCR/Oleksii Barkov

UNHCR's shelter and housing programme supports people impacted by the war through three activities: (i) emergency shelter for those with immediate needs in areas directly impacted by shelling and attacks (ii) repairs and housing solutions that can help people return to their homes, where possible and (iii) improvement or creation of accommodation in collective sites for IDPs who cannot live at home.





People reached by Month



EMERGENCY SHELTER AND HOUSING: KEY FIGURES

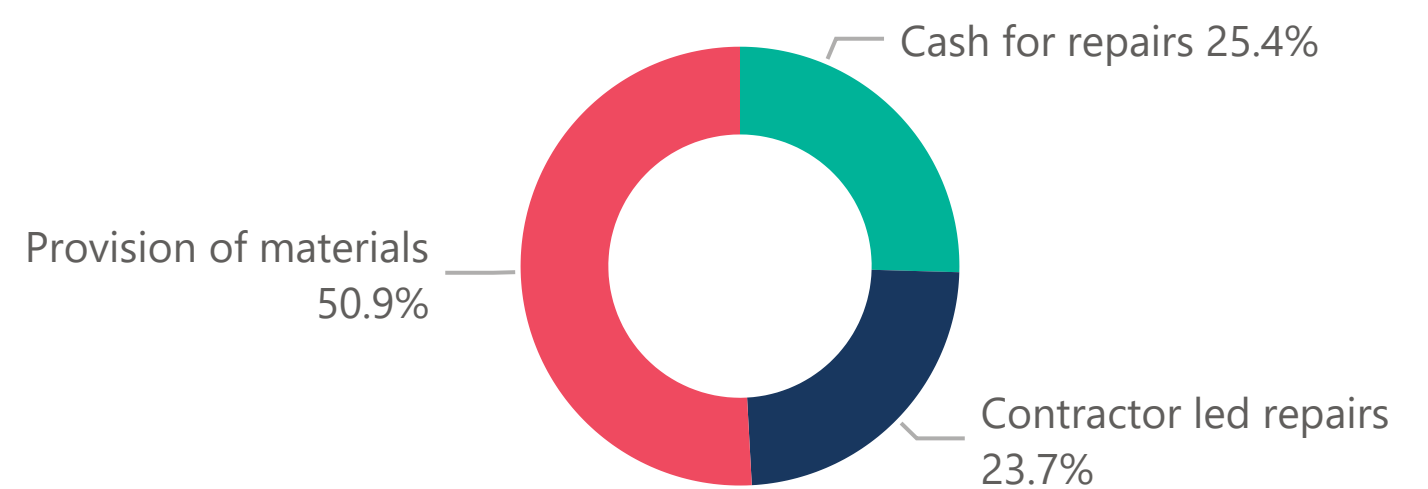
 **193,807** Reached as of September 2023

 **145,191** / **69,705**
Individuals / Households supported by ESKs

 **42,241** / **14,877**
Individuals / Households benefitting from repairs

 **5,313**
Sleeping spaces created/improved

Beneficiaries of repairs by modality



Highlights:

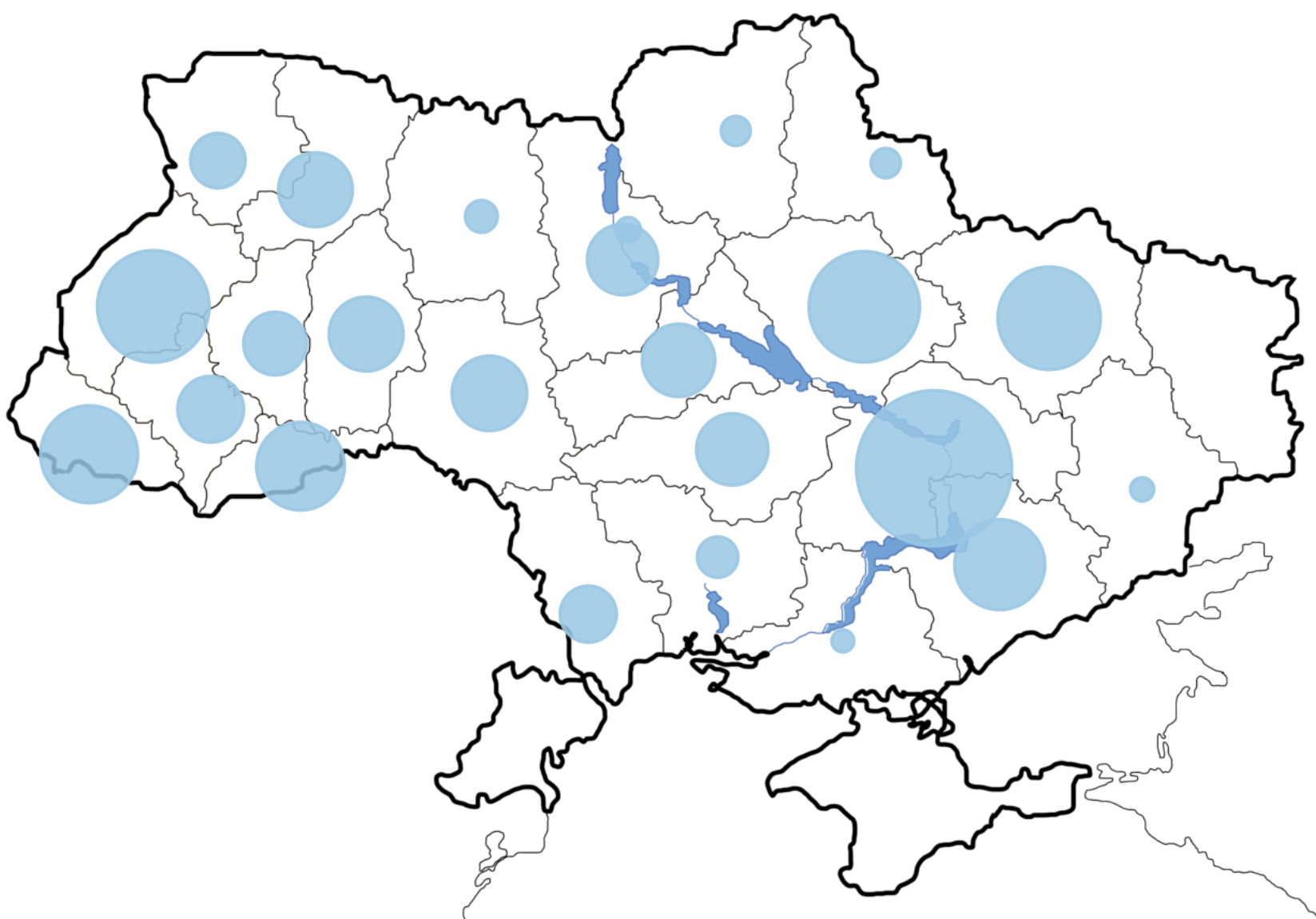
- **Emergency shelter kits (ESKs):** UNHCR and partners have provided emergency shelter kits and materials to over 550 facilities in nine regions of Ukraine so far in 2023. The majority of these facilities are schools, gymnasiums and kindergartens located in Donetsk (58%) and Dnipro (23%), followed by Kharkiv, Sumska and Zaporizka oblasts. ESKs consist mainly of plastic sheeting, wood and fixings for simple repairs or improvement of facilities.
- **Over 20,000 houses repaired:** UNHCR and partners crossed an important milestone in September. Since the start of the programme in 2022, UNHCR and partners have completed more than 20,000 house repairs, which is more than one-third of all repairs carried out by Shelter/ NFI Cluster partners. Housing repairs are implemented through three modalities: repair by contractors, provision of building materials for house repairs, and distribution of cash assistance for house repairs.
- **Collective sites:** Over the last four months UNHCR completed the repair and upgrade of four collective sites located in Zakarpatska and Kirovohradaska oblasts, creating or improving a total of 570 sleeping spaces for displaced people in accordance with Ukrainian living standards and [Resolution #930](#). Interventions to upgrade four additional collective sites are ongoing in Lvivska and Zakarpatska oblasts, aiming to create and improve 952 sleeping spaces for displaced people. Small scale refurbishments to collective sites are being implemented in over 60 buildings by UNHCR partners in Chernivetska, Ivano-Frankivska, Kharkivska, Kirovohradaska, Lvivska, Mykolaivska, Odeska and Zakarpatska oblasts.

Collective sites

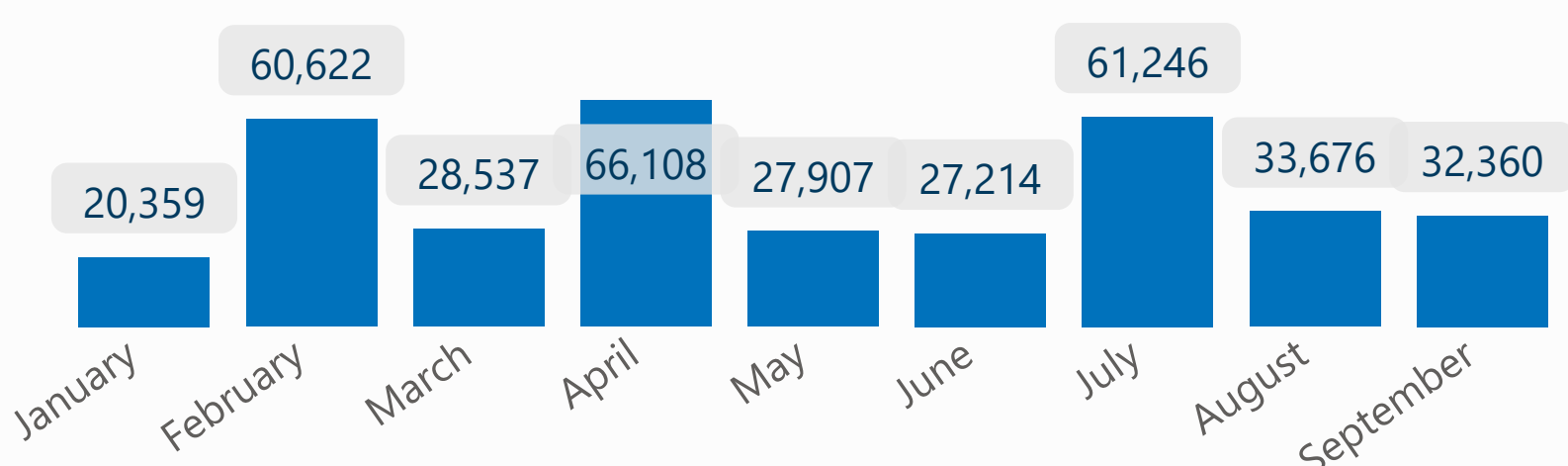


UNHCR's local partner NEEKA organized an oil-painting workshop for displaced people in a collective site in Zakarpatska oblast.
© NEEKA

UNHCR provides support to the management of collective sites to ensure protection services are accessible, inclusive, and community-based and works to improve the quality of life and dignity of IDPs during displacement. As part of the CCCM response, conditions and needs in collective sites will be closely monitored. Socio-economically or otherwise vulnerable IDPs are likely to remain in collective sites until they consider their area of origin is safe for return, and they will have access to basic services there.




People reached by Month





CCCM: KEY FIGURES


 **88,645** Reached as of September 2023

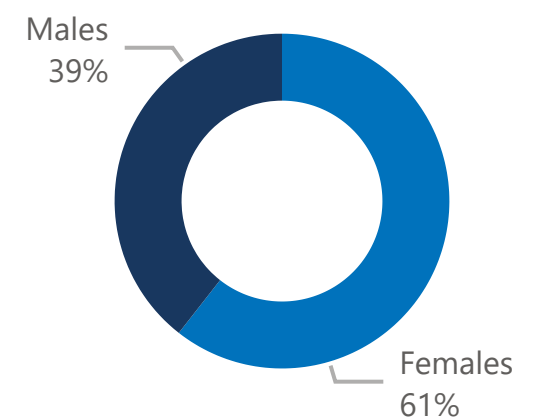
 **5,324** Site assessments conducted & recorded

 **88,645** People residing at sites supported with CCCM services

 **8,166** Individuals trained

 **18,237** Individuals participated in awareness raising sessions

 **50,686** Individuals benefitting from care and maintenance and community-led activities



Highlights:

- Needs in collective sites:** People continue to be evacuated from frontline areas and accommodated in collective sites, mostly in Dnipropetrovska, Kharkivska and Sumska oblasts. With the ongoing hostilities in frontline regions like Donetsk, Kharkivska, and Zaporizka and the upcoming winter, the number of evacuees is expected to grow. People who recently arrived to the collective sites say their primary needs are psychosocial support, cash assistance and legal aid, including support for the restoration of documents. Meanwhile, the people who have been accommodated in collective sites for longer periods of time express different needs, including employment opportunities and retraining courses for those of working age, as well as social assistance and protection services for vulnerable people such as the elderly and those with disabilities.
- New legal framework:** UNHCR and partners started adjusting CCCM interventions in line with [Resolution #930](#) on the functioning of the collective sites for displaced people, adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers on 1 September. UNHCR's partners R2P and ACTED conducted capacity-building trainings for collective site managers and local authorities to raise awareness on this new legal framework. As the Resolution establishes collective site monitoring led by oblast military administrations, our partner Rokada also supported authorities through joint monitoring visits to sites in Chernivetska, Rivnenska and Volynska oblasts.

Durable Solutions, Recovery & Development Nexus



Including displaced people into their new home communities is a priority. In Uzhhorod, UNHCR's partner Neemia, together with local authorities, hosted a job fair gathering over 40 businesses who offered 900 job opportunities for displaced residents of Zakarpatska oblast. © UNHCR/K. Bilozerova



HIGHLIGHTS

- **UNHCR attended the forum, "Community Reintegration: Challenges. Experience. Future."**, hosted in Zaporizhzhia, and spoke on a [panel](#) which focused on how international partners can support recovery in coordination with Government authorities at both national and local levels.
- **UNHCR continues to support communities across Ukraine to begin their own recovery journey.** In September, UNHCR attended the opening of a community hub in Odesa, supported by our NGO partner The Tenth of April. This important inclusion and social cohesion project will provide a community space for, amongst other initiatives, the speaking club "Rika". Currently UNHCR is also supporting refurbishment of two community spaces in Zakarpatska with an expectation that these centres will be opened at the end of the year. The centres will support social cohesion efforts through offering a space which the communities can use for both service delivery and recreational activities.
- **At the national level, UNHCR continues to build strong partnerships** that will help promote inclusion and solutions for displaced people. In September, UNHCR engaged with ILO and UNICEF on support to a more comprehensive and accessible framework for childcare – a key enabler for women to access employment; with UNECE on ensuring an inclusive and people centred approach to rebuilding cities; and with OHCHR on ensuring that economic and social rights are truly integrated into emergency and early recovery planning and response.
- **UNHCR engaged with the Ministry for the Restoration of Ukraine to revise the State Strategy of Regional Development of Ukraine until 2027.** Within this undertaking, UNHCR, in close cooperation with the Government of Ukraine, seeks to foster durable solutions, inclusivity, and accessibility for forcibly displaced and vulnerable people, their integration into host communities during the restoration process of Ukraine, as well as enhanced measures to combat gender-based violence, promoting gender equality and building stronger institutions at the local level.

Clusters

UNHCR's humanitarian response is based on the needs and priorities set out in the [2023 Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan](#) and in the 2023-2024 UN Transitional Framework. In addition to leading the **Protection, Shelter and Non-Food Item (NFI), and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters**, UNHCR co-leads the Durable Solutions Steering Group with IOM, OCHA and UNDP, and currently co-chairs the Community Planning for Durable Solutions and Recovery Working Group. UNHCR also leads the Legal Aid Task Force under the national Protection Cluster, co-leads the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Task Force with OCHA, and is a member of the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Working Group.

PROTECTION CLUSTER

- **Protection monitoring:** The Protection Cluster launched the [Protection Monitoring Tool \(PMT\) Coverage and Reporting Map](#). The map shows all hromadas where PMT assessments have been conducted by partners. This provides a better understanding of coverage, helps identify any gaps, and provides a more comprehensive overview of the protection issues and risks across Ukraine. In September, over 1,900 key informants were interviewed by 12 reporting partners, assessing in total 792 hromadas in 23 oblasts. Highlights and detailed results are available through the [Protection Monitoring Tool Dashboard](#).
- **Efforts to enhance social cohesion:** On 6 September, the national Protection Cluster held a dedicated meeting on social cohesion. Social cohesion and social tensions were examined through practical, legal and development perspectives to provide protection partners with the necessary tools and knowledge on these issues.

SHELTER AND NFI CLUSTER

- **Collective response:** Following rocket attacks in multiple oblasts, the Shelter Cluster coordinated extensive emergency response initiatives. Over 21,000 people received emergency shelter kits in September and 15,500 people received assistance to repair their damaged houses, ensuring they had safe living conditions. In addition, 92,000 people received non-food items in September, aiding their day-to-day living.
- **Winterization:** Efforts are underway for the winterization response, with subnational hub coordinators identifying needs in coordination with the local authorities. Identified gaps are being actively shared to synergize both humanitarian and government responses to the arising needs. A [one-page summary](#) of these efforts was circulated to relevant stakeholders. The SNFI Cluster has also issued technical [guidance](#) to partners on winterization activities.
- **Technical Working Group Initiatives:** The Rental Market initiative (RMI) followed the designated timeline, collecting information from the members of its working group and released a [public dashboard](#), aiding in guiding and coordinating the partners involved in this activity.
- **Shelter Information Damage Assessment & Response (SIDAR) platform launch:** This [platform](#), which contains damaged residential units and repairs undertaken or underway, is designed for partners and local authorities to bolster coordination for house repairs in Ukraine and ensure linkages with the Government's eRestoration (eVidnovlennia) programme and its database RDDP. Several training sessions were held to enhance its effectiveness.

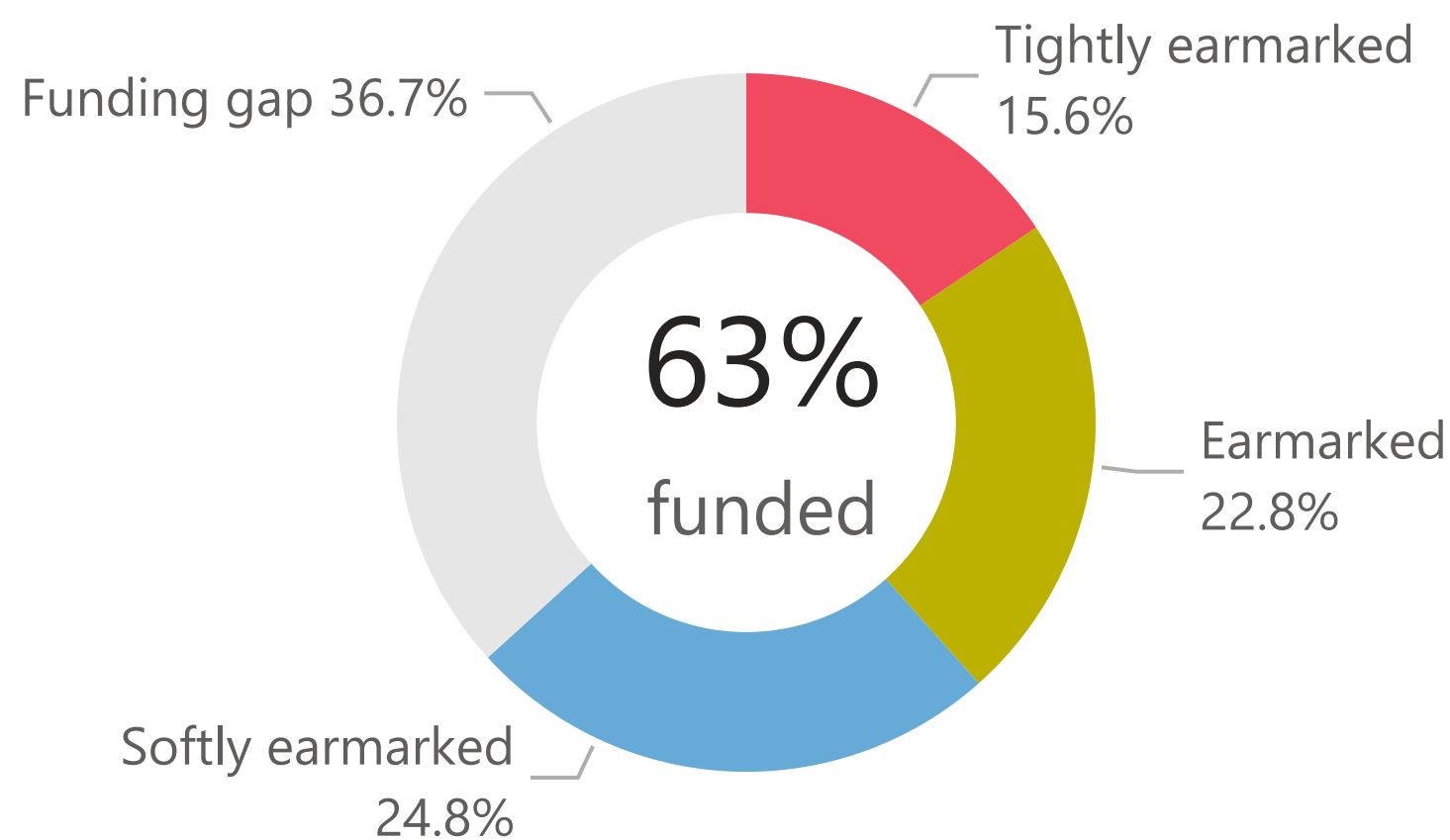
CCCM CLUSTER

- **Advocacy:** On 1 September, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted [Resolution #930](#) on the functioning of collective sites, developed with technical support from humanitarian partner organizations and the CCCM Cluster. The Resolution provides for the minimum standards for management and maintaining collective sites, and a mechanism for safeguarding displaced people from evictions without providing them with alternative housing solutions. The CCCM Cluster shared information management tools to support local authorities and conducted information sessions for various stakeholders including humanitarian organizations, regional-level authorities and site managers.
- **The CCCM Cluster launched a multi-sectoral Site Consolidation Technical Working Group (TWG), co-chaired by IOM.** The objective of the TWG is to support the process of collective site consolidation led by authorities in a coordinated and principled manner. Site consolidation and closure will facilitate the improvement of living conditions for displaced people via site infrastructure upgrades, decommissioning sites that must resume their original function (for example schools), and strengthening humanitarian resources and services in key areas, facilitating area-based approaches.

Financial updates

\$602.5M

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



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



Publications

- ❖ Ukraine Situation Winterization Plan 2023-2024
- ❖ Ukraine Cash Assistance Factsheet
- ❖ Lives on Hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees and IDPs from Ukraine #4
- ❖ Ukraine Situation: Supporting an area-based approach to durable solutions
- ❖ Ukraine Position on Voluntary Return to Ukraine - June 2023

Contacts

Anne-Marie Kerrigan-Deriché, Senior External Relations Advisor, <kerrigan@unhcr.org>

Alessia Pignatti, Reporting Officer, <pignatti@unhcr.org>

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Telegram](#)

Contact **UNHCR's Hotline 0-800-307-711** for feedback and advice on assistance and services