



Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

2024



UKRAINE SITUATION

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

January-December 2024

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Contents

A word from the Regional Refugee Coordinator	5		
REGIONAL OVERVIEW	11		
Part 1: Regional Risks and Needs	14		
Part 2: Regional Strategic Objectives and Priorities	16		
BULGARIA	30		
Part 1: Current Situation	32		
Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy	34		
Inter-Agency Financial Requirements	40		
RRP Monitoring Framework	42		
CZECH REPUBLIC	43		
Part 1: Current Situation	45		
Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy	48		
Inter-Agency Financial Requirements	56		
RRP Monitoring Framework	59		
ESTONIA	60		
Part 1: Current Situation	62		
Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy	64		
Inter-Agency Financial Requirements	73		
RRP Monitoring Framework	75		
HUNGARY	76		
Part 1: Current Situation	78		
Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy	82		
Inter-Agency Financial Requirements	91		
RRP Monitoring Framework	94		
LATVIA	95		
Part 1: Current Situation	97		
Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy	99		
Inter-Agency Financial Requirements	107		
RRP Monitoring Framework	109		
		LITHUANIA	110
		Part 1: Current Situation	112
		Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy	114
		Inter-Agency Financial Requirements	121
		RRP Monitoring Framework	123
		THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA	124
		Part 1: Current Situation	126
		Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy	130
		Inter-Agency Financial Requirements	140
		RRP Monitoring Framework	145
		POLAND	146
		Part 1: Current Situation	148
		Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy	151
		Inter-Agency Financial Requirements	162
		RRP Monitoring Framework	167
		ROMANIA	168
		Part 1: Current Situation	170
		Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy	173
		Inter-Agency Financial Requirements	181
		RRP Monitoring Framework	184
		SLOVAKIA	185
		Part 1: Current Situation	187
		Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy	191
		Inter-Agency Financial Requirements	200
		RRP Monitoring Framework	202
		ANNEX 1 – RRP BUDGET SUMMARY BY PARTNER	203

A word from the Regional Refugee Coordinator



Philippe Leclerc

Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Ukraine Situation
UNHCR, Regional Director for Europe

Nearly two years have passed since the start of the full-scale war on Ukraine, which has displaced millions, both inside the country and abroad. Indeed, as UNHCR and partners launch the 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan, there are over 6.3 million refugees from Ukraine globally, including 5.9 million in Europe.

I have seen first-hand the suffering and devastation of the war. But I have also witnessed the extraordinary generosity displayed by host families, communities, cities, municipalities and countries across the region. This solidarity must be sustained as the situation enters its third year and as refugees' – and host communities' – resources are increasingly under strain.

The Temporary Protective Directive, enacted by the European Union in March 2022 – and by Moldova the following year – is proof that States can mobilize political will and act boldly in the interests of refugees.

It is precisely the kind of swift and protection-oriented approach that UNHCR advocates for in all crisis situations. Indeed, the positive experience and solidarity shown towards refugees from Ukraine should be built upon and be extended to all people forced to flee.

While temporary protection has proven to be an effective tool to provide swift access to territory, protection and rights for millions of refugees displaced from Ukraine, discussions are now starting to turn to what will come next, particularly as the application of the Temporary Protection Directive in the EU cannot currently be extended past March 2025 – not to mention the need to inform the refugee community of what will come next.

UNHCR strongly recommends a coordinated and harmonized response amongst hosting states at the point at which the application of temporary protection comes to an end, in line with international principles of cooperation and responsibility-sharing. Without a coordinated approach, we risk undermining one of the key achievements of the response to the Ukraine crisis - the unprecedented and extraordinary solidarity of hosting states.

Return is the preferred option for most refugees, once the situation will allow. Until then, the response to date emphasizes the effective inclusion of refugees in their host communities so that

they can access decent work opportunities, social welfare, medical assistance, education, and accommodation, all of which fosters self-reliance and economic contribution.

UNHCR and its partners, mobilized through this Regional Refugee Response Plan, will continue to advocate for further investments in the area of inclusion and increased self-reliance – such as language courses, job-matching, re-skilling and support to the enrolment of children in national education systems.

The identification of the most vulnerable refugees, such as older people and those suffering from chronic and mental health conditions, remains a priority as well. In this regard, continuing support for their inclusion in national social protection systems remains key.

Local communities, civil society actors, refugee-led organizations, municipalities, the private sector, Governments, and inter-governmental organizations have all played a critical role in ensuring that refugees from Ukraine have been able to access protection and assistance, and in strengthening the social cohesion – which has been remarkable to date – between the refugees and their host communities.

In recognition of the localization of the response, the Refugee Response Plan has grown from 142 partners in its first iteration to 312 partners participating in 2024, most of which are national and local organizations. Efforts will continue to highlight the crucial work of local and national NGOs and refugee-led organizations and to ensure they have visibility, are able to access funding and capacity-building opportunities and receive due recognition for the central role they continue to play.

It is essential that we continue to support these processes. Recognizing the lead role of the Governments in the response, this plan outlines and brings together the collective efforts of local, national and international civil society and international organizations.

> At a Glance

Regional Planned Response (January-December 2024)



2.2 M

projected refugee
population



55,000

projected assisted host-
community members



\$1.1 B

total financial requirements
in USD



312

RRP partners

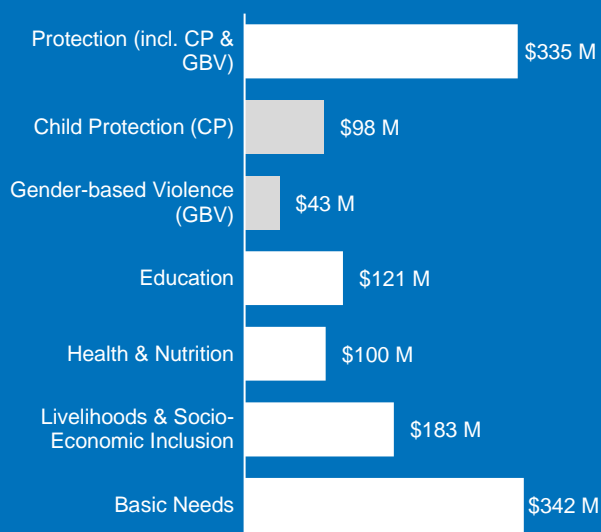


> Regional Financial Requirements

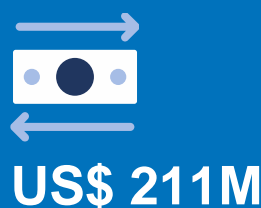
By country

COUNTRY	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD	PARTNERS INVOLVED ¹
Bulgaria	38,561,185	19
Czech Republic	58,264,514	30
Estonia	10,589,248	14
Hungary	42,188,964	31
Latvia	9,682,633	17
Lithuania	15,450,605	18
The Republic of Moldova	303,055,882	82
Poland	377,377,752	103
Romania	117,215,789	37
Slovakia	59,940,518	25
Regional support ²	48,232,912	7

By sector



Cash assistance requirements³



¹ International organizations active in more than one country are reflected in each, the number of partners involved is accurate at country level and cannot be cumulated to arrive at the regional number.

² The regional support budget also includes the financial requirements for Belarus.

³ Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is the modality of choice for forcibly displaced people and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection. Unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector.

By partner type⁴

PARTNER	NUMBER OF PARTNERS	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD
UN agencies	10	679.8M
IFRC & RC	5	39.5M
International NGOs ⁵	44	162M
Refugee-led Organizations*	3	6.0M
Faith-based Organizations*	8	30.5M
Women-led Organizations*	3	2.3M
National NGOs	252	198M
Refugee-led Organizations*	42	18.5M
Faith-based Organizations*	15	14.1M
Women-led Organizations*	89	45.2M
Academia	1	100.0K
Sports organizations	1	877.2K
TOTAL	313	1.1 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.

⁴ This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type.

⁵ Organizations with chapters in multiple countries are categorized here as international NGOs, regardless of their national registration status.

> Population Planning Figures

Refugee population

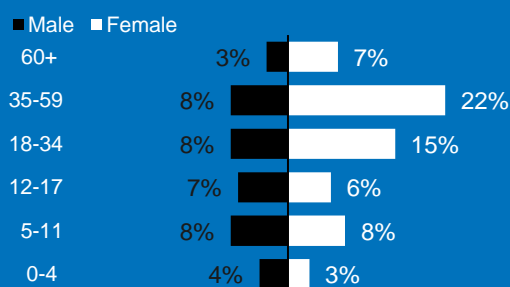
COUNTRY	CURRENT POPULATION AS OF DECEMBER 2023 ⁶	POPULATION PLANNED FOR ASSISTANCE IN 2024
Bulgaria	51,860	70,000
Czech Republic	373,080	400,000
Estonia	50,450	55,000
Hungary	63,775	85,000
Latvia	46,610	50,000
Lithuania	52,305	65,000
The Republic of Moldova	115,862	90,000
Poland	956,635	1,100,000
Romania	83,765	110,000
Slovakia	113,925	150,000
TOTAL ⁷	1,945,307	2,210,000

Host community population

HOST POPULATION PLANNED FOR ASSISTANCE IN 2024

The Republic of Moldova	55,000
TOTAL	55,000

Age and gender breakdown



6%

Persons with disabilities⁸



62%

Women and girls



38%

Men and boys

⁶ This figure may include multiple registrations of the same individual in two or more countries; registrations that remain incomplete for various reasons, or registrations of refugees who have moved onward, including beyond Europe. Please see UNHCR's [Operational Data Portal](#).

⁷ The total of the table also includes the refugee population and financial requirements for Belarus.

⁸ While this data is lower than the global estimate of 16 per cent of persons with disabilities in the general population, which may reflect under-reporting or under-identification, it is based on multi-sector needs analyses conducted across the RRP countries, which used the Washington Group questionnaire. This applies to all country chapters.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The war in Ukraine has been the fastest growing and largest displacement crisis in Europe since World War II and has precipitated a regional refugee response of commensurate scale. In the nearly two years since the Russian Federation's large-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the flow of refugees into neighbouring countries, and beyond, has been met by a remarkable mobilization of assistance – by national and municipal authorities, civil society actors, local volunteers, and refugees themselves, all contributing to ensure protection and meet the essential needs of those fleeing violence.

As the refugee response enters its third year in 2024, it continues to address significant needs in host countries, demonstrating an evolving and prolonged situation. Notably, this iteration of the plan reflects the increasing response ownership and greater investment by host governments in the socio-economic inclusion of refugees. The 2024 RRP focuses on practical and specialized support from RRP partners to host countries to ensure refugees have effective access to legal status and rights; that refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities receive targeted assistance; that refugees' self-reliance and socio-economic inclusion are enhanced; and that social cohesion between refugee and host communities is fostered. The RRP complements and aligns with the national strategies and assistance schemes of host governments – who are in the lead of the response – and is grounded in the principles of partnership governing humanitarian action. These principles include equality, transparency, a results-oriented approach, responsibility, and complementarity.

Situation Overview

As the war in Ukraine continues unabated, 3.7 million people are displaced internally⁹ and 6.3 million abroad. As of the end of December 2023, 5.9 million refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe, close to 2 million of whom are in the countries covered by the RRP: Belarus¹⁰, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.¹¹ The application of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) in the European Union (EU), recently extended until March 2025, and the Republic of Moldova's Temporary Protection regime, which came into effect in March 2023, have provided favourable frameworks to ensure protection and access to rights and services in host countries for refugees from Ukraine. Challenges remain, with differing approaches to the implementation of temporary protection, which can have a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable groups and their

⁹ [Ukraine | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\), October 2023, Round 14.](#)

¹⁰ The financial needs of Belarus are incorporated in the regional budget.

¹¹ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

ability to access their rights. Over the course of 2024, governments will be discussing and preparing for the transition beyond the TPD regime.

Relatedly, temporary movements back to Ukraine are increasingly observed, with data from UNHCR's intentions survey showing a rise from 17 per cent in August 2022 to 39 per cent in May 2023 in the proportion of refugees who have visited Ukraine at least once since their arrival in host countries, primarily to check on family and property or obtain documentation.¹² These visits are important for refugees' longer-term decisions about more durable return once conditions permit. However, varying approaches of host governments toward the impact of short-term travel to Ukraine on refugees' legal status and access to rights has led to the revocation of legal status and suspension of associated benefits for some, as well as challenges with efforts to re-instate legal status upon return to host countries. For others, this has also discouraged engaging in these important visits.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, newly displaced refugee movements into neighbouring countries and beyond are expected to significantly decrease as compared to the first years of the response. This entails a smaller, yet still substantial, group of refugees arriving in, or moving through, RRP countries who will need initial reception assistance. Among refugees present in host countries, intentions surveys indicate that while most hope to return to Ukraine one day, only 14 per cent plan to do so in the near future, primarily due to concerns about safety and security, the availability of suitable jobs, access to basic services, education, and housing in Ukraine. The majority of refugees plan to remain in their current host country, where they require continued support from host governments and the international community to meet their basic needs, access key services and build their self-reliance and meaningful inclusion in host communities. Some 81 per cent of refugees from Ukraine in RRP countries indicate at least one urgent unmet need, including access to food, employment, healthcare, accommodation, or material assistance, while nearly a quarter of refugee households indicate having at least one member with a specific vulnerability.¹³ Challenges accessing decent work, receiving healthcare and social services and securing sustainable housing solutions persist for many due to often interconnected challenges such as language barriers, limited information, financial constraints, job-matching difficulties, lack of childcare and overstretched local resources.

There is a significant number of refugee children, including unaccompanied, separated and children from institutions, who often face challenges accessing national child protection systems and benefitting from respective protection services. This, in turn, may result in gaps accessing their rights in the countries of asylum, as the displacement is becoming protracted.

Moreover, roughly half of school-age refugee children and youth from Ukraine were enrolled in schools in host countries at the start of the 2023-2024 school year. In addition, some 44 per cent of households with school-aged children report at least one child still not registered in the education system of the host country.

¹² [Document - Lives on hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees and IDPs from Ukraine #4 \(unhcr.org\)](#).

¹³ [Regional Protection Profiling and Monitoring, Protection Risks and Needs of Refugees from Ukraine](#).

Population Planning Figures

The RRP planning figures reflect the projected population that will require assistance in 2024. They have been developed in consultation with country inter-agency refugee coordination forums and government counterparts. The population planning figures include refugees from Ukraine, as well as third-country nationals who fled Ukraine and are in need of international protection and people who are stateless or at risk of statelessness (e.g. the Roma population). The planning figures assume that all refugees and asylum-seekers benefit from protection services and/or humanitarian assistance.

The host community population in the Republic of Moldova prioritized for assistance includes those who are affected by refugee arrivals, for example due to their location, and who will benefit from initiatives that aid refugees as well as host communities. Within the EU, the RRP does not include host community members as individuals targeted for assistance. The plan addresses the needs of impacted host populations at the community level, with an eye to expanding community resources and services that may be under strain due to the presence of the refugee population.

The 2024 population planning figures reflect a reduction from 2023 as some refugees and others in need of international protection in RRP countries have moved outside the geographic scope of the RRP and the remaining population is projected to be more stable in number, with fewer new arrivals and newly displaced persons in transit. Additionally, the refugee population figures for most RRP countries were revised downward in 2023 based on temporary protection validation exercises conducted by governments.

Part 1: Regional Risks and Needs

UNHCR protection profiling and monitoring activities – conducted across the RRP region on an ongoing basis – have identified several key protection risks and needs for refugees from Ukraine.¹⁴

The Ukraine refugee crisis continues to be characterized by high levels of family separation – almost 80 per cent of respondents in UNHCR’s protection monitoring reported being separated from at least one immediate family member as a result of the war. Family separation in a refugee context can exacerbate several protection risks including gender-based violence, human trafficking, exploitation, isolation, and trauma, particularly for persons with specific needs, such as unaccompanied and separated children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Men 18 years or above constitute only 19 per cent of the refugee population, with 62 per cent of the population being women and girls and 36 per cent children. This age and gender composition, together with the high number of single-parent families, highlights the heightened risk faced by refugee women in the context of employment and accommodation, as well as women and girls’ exposure to GBV risks also in other spheres. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), sexual exploitation and abuse, and trafficking, among other risks, continue to be of concern, particularly as assistance levels decrease.

Furthermore, 23 per cent of households contain at least one member with a specific need, such as disabilities or serious medical conditions. These households report lower levels of access to various rights, including identity documentation, long-term housing, healthcare and employment as compared to other refugee households, highlighting a worsening vulnerability among these groups as displacement persists. Households including persons with disabilities therefore face increased protection risks in host countries, which may potentially influence early return decisions even in suboptimal conditions in Ukraine.

A full 23 per cent of respondents in UNHCR’s protection monitoring exercise reported in Q3 2023 that household members were missing documentation, mainly biometric passports, whilst an increasing number of refugees report difficulties obtaining or replacing key identity documents in their host countries. Additionally, the necessity to collect documentation continues to drive back-and-forth movements between host countries and Ukraine.

For refugees who have decided to undertake short-term visits to Ukraine, primarily to visit family and retrieve documents, a growing proportion – currently 18 per cent – experienced challenges upon their return to host countries. These challenges include the revocation of legal status, suspension of social protection benefits, and obstacles when re-entering host countries after visiting Ukraine.

According to UNHCR’s analysis, between 40 and 60 per cent of respondents are employed; unemployment is between 10 and 20 per cent, and the remaining are outside the labour force.

¹⁴ The [first](#), [second](#) and [third](#) regional analysis of data from UNHCR’s protection monitoring exercise are available online, along with a [regional dashboard](#).

Access to decent work remains a key need. Existing barriers need to be addressed – intensive language training, better skills recognition, upskilling courses and job-matching will help facilitate transition into sustainable employment commensurate with a person’s education level. Refugees also require systematic access to information about their rights and entitlements in the labour market, including how to identify and respond to potentially exploitative labour practices.

Access to healthcare is also a key concern; with 25 per cent of respondents in need of healthcare reporting difficulties accessing the national system, due, inter alia, to long waits, language barriers and high costs. Furthermore, according to regional multi-sectoral needs analysis, 30 per cent of households reported having at least one member experiencing mental health or psychosocial problems; over half of those households reported that mental health support was needed. Limited awareness, knowledge and understanding of national healthcare systems is influencing refugees’ ability to seek and accept healthcare services and ability of national service providers to effectively deliver healthcare services that meet the social, cultural, and linguistic expectations and needs of refugees in host countries.

Nearly half of households with school-aged children reported that at least one child was not registered for education in the host country. Similarly, two-thirds of young children are not accessing formal early childhood education and care services.¹⁵ If enrolment of refugee children and youth from Ukraine in national school systems remains low, many hundreds of thousands are at risk of remaining out of formal education for a fourth consecutive school year, often relying on less effective and unsustainable forms of non-formal education. Missing out on multiple years of education may have profound negative consequences for their academic performance, ability to obtain diplomas and degrees and, ultimately, for their future career and life prospects.

¹⁵ [Building bright futures: Integration of Ukraine's refugee children through early childhood education.](#)

Part 2: Regional Strategic Objectives and Priorities

Regional Strategic Objectives

SO1: Refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights in host countries.



On 4 March 2022, the Council of the European Union activated the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) for refugees from Ukraine, initially for one year, later extended until March 2025. This was a significant step, granting refugees from Ukraine access to safety, legal status, rights, and services in the EU. The Republic of Moldova has also adopted similar measures for refugees from Ukraine.

While the TPD effectively responds to the increase in refugee arrivals, inconsistent implementation across EU members has been identified. At the same time, growing vulnerabilities amongst some sections of the refugee community as displacement continues can hinder effective access to rights in host countries, particularly amongst the most vulnerable refugees, including minorities and third country nationals.¹⁶ As displacement enters its third year, it is therefore important to continue to monitor effective access to rights in host countries.

Whilst some refugees briefly return to Ukraine for various reasons, primarily to visit relatives and collect documents, most do not plan a permanent return in the near future due to ongoing conflict and security concerns. In this context, it is crucial that any return to Ukraine is truly voluntary, well-informed, and arrived upon without push factors and inducements for premature return, including restrictions on refugees' ability to access protection, rights, and assistance in host countries. UNHCR advocates that refugees' legal status in host countries be unaffected by a visit to Ukraine lasting less than three months and that legal status be temporarily deactivated rather than revoked in the event of longer-term travel.¹⁷ Some refugees have, however, reported challenges upon return to host countries including the revocation of legal status and associated rights as a result of a short visit to Ukraine. Continued monitoring of access to territory and legal status remains necessary to ensure that all who require protection and assistance are able to access it in practice.

¹⁶ UNHCR, "The Implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive – Six Months On", October 2022, available at: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/96266>

¹⁷ UNHCR Position on Voluntary Return to Ukraine, June 2023, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/649a7c744.pdf>

Discussions on the approach to be taken once the application of the Temporary Protection Directive comes to an end in March 2025 are ongoing within the EU. It is crucial that hosting states apply a coordinated and harmonized response at the point at which temporary protection arrangements come to an end, in line with international principles of cooperation and responsibility sharing. In 2024, key activities will include monitoring effective access to legal status, protection and rights, advocating with governments and regional institutions regarding challenges and barriers affecting access to rights, supporting legislative and policy coordination, and facilitating communication with refugees and host communities, including providing legal support and information.

SO2: Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance.



Systematic identification of those with specific needs is necessary along with targeted assistance, including case management, cash programs, and effective inclusion in social protection programmes. Targeted support will complement or enhance government services to persons with specific needs, including in the prevention, safe disclosure and response to gender-based violence (GBV) and risks for children, provision of healthcare including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), disability inclusion, victims of trafficking, and in the protection of women and children. Early childhood development services are crucial, as is the inclusion of refugee children in national child protection systems.

Despite great efforts from the host countries to provide access to health services for refugees in line with the TPD, constraints remain due to health system capacities, limitations in policy frameworks in several countries and information gaps on service availability, administrative, and financial barriers. Sustained efforts are required to ensure equitable and equal access to quality services, including strengthening health systems and health workforce capacity, addressing policy and legal frameworks, and sharing information on service availability with refugees.

Integrated delivery of MHPSS across the response remains essential. Steps include ensuring the delivery of community-based psychosocial activities and interventions that build on existing individual and community resources, resilience, and capacities. In addition, psychosocial support will be provided through case management and scalable psychological interventions that can be implemented by both trained and supervised specialists and non-specialists, as well as access to clinical mental healthcare.

Concerted efforts are required to ensure access to social housing or targeted support to cover the costs of longer-term independent housing, particularly for vulnerable refugees. Collective sites should be incrementally closed as longer-term accommodation arrangements are made available to refugees, in collaboration with municipalities, on a no-harm basis, and with the best interest of residents in mind.

Ensuring safe, high-quality GBV prevention and response services remains vital for refugee women and girls as well as other groups at heightened risks. Collaboration with governments and local organizations, in particular women-led organizations, is key and continuous investment in capacity strengthening will ensure services are survivor-centred and in line with standards.

Language, addressing cultural sensitivities, and conducting awareness campaigns to promote gender equality and women's participation while preventing GBV from happening in the first place is essential.

Further efforts should be made for the identification and inclusion of refugees with disabilities in national services, including through the recognition of disability certificates issued in Ukraine, accessible accommodation, identifying and mitigating the barriers to services, ensuring availability of accessible information, and further engagement and work with organizations of persons with disabilities.

SO3: Refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities is strengthened and their self-reliance increased.



The TPD grants refugees from Ukraine rights such as work, social welfare, medical assistance, education, and accommodation, fostering self-reliance and economic contribution. However, challenges persist, especially in employment where refugees, particularly women, face difficulties in accessing decent work opportunities, combine employment and care responsibilities, and are at risk of labour exploitation, including through limited access to information on rights and services available. Further investments are needed to offer relevant language courses, address skills mismatches through job-matching, re- and upskilling, such as skills and qualifications recognition, provide information and counselling to refugees and the private sector, strengthen access to business development and financial services, expand access to childcare and child protection, including case management services, and facilitate coordination among stakeholders.

Government social protection benefits are crucial for ensuring basic needs, reducing protection risks and aiding self-reliance. Support can be increased through collaboration with civil society, partnerships with municipalities, and national integration programs.

Advocacy for enrolling refugee children in national education systems of host countries is vital, with low enrolment rates due to hesitancy of parents to do so, language and administrative barriers to enrolment and capacity problems in some host country pre-schools and schools. Efforts should shift toward enrolling refugee children in formal face-to-face education, including early education and care, to ensure quality of learning, psycho-social stability and social interaction. This requires expanding and strengthening of the education systems' capacities, support to parents and children to access education, and reducing reliance on online and non-formal education as an alternative to inclusion in host country education systems.

In 2024, the focus should be on longer-term inclusion and enrolment in national education systems of host countries, providing language education, capacity-building, and MHPSS services. A key priority is to bring refugee children and youth back into formal face-to-face education settings where they can benefit from long-term stability in education, social interaction with host communities, and in-school support. This needs to go hand-in-hand with a phase-out of lower-quality and unsustainable forms of non-formal education. Attention should also be given to adolescents beyond compulsory education age. Close cooperation with Ukraine's Ministry of Education is essential.

SO4: The social cohesion between refugee and host communities is reinforced.

The generosity shown towards refugees from Ukraine has been outstanding but as the war enters its third year and as host communities face increasing costs of living, additional burdens on services, and other socioeconomic challenges, including limited housing, there are locations displaying increasing examples of this welcome turning into fatigue. Countering disinformation and shaping the narrative and language used in a way that is positive, honest, and promotes peaceful coexistence activities will be key.

In a context of limited resources and overstretched systems, host communities will require continued support as they extend their services and assistance to refugees. This support to host communities should focus on institutions and facilities used both by refugees and members of host communities, with a view to alleviating pressures that could give rise to tensions and constrict asylum and protection space. Attention will be paid to how resources under strain can be expanded, meaning that partners will gather evidence and design interventions at the local rather than at the national level. Examples of such interventions include building or refurbishing additional classrooms, supporting renovations of municipal housing stock, expanding community centres, introducing scalable approaches to mental health services, or expanding and supporting health facilities. Skills recognition and allowing refugees to employ their know-how to expand limited services – teachers, psychologists, doctors, nurses, etc. – creates a win-win, serving both the refugee and host communities. Listening to communities and mainstreaming conflict-sensitive language in all activities will be important, including when addressing discrimination.

Social cohesion will be affected by how successfully partners support governments to resolve the cost of living and housing crisis. While housing provision for refugees will need to be locally led and managed, partners will need to advocate for central government intervention on both demand-side housing assistance to individuals and households, and supply-side interventions that aim to stimulate affordable housing construction and free up unoccupied properties, along with improved regulation of the private rental sector.

Engaging local municipal structures, civil society, and refugee-led organizations (RLOs) in the response is important, as they play a vital role in addressing the diverse needs and vulnerabilities of refugees. Municipalities, local civil society and RLOs have a deep understanding of the local context, culture, and community dynamics, often enabling them to establish trust and rapport with refugees. Their proximity to the affected population allows for more effective and targeted service delivery, ensuring that assistance is tailored to meet the specific needs of refugees.

Regional Sectoral Responses

PROTECTION



Protection partners will continue to respond to the urgent needs of refugees from Ukraine for protection and assistance. Systematic protection monitoring, alongside outreach efforts, including strengthening of community structures, support to refugee-led organizations, and direct involvement of refugees in all stages of the programmatic cycle, will help to ensure the continuing relevance of the response to refugee needs.

The protection sector will prioritize access to legal status, protection, and rights. As the protection environment continues to evolve, partners, in coordination with national authorities, will provide legal assistance, counselling and information to ensure that refugees are informed of any changes to the applicable legal frameworks and policies.

Partners will also identify and address the specific needs of the most vulnerable, who will be among the refugees most impacted by the scale down of certain forms of assistance, including cash, and who may require support to be fully included into national social protection programmes. Protection partners will, accordingly, strengthen the capacity of all actors to identify and support persons with specific needs through training, technical expertise and advice to national and local governments, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, as well as through community outreach and engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities and organizations for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) people.

RRP partners will also promote accountability to affected people, as well as community-based and Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)-sensitive approaches to government counterparts, municipalities, service providers, and other stakeholders involved in the response, including by engaging in joint activities, providing technical support, and conducting capacity-building. Partners will continue to track practical, administrative, and legal barriers for refugees' access to and enjoyment of basic rights and services, with a view to engaging in advocacy and supporting key interlocutors to reduce or eliminate these obstacles.

Finally, protection partners will seek to enhance social cohesion and identify potential tensions, and work with all relevant actors to address these and to ensure that refugees are supported in a manner that strengthens communities and supports inclusion.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



Through the Regional GBV Sub-Working Group, partners will identify gaps and needs to inform strategic decision-making and advocacy and develop messages and tools to engage stakeholders. The focus will also be on mainstreaming GBV considerations into the broader regional response by providing strategic guidance to the Regional and country-level Working Groups and Sub-Working Groups on GBV prevention, advocacy, risk mitigation, and response strategies.

At the country level, the priority will be on ensuring access to available GBV services by enhancing referrals and advocating for quality of services, and building the capacity of service providers in implementing the survivor-centred approach, coordinating with relevant sectors, identifying resources, and providing necessary trainings. In collaboration with protection, health, and other stakeholders, partners will advocate for the removal of legal and administrative barriers hindering access to life-saving response services, including clinical management of rape and, within the bounds of the law, safe terminations.

On prevention, the main identified gaps revolve around access to essential services, which heighten the vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and exploitation, as well as limited access to information about GBV risks and specialized GBV services. To address these risks and vulnerabilities, partners will advocate and coordinate resources for appropriate prevention and response measures. This includes creating livelihood opportunities for those at higher risk. In order to bridge the information gap, RRP actors will coordinate and harmonize messaging for a comprehensive GBV awareness campaign. Furthermore, advocacy and assessment tools will be developed or contextualized to reduce GBV risks and help adhere to minimum standards.

Sub-Sector: Child Protection



Child protection coordination forums at the national level, either stand-alone or as part of combined protection coordination mechanisms, will continue to inform the child protection response, buttressed by technical expertise and advocacy efforts of the Regional Child Protection Sub-Working Group where needed, as well as other regional advocacy forums and engagements with the key Child Protection stakeholders in the region, such as EU institutions and regional networks. Partners will continue to focus on the inclusion of refugee children in national child protection systems, extending national systems' case management procedures to refugee children from Ukraine and expanding alternative care options, particularly to children from institutions in Ukraine. In addition, identification of children at risk, particularly those unaccompanied or separated from their parents, those with disabilities and those with specific protection needs, and support for their timely referral to protection services will continue to be a priority. Partners will also continue to support children without parental care evacuated from institutions, particularly in terms of access to care and specialized services, as well as ensuring that the children's best interests inform decisions concerning them. Finally, strengthening the capacity of national child protection systems in the countries of asylum and seeking opportunities to complement the national child protection response will remain a priority.

EDUCATION



To prevent long-term learning losses and increase the inclusion of refugee children and youth from Ukraine into host country education systems, including early childhood education and care, RRP partners will step up engagement with States to develop and implement advocacy and support programmes to ensure refugee children from Ukraine are enrolled in national school systems and to ensure access to quality pre-school and tertiary education. Support and guidance will be provided to relevant stakeholders throughout the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years to address capacity problems in education, including expansion of learning spaces and school infrastructure, addressing teacher shortages and gaps in provision of essential language learning and pedagogical and MHPSS services delivered through schools. RRP partners will continue to advocate for the removal of administrative and practical barriers to accessing education.

In addition to inclusion in the national school systems, RRP partners can support, where appropriate, initiatives aimed at maintaining the link between refugee children and youth and their country of origin, regardless of nationality or legal status. Where possible, such complementary education initiatives will be rewarded with grades and certificates which may facilitate return to learning in the country of origin or validation of learning in the host country whenever circumstances allow it. RRP partners will ensure no unsustainable parallel education systems only for refugees will be set up and that existing unsustainable parallel systems will be phased out as much as possible in the 2024-2025 school year. This will take into account the needs of all relevant stakeholders to ensure the best quality education possible, however long displacement may last.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



Refugees will be supported to obtain decent work commensurate with their skills, qualifications, and experience, via increased access to intensive and targeted language training, on-the-job learning, and development opportunities, financial and business development services, streamlined qualifications recognition procedures, and safe and affordable childcare.

Efforts will be stepped up to support governments at the national and municipal levels to design and implement longer-term housing solutions and transition away from the prolonged use of emergency accommodation measures. Support for refugees to access social protection benefits will be reinforced by working closely with civil society and targeting assistance to fill gaps in government coverage. Partnerships with municipalities and continued technical assistance to line ministries will be ramped up to ensure effective access to benefits and service delivery, promote referrals, and secure space for absorption of refugees into national programmes.

The capacity of municipalities to expand their public services, maintain social cohesion in their communities, and implement multi-year inclusion strategies will also be strengthened. Partners will increasingly look to broker connections between municipal governments and strategic partners that facilitate access to flexible financing and direct funding opportunities.

In line with a whole-of-society approach to socio-economic inclusion, partners will work with government authorities at the national and sub-national level, local service providers, refugee-led organizations, other NGOs, educational institutions, development actors and the private sector. Government and NGO capacities to provide individualized inclusion support should be enhanced as much as possible, with special attention lent to intersectional vulnerabilities and needs, especially those of women, girls, older persons and those with disabilities.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



Lack or limited access to health has been highlighted as a key concern in the Multi-Sector Needs Analyses. In collaboration with national governments, the health sector aims to ensure continuity of care and reduce morbidity and mortality by supporting refugees' equitable and effective access to quality health services. Partners will strengthen national health systems and coordination efforts, support capacity strengthening initiatives, foster the inclusion of Ukrainian health workers in the national health workforce, including mental health, and support healthcare financing to enable equal access to health services and essential medicines. Linking refugees with national health services will remain a key focus. Health communication will be upscaled to provide information on health service availability and accessibility as well as the prevention of non-communicable and communicable diseases and enhancing the uptake of vaccinations and promoting better nutritional practices for children. Partners will also continue to support the strengthening of information systems for evidence-based decision-making in public health, including assessments and surveys on access and barriers to healthcare.

Partners will strengthen the continuity of care by linking refugees to national health services with special focus on non-communicable diseases, tuberculosis and HIV, including through cross border collaboration. Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) including access to quality clinical services for survivors of GBV will be among key priorities, including strengthening linkages between SRH, MHPSS, and protection services. Targeted support will be provided to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups including ethnic minorities, LGBTIQ+ people, older persons, and persons with disabilities and/or other specific needs.

BASIC NEEDS



For the year 2024, operations in EU countries will see a further decrease in the number of individuals assisted through cash assistance, in line with the progress made in the inclusion of refugees into national social safety nets. In all RRP countries, cash for basic needs will see the further refinement of targeting approaches, which will privilege highly vulnerable individuals and be complementary to government-led assistance. Whenever relevant and in addition to multi-purpose cash grants, sectorial cash assistance will be maintained and/or strengthened. Cash Working Groups will be maintained along with the current co-leadership by national organizations and/or line ministries, while deduplication arrangements will be further strengthened and systematized. Selected operations such as in the Republic of Moldova will see the introduction of common platforms for the sharing of registration data, targeting data, and caseload among humanitarian actors.

To maintain a dignified standard of living and address additional needs brought about by challenging winter conditions, provision of in-kind support will persist, with a particular focus on emergency relief items and life-sustaining amenities, including warm winter clothing, blankets, quilts, kitchen sets, and sleeping items. In coordination with local authorities and other humanitarian actors, in-kind food assistance will be provided in critical locations, such as border transit and reception areas, as well as collective sites. The water, sanitation and hygiene needs of refugees will also be addressed in these locations through the distribution of hygiene kits to contribute to their good health, dignity, safety, and well-being.

Parallel to the efforts to identify solutions for longer-term accommodation needs, RRP partners will also carry out site facility improvements at different types of premises (i.e. emergency, reception or accommodation centres) through care and maintenance interventions. Efforts will concentrate on heat retention and winter efficiency, with the ultimate objective of sustainability and alleviating distress during the harsh winter periods. Partners will assist in facilitating the transportation of refugees from border points to reception areas or key transport hubs for their subsequent movement.

Regardless of the modality used, cash or in-kind, protection will be mainstreamed throughout the interventions, this includes prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, GBV risk mitigation, functioning feedback and complaint mechanisms and, where necessary, individual considerations.

In the area of Logistics, Telecoms, and Operational Support, RRP partners will maintain the timely provision of humanitarian relief items backed by coordinated service delivery and an evidence-based prioritization of needs. Regional and country-specific logistics hubs have been established and will continue to support the stockpiling and onward distribution of relief items. Supply chain capacity to assess corridors and supply routes, analyze trends, procure goods and services, and optimize and ensure timely delivery of pre-positioned stocks will be strengthened. To this end, coordination and establishment of common supply frameworks and processes will be a priority, to support humanitarian operations across RRP countries.

Regional Cross-Cutting Response Priorities

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)



The delivery of MHPSS services in the region spans various sectors, including health, protection, child protection, GBV, anti-trafficking, victims' assistance, education, and livelihoods, making it a vital component of the overall response. Strengthening the cross-sectoral integration of MHPSS is essential while also improving the access and quality of dedicated activities across all layers of support.

This comprehensive approach includes supporting the development and improvement of supportive systems for families and communities and ensuring the provision of community-based psychosocial activities and interventions that strengthen existing individual and community resources. Furthermore, with health and social systems facing ongoing challenges, adopting and implementing evidence-based practices is essential to optimize resource allocation and maintain the delivery of high-quality care. The concept of task sharing, empowering trained non-specialists to deliver supervised psychological interventions, remains a cornerstone for expanding the reach, efficiency, and impact of MHPSS services. Additionally, the recognition and integration of Ukrainian mental health professionals into public health and social systems is a crucial step forward.

Across all sectors and service areas, safeguarding the well-being of frontline providers through ongoing supervision and training remains a priority. Additionally, concerted efforts are required to fortify the structures and organizations responsible for MHPSS delivery, including effective coordination among national governments, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, and community-based organizations. This collaborative effort also ensures the continuous improvement of service mapping and referral pathways, ensuring community awareness and seamless access to MHPSS services across all layers of support.

Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)



Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) considerations should guide all aspects of RRP partners' work. Collective effort is needed to ensure continuous and meaningful engagement with refugees, understanding their needs and protection risks through AGD-responsive assessments and monitoring, building on their capacities and pursuing protection, assistance, and solutions that take into account their perspectives and priorities.

Sub-Section: Disability Inclusion



Persons with disabilities have the same basic needs as other refugees but often face barriers to having these needs met and may require specific attention and targeted interventions. Furthermore, persons with disabilities face additional challenges, including difficulties in accessing services due to mobility issues, bureaucratic hurdles in submitting or replacing documents, societal stigma and discrimination, and a lack of accessible

information. These challenges are compounded for their families who not only bear increased financial burdens due to the costs of disability care but also face employment challenges as caregivers often cannot commit to regular work schedules. RRP partners will engage based on the key principles of disability inclusion: (i) non-discrimination; (ii) awareness; (iii) participation; and (iv) accessibility. Close cooperation will also be sought with national and local organizations working with persons with disabilities.

Accountability to Affected People (AAP)



Establishing effective and accessible feedback and response mechanisms for all key sector interventions will be a cross-cutting priority in the RRP response. RRP partners will commit to the intentional and systematic inclusion of the expressed needs, concerns and complaints, capacities, and views of refugees and other affected people in their diversity and to being answerable for organizational decisions and staff actions, in all protection, assistance, and solutions interventions and programmes. Reinforcing accountability to affected populations involves creating two-way communication channels, enabling refugees to actively participate in programme development and provide valuable feedback. This commitment extends to strengthening the roles of refugee volunteers, community-based organizations, and refugee-led initiatives through capacity development and small grants. Partners are committed to establishing and maintaining effective communication channels for refugees to actively shape and provide feedback on programming decisions. Feedback and response mechanisms and communication with community channels in all phases will remain crucial to ensuring that refugees are involved in decisions that directly impact their lives. RRP partners will ensure AAP through both traditional analogue and creative means, and through exploring online means. RRP partners will identify and counter misinformation and disinformation through community engagement in digital channels to further inform appropriate messaging and engagement.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)



PSEA is an integral and cross-cutting component of the RRP and is mainstreamed across the response for refugees from Ukraine. It also requires proactive collective efforts for risk mitigation, prevention and response, such as measures to mitigate identified SEA risks, partner capacity assessments, continued capacity strengthening of partners and other stakeholders, as well as community outreach and awareness raising with the refugee community, coordinated through the PSEA networks in place at country level.

All partners participating in the RRP should know and apply the IASC standards of conduct applicable to humanitarian workers and understand their responsibilities in terms of reporting SEA allegations and promoting a victim-centred approach. Refugees and other recipients of assistance must have access to safe, gender- and child-sensitive feedback and complaints mechanisms and information about PSEA, and victims should have access to timely assistance through child protection and GBV services. Efforts should be made to ensure regional exchange, learning and documentation of good practices and supporting authorities to strengthen safeguarding and PSEA approaches.

Localization



The collective response has grown from 142 in the initial RRP in 2022 to 312 partners in this iteration, most of whom are national and local organizations. Collective and concerted efforts will continue to ensure that the crucial work of national NGOs and RLOs have visibility with donors, are able to access funding and capacity-building opportunities, and receive recognition for the central role they continue to play. The activities of municipalities and other sub-national governmental structures are central to the achievement of the strategic objectives of this plan and partners will endeavour to work with and support them.

Government Ownership



Humanitarian actors support governments and cannot substitute for state and EU action. As governments continue to own, lead, and have responsibility for the response at national and municipal levels there remains a need for continued solidarity from the international community and practical, specialized support from humanitarian and development organizations.

Maintaining Emergency Capacities



While the response is now focused on effective inclusion in national systems and services, sustaining protection space, and targeted support to the most vulnerable, capacities to ensure immediate assistance to new arrivals and to scale up in case of a surge in refugee movements will be maintained.

Regional Partnerships and Coordination

In support of the government-led responses across the region, UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the inter-agency RRP in line with the Refugee Coordination Model, collaborating and consulting with authorities, aid agencies, civil society, and with affected populations.

The RRP will broaden the scope of partnerships to mobilize resources and increase visibility for the needs of refugees from Ukraine, third-country nationals in need of international protection, stateless people, and host communities. RRP partners and supporters strive to ensure funding is channelled to frontline responders in a timely and efficient manner and in line with quality funding and quality partnership principles.

At the regional level, RRP coordination is led by the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe. An inter-agency Regional Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) and specific working groups, networks and task forces aim to ensure efficient situational information management and country-specific support

as required.¹⁸ As the UN Agency mandated by the General Assembly to lead refugee responses, UNHCR is the reference entity on refugee data, facilitating and coordinating the provision of necessary data and information to support RRP partners' response planning.

Inter-agency RCFs have also been established in each of the refugee-hosting countries, in support of government-led coordination mechanisms. These structures enable RRP partners to maximize the response and avoid duplications and parallel systems, and also guide joint advocacy initiatives and resource mobilization efforts in support of the country-level response plans. Through the RRP, UNHCR will continue to ensure that joint assessments, data and information management, monitoring and reporting systems, and communication and information-sharing tools are effectively implemented and strengthened in coordination with governments and relevant stakeholders.

Regional Monitoring Framework






A set of common indicators agreed with partners across all RRP countries help ensure the tracking of progress toward the strategic objectives in a consistent manner. A core set of sector indicators covering all RRP countries, with additional indicators at country level, measure specific outputs and outcomes. Achievements will be monitored through an online system "ActivityInfo" where partners report against the indicators set in the monitoring frameworks.

Data on indicators will be summarized in country and regional dashboards on a regular basis to support continuous analysis of progress. Importantly, the framework will allow disaggregation of results by gender, age, and disability to ensure that persons at risk and specific groups, such as women and persons with disabilities are not missed in the implementation of this response plan. To maintain accountability to affected populations, feedback mechanisms continue to operate, allowing affected populations and RRP partners to regularly communicate and ensure that the needs and concerns of affected people guide and adjust the response priorities.

The targets below are based on partners' budgets and capacities, informed by the needs on the ground. Achieving these targets will be subject to a timely receipt of the funding requirements.

¹⁸ These include the Protection Working Group, Socio-Economic Inclusion Working Group, Child Protection and GBV Sub-Working Groups, Cash Working Group, Information Management Working Group, Anti-Trafficking Task Force, Gender Task Force, Informal Technical Hub on Education, PSEA Network, and the Refugee Health Extension.

Regional Monitoring Framework

Sector	Indicator	Target	
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	969,200
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services	510,600
		# of participants trained on child protection and children's rights	10,400
	Gender-Based Violence	# of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	414,500
		# of trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV knowledge on prevention, response and risk mitigation measures	6,700
Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	# of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	4,300	
	Education	# of children enrolled in formal education in host countries	365,900
		# of education personnel trained or receiving support to better respond to the needs of refugee learners	340,500
		# of children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries	9,100
	Health and Nutrition	# of refugees reached through individual counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services and how to access them	381,400
		# of health consultations provided to refugees	382,300
		# of healthcare providers trained to provide health services to refugees	16,800
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	382,400
		# of MHPSS consultations provided (includes focused and specialized services only)	196,800
	Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion interventions	571,400
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	656,300

COUNTRY CHAPTER

BULGARIA



> At a Glance

Bulgaria Planned Response (January-December 2024)



70,000

projected refugee population



\$38.6 M

total financial requirements in USD



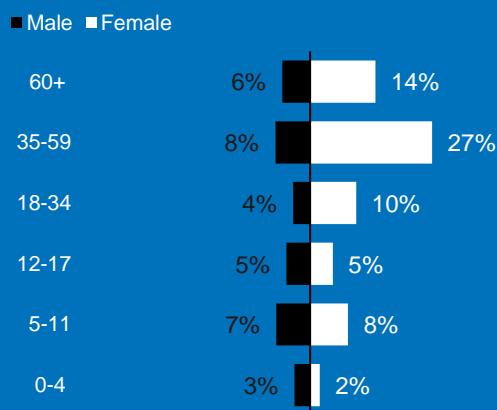
19

RRP partners

Population planning figures

	Estimated population as of end of 2023	Population planned for assistance in 2024
Refugee Population	51,860	70,000

Age and gender breakdown¹⁹



10%

Persons with disabilities



66%

Women and girls



34%

Men and boys

¹⁹ Calculations are based on 2023 MSNA data.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

During 2023, the Government of Bulgaria granted or renewed temporary protection²⁰ to some 66,200 refugees. Following a re-registration exercise at the beginning of the year, renewals are ongoing in the State Agency for Refugees centres. As of end-December, some 52,000 refugees currently remain in the country mostly from the Odessa region and eastern parts of Ukraine.²¹ The 2023 Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA)²² findings show that the majority of refugees surveyed have been present in Bulgaria for an average of 13 months, indicating a stable population within the country who are not only in need of continued access to basic services but also of meaningful inclusion within host communities.

The Government of Bulgaria has extended the national humanitarian programme on several occasions, the last extension lasting until end-December 2023. The programme includes government-sponsored accommodation for new arrivals in state facilities and continuing support to those residing in hotels in the coastal areas. The Government is currently working on a new humanitarian programme for 2024 as well as an integration programme for refugees from Ukraine.

The Bulgaria chapter of the regional RRP represents the strong commitment of 19 humanitarian partners to work jointly and through a coordinated response to support and complement the Government's key social protection services and inclusion opportunities. An important priority will be to work closely together with key municipalities and the community-based and refugee-led organizations within the RRP to ensure stronger social cohesion and localization efforts in the third year of the response.

Country Risks and Needs

The 2023 MSNA has identified several key needs for refugees from Ukraine in Bulgaria. Access to healthcare remains a key priority, with some 45 per cent of refugees responding that healthcare services was their top need. A quarter of households with medical needs said they were unable to access the necessary healthcare. The main reported challenges include the inability to afford the costs including transportation expenses, inability to enrol in the national health insurance, and language barriers. Almost half of the surveyed households also said that they were not registered with a General Practitioner or a paediatrician in Bulgaria, which is a prerequisite to access the health system and enrol in the health insurance scheme. Additionally, basic needs namely, food (39 per cent) and accommodation (26 per cent) were the second and third cited priority needs.

²⁰ In line with the Council Decision 2023/2409 of the European Union, temporary protection for refugees from Ukraine has also been extended by the Government of Bulgaria until March 2025.

²¹ UNHCR Situation in Bulgaria public dashboard, available at: [Ukraine Situation in Bulgaria - public - Power BI](#). This figure is an estimate based on the number of arrivals and departures of Ukrainian nationals from Bulgaria tracked by the Chief Directorate of Border Police.

²² The 2023 MSNA surveyed 1,054 households representing 2,258 household members from Ukraine from July to August 2023.

A fifth of the refugee population in Bulgaria consists of older persons, while one-tenth of the total refugee population are persons with a disability and half of refugee households indicate having at least one member with a chronic or serious underlying medical condition. 61 per cent of interviewed households reported at least one coping strategy – mostly spending savings, but also reducing essential health and education expenditures. Particularly for 34 per cent of single-parent households with dependents, this means they may have fewer resources to meet their basic needs. Moreover, 43 per cent of refugees of working age reported being employed while 20 per cent remain unemployed. Key reported challenges for employment include a lack of Bulgarian language skills, lack of decent employment opportunities, as well as a lack of employment opportunities suited to the refugees' professional skills.

According to the MSNA, among the households who have concerns about risks faced by boys and girls (15 and 18 per cent respectively), the most serious risks cited for boys are psychological harm in the community followed by physical violence and online violence – and deteriorating mental health and psychosocial wellbeing and increased vulnerability to neglect for girls. Children who are separated from their parents face increased vulnerabilities due to neglect, which was also cited among the top five risks faced by children according to the MSNA. Increasing awareness of available child protection services and engagement of refugee communities for enhancing the social emotional well-being of children at risk is a key need. The majority of the refugee population (66 per cent) are women and girls, therefore GBV prevention and risk mitigation continues to be a priority across all sectoral responses.

In Bulgaria, almost three-fourths of parents with school-aged refugee children reported that they were not enrolled in the 2022-2023 academic year. Many of these out-of-school children were accessing remote learning options using Ukraine's school curriculum. According to the Ministry of Education and Science, some 3,800 refugee children – or 22 per cent of the school-age population – have enrolled in Bulgarian schools for the 2023-2024 academic year.²³ While many refugee children continue non-formal education (e.g. distance learning with Ukrainian curriculum and other educational activities), this holds risks of learning losses and deterioration of mental health and well-being of children and hinders their full social cohesion within their communities. Furthermore, some 17 per cent of households with youth between 16-24 years of age reported having a member who is not in education, employment, or training.

²³ As of end-October 2023, presented by the Ministry of Education and Sciences during the inter-agency Education Working Group meeting of 15 November 2023. There are an estimated 13,000 school-aged refugee children (around 25 per cent of the total population) in Bulgaria as of end-December 2023.

Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights.



In 2024, partners will continue to promote the rights of refugees associated with temporary protection through legal support and legislative and policy inputs. Ensuring equal access to protection and rights, monitoring access gaps with the engagement of refugee-led organizations, and advocating for refugees' inclusion in government services and national strategies on a non-discriminatory basis through an age, gender and diversity-sensitive approach will be important. Partners will ensure that refugees have access to accurate information that can enable them to exercise their rights and enhance their access to information on services available to them, in coordination with municipalities and community-based organizations.

SO2: Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance.



RRP partners will support refugees with heightened protection risks and specific needs through targeted assistance and community-level protection mechanisms. This will include strengthening safe referral pathways to specialized services – and ensuring that government social protection services are accessible for those who may be at higher risk, including persons with disabilities, older persons, LGBTIQ+ individuals, survivors of GBV, victims of trafficking or those at risk of trafficking, children at risk and survivors of abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence. Disability inclusion in all locations of service provision and community centres will also be important.

SO3: Refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities is strengthened and their self-reliance increased.



RRP partners will continue to seek strategic partnerships and promote interlinkages with the private sector and development actors. It will particularly be important for partners to pull together and utilize the available data not only on market assessments but also on refugees' skills for targeted interventions and advocacy. Facilitating refugees' access into the local labour markets will remain key, as well as enhancing opportunities for self-employment and working with the Government and municipalities on inclusion policies and programmes. To participate in the labour market access to day care facilities and schooling is important for many women who have care responsibilities.

SO4: Social cohesion between refugee and host communities is reinforced.



RRP partners will aim to strengthen interventions that promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, in close coordination with local municipalities, civil society organizations, community-based and faith-based organizations – as well as non-traditional partners in arts, sports and culture. RRP partners will support opportunities to enhance inclusive communities, including safe spaces, activities for art, sports, social, cultural and recreational events, and positive dialogue and information exchange between refugee and host communities. Refugees' positive contributions to communities will be highlighted and shared with stakeholders. Mainstreaming conflict sensitivity language in all activities will be important, including when addressing discrimination.

Sectoral Responses

Cross-Cutting Priorities of the RRP

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)
- Disability Inclusion
- Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Government Ownership
- Maintaining Emergency Capacities

Read more in the Regional Overview p. 25

PROTECTION



Protection partners will work with national authorities to ensure refugees' access to legal status, protection and rights in a non-discriminatory manner. This will include supporting relevant authorities in strengthening their knowledge on identifying and working with persons with specific needs. Partners will continue to provide legal information and consultations; awareness-raising on protection risks; and community-based MHPSS. Through protection monitoring, partners will share key trends, changes and needs of the refugee population to inform government responses. A community-based approach will be mainstreamed as partners work closely with communities and enable community-led responses in all protection interventions. This will allow for refugees to support one another, advocate for their rights and mobilize support from authorities and other stakeholders. In the MSNA, 19 per cent of refugees in Bulgaria reported feeling tensions with the host community since arriving in Bulgaria – in the form of verbal aggression, discriminatory behaviour and hostile or aggressive comments in social media or online news forums. To this end, Protection partners will work closely with local municipalities, schools, local youth groups and grassroots organizations to promote social cohesion, address potential tensions and strengthen communities through a whole-of-society approach.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



RRP partners will support the Government in strengthening existing Standard Operating Procedures on GBV prevention and response – and in establishing and reinforcing safe referral pathways for all refugees, particularly women and girls.

Ensuring the inclusion of refugees in the Government's implementation of the national measures on prevention of intimate partner violence, sexual assault and harassment will also be equally important. For risk mitigation, partners with GBV expertise will work with the Government to implement regular safety audits in government reception centres and accommodation facilities – and with the National Commission for Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings and civil society organizations to reduce the risks of trafficking and provide targeted support for victims of trafficking. In addition to support to the national prevention and response system, RRP partners will work with communities and refugee-led organizations on awareness-raising and key concepts of gender equality. Partners will also focus on providing quality services and work closely with other response sectors including legal and health actors, to ensure a survivor-centred, multi-sectoral quality response.

Sub-sector: Child Protection



RRP partners will prioritize strengthening national child protection systems and services, including national, regional and local authorities' capacity to support children at risk and their families. In addition to strengthening the capacities of authorities and frontline professionals, partners will support the Government with

documentation and identification of children at risk (girls and boys); case management; family tracing and reunification; and appropriate care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children according to best interest principles and access to child-friendly protection procedures. RRP partners will ensure access to specialized services and social support for children at risk as well as the availability of child-friendly information. RRP partners will ensure psychosocial support including through community-based activities for children at risk. Support will also be provided for caregivers to expand their knowledge, skills and capacities on providing nurturing and responsive parenting.

EDUCATION



Bulgaria has a high percentage – some 78 per cent – of refugee children not enrolled in formal education in the country.²⁴ Addressing barriers to enrolment and ensuring quality education and equal and meaningful inclusion of refugee children, including children with disabilities, in national educational systems will remain a priority for

Education actors. Partners have observed the need for preparatory classes for children who are in transition from distance learning to the education system in Bulgaria – and to support schools'

²⁴ According to the Ministry of Education and Science, some 3,800 refugee children and youth – or 22 per cent of the school-age population – have enrolled in schools in Bulgaria for the 2023-2024 academic year as of end-October.

capacities for inclusion, including addressing discrimination and bullying. Children in preschool and adolescents in secondary education particularly need additional support to prevent learning loss. In this regard, RRP partners will continue to provide education support including Bulgarian language courses; early childhood development; additional learning support for secondary school students; and educational material support. In close collaboration with local authorities and municipalities, partners will support schools that are receiving large numbers of refugee children for a safe and conducive space for learning and inclusion. Engaging national and local authorities' support for overstretched preschool/school infrastructures and on transportation for children in remote locations to attend school will continue.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



RRP partners will work closely with and support municipalities and local actors to foster social cohesion and enhance refugees' self-reliance and resilience. Other stakeholders will include national and regional Employment Agencies under the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, academia, media and refugee and host communities. To address the challenges in finding employment, advocacy will focus on validation of diplomas; ensuring safeguards for legal, safe and decent employment opportunities; and relatedly, access to childcare services for working caregivers and those caring for children without parental care. Additionally, partners will provide job matching support, individualized integration plans, career counselling, language classes, skills development and training opportunities in professions that are linked to the labour market in Bulgaria. Partners will also engage with the private sector on ongoing activities to identify potential collaboration and expansion of initiatives such as entrepreneurship programs and to facilitate diverse opportunities fit to refugees' profiles, including initiatives to strengthen livelihoods for refugee women. Partners will also support refugees to find suitable accommodation and housing options with a focus on refugees who are transitioning from the government-sponsored accommodation program to urban areas where livelihood opportunities are more abundant. Furthermore, partners will work with government authorities to improve data collection and analysis of refugees' socio-economic situation and capacities.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



The health response will support the Government's inclusion of refugees in its National Health Strategy 2030 and in providing quality public health interventions. This will include capacity-building of health practitioners in line with the recommendations of the joint UN assessment under the leadership of the MoH Bulgaria²⁵. Advocacy for the diploma certification of refugees from Ukraine health practitioners and their inclusion in the national health systems will also continue, as will contributions to the augmentation of health human resources within the national health system. In complementarity to

²⁵ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240070707>, March 2023.

the Government's response, partners will provide medical consultations for vulnerable refugees who are not covered by the Bulgarian national health insurance fund, links to General Practitioners (GPs), and referrals to access health services, emergency medical care (including for survivors of GBV) and life-saving medication for urgent or chronic medical needs. RRP partners will also provide post-traumatic rehabilitation services; immunization and vaccines for preventable disease; nutrition counselling on breastfeeding and nutrition for young children; and health-related awareness raising and health promotion activities. Focus will be on vulnerable populations, including those with disabilities and specific needs, older persons, and LGBTIQ+ people. Partners will also provide specialized mental health support inclusive of trauma counselling. RRP partners will work with medical associations and GPs on information provision that enhances refugees' understanding of the health system and how to navigate it; and on addressing reported challenges in administrative and language barriers for refugees to access health services.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

In Bulgaria, mainstreaming MHPSS across all sectors through multi-layered community-based and specialized care remains a significant need. Based on the needs identified, raising awareness on the importance of mental health and available services will remain a priority within the refugee response. Other key priority areas will include capacity-building of service providers (government and frontline staff in all sectors); developing a harmonized national training programme; and enhancing referral mechanisms to cover multi-layered MHPSS interventions. These will be coordinated within the MHPSS Technical Working Group and complement the implementation of the National Mental Health Strategy (2021-2031).

BASIC NEEDS



Across the response in Bulgaria, basic needs such as food and accommodation continue to be a priority. According to the MSNA, out of the 23 per cent of refugees residing in government-sponsored accommodation, the most common concerns included: inability to cook or store food properly; inability to keep living conditions warm or cool; and insufficient privacy. RRP partners will provide hygiene kits, food parcels and non-food items, temporary accommodation, support for refugees to access existing government accommodation and municipal housing programmes and multi-purpose cash assistance based on vulnerability criteria in support of unmet basic needs. This will be complementary to the Government's social protection schemes and will be accompanied by strong protection advocacy for inclusion and continued provision of protection services. Partners will continue to support the national social protection system so it can progressively include refugees and address their basic needs. Cash-based interventions among RRP partners and the Government Social Assistance Agency will continue to be coordinated under the Cash Working Group. Protection and GBV risk mitigation will continue to be mainstreamed across all basic needs interventions.

PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)

PSEA is an integral and cross-cutting component of the RRP and is mainstreamed across the response. In Bulgaria, RRP partners will work closely with the Government to mitigate and prevent risks as well as to ensure a robust complaints mechanism is in place and further strengthened. Through the inter-agency PSEA network, organizations will be supported on capacity-building and feedback mechanisms. RRP partners will share good practices and enhance community outreach and awareness raising on risks of trafficking and SEA with the refugee community. Ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals through prevention activities will be important.

Partnership and Coordination

The national Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) will continue to promote coherence and complementarity between the 2024 RRP and the National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030 which is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.²⁶ Projects under the RRP will bridge the humanitarian response and longer-term development planning to build resilience at the individual, community and institutional level. The participation of refugees and women-led organizations will be reinforced. Within the national RCF, there is a Cash Working Group, Education Working Group, MHPSS Technical Working Group and an inter-agency PSEA network. Discussions are ongoing for the activation of an Inclusion Working Group co-chaired with the Government. In 2024, advocacy will be ongoing for co-chairing and leading of the respective working groups with relevant government ministries. The new Government in Bulgaria, formed in June 2023, has created a national Task Force for the inter-ministerial coordination related to the

²⁶ Available at: [Ministry of Finance: National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030 \(minfin.bg\)](https://minfin.bg)

refugee response for the Ukraine Situation. The national RCF will closely communicate with the Government Task Force on sectoral issues in support of national plans and engage national institutions for data-driven programmes and policy. Academia, private and development sectors will also be engaged in the refugee response.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

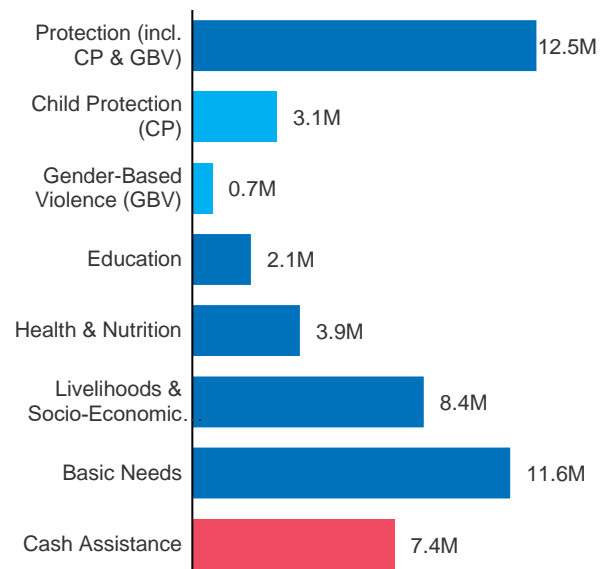
Budget summary by type at country level

PARTNER	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD
UN agencies	24,753,434
IFRC & RC	5,555,000
International NGOs	3,630,000
Faith-based Organizations*	3,630,000
National NGOs	4,622,751
Refugee-led Organizations*	3,785,162
Women-led Organizations*	941,300
TOTAL	38,561,185

* 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 level²⁷








²⁷ Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is the modality of choice for forcibly displaced people and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection. Unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector.

Budget summary by partner at country level

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
UN Agencies								
UN International Organization for Migration	514,953	-	-	51,495	308,972	308,972	1,570,607	2,755,000
UN World Health Organization	-	-	-	-	-	1,400,000	100,000	1,500,000
United Nations Children's Fund	-	1,212,916	-	1,559,457	-	272,607	-	3,044,980
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	-	-	-	-	500,000	-	-	500,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	7,453,454	1,300,000	600,000	300,000	4,000,000	-	3,300,000	16,953,454
IFRC and Red Cross								
Bulgarian Red Cross	330,000	220,000	55,000	-	550,000	1,100,000	3,300,000	5,555,000
International NGOs								
Caritas Bulgaria	-	-	-	-	2,200,000	-	1,430,000	3,630,000
National NGOs								
Aid for Ukraine	40,000	320,000	30,000	150,000	250,000	320,000	202,250	1,312,250
Ak-Nordost	-	-	-	-	-	191,183	-	191,183
Association of Ukrainian organization in Bulgaria MOTHER UKRAINE	-	-	-	-	280,000	250,000	1,300,000	1,830,000
Charitable Foundation Fund Good	4,800	-	-	-	53,800	26,700	11,990	97,290
Council for Refugee Women in Bulgaria	94,129	-	44,400	-	59,292	-	117,282	315,103
Foundation for Access to Rights	163,812	-	-	-	-	-	-	163,812
Open Bulgaria	15,359	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,359
Ot nas zavisi	-	-	-	15,000	20,000	25,500	134,000	194,500
Rotary International - Bulgaria	-	-	-	-	96,669	-	-	96,669
Situation Centre Open Doors	58,650	-	-	-	60,500	19,550	-	138,700
Ukrainian House	-	5,300	-	8,530	8,435	-	30,460	52,725
Za Dobroto Foundation	39,343	25,536	-	46,781	31,500	-	72,000	215,160
Total	8,714,500	3,083,752	729,400	2,131,263	8,419,168	3,914,511	11,568,589	38,561,185

RRP Monitoring Framework

Sector	Indicator	Target	
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	62,130
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services	21,000
	Child Protection	# of participants trained on child protection and children's rights	740
	Gender-Based Violence	# of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	36,000
	Gender-Based Violence	# of trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV knowledge on prevention, response and risk mitigation measures	130
	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	# of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	100
	Education	# of children enrolled in formal education in host countries	5,000
	Education	# of education personnel trained or receiving support to better respond to the needs of refugee learners	200
	Education	# of children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries	13,700
	Health and Nutrition	# of refugees reached through individual counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services and how to access them	45,000
	Health and Nutrition	# of health consultations provided to refugees	7,200
	Health and Nutrition	# of healthcare providers trained to provide health services to refugees	4,700
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	42,560
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of MHPSS consultations provided (includes focused and specialized services only)	11,400
	Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion interventions	30,000
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	55,260



COUNTRY CHAPTER

CZECH REPUBLIC

> At a Glance

Czech Republic Planned Response (January-December 2024)



400,000

projected refugee population



\$58.3 M

total financial requirements in USD



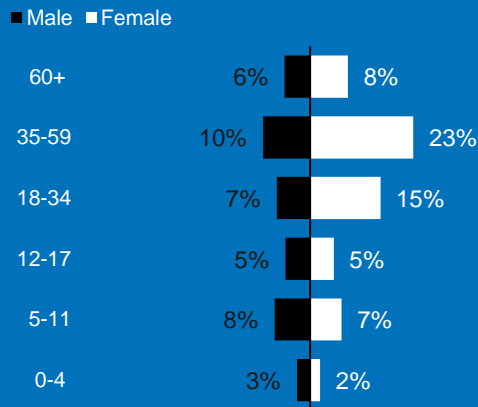
30

RRP partners

Population planning figures

	Estimated population as of end of 2023 ²⁸	Population planned for assistance in 2024
Refugee Population	373,080	400,000

Age and gender breakdown²⁹



7%

Persons with disabilities



61%

Women and girls



39%

Men and boys

²⁸ Ministry of Interior, 4 December 2023.

²⁹ Calculations are based on 2023 MSNA data.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

Two years into the crisis, the Czech Republic remains one of the main destinations for refugees from Ukraine in the EU, hosting the highest number of refugees from Ukraine per capita and ranking third in total refugees from Ukraine among EU member states, after Germany and Poland.³⁰ Between January and March 2023, Czech authorities re-registered refugees in-country to update the figures and collect further information on refugees' vulnerabilities and level of integration.

From the onset of the refugee crisis, the Czech authorities adopted a generous and effective stance towards refugees, which included recognizing basic rights, such as medical assistance, education, and labour rights, and offering services such as cost-free humanitarian housing and financial assistance.³¹ A change in legislation occurred in July 2023 with the introduction of the Lex Ukraine V. This framework places greater emphasis on self-sufficiency, amending the eligibility for free humanitarian accommodation to 150 days after arrival, with exceptions for vulnerable groups.³² These changes resulted in the emergence of new needs and areas of focus and response, in particular for individuals falling outside the eligibility criteria for support but struggling or unable to secure decent employment opportunities.

In the draft Strategy for Integration and Adaptation of Refugees from Ukraine, the Czech Government reiterates its commitment to bolster support for refugees from Ukraine by emphasizing greater inclusivity and socio-economic inclusion of refugees, moving away from the emergency response phase. Key goals include labour market integration, especially for women with children. The Government aims to help refugees transition to regular housing and improve access to Czech language courses. They recognize the importance of healthcare and education, focusing on Ukrainian children, especially those aged 15-18, to prevent disengagement.

Collaborative efforts between the Government and RRP partners are indispensable to effectively tackle the evolving challenges and deliver essential aid to vulnerable refugees. Cooperation with refugee-led and community-based organizations is also paramount and will ensure that refugees and community actors are directly involved in the response, not only as aid recipients but also as empowered actors.

³⁰ By December 2023, the Czech Republic granted temporary protection (TP) to 578,523 individuals, of whom 373,080 individuals are current active beneficiaries of TP as of the same date. The number of current active beneficiaries includes those who underwent a process of re-registration between January and March 2023, as well as those newly arriving and registering since March 2023. The re-registration process mandated refugees to appear in person at Ministry of Interior registration centres after an initial online scheduling step. The TP status was extended for verified refugees until March 2024. [Ministry of Interior, Czech Republic. Link: [Informace pro ukrajinské občany na území ČR v návaznosti na ruskou agresi na Ukrajině - Ministerstvo vnitra České republiky \(mvr.cz\)](https://mvr.cz/informace-pro-ukrajinske-obcany-na-uzemi-cr-v-navaznosti-na-ruskou-agresi-na-ukrajine)]

³¹ Lex Ukraine I-IV.

³² Vulnerable groups are defined as children under 18, students under 26, individuals with disabilities and their primary caregivers, parents with children under 6 (one parent per child), and older persons over 65.

Country Risks and Needs

Addressing the integration challenges of refugees within the Czech system is fundamental for refugees from Ukraine. Three out of four refugees have reported unmet needs, with the most cited being employment, housing, and language courses.³³ In particular vulnerable groups face integration challenges, such as households with chronically ill members (35 per cent), refugees with disabilities (7 per cent), and older refugees (14 per cent). Integration needs are also high among refugee children and youth: according to refugee parents, 60 per cent of their children struggle to integrate, with nearly one-third lacking Czech friends.³⁴ In fact, over one-third of refugee households experience tensions with the host community.³⁵ Public sentiment toward refugees from Ukraine is influenced by perceived inequalities in treatment as well as issues with education and housing, and safety concerns.³⁶ Solidarity is seen as a short-term solution, with worries about the lasting economic impact of the presence of refugees. Misinformation on social media further contributes to the issue.

In the last academic year, Czech schools reported high enrolment figures for Ukrainian students.³⁷ While rates are encouraging for kindergarten and primary pupils, they drop for secondary students (58 per cent, 78 per cent, and 17 per cent, respectively). Common barriers to school enrolment and attendance include participation in Ukrainian distance learning, language obstacles, and limited local school space.³⁸ For high school enrolment, entry exams are a deterrent for young refugees with limited Czech knowledge.³⁹ Addressing bullying remains crucial through targeted interventions such as teacher support, cultural mediation, and awareness-raising among children. Children attending Czech schools and joint recreational activities have better chances for integration.

62 per cent of working-age refugees in the Czech Republic are employed, mostly in unskilled or insecure positions in secondary industries and hospitality. 12 per cent are unemployed, actively looking for a job but unable to find one. The enrolment in pre-school childcare is comparatively high but remains a barrier to entry, especially for women, who often take on a higher responsibility of care. Women working in insecure positions may also face heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV). The main hindrance to securing employment is the lack of local language proficiency.⁴⁰ Despite the relatively high employment rate, two out of three refugee households live below the poverty line.⁴¹ Financial struggles have forced about one-third of households to deplete their savings and resort to harmful coping strategies.⁴²

³³ [2023 MSNA](#).

³⁴ [Integration of Ukrainian refugees: one year on, PAQ Research, April 2023](#), page 11.

³⁵ [2023 MSNA](#).

³⁶ [Russian aggression against Ukraine. Survey of Czech attitudes. STEM, August 2023](#).

³⁷ Source: Ministry of Education and Youth (2023), Ministry of Interior (2023). 7,668 in kindergarten, 473 in preparatory classes, 39,680 in primary schools, 3,368 in Secondary schools and 92 in conservatories. By crossing official statistics, including the Ministry of Education's data on the enrolment of Ukrainian students in Czech schools (51,281 as of Aug 2023), information on the school-age population derived from the official TP data (Eurostat: 83,202), it is possible to estimate an enrolment rate in the Czech Republic of 62 per cent.

³⁸ [2023 MSNA](#).

³⁹ [Integration of Ukrainian refugees: one year on, PAQ Research, April 2023](#).

⁴⁰ [2023 MSNA](#).

⁴¹ The poverty line is defined as below 60 per cent of the Czech median income, as of March 2023. Only 10 per cent of Czech live under this line). [Integration of Ukrainian refugees: one year on, PAQ Research, April 2023](#). Pag. 9-10.

⁴² [2023 MSNA](#).

Most refugees in the Czech Republic reside in private accommodation, highlighting the transition from emergency to a more stable phase.⁴³ However, the transition to permanent housing options for refugees in the Czech Republic slowed down in early 2023 and has been further affected by the changes in the support parameters introduced through the Lex Ukraine V (July 2023).⁴⁴ Additionally, one in five refugee households faces challenges, including inadequate access to sanitation and cooking facilities, and privacy issues. Some accommodations are unsuitable for winter. While most refugees can cover accommodation costs, a quarter struggle to pay rent on time, and nearly one in five reportedly pay inflated rent prices. Additionally, 4 per cent feel pressured to leave their current arrangements.⁴⁵

In the Czech Republic, refugees enjoy robust health coverage through the social insurance scheme, with two out of three households having access to general practitioners and pediatricians.⁴⁶ However, one in 10 refugee households with medical needs faces barriers in obtaining care, experiencing difficulties in securing appointments, language challenges, and obtaining the right medications. Information on available medical services is also a recurring need.⁴⁷ Barriers especially impact vulnerable families, which include chronically ill individuals (35 per cent of households have a chronically ill person) and persons with disabilities (7 per cent). Mental health support is in high demand, given the prevalence of moderate to severe depression and anxiety symptoms.⁴⁸ However, refugees face barriers, including stigmatization, language obstacles, and limited information, with almost half encountering difficulties accessing mental health or psychosocial services.⁴⁹

⁴³ [2023 MSNA](#).

⁴⁴ [Integration of Ukrainian refugees: one year on, PAQ Research, April 2023](#).

⁴⁵ [2023 MSNA](#).

⁴⁶ [2023 MSNA](#) and [Report on access to health care in EU Member States Implementation of Temporary Protection Directive \(2001/55/EC\) and Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/382](#).

⁴⁷ National Association of Patient Organisations, Situational analysis of information channels for Ukrainian refugees and their information literacy tools in the field of health and social services, May 2023. Also IOM, Surveys with Refugees from Ukraine: Needs, Intentions & Integration Challenges, April – June 2023, page 16.

⁴⁸ [Mental health conditions and help-seeking among Ukrainian war refugees in Czechia: A cross-sectional study](#), ScienceDirect, November 2023. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0165178123005024#abs0001>. Also PAQ page 11.

⁴⁹ [2023 MSNA](#).

Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

Country Strategic Objectives

In 2024, RRP partners will continue their dedicated efforts to shift from the initial emergency phase towards fostering the integration of refugees into national systems. This implies a heightened emphasis on socio-economic integration and adaptation, encompassing aspects such as access to Czech educational institutions, securing employment opportunities for refugees, ensuring stable housing conditions, and extending social benefits to the most vulnerable refugees, while reinforcing overarching protection measures. Leveraging collaborations with the central and local government, the strategy aims to enhance two-way communication with refugees, disseminating comprehensive information on rights and services while collecting feedback from the refugee community on inclusion, adaptation, and changing vulnerabilities.

SO1: Refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights.



Through strengthened partnerships with both governmental and non-governmental entities, RRP partners will foster a supportive environment for refugees to access legal status, exercise their rights, and access information on rights and protection services, including legal aid, to address and mitigate vulnerabilities and exposure to protection risks. The strategy also emphasizes effective communication with refugees, providing accurate and up-to-date information while gathering and addressing community feedback. This comprehensive approach will seek to enhance the protection and well-being of refugees and ensure their unhindered access to rights and protection services.

SO2: Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance.



The strategy prioritizes the well-being and dignity of refugees by addressing their specific needs and vulnerabilities, including for children, unaccompanied minors, older refugees, refugees with disabilities or chronic medical conditions, single-parent families, survivors of GBV, trafficking and smuggling, and other vulnerable refugees. It involves personalized assessments, referrals to specialized services like medical and psychological support, direct provision of specialized services and financial aid for the most vulnerable.

SO3: Refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities is strengthened and their self-reliance increased.



Promoting the socio-economic inclusion of refugees in the Czech Republic through effective access to temporary protection rights is at the core of the RRP, including in the fields of employment, vocational training, and education. This empowers refugees toward self-sufficiency and supports their socio-economic inclusion. Inclusive policies

and partnerships with government and humanitarian organizations, as well as local communities, aim to create an environment where refugees can meet their needs independently and actively engage in the country's social and economic life in line with their capacities.

SO4: Social cohesion between refugees and host communities is reinforced.



Maintaining social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugee and host communities is increasingly important as we approach the third year of displacement. This involves implementing initiatives that foster understanding, cooperation, and mutual support among refugees and host communities to bridge cultural divides and promote unity. It also involves supporting local actors, advocating for government policies that promote harmony between displaced and host communities, funding social cohesion programmes, building trust and understanding, raising awareness about and countering misinformation, disinformation and rumours, and supporting preventive measures aimed at addressing tensions between communities.

Sectoral Responses

Cross-Cutting Priorities of the RRP

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)
- Disability Inclusion
- Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Government Ownership
- Maintaining Emergency Capacities

Read more in the Regional Overview p. 25

PROTECTION



Protection partners, along with government institutions, are poised to extend community outreach efforts, with a particular emphasis on disseminating accessible information to the local and municipal level and areas beyond major urban centres like Prague, Brno, and Ostrava. The outreach seeks to inform refugees in smaller municipalities about their rights, entitlements under Lex Ukraine V, and any potential changes in the system of social benefits and entitlements. Collaborating closely with refugee-led organizations, partners aim to ensure refugees are well-versed in the new housing and social benefit regulations. The continued use of information portals remains an effective means of delivering up-to-date information, allowing refugees to access crucial resources. Beyond knowledge transfer, the collection of feedback from the community provides insight on how to

adjust the response and nurtures a sense of belonging, facilitating informed decision-making and assistance-seeking, ultimately promoting their integration within the host community.

Anti-trafficking and legal partners will prioritize providing support to refugees at risk of exploitation and/or trafficking. They will enhance the provision of legal counselling in labour and accommodation-related matters to reduce the potential for exploitation and/or trafficking.

Additionally, protection actors will enhance the capacity of frontline responders, humanitarian staff, and community leaders, equipping them with the skills and knowledge to identify, address, and refer protection risks among refugees while maintaining confidentiality and informed consent principles.

Finally, protection partners will further work with government counterparts to monitor protection risks among refugee populations and ensure these are considered in any modification of the legal and response framework that may be introduced in 2024.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



Efforts to support survivors of GBV require the maintenance of updated referral mechanisms, ensuring the quality of GBV prevention and response services, connecting survivors with essential national support systems, and facilitating the safe management of cases. Furthermore, collaboration across government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations ensures survivors receive timely assistance without delays or complications.

Empowering refugees with knowledge of where to seek help is a key element in combatting GBV; partners will focus on raising awareness within the refugee community about specialized GBV service providers through awareness campaigns, information dissemination, and community engagement. Raising awareness will also focus on principles of digital safety.

Capacity development in responding to GBV will be a primary focus, encompassing training for GBV professionals to provide quality services and establish Standard Operating Procedures for referrals. Additionally, risk mitigation initiatives will target non-GBV actors to enhance their capacity to safely receive disclosures and ensure timely referrals.

Strong emphasis is placed on mitigating economic vulnerabilities and exploitation among refugee women and girls by offering livelihood support, vocational training, and income-generating opportunities. Advocacy for improved working conditions, preventing sexual harassment at the workplace, awareness of workers' rights, and partnerships with employers will be instrumental. Expanding affordable housing options aims to reduce eviction risks and prevent homelessness, ultimately reducing risks of GBV. Prioritizing intersectoral interventions and coordination, particularly among health, mental health, basic needs, cash, and protection actors, will be crucial in achieving these objectives.

Sub-sector: Child Protection



The provision of specialized child protection services for refugee children will continue to be a priority, encompassing comprehensive case management, mental health, and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and prevention, mitigation, and response to identified cases. Specialized services are complemented by integrated community-based service provision, aimed at enhancing access across sectors for the most vulnerable and providing safe spaces for children and young refugees. Focus will be placed on ensuring the protection and enhancing the well-being of young refugees over 15 years old, including those unaccompanied or separated.

RRP partners will continue to prioritize capacity-building of professionals on child protection in refugee situations and case management, aiming at enhancing competencies in addressing the specific needs and risks of refugee children and youth.

Finally, communication and advocacy efforts will be prioritized, raising awareness of children rights and available services, and addressing misinformation and focusing on promoting social cohesion. Dialogue with public institutions and local authorities, service providers and host and refugee communities will be facilitated, focusing on protecting children from harm and ensuring their safe and healthy development.

EDUCATION



Expanding Early Childhood Education and Care aims to increase the quantity and affordability of centres, especially in rural areas, to cater to children aged 0 to 6. Ensuring the inclusion of out-of-school children within the compulsory school-age range of 5 to 15 is a priority, along with measures to prevent dropouts and ensure continuous, quality education. For adolescents aged 15 and above, a priority will be to expand the offer of diverse pathways, including skills development and employability programmes that align with the context and the evolving needs of the refugees. Emphasis will also be placed on greater involvement of children in extracurricular and leisure activities.

Supporting educational quality requires systematic capacity-building initiatives for teachers, teaching assistants, and caregivers, focusing on inclusive education through in-service and pre-service training programs. Strengthening Czech language education, extending beyond urban centres, is vital for the integration of in-country refugees and newcomers. Establishing safe, inclusive school environments that emphasize MHPSS, anti-bullying measures, and desegregation, is a priority. Support for Ukrainian language, history, and culture through non-formal education to help maintain links with the country-of-origin education among Ukrainian students can be supported on condition that workloads for pupils remain manageable and if learning is rewarded by grades or certificates that can be used in the host country and country of origin.

Advocacy efforts will aim to integrate refugee-focused interventions into the national education system, ensuring inclusivity for all, including vulnerable populations like Roma refugees from Ukraine, and children with disabilities. Effective advocacy also hinges on a foundation of evidence;

therefore, education actors will generate and leverage new evidence through research, assessing the impact of various initiatives. Stakeholder and student feedback is sought to ensure policies align with community needs. Additionally, enhanced information and communication support will bridge communication gaps and engage Ukrainian communities effectively.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



To promote the integration of refugees in the Czech Republic, RRP partners plan to implement a wide array of services and support measures that cut across the sectors. These encompass the distribution of information concerning their rights and available services through diverse means, including face-to-face sessions, printed materials, and various social media platforms. Additionally, assistance will address challenges related to matching skills and qualification recognition, navigating bureaucratic processes, and language barriers. Partnerships with refugee-led organizations and engagement of the Ukrainian diaspora in the process will be a key step to structure more extensive interventions outside the main urban centres.

An essential component is providing refugees with detailed information about the Czech labour law, including contract requirements, their entitlements, and their rights and obligations as employees. Career counselling services are also critical, helping refugees develop crucial job-seeking skills such as crafting a compelling CV and preparing for interviews. Encouraging employers to hire refugees is another facet of this strategy, fostering diversity and inclusivity in the labour market. Further cooperation will be sought with key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, labour offices, the Union of Towns and Municipalities of the Czech Republic, trade unions, chambers of commerce, and the private sector.

Language courses are a pivotal element of this process, aiming for refugees to achieve language proficiency levels (B2/C1) that open more opportunities. Childcare support, with increased availability of children's groups and kindergartens that offer flexible working hours, is crucial to helping refugee parents pursue employment. Flexible working arrangements, where possible, are also needed to accommodate the needs of refugee employees, in particular households with a single head of household and childcaring responsibilities.

Finally, supporting the establishment of small businesses through microloans and counselling can empower refugees to become entrepreneurs, fostering economic self-reliance and contribution to the community. Successful integration stories will also help change the discourse regarding refugee integration to focus on the economic advantages rather than drawbacks. Emphasizing the contributions and beneficial effects of refugees on the economy can encourage the positive public perception and social cohesion.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



Health partners are dedicated to ensuring healthcare access for refugees, with a special emphasis on the most vulnerable individuals. This includes refugees without insurance, those with disabilities, facing chronic diseases, dealing with mental health conditions, survivors of GBV and with rare medical conditions. This commitment involves strengthening the national health system to cater to the distinctive needs of these populations.

Bolstering the healthcare workforce is essential. This entails not only supporting overburdened primary healthcare services through recruiting and training healthcare professionals but also ensuring that their competencies align with the needs of the refugee population. This might include training in cultural competence, understanding the specific healthcare challenges refugees face, and providing trauma-informed care. Furthermore, finding a unified solution for specific medical translation services, by implementing a standardized and efficient method, is a practical approach to ensure that proper communication between provider and patient is in place and that medical care is not conditional on good levels of Czech language proficiency.

Implementing initiatives that enhance health literacy among refugees is also a priority. This involves providing them with the knowledge and understanding of the healthcare system in the Czech Republic, including how to navigate it effectively and access the required services. Such strategies allow for improved use of the healthcare system by, for example, supporting community engagement, reducing the use of emergency care and ensuring better uptake of prevention measures such as vaccinations and general care system.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

MHPSS remains a priority area for RRP partners across the different sectors of the refugee response. Key focus areas include raising awareness among refugees about available mental health services while also bolstering the national mental healthcare system by broadening resources and enhancing access to services, including through the inclusion of Ukrainian mental health professionals. Additionally, involving and empowering refugees in the provision of community-level and scalable MHPSS initiatives and services is a priority, especially to overcome language barriers. Equally critical is the establishment of referral systems at the national and regional level, and the leveraging of current MHPSS data to advocate and implement the use of evidence-based, and scalable, interventions across the response.

BASIC NEEDS



Humanitarian aid for basic needs is meant to supplement the Government's assistance, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable refugee groups and the groups excluded from state subsidies. The legislation defining the assistance that TP holders are entitled to in the Czech Republic provides a solid foundation for support to refugees in terms of basic needs, and upcoming changes should further ensure that refugees'

basic needs are met, for the most vulnerable categories, and avoid inadvertently pushing towards premature and unsafe returns.

While acknowledging existing levels of vulnerability, there is an increasing need to recognize and strengthen the well-established support networks in the Czech Republic, including food banks, charity shops, community-based organizations, and faith-based groups. Collaborating with these organizations will enhance the support system for refugees and other vulnerable populations. Furthermore, cash assistance, including through multi-purpose cash grants, offers refugees the flexibility to meet their immediate needs effectively. Whether securing essential food, clothing, or accommodation, this approach empowers refugees to make choices that suit their unique circumstances. Providing financial support promotes self-reliance and dignified decision-making while addressing refugees' most pressing requirements.

Prioritizing accommodation alternatives for refugees living in remote areas with limited access to social services is essential.

Supporting local social rental agencies that operate on a non-profit basis and place refugees based on need can be an effective approach to enhancing the well-being of refugees. Implementing innovative solutions, such as pilot programmes by NGOs, to motivate property owners to rent unoccupied flats and houses to refugees can help alleviate housing shortages. Coordination with government departments aims to address housing issues, especially for vulnerable refugee groups like persons with disabilities and Romani refugees, and support the transition from temporary to sustainable housing.

PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION (PSEA)

The PSEA Task Force was established in mid-2023 and has served as a reference point to extend support to organizations involved in the response and ensure coordination among UN agencies in the Czech Republic. Technical sessions were facilitated to strengthen capacities around operationalizing key PSEA standards and numerous community awareness and guidance materials were adapted and translated in Czech and are now publicly available on the Operational Data Portal. In 2024, the PSEA Task Force will maintain its focus on further reinforcing the implementation of SEA prevention, identification and response measures, continuously assessing evolving SEA risks and providing support to agencies with a view to uplift and harmonize PSEA policies and practices and to maintain response-wide attention to PSEA.

Partnership and Coordination

The RRP is dedicated to supporting the Government's refugee response, both centrally and locally, through close coordination with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic and relevant government departments. The Government established a coordination structure with the Office of Government presiding over the Strategic Group which executes the Government's decisions on inclusion of refugees from Ukraine. The Office of Government subsequently coordinates with RRP partners through the Refugee Coordination Forum co-chaired with UNHCR. As the crisis enters its third year and resources become strained, effective coordination and integration between RRP partners and government strategies become increasingly important for enhancing broader access to protection and services for refugees while promoting their socio – economic inclusion.

In 2023, significant efforts were made to expand partnerships, with 30 organizations now part of the appeal, including 23 local organizations.⁵⁰ These encompass local NGOs, community-based organizations, refugee-led organizations, and faith-based organizations, underscoring the RRP's role as a coordination and fundraising tool in the Czech Republic. Collaborating with these grassroots organizations provides invaluable insights and culturally-sensitive support, enhancing community-oriented services. This partnership empowers refugees, promotes self-reliance, and strengthens the local support network, ensuring a more effective and integrated response.

The integration of government, local organizations, and UN agencies through the RRP into a cooperative framework in the Czech Republic is vital for a unified, rights-based approach to protecting and assisting refugees, enhancing their integration into Czech society while upholding international standards.

⁵⁰ In October, over 20 Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) and Community-Based Organizations from nine regions in the Czech Republic came together to discuss current refugee needs and fundraising priorities, contributing to the formulation of the 2024 RRP. The highlights of the discussion are available here: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/104617>.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

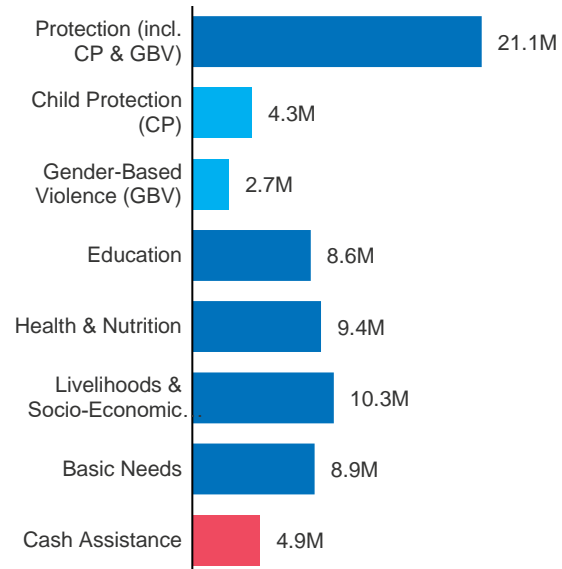
Budget summary by type at country level

PARTNER	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD
UN agencies	49,446,088
International NGOs	2,700,000
Faith-based Organizations*	2,700,000
National NGOs	5,241,255
Refugee-led Organizations*	843,500
Women-led Organizations*	2,799,500
Sports organizations	877,171
TOTAL	58,264,514

* 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 level⁵¹








⁵¹ Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is the modality of choice for forcibly displaced people and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection. Unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector.

Budget summary by partner at country level

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
UN Agencies								
UN International Organization for Migration	850,926	-	-	-	6,804,029	424,556	3,349,048	11,428,560
UN World Health Organization	-	-	-	-	-	6,000,000	-	6,000,000
United Nations Children's Fund	3,536,398	2,850,068	1,377,290	5,222,263	-	2,067,784	4,623,725	19,677,528
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	6,920,000	590,000	1,080,000	1,180,000	2,070,000	-	-	11,840,000
International NGOs								
Adventist Development and Relief Agency - Czech Republic	-	-	-	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Charita Česká republika / Caritas Czech Republic	1,500,000	100,000	100,000	150,000	500,000	100,000	150,000	2,600,000
National NGOs								
Aliance Center duševního zdraví / Alliance of Community MH Centers	226,761	113,380	-	-	-	226,761	-	566,902
Asociace Trigon / Trigon Association	10,000	-	-	86,000	-	150,000	8,000	254,000
Česko-ukrajinské centrum Krajanka / Czech-Ukrainian Center Krajanka	23,000	3,000	-	5,000	36,000	-	1,500	68,500
Community center Svitlo / Komunitní centrum Svitlo	15,000	43,000	-	35,000	75,000	52,000	-	220,000
Helping Centre for Refugees in Český Krumlov	-	-	-	9,000	-	-	-	9,000
InBáze	34,261	35,546	-	64,240	37,816	-	-	171,863
Kalyňa - Komunitní uprchlické centrum / Kalyňa - Community Refugee Centre	24,387	11,174	-	10,870	-	-	-	46,431
NEEKA	30,000	25,000	-	394,000	90,000	154,000	-	693,000
Organizace pro pomoc uprchlíkům / Organization for Aid to Refugees	106,600	-	-	70,350	-	-	-	176,950
Poradna pro integraci / The Counselling Centre for Integration	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,500	7,500
Prague Pride	7,000	-	-	-	8,000	20,000	25,000	60,000
ProUkrainu	-	-	-	15,000	15,000	15,000	-	45,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Regionální ukrajinský spolek ve Východních Čechách / Regional Ukrainian Association in Eastern Bohemia	3,600	-	-	30,000	10,000	-	-	43,600
Romodrom	130,000	432,000	-	432,000	130,000	-	302,000	1,426,000
Ščedryk, společenství Ukrajinců Olomouckého kraje / Ščedryk, community of Ukrainians of the Olomouc region	2,000	3,000	-	9,000	2,000	-	-	16,000
Sdružení pro integraci a migraci / Association for Integration and Migration	51,000	-	70,000	-	255,000	20,000	-	396,000
Society for All	-	79,084	-	124,479	-	122,946	-	326,509
Ukrainian school in Prague	-	-	-	510,000	-	-	-	510,000
Ukrajinská Iniciativa Jižní Moravy / Ukrainian Initiative of South Moravia	79,000	-	-	7,000	48,000	-	-	134,000
Ukrajinská iniciativa v České republice	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	50,000
Ukrajinské kulturně-vzdělávací centrum v Brně / Ukrainian cultural and educational center in Brno	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	10,000
Ми в Чехії Pisek a okolí	4,000	-	-	6,000	-	-	-	10,000
Sports Organisation								
Asociace Evrosen-Baiterek / Evrosen-Baiterek Association	-	50,000	50,000	100,000	217,391	25,000	434,780	877,171
Total	14,053,933	4,340,252	2,677,290	8,615,202	10,298,236	9,378,047	8,901,553	58,264,514

RRP Monitoring Framework

Sector	Indicator	Target	
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	171,000
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services	72,000
	Child Protection	# of participants trained on child protection and children's rights	1,500
	Gender-Based Violence	# of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	52,000
	Gender-Based Violence	# of trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV knowledge on prevention, response and risk mitigation measures	500
	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	# of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	500
	Education	# of children enrolled in formal education in host countries	80,000
	Education	# of education personnel trained or receiving support to better respond to the needs of refugee learners	500
	Education	# of children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries	33,000
	Health and Nutrition	# of refugees reached through individual counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services and how to access them	20,000
	Health and Nutrition	# of health consultations provided to refugees	120,000
	Health and Nutrition	# of healthcare providers trained to provide health services to refugees	200
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	50,000
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of MHPSS consultations provided (includes focused and specialized services only)	5,000
	Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion interventions	87,000
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	66,000

COUNTRY CHAPTER

ESTONIA



> At a Glance

Estonia Planned Response (January-December 2024)



55 K

projected refugee population



\$10.6 M

total financial requirements in USD



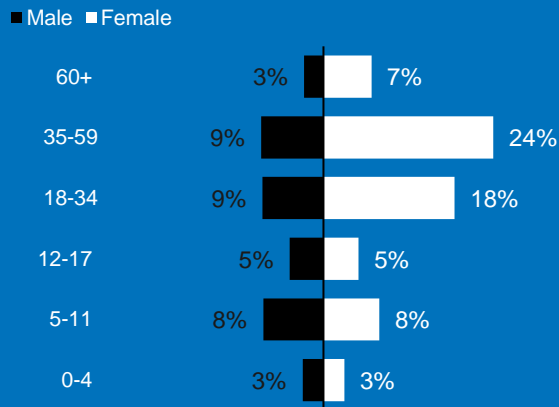
14

RRP partners

Population planning figures

	Estimated population as of end of 2023	Population planned for assistance in 2024
Refugee Population	50,450	55,000

Age and gender breakdown⁵²



1.7%

Persons with disabilities



64%

Women and girls



36%

Men and boys

⁵² Calculations are based on government statistics complemented with 2023 MSNA data.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

Estonia continues to receive a relatively high number of refugees from Ukraine, many of whom are traveling through the Russian border to reach other EU Member States, or return to the government-controlled territories of Ukraine. More than 50,000 refugees in total have registered for temporary protection, of whom some 32,000 refugees have also been registered to receive assistance with different municipalities throughout the country.⁵³ In addition, over 5,000 people from Ukraine, who had left Ukraine prior to 24 February 2022 and were not eligible for temporary protection in Estonia, have been granted subsidiary protection under prioritized and simplified asylum procedures.

In the Ukraine refugee response, Estonia has been pursuing three main goals: ensuring the sustainability of public and state services for all; providing refugees with the appropriate conditions to achieve self-sufficiency and independence; and creating conditions for refugees to integrate into Estonian society while maintaining ties with the Ukrainian language and culture. While many refugees wish to go home, with the ongoing hostilities in Ukraine and the severe impact on infrastructure, a large majority of refugees do not see return as a safe option in the near future.

Despite the harmonized and well-coordinated whole-of-society response, refugees continue to face certain challenges to being able to fully support themselves and their families as government support measures are stretched. Therefore, in 2024, RRP partners in Estonia will further coordinate humanitarian efforts to complement the government-led response for refugees from Ukraine living in Estonia.

Country Risks and Needs

Refugees from Ukraine are predominantly women (49 per cent) and children (32 per cent). Therefore, a range of protection risks faced by women and children specifically have become apparent. Women with children face heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and experience more difficulties finding decent employment opportunities. There is a continuous need to raise awareness on child protection issues and risks of GBV, both with refugees and with staff and volunteers engaging with them.

Estonia continues to provide access to territory and temporary or international protection to refugees from Ukraine, though since summer 2023 the number of refugees from Ukraine arriving in Estonia has significantly decreased. Thus, there is less pressure on the reception capacity and at present, with gained experience and allocated resources, Estonian authorities are better prepared for a new emergency response if needed.

⁵³ Social Insurance Board, Statistics on Ukrainian War Refugees in Estonia, updated on a weekly basis, available at: <https://www.sotsiaalkindlustusamet.ee/asutus-uudised-ja-kontakt/praktiline-teave/statistika#ua-stat>.

Throughout the almost two years of the ongoing war in Ukraine, Estonian agencies have successfully implemented a policy that supports refugees from Ukraine to quickly adapt in Estonia and become self-reliant until they can return home. Indicative results of the 2023 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA)⁵⁴ and protection monitoring suggest that nearly all refugees from Ukraine have successfully registered for temporary protection. Furthermore, most households displaced from Ukraine in Estonia rent accommodation on their own, and nearly half of them are employed in Estonia. Nevertheless, further assistance with Estonian language education for adults and children, support with access to affordable housing, as well as individual mentorship support to find decent employment will further facilitate the inclusion and integration of refugees from Ukraine.

20 per cent of MSNA respondents reported that they have at least one household member with a serious medical condition and 5 per cent reported having household members with disabilities. Strengthening the identification of people with specific needs through proactive and continuous vulnerability assessments, as well as efficient access to healthcare and continuous social protection, is crucial.⁵⁵

Since February 2022, over 6,000 refugees from Ukraine have voluntarily de-registered from temporary protection and Estonian authorities estimate that more have also left Estonia for other countries or returned to Ukraine.⁵⁶ Nevertheless, it cannot be excluded that those who have de-registered may still come back to Estonia as their return might not be safe and dignified and reintegration may not be sustainable. There is no accurate data on the number of refugees from Ukraine who remain in the country, complicating response planning and programming of activities.

Given that 35 per cent of MSNA respondents reported tensions with the host community, social cohesion initiatives aimed at encouraging dialogue and interaction between refugees, host communities and service providers, and supporting local communities in receiving refugees require increased attention.

Survey data and protection monitoring also suggest a high degree of participation of refugees in education. Up to nine out of ten respondents to protection monitoring report children enrolled in education. Data from the Estonian authorities shows almost 9,000 refugees from Ukraine are enrolled in the national education system (primary and secondary) and pre-school system (alushardis).

⁵⁴ The 2023 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) is a regional interagency multi-sectoral assessment and MSNA is a key source of information for the 2024 RRP planning, which aims to capture funding and planning requirements for the response. 565 interviews have been conducted in Estonia covering 1,549 refugees from Ukraine. Sampling and representativeness are purposively selected (geographical coverage, different accommodation types), but not statistically representative, the results are indicative.

⁵⁵ Given that the multisector needs assessment indicates that the number of persons with disabilities and medical conditions is greater than what is currently officially recorded, partners will proactively reach out to those reporting a serious health issue to ensure they can register and get appropriate assistance in 2024.

⁵⁶ Police and Border Guard Board, Number of applicants for temporary and international protection, 6 November 2023, available at: <https://www.politsei.ee/et/ajutise-ja-rahvusvahelise-kaitse-taotlejate-arv>.

Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

Building on the positive commitments made by the Government of Estonia at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, the RRP strategy for Estonia aims to support the efforts of the authorities to ensure successful inclusion and address the needs of refugees from Ukraine, with a focus on the most vulnerable.

RRP partners will strive to ensure a coherent and predictable protection response with the participation of refugees while strengthening national protection systems. Specific attention will be given to the protection needs of single women, female-headed households, children, older people, people with serious medical conditions, and persons with disabilities. Efforts will be made to support frontline workers in identifying and providing services to vulnerable refugees and third-country nationals to mitigate life-threatening risks and risks linked to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights.



Key activities will include monitoring access to legal status, protection and rights, advocating with government and regional institutions, and facilitating communication with refugees and host communities, including legal support and assistance information.

In addition, RRP partners will bolster reception capacity and monitor the situation of new arrivals to ensure their early access to rights and services on a non-discriminatory basis, as well as to enable early identification, referral, and assistance to people with specific needs.

Furthermore, it will be important to strengthen capacities in the identification and mitigation of GBV, trafficking, and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) risks. Existing child protection mechanisms and services are to be reinforced to ensure adequate response to the specific needs of refugee children and their families, in particular, unaccompanied and separated children and children at risk.

SO2: Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance.



Partners will support the Government's and all relevant actors' protection response to identify and refer refugees with specific needs and provide them with the required specialized services, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS and needs-specific humanitarian assistance, that are age-, gender-, and diversity sensitive).

RRP partners will complement and enhance the identification and inclusion of refugees with disabilities in national services, by recognizing disability certificates issued in Ukraine, providing

accessible accommodation, identifying and mitigating the barriers to services, providing accessible information and communication, and further engaging and working with organizations of persons with disabilities.

SO3: Refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities is strengthened and their self-reliance increased.



Partners will focus on longer-term inclusion and enrolment in the national education system, providing language education, capacity-building, and mental health support. At the same time, advocating to bring refugee children and youth back into formal face-to-face education settings where they can benefit from long-term stability in education, social interaction with host communities, and in-school support is a priority. The strategy includes encouraging refugee access to livelihood and economic opportunities, including through additional language trainings, addressing skills mismatches through job-matching, re- and upskilling, such as skills and qualifications recognition, and providing information and counselling to refugees and the private sector.

SO4: Social cohesion between refugee and host communities is reinforced.



As the war in Ukraine enters its third year, it is important to identify innovative approaches and to strengthen partnerships to enhance social cohesion between refugees and host community members. Support of refugee and host community youth is equally important, to develop capacities and skills through sport, social, cultural, and recreational activities. Leveraging the potential of refugees and refugee-led initiatives to facilitate dialogue and information exchange between refugees, government authorities, and the broader population, will allow for more effective and targeted service delivery, ensuring that assistance is tailored to meet the specific needs of refugees. Children's integration in the national school system through the development of inter-cultural capacity of teaching staff will be fully supported.

Sectoral Responses

Cross-Cutting Priorities of the RRP

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)
- Disability Inclusion
- Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Government Ownership
- Maintaining Emergency Capacities

Read more in the Regional Overview p. 25

PROTECTION



In Estonia, protection partners will continue protection monitoring to establish an evidence-based analysis of the protection situation of refugees from Ukraine to assess their ability to access territory, legal status, rights, and services in Estonia.

Partners will also strengthen the engagement with the refugee community, including with refugee-led organizations, and ensure its participation in designing and implementing the response, through participatory assessments and focus group discussions.

Efforts will be made to support national protection mechanisms to identify and provide services to people with specific needs. Specific attention will be given to single women, female-headed households, unaccompanied and separated children, and victims and persons at risk of trafficking, but also older people, people with serious and/or chronic medical conditions, and persons living with disabilities.

To address the needs identified in the protection sector, partners will provide legal assistance and disseminate information on rights and access to services, including through individual support and mentoring, to facilitate employment and ensure access to legal status, education, healthcare and social support.

Partners will continue promoting community-based and age-, gender- and diversity-sensitive approaches to government counterparts, municipalities, service providers and other stakeholders involved in the response, including by engaging in joint activities, providing technical support and conducting capacity-building as required. Prevention of SEA will also form a key part of the response.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



Taking into account exposure to GBV risks, partners will collaborate with the Estonian authorities and other relevant organizations to ensure efficient prevention and response mechanisms and effective referral pathways to specialized services.

The focus will be on raising awareness about GBV including trafficking and SEA and creating safe spaces for refugees, particularly women with children, to seek assistance confidentially. Efforts will extend to providing access to comprehensive legal, psychosocial, and psychological services, fostering an inclusive community of mutual support and enhancing the protective framework for women and girls.

Partners will reinforce the capacity of organizations specialized in supporting GBV survivors, including victims of SEA and trafficking, and facilitate access to services, support, and assistance to survivors among the refugee population from Ukraine in Estonia, through in-person activities, online outreach, and training of relevant service providers on safe disclosures and referrals.

Partners will also cooperate with the government and organizations on GBV risk-mitigation across all sectors, in particular for those engaged in the distribution of assistance, provision of accommodation, and enhanced dissemination of information to refugee communities, through

outreach and communication to ensure women and girls have access to information on GBV services.

Sub-sector: Child Protection



In 2024, partner activities in Estonia will strive to ensure the well-being of children in diverse circumstances. Activities include the development of inter-cultural activities designed for families with children and fostering positive child development in new environments. Partners will introduce group counselling sessions and cultural mediation to address the needs of both children and parents, aiming to create a supportive environment.

Partners will actively collaborate with government entities to identify unaccompanied and separated children, as well as those at risk. Partners will conduct protection monitoring, make relevant referrals, and follow up as necessary to ensure the safety and protection of children. An essential component of this initiative is the emphasis on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities at the community level, allowing children to establish social ties and engage in play and creative activities. This comprehensive approach encompasses psychological individual counselling and support groups, ensuring a holistic and supportive framework for children's well-being in their new environment.

EDUCATION



Partners are committed to addressing the educational challenges faced by Ukrainian children in Estonian schools. These include language barriers, insufficient capacity in local schools, and insufficient support provided to support teachers. Recognizing the disparities in integration practices across autonomous Estonian schools, efforts will concentrate on supporting Ukrainian educators in adapting to the local education system, enhancing digital competencies, and incorporating active learning methods. Teacher training sessions will emphasize inclusive practices for refugee children in multicultural classrooms, with a focus on trauma-informed learning, language barriers, and other potential difficulties. An educational toolkit is in development to assist teachers, youth workers, and educators in teaching young people about forced displacement.

A training-of-trainers programme, focused on using art therapy in classes, will involve both Estonian and Ukrainian educators. Additionally, a needs-based counselling methodology and intervention programme for schools accommodating refugee children and youth from Ukraine will be developed and piloted. Special attention will be given to children through study visits, the creation of teaching materials, and art therapy sessions. Partner activities encompass counselling for kindergartens and schools, integrating a whole-of-school approach for a lasting impact. Counselling activities cover various aspects, including the basics of receiving children with refugee backgrounds, language studies, adaptation support, and cooperation with parents. Furthermore, global education activities will engage young people across Estonia, fostering awareness and

understanding of refugee-related issues. Activities will include the development of materials for Global Citizenship Education and digital literacy training for refugees from Ukraine.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



In 2024, partners will implement a comprehensive livelihoods programme in Estonia, covering entrepreneurship support, employability skills, and research for hiring refugees. The entrepreneurship programme equips refugees with essential skills for business initiation, emphasizing business planning and financial management. Employability programmes will bridge the gap between refugee skills and the labour market. Job readiness workshops cover crucial subjects for young refugees entering the labour market.

Partners will raise awareness among employers on diversity, equity, and inclusion, providing comprehensive training to businesses. Research on barriers to sustainable employment will also be conducted. A project focusing on immigrant women aims to increase employability through mentoring and skill development.

Cultural activities, game-based events, and cultural exchanges will be organized, involving both refugees from Ukraine and Estonians, promoting social cohesion. The livelihoods programme extends to creating self-sustaining associations in Pärnu and Tallinn, involving refugees, managers and service providers.

Integration activities include cultural awareness and employment support for Ukrainian children and refugees, with a focus on language courses for small rural municipalities. Grants for learning Estonian will be provided to Ukrainian teachers, doctors, and speech therapists.

A media development project will aim to increase refugees' access to reliable information, enhance self-reliance, and foster social inclusion through activities such as capacity-building for media outlets, assessing evolving information needs, strengthening editorial capacities, and creating national media networks.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



Partners plan health sector activities to address the needs of refugees in Estonia through strengthened health systems and complementary interventions. Services include a psychosocial support hotline, information on how to access healthcare, and support for health-related administrative issues. Social and psychological counselling, as well as self-help groups, are integral components. Psychosocial support, including individual and group counselling, focuses on emerging or pre-existing mental health conditions.

Partners will provide trainings for teachers, social workers, and health professionals aiming to enhance MHPSS for Ukrainian children. Initiatives will facilitate access to national health services and medicines for Ukrainians transiting through Estonia and advocate for including Ukrainian health workers in the healthcare delivery system. This includes enhancing the knowledge and understanding of the healthcare system in Estonia, including how to navigate it effectively and access the required services.

Partners will continue to emphasize capacity-building, technical assistance, and continuity of care, linking refugees with chronic illnesses to the national system. Advocacy efforts will seek the inclusion of Ukrainian health workers to strengthen the health system and address language barriers. Special attention is given to MHPSS services, including translations, adaptations, and training in Ukrainian to improve healthcare access.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

Recognizing the crucial role of MHPSS in overall well-being, established methodologies will be implemented to help refugees address stress, trauma, and challenges related to their experiences of displacement. Peer-driven psycho-social groups will be formed for children, youth, and adults, providing knowledge and skills, and raising awareness.

To further enhance emotional support, a crisis counselling hotline will be established, staffed by Ukrainian workers. Programmes specifically designed for youth will focus on emotional awareness and skills development for conscious management of behaviour and mental well-being.

Individual and group psychological counselling will be offered, and special attention will be given to individual consultations for parents of refugee children, addressing concerns related to changes in their children's behaviour resulting from displacement or traumatic experiences.

A key focus will be capacity-building of partners. Training sessions will be provided to local educators, social workers, child protection specialists, police, border guards, and district nurses engaged in MHPSS support for Ukrainian children. Additionally, efforts will be made to facilitate access to health services and medicines for Ukrainians and third-country nationals transiting through Estonia. The collaboration of multiple actors in the field aims to ensure access to healthcare services for refugees from Ukraine and improve their overall health status.

BASIC NEEDS



Partners will address the basic needs of refugees from Ukraine in Estonia through diverse initiatives. They will distribute free food on a weekly basis to support 4,000 refugees from Ukraine.

Key activities will involve providing onward transportation support for Ukrainians transiting through Estonia, with a focus on family reunification cases. In such situations, temporary accommodation will be offered as part of a pre-departure assistance package, and multi-purpose cash assistance will be provided to address basic needs during travel to the final destination. Volunteers will also actively engage in renovating apartments in Tallinn for short-term accommodation.

In collaboration with the government and NGO centres, support will include accommodation and food services, encompassing equipment, furniture, and utility bill payments. Partners will emphasize vulnerability-based cash assistance to refugees from Ukraine in Estonia and transit, complementing state food packages for sustainable food security. Efforts will extend to securing long-term accommodation, renovating apartments, and matching refugees with housing options, emphasizing support for the most vulnerable. Additionally, refugees in transit will receive assistance in onward transportation and temporary accommodation when needed, ensuring a comprehensive approach to their basic needs.

Partnership and Coordination

In Estonia, the RRP has been developed by partners in coordination with the Estonian Government to ensure complementarity with government measures. Coordination and information-sharing mechanisms have been developed as a response to the crisis, such as the Extended Meeting of the Coordination Council on Refugee Policy chaired by the Ministry of the Interior. There are also other sectoral mechanisms in place to

PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)

PSEA is an integral and cross-cutting component of the RRP and is mainstreamed across all sectors. In addition, it requires dedicated and proactive collective efforts to mitigate and prevent risks. Activities will go beyond SEA to also include organizing awareness-raising campaigns tailored for refugees and employers on their legal obligations under national law. These campaigns will provide information about the risks of trafficking and exploitation, as well as strategies to protect refugees. Activities will aim to empower refugees with knowledge to make informed decisions, recognize potential dangers, and seek help if needed. These campaigns will contribute to reducing vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking. Capacity-building activities for partners will be organised for first-line workers who interact with refugees. These initiatives will provide training and skills enhancement to recognize, prevent, and respond to SEA. By equipping these professionals with knowledge and protocols, the activities will aim to create a safer environment for refugees and ensure their protection from such risks during their displacement. PSEA workshops for refugees will be designed to provide them with knowledge about SEA, including understanding its nature, identifying associated risks, learning how to seek assistance, and becoming familiar with the referral process.

ensure coordination, including the NGOs Roundtable of Refugee Organizations which works towards aligning advocacy messaging.

An RRP coordination body is established to coordinate and advance RRP objectives. Co-chaired by UNHCR and the Estonian Refugee Council, the coordination body also includes representatives of relevant state authorities, including the Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and the Social Insurance Board. UNHCR will also facilitate government and civil society interactions and exchanges as needed on specific topics such as PSEA and utilise a development approach to strengthen partner capacities in resource mobilization as well as using information management tools to strengthen visibility and donor engagement on behalf of RRP partners and RLOs.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

Budget summary by type at country level

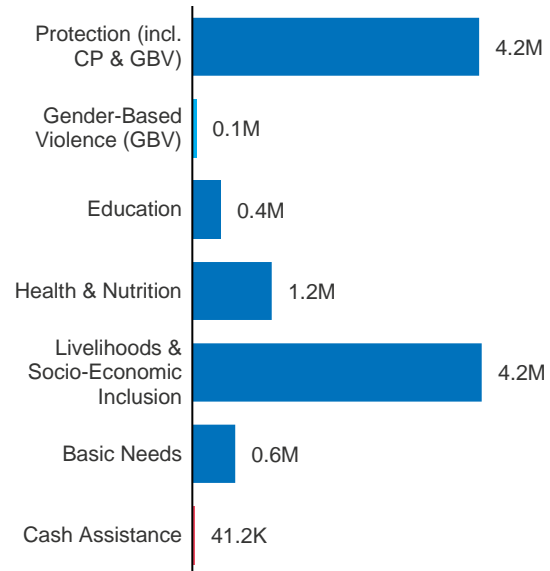
PARTNER	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD
UN agencies	7,261,680
International NGOs	120,000
National NGOs	3,207,568
Refugee-led Organizations*	100,000
Faith-based Organizations*	161,100
Women-led Organizations*	289,309

TOTAL 10,589,248

* 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 level⁵⁷








⁵⁷ Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is the modality of choice for forcibly displaced people and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection. Unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector.

Budget summary by partner at country level

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
UN Agencies								
UN International Organization for Migration	292,699	-	-	-	1,254,488	641,193	375,020	2,563,400
UN World Health Organization	-	-	-	-	-	230,000	-	230,000
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	-	-	-	-	300,000	-	-	300,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	2,292,554	-	-	-	1,875,726	-	-	4,168,280
International NGOs								
e-Governance Academy	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	120,000
National NGOs								
Elulliin	102,100	-	59,000	-	-	-	-	161,100
Estonian Chamber of People with Disabilities	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	150,000
Estonian Food Bank	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000	200,000
Estonian Refugee Council	1,060,000	-	-	190,000	467,000	-	-	1,717,000
Estonian-Swedish Mental Health and Suicidology Institute	99,169	-	-	-	-	40,140	-	139,309
Hands for Ukraine	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
Institute of Baltic Studies	-	-	-	-	115,000	-	-	115,000
NGO Mondo	-	-	-	165,917	183,069	226,173	-	575,159
SA Ukraina sõjapõgenike psühhosotsiaalse kriisiabi fond	-	-	-	60,000	20,000	20,000	-	100,000
Total	4,116,522	-	59,000	415,917	4,215,283	1,157,506	625,020	10,589,248

RRP Monitoring Framework

Sector	Indicator	Target	
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	50,000
	Gender-Based Violence	# of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	3,000
	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	# of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	13
	Education	# of children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries	1,960
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	36,910
	Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion interventions	33,000
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	43,500

COUNTRY CHAPTER

HUNGARY



> At a Glance

Hungary Planned Response (January-December 2024)



85,000

projected refugee population



\$42.2 M

total financial requirements in USD



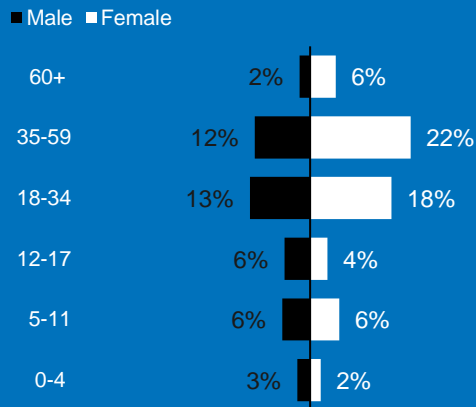
31

RRP partners

Population planning figures

	Current population as of Dec 2023 ⁵⁸	Population planned for assistance in 2024
Refugee Population	63,775	85,000

Age and gender breakdown⁵⁹



7%

Persons with disabilities



58%

Women and girls



42%

Men and boys

⁵⁸ Based on data from National Directorate General for Aliens Policing as of October 2023, includes both those granted TP status as well as Ukrainians who applied for residence permits for the purpose of employment after February 2022.

⁵⁹ Calculations are based on 2023 MSNA data.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

Hungary has maintained an open-door policy for refugees from Ukraine since the beginning of the crisis in February 2022. As of October 2023, there have been almost 3 million documented border crossings into Hungary by Ukrainian nationals, including arrivals directly from Ukraine and via Romania. Despite noticeable reductions, ongoing refugee movements, including transit from and to Ukraine for short visits or onward movement, persist.

In line with other EU Member States, the Government of Hungary prolonged the duration of the temporary protection (TP) status until March 2024, following Hungary's proactive implementation of the EU directive in February 2022. As of December 2023, temporary protection has been granted to 38,000 refugees from Ukraine; in addition, almost 25,800 Ukrainian nationals reside in the country under residence permits for work purposes, issued after February 2022.⁶⁰

Temporary protection status in Hungary provides refugees with the right to reside, work, access essential services like housing, healthcare, and education, receive financial assistance, and pursue family reunification; nevertheless, life in exile remains challenging for many due to language barriers, challenges in accessing services, limited income and the absence of a long-term outlook.

Local communities and various humanitarian organizations, such as charitable organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, and refugee-led initiatives, have been actively engaged in supporting the government-led efforts in addressing the protection and assistance requirements of refugees from Ukraine in Hungary. However, as the refugee situation continues, the available services and assistance are gradually being recalibrated with donor funding, and individual solidarity is gradually declining, leaving a gap in sustained assistance for the most vulnerable.

Country Risks and Needs

In Hungary, most refugees from Ukraine are women and children, with four out of 10 households led by a single adult, primarily women.⁶¹ In addition, one in three households has members with chronic medical conditions, and one out of 10 refugee households include a member with a disability. Vulnerable refugees are more exposed to protection risks, exacerbated by financial struggles, housing constraints, the risk of exploitative work conditions and, especially for women and girls, risks of gender-based violence (GBV); older refugees and refugees with disabilities have higher healthcare needs, with the lack of systematic identification and medical certificate recognition hampering access to tailored assistance. As a result, protection issues are not always addressed in a timely manner. Challenges are compounded by limited awareness of specialized

⁶⁰ [UNHCR Data Portal](#).

⁶¹ [2023 MSNA](#).

services among refugees, language barriers, strained local resources, and a lack of structured referrals.⁶²

Community consultation highlighted that despite collective efforts from service providers, refugees still struggle to access information about their rights and available support, with older individuals, people with disabilities, and those in remote areas facing the most significant challenges.⁶³ Civil documentation and the renewal of identity documents have gained increased significance, leading many refugees to approach Ukrainian consular authorities in Hungary or return to Ukraine for that purpose.

As of the 2022/23 school year, Hungary hosted 4,856 Ukrainian students, with 1,164 in kindergarten and 3,692 in primary and secondary schools.⁶⁴ However, not all refugee children are enrolled in formal education institutions. In Hungary, several factors influence access to education, including the expectation of eventually returning to Ukraine, language barriers, a preference for online learning for older students, as well as costs and lack of awareness among refugees of eligibility for related benefits, concerns about the recognition of foreign education credentials upon return, and difficulties in determining the appropriate grade level for these students.⁶⁵ Additionally, the issue of limited capacity in national schools, exacerbated by stretched resources, shortages of teachers and instances of bullying, all contribute to reduced attendance numbers and exacerbate the risks of school drop-out.⁶⁶

In Hungary, most refugees who are of working age are currently employed, making up 71 per cent of this group. However, they often find themselves in low-skilled jobs across various industries, where their qualifications do not align with their work and wage earnings are insufficient to cover costs.⁶⁷ About 20 per cent of working-age refugees are not part of the workforce, as they are not in a position to look for work or are currently pursuing education. Women tend to have a lower labour force participation rate than men, often due to caregiving responsibilities. Unemployment affects 9 per cent of working-age refugees. The primary obstacles to employment include language barriers, limited job opportunities, issues with documentation, and a mismatch between skills and the labour market. Among young refugees aged 16-24, 13 per cent are classified as NEET, meaning they are neither employed, nor in education, nor undergoing training.

Although there is a significant employment rate among refugees, two out of every 10 refugees report a decrease in their ability to afford goods and services in comparison to the initial months after arriving. This raises concerns about the sustainability of their situation and the potential for dependency on aid. In addition, the average income of refugees remains lower than the average income in Hungary.⁶⁸ The drop in income is attributed to factors such as lower wages, inflation, and increased living expenses in Hungary, including housing expenses due to reduced free housing

⁶² [2023 MSNA](#) and FGD and [Consultation with RLO/CBO – Key Takeaways \(September 2023\)](#).

⁶³ [2023 MSNA](#).

⁶⁴ Source: Department of Education, July 2023.

⁶⁵ [UNICEF, Hungary: Ukrainian refugees' experiences and needs on education and parenting](#)

⁶⁶ [UNICEF, Hungary: Ukrainian refugees' experiences and needs on education and parenting](#).

⁶⁷ [2023 MSNA](#).

⁶⁸ [2023 MSNA](#).

opportunities.⁶⁹ To cope with these financial challenges, some refugees have tapped into their savings, cut back on essential healthcare expenses, or resorted to risky or illegal forms of employment.

As the displacement continues, the demand for long-term housing and inclusion support for refugees in Hungary is growing, with refugees citing affordable housing as first among the three most reported priority needs.⁷⁰ Targeted transitional programmes offer rental and cash assistance to facilitate the transition from collective centres to private housing, however accessing the rental market remains challenging in Hungary due to high demand and unaffordable rental prices, especially in urban locations. Landlords' reluctance to rent to families with children or for periods less than 12 months further adds to the challenge. One in five refugee households is experiencing problems with their current living situations, which include issues such as insufficient privacy and the inability to cook or store food adequately.⁷¹

One-third of refugees expressed health needs, with 12 per cent facing barriers in accessing medical care; the most cited barriers are lack of Hungarian health insurance, language difficulties, inability to afford fees and lack of information or ability to register with a doctor due to overstretched services.⁷² Additionally, one in three refugee households reported chronically ill family members.⁷³ Based on consultations with Refugee-led Organizations (RLO), additional factors are hindering access to healthcare services for TP holders, including limited awareness among both healthcare professionals and refugees regarding the rights and entitlements of TP holders, such as the availability of free translation services and the fact that TP holders are entitled to receive healthcare services without having a Hungarian social security card (TAJ card).⁷⁴ Additional challenges stem from difficulties in recognizing health documentation, especially for refugees with disabilities or chronic conditions, and the absence of vaccination certificates, which

INCLUSION OF REFUGEES WITH DISABILITIES

Forced displacement disproportionately impacts people with disabilities, leaving them susceptible to violence, and exploitation, and limiting access to information, employment, and education opportunities. In 2023, the Refugee Coordination Forum collaborated with the Disability Inclusion Department of the Hungarian Ministry of Interior and Hungarian organizations of persons with disabilities to enhance the inclusion of refugees with disabilities in the response. The [recommendations](#) from the Refugee Coordination Forum serve as a foundation for priority actions, focusing on improving accessibility to information, services, and infrastructure; fostering partnerships with Hungarian disability organizations to leverage their expertise; addressing organizational culture, and enhancing data collection to better include refugees with disabilities in Hungary in the response.

⁶⁹ Only refugees meeting specific vulnerability criteria, such as refugees older than 65, refugees with disabilities, pregnant women, and families with children, can stay in state-subsidized shelters.

⁷⁰ [2023 MSNA](#).

⁷¹ [2023 MSNA](#).

⁷² [2023 MSNA](#).

⁷³ According to the 2023 Hungary MSNA

⁷⁴ [Consultation with RLO/CBO – Key Takeaways \(September 2023\)](#).

can hinder children's school enrolment.⁷⁵ Furthermore, stigma surrounding mental health issues prevails, hindering reporting and access to specialized mental healthcare. While access to mental health specialists remains essential for referrals and care, community-based interventions are crucial to address this stigma and provide support.

Finally, as the war in Ukraine persists, capacity to receive new arrivals remains essential, including through continued funding of minimum reception and emergency services at border points and in Budapest, including mechanisms to identify and refer vulnerable refugees to specialized service providers.

⁷⁵ [Consultation with RLO/CBO – Key Takeaways \(September 2023\)](#).

Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights.



In collaboration with national authorities, the response aims at securing refugees' access to legal status and associated rights, strengthening the overall protection environment for refugees in Hungary, and reducing their exposure to protection risks.

The strategy also emphasizes effective communication with refugees, providing accurate and up-to-date information while gathering and addressing community feedback. This comprehensive approach aims at enhancing the protection and well-being of refugees and ensuring their unhindered access to rights and protection services.

SO2: Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance.



Refugees with specific vulnerabilities, such as children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children, older refugees, refugees with disabilities or with chronic medical conditions, single-parent families, refugee survivors or at risk of gender-based violence (GBV), or trafficking, as well as minority groups, have specific needs, whether they are residing in Hungary or transiting through the country. These require the provision of specialized services and targeted complementary support as well as mechanisms to ensure effective access to long-term social safety nets.

SO3: Refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities is strengthened and their self-reliance increased.



Bolstering the socio-economic inclusion of refugees within Hungary, with a focus on enhancing their self-reliance is a key priority, to support the shift from the emergency phase towards inclusion and integration. This requires effective support to enhance access to national education and training opportunities; support with employment opportunities; and support with access to social services. By promoting inclusive policies and fostering partnerships between government agencies, local communities, and refugee support organizations, the aim is to create an environment where refugees can not only meet their basic needs but also actively contribute to the economic and social fabric of the host country.

SO4: Social cohesion between refugee and host communities is strengthened through community initiatives.



Maintaining social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugee and host communities is increasingly important as we approach the third year of displacement. This involves implementing initiatives that foster understanding, cooperation, and mutual support among refugees, Ukrainian diaspora, third-country nationals, and Hungarian civil society to bridge cultural divides and promote unity. Strengthening social bonds and mutual support benefits not only refugees but also host communities, as it encourages inclusive, harmonious societies where communities can thrive and contribute to collective well-being.

Sectoral Responses

Cross-Cutting Priorities of the RRP

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)
- Disability Inclusion
- Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Government Ownership
- Maintaining Emergency Capacities

Read more in the Regional Overview p. 25

PROTECTION



The protection strategy aims to create a favorable protection environment by enhancing national protection systems and mainstreaming protection considerations into all sectors. This will involve using sector-specific recommendations and advocacy insights developed by RRP partners over the past year. The effort to strengthen capacity around international protection principles and standards, exchange best practices, and strengthen protection referral systems will continue through the Protection Working Group.⁷⁶

RRP partners will continue their advocacy and cooperation with authorities at all levels to strengthen the protective framework for refugees. The goal is to ensure non-discriminatory access to territory, legal status, and fundamental rights. Through protection monitoring and consultations with refugees, they will identify and address barriers to accessing rights and services in a coordinated manner.

⁷⁶ [Working Group: Hungary: Protection Working Group \(unhcr.org\)](#)

There will be a continued focus on supporting the integration of refugees into national systems, including social protection. Advocacy and coordination efforts will be complemented by direct service provision, including case management, referral, and provision of targeted financial support, reducing exposure to protection risks, and building up refugees' resilience.

The protection response emphasizes the significance of fostering two-way communication with the refugee community by actively engaging refugee-led and community-based organizations. This approach guarantees that refugees can access reliable and easily accessible information regarding rights and humanitarian services available. Protection efforts will align with UNHCR's stance on returns to Ukraine, prioritizing refugees' perspectives, intentions, and needs in return discussions, considering that the current situation is not conducive for returns.⁷⁷

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



Refugee profiles in Hungary consist predominantly of women-headed households and their children. Based on refugee feedback, various GBV risks exist among refugees from Ukraine, including sexual violence, intimate partner violence and harassment, human trafficking for sexual exploitation purposes, and risks of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Building upon interagency national pathways and referral systems,⁷⁸ RRP partners will ensure survivors have safe and adequate access to quality multi-sectorial survivor-centred services. Attention will be given to access to health services, and mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) and their delivery through various actors, including community-based ones. Additionally, a focus will also be on advocating for the removal of access barriers to safe shelters.

Informative and engaging awareness campaigns and other forms of GBV communication, building up on the digital security and online safety campaigns, will be adapted to audiences' diverse profiles.⁷⁹ They will play a key role in informing at-risk groups of available services and resources, and foster resilience through practical advice and life skills.

GBV will be mainstreamed across sectors, including by acting on the findings of the 2023 GBV safety audit in collaboration with relevant actors, such as municipalities and statutory GBV service providers. Capacity-building, best practice sharing, and adaptation of global standards and guidance to the national context will continue.

⁷⁷ [UNHCR Position on Voluntary Return to Ukraine, June 2023.](#)

⁷⁸ [Document - GBV Referral Pathways Hungary \(English\) \(unhcr.org\)](#)

⁷⁹ [Safe Online – A guide to be protected on the internet – UNHCR](#)

Sub-sector: Child Protection



Building upon existing partnerships with national authorities,⁸⁰ child protection actors will enhance synergies between the Hungarian child protection system and refugee response efforts. This includes advocacy to ensure that the refugee children at risk (including unaccompanied and separated children) are identified and are receiving all required protection services. In addition, partners will strengthen case management services in support of and in collaboration with national authorities for children at risk and provide complementary child protection interventions including recreational, psychosocial and parenting support. Aligning the applicability of the Child Protection Act and ensuring its inclusion of children with TP status, while expanding the offer of humanitarian child protection services, will help respond to the high demand for specialized services and ease the burden on overworked professionals.

In addition, child protection actors will review the referral system among different child protection organizations updating the existing referral pathways, jointly with authorities. Efforts will also be made to strengthen the capacities of child and family/social welfare units and social workforce to enhance oversight mechanisms and normative framework for refugees.

Recognizing the importance of fostering an inclusive and positive dialogue around the Best Interest of the Child concept, particularly for refugee children, collaborative efforts will be pursued across stakeholders to ensure the well-being of refugee children aligns with the principles of the Best Interest of the Child framework. The strategy involves advocating for policy improvements in child protection, enhancing coordination with national actors, supporting local authorities, and ensuring accessibility through translation services.

Other key priorities for 2024 include strengthening community-based psychosocial capacities and ensuring equitable access for children with special needs, addressing the pressing issue of bullying in schools, and re-evaluating best practices in capacity-building and adjustments in response to changing dynamics.

⁸⁰ Such as the Ministry of Interior, Child Welfare and Guardianship Offices, National Child Protection Services (OGYSZ), and the Ombudsman's Office.

EDUCATION



Education partners in Hungary will continue to coordinate efforts among education stakeholders, donors, government counterparts and refugee-led organizations (RLOs) to promote access to the formal education system for refugee children in Hungary.⁸¹ In 2023, joint messages for successful integration of refugee children were laid out by the working group in an advocacy note.⁸² Further, a cross-sectoral partnership among humanitarian actors has been coordinated through the Hungary Refugee Coordination Forum to promote access to education for refugee children.⁸³

The 2024 education strategy aims to improve access to formal education and early learning for refugee children, by: 1) providing non-formal education for language learning and remedying learning loss; 2) advocating for inclusive access to safe learning environment through mainstreaming mental health and psychosocial support in schools; 3) strengthening the technical capacity of educators on pedagogical skills; and 4) providing accessible information on school registration to children and caregivers.

In collaboration with the national authorities, evidence-based programmes tailored to the needs of refugee children and schools will be further developed, monitored, and evaluated. Policy advocacy will focus on measures to facilitate the integration and retention of refugee children in school. These measures include systematic provision of Hungarian language classes, academic assessment, and accreditation processes, as well as support to schools. Partners will also ensure a concentrated effort to address the educational needs of children with multiple vulnerability markers including Romani refugee children, and children with disabilities.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



Inclusion interventions are crucial to reducing social isolation, promoting self-reliance and facilitating the socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Hungary. This is achieved through collaborative efforts, establishing a supportive system to empower refugees in Hungary, and addressing common challenges. Key activities encompass language support, guidance in administrative processes, advocacy for administrative barrier removal, the introduction of additional support services, and community events.

To further the integration of refugees into the Hungarian labour market, partners will focus on enhancing support for TP holders by providing comprehensive assistance in understanding labour and fiscal laws, and labour rights. This includes offering guidance on employment contracts, tax declarations, and expanding legal support services for labour-related issues. At the same time, acknowledging the importance of decent work, partners will follow initiatives to prevent labour

⁸¹ [Education partners](#)

⁸² Education Sub-Working Group (Hungary), [Advocacy Paper for Refugee Education in Hungary](#), July 2023.

⁸³ [Refugee Coordination Forum \(Hungary\), Cross-sectoral Support for School Integration of Refugee Children from Ukraine in Hungary, July 2023.](#)

exploitation in Hungary, which encompasses rights information to refugees and employers and other forms of support, such as individual counselling and response services.

To complement, recognizing the important role of the private sector in the integration process, partners will prioritize increasing awareness among employers about refugee rights and skills. Also, the organization of job fair-like events and information sessions to facilitate job placements will continue. Refugees bring valuable skills and experiences, but qualifications may not be recognized in their host country. Work around accreditation programmes, in partnership with relevant authorities, will be prioritized by partners. Furthermore, upskilling initiatives enhancing refugees' employability by offering training in areas that align with the local market demands will be promoted. These programmes not only bridge existing skill gaps but also ensure that refugees stay competitive in evolving industries.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



Health actors are dedicated to enhancing access to healthcare services for refugees by supporting national healthcare authorities and service providers to ensure equitable access for refugees to existing services and facilities. The strategy emphasizes improving and maintaining access to primary and specialized healthcare services, and fostering capacity-building for health workers on the entitlements of TP holders in the country. The strategy will also support monitoring the policy environment with regard to access to healthcare services for refugees and address any identified bottlenecks.

As stressed by refugee-led organizations, it is important to enhance access to national healthcare through language support, including communication with healthcare providers, general practitioners and specialists, and translation of medical documentation, information brochures on accessing healthcare services, along with advocacy for bilingual medical certificates, especially for individuals with disabilities and refugees with chronic conditions.⁸⁴

Partners will also support removing administrative hurdles that hinder refugees' access to healthcare and subsidized medication, particularly for TP holders to avoid refugees returning to Ukraine for treatment or affordable medication. Advocacy will also focus on improving infant and young child feeding practices and streamlining the process for newborn vaccinations, making them easily accessible, while at the same addressing the issue of missing vaccination certificates, which can hinder children's enrolment in school.

⁸⁴ [Consultation with RLO/CBO – Key Takeaways \(September 2023\)](#)

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

MHPSS is a recognized priority in Hungary and has already been integrated as a critical activity across the response. Key actors have been mapped and MHPSS minimum standards were shared in Hungarian across actors. Supporting the national mental healthcare system, especially by expanding resources and improving accessibility, while addressing language barriers through community-based activities is crucial, as is using existing MHPSS data and diversifying funding sources for continuous improvement on evidence-based interventions. Priorities include interagency coordination, participatory needs assessments, MHPSS training for health and non-health workforce, and integrating scalable psychological interventions into the response.

BASIC NEEDS



In 2024, partner interventions intend to offer targeted complementary support to help the most vulnerable refugees meet their basic needs. Priorities for the coming year will focus on strengthening the targeting for multipurpose cash assistance, and diversifying interventions aimed at facilitating access to affordable housing. Where necessary, the provision of food and non-food items will continue to be scheduled. Services will also be maintained for newcomers at border points and first point of transit.

Multipurpose cash and voucher assistance remains a key tool in ensuring access to basic needs and minimizing the protection risks for vulnerable refugees. This assistance will particularly target vulnerable refugee families including individuals with disabilities, chronic medical conditions, households with many children and older refugees. The assistance will be combined with advocacy efforts to ensure access to sustainable social safety nets for the most vulnerable. In continuation of the coordination work initiated in 2022, actors will continue to work on eligibility criteria, monitoring tools, deduplication mechanisms and targeting. Food and non-food item distribution will also continue, albeit with a reduced volume. Winter-specific assistance will continue to be considered for those most in need.

With regards to housing, partners will update the mapping of collective shelters, detailing available resources and services by location with an aim to enhance services available on site and ensure adequate standard. The referral pathway will also be reviewed to ensure effective referral for refugees in need of emergency housing. In addition, partners will prioritize support to residents in their efforts to transition to more sustainable accommodation arrangement. This will be achieved through enhanced coordination with municipalities and innovative strategies engaging private sector networks and community networks. Access support will be provided to refugees through negotiation support and advocacy around rental arrangements.

Partnership and Coordination

Communication and coordination with relevant government authorities and ministerial departments as well as local authorities are all instrumental for achieving a comprehensive and sustainable approach to addressing the challenges refugees face in Hungary and will remain at the heart of the plan in 2024.

Furthermore, coordination and exchange of experiences and feedback among international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and refugee-led organizations through the Refugee Coordination Forum will continue to be prioritized to ensure the effectiveness of collective humanitarian efforts, ensuring a comprehensive response that addresses refugees' needs and expands opportunities for socio-economic integration. This engagement promotes shared responsibility, common vision and coordinated response.

Partnership within the RRP in Hungary remains notably localized, with two thirds of partners being local NGOs, and an expression of the Hungarian civil society, including five faith-based organizations. The benefits of engaging local organizations in the refugee response encompass improved cultural understanding, extensive outreach across the entire country, cost-effectiveness, sustainability, community engagement, trust-building, adaptability, innovation, and social inclusivity, ultimately resulting in a more comprehensive and efficient refugee support system.

The plan has broadened its collaboration with refugee-led organizations (RLOs), and Hungary maintains the highest number of actively engaged RLOs in the regional response plan. Over the past year, RLOs have not only worked with RRP organizations, gaining increased access to funding (a challenge for smaller organizations in Hungary) but have also actively contributed to the

INCLUSION OF ROMANI REFUGEES

In Hungary, there is a significant presence of Romani refugees from Ukraine. Many dedicated Romani community organizations have been engaged in responding to the needs of vulnerable refugees and advocating for their rights since the onset of the crisis. However, despite the solidarity and legal protections afforded to refugees in Hungary, the Romani refugee community is often exposed to exclusion, and marginalization and faces additional challenges accessing social protection, healthcare, education, and employment. Building upon an RCF [note](#) developed with Romaversitas, the response acknowledges the need for a comprehensive approach addressing their unique challenges, emphasizing collaboration between service providers, Romani community leaders, Romani-led organizations, and government agencies to ensure effective and sustainable solutions.

planning of the RRP, as seen in the outcomes of the Budapest consultation held in September 2023.⁸⁵

Protecting affected people from sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) remains a key priority across the RRP. In 2024, partners will further develop standards and procedures to address or safely refer allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, while ensuring that support to victims is accessible in a safe and confidential manner. Capacity-building and technical support will be provided through the PSEA Resource Hub, as well as monitoring of trends, identification of risks and implementation of measures for the mitigation of these risks.

⁸⁵ In October 2023, a dedicated workshop convened RLOs and CBOs to identify priorities and recommendations for the 2024 RRP, with a focus on improving language support, healthcare access, employment assistance, and community cohesion to aid refugees' integration into Hungarian society. Additionally, concrete plans are in place to enhance coordination among RLOs, NGOs, and UN agencies in 2024. and [Consultation with RLO/CBO – Key Takeaways \(September 2023\)](#).

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

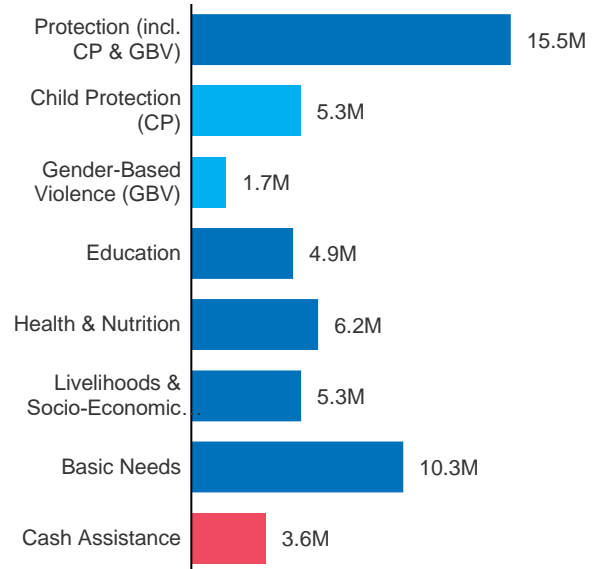
Budget summary by type at country level

PARTNER	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD
UN agencies	24,799,007
IFRC & RC	4,925,000
International NGOs	3,536,176
National NGOs	8,928,781
Refugee-led Organizations*	1,108,695
Faith-based Organizations*	2,245,500
TOTAL	42,188,964

* 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 level⁸⁶








⁸⁶ Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR’s CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is the modality of choice for forcibly displaced people and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection. Unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector.

Budget summary by partner at country level

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
UN Agencies								
UN International Organization for Migration	698,924	376,347	-	537,634	806,451	935,483	645,161	4,000,000
UN World Health Organization	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000	-	2,000,000
United Nations Children's Fund	20,000	1,448,130	150,000	733,725	-	1,020,000	727,152	4,099,007
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	5,100,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	650,000	3,400,000	-	3,050,000	14,200,000
IFRC and Red Cross								
Hungarian Red Cross	1,300,000	50,000	25,000	500,000	50,000	500,000	2,500,000	4,925,000
International NGOs								
International Rescue Committee	-	160,000	50,000	150,000	-	350,000	-	710,000
Pressley Ridge Magyarország Alapítvány / Pressley Ridge Hungary Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
Terre des Hommes Foundation	-	1,235,748	102,648	684,850	213,707	329,223	-	2,566,176
The Foundation for Global Human Dignity	-	-	-	160,000	-	-	-	160,000
National NGOs								
Cordelia Foundation for the Rehab. of Torture Victims	-	-	-	-	-	428,695	-	428,695
Dévai Fogadó (formerly Mandák Ház)	-	15,000	-	55,000	-	35,000	140,000	245,000
Food Bank Aid Foundation Budapest	-	-	-	-	-	-	648,000	648,000
Foundation of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church	-	-	-	4,000	-	-	4,000	8,000
Hungarian Baptist Aid	54,000	121,000	94,500	121,000	19,000	-	314,000	723,500
Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta	40,000	50,000	-	120,000	50,000	50,000	150,000	460,000
Hungarian Helsinki Committee	405,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	405,000
Hungarian Interchurch Aid	10,000	100,000	250,000	-	20,000	-	300,000	680,000
Hungarian Reformed Church Aid	-	-	-	20,000	80,000	20,000	80,000	200,000
Lexis - Vamos Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,000	29,000
LITERA Egyesület	-	15,000	-	50,000	20,000	-	15,000	100,000
MedSpot Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	33,000	-	33,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Menedék Hungarian Association for Migrants	220,000	220,000	10,000	150,000	30,000	20,000	-	650,000
Menekültek Online Segítő Társasága (Refugee Help Digital Network)	15,000	10,000	10,000	25,000	15,000	25,000	15,000	115,000
Migration Aid	36,434	478,101	-	95,148	239,644	-	1,012,071	1,861,398
Next Step Hungary Association	79,000	17,000	-	190,000	99,000	-	98,000	483,000
Parasolka	-	-	-	60,000	-	-	-	60,000
Piarista Gimnázium / Piarista Gymnasium	-	-	-	140,000	-	42,000	-	182,000
Pszí Pont	-	-	-	-	-	150,000	-	150,000
SEGÍTŐ ÖSSZEFOGÁS ALAPÍTVÁNY – Helping Coalition Foundation	15,000	10,000	5,000	19,000	22,000	10,000	110,000	191,000
United Way Hungary	-	-	-	470,795	256,775	109,218	439,400	1,276,188
Total	8,493,358	5,306,326	1,697,148	4,936,152	5,321,577	6,157,619	10,276,784	42,188,964

RRP Monitoring Framework

Sector	Indicator	Target	
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	40,000
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services	25,000
	Child Protection	# of participants trained on child protection and children's rights	1,000
	Gender-Based Violence	# of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	5,000
	Gender-Based Violence	# of trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV knowledge on prevention, response and risk mitigation measures	150
	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	# of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	300
	Education	# of children enrolled in formal education in host countries	20,000
	Education	# of education personnel trained or receiving support to better respond to the needs of refugee learners	50
	Education	# of children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries	11,000
	Health and Nutrition	# of refugees reached through individual counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services and how to access them	5,000
	Health and Nutrition	# of health consultations provided to refugees	5,000
	Health and Nutrition	# of healthcare providers trained to provide health services to refugees	100
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	10,000
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of MHPSS consultations provided (includes focused and specialized services only)	6,000
	Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion interventions	30,000
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	35,000

COUNTRY CHAPTER

LATVIA



> At a Glance

Latvia Planned Response (January-December 2024)



50 K

projected refugee population



\$9.7 M

total financial requirements in USD



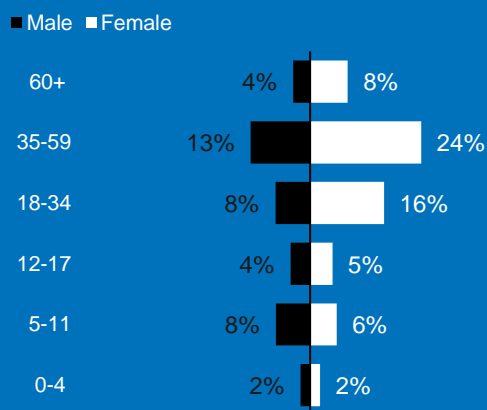
17

RRP partners

Population planning figures

	Estimated population as of end of 2023	Population planned for assistance in 2024
Refugee Population	46,610	50,000

Age and gender breakdown⁸⁷



2%

Persons with disabilities



62%

Women and girls



38%

Men and boys

⁸⁷ Calculations are based on Government statistics complemented with 2023 MSNA data.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

The number of refugee arrivals from Ukraine has led to Latvia's most substantial refugee response in its history. As of December 2023, around 47,000 refugees from Ukraine had been registered as active beneficiaries of temporary protection in Latvia, almost 33,000 of them have applied for assistance in municipalities – representing some 1.8 per cent of the Latvian population. In addition, as of December 2023, almost 101,000 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 in the past year.

Since the escalation of hostilities in Ukraine, Latvia has indicated its readiness to receive and support refugees fleeing Ukraine. In early March 2022, Latvia swiftly adopted the Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Civilians to offer effective protection and facilitate access of refugees from Ukraine to rights and services on an equal footing with Latvian citizens.⁸⁸ The Law continues to provide immediate assistance with accommodation and food, expedited registration, and access to education, healthcare, and social protection. The Law also stipulates special conditions and increased assistance and support in case of persons with specific needs.

Despite the whole-of-society approach and tailored assistance focused on immediate needs as well as services available for persons with specific needs, refugees continue to face a number of challenges to be able to fully support themselves and their families. The RRP has been developed to complement the government-led response for refugees from Ukraine to address these needs and challenges.

Country Risks and Needs

Most refugees from Ukraine are women (48 per cent) and children (27 per cent), including more than 350 unaccompanied or separated children. Consequently, a range of protection risks specifically faced by women and children continue to be apparent, and there is a need to raise awareness on child protection matters and risks of gender-based violence (GBV), not only among refugees but also with staff and volunteers engaging with refugees.

Further, women with infants and small children often lack employment opportunities and effective access to the labour market. Protection monitoring has shown that employment opportunity and information about employment opportunities are among the main needs of all people surveyed.

Accommodation needs exist among the refugee population in general, as evidenced by the Multi-Sector Needs Assessment.⁸⁹ While in the first months after arrival in Latvia initial support with accommodation is available for all refugees from Ukraine, medium to longer-term housing solutions

⁸⁸ Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Civilians of the Republic of Latvia, adopted on 3 March 2022, entered into force on 5 March 2022, available at: <https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/330546>.

⁸⁹ 2023 Multi-Sector-Needs Assessment Latvia.

are limited, with significant shortages in largely populated areas. More housing options are available in areas that are less populated, but those areas in turn offer fewer employment opportunities and limited public transportation. In municipalities that can offer more permanent housing options, costly renovations are often needed.

At the moment, only 39 per cent of all registered children from Ukraine aged between 7 to 17 are enrolled in local schools in Latvia, while the other children presumably follow online education provided by schools in Ukraine.⁹⁰ Support with language learning is important for school-aged children so they can effectively be included in the Latvian education system. It is also vital to support school children with their emotional needs, including through social and extra-curricular educational activities. A priority of the RRP will be to ensure that as many refugee children and youth from Ukraine as possible find a place in formal education in Latvia.

In 2023, more than 90,000 citizens of Ukraine transited through Latvia to other EU Member States or returned to the government-controlled areas of Ukraine. Refugees in transit may also face a range of protection risks, in particular when they are dependent on support for their onwards journey. Refugees in transit would benefit from additional reception structure at the border, even for a short period of time only, to cover immediate needs such as food, water, warm clothes, information needs and sanitary facilities.

⁹⁰ According to the Ministry of Education, as of the end of October 2022, there are 9,002 refugee children from Ukraine in Latvia. Among them, there are 6,357 children who are between 7 to 17 years old who could be enrolled in either primary or secondary schools. 2,462 of them are enrolled in education institutions.

Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

In line with the Government of Latvia's commitment, reiterated at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, to support refugees from Ukraine, the RRP for Latvia aims at successful inclusion and supports the efforts of the national authorities to address the needs of refugees from Ukraine, with attention to the most vulnerable. Given the composition of the refugee population as described above, a significant portion of protection programming will focus on the needs of women and children, as well as addressing the impact of family separation, including through mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions.

RRP partners will strive to ensure a coherent and predictable protection response with the participation of refugees, in support of national protection systems. Specific attention will be given to the protection needs of single women, female-headed households, children, older persons, people with serious medical conditions, and persons with disabilities. Efforts will be made to support frontline workers in identifying specific needs and providing appropriate referrals and services to vulnerable refugees and in need of international protection, to mitigate serious protection risks, including those linked to possible sexual exploitation and abuse. Inclusion of refugees in state-provided services will constitute a key point for advocacy and support to government, in line with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Refugees have effective access to legal status, protection assistance and rights.



Key activities will include monitoring intentions, ensuring access to protection and rights, advocating with government and regional institutions, and facilitating communication with refugees and host communities, including legal support and assistance information. Assistance will be provided to bolster reception capacity and monitoring of the situation of new arrivals, to ensure their early access to rights and services on a non-discriminatory basis, as well as to enable early identification, referral, and assistance to persons with specific needs. Reinforcing capacities in identification and mitigation of GBV, trafficking and SEA risks will be provided. Engaging in strengthening existing child protection mechanisms and services will ensure adequate response to the specific needs of refugee children and their families, in particular unaccompanied and separated children and children at risk.

SO2: Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance.



RRP partners will support the protection response of the Government and all relevant actors to identify and refer persons with specific needs among the refugee population and provide required specialized services, including MHPSS and needs-specific humanitarian assistance, that are age-, gender-, and diversity sensitive. Furthermore, it is necessary to complement and enhance the identification and inclusion of refugees with disabilities in national services, including through the recognition of disability certificates issued in Ukraine, accessible accommodation, identifying and mitigating the barriers to services, availability of accessible information and communication, and further engagement and working with organizations of persons with disabilities.

SO3: Refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities is strengthened and their self-reliance increased.



Focussing on longer-term inclusion and enrolment in the national education system, providing language education, capacity-building, and mental health support will strengthen self-reliance. Partners will advocate for bringing refugee children and youth back into formal face-to-face education settings where they can benefit from long-term stability in education, social interaction with host communities, and in-school support. Refugees' access to livelihood and economic opportunities will be enhanced, including through additional language training and support activities, matching of skills with appropriate jobs, re- and upskilling, including skills and qualifications recognition, providing information and counselling to refugees and liaising with the private sector. The inclusion of refugee children into the national education system will be brought about through individual mentoring programmes, while also offering activities that focus on connections and friendship for children and youth.

SO4: Social cohesion between refugee and host communities is reinforced.



By identifying innovative approaches and strengthening partnerships social cohesion between refugees and host community members will be enhanced. Refugee and host community youth will be supported to develop capacities and skills through sport and recreational activities. Leveraging the potential of refugees and refugee-led organizations can facilitate dialogue and information exchange between refugees, government authorities, and the broader population, allowing for more effective and targeted service delivery, ensuring that assistance is tailored to meet the specific needs of refugees. Partners will provide integration support to advance social cohesion and self-sufficiency, for example, through activities that target refugees' access to the labour market, through additional Latvian language courses, as well as social, cultural, and recreational events and exchanges.

Sectoral Responses

Cross-Cutting Priorities of the RRP

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)
- Disability Inclusion
- Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Government Ownership
- Maintaining Emergency Capacities

Read more in the Regional Overview p. 25

PROTECTION



Partners will conduct protection monitoring to rapidly identify emerging risks and gaps in the response. Monitoring will also inform evidence-based advocacy with authorities at the national level to address key findings. Partners will further increase outreach activities in refugee-hosting communities, both in and outside of cities, to identify refugees with specific needs and ensure they are referred to relevant services.

Efforts will be made to support national protection mechanisms in the identification of and referral to services for persons with specific needs. Particular attention will be paid to newly arrived refugees with specific needs, including in border areas and during transit.

In close coordination with the Government and municipalities, partners will provide information and counselling, including legal and psycho-social counselling, to newly arrived refugees as well as refugees already in-country. The aim is to further strengthen the protection environment as well as the integration of refugees from Ukraine into Latvian society, with particular attention to persons at heightened protection risk such as single women, female-headed households, survivors of GBV, unaccompanied and separated children, older persons, LGBTIQ+ people, people with serious medical conditions and persons with disabilities. Further, consultations on safe transport routes will be available, providing essential information to beneficiaries in transit.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



A comprehensive approach is outlined to address GBV including safeguards against trafficking for sexual exploitation as well as sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). Prevention activities involve targeted training and awareness-raising initiatives directed at refugees, volunteers, and other stakeholders. Specifically, efforts will be made to reinforce coordinated prevention and response mechanisms and quality of services.

Recognizing the vulnerabilities of both refugees and support personnel, activities will integrate educational programs, workshops, and resources tailored for Latvian NGOs providing refugee support. This initiative aims to empower these organizations with the knowledge and tools necessary to effectively prevent and respond to instances of GBV among the refugee population. Through heightened awareness and enhanced organizational capacity, partners will seek to establish a safer environment that upholds human dignity and respect, contributing to a secure and protected space for refugees in Latvia.

Sub-sector: Child Protection



Partners are committed to supporting child protection by emphasizing the identification, referral, and provision of specialized services for children at risk, including those unaccompanied or separated. Inter-cultural activities will aid the integration of children and their families into new social networks and foster positive development in their new environment. The strategy adopts a multi-layered approach to address the mental health and psychosocial needs of children who may have experienced distressing events.

To ensure public awareness, partners will create and distribute promotional materials highlighting available psychological support for children, crisis reactions and preparedness, and cross-institutional information. Initiatives include brochures with information and psychoeducation, along with accessible online lectures. Detailed considerations regarding services and educational components will be integrated.

EDUCATION



In 2024, partners will proactively address education challenges faced by refugees from Ukraine. This will include actions to facilitate enrolment and inclusion in primary and secondary education, and measures to facilitate access to higher education.

Partners will continue to advocate for refugee children's enrolment in Latvian schools, adequate in-school support to refugee children in primary and secondary education, and complementary support such as language clubs and after-school activities that facilitate social inclusion even when formal education is challenging.

A notable initiative in higher education will involve establishing a scholarship fund for young individuals from Ukraine who have lost one or both parents, facilitating their pursuit of higher education in Latvia. This comprehensive support will span four years, encompassing studies,

scholarships, and accommodation, reflecting a commitment to long-term educational opportunities. Partners will continue to offer a wide variety of additional educational activities. Weekly Latvian language conversation clubs for adults, volunteer-led English language practices, master classes for children and teenagers, and participation in the Riga Biennial education programme will showcase a dynamic and inclusive approach. Partners will continue to promote mindfulness practices, such as yoga and meditative drawing sessions, as well as engaging activities like a birdwatching club led by the Latvian Birdwatching Association.

Education programmes will expand with planned Latvian and English language courses, both in-person and online. Additionally, partners aim to enhance their impact, doubling access to language clubs for children. Recognizing the need for tailored assistance, there will be a focus on providing learning process assistants for refugee pupils, ensuring support in understanding various school subjects in Latvian and improving language skills. This holistic approach will underscore a commitment to fostering educational access, language proficiency, and overall well-being for refugees from Ukraine in Latvia.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



In 2024, partners will aim to foster the socio-economic inclusion of refugees from Ukraine. Despite a supportive legal framework, practical barriers still exist. Legal aid, counselling, mentoring, translation services, and information dissemination will be at the centre of the response, addressing gaps in economic inclusion, language barriers, and documentation requirements. Partners will also contribute to government-led language classes and provide additional opportunities for language proficiency to enhance employability.

Social inclusion efforts will involve recreational events, cultural activities, and peer support, particularly for children and youth. A comprehensive municipal assessment will be conducted to address service gaps.

Initiatives will include English classes, a study on municipalities' roles, and a Baltic-wide exchange of integration practices. Economic activities will involve courses on starting businesses, civic society promotion, cultural events, and initiatives supporting refugees by providing funds to cover the cost of rental deposits. Media development projects will focus on enhancing refugees' access to information and fostering self-reliance.

These holistic measures will underscore a proactive strategy, addressing diverse challenges faced by refugees from Ukraine in Latvia. The comprehensive approach will aim to ensure sustainable integration, well-being, and self-sufficiency, reflecting the evolving needs of the refugee community.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



In the health sector, partners are committed to strengthening the government-led response by providing capacity-building and technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and other authorities. Partners will play a key role in designing, planning, and conducting a survey to identify unmet medical needs, including the MHPSS needs of refugees from Ukraine. To enhance accessibility, translations, adaptations, and training materials will be provided in the Ukrainian language.

Special attention will be given to particularly vulnerable refugees, including those with disabilities, who will receive comprehensive support measures. Emergency dental treatment will be offered to refugees, especially if not covered by the State. In situations where mainstream healthcare provision to refugees faces gaps, particularly for newly arrived individuals, cash and voucher assistance will be provided for the purchase of medicine or necessary medical treatments. Additional activities include capacitating refugees with the knowledge and understanding of the healthcare system through hotlines and webpages, including how to navigate it effectively and access the required services. Refugees will be linked to national health systems to ensure a continuum of care especially for those in need for continuous care.

Additional initiatives will focus on providing psychosocial support to Ukrainian soldiers and children in Latvia and other crucial activities involve designing, planning, and conducting surveys on unmet medical needs, hiring an international MHPSS consultant, and organizing national-level trainings to ensure continued MHPSS efforts. Translation, adaptation, and training activities in Ukrainian will be pivotal in reducing barriers to care and enhancing access to health services.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

The refugee response in Latvia will prioritize MHPSS across various sectors, emphasizing integration into health, protection, child protection, GBV, education, and livelihoods. Advocacy for comprehensive access to MHPSS services will remain a focus, with partners delivering psychosocial support through community-based interventions, support groups, arts-based activities, and individual counselling. Specialized mental healthcare will be facilitated, along with psychological first aid for refugees in border areas. Mainstreaming support for first responders, often from Ukraine, will be crucial to prevent burnout.

Planned initiatives will include professional psychology services, a hotline, and group counselling for war-affected refugees from Ukraine. Awareness campaigns for mental health counselling will be integral. A network of health mediators will assist refugees, offering psychological first aid, psychoeducation, and counselling. Health needs assessments and capacity-building for healthcare workers will contribute to addressing refugees' mental health and psychosocial needs.

Specific activities will involve providing psychosocial support to Ukrainian veterans and children in Latvia including providing psychologist consultations and open art therapy groups. Surveying unmet medical needs and organizing trainings at the national level will be essential for continued MHPSS efforts.

A project in Riga and Liepaja focuses on providing psycho-emotional support for refugees, specialist training, community education on integration needs, and educational material preparation. Partners aim to engage approximately 600 refugees from Ukraine and their families in these plans.

BASIC NEEDS



In 2024, Latvia's Basic Needs sector, guided by the Law on Assistance to Refugees from Ukraine, endeavours to address the challenges confronting refugees from Ukraine in meeting basic needs. The collaborative endeavours of government initiatives and partners strive to comprehensively address immediate and long-term needs for refugees from Ukraine in Latvia.

Aiming to bridge gaps in State-provided services, especially in border areas where refugees briefly stay, efforts will focus on refining reception conditions, with an emphasis on expedited registration, immediate accommodation, and food assistance, prioritizing psychological first aid and information access.

Grassroots partners, active since the conflict's onset, play a crucial role in aiding refugees. Their activities encompass supplying necessities, operating a free laundry facility, and managing humanitarian aid centres. Transporting aid for Ukrainians entering Latvia and temporary accommodation for vulnerable refugees in transit near Russian and Belarusian borders will also be integral to the sector's initiatives.

Partners will extend their commitment with a project introducing mobile "Help Points" near borders and municipalities, offering information, legal counselling, psychological support, employment guidance, and language resources to arriving refugees from Ukraine. Temporary accommodation, featuring small sleeping spaces, bathrooms, and kitchenettes, will be facilitated at these sites if required.

Additional activities focus on supporting aid centres and help points, providing warm meals, drinks, information, assistance in finding accommodation, and transportation. Partners will engage in communication and coordination, sharing information and resources. Donated items will continue to be collected and winter clothes distributed, free of charge. Social network coordination through a volunteer chat will streamline logistics, recruitment, and donations. Moreover, psychological support, team building, and training will empower volunteers for effective communication and navigating diverse situations.

Multipurpose cash assistance will also be provided to support access to basic needs.

Partnership and Coordination

In Latvia, the Government has established a coordination structure, referred to as 'Operative Management Centre', which organizes weekly meetings with the participation of ministries, municipalities, other central organs, 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, providing strategic guidance for the identification and implementation of relevant interventions and ensuring preparedness and contingency planning.

RRP partners that participate in the weekly Operative Management Centre meetings will capitalize on this coordination mechanism and utilize it strategically for the purpose of advancing specific RRP objectives while ensuring that information on progress of the response and emerging needs and priorities is shared among all RRP partners. Partners will also facilitate government and civil society interactions and exchanges as needed on specific topics such as PSEA, strengthen partner capacities in resource mobilization, and information management tools to strengthen visibility and donor engagement on behalf of RRP partners and RLOs.

PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA))

PSEA activities will include organizing awareness-raising campaigns tailored for refugees and employers. These campaigns will provide information about the risks of trafficking and exploitation, as well as strategies to protect refugees. Activities will aim to empower refugees with knowledge to make informed decisions, recognize potential dangers, and seek help if needed. These campaigns will contribute to reducing vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking.

Capacity-building activities for partners will be organized for first-line workers. These initiatives will provide training and skills enhancement to recognize, prevent, and respond to cases of PSEA. By equipping these professionals with knowledge and protocols, the activities will aim to create a safer environment for refugees and ensure their protection from such risks during their displacement. Workshops for refugees will be designed to provide them with knowledge about SEA, including understanding its nature, identifying associated risks, learning how to seek assistance, and becoming familiar with the referral process.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

Budget summary by type at country level

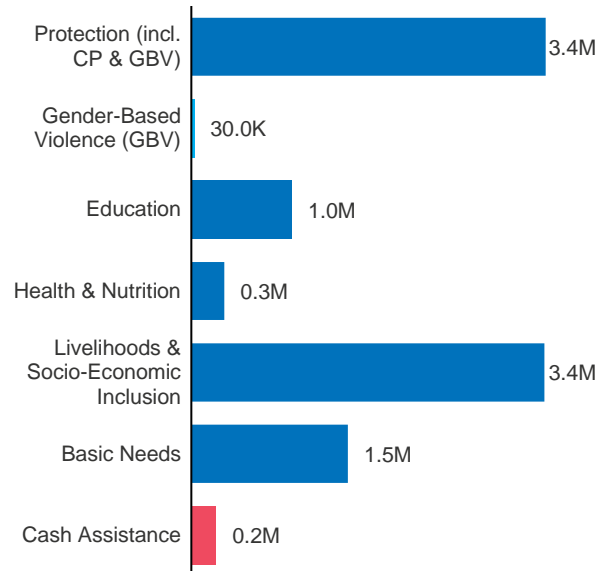
PARTNER	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD
UN agencies	5,825,280
International NGOs	359,089
Refugee-led Organizations*	294,089
National NGOs	3,498,264
Refugee-led Organizations*	2,396,000
Women-led Organizations*	705,000

TOTAL 9,682,633

* 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 level⁹¹








⁹¹ Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR’s CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is the modality of choice for forcibly displaced people and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection. Unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector.

Budget summary by partner at country level

Partner	Protection (excluding GBV)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
UN Agencies							
UN International Organization for Migration	90,000	-	52,000	280,000	-	705,000	1,127,000
UN World Health Organization	-	-	-	-	230,000	-	230,000
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	-	-	-	300,000	-	-	300,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	2,292,554	-	-	1,875,726	-	-	4,168,280
International NGOs							
Baltic Security Foundation	-	-	-	65,000	-	-	65,000
Foundation "Caritas Latvija"	-	-	-	225,579	-	68,510	294,089
National NGOs							
Association "TEV"	-	-	600,000	250,000	60,000	-	910,000
Association MARTA Centre	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	30,000
Center for Public Policy PROVIDUS	-	-	-	140,098	-	-	140,098
Common Ground	12,000	-	24,000	36,000	-	50,000	122,000
Creative ideas	-	-	300,000	200,000	-	-	500,000
Crisis and Counselling Centre "Skalbes"	5,000	-	-	-	30,000	-	35,000
Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem / Want to Help Refugees	-	-	-	53,000	-	-	53,000
Latvian Scout and Guide Central Organization	121,166	-	-	-	-	-	121,166
Shelter Safe House	180,000	-	-	-	-	-	180,000
Tavidraugi	674,000	-	-	-	-	510,000	1,184,000
Young Folks LV	36,000	-	-	-	-	187,000	223,000
Total	3,410,720	30,000	976,000	3,425,403	320,000	1,520,510	9,682,633

RRP Monitoring Framework

Sector		Indicator	Target
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	50,000
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services	17,000
	Gender-Based Violence	# of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	200
	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	# of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	20
	Education	# of children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries	400
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	1,350
	Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion interventions	30,000
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	30,000

COUNTRY CHAPTER

LITHUANIA



> At a Glance

Lithuania Planned Response (January-December 2024)



65 K

projected refugee population



\$15.5 M

total financial requirements in USD



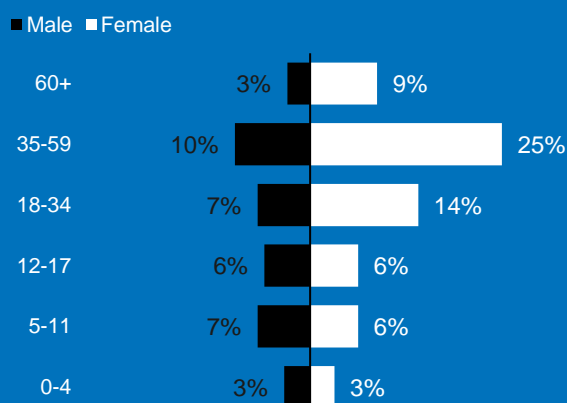
18

RRP partners

Population planning figures

	Estimated population as of end of 2023	Population planned for assistance in 2024
Refugee Population	52,305	65,000

Age and gender breakdown⁹²



2.4%

Persons with disabilities



64%

Women and girls



36%

Men and boys

⁹² Calculations are based on Government statistics complemented with 2023 MSNA data.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

By December 2023, over 52,000 refugees from Ukraine were recorded in Lithuania. The number of refugee arrivals from Ukraine has led to Lithuania's most substantial refugee response in its history. The collaborative efforts of the Government, civil society, and the host community focused on a comprehensive whole-of-society approach for the reception and protection of refugees from Ukraine.

Most refugees arrived in Lithuania through neighbouring EU Member States, namely Poland and Latvia. While over 60 per cent of refugees remained in Lithuania after registering for temporary protection, 40 per cent have either moved to secondary destinations or returned to Ukraine.⁹³

The Ministry of Social Security and Labour has coordinated the overall refugee response, with municipalities and civil society playing key support roles. The response has emphasized inclusion in the national Lithuanian education system, public services and the labour market.

Despite comprehensive assistance, a whole-of-society response and tailored support for immediate needs, some refugees continue to encounter challenges in achieving full self-sufficiency for themselves and their families. The RRP has been developed to complement the government-led response for refugees from Ukraine. In 2024, the response plan aims to address specific needs, focusing on protection, basic requirements and the well-being of vulnerable groups. Proposed interventions include cash assistance, food and non-food item provision, housing support, addressing gender-based violence (GBV), adapting healthcare systems, and building support, skills and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. The plan aims to respond to the ongoing challenges faced by refugees while leveraging international collaboration.

Country Risks and Needs

Most refugees from Ukraine are women (48 per cent), and a third are children (32 per cent). Women face heightened protection risks, such as GBV including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), trafficking, as well as labour exploitation. In addition, many women must care for children and other dependents on their own. These factors result in challenges including accessing employment, day care services and affordable housing. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive support for refugee women in accessing basic needs and facilitating entry into the labour market to ensure their self-sufficiency.

By December 2023, over 17,000 children were active beneficiaries of temporary protection, including almost 700 unaccompanied or separated children under care arrangements in Lithuania. Child-focused protection activities are imperative, including procedural frameworks, cash for basic needs, and awareness-raising on child protection.

⁹³ Source: Migration Department, Ministry of Interior - Lithuania

According to official figures on school enrolment, most school-age refugee children from Ukraine have been enrolled in school in Lithuania. Additional support for these children in formal education and extracurricular activities is essential for inclusion, trauma recovery, and a safe childhood experience.

Refugees with disabilities, older refugees, and their families face unique vulnerabilities leading to a heightened risk of poverty. The lack of vulnerability assessments at the registration stage hampers the identification and referral of these vulnerable refugees to tailored support and services. In 2024, concerns may persist regarding refugee access to secure and affordable housing, changes in the private host support programme and the need for temporary emergency accommodation.

While refugees generally have access to the public healthcare system, difficulties persist, especially for those not covered by mainstream health insurance. Advocacy, health system capacity-building, and awareness-raising activities are needed to address these challenges.

Efforts to address the mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) needs of refugees have been initiated. Further development and adaptation of service structures are required to ensure access and meet the diverse needs of the refugee community from Ukraine. This includes destigmatizing mental health, innovative community-based support, and recognizing the need to support frontline workers at risk of burnout.

The inclusion of newly arriving refugees in the mainstream social support system is a gradual process, often taking longer than a month. Delays between registration for temporary protection and the issuance of temporary residence permits impact access to certain programs. Civil society plays a crucial role in providing needs-based assistance, including counselling, cash-based support, and the provision of food and non-food items during the initial transition period.

Following the closure of registration centres over the course of 2023, refugees now must register at the Migration Department. Approximately 10-15 per cent of new arrivals face difficulties with timely registration due to information gaps, long queues, and language barriers. As a result, these refugees lack access to accommodation, healthcare services, food, and other benefits, necessitating civil society support.

Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

The RRP protection and solutions strategy for Lithuania aims to support the efforts of the national authorities in addressing the needs of refugees from Ukraine, with a focus on the most vulnerable. In line with the Government of Lithuania's commitments, reiterated at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum to promote the inclusion of refugees in the national system, partners will also continue to offer support to strengthen the refugee response targeting persons with specific needs.

RRP partners will strive to ensure a coherent and predictable protection response with the participation of refugees while strengthening national protection systems. Specific attention will be given to the protection needs of single women, female-headed households, children, older persons, people with serious medical conditions, and persons with disabilities. Efforts will be made to support frontline workers in identifying protection needs and providing services to vulnerable refugees and third-country nationals to mitigate protection risks, including risks linked to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights.



Key activities will include monitoring intentions, ensuring access to protection and rights, advocating with government and regional institutions, and facilitating communication with refugees and host communities, including legal support and assistance information. RRP partners will support reception capacity and monitor the situation of new arrivals to ensure their early access to rights and services on a non-discriminatory basis, as well as to enable early identification, referral, and assistance to persons with specific needs. Capacities in the identification and mitigation of GBV, trafficking and SEA risks will be supported. The strengthening of existing child protection mechanisms and services will ensure adequate response to the specific needs of refugee children and their families, in particular unaccompanied and separated children and children at risk.

SO2: Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance.



RRP partners will support the protection response of the Government and all relevant actors to identify and refer persons with specific needs among the refugee population and to provide the required specialized services, including MHPSS and needs-specific humanitarian assistance, that are age-, gender-, and diversity sensitive. Furthermore, partners will complement and enhance the identification and inclusion of refugees with disabilities in national services, including through the recognition of disability certificates issued in Ukraine, accessible accommodation, identifying and mitigating the barriers to services, availability of accessible information and communication, and further engagement and working with organizations of persons with disabilities.

SO3: Refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities is strengthened and their self-reliance increased.



A strong focus will be on the longer-term inclusion and enrolment in the national education system, providing language education, capacity-building, and mental health support. At the same time, partners will advocate for bringing refugee children and youth back into formal face-to-face education settings where they can benefit from long-term stability in education, social interaction with host communities, and in-school support. Refugee access to livelihood and economic opportunities, will include additional language training and support activities, matching of skills with appropriate jobs, re- and upskilling, including skills and qualifications recognition, providing information and counselling to refugees and liaising with the private sector. The provision of integration support is crucial in order to advance inclusion through, inter alia, social, cultural, artistic and recreational events and exchanges.

SO4: Social cohesion between refugee and host communities is reinforced.



By identifying innovative approaches and strengthening partnerships social cohesion between refugees and host community members will be enhanced. Support will be provided to refugee and host community youth to develop capacities and skills through sport and recreational activities. Leveraging the potential of refugees and refugee-led organizations to facilitate dialogue and information exchange between refugees, government authorities, and the broader population, will allow for more effective and targeted service delivery, ensuring that assistance is tailored to meet the specific needs of refugees. Development of inter-cultural capacity of teaching staff will support children's integration into the national school system.

Sectoral Responses

Cross-Cutting Priorities of the RRP

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)
- Disability Inclusion
- Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Government Ownership
- Maintaining Emergency Capacities

Read more in the Regional Overview p. 25

PROTECTION



Monitoring and advocacy efforts aim to swiftly address protection risks, engaging in continuous assessments of government social services available to refugees for comprehensive coverage. Partners will collaborate with authorities to bolster refugee access to government protection and assistance programmes. Monitoring surveys will evaluate refugees' needs, intentions, and inclusion perspectives, allowing for the fine tuning of services.

Partners will support government response for the most vulnerable refugees, emphasizing mental health and psychosocial needs. To complement the Government's response, cash disbursements will target at-risk individuals, including survivors of violence, households with children, and expectant mothers, facilitating dignified living conditions. Essential support and counselling for new arrivals will address immediate reception needs.

Partners will provide targeted, individualized support for refugees with identified vulnerabilities, encompassing individual counselling and referrals to specialized services. Counselling and advice extend to refugees applying for temporary protection and residence permits, offering legal assistance for complex cases.

The strategy adopts a community outreach approach to identify needs, vulnerabilities, and community-based protection opportunities. Regular community events organized by response actors aim to enhance community engagement and foster refugee-led initiatives, ensuring a comprehensive and responsive approach to diverse refugee needs and challenges.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



Partners will strive to establish prevention and response mechanisms, integrating referral pathways to GBV response services. The focus will be on raising awareness about GBV and creating safe spaces for refugees, particularly women and girls, to seek assistance confidentially. Efforts will extend to providing access to comprehensive legal, social, and psychological services, fostering an inclusive community of mutual support. Partners will also collaborate with authorities overseeing collective accommodation centres, ensuring availability of safe spaces, and equipping themselves to make survivor-centred referrals to specialized services in case of disclosed GBV incidents during non-specialized refugee support activities. Additionally, partners will identify and offer counselling services to victims and persons at risk of trafficking, enhancing the protective framework for vulnerable populations.

Sub-sector: Child Protection



Data obtained through the 2023 Multi-Sector Needs Assessment indicated that 80 per cent of refugee children from Ukraine are enrolled in school. Partner activities will therefore focus on extracurricular activities for children, as well as for their parents including activities such as art workshops, children's folklore dance groups and children's psychological support groups. Activities will aim to strengthen resilience and coping skills

for children in need of MHPSS, and parenting skills. Partners will provide support to government entities responsible for the care of unaccompanied and separated children, including those in institutional care, to ensure that these children's best interests are taken into account in all decisions that affect them.

EDUCATION



Official figures on school enrolment suggest that most school-age refugee children from Ukraine have been enrolled in school in Lithuania. To support the effective inclusion of refugees from Ukraine in the Lithuanian education system, partners will support refugee students in the further development of foundational skills essential for learning and academic performance in the national school system, such as knowledge of the language of instruction. To complement Lithuanian language learning at schools, supplementary classes will be offered at children's day centres, where other extracurricular activities will also be available to promote integration with the host community.

Partners will also continue to offer support to strengthen the capacity of schools to include refugee children. Public school teachers will receive training on intercultural learning methods for use with students fleeing Ukraine, which will foster a more inclusive and needs-responsive educational environment for refugee children.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



The 2023 MSNA revealed an employment rate of over 40 per cent for refugees from Ukraine. Planned activities will address inclusion and specifically aim to tackle participation and links with the host communities. Partners will support by building linkages between people in need of international protection and members of receiving communities by establishing mentoring and buddying schemes and by setting up platforms and approaches to ensure refugees' involvement in policy and design of medium- and long-term strategies for self-reliance through income security. Such initiatives will include job-seeker counselling and mentorship programmes, labour market-oriented training, including English language classes, internship schemes, as well as business advice and small business grants to enable entrepreneurial ventures among the refugee population.

Cultural and artistic communities will be mobilized for projects and events fostering direct exchanges and synergies with the refugee community. Partners will use the opportunities presented by such activities to expand efforts in public awareness-raising and communication campaigns aimed at acceptance, inclusion and empowerment. Partners will continue to monitor the Government's regular gathering of statistics on refugee access to employment and advocate for the systematic collection and analysis of comprehensive data on socio-economic inclusion of refugees. Partners will work with municipalities to strengthen the inclusion of refugees in local policy and planning processes.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



RRP partners will focus on strengthening access to national health services through technical support and health

communications. Partners will conduct refugees' health needs assessments and health system assessments to better respond to the needs of refugees including by providing capacity-building for frontline healthcare workers and other relevant professionals in providing health and MHPSS services for refugees. Support will be provided in mental health services and relevant capacity-building as well as interventions facilitated to promote immunization among refugees from Ukraine, including launching information campaigns on immunization.

Partners will continue to prioritize addressing existing administrative, financial and communication barriers to refugees accessing the full range of health services and medicines and facilitate participation in health screening programs. This will include specific support to enable a continuum of care by linking refugees to appropriate national health services with special focus on those in need of continuous healthcare support. Partners will implement activities to specifically support and strengthen the health of older persons through physical exercises and group psychological support activities aimed at improving one's emotional state in a new environment, as well as group counselling on loss, mourning, and resilience for refugees from Ukraine who experienced war and the loss of family members and friends.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

The multisectoral approach encompasses community-based activities like support groups for women and children, focused psychosocial support through basic counselling, and specialized mental health services. MHPSS approaches and capacity-building, including psychological first aid training, will be adapted for both refugees and practitioners.

Specific initiatives include a psychology service offering professional support in-person and via a hotline to address stress, trauma, and emotional well-being. Group counselling sessions focusing on loss, mourning, and resilience will be organized for conflict-affected refugees from Ukraine. Awareness campaigns promoting mental health counselling are planned.

A network will be established of health mediators to assist refugees with health concerns, offering psychological first aid, psychoeducation activities for both adults and children, and psychological counselling.

The comprehensive approach extends to conducting health needs assessments and capacity-building for frontline and healthcare workers. It also encompasses facilitating broader health screening programs.

BASIC NEEDS



Housing continues to be one of the most pressing needs of refugees arriving in Lithuania.

While many refugees secured rental apartments, 20 per cent are hosted by family, friends, or volunteers, and 14 per cent stay in collective accommodation facilities.⁹⁴ Housing solutions face challenges due to market volatility, high maintenance costs, and private owners' reluctance.

In 2024 partners will focus on housing-related services, including humanitarian aid for new arrivals, vulnerability assessments, psycho-social support, and protection services in municipal collective accommodation sites. Cash assistance for housing will be a priority, acting as a stopgap measure during periods of full occupancy and providing protection for vulnerable individuals. Multipurpose cash assistance will also be provided to support access to basic needs.

To meet the basic needs of refugees, including food security, soup kitchens and food banks will continue to operate, with a particular emphasis on rural areas. A coordinated strategy for refugee advice and guidance services will be implemented, using mentorship programmes to offer comprehensive support.

Partners will continue to provide humanitarian aid efforts in 37 locations, including packages, hygiene kits, clothing, assistance in securing household items, and support for education items.

Additional initiatives will include rental assistance programs and cash-based interventions to address multi-sectoral needs, targeted at the most vulnerable individuals, including refugee families with children and pregnant women.

PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)

PSEA activities will include organizing awareness-raising campaigns tailored for refugees and employers. These campaigns will provide information about the risks of trafficking and exploitation, as well as strategies to protect refugees. Activities will aim to empower refugees with knowledge to make informed decisions, recognize potential dangers, and seek help if needed. These campaigns will contribute to reducing vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking.

Capacity-building activities for partners will be organised for first-line. These initiatives will provide training and skills enhancement to recognize, prevent, and respond to cases of PSEA. By equipping these professionals with knowledge and protocols, the activities will aim to create a safer environment for refugees and ensure their protection from such risks during their displacement. PSEA workshops for refugees will be designed to provide them with knowledge about SEA, including understanding its nature, identifying associated risks, learning how to seek assistance, and becoming familiar with the referral process.

⁹⁴ Source: Migration Department, Ministry of Interior - Lithuania.

Partnership and Coordination

In Lithuania, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour (MSSL) has the lead role in the coordination of government response, including refugee-inclusive policy implementation. Among other activities, the Ministry hosts interagency meetings, where a spectrum of government and civil society actors update each other on the latest developments in the response and informally discuss any needed specific actions. The MSSL is also the key government interlocutor for civil society response actors more generally.

Given this coordination forum, RRP partners that form part of the government-led inter-agency meetings will capitalize on the coordination mechanism in place and utilize it strategically for the purpose of advancing specific RRP objectives. In accordance with the Refugee Coordination Model, UNHCR will also facilitate government and civil society interactions and exchanges as needed on specific topics such as PSEA to strengthen partner capacities in resource mobilization as well as using information management tools to strengthen visibility and donor engagement on behalf of RRP partners and refugee-led organizations.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

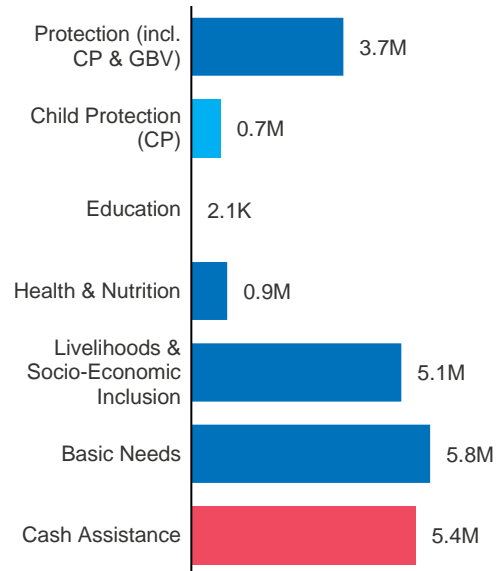
Budget summary by type at country level

PARTNER	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD
UN agencies	7,198,280
IFRC & RC	5,086,793
International NGOs	1,718,686
Faith-based Organizations*	760,554
National NGOs	1,446,846
Refugee-led Organizations*	919,720
Faith-based Organizations*	40,331
Women-led Organizations*	231,795
TOTAL	15,450,605

* 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 level⁹⁵







⁹⁵ Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR’s CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is the modality of choice for forcibly displaced people and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection. Unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector.

Budget summary by partner at country level

Partner	Protection (excluding CP)	Child Protection (CP)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
UN Agencies							
UN International Organization for Migration	285,000	-	-	1,020,000	225,000	1,000,000	2,530,000
UN World Health Organization	-	-	-	-	200,000	-	200,000
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	-	-	-	300,000	-	-	300,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	2,292,554	-	-	1,875,726	-	-	4,168,280
IFRC and Red Cross							
Lithuanian Red Cross	136,791	-	-	811,998	416,000	3,722,004	5,086,793
International NGOs							
Caritas Lithuania	-	-	-	441,554	-	319,000	760,554
Save the Children	81,281	622,451	-	-	-	254,400	958,132
National NGOs							
Artscape	-	55,200	-	70,000	-	-	125,200
Diversity Development Group	15,800	-	-	-	-	-	15,800
Food Bank	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	500,000
Frida	90,795	-	-	-	-	-	90,795
House of National Minorities	-	-	-	60,000	-	-	60,000
Lietuvos Skautija	75,000	-	-	-	-	-	75,000
Lithuania Diversity charter	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
Lithuanian Trade Union	-	-	-	150,000	-	-	150,000
Malva (Siauliai)	-	31,400	-	99,010	29,310	-	159,720
Order of Malta Relief Organization	-	-	2,106	38,225	-	-	40,331
Refugee Council of Lithuania	-	-	-	200,000	-	-	200,000
Total	2,977,221	709,051	2,106	5,096,513	870,310	5,795,404	15,450,605

RRP Monitoring Framework

Sector	Indicator	Target
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services
	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	# of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response
	MHPSS	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities
	Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion interventions
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs

COUNTRY CHAPTER

THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



> At a Glance

Moldova Planned Response (January-December 2024)



90K

projected refugee population



55,000

projected assisted host-community members



\$303M

total financial requirements in USD



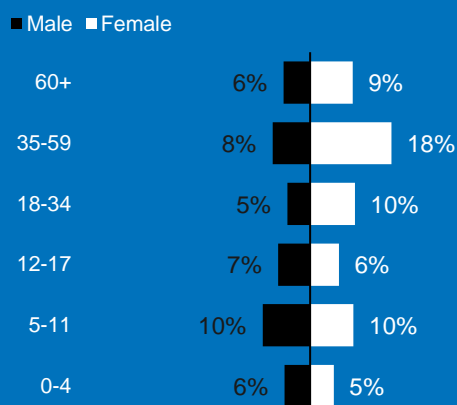
82

RRP partners

Population planning figures

	Estimated population as of end of 2023	Population planned for assistance in 2024
Refugee Population	115 862	90,000

Age and gender breakdown⁹⁶



6%

Persons with disabilities



58%

Women and girls



42%

Men and boys

⁹⁶ Calculations are based on UNHCR's assistance enrolment database (proGres).

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

After nearly two years since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, 997,092 people have arrived in the Republic of Moldova from Ukraine. As of end December 2023 approximately 115,000 refugees from Ukraine remained in the country, accounting for around 4 per cent of the total population.

Refugees are largely women and children, making up 81 per cent of the refugee population (37 per cent women, 21 per cent girls, and 23 per cent boys). As of end December, a total of 35,950 people have applied for temporary protection (TP), of whom 27,715 have received the status, including 8,326 children. In addition to TP holders, over 8,000 refugees from Ukraine have regularized their stay in the Republic of Moldova either through the asylum system or by obtaining residence permits for work, education or due to family ties.

Despite the compounding crises affecting the country, the Republic of Moldova has granted access to a wide range of services and rights to refugees from Ukraine, including the right to work, access to education, and emergency and primary healthcare, as well as some level of access to social protection.

In line with the Global Compact for Refugees, the Republic of Moldova's response has been characterized by a whole-of-society approach, supported by strong international solidarity, as evidenced by the commitments made by the Government of the Republic of Moldova at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, in the areas of socio-economic inclusion, social protection and child rights, inclusion in national statistical systems, protection from gender-based violence, education, documentation and statelessness. Sustaining this integrated effort is crucial to ensure the sustainable transition of the response towards further inclusion of refugees, and to support the Republic of Moldova as it undergoes important reforms aiming to alleviate poverty and advancing socio-economic development, while maintaining emergency preparedness and response capacity. This approach will ensure that no one is left behind.

Country Risks and Needs

As of December 2023, approximately 115,000 refugees from Ukraine remained in the Republic of Moldova. Of these, 58 per cent are women and girls. The average household size is 2.4 members, with single-headed households making up to 46 per cent of all households, 70 per cent of those being single female-headed households. Additionally, 58 per cent of households have children, and 17 per cent of refugees are aged 60 or older. An estimated 19 per cent of refugees possess one or more specific need that may heighten their vulnerability. This includes persons with disabilities, who constitute 6 per cent of the total refugee population in the Republic of Moldova.⁹⁷

⁹⁷ [UNHCR Regional Protection Profiling & Monitoring](#).

In 2023, 1,067 unaccompanied and separated children were identified and referred to the Guardianship Authority.

The Government of the Republic of Moldova activated the Temporary Protection regime in March 2023, granting refugees a more predictable and stable legal status. The Government has also implemented new policies to help refugees integrate into society, such as improved guidance for school enrolment and expanded healthcare access for all refugee children, regardless of their legal status. Additionally, the country has reformed its Citizenship Law to align with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.⁹⁸

However, challenges remain for refugees in the Republic of Moldova. Women, especially single mothers,⁹⁹ Roma,¹⁰⁰ persons with disabilities, and older refugees are particularly likely to face challenges in accessing the labour market and attaining self-sufficiency.¹⁰¹ Barriers include discrimination, limited availability of childcare services, language barriers, and low enrolment rates of refugee children in Moldovan schools. Refugees also face legal barriers preventing them from starting their own businesses. The situation in the Transnistrian region is further aggravated by the overall socio-economic situation, as well as the obstacles refugees face in accessing assistance and the challenges associated with enrolling in temporary protection, particularly for unaccompanied and separated children and people with limited mobility.

Despite the government's commitment to promoting the inclusion of refugee children in the national education system, enrolment rates remain low, with approximately 2,300 children currently enrolled (4 per cent of school age refugee population). Barriers include caregivers' preference for online education, language barriers, lack of knowledge among caregivers on how to enrol their children, differences in the curriculum between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, expectations of returning home and limited methodological support for teachers to foster inclusion. However, as the war continues and the situation becomes protracted, enrolment rates are likely to increase.¹⁰²

Limited access to healthcare has posed challenges to refugees, while disproportionately affecting older persons and LGBTIQ+ people, as well as refugees with disabilities with medical needs. According to the 2023 Multi-Sector Needs Analysis (MSNA), 21 per cent of households reported health issues requiring health services, but 9 per cent of those requiring a service had difficulty accessing healthcare. The main barriers include long waiting times, the restrictive legal framework that limits access to medical services for TP holders, lack of knowledge on available services,

⁹⁸ In March 2023, the country reformed its Citizenship Law ensuring that any children born in Moldova who would otherwise be stateless will be granted Moldovan nationality.

⁹⁹ To learn more about the needs and challenges of refugee women when accessing the labour market, please refer to the [Gender Brief](#) developed by UN Women on livelihoods and access to work of refugees from Ukraine in neighbouring host countries.

¹⁰⁰ To learn more about the presence and needs of refugees and host community members from the Roma ethnicity, please refer to [ACTED's Roma Community Needs Assessment in Moldova](#) and the [Roma Taskforce's Mapping of Roma Refugees in Moldova](#).

¹⁰¹ According to the MSNA, the majority of refugees in Moldova rely on unsustainable sources of income (79% of HHs). Only 2.3% of households surveyed reported no income, but more than two-thirds of households (77%) employed negative coping strategies. The prevalent coping mechanism is the use of savings for daily necessities (68.2%). Other measures include cutting back on healthcare and education (6.9% and 2.0%, respectively), pulling children out of school (0.1%), selling property (2.6%), or migrating (3.5%). A marginal 0.6% resort to demeaning or illegal work.

¹⁰² To learn more about specific challenges related to the inclusion of refugee children in the national school system in Moldova, please refer to the [Education Assessment](#) conducted by REACH, UNICEF and UNHCR.

unavailable treatments, and high fees. The accumulation of these many stressors can have a profound impact on mental health and psychosocial well-being, and refugees must grapple with these challenges while separated from their loved ones, and without access to traditional support systems and usual coping mechanisms. The MSNA also found that 12 per cent of household members aged 18 or older reported feeling so upset, anxious, worried, agitated, angry, or depressed that it affected their daily functioning, underscoring the ongoing need for effective, culturally appropriate, and age, gender and diversity-sensitive MHPSS interventions.

Access to social assistance programmes for refugees is restricted by the legal framework. Those Ukrainians who applied for and were granted refugee status through the national asylum system have more rights than TP holders, including access to social assistance programs and healthcare. According to UNHCR's Rapid Socio-Economic Profiling,¹⁰³ approximately 15 per cent of refugees are classified as extremely vulnerable due to multiple specific needs within their households.¹⁰⁴ These refugees could benefit from increased inclusion into social assistance programs, which also require further strengthening.

Refugees from Ukraine in the Republic of Moldova reside in a variety of housing arrangements, including accredited Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs), private accommodations, and unaccredited RACs. Private rented accommodation is the preferred option for refugee families.¹⁰⁵ As refugees' transition from collective centres to private housing continues, sustainable support and secure rental agreements are crucial, as well as gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation measures in shelter programmes. This is especially important for refugees who may face increased challenges to access safe and sustainable long-term housing solutions, such as single female headed households, Roma refugees, persons with disabilities, and older persons.¹⁰⁶

While refugees have been welcomed and supported in the Republic of Moldova, there has been a growing perception of social tensions. These tensions have not yet led to a significant change in the overall welcoming environment, but promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence through targeted initiatives remains a priority.

¹⁰³ To learn more about the Rapid Socio-Economic Profiling of Refugees in Moldova, please refer to the guidance [on Basic Needs, Socio-Economic Vulnerability and Multipurpose Cash Assistance in the context of the Moldova RRP](#).

¹⁰⁴ The study found that household demographics (such as families with four or more members), heating sources, accommodation types, residential areas (urban vs rural), and specific needs associated with specific profiles (such as older people, people with disabilities) have a significant correlation with the level of socio-economic vulnerability among the refugee population. For more information, please see [UNHCR briefing on Basic Needs, Socio-Economic Vulnerability and Multipurpose Cash Assistance](#).

¹⁰⁵ According to the MSNA, 6.7% of refugees reside in accredited RACs, 83.1% in private accommodation, 9.1% in shared accommodations, 0.6% in hotels or hostels, and 0.5% in unaccredited RACs. Private rented accommodation is the preferred option for refugee families. While 44.6% of MSNA respondents affirmed covering the full payment of private accommodation arrangement costs, 27.5% affirmed not covering those costs as they are hosted by local persons/families (unrelated) or similar.

¹⁰⁶ To learn more about refugees access to rental markets in Moldova, including challenges and risks, please see the [Moldova Rental Market Assessment](#) elaborated by the Place Consortium (REACH, ACTED, NRC and PiN).

HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT PEACE NEXUS IN THE 2024 REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

The 2024 RRP supports the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) Nexus in the Republic of Moldova which focuses on the sustainable inclusion of refugees into national systems, development programming, strengthened social cohesion, evidence-based programming and localization of interventions.

The RRP is closely aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for the Republic of Moldova. The objectives and indicators under both frameworks were designed to reinforce each other to deliver positive development outcomes and social cohesion. RRP activities, especially for housing, education, health, social cohesion, and employment, support the UNSDCF's longer-term development and peace activities. The UN Country Team partners' development-focused and refugee-related programmes are designed in a collaborative manner. Humanitarian and development agencies work together to integrate refugees into their work. Concrete examples are UNHCR-UNDP collaboration with the Joint Data Centre, and UNHCR's role in helping to advise World Bank programming under its Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF).

At the same time, to sustain peace, support continues to be provided to host communities and vulnerable Moldovans to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable people present in the Republic of Moldova are addressed and risks of social tensions reduced.

Government institutions are being strengthened and supported through this work. RRP actors are working closely with the Republic to ensure the inclusion of refugees into the various reform processes underway, especially the 'RESTART' social protection reform, which also includes the reform of the National Employment Agency. Local civil society organizations are valuable partners supporting the reforms and supply social services where required.

Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

SO1: Refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights.



Through technical and material support, RRP sectors and partners will continue to support the Government of Moldova, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in granting temporary protection for refugees from Ukraine, and in strengthening the national asylum and statelessness systems. A particular area of focus in 2024 will be to work with the Government to establish the legal and operational basis for a post-TP regime, expected in March 2025, contingent upon the extension of TP in 2024. RRP partners will actively advocate for TP extension to ensure its continuation beyond February 2024.

Refugees will receive assistance to access legal status, rights, and services, and their access to the territory and reception conditions will be monitored to ensure compliance with international and regional standards. RRP partners will continue to advocate with the Government at all levels to ensure that refugees and service providers are aware of their rights and that meaningful access is provided, including with regards to health and social assistance.

SO2: Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance.



RRP sectors and partners will continue to work with the Government of Moldova, civil society, refugees, and host communities to develop and strengthen protection networks, including in rural areas, to promote prompt and safe identification and referral of refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities to targeted assistance and support. RRP sector and partners will promote participatory approaches for programme design, implementation, and monitoring. They will also provide refugees and affected host communities with bi-directional communication channels, including inclusive, accessible, safe and confidential complaint and feedback mechanisms, to ensure the response is tailored to their specific needs, and does no harm. Partners will advocate for the integration of refugees with specific needs into the ongoing social assistance reform (Restart).¹⁰⁷ They will work closely with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and social assistance agencies across the country to promote the inclusion of refugees in national programmes and contribute to system strengthening.

¹⁰⁷ RESTART is a comprehensive reform of the social assistance system in Moldova, launched in 2023 by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. The reform aims to improve the quality and accessibility of social services for vulnerable populations.

SO3: Refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities is strengthened and their self-reliance increased.



RRP partners will work to reduce the socio-economic vulnerabilities of both refugees and affected host communities, while strengthening national systems and services, and promoting linkages between the refugee response and the Republic of Moldova's development plans. Concretely, partners will engage with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, as well as Local Public Authorities to advocate for and support the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, while providing technical and material support for refugees to be included in the national systems and services, including health, education and social protection. Partners will also work with the public and private sector to facilitate better access to decent jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities, including through tackling existing barriers such as limited availability of care services for children, older persons and persons with disabilities, and limited knowledge of local language.

SO4: The social cohesion between refugee and host communities is reinforced.



RRP partners will continue to work with the Government of Moldova, civil society, refugees, and host communities to promote social cohesion through a community-driven development approach. They will support the implementation of localized, participatory, gender and diversity-sensitive, and evidence-based initiatives and projects that address the shared priorities of refugees and host communities, while promoting refugee-host interactions and intercultural dialogue. Activities may include community infrastructure improvements, cultural and sports projects, and peaceful coexistence initiatives. When pursuing social cohesion, RRP partners will work in close collaboration with the national education system, local civil society, and local public authorities, while supporting the sharing of good practices in the context of Local Refugee Coordination Forums. Additionally, they will support the government to develop and implement policies and programmes that promote the inclusion of refugees and enhance national systems, benefitting both refugees and the communities hosting them.

Sectoral Responses

Cross-Cutting Priorities of the RRP

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)
- Disability Inclusion
- Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Government Ownership
- Maintaining Emergency Capacities

Read more in the Regional Overview p. 25

PROTECTION



The Protection sector remains committed to supporting the Government of Moldova in delivering comprehensive protection measures to those seeking safety from harm and persecution. Particular focus will be paid to addressing the needs of individuals with specific vulnerabilities, including ethnic Roma, persons with disabilities, older persons, vulnerable women, survivors of GBV, victims of trafficking, and LGBTIQ+ people.

Access to the territory and to legal status will remain a priority in 2024. RRP partners will conduct border monitoring activities, advising authorities of cases of concern and protection trends and counselling arrivals on relevant laws and procedures. All those eligible will be supported in applying for TP, accompanied by advocacy efforts to extend and strengthen TP when up for renewal. Legal counselling and support will also be provided to those seeking asylum or stateless status.

Partners will seek to ensure that refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless persons have access to those rights to which they are entitled, including in the areas of health, employment, and education. Through ongoing monitoring and outreach, partners will look to ensure that both refugees and service providers are aware of these rights and how to access them. Partners will also support the authorities at the central and local levels in strengthening government capacity to absorb refugees into available programmes.

Working closely with local authorities, RRP partners will also support community-based initiatives that benefit both refugees and Moldovan citizens. These initiatives include infrastructure projects, community activities, or provision of services that promote social cohesion at the local level. Community development projects will seek to empower refugees and allow them to meaningfully participate in activities and decisions that affect them.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence



The 2024 RRP GBV response priorities are aligned with the Government's National Program for Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence and the National Plan on Promoting and Ensuring Equality Between Women and Men for 2023-2027. GBV partners will continue providing gender and diversity-sensitive multi-sectoral response services, including case management, MHPSS, legal and material and financial assistance, and referral to specialized and non-specialized services for survivors and people at risk of GBV including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

Integrating GBV including SEA and anti-trafficking cross-sectoral risk mitigation measures remains a life-saving priority. Risk mitigation interventions will be informed by the findings of the 2023 GBV safety audit, in consultation with the other sectors, including the PSEA Network and the Anti-Trafficking Task Force.

Preventing GBV by addressing its root causes will be scaled up through community-based and policy-level initiatives.

There is a pressing need to continue sharing information on and linking groups at risk of GBV to available GBV services and rights, as the closure of RACs and declining level of assistance for refugees are expected to heighten the risks of GBV, including intimate partner violence, economic violence, sexual exploitation, the sale and exchange of sex, as well as risks of human trafficking.

Disproportionately affected groups, such as single women, female-headed households, people with disabilities, older refugees, child survivors of GBV, Roma women and girls, and LGBTQI+ people from both refugee and host communities, will be prioritized.

The GBV Sub-Sector will continue to focus on localizing the GBV response and conducting targeted capacity-strengthening initiatives.

ADDRESSING THE RISKS OF SEA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Republic of Moldova is committed to ensuring that all individuals, including those with disabilities, are protected from exploitation and abuse. To achieve this, the PSEA Network and the Disability Taskforce have collaborated on several initiatives, including incorporating disability-specific tools into the Joint SEA Risk Assessment, conducting consultations with persons with disabilities, and integrating the Washington Group Questions into sectoral surveys. Building on the findings of the Joint SEA Risk Assessment, partners will collaborate in 2024 to ensure that PSEA information is readily available in accessible formats, while simultaneously working with partners to enhance the accessibility and inclusiveness of complaint and feedback mechanisms.

Sub-sector: Child Protection



The 2024 RRP Child Protection response will prioritize support for the Government of Moldova to continue its established good practice of fully including refugee children in national child protection systems, reiterated in its Child Protection pledge at the Global Refugee Forum. Capacity-building training for both specialized and non-specialized actors will be conducted to strengthen their ability to respond to the needs of refugee children in all their diversity.

At the Global Refugee Forum 2023, Moldova pledged to provide and expand services and protection to an estimated 20,000 vulnerable refugee and displaced children, as well as 100,000 host community children, including training of 10,000 government employees. The government also pledged to hire one hundred additional social service workers (including refugees), strengthen systematically alternative care for unaccompanied refugee children in ten refugee-hosting communities, expand public childcare services and alternative childcare services for children under three years old, and reinforce cooperation mechanisms for the identification, assistance and monitoring of children in situations of risk coming from Ukraine.

Child protection partners will complement the government's child protection services by prioritizing the identification and referral of children at risk or victims of violence, the provision of child-friendly services, including social cohesion and MHPSS activities, and the prevention of violence against children. A particular focus will be placed on service provision to children with disabilities and from ethnic minorities, particularly Roma children.

Partners will ensure that unaccompanied and separated children are referred to the Guardianship Authority and assisted. Strengthening family-based alternative care arrangements is also a key priority.

Relevant actors will also conduct inclusive awareness-raising activities on violence against children, including GBV, emphasizing the different risks that boys and girls might face. Support will also be provided to caregivers to strengthen their protective functions.

Finally, child-friendly reporting and feedback mechanisms, including on SEA, as well as consultations with children, will be conducted to facilitate children's participation in programme planning and ensure that activities are adapted to their needs.

EDUCATION



The inclusion of all pre- and school-age refugee children, including children with disabilities and Roma children, in the Moldovan education system remains a priority in 2024. While the Ministry of Education and Research (MER) has issued a revised instruction removing many access barriers to enrolment, enrolment rates of Ukrainian children in Moldovan schools remain low.¹⁰⁸

In 2024, sector partners will continue to focus on supporting all refugee children and adolescents to learn in a school-based setting by helping them to enrol officially in schools. Other activities will focus on strengthening and expanding the capacities of education facilities enrolling refugee children, both in terms of human resources and accessible infrastructure, by hiring additional school staff, strengthening the capacity of educational staff on topics such as inclusive education and MHPSS, and supporting the provision of services such as meals and safe and accessible transportation. Additional non-formal education activities, such as continued remote learning of curriculum from Ukraine, can be facilitated if the workload for students remains manageable, and if any learning taking place is rewarded by appropriate grades and/or certificates.

Sector partners will continue to support the MER in the provision of non-formal education activities, including catch-up and Romanian classes for children and adolescents, as well as skills training. Partners will also continue to support social cohesion activities, summer camps, and MHPSS services for children, caregivers, and teachers. Finally, the inclusion of refugees in higher education institutions will be promoted through partnerships with academia within the global framework of the Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network (GAIN).

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



Partners will continue to deploy an integrated approach to socio-economic inclusion, aligned with the principles of the HDP Nexus, to reduce the socio-economic vulnerabilities of both refugees and the local population, while strengthening national systems and services, and promote further investment in the Republic of Moldova's development.

Interventions that facilitate access to decent jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities will be scaled up through vocational and skills training, comprehensive employment and business support, and increased awareness of protection from labour exploitation, abuse, and all forms of discrimination. Partners will work to reduce barriers to socio-economic inclusion by enhancing knowledge of the Romanian language and facilitating women's access to childcare services. MHPSS will also be integrated into activities to help refugees strengthen resilience and coping skills, which can enhance their ability to seek and retain employment.

¹⁰⁸ Approximately 2,300 children currently enrolled (4 per cent of school age refugee population). Source: Government of the Republic of Moldova.

Partners will continue to engage the private sector to offer more decent jobs that match the qualifications and needs of refugees and local vulnerable people, based on identified skill and labour profiles, and to increase awareness about refugee employment and the needs of people with disabilities. Opportunities and mechanisms for business development and self-employment will also be established.

Social cohesion will be reinforced through interventions that promote empowerment, social inclusion and participation, and institutional trust. In this regard, partners will work with all levels of authorities and relevant non-governmental partners, including women- and refugee-led organizations, to strengthen their capabilities to provide quality national and local-level services to both refugees and the local population. Initiatives that facilitate improved dialogue and that strengthen relations as well as the acceptance of refugee inclusion will also be conducted.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



The Health and Nutrition sector remains committed to delivering essential humanitarian assistance to vulnerable refugees and the host population, while also actively contributing to the development of the national health and mental health system.

Building on the work implemented in 2023, the sector will address and support the reduction of financial and administrative barriers for refugees in accessing health services through continuous engagement with the national health insurance company and healthcare providers. Together with partners, it will also facilitate access to quality, timely, gender-sensitive and non-discriminatory essential healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive health, and MHPSS (preventive and curative), essential medical products, vaccines, and medical technologies, and support and strengthen the health workforce to provide healthcare to refugees and vulnerable host populations.

Partners will contribute to the prevention and response to existing and emerging public health threats among refugees and vulnerable host populations. Additionally, the sector will provide support to streamline the health sector leadership and governance mechanisms and reinforce emergency health information systems to ensure an evidence-based response, grounded around the humanitarian-development nexus principle.

These strategic priorities are aligned with government commitment and plans and will be closely coordinated with the Ministry of Health and other central and local public health authorities. Ongoing monitoring and assessments will enable the timely adjustment of responses to ensure that the unique needs of different demographic groups are met. These groups include persons with disabilities, those with chronic illnesses, including HIV, pregnant and lactating women, older persons, unaccompanied children, Roma and LGBTIQ+ people and individuals from rural areas.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS) AND GENDER EQUALITY

During times of crisis, women and children are often perceived as more vulnerable and in greater need of MHPSS. However, men are also adversely affected by separation, violence, and displacement. A number of Gender Task Force (GTF) studies in 2023 revealed that a lack of male MHPSS professionals alongside the societal stigma and traditional masculinity led to the inadvertent marginalization of men and boys from MHPSS services in the Republic of Moldova, with an increased risk of alcoholism for coping. To bridge this disparity, the MHPSS Technical Reference Group and GTF recommend MHPSS providers to enhance capacity-building and recruitment strategies to bolster male representation in the MHPSS workforce and to raise awareness on MHPSS stigma and substance abuse.

BASIC NEEDS



In 2024, the Basic Needs Sector will continue to work with the Government of Moldova, including the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, to ensure that refugees and vulnerable affected host community members can meet their basic needs and achieve longer-term well-being.

Given the ongoing arrival of refugees from Ukraine to the Republic of Moldova who exhibit increased vulnerabilities, partners will maintain safe and accessible humanitarian transportation services from borders to various areas. WASH partners will continue to ensure safe access to water, sanitation, and hygiene services at borders, reception centres, and RACs.

RACs and Temporary Accommodation Centres (TACs) will continue to receive support from partners, with efforts focused on improving management, living conditions, and hygiene standards through repairs, rehabilitation, and regular maintenance. Partners will work with site administrators and the government to ensure regular cleaning, replenishment of consumable items, hygiene promotion, and the provision of nutritious food to residents through hot meals, snacks, or market vouchers for on-site cooking in line with the specific gender, age and diversity needs.

In collaboration with the MLSP, partners will continue to implement the RACs' consolidation strategy and support refugees to transition to sustainable safe housing solutions.¹⁰⁹ To ensure an evidence-based response to refugee accommodation needs, the Basic Needs sector will conduct assessments to identify suitable solutions that cater to the specific challenges faced by different

¹⁰⁹ The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, in collaboration with Refugee Coordination Forum partners, has developed the RAC Consolidation Strategy. Its goal is to promote the inclusion of refugees into Moldovan society and enhance self-resilience by facilitating the relocation of refugees from RACs to sustainable safe housing solutions.

population groups, such as single female households, older and Roma refugees, and refugees with disabilities.

Activities will focus on improving the living conditions of refugees in private accommodation, continuing the rental assistance programme, addressing housing discrimination, and promoting the security, dignity, privacy, and inclusion of refugees in host communities.

To this end, partners remain committed to a community-based protection approach to foster social cohesion and inclusion. This will be achieved through joint community-based participatory planning and decision-making to prioritize community and public infrastructure for renovations and improvement, facilitate better access to services for refugees and vulnerable affected host community members, and support the creation of community-inclusive spaces.

The sector will continue to work closely with the GBV Sub-working group and the PSEA Network to promote GBV and PSEA integration across its programmes. In this regard, WASH partners will collaborate with the GBV Sub-working group to disseminate information about menstrual hygiene management, as well as hygiene management products to adolescents who have reached menarche, as a GBV risk mitigation measure. They will also collaborate with the Education sector to support schools hosting refugees with solid waste and sludge management systems and other WASH needs.

To facilitate the recognition and referral of refugees who may be experiencing significant distress while also ensuring services are delivered in a dignified manner, MHPSS will be integrated across all Basic Needs activities.

The Cash Working Group members will continue the provision of multipurpose cash assistance to people in needs and provide technical support for the timely delivery of sectorial cash assistance by promoting complementarity, reducing duplication, and maximizing effectiveness. The Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) will continue to be rolled out.

Collaboration with other sectors and Cross-Sector Task Forces will be prioritized to promote centrality of protection, including an age, gender, and diversity approach, and clear linkages with development outcomes. Capacity-building and support for strengthening governmental institutions will remain central to partner activities.

INCLUDING DIVERSITY IN COMMUNICATION WITH COMMUNITIES ACTIVITIES

RRP partners in the Republic of Moldova are consistently working to ensure diversity is considered in their communication efforts with affected communities. Specifically, the Roma Taskforce and the AAP Taskforce collaborated to ensure access to information to the Roma communities in their native language by translating into Romani temporary protection information materials, emphasizing the importance of obtaining a legal status, application procedures, and associated rights. The project was actively supported by a Roma community mediator who supported the translation, and the final product was shared with the Roma refugee community, ensuring its accessibility and relevance to the target audience.

Partnership and Coordination

From the onset of the refugee arrivals in the Republic of Moldova, the Government of Moldova and UNHCR established an inter-agency Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) under the overall framework of the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM).

In addition to the National RCF, Local Refugee Coordination Forums (LRCFs) were strengthened or established in key locations hosting refugees, co-chaired by UNHCR and Local Public Authorities (LPAs). The LRCFs adopted an area-based approach to coordination, while promoting the participation of local civil society organizations (CSOs) and engagement of LPAs in the refugee response.¹¹⁰

Throughout 2023, the RCF and its partners worked closely with the inter-ministerial Government Commission on Migration and Asylum, led by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and with the Prime Minister Office to ensure clear linkages between the RRP and the government-led response, upholding the principle of government ownership. This collaboration resulted in the development of the current RRP in close coordination with the Government, who actively participated in sector consultations and provided their main needs and priorities, which RRP sectors and partners will support in 2024.

In 2024, Government at all levels, along with national and local CSOs, will continue to assume increasing ownership of the response, in line with the principle of country ownership enshrined in the Global Compact for Refugees. The transition from humanitarian response towards sustainable government services is essential for ensuring the long-term well-being of refugees from Ukraine in the Republic of Moldova. However, it can only be achieved with international solidarity to support Moldova's efforts to integrate refugees into national systems and services.

In this regard, the RRP will emphasize engagement with LPAs, CSOs – including Women-led Organizations and Refugee-led Organizations, the INGO Forum, academia and the private sector to promote their active participation in protecting and finding solutions for refugees, while supporting key line ministries as they work to further promote the socio-economic inclusion of refugees from Ukraine in the Republic of Moldova.

¹¹⁰ To learn more about the engagement of national and local CSOs in the Refugee Response in Moldova, please refer to the [Mapping of Local CSOs](#) conducted by UN Women and UNHCR. Five of the RCF Working Groups and Task Forces are co-chaired by local CSOs or networks of CSOs: Gender Taskforce (Gender Platform), the AAP Taskforce (NCUM), the Disability Taskforce (Keystone Moldova), the Roma Taskforce (Tarna Rome) and the MHPSS Technical Reference Group (MENSANA).

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

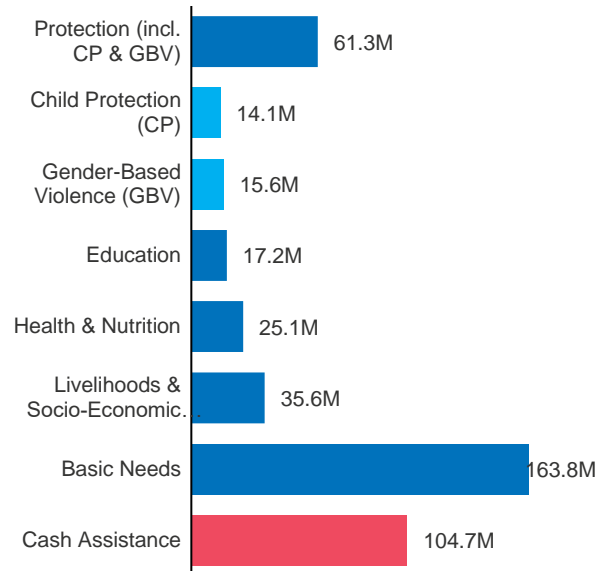
Budget summary by type at country level

PARTNER	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD
UN agencies	215,531,781
IFRC & RC	12,462,000
International NGOs	52,809,079
Faith-based Organizations*	8,778,134
National NGOs	22,253,022
Refugee-led Organizations*	2,360,111
Faith-based Organizations*	2,990,205
Women-led Organizations*	6,749,549
TOTAL	303,055,882

* 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 level¹¹¹



¹¹¹ Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR’s CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is the modality of choice for forcibly displaced people and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection. Unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector.

Budget summary by partner at country level






Partner	(Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
UN Agencies								
UN International Organization for Migration	5,707,500	-	922,500	-	6,855,000	4,725,000	12,224,820	30,434,820
UN Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	1,860,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,860,000
UN Women	1,802,569	-	295,600	-	1,273,696	-	-	3,371,865
UN World Food Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,577,414	17,577,414
UN World Health Organization	-	-	-	-	-	5,113,000	-	5,113,000
United Nations Children's Fund	-	6,821,732	1,000,000	8,148,480	-	1,896,247	8,671,275	26,537,734
United Nations Development Programme	339,000	-	600,000	-	8,021,000	-	-	8,960,000
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	-	-	-	-	300,000	-	-	300,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	9,295,136	1,173,905	1,165,839	54,524	5,566,709	-	85,371,571	102,627,684
United Nations Population Fund	-	-	9,831,264	630,000	700,000	7,588,000	-	18,749,264
IFRC and Red Cross								
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	155,000	-	-	-	200,000	1,180,000	10,927,000	12,462,000
International NGOs								
Action Contre la Faim	-	-	-	-	-	291,000	798,183	1,089,183
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	1,225,108	-	-	-	204,993	-	5,303,142	6,733,243
Association for Aid and Relief Japan	705,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	705,000
Bibliothèques sans Frontières	250,000	-	-	400,000	-	-	-	650,000
Caritas Moldova	-	-	-	-	106,300	124,400	1,067,100	1,297,800
Catholic Relief Services	-	299,600	-	556,400	-	-	2,160,000	3,016,000
Church World Service	162,736	130,000	-	-	97,578	-	1,268,641	1,658,955

Partner	(Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Danish Refugee Council	855,600	54,000	91,200	-	-	55,200	643,999	1,699,999
Doctors with Africa CUAMM	-	-	-	-	-	137,007	347,049	484,056
Dorcas	7,858	3,250	-	28,495	17,132	-	20,100	76,835
HEKS/EPER	724,849	-	105,190	-	237,500	-	639,356	1,706,895
HelpAge	95,200	-	-	-	118,000	50,000	115,000	378,200
Helvetas	-	-	-	-	1,005,800	-	3,380,865	4,386,665
HIAS	94,000	-	47,000	-	270,000	-	-	411,000
IMPACT Initiatives	120,000	-	-	-	240,000	-	400,000	760,000
International Rescue Committee	156,026	402,200	419,700	30,000	211,513	50,000	-	1,269,439
INTERSOS	807,000	-	-	-	-	471,000	38,000	1,316,000
Lifting Hands International	-	-	-	93,600	-	-	-	93,600
Norwegian Refugee Council	906,717	-	-	986,295	2,781,761	-	1,134,561	5,809,334
Peace Winds Japan	-	-	-	234,525	-	397,363	-	631,888
People in Need	1,150,000	798,000	-	2,503,796	2,476,845	-	4,518,367	11,447,008
Pestalozzi Children's Foundation	-	-	-	294,000	-	-	2,006,000	2,300,000
Project HOPE	-	-	-	-	-	1,460,000	-	1,460,000
WeWorld	381,900	3,000	-	648,700	-	-	-	1,033,600
World Vision International	89,024	54,570	-	266,965	484,750	-	1,499,070	2,394,379
National NGOs								
A.O. Biaz Gul	-	-	630,808	-	-	-	-	630,808
A.O."Raza Încrăderii"	-	-	-	105,355	-	-	22,531	127,886
ADRA Moldova	281,954	342,365	352,826	-	237,354	-	1,675,706	2,890,205
Alliance of Active NGOs in the field of Child and Family Social Protection	951,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	951,800
Alliance of Organisations for Persons with Disabilities from Moldova	-	-	-	-	-	825,000	-	825,000
AO "Alianta pentru Dolna"	-	-	-	3,226	-	-	3,107	6,332
AO "Asociația Surzilor din Republica Moldova"	-	-	-	-	37,500	-	-	37,500
AO Asociația pentru Abilitarea Copilului și Familiei "AVE Copiii"	-	1,180,124	-	-	-	-	-	1,180,124

Partner	(Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
AO Centrul de Drept al Avocatilor/ Law Center of Advocates	2,827,000	-	25,000	-	-	-	-	2,852,000
AO HELP	-	-	-	-	278,700	-	-	278,700
AO Institutum Virtutes Civilis	48,257	-	-	-	162,057	-	24,486	234,800
AO Societatea Invalizilor din RM	-	-	-	-	-	-	125,000	125,000
AO SOS Autism	52,000	-	-	915,000	385,000	-	105,000	1,457,000
Asociația Obștească „Onoarea și Dreptul Femeii Contemporane”	-	-	-	-	14,359	-	30,000	44,359
Asociația Obștească pentru Copii și Tineret “FĂCLIA”	-	-	-	-	400,000	-	-	400,000
Asociația pentru Drepturile Omului “Lex XXI”	-	180,000	150,000	-	-	-	-	330,000
Asociația profesorilor de limba ucraineană “Promini”	-	-	-	18,000	-	-	-	18,000
Asociația Tinerilor cu Diabet DIA (DIA Association of People Living with Type 1 Diabetes)	-	-	-	-	-	285,000	-	285,000
Association of Entrepreneurs with Disabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	114,272	114,272
Centrul de Informații “GENDERDOC-M”	-	-	-	-	-	-	41,500	41,500
Centrul National de Prevenire a Abuzului fata de Copii	-	722,500	-	-	-	-	-	722,500
Centrul pentru Drepturile Persoanelor cu Dizabilități (CDPD)	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	120,000
Centrul pentru Politici, Inițiative și Cercetări “Platforma	81,000	-	-	-	320,000	-	-	401,000
Charity Centre for Refugees	-	-	-	-	-	65,000	234,000	299,000
Children's Emergency Relief International	76,488	1,600	-	-	-	-	65,000	143,088
Comunitatea Plus	16,000	-	-	75,000	-	-	-	91,000

Partner	(Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
CONCORDIA Moldova	46,000	-	-	32,000	25,000	-	114,459	217,459
Creative Industries Association in Moldova	-	-	-	170,000	-	-	-	170,000
Educational Center PRO DIDACTICA	-	-	-	596,980	-	-	-	596,980
Fiecare Contribuie pentru Schimbare	-	-	-	25,000	-	-	-	25,000
Fundatia "Don Bosco"	22,007	2,000	-	172,963	29,400	-	148,106	374,477
Fundația "Regina Pacis"	20,615	-	-	27,600	-	58,800	-	107,015
Fundatia Constantin Mimi	-	-	-	-	280,000	-	-	280,000
Human Rights Embassy	-	-	-	-	689,700	-	-	689,700
Humanitarian Aid Center of the Jewish Community of Moldova	-	-	-	32,400	41,600	26,000	-	100,000
Keystone Moldova	20,918	-	-	-	-	65,000	92,900	178,818
Laolaltă	55,556	-	-	-	144,444	-	-	200,000
MOTIVATION	7,780	-	-	-	19,780	44,000	119,600	191,160
NCUM	-	-	-	-	1,357,116	-	-	1,357,116
Partnerships for Every Child	-	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	150,000
Platforma Femeilor Rome "ROMNI"	21,033	18,133	-	-	27,200	15,110	81,600	163,076
Roma Awareness Foundation	42,326	-	-	70,000	-	-	93,657	205,983
Speranta 87	26,000	-	-	-	-	-	596,160	622,160
Terre des hommes Moldova	-	1,750,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,750,000
Union of Young Roma "Tarna Rom"	-	-	-	73,203	-	-	-	73,203
Uniunea pentru Echitate și Sănătate	-	-	-	-	-	194,000	-	194,000
Total	31,606,956	14,086,979	15,636,927	17,192,507	35,617,788	25,116,127	163,798,597	303,055,882

RRP Monitoring Framework

Sector	Indicator	Target	Refugee target	Host community target	Sector target
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	120,000	90,000	30,000
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services	61,423	40,169	21,254
	Child Protection	# of participants trained on child protection and children's rights	2,356		
	Gender-Based Violence	# of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	18,270	11,300	6,970
	Gender-Based Violence	# of trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV knowledge on prevention, response and risk mitigation measures	1,523		
	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	# of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	254		
	Education	# of children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries	62,031	38,008	24,023
	Health and Nutrition	# of refugees reached through individual counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services and how to access them	8,150		
	Health and Nutrition	# of health consultations provided to refugees	17,800		
	Health and Nutrition	# of healthcare providers trained to provide health services to refugees	2,356		
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	49,500	32,920	16,580
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of MHPSS consultations provided (includes focused and specialized services only)	5,463	3,962	1,501
	Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion interventions	50,948	45,075	5,873
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	84,792	52,890	31,902

COUNTRY CHAPTER

POLAND



> At a Glance

Poland Planned Response (January-December 2024)



1.1 M

projected refugee population



\$ 377 M

total financial requirements in USD



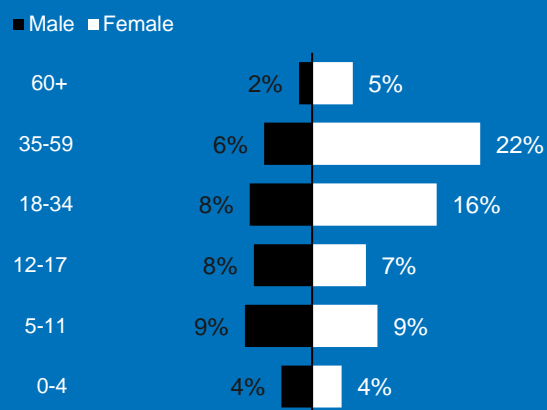
103

RRP partners

Population planning figures

	Estimated population as of end of 2023	Population planned for assistance in 2024
Refugee Population	956,635	1,100,000

Age and gender breakdown¹¹²



5%

Persons with disabilities



63%

Women and girls



37%

Men and boys

¹¹² Calculations are based on Government statistics.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

As the country hosting the largest refugee population among those participating in the Regional Refugee Response Plan, Poland at the end of 2023 saw a complex situation, characterized by different degrees of social and economic inclusion and – as a result – differentiated humanitarian needs. New arrivals continued at a limited scale, together with pendular movements and some limited returns. The unwavering support offered by Polish Government and society continued throughout 2023 positively impacted the lives of refugees across the country.

Based on potential population movements, this plan anticipates that 1.1 million refugees will reside in Poland. Women, children and older persons constitutes more than 90 per cent of the total refugee population in Poland.

The Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) shows how temporary protection has improved the situation for many refugees and allowed them access to jobs and services. Alongside this, a significant number of refugees are facing diminishing resources and heightened vulnerabilities.¹¹³

Partners are committed to supporting the government's response in protecting refugees. This collaborative approach follows the Refugee Coordination Model, ensuring a coordinated and complementary strategy aligned with government priorities. Regional coordination will foster enhanced cooperation, with a focus on the vital role of Polish organizations in sustaining the response and addressing the needs of refugees. This role is evident in the significantly increased number of Polish organizations participating in the Plan in 2024, compared to previous years.

Population Planning Figures

In Poland, as of end December 2023, 956,633 individuals from Ukraine were either active PESEL holders, recognized refugees or asylum-seekers.¹¹⁴ The PESEL is a unique identification number attributed to refugees benefiting from temporary protection, providing them access to services such as health and social support.

More than 60 per cent of the refugee population with active PESEL-UKR numbers is concentrated in five regions (voivodeships), indicating a concentration in major cities: Mazowieckie (includes Warsaw), Wielkopolskie (includes Poznan), Dolnoslaskie (includes Wroclaw), Slaskie (includes Katowice), and Malopolskie (includes Krakow).

The projected population of refugees from Ukraine by the end of 2024, including third-country nationals (TCNs), is 1.1 million, some 150,000 more than the number of active PESEL-UKR numbers. Multiple factors will influence figures – among them the intensity of the conflict, damage

¹¹³ According to the Multi-Sector Needs Analysis, 38 per cent of households surveyed reported that they can afford fewer goods and services than the year prior, and 49 per households reported having at least one chronically ill member.

¹¹⁴ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10781>

to critical infrastructure in Ukraine and the capacity of Ukraine to cater for millions of internally displaced people, as well as economic developments. Proximity and cultural ties or family links in Poland vis-à-vis other countries will also have an influence on refugees' decisions on where to stay. The regions from which the highest number of refugees fled to Poland are situated near the conflict zone and include Kharkivska, Dnipropetrovska, and Khersonska oblasts.

Country Risks and Needs

The demographic composition underscores the heightened vulnerabilities faced by refugees from Ukraine in Poland. PESEL data shows that over 90 per cent of refugees are women, children and older persons, with 37 per cent being children under 18, and 63 per cent are females. Among older persons, 78 per cent are female, making up 7 per cent of the total refugee population. The Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) found that 49 per cent of households have at least one member with chronic illness, 42 per cent of households are single caregivers with dependents and 9 per cent of households consist exclusively of older persons. In line with the Washington Group methodology, 5 per cent of household members are identified as persons with disabilities. The MSNA identifies that 82 per cent of households have unmet needs, with the top three priorities mentioned by them being employment/livelihoods (32 per cent), healthcare services (27 per cent), and accommodation (23 per cent). GBV and child protection issues remains a concern, as is family separation and risks of human trafficking. In response to multiple protection problems, RRP partners are putting a strong emphasis on supporting the most vulnerable refugees.

The MSNA findings indicate that ongoing monitoring is required for social cohesion, with 31 per cent of respondents reporting tensions with the host community, mainly manifested in the form of verbal aggression or discrimination. Despite the vital role of the Polish social support system in assisting refugees, the MSNA data shows that 38 per cent of households can afford fewer goods than at this time a year ago, mainly due to rising costs, reduced income, and unexpected expenses. Employment is another issue, with 61 per cent stating that they have some form of employment – a major achievement but leaving still scope for a stronger inclusion of refugees in the labour market. The primary obstacles to securing employment include language barriers (34 per cent), limited decent job opportunities (21 per cent), and skills mismatches (16 per cent).

Access to healthcare services is granted to refugees at par with host communities. The MSNA indicates that 10 per cent of households reported difficulties in accessing the needed healthcare. The most frequent difficulty related to making appointments (47 per cent), with language (19 per cent) and high fees (18 per cent) also reported as barriers as well as gaps in understanding how to access care (15 per cent). Mental health concerns persist widely, as indicated by the MSNA, with 20 per cent of surveyed households expressing a need for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for at least one of its members. However, only 45 per cent of individuals in need were reported to receive such support when required. Living arrangements for refugees in Poland vary, with most living independently, in shared accommodation, or in hostels/hotels. The MSNA identifies that 7 per cent of the refugee population live in collective sites – a number which is believed to have further declined in the second half of 2023. 26 per cent of households report issues with their current living conditions (most predominantly a lack of space, lack of separate showers and insufficient privacy), while 4 per cent of households face pressure to leave their accommodation.

Low enrolment in formal education, learning losses and mental health and psycho-social effects of remaining out-of-school for long periods of time remain major risks for children, with less than half of all school-aged refugee children enrolled in Polish schools at the end of the 2022/23 school year. Many school children attend online learning under the Ukrainian curriculum, while others likely have dropped out of learning entirely, as attendance of online learning is not monitored. According to refugees interviewed in the MSNA, there is a need for additional Polish language classes and the provision of essential equipment to promote access to the Polish education system.

Uncertainty over the future remains a significant challenge for households with children enrolled in Polish schools.

Additionally, with regard to child protection, MSNA data reveals that 39 per cent of refugees interviewed express concerns about risks faced by boys, while 35 per cent share similar concerns for girls. The two most common risks reported for both boys and girls include increased vulnerability to neglect and psychological violence in the community. For girls, the third most reported risk is sexual violence in the community, while for boys, it is increased vulnerability to abuse. 16 per cent of households indicate they are not aware of any services to report violence against children.

To effectively address country risks, RRP partners are adopting an integrated approach, with continuous engagement with national and local authorities in order to align project interventions with governmental priorities. Polish non-governmental organizations working in collaboration with International NGOs and UN Agencies play a crucial role in strengthening the humanitarian response and identifying funding opportunities. As partners enhance collaboration with the private sector to promote resilience and integration, ongoing dialogue between host communities and refugees remains a key focus. The dialogue aims to facilitate cultural exchange, stimulate economic activity, and strengthen refugee inclusion.

Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights in host countries.



In support of the Government, activities are undertaken to ensure that new arrivals are informed about existing national and regional protection initiatives in a language they understand and also that refugees are registered, identified, and referred. This should take into consideration age, gender and diversity, including through the recognition of disability certificates. The strategy includes assessing avenues for longer-term status and documentation for refugees from Ukraine who decide to settle in Poland. While the UNHCR Position on Voluntary Returns to Ukraine¹¹⁵ continues to be applicable, refugees who have crossed back into Ukraine temporarily will continue to be supported through advocacy to prevent loss of status and social benefits. Regular monitoring of the situation on the ground and current practices guides priority interventions in addressing complex population dynamics, and ongoing efforts to advocate for an inclusive process aimed at eliminating differences in rights based on nationality.

SO2: Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance.



Starting with a focus on groups facing elevated risks due to their conditions or status, attention is directed to unaccompanied children, individuals with disabilities (mental or physical), those with serious medical conditions, older persons, members of minority groups, LGBTIQ+ refugees, as well as individuals with diverse Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics. With the gradual closure of long-term collective centres and communal housing, RRP partners will foster collaboration with government agencies to ensure that the most vulnerable individuals can access affordable housing. Systematic consultations with different groups remain essential, requiring specialized assistance for individuals with specific needs, including women and children at risk, persons with disabilities and elders. The support builds on prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), while ensuring the provision of mental health and psychosocial support. RRP partners will foster a two-way communication system with host communities and refugees, enabling efficient complaint mechanisms, response, and referral processes.

¹¹⁵ [UNHCR Position on Voluntary Returns to Ukraine, 14 July 2023](#)

SO3: Refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities is strengthened and their self-reliance increased.



Priorities aimed at enabling refugees to become self-reliant will include support for inclusion of refugees in the labour market, providing language, job-matching, and upskilling courses, as well as legal counselling for both employed and self-employed individuals to understand the legal framework for labour issues in Poland and raising awareness on the risks of labour exploitation and human trafficking. These efforts involve strengthening collaboration with the private sector, as a key element to foster resilience, integration and long-term solutions. RRP partners will also direct efforts to advocate for the increased enrolment and inclusion of refugee children in the national education system, reaffirming the importance of resuming school attendance instead of online learning.

SO4: The social cohesion between refugee and host communities is reinforced.



RRP partners' work will continue to focus on engaging locally and nationally with central, regional and municipal authorities, as well as through the support of Polish and refugee-led organizations, to advocate against misinformation and promote peaceful coexistence. They will support a continuous dialogue between host communities and refugees as an opportunity to promote cultural exchange, solidarity, increased economic activity and support networks. Additionally, advocacy for inclusive policies and practices will continue, addressing stereotypes and prejudices, fostering community engagement, and highlighting the positive impact of refugees in host communities.

FUNDING FOR POLISH NGOS

In 2023, funding for Polish NGOs providing humanitarian assistance to refugees from Ukraine decreased significantly compared to 2022. In response, the Pooled Fund for the Refugee Response in Poland (**POP Fund**) was created to facilitate continued support from institutional and private donors. Managed by PCPM – Polish Center for International Aid, the POP Fund is operationally similar to Humanitarian Funds set up in other situations but is tailored to enable greater involvement of corporate donors. More information is available at www.popfund.pl.

Sectoral Responses

Cross-Cutting Priorities of the RRP

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)
- Disability Inclusion
- Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Government Ownership
- Maintaining Emergency Capacities

Read more in the *Regional Overview* p. 25

PROTECTION



The *Act on Assistance to Ukrainian Citizens in the Context of the Armed Conflict in Ukraine* (referred to as “the Special Act”), enacted on the 12th of March 2022, establishes a comprehensive framework of safeguards and support for refugees from Ukraine. It extends temporary protection until March 2024 or September 2024 for families with school-aged children, pending an extension to 2025 by the Polish authorities in line with the European Council extension.

The Protection Sector will take the lead in legal analysis and conduct advocacy interventions to promote meaningful access to status, documentation, and rights in line with the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD), including amendments to the Special Act to extend its duration until March 2025 as per the EU Council decision. Additionally, the Protection Sector will engage with government counterparts to propose meaningful solutions for refugees after the application of the TPD ends.

The Protection Sector will enhance information provision, legal counselling, and legal representation on a wide range of issues, including re-acquiring TPD status, protection from violence and exploitation, labour rights, taxes, and access to services and social protection schemes.

The Protection Sector will promote meaningful access to national systems for refugees from Ukraine by enhancing and contextualizing referral pathways at the local and regional levels. This effort will involve continuous engagement and support with government counterparts.

The Protection Sector will continue advocating for non-discriminatory approaches to all refugees and asylum-seekers. Additionally, it will contribute to mitigating stigma and promoting the inclusion of third-country nationals and refugee minorities.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



The identified risk factors for GBV, particularly affecting refugee women and girls, are increased by the high proportion of single female-headed households with dependents (41 per cent),¹¹⁶ alongside discrimination, language, and unemployment-related barriers. Those issues highlight the continued need for prioritization of tailored GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response interventions in 2024. This involves:

- Strengthening national capacities and referral mechanisms for provision of quality survivor-centred multi-sectoral services, including for psychosocial (MHPSS), legal, safe shelter, sexual and reproductive health support at all levels.
- Building capacity on GBV, including on PSEA, targeting all relevant sectors, law enforcement, justice systems, legal and health actors and local organizations.
- Increasing GBV knowledge and attitude base via community awareness activities.
- Enhancing confidential and ethical data management mechanisms.
- Investing in refugee, LGBTIQ+, and women-led organizations for gender-affirming care and targeted interventions.
- Conducting regular diverse community consultations and feedback collection and analysis (AAP) to guide programming.
- Prioritizing integrated GBV programming to promote empowerment and life skills for refugees at elevated risk of GBV.

These activities will also help address further GBV risk areas and gaps on awareness, labour exploitation, PESEL termination, formal education inclusion and stretched services.

Sub-sector: Child Protection



While most refugees continue to be women and children who have experienced family separation, their needs have shifted towards their adaptation and inclusion in Poland. Child protection concerns, including exposure to violence and neglect, persist and require safe referral to specialized services. Many children and their caregivers are living with heightened needs and require holistic support.

Despite key adaptations (e.g. expedited temporary guardianship procedures), the national child protection system remains stretched. Gaps in the provision of critical services such as case management, family-based care, and integrated support for care leavers remain. In complementarity to the national system, Child Protection actors will focus on:

- Advocating for child-centred case management in line with the best interests principle and enhancing referral pathways in line with national legislation.
- Enhancing identification and referral of children-at-risk to specialized services.
- Awareness raising on child rights and available support and services.

¹¹⁶ [Poland: Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2023 – Results Overview](#)

- Ensuring child-friendly community feedback mechanisms are widely accessible, including to children with disabilities.
- Addressing the psychosocial well-being of refugee children, youth, and caregivers through multi-layered MHPSS interventions.
- Strengthening family-based alternative care and advocating to ensure institutional care facilities are adequately staffed and monitored.

Actors will further reinforce national capacities by providing technical support to frontline services, existing child protection service providers, and community-led organizations.

EDUCATION



In 2023, the Education Sector in coordination with the Government of Poland and RRP partners, aimed to support access to education for refugee children.

Approximately 186,504 children, including 42,323 in pre-school, were enrolled in formal education during the 2022-2023 school year, out of an estimated 430,000

Ukrainian school-aged children.

As many children continue to remain out of school or are enrolled only in online education, there is a pressing need to ensure barriers are removed for refugees to access formal education in the Polish system. Supporting refugee children to have access to the Polish education system is key to ensure they fulfil their right to education. Children enrolled in formal education in Poland also face a high risk of dropout due to reasons like language barrier and adaptation problems.

In 2024, RRP partners will continue to focus on strengthening the Polish education system in line with UNHCR's *Refugee Education 2030 Strategy*¹¹⁷. Key interventions will focus on enhancing teachers' capacities, MHPSS for students and parents, skills development programs, and early childhood education. The sector will further provide non-formal education to complement and ensure retention in formal education system through Polish language classes, catch-up classes, and social inclusion activities. Support to Ukrainian education actors working on retention in Polish education system will continue as they play a key role in mitigating school drop-out risks.

The sector will work in close coordination with the government, engage communities and parents, and emphasize the importance of uninterrupted education and early care for refugee families. Generating evidence will be a priority to ensure effective, quality, and inclusive interventions based on reliable data.

¹¹⁷ [Refugee Education 2030: A Strategy for Refugee Inclusion](#)

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



In 2024, RRP partners are committed to enhancing refugee economic inclusion through tailored solutions. Recognizing the ongoing language barrier faced by refugees, efforts will persist in promoting and advocating for language training opportunities.

Priorities will centre on closing the gap between refugees' career aspirations and their preparedness, facilitating document validation, and skills development. Special emphasis will be placed on supporting single mothers, a particularly vulnerable group, by advocating for childcare facilities and affordable housing solutions.

Collaboration with businesses remains crucial, and in 2024, efforts will extend beyond existing partnerships to explore new opportunities for scaling up, ensuring a more active role from the private sector. Simultaneously, resources and efforts will be dedicated to combating labour exploitation and enhancing private sector adaptability, with a specific focus on aiding single mothers.

In 2024, the scope will expand to target and support vulnerable and minority groups, promote language teaching standards, establish connections between refugees and employers, mainstream referrals to integration facilities, and provide essential psychological support.

The approach remains flexible, adaptable, and focused on achieving the economic self-sufficiency and societal integration of refugees.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



Partners are committed to ensuring access to healthcare services by strengthening national public health systems and providing comprehensive prevention and treatment options. This commitment extends to crucial services such as diagnosis, continuity of care, and referrals for conditions like chronic diseases (NCDs), HIV, TB, and mental health issues. Partners will prioritize the access to and provision of sexual and reproductive health and take concrete steps to ensure quality specialized health services for GBV survivors are strengthened.

They will focus on enhancing national health capacities in the provision of emergency health and trauma care, provide policy guidance, assess refugee health needs, and promote healthcare access, including access to MHPSS services.

Partners will actively work on enhancing public health systems, offering policy guidance, health education, and accessibility to diverse health services, including MHPSS. They will foster trust and promote preventive care, including vaccinations, and effective risk communication including information on health service availability and accessibility, particularly in rural areas and among vulnerable populations such as the older persons and those with specific needs.

Addressing the stigma associated with mental health and refugee status is crucial. Ensuring access to culturally sensitive mental health support is a priority. Integrating Ukrainian MHPSS providers into public systems is essential for creating accessible services.

Partners will support the healthcare workforce through an integral approach by providing training, guidance, and tools for professionals, offering support to Ukrainian health workers to foster integration in the national health workforce, and addressing regulatory challenges.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

MHPSS continues to be a priority for the refugee response in Poland, cutting across key sectors such as child protection, education, GBV, health and livelihoods.

As more than 20 per cent of the 2023 MSNA respondents indicated a degree of psychosocial distress, the acute need to enhance accessibility to multi-layered MHPSS services for diverse community members remains crucial as an integrated part of implementation in 2024.

With community members identifying close family as the most trusted source, further investment in community-based psychosocial support remains a priority for the sectors to overcome stigma and language related barriers.

BASIC NEEDS (NFI, MPCA, WASH, FOOD)

NON-FOOD ITEMS



Thanks to the government and civil society's response, essential goods have been provided since the beginning of the emergency to cover border areas, transit sites, and some longer-term accommodations. However, as the crisis continues, resource gaps and decreased donations are impacting sustainability. Also, new arrivals are likely to possess fewer resources and social capital, while having more limited coping strategies than earlier groups. They will require additional support to access food, accommodation and clothing. RRP partners are thus complementing support with a focus on addressing several key areas. This includes the provision of basic non-food items (NFIs) to meet individual needs, such as dignity kits and clothing adapted to winter conditions, as well as communal needs at shelters, such as appliances, heating devices, bedding, and partitions. RRP partners aim to bolster the government-led response and complement services provided at the local level, ensuring ongoing and contingency response capacity while adapting targeting to the diverse and specific needs of individuals.

MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE (MPCA)



Acknowledging the central role of the Government in providing social protection, the primary goal of cash assistance partners is to enhance and complement the government's initiatives. Polish authorities have established legislation allowing refugees from Ukraine access social benefits and employment. However, refugees continue to face complex challenges that impact their ability to benefit from safety nets, and many remain unable to meet basic needs.

Among the obstacles are language barriers, lack of relevant work experience, low wages and insufficient childcare services, all of which impact opportunities for gainful, dignified employment and self-reliance. This is exacerbated by increased cost of living, rising energy and accommodation prices, and additional needs during the winter. As such, it is still central to implement specific interventions that target the most vulnerable groups facing challenges in gaining full access to the national social protection system.

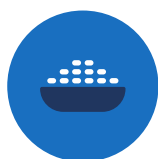
These groups encompass individuals with protection needs and those who have difficulty in accessing the labour market. These focused interventions will be accompanied by advocacy efforts aimed at expanding the reach of inclusive social protection services. Cash-based programs will serve as a vital support mechanism for individuals who have recently arrived in the country and are striving to access employment, government aid (for instance disability benefits), and other services. Furthermore, additional cash assistance will be offered to address specific winter-related requirements.

WASH



Necessary WASH support, such as kits, washing machines or minor repairs in collective centres, will be tailored to the needs of the most vulnerable groups to complement the institutional capacity of their temporary place of stay. Given the well-functioning supply chain at both the national and European levels, WASH kits will remain part of the contingency response to any extraordinary increase of the refugee population. Assuming continuity in the current market environment, partners are committed to supporting the local market and, whenever appropriate, convert their in-kind assistance to a cash-based intervention that enhances protection and upholds the safety, dignity and preferences of the affected population.

FOOD



The collaborative efforts between government agencies and civil society organizations play a pivotal role in addressing the critical requirements of refugees, particularly concerning food and essential needs. The central focus remains on delivering targeted assistance to the most vulnerable groups with specific protection needs. Cash-based programs, operating in conjunction with government initiatives, stand as a vital support mechanism, especially for newcomers striving to secure employment and navigate social services. Food security and sufficient nutrition, in addition to other needs (WASH, health,

protection etc.) remain vital for people arriving in Poland. Accordingly, MPCAs are tailored to accommodate the diverse needs of vulnerable groups, including food and other basic needs. These integrated endeavours not only address immediate needs but also advocate for the promotion of inclusive social protection services, ultimately supporting the resilience and self-reliance of refugees in the face of multi-faceted challenges. Additionally, the provision of non-perishable food and warm meals at reception points and accommodation sites, and if necessary, at border crossings, will be prioritized.

TUTAJ FUND

The **Tutaj Fund** aims to support the well-being and resilience of people with refugee experience, removing barriers in changemaking for the good of all. Ashoka entrusts the Fund's resources to NGOs registered in Poland. The Fund operates until end of 2024 in three paths. Each path has a different focus, amount, and length of the grant: for experiments and pilots, for mid-term projects, and for activities supporting long-term system changes. www.ashoka.org

SHELTER, HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATION



While the most common housing arrangement is private accommodation exclusively for one household (59 per cent, MSNA), the relatively small percentage of respondents (7 per cent) who live in collective centres are considered the most vulnerable group. The sustainability of private rental options is declining, owing to high costs, a competitive housing market, and ongoing strain on host communities. To address the situation, particularly for the most vulnerable groups, shelter actors' responses will prioritize:

- Providing cash for rent to support rental fees and subsidies for utility costs (heating, utilities).
- Developing housing assistance interventions and programmes that address short-term, midterm and longer-term needs with particular focus on most vulnerable groups.
- Providing thermal upgrades and rehabilitating existing shelter facilities to improve energy efficiency and ensure adequate standards, while incorporating adaptations of spaces for people with disabilities or other specific needs.
- Reinforcing shelter-related coordination tools that will allow for efficient referral schemes and effective needs assessment outputs.
- Supporting Polish authorities in finding housing solutions, instead of collective centres, for refugees, and mitigating the impact of relocations through monitoring of conditions and adherence to standards.
- Conducting advocacy and providing technical support on the development of a sustainable, long-term housing assistance policy, targeting both refugee and host communities.

Partnership and Coordination

In 2023, Poland's Refugee Coordination Model, rooted in humanitarian principles and partnership, underwent a significant transformation that will continue in 2024. The Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) in Poland was revised to streamline meetings, maintain flexibility as a tool, encourage cross-sector collaboration, and enhance cooperation with local and refugee-led organizations. Over 80 national organizations from across the country joined the 2024 Refugee Response Plan (RRP), marking a 67 per cent increase from the previous year.

Poland's successful comprehensive approach involves various stakeholders, including government entities at different levels, local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UN agencies, faith-based organizations, the Red Crescent and Red Cross Movement, local communities, academic institutions, international financing organizations, and the private sector. The private sector not only offers funding opportunities for Polish organizations but also supports refugees through employment opportunities. International organizations and UN agencies will continue to actively support local actors by identifying funding initiatives and encouraging national organizations to lead fund pooling efforts.

Through the work of partners in different sectors (Protection, Health & Nutrition, Shelter, Housing and Accommodation, Livelihood and Economic Inclusion and Education), sub-areas (Child Protection, Gender Based Violence, MHPSS, Networks (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse – PSEA) and multiple cross-cutting working groups (Accountability to Affected Population - AAP – and Basic Needs), coordination mechanisms ensure the harmonization of information and resources. This promotes efficiency through regular meetings, while communication channels facilitate the exchange of best practices, all converging towards integrating social cohesion perspective and age, gender and diversity in all aspects of the programming.

Regional or local coordination fora will continue to operate in Krakow, Rzeszow and Lublin.

Joint assessments and activity monitoring are core priorities for the Information Management Working Group, ensuring a regular needs-based response. The Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) conducted in 2023 identified priority needs for 2024, guiding coordination priorities, including during the winter months (first and last quarter of 2024).¹¹⁸

¹¹⁸ [Poland: Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2023 – Results Overview.](#)

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

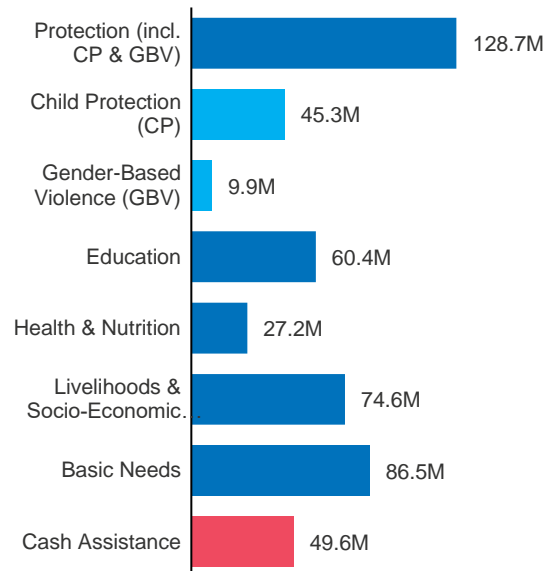
Budget summary by type at country level

PARTNER	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD
UN agencies	178,808,663
IFRC & RC	11,500,000
International NGOs	85,080,514
Refugee-led Organizations*	5,704,845
Faith-based Organizations*	13,900,000
Women-led Organizations*	1,555,566
National NGOs	101,888,575
Refugee-led Organizations*	4,961,079
Faith-based Organizations*	988,416
Women-led Organizations*	27,340,827
Academia	100,000
TOTAL	377,377,752

* 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 level¹¹⁹



¹¹⁹ Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is the modality of choice for forcibly displaced people and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection. Unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector.

Budget summary by partner at country level






Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
UN Agencies								
UN International Organization for Migration	11,000,000	3,500,000	-	-	18,500,000	2,500,000	14,500,000	50,000,000
UN Women	100,000	-	-	-	200,000	-	-	300,000
UN World Health Organization	-	-	70,000	-	-	5,930,000	-	6,000,000
United Nations Children's Fund	-	20,125,046	-	13,310,133	-	1,523,484	50,000	35,008,663
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	-	-	-	-	500,000	-	-	500,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	41,774,302	3,744,925	3,744,925	2,496,617	5,617,390	-	27,621,841	85,000,000
United Nations Population Fund	-	-	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	-	2,000,000
IFRC and Red Cross								
Polish Red Cross (Polski Czerwony Krzyż) & International Federation of Red Cross	300,000	300,000	-	-	5,000,000	2,000,000	3,900,000	11,500,000
International NGOs								
ActionAid International	106,686	-	-	-	25,603	35,245	188,032	355,566
American Rescue Project	-	-	-	250,000	250,000	400,000	300,000	1,200,000
CARE	650,000	-	600,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	3,150,000	50,000	11,450,000
Caritas Poland	-	420,000	-	-	10,000,000	-	-	10,420,000
European Lawyers in Lesvos (ELIL)	140,000	30,000	-	-	90,000	-	-	260,000
Fundacja Right to Protection	1,107,000	-	-	-	1,054,290	1,647,648	-	3,808,938
HIAS	275,000	-	150,000	-	260,000	-	-	685,000
International Orthodox Christian Charities	398,696	119,941	-	620,563	-	-	140,800	1,280,000
International Rescue Committee	2,838,000	1,000,000	1,700,000	1,040,000	3,250,000	-	5,512,000	15,340,000
Lutheran World Federation	2,000,000	-	-	-	200,000	-	-	2,200,000
Mercy Corps	-	-	-	518,300	791,175	-	682,025	1,991,500
Norwegian Refugee Council	4,085,000	-	-	943,876	650,000	-	2,545,800	8,224,676
Oxfam	1,182,583	-	-	-	-	-	713,324	1,895,907
Plan International	-	2,600,000	2,000,000	1,500,000	-	900,000	-	7,000,000
Save the Children	-	9,674,153	-	6,070,057	-	-	3,224,718	18,968,927
National NGOs								
Armia Zbawienia/The Salvation Army	-	-	-	8,000	-	-	25,000	33,000
Ashoka Innowatorzy dla Dobra Publicznego	-	-	-	-	700,000	-	-	700,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Central Roma Council in Poland	-	-	-	656,000	1,505,000	-	-	2,161,000
Centrum Społeczności Żydowskiej w Krakowie	-	-	-	134,000	12,000	24,000	624,044	794,044
CultureLab Foundation	400,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	400,000
Diakonia Polska	-	-	-	-	38,130	-	87,286	125,416
Educational Foundation "MryDiy"	-	-	-	1,241,926	-	-	-	1,241,926
Eleon - pomocne dłonie dla Ukrainy	-	245,993	-	-	-	-	-	245,993
Food Bank SOS in Warsaw	-	-	-	-	-	-	280,000	280,000
Fundacja "MAMA-2022"	-	-	-	5,000	-	25,000	-	30,000
Fundacja ADRA Polska	167,534	-	-	413,269	1,077,676	171,634	628,977	2,459,090
Fundacja Alight	-	-	-	-	1,160,005	-	2,239,995	3,400,000
Fundacja Centrum Pomocy Humanitarnej My z Wami	-	-	-	80,000	-	25,000	25,000	130,000
Fundacja Centrum Współpracy Międzynarodowej Germanitas	-	-	-	300,000	450,000	-	-	750,000
Fundacja Dajemy Dzieciom Siłę (Empowering Children Foundation)	-	828,260	-	-	-	-	-	828,260
Fundacja Dialog	30,000	-	-	120,000	500,000	-	400,000	1,050,000
Fundacja dla Migrantów DOBRY START	50,000	-	30,000	-	75,000	75,000	-	230,000
Fundacja Do domu	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	50,000
Fundacja DOSTĘPNY ŚWIAT	-	-	-	-	-	810,000	-	810,000
Fundacja Edukacja dla Demokracji	-	-	-	250,000	250,000	-	-	500,000
Fundacja Freedom Space	-	-	-	10,000	-	15,000	20,000	45,000
Fundacja HumanDoc	1,000,000	-	212,500	475,000	450,000	-	112,500	2,250,000
Fundacja Inicjatywa Dom Otwarty	22,460	-	-	11,000	108,070	-	2,400	143,930
Fundacja Innowacja i Wiedza	-	-	-	-	4,007,767	-	-	4,007,767
Fundacja Jedność	-	-	-	450,000	-	-	-	450,000
Fundacja Kocham Dębniki	180,000	-	-	150,000	-	-	70,000	400,000
Fundacja Leny Grochowskiej	-	-	-	-	-	-	950,000	950,000
Fundacja na Rzecz Psychoprofilaktyki Społecznej PRO-FIL	-	-	-	-	316,627	-	-	316,627
Fundacja na rzecz Różnorodności Społecznej	-	-	-	150,000	-	-	-	150,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Fundacja Nagle Sami	-	-	-	-	-	252,867	-	252,867
Fundacja Nauka to przygoda	-	-	-	400,000	150,000	-	-	550,000
Fundacja New story	100,000	-	-	250,000	300,000	100,000	1,000,000	1,750,000
Fundacja Polki Mogą Wszystko	-	-	-	-	-	928,664	-	928,664
Fundacja Pomocy Wzajemnej Barka	-	-	-	250,000	500,000	180,000	470,000	1,400,000
Fundacja Przedsiębiorczości Kobiet	-	-	-	-	3,000,000	-	-	3,000,000
Fundacja Q	-	-	-	250,000	-	150,000	-	400,000
Fundacja Rozwoju Dzieci im. J. A. Komeńskiego	-	-	-	7,150,000	-	-	-	7,150,000
Fundacja Szkoła z Klasą	-	-	-	500,000	-	-	-	500,000
Fundacja Ukraina	150,000	-	47,000	1,100,000	400,000	-	-	1,697,000
Fundacja Uniwersytet Dzieci	-	-	-	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Fundacja Vela	150,000	150,000	50,000	200,000	100,000	-	-	650,000
Fundacja Widowisk Masowych	-	-	-	280,000	534,000	-	-	814,000
Fundacja Wielkie Serce dla Dzieci	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	50,000
Fundacja Zero Camps	-	-	-	-	200,000	-	-	200,000
Fundacja Zustricz	60,000	-	-	200,000	60,000	480,000	-	800,000
Fundację Rozwoju Społeczeństwa Informacyjnego	-	-	-	150,000	60,000	-	-	210,000
Habitat for Humanity Poland	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000,000	4,000,000
Humanosh Sława i Izek Wołosianski Foundation	-	-	-	33,000	-	476,160	254,000	763,160
International Association for Human Values	180,000	-	30,000	-	-	180,000	-	390,000
Internationaler Bund Polska	-	-	-	70,000	-	-	100,000	170,000
Kalejdoskop Kultur	135,105	-	-	-	-	315,245	-	450,350
Klub Inteligencji Katolickiej w Warszawie	-	-	-	300,000	400,000	72,000	-	772,000
Lepszy Świat	-	-	-	21,400	41,400	65,000	-	127,800
Małopolski Fundusz Ekonomii Społecznej	-	-	-	100,000	35,000	-	-	135,000
Metropolitan Orthodox Christian Charity ELEOS	-	-	-	250,000	50,000	-	530,000	830,000
Microfinance Centre	-	-	-	-	180,000	-	-	180,000
Mission-U Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
One Heart Foster Parenting Association	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	85,000	585,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Polish Center for International Aid	2,000,000	-	-	11,500,000	4,000,000	1,000,000	9,500,000	28,000,000
Polish Humanitarian Action	244,000	-	-	292,000	3,025,318	262,845	2,790,344	6,614,507
Polish Medical Mission	60,000	500,000	-	98,751	125,000	-	-	783,751
Polish Migration Forum Foundation	360,000	-	-	200,000	50,000	650,000	-	1,260,000
Polskie Towarzystwo Superwizji Pracy Socjalnej	-	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
Project HOPE Poland	400,000	-	-	-	-	300,000	-	700,000
SalamLab	-	-	-	110,000	134,147	100,000	-	344,147
SOK (Samodzielność od Kuchni) Foundation	-	-	-	256,000	-	-	-	256,000
Spirits of Hope	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,000
Stowarzyszenie Centrum Wolontariat w Lublinie	6,623	-	-	8,610	92,078	23,962	77,268	208,541
Stowarzyszenie Edukacji Krytycznej	275,000	-	-	190,000	-	-	-	465,000
Stowarzyszenie MUDITA	-	-	-	-	400,000	90,000	-	490,000
Stowarzyszenie Operation Mobilisation w Polsce	119,450	68,200	-	-	-	105,250	241,700	534,600
Talk to Loop	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000
The Polish Center for Torture Survivors	-	-	100,000	-	-	100,000	-	200,000
Towards Dialogue Foundation	70,000	-	-	180,000	-	-	208,000	458,000
TUTU - Podkarpackie Stowarzyszenie dla Aktywnych Rodzin	80,000	881,400	147,200	142,800	-	-	-	1,251,400
Ukraine House	920,000	90,000	-	340,000	380,000	240,000	130,000	2,100,000
Ukrainian Education Hub in Poland (Pro Futuro Foundation)	159,820	-	-	170,508	293,342	-	-	623,670
UNITATEM Foundation - Poland Welcomes	-	-	-	100,000	-	-	1,595,166	1,695,166
Warsaw House Foundation	-	-	37,500	-	-	198,500	619,900	855,900
Academia								
Maria Grzegorzewska University	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
Total	73,437,259	45,327,918	9,919,125	60,446,809	74,599,017	27,152,504	86,495,120	377,377,752

RRP Monitoring Framework

Sector	Indicator	Target	
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	233,880
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services	267,600
	Child Protection	# of participants trained on child protection and children's rights	906
	Gender-Based Violence	# of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	225,004
	Gender-Based Violence	# of trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV knowledge on prevention, response and risk mitigation measures	1,656
	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	# of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	298
	Education	# of children enrolled in formal education in host countries	180,000
	Education	# of education personnel trained or receiving support to better respond to the needs of refugee learners	6,507
	Education	# of children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries	183,500
	Health and Nutrition	# of refugees reached through individual counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services and how to access them	144,287
	Health and Nutrition	# of health consultations provided to refugees	144,287
	Health and Nutrition	# of healthcare providers trained to provide health services to refugees	8,228
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	104,636
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of MHPSS consultations provided (includes focused and specialized services only)	104,636
	Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion interventions	176,000
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	166,227

COUNTRY CHAPTER

ROMANIA



> At a Glance

Romania Planned Response (January-December 2024)



110K

projected refugee population



\$117M

total financial requirements in USD



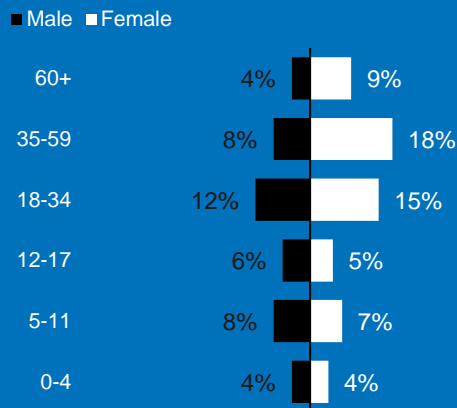
37

RRP partners

Population planning figures

	Estimated population as of end of 2023	Population planned for assistance in 2024
Refugee Population	83,765	110,000

Age and gender breakdown¹²⁰



6.8%

Persons with disabilities



58%

Women and girls



42%

Men and boys

¹²⁰ Calculations are based on Government statistics complemented with 2023 MSNA data.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

Romania continues to play a pivotal role as a refugee-hosting country amid the ongoing war in Ukraine. Since 24 February 2022, over 5.1 million border crossings, including pendular movements, have been recorded into Romania. As of mid-December 2023, a total of 83,765 refugees from Ukraine are present in the country and have been granted temporary protection (TP) status under the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD), a framework which outlines their legal rights to reside and access essential services in Romania. In total, since its activation, over 149,800¹²¹ Ukrainians and third-country nationals have been granted TP.

The TPD ensures that refugees from Ukraine have access to national systems, including education, health, housing, social services, and employment services. On 30 June 2022, the Government of Romania adopted the National Plan of Measures (NPM) for the Protection and Inclusion of Displaced Persons from Ukraine and TPD Beneficiaries, marking a shift from emergency response to a longer-term protection and inclusion phase. On 12 April 2023, a modification to the Romanian Government's 50/20 programme,¹²² which provided funds for accommodation and food for TP holders, was updated to base such support on meeting inclusion benchmarks.¹²³

RRP partners work to advance the refugee response, led by the Government of Romania, delivering complementary services and assistance in the areas of protection, gender-based violence (GBV), child protection, education, healthcare and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), as well as the provision of multi-purpose cash, hygiene kits, core relief items and food.

Despite many achievements in 2023, refugees continue to face constraints in accessing services and inclusion in Romanian society due to systemic challenges, primarily the lack of information, administrative requirements – notably the need for proof of address in Romania – and language barriers.¹²⁴ Currently, 33 per cent of working-age household members are reporting to be formally employed and among refugee households in need of healthcare, 28 per cent reported having problems with access.¹²⁵ Additionally, while formal school enrolment has risen among school-aged refugee children from Ukraine, only around 40 per cent report being actively in attendance.¹²⁶

¹²¹ As of mid-December 2023, approximately 73 per cent of registered TP holders are women and children.

¹²² Government Emergency Ordinance No. 22/2023 modifying Emergency Ordinance 15/2022 - through which 50 Romanian lei per person per day was provided for accommodation and 20 lei per person per day for food until April 2023

¹²³ These include registration of children in the education system, and actively seeking a job on the labour market through the national employment agency. See Government Emergency Ordinance No. 22/2023

¹²⁴ MSNA, preliminary findings, October 2023

¹²⁵ MSNA, preliminary findings, October 2023

¹²⁶ MSNA, preliminary findings, October 2023

Country Risks and Needs

The general demographics of the overall refugee population from Ukraine in 2023 is expected to remain consistent. Approximately 60 per cent of the population is female, with children accounting for approximately one-third of the total number. A relatively higher number of male arrivals in the third quarter of 2023 is a trend that may continue into 2024.

In 2024, refugees in Romania and new arrivals are expected to experience varying socio-economic conditions and vulnerabilities. Those with limited financial means who had initially stayed in Ukraine may be compelled to leave due to deteriorating conditions, particularly during harsh winter months and the ongoing conflict. These economic vulnerabilities are also projected to affect refugees already in Romania, as their extended displacement depletes financial savings and heightens the risk of negative coping mechanisms,¹²⁷ particularly for single-headed households, older individuals, persons with disabilities and unaccompanied or separated children. Currently, 70 per cent of refugee households report a decrease in purchasing power in comparison with the first months in Romania.¹²⁸

The potential protection risks facing new arrivals are high and include human trafficking, GBV, separation of children from parents and caregivers, sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as high levels of psychosocial distress associated with conflict.¹²⁹

Substantial progress has been made to meet the needs of refugees. At the end of 2023, according to the Ministry of Education, nearly 72 per cent of children under temporary protection are registered with Romanian schools and early childhood education and care services. However, only 28 per cent of school-aged children have acquired the full pupil status, while the rest remain mainly with the transitioning status of auditors, as per the Romanian legislation. Overall, only about 40 per cent of school-aged refugee children report attending Romanian schools. Despite successful efforts to reduce barriers, 28 per cent of households in need of healthcare still reported problems,

YOUTH AND ADOLESCENTS (YAD):

RRP partners are committed to promoting social cohesion and cross-sectoral youth participation, including by diversifying activities, frequent needs assessments, innovative approaches to learning and involving host communities. For inclusive, impactful interventions, specific needs for YAD age groups (10-14; 15-19; 20-24; 25-30; 30-35) will be addressed through the creation of youth-friendly spaces for building trust through socialisation and life-skills activities. Partners will also work closely with experts (PSEA, MHPSS, anti-trafficking, GBV, social services etc.) and focus on organizational capacity-building for YAD skills-building and participation, including digitalisation, employability, and Romanian and English language. The empowerment of youth to play meaningful roles at all levels of the response and collaborate with host communities will also be prioritized.

¹²⁷ MSNA, preliminary findings, October 2023

¹²⁸ MSNA, preliminary findings, October 2023

¹²⁹ MSNA, preliminary findings. Nearly 40 per cent of interviewed refugees state they are in need of mental health and psychosocial support.

especially regarding mental health and sexual and reproductive healthcare,¹³⁰ and systemic gaps related to service provider capacity. Similarly, by the end of 2023, around 33 per cent of working-age Ukrainian nationals report to be working.¹³¹ However, refugees frequently cite a lack of knowledge of the Romanian language, limited employment opportunities, and jobs that match their skills as major barriers to further labour market participation and socio-economic inclusion.

While refugees from Ukraine have received a warm welcome in Romania, these positive sentiments may gradually decline. Currently, over 25 per cent of refugee households surveyed in multi-sectoral needs assessments have reported experiencing negative attitudes, mainly discrimination or verbal aggression. Therefore, concerted efforts must be undertaken to maintain social cohesion and address concerns of vulnerable host communities in refugee-hosting areas, including strengthening service provisions for both refugees and Romanian citizens.

¹³⁰ MSNA, preliminary findings, October 2023

¹³¹ MSNA, preliminary findings, October 2023

Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights.



RRP partners are dedicated to assisting the Government of Romania and relevant agencies in maintaining the protection environment for refugees from Ukraine. This will encompass awareness-raising on the benefits of registering for TP under the TPD, collaboration with the government on the effective implementation of the NPM and initiatives to support the inclusion of refugees in Romania, including through advocacy and support for legislative and administrative changes that facilitate refugee inclusion, particularly in education, social welfare, health services and employment. Effective access to social benefits and other rights will be fostered by addressing current divergent views among central and local authorities of the proof of an effective address or residence, including through advocacy.

SO2: Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance.



RRP partners prioritize the well-being of refugees with specific needs, including female-headed households, at-risk children and adolescents, older persons and those with disabilities, as well as those with mental health concerns. While assistance and service delivery are prioritized through state institutions and local authorities, complementary support should be provided where service demand exceeds availability. To support the identification of the most vulnerable refugees, community outreach will be promoted through local actors while RRP partners will work towards the development of common identification tools. A vulnerability scorecard developed in 2023 by RRP partners is available to authorities and RRP partners to address the needs of the most vulnerable under a common perspective and approach. RRP partners will also enhance a referral system to work holistically on acute protection problems of vulnerable groups, with a focus on child protection, GBV, anti-trafficking and socio-economic inclusion with a view towards self-reliance. RRP partners will use cash support programmes for the most vulnerable refugees, while advocating for the inclusion in Romanian social assistance programmes.

Refugees and host communities are informed of existing services and feedback mechanisms via various communication channels, including government websites, social media, an online service advisor tool and in-person support at service delivery points, accommodation facilities and border crossings.

SO3: Refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities is strengthened and their self-reliance increased.



Supporting the self-reliance and socio-economic inclusion of refugees in line with the Global Compact on Refugees is a fundamental objective for the RRP in 2024. This requires coordinated efforts from a range of stakeholders, including government entities, local authorities, UN agencies, the private sector, NGOs, development actors and civil society to empower refugees with the skills, opportunities and support needed for self-reliance and successful socio-economic inclusion. It equally needs the engagement of the refugee community to actively pursue inclusion opportunities, progressively diminishing reliance on dwindling assistance. RRP partners will actively advocate for solutions to support the integration and continued education of refugee children to address existing challenges to participate in formal education and the recognition of existing qualifications.

SO4: The social cohesion between refugee and host communities is maintained.



While the response to refugees from Ukraine in Romania has been marked by remarkable solidarity and generosity, a reported increase in negative sentiments highlights the need to safeguard against any increase in tensions between the communities, especially as displacement becomes prolonged and resources become scarcer.¹³² RRP partners are committed to strengthening the capacities of national and local systems, promoting inclusion and adopting a community-based approach that extends services to both refugees and host communities, and sharing the results of their endeavours with the authorities and local communities. Disseminating accurate information, countering misinformation, monitoring social media platforms and focusing on language training are vital steps to ensure social cohesion and address potential barriers to accessing services.

Sectoral Responses

Cross-Cutting Priorities of the RRP

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)
- Disability Inclusion
- Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Government Ownership
- Maintaining Emergency Capacities

Read more in the Regional Overview p. 25

¹³² According to the October 2023 MSNA, there has been an increase in reports of negative sentiments from less than 10 per cent at the end of 2022 to over 25 per cent.

PROTECTION



RRP partners will continue to support the Government of Romania through complementary programmes to maintain a favourable protection environment for those seeking safety and protection, including advocacy efforts and vital protection activities, such as counselling, information provision and border monitoring. The strengthening of the asylum system helps guarantee that people in need of international protection, including holders of TP and stateless persons, have access to Romanian territory, reception, registration and documentation, assistance and the full enjoyment of their rights.

Protection partners will continue to prioritize the provision of technical advice and capacity support for stakeholders at national and local levels, to ensure informed decision-making, reduce protection risks and awareness-raising for important topics such as GBV, child protection, trafficking and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Partners will maintain close collaboration and coordination with the child protection authorities at the national and local level in order to strengthen the overall national child protection system and enhance prevention and response mechanisms, while also guaranteeing cross-sectoral linkages to anti-trafficking and GBV risk mitigation and response programmes.

Aligned with the Global Compact on Refugees, protection partners will continue to develop and implement protection activities and events for the refugee and host communities throughout the country in order to foster social cohesion and to mitigate risks of intolerance and discrimination. Identifying and advocating for solutions for refugees, cultivating opportunities for their self-reliance and socio-economic inclusion in Romania with additional support, and enhancing synergies with other sectors and the Romanian Government will be central to addressing the longer-term needs of refugees.

Protection actors will continue with the timely identification of needs and assistance and help to address barriers in accessing their rights and social protection schemes, with specific attention to the identification of people at heightened risk, including those from marginalized communities, such as Roma, older refugees, LGBTIQ+ people, persons with disabilities, those with MHPSS needs and women and children at risk.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



As the situation becomes more protracted and vulnerabilities increase, partners will centre their efforts around coordination and joint advocacy with national systems that respond to GBV, including policy and legal frameworks. They will also focus on capacity strengthening of service providers and frontline workers from national, local and civil society to provide quality of care for GBV survivors, including GBV case management and Clinical Management of Rape and Intimate Partner Violence care.

Prevention activities will prioritize working on outreach and information provision while also increasing the inclusion of boys and men, LGBTIQ+ people and the Roma community. Protection and GBV-related risks will be closely monitored through assessments and safety audits.

To further strengthen GBV support, health system strengthening and capacity-building, including trainings on the clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence, will be delivered to healthcare workers and health managers, equipping them with the tools to support GBV survivors. To enhance survivor support, MHPSS modules will be integrated into GBV and SEA trainings for first responders and GBV referral pathways will be reviewed, updated and validated with health stakeholders.

Sub-sector: Child Protection



Child Protection actors will continue to ensure the timely identification of all refugee children at risk from Ukraine and that they are supported with access to tailored and specialized child protection services that respond to their needs, as well as access to national child protection services. This includes considerations for children arriving from residential care facilities in Ukraine and other groups of children arriving without parental care.

Child protection programming will focus on MHPSS interventions, including information dissemination, age, gender and diversity-appropriate group activities in safe spaces and parenting groups, as well as social cohesion activities that bring together refugee and Romanian children to foster understanding and community cohesion, and resilience and life-skills activities. Actors will also seek to ensure refugee children are informed of their rights and have opportunities to feel empowered and participate in decision-making processes and programs. This will be achieved through putting adolescents at the forefront of developing and implementing interventions through participatory approaches, including the use of digital tools that empower and connect young people to engage with and speak out on issues that matter to them.

Partners will also provide capacity-building support to bolster technical competencies to actively respond to the needs of refugee children. This will include addressing the barriers of the Romanian child protection frameworks and promoting child-friendly procedures and the punctual designation of a legal guardian.

Programming will also ensure that emergency preparedness, response and contingency plans and capacity will be reviewed and enhanced, jointly with local authorities and civil society, to ensure child protection services can be readily available at the border points in case of a sudden increase in refugee arrivals. Some partners will prioritize a gradual handover of services to relevant governmental entities.

Sub-sector: Counter-Trafficking

With many refugees seeking employment in Romania, there are risks of labour exploitation among those attempting to enter the workforce. Partners will continue to work on reducing risks by disseminating messages and information on safer employment, rights and responsibilities. Romania's revised National Identification and Referral Mechanism (NIRM) provides a good opportunity for the Anti Trafficking Task Force, alongside Romania's National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (ANITP), to educate humanitarian workers and all involved actors on the identification of trafficking and to respond appropriately.

For victims of any type of trafficking in persons, specialized NGOs, as detailed in the NIRM, will work alongside victims and authorities to provide holistic, trauma-informed, victim-centred assistance. Support to the Government will include utilising the Anti-Trafficking Task Force to advance a collaborative effort of awareness-raising, training, risk mitigation and advocacy on anti-trafficking at the national level and creating platforms for coordination and collaboration with neighbouring countries' anti-trafficking task forces and governmental authorities.

EDUCATION



In line with Sustainable Development Goal 4¹³³ (Quality Education) and the UNHCR Refugee Education 2030 strategy,¹³⁴ the Education Sector will prioritize access to inclusive and equitable quality education for children and youths that enables them to learn and reach their full potential, while building individual and collective resilience and contributing to peaceful coexistence with host communities.

Considering the rapid increase in school registration requests observed in 2023,¹³⁵ the RRP education response will consolidate these gains by prioritizing the accelerated integration and retention of children in the national education system, with swift transition from the “audient/observer” to “full pupil” status, so that they can enjoy the corresponding rights and benefits. Partners will hence prioritize the systemic provision of support measures including the upscaling of Romanian language courses, learning materials, teacher training interventions, and the promotion of safe and conducive learning environments ensuring social cohesion.

With a view to overcoming social exclusion and learning poverty in refugee children, partners will also address the specific and acute education needs of refugee children and youths with a particular emphasis on children out of school, at risk of dropping out, or experiencing difficulties integrating the Romanian education system, including due to limited absorption capacities. To this end, RRP partners, in collaboration with education authorities, will also facilitate the provision of alternative and complementary learning pathways, including or combining inclusion into Romanian schools, online learning, and non-formal education modalities alongside the provision of MHPSS. Initiatives to maintain or restore links with Ukrainian education may be supported as a complement to formal education and to facilitate re-entry into the Ukrainian education system whenever return in safety and dignity is feasible.

¹³³ SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

¹³⁴ Refugee Education 2030: A strategy for Refugee Inclusion, UNHCR, 2019, <https://reporting.unhcr.org/refugee-education-2030-strategy-refugee-inclusion>

¹³⁵ The rapid increase in enrolment is largely due to the reform in the assistance programme introduced by the Government, making it mandatory for Ukrainian refugee children to enrol in Romanian schools or in locally available non-formal education services in order to qualify for financial support under the TP scheme.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



Partners will strengthen coordination and linkages between civil society, private sector and the Government of Romania to ensure all refugees have clear pathways and access to the basic resources necessary to enter the labour market and the social protection system.

The priority remains on facilitating access to first formal employment, while supporting pathways for more advanced jobs. While guiding refugee job-seekers to the relevant Government employment agency services, partners will provide complementary inter-connected support services. They will also support engagement with the private sector, including manufacturers. Priority activities include provision of language courses, job coaching and counselling, childcare for caregivers, formal vocational training, accelerated recognition of qualifications, and entrepreneurial support. Prevention and response to protection risks in the workplace through targeted advocacy efforts also remains critical. RRP partners also aim to improve access for refugees to social protection systems while providing complementary assistance to fill critical gaps in coverage and scaling-up referral processes.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



RRP Partners will continue to work towards refugees' equitable access to high-quality primary and specialist, sexual and reproductive and mental health services. This will be achieved by strengthening national health services and through complementary specialized refugee clinics, bolstering national health workforce capacities, procuring of medical supplies, and advocating for refugee-inclusive national health policies, including access to health services in line with the TPD and health financing.

In line with the Health Sector's commitment to strengthen existing systems for resilience and emergency response in Romania, RRP partners will continue to assess barriers to healthcare access and health system capacity and assist with policy guidance on integrating refugees into national health strategies and the integration of the Ukrainian health workforce. They will also conduct partner coordination meetings and stakeholder trainings. Health information will be provided through multiple media to foster uptake of preventative health services and to share knowledge and understanding of the healthcare system in Romania, including how to navigate it effectively and access the required services.

To improve the availability of MHPSS services, partners will deliver trainings to a wide range of occupations and will continue to advocate for the integration of Ukrainian professionals into the national health and MHPSS workforce. Stigma associated with mental health and seeking support will also be addressed through targeted awareness campaigns to increase the use of services provided by MHPSS partners.

Health operations will be conducted in collaboration with health, sexual and reproductive health and MHPSS partners, coordinated through monthly working group meetings.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

The provision of MHPSS services spans various sectors such as Health, Protection, Child Protection, GBV, Education, and Livelihoods. Strengthening cross-sectoral integration and enhancing access and quality of MHPSS activities at all levels is essential. This involves developing supportive systems for families and communities, offering community-based psychosocial activities, and implementing evidence-based practices. Task sharing and empowering trained non-specialists to provide supervised psychological interventions is vital for expanding MHPSS services, as is integrating Ukrainian mental health professionals into public health and social systems. Safeguarding frontline providers' well-being and effective coordination among various stakeholders are priorities to ensure seamless access to MHPSS services.

BASIC NEEDS



The Basic Needs response in Romania focuses on promoting self-reliance and dignity for refugees and host communities by providing humanitarian support to refugees to meet their basic needs.

RRP partners will support providing access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities and services at reception facilities and transit centres established by the Romanian Government together with the civil society and local authorities. WASH emergency capacity will continue to ensure that minimum standards are met, specifically maintaining access to Age, Gender and Diversity-sensitive bathrooms, clean water, waste management and hygiene kits.

RRP partners providing shelter and accommodation services and non-food items will focus on improving the living conditions of refugees by supporting the functioning and maintenance of temporary shelters and safe spaces and support the distribution of clothes, school supplies, hygiene and dignity kits, and seasonal items for winter.

Actors engaging in food security in Romania will support the authorities in the provision of in-kind food assistance and food security kits to the most vulnerable refugees at reception areas and other state facilities, as well as at collective accommodation centres.

To promote self-reliance, dignity and socio-economic inclusion, partners will provide cash-based interventions including multi-purpose cash grants to the most vulnerable refugees and those at higher protection risk identified through common approaches such as the joint vulnerability scorecard and vulnerability assessments. Basic Needs actors will also strengthen capacities and referral mechanisms between organizations providing cash and voucher assistance with the aim of furthering the inclusion of recipients in national social schemes using a more targeted, localized approach.

Partnership and Coordination

Romania's front-line response is driven by a diverse array of local actors, including civil society organizations, national NGOs, Ukrainian diaspora groups, private sector actors and volunteers from across Romania. The coordination structure within Romania led by the Government aligns with the multi-stakeholder and partnership approach outlined in the Refugee Coordination Model and the Global Compact on Refugees. A Refugee Coordination Forum was established in May 2022, complemented by an Inter-Agency Working Group structure that operates inclusively and with accountability, guiding and monitoring the operational inter-agency refugee response under the RRP.

The RRP's coordination strategy acknowledges the strength of this comprehensive, cross-cutting approach and emphasises the empowerment of national and local actors to take the lead in coordination efforts.

RRP partners will continue to focus on promoting localization efforts to enhance collaboration between various organizations and administrative structures providing services to refugees in larger refugee-hosting areas. In addition, RRP partners will support municipal-level coordination with a view towards bridging national and local coordination structures.

Recognising the importance of coordination, RRP partners will collaborate with other stakeholders in the response like academia, private sector, international financial institutions and policy makers.

PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)

As the situation became protracted vulnerabilities increase for those at higher risk of SEA, especially new arrivals, refugees who make secondary or pendular movements and those with high economic vulnerabilities. In 2024, the PSEA Network and its members will continue to focus on advocacy and capacity-building activities for relevant stakeholders, particularly on administrative investigations of SEA allegations. Furthermore, emphasis will be given to expanding the PSEA network in Romania, harmonizing referral practices and strengthening coordination with other working groups.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

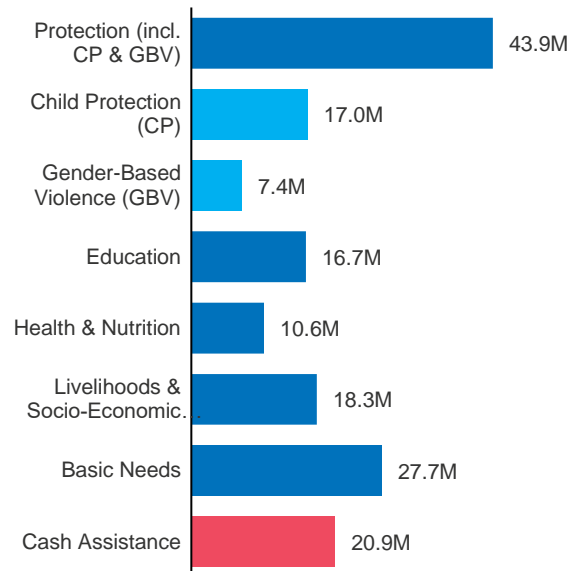
Budget summary by type at country level

PARTNER	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD
UN agencies	72,219,995
International NGOs	11,660,124
Faith-based Organizations*	730,000
Women-led Organizations*	770,124
National NGOs	33,335,670
Refugee-led Organizations*	1,057,000
Faith-based Organizations*	7,625,000
Women-led Organizations*	5,486,900
TOTAL	117,215,789

* 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 level¹³⁶








¹³⁶ Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is the modality of choice for forcibly displaced people and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection. Unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector.

Budget summary by partner at country level

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection	Gender-Based Violence	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
UN Agencies								
UN International Organization for Migration	370,000	130,000	80,000	269,000	1,477,000	792,000	1,320,000	4,438,000
UN World Health Organization	-	-	-	-	-	6,400,000	-	6,400,000
United Nations Children's Fund	-	1,100,000	380,000	4,700,000	210,000	400,000	300,000	7,090,000
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	-	-	-	-	300,000	-	-	300,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	14,267,963	6,740,433	4,331,664	-	9,651,935	-	18,000,000	52,991,995
United Nations Population Fund	-	-	500,000	-	-	500,000	-	1,000,000
International NGOs								
Action Contre la Faim	-	-	-	-	-	300,000	300,000	600,000
ActionAid International	420,124	-	-	-	-	-	-	420,124
CORE	-	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	150,000	350,000
Good Neighbours Japan	100,000	-	-	-	300,000	-	600,000	1,000,000
HIAS	30,000	-	200,000	-	400,000	100,000	-	730,000
Plan International	500,000	1,500,000	500,000	2,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	5,500,000
Terre des Hommes Foundation	160,000	1,900,000	-	1,000,000	-	-	-	3,060,000
National NGOs								
Asociatia Eliberare	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
Asociatia Four Change	50,000	-	-	60,000	70,000	-	120,000	300,000
Asociatia Moaselor Independente	-	-	60,000	-	5,000	100,000	50,000	215,000
Asociatia Parentis	-	30,000	40,000	-	-	100,000	80,000	250,000
Asociatia Project Voiajor (Project Voyager)	-	-	-	-	900,000	-	-	900,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection	Gender-Based Violence	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
FONSS	155,000	-	-	472,500	553,800	22,500	1,980,000	3,183,800
Fundatia Romanian Angel Appeal	-	-	-	200,000	100,000	50,000	-	350,000
Fundatia Tineri pentru Tineri	60,000	-	60,000	160,000	-	160,000	15,000	455,000
Habitat for Humanity Romania	-	-	-	-	-	-	340,000	340,000
HEKS / EPER Romania Foundation	-	-	-	-	600,000	-	80,000	680,000
Jesuit Refugee Service Romania	200,000	150,000	-	1,800,000	120,000	120,000	600,000	2,990,000
Migrant Integration Centre Brasov	300,000	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	-	400,000
National Youth Foundation	400,000	-	-	600,000	1,200,000	-	-	2,200,000
Necuvinte Association	14,600	3,000	15,000	26,760	18,380	13,380	46,980	138,100
Novapolis Association	60,000	-	-	55,000	60,000	60,000	120,000	355,000
PATRIR	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
Salvati Copiii	-	4,205,127	-	2,666,667	123,077	512,821	492,308	8,000,000
Sensiblu Foundation	-	-	950,000	-	-	-	-	950,000
SERA Romania	300,000	200,000	200,000	600,000	450,000	500,000	750,000	3,000,000
Societatea pentru Educatie Contraceptiva si Sexuala	-	-	-	-	-	47,970	-	47,970
SUS INIMA	750,000	-	50,000	440,000	509,000	271,800	108,000	2,128,800
The Roma Lawyers Association in Romania	338,000	-	-	140,000	84,000	-	495,000	1,057,000
The Romanian National Council for Refugees	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
World Vision Romania Foundation	-	1,000,000	-	1,500,000	995,000	-	800,000	4,295,000
Total	19,575,687	16,958,560	7,366,664	16,689,927	18,277,192	10,600,471	27,747,288	117,215,789

RRP Monitoring Framework

Sector	Indicator	Target	
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	92,200
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services	18,050
	Child Protection	# of participants trained on child protection and children's rights	3,105
	Gender-Based Violence	# of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	25,020
	Gender-Based Violence	# of trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV knowledge on prevention, response and risk mitigation measures	2,000
	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	# of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	2,052
	Education	# of children enrolled in formal education in host countries	35,880
	Education	# of education personnel trained or receiving support to better respond to the needs of refugee learners	1,765
	Education	# of children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries	19,860
	Health and Nutrition	# of refugees reached through individual counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services and how to access them	89,000
	Health and Nutrition	# of health consultations provided to refugees	8,000
	Health and Nutrition	# of healthcare providers trained to provide health services to refugees	1,129
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	14,300
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of MHPSS consultations provided (includes focused and specialized services only)	14,300
	Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion interventions	34,460
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	80,550

COUNTRY CHAPTER

SLOVAKIA

Інформація про допомогу біженцям
у Словаччині

Інформація о помощи для беженцев
в Словакии

Information on assistance for refugees
in Slovakia

Informácie o pomoci utečencom
na Slovensku



> At a Glance

Slovakia Planned Response (January-December 2024)



150,000
targeted refugee
population for
assistance



\$60 M
total financial requirements
in USD



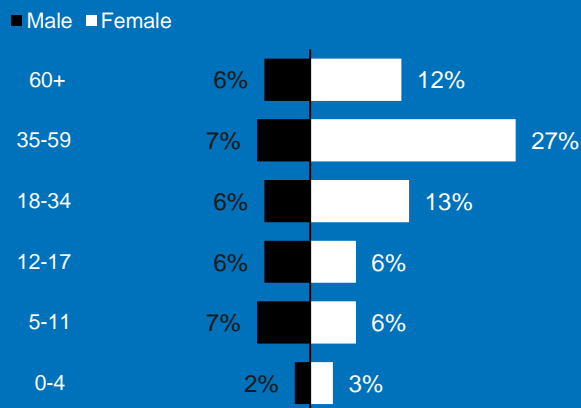
25
RRP partners

Planning figures

	Estimated population as of end of 2023	Population planned for assistance in 2024
Refugee Population	113,925	150,000*

* The figure includes refugees from Ukraine as TP applicants and TP holders, those in transit, as well as TCNs and stateless persons.

Age and gender breakdown



6%
Persons with disabilities



67%
Women and girls



33%
Men and boys

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

Throughout 2023, Slovakia continued to show great solidarity to those fleeing Ukraine by welcoming and assisting the new arrivals, including Ukrainians and third-country nationals (TCNs), while ensuring the provision of support and access to services for all those refugees with temporary protection (TP) status who have arrived and resided in the country. Over 1.9 million Ukrainians and TCNs in need of international protection and assistance have crossed into Slovakia since the escalation of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, with some 135,000 of them applying for temporary protection in the country, and 114,000 having been granted status and currently residing in the country.¹³⁷ Women and children constitute close to 83 per cent of the overall displaced population, among whom are older people, persons with disabilities, and people with urgent healthcare needs.

National, district and local authorities continue to take a welcoming stance and implement measures across multiple sectors aiming at better addressing the needs of refugees. Since 1 March 2022, in line with EU Temporary Protection (TP) Directive, refugees arriving from Ukraine have accessed TP status as one way to provide immediate protection from refoulement and access to rights, including the right to work and access national social protection networks and public services. Legislative amendments made in 2023 allowed TP holders to continue to access subsidized private accommodation outside of humanitarian centres or asylum facilities, access healthcare, employment and education opportunities and social benefits for families with children, the unemployed or persons with disabilities. UN agencies, local communities and local actors, including, among others, volunteers, municipalities, national and local non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, as well as refugee-led organizations and women-led organizations, academia, sports associations, faith-based organizations and the private sector continued to play an active role in supporting refugees, rising to the challenge of effectively responding to and complementing collective efforts aimed at facilitating protection and inclusion in national systems.

Despite the country's generally favorable refugee protection environment, there remains a lack of progress in certain policy areas, including advancing the already established good practices such as sustainable and affordable housing, as well as access to quality education and employment opportunities to support self-reliance and socio-economic inclusion of refugees. The already overwhelmed national, regional, and local capacities of stakeholders involved in the refugee response, compounded by inadequate funding levels, have adversely impacted the capacity of humanitarian partners, especially national NGOs, to maintain a sufficient level of services to refugees.

¹³⁷ Based on data provided by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

Looking forward to 2024, with the situation in Ukraine entering its third year and the remaining safety and security concerns, the prospects for return of refugees from Ukraine back to their areas of origin remain distant. In this connection, it is estimated that population movements will continue throughout 2024 and that new arrivals of Ukrainians seeking safety and protection in Slovakia will join those who arrived earlier in the country. The projected population in need of assistance in Slovakia over the course of 2024 may reach 150,000 individuals, including those who may move due to winter needs, thus, putting additional strains on overstretched services such as accommodation, education and health services. In addition, secondary movements of refugees from Ukraine to and from other countries in the region will continue, which provides additional challenges for the authorities to plan services.

The Slovakia inter-agency refugee response plan (RRP) brings together 25 partners in a coordinated multi-sectoral response in support of the government-led efforts delivering complementary assistance in the areas of protection, GBV, child protection, education, healthcare, MHPSS and the provision of multi-purpose cash. This is also crucial to promoting solidarity and social cohesion between host and refugee communities.

PARTICIPATION BY LOCAL NGOS, RLOS AND OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

Local NGOs and refugee-led organizations (RLOs), as well as other civil society organizations, including women's organizations, are indispensable in the response to the Ukraine refugee situation. Their deep and comprehensive understanding of the local context and in particular their unique perspectives and experiences, including as refugees themselves, contribute to a more effective and inclusive approach towards addressing the needs of refugees. Moreover, these organizations have a well-established network, including among volunteers, and relationships within the refugee and local communities, as well as the diaspora, facilitating the delivery of aid and support. Inter-agency coordination has highlighted the importance of the local NGOs and RLOs, which have increased their participation across all sectors of the response. However, the ongoing response has placed a significant burden on these partners, which, unfortunately, often face a severe underfunding situation that hampers their ability to fully implement their programmes. It is critical to continue supporting the local NGOs and RLOs with capacity-building and by ensuring adequate funding so they can effectively respond to the refugee situation and support refugees re-build their lives.

Country Risks and Needs

While considerable progress has been made in many sectors of the response, including by national authorities and humanitarian partners, particular risks and needs among the refugee population remain unaddressed and several challenges require targeted and sustainable solutions. The 2023 multi-sectoral needs assessment (MSNA) and protection profiling and monitoring assessments highlight the vulnerabilities and needs of refugees from Ukraine, including on protection and access to the social safety net, access to information, quality health services, employment, education, housing and childcare.

The profile of the refugee population in 2023, composed of approximately 50 per cent women and 33 per cent children, as well as of young and older persons and persons with disabilities, is expected to remain similar in 2024.¹³⁸ These population groups face specific challenges and vulnerabilities that result in a continued need for adequate assistance and support.

Most refugee households are headed by women with young children and older members under their care, one-tenth among these households has at least one member with disability. Findings from the MSNA report indicate that approximately 47 per cent of the surveyed refugees are living in private accommodation, including rented apartments, houses and guesthouses, with the other 53 per cent of the respondents living in collective centres, shared accommodations and hotels. Similarly, 47 per cent of the respondents indicated having healthcare needs, with 24 per cent facing difficulties in accessing healthcare linked to difficulties in making an appointment (36 per cent), lack of health insurance (31 per cent) and language barriers (24 per cent). 30 per cent of refugee households reporting at least one member of their household experiencing mental health or psychosocial problems.

At the end of October 2023, the Slovak Ministry of education reported almost 12,000 children from Ukraine attending school. Based on estimates of the school age number of temporary protection holders in country, this represents roughly half of the school age refugee population in Slovakia. MSNA data shows that approximately 23 per cent of school aged refugee children (from 6 to 17 years) did not plan to be and are not yet enrolled in formal education programmes during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Close to 52 per cent of responders with infants (from 0 to 4 years) stated in the protection profiling assessments they are not able to access childcare services. With regards to employment, despite the fact that some 75 per cent of refugees from Ukraine have higher education and university degrees with skills and experiences in various sectors, only 54 per cent of the working-age household members have been employed. The majority of refugees reported the main reasons for being unemployed were language barriers and lack of employment opportunities in line with their profiles and wishes. Ensuring professional qualification recognition in all sectors remains a challenge to employment, as is the lack of access to childcare and/or caregivers for dependent family members, especially for women. Only 21 per cent of the respondents reported being covered by the Slovak social protection system, with almost half of the refugee households stating

¹³⁸ According to official Government data, older persons above the age of 60 represent 8 per cent of refugees and MSNA results indicate that 6 per cent of refugees have a disability level 3.

that they have engaged in negative or harmful coping strategies due to difficulties in covering their basic needs.

Generally, refugees from Ukraine have been able to expeditiously access TP status, granting refugees access to national services and social protection systems in line with the EU TP Directive. At the same time, the "tolerated stay" type of residence linked to the TP status imposes practical barriers on some of these rights. For instance, TP holders are not subject to compulsory education for children, cannot be self-employed, and cannot access all social benefits. Lack of ID documents also makes the access to certain rights more difficult in practice. Additionally, the temporary nature of the status raises concerns among refugees about the future of their protection in Slovakia and can hinder longer-term employment commitments.

Due to the protracted nature of the crisis in 2023, priority needs have shifted from urgent basic needs assistance, emergency accommodation and part-time employment, to guarantees on accessing healthcare and quality MHPSS, employment and livelihoods support and language courses.

Furthermore, support is required to strengthen and expand GBV direct response services adapted to the needs of refugees, as well as to coordinate actions amongst all involved partners. Targeted services are still required for people with heightened protection needs, including survivors of GBV, children at risk of violence, abuse, and exploitation, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), and those facing intersecting vulnerabilities such as LGBTIQ+ people and Roma minority. Findings of the MSNA report indicate that close to 13 per cent of the respondents have reported children protection risks, particularly in connection with MHPSS, neglect, psychological violence in the community, physical violence at home and in the community. Key protection priorities in this area include strengthening access to State child protection services, including systematic identification of children at risk, unaccompanied and separated children, and ensure access to appropriate protection services starting from the point of entry to solutions. Additionally, the lack of compulsory school attendance for children with TP status in Slovakia impacts not only their education, but also poses a specific child protection risk, given that in-person education fulfils vital needs that contribute to the overall well-being of children, and provides them with a sense of normalcy, stability, and an opportunity to build protective social networks.

The change in the refugee situation, from an emergency to a more protracted situation, highlights the importance of refugees being able to effectively access the adequate services, obtain decent work opportunities, address any sign of discrimination and xenophobia and contribute to their host communities.

Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

Country Strategic Objectives

The overarching response strategy for 2024 aims at protecting the rights of refugees from Ukraine, third country nationals in need of international protection and stateless persons, or those at risk of statelessness, who have fled the conflict in Ukraine. In line with the pledges by Slovakia at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum the response will focus on promoting sustainable mid- and longer-term solutions and improved opportunities to enable refugees to empower themselves. Partners will also work towards ensuring that refugees, and in particular new arrivals, will be provided with support and assistance to cover their basic needs. Partners will strengthen collective efforts towards ensuring refugees' socio-economic inclusion, with a view to enhance social cohesion and prosperity together with the host communities.

The response plan in Slovakia will be guided by the following strategic objectives, which are in line with the regional strategic objectives for the response to the Ukraine refugee situation:

SO1: Refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights.



Ensuring effective access to legal status, protection, and rights for refugees requires a comprehensive approach. RRP partners, together with other actors involved in the refugee response, will continue to support the Government of Slovakia in ensuring that all refugees from Ukraine are aware of the benefits of registering for TP, while continuing advocacy efforts for strengthening the protection environment for third country nationals (TCNs) in need of international protection, asylum-seekers and refugees from other countries. Partners in the response will support with the provision of legal aid and assist those in need to navigate any complex legal processes, ensuring that information about rights and access to services is accessible and promoting awareness and understanding of refugee rights among different actors and service providers. The response will ensure that refugees have access to life-saving humanitarian assistance, including cash assistance, as well as access to healthcare, MHPSS, and access to education.

SO2: Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance.



To ensure that refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance, it is crucial that a tailored and inclusive approach is followed. RRP partners will continue complementing government-led efforts, working with experts in the field, for the protection and assistance to persons with specific needs and vulnerable groups ensuring access to quality and specialized services for all, including by providing expertise and continuing advocacy. This will further include comprehensive efforts to identify individuals with specific needs, such as women, including women heads of households, children, older persons, persons with disabilities and survivors and those at risk of trauma or GBV and ensure mainstreaming of LGBTIQ+ people and Roma minority groups. Support to strengthen

systems and build capacity for specialized services and support, along with an increased access to information about these services, will be provided by partners in the response, including for GBV prevention and response, child protection, healthcare for persons with disabilities, mental health support and language interpretation services for ensuring inclusiveness.

SO3: Refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities is strengthened and their self-reliance increased.



Building upon refugees' experiences and skills, the response will support sustainable and innovative solutions to enable them to empower themselves, re-build their lives and contribute to their host communities. RRP partners will continue supporting the Government of Slovakia in identifying the best solutions for the socio-economic inclusion of refugees by working and advocating together with other actors involved in the refugee response to facilitate activities, including strengthen skills and enhancing entrepreneurship, such as regional and local authorities, in particular municipalities, as well as development actors and the private sector. The response will support access to quality education and vocational training programmes, as well as language classes, to enhance refugees' skills and employability and advocate for full access to the labour market, with recognition of qualifications and expertise. Partners will work on the economic empowerment of refugees by fostering partnerships between local businesses and refugees to create employment opportunities and supporting local needs.

SO4: The social cohesion between refugee and host communities is reinforced.



To reinforce social cohesion between refugees and host communities, the response will further promote mutual understanding and cultural exchange. RRP partners together with the Government of Slovakia and other actors, regional and local authorities, the municipalities as well as academia, sports and cultural institutions, will strengthen efforts to ensure social cohesion, by supporting community centres and promoting enhanced service delivery. By encouraging and supporting community engagement and interaction through community events, sports activities, and cultural festivals, the response will aim to foster connections and build relationships. Language exchange programmes will help bridge communication gaps and promote socio-cultural inclusion. Partners, in tandem with other actors, will aim to combat any form of discrimination and xenophobia through awareness campaigns and by creating and promoting opportunities for collaboration and cooperation between refugees and host communities.

Sectoral Responses

Cross-Cutting Priorities of the RRP

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)
- Disability Inclusion
- Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Government Ownership
- Maintaining Emergency Capacities

Read more in the Regional Overview p. 25

PROTECTION



The response implemented by RRP partners, in cooperation with a wide range of actors including State authorities and institutions at national, regional and local level, will aim to maintain the protection environment for the refugee population already residing in the country, as well as for future refugee arrivals. This will be done by supporting timely and rights-based individual access to protection, safety, psychosocial support and other life-saving assistance, including cash for protection, and information. With the aim to further support and complement national protection and public services, and taking into account already stretched capacity and resources on the part of national authorities and Slovak society, the response will ensure that all individuals have access to territory, protection and the enjoyment of rights without discrimination. This is in line with their rights and in compliance with the principle of non-refoulement as well as with international, regional and national standards and the EU TP Directive. Partners will highlight and prioritize interventions with specific attention to women, children, older persons and persons with specific needs, including persons with disabilities, as well as other vulnerable and marginalized groups such as LGBTIQ+ people and the Roma and other ethnic minority groups, without discrimination. RRP partners will continue strengthening, and further expanding at local level, safe spaces, protection and support hubs to provide life-saving information on specialized services for women, families and children, including those at risk of abuse and exploitation and GBV survivors, as well as with the aim to keep informing refugees and other people in need of protection about opportunities for their socio-economic inclusion. Special attention will be given to reinforcing anti-trafficking measures and mechanisms across sectors and strengthening PSEA capacity of organizations and institutions engaged in the refugee response across sectors. Partners will also continue promoting accountability to affected populations through communication with communities and a community-based approach, including through community outreach through strengthened refugee- and women-led organizations, and other community-based organizations.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



Capitalizing on the existing national systems for the prevention and response to violence against women and girls, the national GBV response will be reinforced and supported and GBV referral pathways will be strengthened with a view to ensure access to information on GBV services and safe entry points to facilitate survivor-centred disclosure. Partners in the response will continue efforts to mainstream GBV risk prevention, mitigation and response elements across all programmes and activities, such as in community-based protection services, health services, operation of helplines and other prevention or survivor and victim support services. Attention will be given in particular to the most vulnerable, including children, with tailored services provided in child-friendly spaces, as well as to persons with disabilities. By engaging with other stakeholders, including national authorities at national and sub-national level, municipalities, civil society, humanitarian organizations, and refugee-led and women-led organizations, RRP partners will aim to improve awareness of GBV support options for the survivors and will contribute to the availability and quality of GBV response services. Existing protection hubs and additional centres, including community centres, will serve as entry points for women, girls, men and boys, including survivors of GBV, persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ people, to facilitate survivor-centred disclosure and referral to appropriate services, while outstanding GBV response needs and barriers impeding refugee access to GBV support services, including relevant healthcare services, will be addressed.

Sub-sector: Child Protection



The response will focus on further supporting the inclusion of refugee children in national child protection systems and strengthening the capacity of the national system. In particular, the response will aim for effective identification and assistance to unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), responding to incidents and risks of violence against children (including GBV, trafficking, other forms of exploitation) and other protection concerns, with a focus on children with disabilities. Many children may have also been exposed to potentially traumatic events, violence and family separation during flight, transit and upon arrival, giving rise to a need for MHPSS. It is also acknowledged that protection of children starts at the point of entry into the country and continues throughout the transit or stay in the country. In this connection, partners will support efforts complementing and strengthening national child protection systems and supporting the capacity of actors, those responsible for social and legal protection, case management/best interests procedures, as well as community-based and specialized child protection and MHPSS services and other professionals working with children. Partners will explore synergies with child protection actors for specialized outreach to children living in hard-to-reach areas and risky living environments, as well as for ensuring that dedicated services can be delivered, including through child-friendly spaces and other community-based child protection services offering multiple interventions in one space.

EDUCATION



RRP partners will continue to support and prioritize inclusion of refugee children in the national education system, including through advocacy for various measures to be taken by State institutions and supporting with the provision of technical assistance for development of the legal framework aimed at introducing compulsory education for refugee children in the country. Given the critical shortage of preschool places in Slovakia, the response will continue to address the needs of refugee children, including through supporting play and learn hubs and providing parenting support in critical localities. To advance long-term solutions for including refugee children in formal education in the national school system, partners will provide technical assistance to national and local governmental partners for expansion of sustainable early childhood education and care services through diversification and public-private partnerships, as well as addressing the learning (foundational skills), social (life skills) and emotional needs (through MHPSS interventions) across all stages of the child's life cycle. The response will also support quality and relevant capacity-building programmes for teachers and schools to enable diverse, inclusive, safe, and multicultural learning environments and strengthen evidence-based policy planning and monitoring. In addition, education interventions will continue supporting quality, inclusive non-formal learning initiatives and skills development programmes for youth.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



Advocacy efforts will continue to address barriers refugees in Slovakia face in attaining jobs that match their qualifications, particularly those whose qualifications are not automatically recognized in Slovakia. In addition, support will be offered for market-oriented, certified technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes, including existing national TVET programmes and other training opportunities, including courses on the Slovak language and culture. Advocacy efforts will also continue with regard to enabling self-employment of refugees from Ukraine, ensuring self-sufficiency and strengthening social connections. To address the specific needs of refugee women and girls in accessing livelihoods opportunities, partners will support a holistic assistance through tailored activities on income generation, support to accessing child-care and education and psychosocial support to meet protection needs and secure livelihoods. Childcare and other household solutions will be further explored to facilitate access to the labour market while ensuring safety and dignity for all family members. While efforts will continue at national level and with an understanding of the critical role of the municipalities to enable refugee inclusion, the response will support evidence-based programming, planning and effective coordination of different actors at local level. Socio-relational activities including cultural activities, sports and play, and art-based activities will be provided for refugees from Ukraine, in particular in community centres and urban areas, with host community members invited to foster supportive interpersonal exchange and networks, facilitate inclusion, and strengthen social cohesion among refugee and host communities. Strong synergies with sports and cultural actors will be further explored to support joint activities.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



In coordination with national, regional and local health authorities and other relevant stakeholders, partners will continue efforts to address the healthcare needs of refugees from Ukraine, taking into consideration that the continuation in the provision of healthcare services to refugees is paramount for public health, while understanding the limited capacities in the national health system. The focus is on ensuring that healthcare is readily available to help individuals cope with the physical and psychological toll of conflict and displacement, while ensuring access to trauma-informed MHPSS support. Moreover, concerted efforts are essential to strengthen healthcare infrastructure and delivery systems. In this connection, advocacy efforts will continue for the integration and inclusion of Ukrainian healthcare professionals into the Slovak healthcare system which can play a pivotal role in bolstering national healthcare capacities, ultimately enhancing healthcare accessibility for both refugees and the host community. Partners will continue to support provision of pediatric healthcare services for refugee children, including immunization, health education and promotion. The integration of Ukrainian pediatricians in the Slovak healthcare system is key to fill critical gaps and will be achieved through support for the recognition of their medical degrees, in accordance with Slovak regulations. Capacity development of both Slovak and Ukrainian pediatricians will be also supported to strengthen the health education and health promotion function of the healthcare system, including immunization, mental health and support for children with disability and parenting programs. Partners will continue to focus on building capacity of service providers on sexual and reproductive health services (SRH) in Emergencies, including the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP), Clinical Management of Rape (CMR), Disability Inclusion, Youth Friendliness, and other services. By supporting national mechanisms for public health, monitoring and assessing the healthcare needs of refugees, while fortifying public health capabilities and services, partners in the response will support efforts to contribute towards prevention, control, and management of both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

MHPSS services play a crucial role in addressing the diverse needs of Ukrainian refugees, while also promoting and protecting the overall well-being and resilience of both refugees and host communities. Building on the adoption of international standards into national frameworks, the response will continue focusing on the integration of MHPSS across various sectors to improve the accessibility and quality of dedicated MHPSS services at all levels of support. Sustainable MHPSS service delivery will be ensured through the strengthening of institutional frameworks and supporting coordination mechanisms, all under the leadership of national authorities. Community-based and scalable psychological interventions will also be expanded to improve access to MHPSS services within the refugee community.

BASIC NEEDS



The response will continue efforts to address the basic needs of new arrivals, as well as of refugees already in the country facing difficulties to cope with challenges, such as for housing. With the Government in the lead in providing accommodation options, advocacy efforts will continue to ensure that accommodation assistance continues until the end of the TP status, considering specific needs among the population groups such as for children, women, persons with disabilities and older persons. Partners will further explore opportunities and synergies with municipalities and other actors at local level, to ensure additional solutions facilitating refugees' access to information for a safe transition from emergency accommodation in collective sites and hosted accommodation to longer-term accommodation, including social housing support for the most vulnerable refugees. The response will continue with interventions that directly benefit refugees, such as by ensuring adequate provision of core relief items (CRIs) and supporting community interventions for serving ready-to-eat nourishing meals and organizing in-kind distributions, both for new arrivals and those already in the country, as well as by supporting private and public sectors in improving access to basic goods and services for the affected population according to identified specific needs. In cooperation with the Government, partners will ensure that where applicable, multi-purpose cash grants, as well as targeted cash assistance, are provided to support the affected population in meeting their immediate basic needs, including for temporary accommodation, transition to more sustainable accommodation options, food and hygiene items, as well as for education purposes. This said, a modality – cash or in-kind – can replace the other, or be combined, to ensure the response is the most effective, as well as protection- and gender-sensitive.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

The Government is leading the refugee response, with support of the humanitarian community, including civil society and a strong network of volunteers. The Ministry of Interior coordinates the refugee response, in cooperation with other line ministries. Government ownership at national, regional and municipal level is important to ensure continuation of responses, from policymaking to implementation, and to continue leveraging the whole-of-society efforts. The role of towns, cities and self-governing bodies in creating inclusive communities and promoting hope has never been as important.

Cities and local authorities can further promote inclusion, support refugees and bring communities together. Partners promote synergies with authorities at municipal level and are able to gain a first-hand understanding of community needs, and to develop interventions addressing them, such as by providing housing options, support access to health, education and trainings, access to local labour market and promote social cohesion.

Partnership and Coordination

The 2024 inter-agency Slovakia chapter of the RRP, brings together 25 partners, including 17 national NGOs of which 3 refugee-led organizations, 1 international NGO and 7 UN agencies. RRP partners work closely with the civil society, volunteers, academia, cultural and sport associations to enhance synergies and complementarities, ensuring the best possible outcomes as outlined in this Plan. In addition, the RRP will broaden the scope of partnerships to mobilize resources and increase visibility for the needs of refugees from Ukraine, as well as other forcibly displaced people fleeing the conflict and their host communities. In 2024, cooperation with municipalities as the key actors in the long-term integration of refugees as well as coordinators of the response and services at the local level will be strengthened.

The Global Compact on Refugees, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and the principle of "Leaving No One Behind" provide important frameworks for collaboration with partners, including national and bilateral actors, as well as international and multilateral humanitarian, development and peacebuilding organizations to ensure a nexus approach from the start. In particular, the engagement of women-led and women refugee-led organizations (WLOs/WROs) is critical for ensuring inclusiveness and effectiveness of interventions that adequately address the complexity and diversity of refugee needs. International and regional financial institutions and private sector engagement will also be critical to ensure sustainable solutions. The RRP aims at strengthening partnerships and providing opportunities for constructive linkages with regional bodies, including the EU and the CoE.

Through the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF), UNHCR helps coordinate the work among humanitarian partners in line with the refugee coordination model so that complementarities with government-led structures can be achieved. The countrywide RCF meets alternatively in Bratislava and in eastern Slovakia, co-chaired by the Government bodies and UNHCR. At field-level, the RCF East serves as a platform for coordination of all partners operating in the regions of Kosice and Presov, in particular at the border crossing points. UNHCR co-chairs the RCF East together with authorities of the two regions.

Within the RCF, at country-level, there are five working groups (Cash, Health, Education, Information Management and Protection and Inclusion WGs) and two sub-working groups (Child Protection Sub-WG under the Protection WG and MHPSS Sub-WG under Health), as well as a PSEA Task Force and an Anti-trafficking Task Force under the Protection WG. Within the Protection and Inclusion WG (PIWG) there are dedicated sessions on GBV, employment and accommodation and the PIWG and the MHPSS WGs maintain a common standing agenda item in relation to safe referral pathways for survivors of GBV. Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) is mainstreamed across all sectors of the response and an RCF standing agenda item. UNHCR also convenes and chairs regular meetings of a RCF Humanitarian/Development Donor Group.

The government-led Steering Committee for Migration, Integration and Inclusion of Foreigners led by the Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior was operational during 2023, while three dedicated working groups were established under this platform throughout the year on housing, health and education, pending the activation of all sector-related working groups. UNHCR's coordination structure within the framework of the RRP will continue to support the government-led

coordination arrangements following a multi-sectoral and multi-partner approach. The RCF, the inter-agency platform established by UNHCR in cooperation with the Government is likely to merge with government-led coordination structures at a later stage. For now, the RCF serves as an open platform for all humanitarian actors and other entities in the country.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

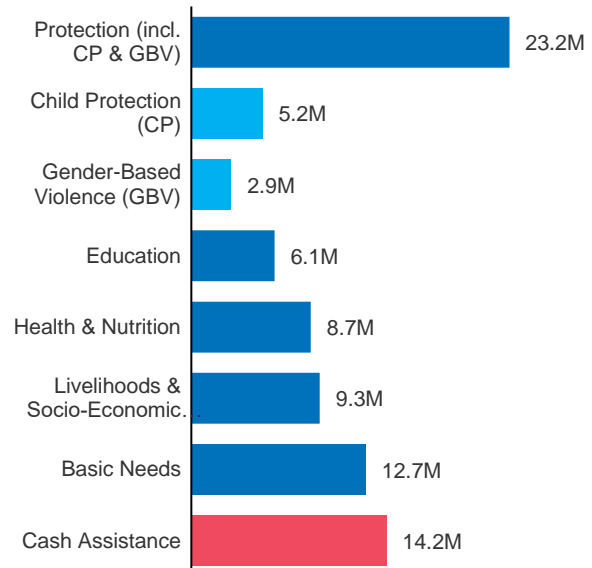
Budget summary by type at country level

PARTNER	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD
UN agencies	45,678,423
International NGOs	807,800
National NGOs	13,454,295
Refugee-led Organizations*	949,866
Women-led Organizations*	696,158
TOTAL	59,940,518

* 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 level¹³⁹







¹³⁹ Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is the modality of choice for forcibly displaced people and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection. Unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector.

Budget summary by partner at country level

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
UN Agencies								
UN International Organization for Migration	330,696	-	99,209	-	1,157,437	1,433,017	2,204,641	5,225,000
UN Women	100,000	-	-	-	300,000	-	-	400,000
UN World Health Organization	-	-	-	-	-	4,025,000	-	4,025,000
United Nations Children's Fund	-	3,074,197	450,000	3,750,272	3,463,667	789,327	2,938,000	14,465,463
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	-	-	-	-	300,000	-	-	300,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	10,355,435	360,636	721,273	-	2,404,243	-	6,421,372	20,262,960
United Nations Population Fund	-	-	500,000	-	-	500,000	-	1,000,000
International NGOs								
International Rescue Committee	45,000	-	-	172,800	370,000	220,000	-	807,800
National NGOs								
Adventisticka agentura pre pomoc a rozvoj	-	-	-	31,200	-	-	340,600	371,800
AVA	-	82,210	-	-	-	-	-	82,210
Equita	10,000	-	3,000	240,000	90,000	-	-	343,000
Foundation DEDO	-	-	-	-	36,000	-	60,000	96,000
Gender Stream	-	-	-	-	-	22,255	231,453	253,708
IPcko	180,000	180,000	30,000	-	-	552,000	-	942,000
League for Mental Health in Slovakia	2,000,000	-	800,000	-	-	-	-	2,800,000
Mareena	335,665	522,670	-	-	34,250	-	-	892,585
Our Way	2,000	-	5,000	15,000	2,000	15,000	10,000	49,000
People in Need - Slovakia	560,844	416,749	171,007	404,015	392,861	-	-	1,945,476
Slovak Humanitarian Council	50,000	250,000	40,000	800,000	250,000	-	430,000	1,820,000
Society Development Institute	60,000	-	-	200,000	60,000	-	-	320,000
TENENET (NGO)	200,000	200,000	10,000	200,000	10,000	1,000,000	-	1,620,000
The Human Rights League	848,558	-	-	-	-	-	-	848,558
Ukrainians for Ukrainians	-	92,708	-	71,450	-	52,000	-	216,158
Voluntary civil protection	-	-	-	9,000	290,000	4,800	70,000	373,800
We are together	-	-	70,000	160,000	180,000	70,000	-	480,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Total	15,078,199	5,179,171	2,899,489	6,053,737	9,340,457	8,683,399	12,706,067	59,940,518

RRP Monitoring Framework

Sector	Indicator	Target	
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	100,000
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services	27,000
	Child Protection	# of participants trained on child protection and children's rights	800
	Gender-Based Violence	# of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	50,000
	Gender-Based Violence	# of trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV knowledge on prevention, response and risk mitigation measures	750
	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	# of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	750
	Education	# of children enrolled in formal education in host countries	45,000
	Education	# of education personnel trained or receiving support to better respond to the needs of refugee learners	100
	Education	# of children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries	15,000
	Health and Nutrition	# of refugees reached through individual counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services and how to access them	70,000
	Health and Nutrition	# of health consultations provided to refugees	80,000
	Health and Nutrition	# of healthcare providers trained to provide health services to refugees	100
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	45,000
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of MHPSS consultations provided (includes focused and specialized services only)	50,000
	Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion interventions	50,000
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	45,000

ANNEX 1 – RRP BUDGET SUMMARY BY PARTNER

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
UN Agencies								
UN International Organization for Migration	22,610,699	4,006,347	1,101,709	910,129	41,113,377	13,735,221	39,894,298	123,371,780
UN Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	1,860,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,860,000
UN Women	2,202,569	-	295,600	-	1,773,696	-	-	4,271,865
UN World Food Programme	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,577,414	17,577,414
UN World Health Organization	-	-	70,000	-	-	33,428,000	100,000	33,598,000
United Nations Children's Fund	3,556,398	39,203,089	3,857,290	40,627,877	6,068,467	9,427,722	18,260,152	121,000,995
United Nations Development Programme	339,000	-	600,000	-	9,137,000	-	-	10,076,000
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	1,000,000	-	-	-	2,800,000	-	-	3,800,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	112,476,439	14,909,900	12,643,701	4,681,141	40,562,260	-	153,764,784	339,038,225
United Nations Population Fund	-	-	13,107,264	630,000	700,000	10,659,000	65,000	25,161,264
IFRC and Red Cross								

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Bulgarian Red Cross	330,000	220,000	55,000	-	550,000	1,100,000	3,300,000	5,555,000
Hungarian Red Cross	1,300,000	50,000	25,000	500,000	50,000	500,000	2,500,000	4,925,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	155,000	-	-	-	200,000	1,180,000	10,927,000	12,462,000
Lithuanian Red Cross	136,791	-	-	-	811,998	416,000	3,722,004	5,086,793
Polish Red Cross (Polski Czerwony Krzyż) & International Federation of Red Cross	300,000	300,000	-	-	5,000,000	2,000,000	3,900,000	11,500,000
International NGOs								
Action Contre la Faim	-	-	-	-	-	591,000	1,098,183	1,689,183
ActionAid International	526,810	-	-	-	25,603	35,245	188,032	775,690
Adventist Development and Relief Agency - Czech Republic	-	-	-	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	1,225,108	-	-	-	204,993	-	5,303,142	6,733,243
American Rescue Project	-	-	-	250,000	250,000	400,000	300,000	1,200,000
Association for Aid and Relief Japan	705,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	705,000
Baltic Security Foundation	-	-	-	-	65,000	-	-	65,000
Bibliothèques sans Frontières	250,000	-	-	400,000	-	-	-	650,000
CARE	650,000	-	600,000	4,000,000	3,000,000	3,150,000	50,000	11,450,000
Caritas	1,500,000	520,000	100,000	150,000	13,473,433	224,400	3,034,610	19,002,443
Catholic Relief Services	-	299,600	-	556,400	-	-	2,160,000	3,016,000
Church World Service	162,736	130,000	-	-	97,578	-	1,268,641	1,658,955
CORE	-	-	-	-	100,000	100,000	150,000	350,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Danish Refugee Council	855,600	54,000	91,200	-	-	55,200	643,999	1,699,999
Doctors with Africa CUAMM	-	-	-	-	-	137,007	347,049	484,056
Dorcas	7,858	3,250	-	28,495	17,132	-	20,100	76,835
e-Governance Academy	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	120,000
European Lawyers in Lesvos (ELIL)	140,000	30,000	-	-	90,000	-	-	260,000
Fundacja Right to Protection	1,107,000	-	-	-	1,054,290	1,647,648	-	3,808,938
Good Neighbours Japan	100,000	-	-	-	300,000	-	600,000	1,000,000
HEKS/EPE R	724,849	-	105,190	-	237,500	-	639,356	1,706,895
HelpAge	95,200	-	-	-	118,000	50,000	115,000	378,200
Helvetas	-	-	-	-	1,005,800	-	3,380,865	4,386,665
HIAS	399,000	-	397,000	-	930,000	100,000	-	1,826,000
IMPACT Initiatives	120,000	-	-	-	240,000	-	400,000	760,000
International Orthodox Christian Charities	398,696	119,941	-	620,563	-	-	140,800	1,280,000
International Rescue Committee	3,039,026	1,562,200	2,169,700	1,392,800	3,831,513	620,000	5,512,000	18,127,239
INTEROS	807,000	-	-	-	-	471,000	38,000	1,316,000
Lifting Hands International	-	-	-	93,600	-	-	-	93,600
Lutheran World Federation	2,000,000	-	-	-	200,000	-	-	2,200,000
Mercy Corps	-	-	-	518,300	791,175	-	682,025	1,991,500
Norwegian Refugee Council	4,991,717	-	-	1,930,171	3,431,761	-	3,680,361	14,034,010
Oxfam	1,182,583	-	-	-	-	-	713,324	1,895,907
Peace Winds Japan	-	-	-	234,525	-	397,363	-	631,888
People in Need	1,150,000	798,000	-	2,503,796	2,476,845	-	4,518,367	11,447,008
Pestalozzi Children's Foundation	-	-	-	294,000	-	-	2,006,000	2,300,000
Plan International	500,000	4,100,000	2,500,000	3,500,000	-	900,000	1,000,000	12,500,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Pressley Ridge Magyarország Alapítvány / Pressley Ridge Hungary Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
Project HOPE	-	-	-	-	-	1,460,000	-	1,460,000
Save the Children	81,281	10,296,604	-	6,070,057	-	-	3,479,118	19,927,059
Terre des Hommes Foundation	160,000	3,135,748	102,648	1,684,850	213,707	329,223	-	5,626,176
The Foundation for Global Human Dignity	-	-	-	160,000	-	-	-	160,000
WeWorld	381,900	3,000	-	648,700	-	-	-	1,033,600
World Vision International	89,024	54,570	-	266,965	484,750	-	1,499,070	2,394,379
National NGOs								
A.O. Biaz Gul	-	-	630,808	-	-	-	-	630,808
A.O."Raza Încrereții"	-	-	-	105,355	-	-	22,531	127,886
ADRA Moldova	281,954	342,365	352,826	-	237,354	-	1,675,706	2,890,205
Adventistická agentura pre pomoc a rozvoj	-	-	-	31,200	-	-	340,600	371,800
Aid for Ukraine	40,000	320,000	30,000	150,000	250,000	320,000	202,250	1,312,250
Ak-Nordost	-	-	-	-	-	191,183	-	191,183
Aliance Center duševního zdraví / Alliance of Community MH Centers	226,761	113,380	-	-	-	226,761	-	566,902
Alliance of Active NGOs in the field of Child and Family Social Protection	951,800	-	-	-	-	-	-	951,800
Alliance of Organizations for Persons with Disabilities from Moldova	-	-	-	-	-	825,000	-	825,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
AO "Alianta pentru Dolna"	-	-	-	3,226	-	-	3,107	6,332
AO "Asociația Surzilor din Republica Moldova"	-	-	-	-	37,500	-	-	37,500
AO Asociația pentru Abilitarea Copilului și Familiei "AVE Copiii"	-	1,180,124	-	-	-	-	-	1,180,124
AO Centrul de Drept al Avocaților/ Law Center of Advocates	2,827,000	-	25,000	-	-	-	-	2,852,000
AO HELP	-	-	-	-	278,700	-	-	278,700
AO Institutum Virtutes Civilis	48,257	-	-	-	162,057	-	24,486	234,800
AO Societatea Invalizilor din RM	-	-	-	-	-	-	125,000	125,000
AO SOS Autism	52,000	-	-	915,000	385,000	-	105,000	1,457,000
Armia Zbawienia/The Salvation Army	-	-	-	8,000	-	-	25,000	33,000
Artscape	-	55,200	-	-	70,000	-	-	125,200
Ashoka Innowatorzy dla Dobra Publicznego	-	-	-	-	700,000	-	-	700,000
Asociace Trigon / Trigon Association	10,000	-	-	86,000	-	150,000	8,000	254,000
Asociatia Eliberare	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
Asociatia Four Change	50,000	-	-	60,000	70,000	-	120,000	300,000
Asociatia Moaselor Independente	-	-	60,000	-	5,000	100,000	50,000	215,000
Asociația Obștească „Onoarea și Dreptul Femeii Contemporane"	-	-	-	-	14,359	-	30,000	44,359

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Asociația Obștească pentru Copii și Tineret "FĂCLIA"	-	-	-	-	400,000	-	-	400,000
Asociația Parentis	-	30,000	40,000	-	-	100,000	80,000	250,000
Asociația pentru Drepturile Omului "Lex XXI"	-	180,000	150,000	-	-	-	-	330,000
Asociația profesorilor de limba ucraineană "Promini"	-	-	-	18,000	-	-	-	18,000
Asociația Project Voiajor (Project Voyager)	-	-	-	-	900,000	-	-	900,000
Asociația Tinerilor cu Diabet DIA (DIA Association of People Living with Type 1 Diabetes)	-	-	-	-	-	285,000	-	285,000
Association "TEV"	-	-	-	600,000	250,000	60,000	-	910,000
Association MARTA Centre	-	-	30,000	-	-	-	-	30,000
Association of Entrepreneurs with Disabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	114,272	114,272
Association of Ukrainian organization in Bulgaria MOTHER UKRAINE	-	-	-	-	280,000	250,000	1,300,000	1,830,000
AVA	-	82,210	-	-	-	-	-	82,210
Center for Public Policy PROVIDUS	-	-	-	-	140,098	-	-	140,098
Central Roma Council in Poland	-	-	-	656,000	1,505,000	-	-	2,161,000
Centrul de Informații "GENDERD OC-M"	-	-	-	-	-	-	41,500	41,500
Centrul National de Prevenire a Abuzului fata de Copii	-	722,500	-	-	-	-	-	722,500

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Centrul pentru Drepturile Persoanelor cu Dizabilități (CDPD)	120,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	120,000
Centrul pentru Politici, Inițiative și Cercetări "Platforma"	81,000	-	-	-	320,000	-	-	401,000
Centrum Społeczności Żydowskiej w Krakowie	-	-	-	134,000	12,000	24,000	624,044	794,044
Česko-ukrajinské centrum Krajanka / Czech-Ukrainian Center Krajanka	23,000	3,000	-	5,000	36,000	-	1,500	68,500
Charitable Foundation Fund Good	4,800	-	-	-	53,800	26,700	11,990	97,290
Charity Centre for Refugees	-	-	-	-	-	65,000	234,000	299,000
Children's Emergency Relief International	76,488	1,600	-	-	-	-	65,000	143,088
Common Ground	12,000	-	-	24,000	36,000	-	50,000	122,000
Community center Svitlo / Komunitní centrum Svitlo	15,000	43,000	-	35,000	75,000	52,000	-	220,000
Comunitatea Plus	16,000	-	-	75,000	-	-	-	91,000
CONCORDIA Moldova	46,000	-	-	32,000	25,000	-	114,459	217,459
Cordelia Foundation for the Rehab. of Torture Victims	-	-	-	-	-	428,695	-	428,695
Council for Refugee Women in Bulgaria	94,129	-	44,400	-	59,292	-	117,282	315,103
Creative ideas	-	-	-	300,000	200,000	-	-	500,000
Creative Industries Association in Moldova	-	-	-	170,000	-	-	-	170,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Foundation of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church	-	-	-	4,000	-	-	4,000	8,000
Frida	90,795	-	-	-	-	-	-	90,795
Fundacja "MAMA-2022"	-	-	-	5,000	-	25,000	-	30,000
Fundacja ADRA Polska	167,534	-	-	413,269	1,077,676	171,634	628,977	2,459,090
Fundacja Alight	-	-	-	-	1,160,005	-	2,239,995	3,400,000
Fundacja Centrum Pomocy Humanitarnej My z Wami	-	-	-	80,000	-	25,000	25,000	130,000
Fundacja Centrum Współpracy Międzynarodowej Germanitas	-	-	-	300,000	450,000	-	-	750,000
Fundacja Dajemy Dzieciom Się (Empowering Children Foundation)	-	828,260	-	-	-	-	-	828,260
Fundacja Dialog	30,000	-	-	120,000	500,000	-	400,000	1,050,000
Fundacja dla Migrantów DOBRY START	50,000	-	30,000	-	75,000	75,000	-	230,000
Fundacja Do domu	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	50,000
Fundacja DOSTĘPNY ŚWIAT	-	-	-	-	-	810,000	-	810,000
Fundacja Edukacja dla Demokracji	-	-	-	250,000	250,000	-	-	500,000
Fundacja Freedom Space	-	-	-	10,000	-	15,000	20,000	45,000
Fundacja HumanDoc	1,000,000	-	212,500	475,000	450,000	-	112,500	2,250,000
Fundacja Inicjatywa Dom Otwarty	22,460	-	-	11,000	108,070	-	2,400	143,930
Fundacja Innowacja i Wiedza	-	-	-	-	4,007,767	-	-	4,007,767

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Fundacja Jedność	-	-	-	450,000	-	-	-	450,000
Fundacja Kocham Dębniki	180,000	-	-	150,000	-	-	70,000	400,000
Fundacja Leny Grochowskiej	-	-	-	-	-	-	950,000	950,000
Fundacja na Rzecz Psychoprofilaktyki Społecznej PRO-FIL	-	-	-	-	316,627	-	-	316,627
Fundacja na rzecz Różnorodności Społecznej	-	-	-	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Fundacja Nagle Sami	-	-	-	-	-	252,867	-	252,867
Fundacja Nauka to przygoda	-	-	-	400,000	150,000	-	-	550,000
Fundacja New story	100,000	-	-	250,000	300,000	100,000	1,000,000	1,750,000
Fundacja Polki Mogą Wszystko	-	-	-	-	-	928,664	-	928,664
Fundacja Pomocy Wzajemnej Barka	-	-	-	250,000	500,000	180,000	470,000	1,400,000
Fundacja Przedsiębiorczości Kobiet	-	-	-	-	3,000,000	-	-	3,000,000
Fundacja Q	-	-	-	250,000	-	150,000	-	400,000
Fundacja Rozwoju Dzieci im. J. A. Komeńskiego	-	-	-	7,150,000	-	-	-	7,150,000
Fundacja Szkoła z Klasą	-	-	-	500,000	-	-	-	500,000
Fundacja Ukraina	150,000	-	47,000	1,100,000	400,000	-	-	1,697,000
Fundacja Uniwersytet Dzieci	-	-	-	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
Fundacja Vela	150,000	150,000	50,000	200,000	100,000	-	-	650,000
Fundacja Widowisk Masowych	-	-	-	280,000	534,000	-	-	814,000
Fundacja Wielkie Serce dla Dzieci	-	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	50,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Fundacja Zero Camps	-	-	-	-	200,000	-	-	200,000
Fundacja Zustricz	60,000	-	-	200,000	60,000	480,000	-	800,000
Fundację Rozwoju Społeczeństwa Informacyjnego	-	-	-	150,000	60,000	-	-	210,000
Fundatia "Don Bosco"	22,007	2,000	-	172,963	29,400	-	148,106	374,477
Fundația "Regina Pacis"	20,615	-	-	27,600	-	58,800	-	107,015
Fundatia Constantin Mimi	-	-	-	-	280,000	-	-	280,000
Fundatia Romanian Angel Appeal	-	-	-	200,000	100,000	50,000	-	350,000
Fundatia Tineri pentru Tineri	60,000	-	60,000	160,000	-	160,000	15,000	455,000
Gender Stream	-	-	-	-	-	22,255	231,453	253,708
Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem / Want to Help Refugees	-	-	-	-	53,000	-	-	53,000
Habitat for Humanity Poland	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,000,000	4,000,000
Habitat for Humanity Romania	-	-	-	-	-	-	340,000	340,000
Hands for Ukraine	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
HEKS / EPER Romania Foundation	-	-	-	-	600,000	-	80,000	680,000
Helping Centre for Refugees in Český Krumlov	-	-	-	9,000	-	-	-	9,000
House of National Minorities	-	-	-	-	60,000	-	-	60,000
Human Rights Embassy	-	-	-	-	689,700	-	-	689,700
Humanitarian Aid Center of the Jewish Community of Moldova	-	-	-	32,400	41,600	26,000	-	100,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
League for Mental Health in Slovakia	2,000,000	-	800,000	-	-	-	-	2,800,000
Lepszy Swiat	-	-	-	21,400	41,400	65,000	-	127,800
Lexis - Vamos Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,000	29,000
Lietuvos Skautija	75,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	75,000
LITERA Egyesület	-	15,000	-	50,000	20,000	-	15,000	100,000
Lithuania Diversity charter	-	-	-	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
Lithuanian Trade Union	-	-	-	-	150,000	-	-	150,000
Małopolski Fundusz Ekonomii Społecznej	-	-	-	100,000	35,000	-	-	135,000
Malva (Siauliai)	-	31,400	-	-	99,010	29,310	-	159,720
Mareena	335,665	522,670	-	-	34,250	-	-	892,585
MedSpot Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	33,000	-	33,000
Menedék Hungarian Association for Migrants	220,000	220,000	10,000	150,000	30,000	20,000	-	650,000
Menekültek Online Segítő Társasága (Refugee Help Digital Network)	15,000	10,000	10,000	25,000	15,000	25,000	15,000	115,000
Metropolitan Orthodox Christian Charity ELEOS	-	-	-	250,000	50,000	-	530,000	830,000
Microfinance Centre	-	-	-	-	180,000	-	-	180,000
Migrant Integration Centre Brasov	300,000	-	-	-	50,000	50,000	-	400,000
Migration Aid	36,434	478,101	-	95,148	239,644	-	1,012,071	1,861,398
Mission-U Foundation	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	50,000
MOTIVATION	7,780	-	-	-	19,780	44,000	119,600	191,160
National Youth Foundation	400,000	-	-	600,000	1,200,000	-	-	2,200,000
NCUM	-	-	-	-	1,357,116	-	-	1,357,116

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Necuvinte Association	14,600	3,000	15,000	26,760	18,380	13,380	46,980	138,100
NEEKA	30,000	25,000	-	394,000	90,000	154,000	-	693,000
Next Step Hungary Association	79,000	17,000	-	190,000	99,000	-	98,000	483,000
NGO Mondo	-	-	-	165,917	183,069	226,173	-	575,159
Novapolis Association	60,000	-	-	55,000	60,000	60,000	120,000	355,000
One Heart Foster Parenting Association	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	85,000	585,000
Open Bulgaria	15,359	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,359
Order of Malta Relief Organization	-	-	-	2,106	38,225	-	-	40,331
Organizace pro pomoc uprchlíkům / Organization for Aid to Refugees	106,600	-	-	70,350	-	-	-	176,950
Ot nas zavisi	-	-	-	15,000	20,000	25,500	134,000	194,500
Our Way	2,000	-	5,000	15,000	2,000	15,000	10,000	49,000
Parasolka	-	-	-	60,000	-	-	-	60,000
Partnerships for Every Child	-	150,000	-	-	-	-	-	150,000
PATRIR	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
People in Need - Slovakia	560,844	416,749	171,007	404,015	392,861	-	-	1,945,476
Piarista Gimnázium / Piarista Gymnasium	-	-	-	140,000	-	42,000	-	182,000
Platforma Femeilor Rome "ROMNI"	21,033	18,133	-	-	27,200	15,110	81,600	163,076
Polish Center for International Aid	2,000,000	-	-	11,500,000	4,000,000	1,000,000	9,500,000	28,000,000
Polish Humanitarian Action	244,000	-	-	292,000	3,025,318	262,845	2,790,344	6,614,507
Polish Medical Mission	60,000	500,000	-	98,751	125,000	-	-	783,751
Polish Migration Forum Foundation	360,000	-	-	200,000	50,000	650,000	-	1,260,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Polskie Towarzystwo Superwizji Pracy Socjalnej	-	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
Poradna pro integraci / The Counselling Centre for Integration	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,500	7,500
Prague Pride	7,000	-	-	-	8,000	20,000	25,000	60,000
Project HOPE Poland	400,000	-	-	-	-	300,000	-	700,000
ProUkrainu	-	-	-	15,000	15,000	15,000	-	45,000
Psziz Pont	-	-	-	-	-	150,000	-	150,000
Refugee Council of Lithuania	-	-	-	-	200,000	-	-	200,000
Regionální ukrajinský spolek ve Východních Čechách / Regional Ukrainian Association in Eastern Bohemia	3,600	-	-	30,000	10,000	-	-	43,600
Roma Awareness Foundation	42,326	-	-	70,000	-	-	93,657	205,983
Romodrom	130,000	432,000	-	432,000	130,000	-	302,000	1,426,000
Rotary International - Bulgaria	-	-	-	-	96,669	-	-	96,669
SA Ukraina sõjapõgenike psühhosotsiaalse kriisiabi fond	-	-	-	60,000	20,000	20,000	-	100,000
SalamLab	-	-	-	110,000	134,147	100,000	-	344,147
Salvati Copiii	-	4,205,127	-	2,666,667	123,077	512,821	492,308	8,000,000
Ščedryk, společenství Ukrajinců Olomouckého kraje / Ščedryk, community of Ukrainians of the Olomouc region	2,000	3,000	-	9,000	2,000	-	-	16,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Sdružení pro integraci a migraci / Association for Integration and Migration	51,000	-	70,000	-	255,000	20,000	-	396,000
SEGÍTŐ ÖSSZEFOGÁS ALAPÍTVÁNY – Helping Coalition Foundation	15,000	10,000	5,000	19,000	22,000	10,000	110,000	191,000
Sensiblu Foundation	-	-	950,000	-	-	-	-	950,000
SERA Romania	300,000	200,000	200,000	600,000	450,000	500,000	750,000	3,000,000
Shelter Safe House	180,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	180,000
Situation Centre Open Doors	58,650	-	-	-	60,500	19,550	-	138,700
Slovak Humanitarian Council	50,000	250,000	40,000	800,000	250,000	-	430,000	1,820,000
Societatea pentru Educatie Contraceptiva si Sexuala	-	-	-	-	-	47,970	-	47,970
Society Development Institute	60,000	-	-	200,000	60,000	-	-	320,000
Society for All	-	79,084	-	124,479	-	122,946	-	326,509
SOK (Samodzielność od Kuchni) Foundation	-	-	-	256,000	-	-	-	256,000
Speranta 87	26,000	-	-	-	-	-	596,160	622,160
Spirits of Hope	60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,000
Stowarzyszenie Centrum Wolontariat w Lublinie	6,623	-	-	8,610	92,078	23,962	77,268	208,541
Stowarzyszenie Edukacji Krytycznej	275,000	-	-	190,000	-	-	-	465,000
Stowarzyszenie MUDITA	-	-	-	-	400,000	90,000	-	490,000
Stowarzyszenie Operation Mobilisation w Polsce	119,450	68,200	-	-	-	105,250	241,700	534,600
SUS INIMA	750,000	-	50,000	440,000	509,000	271,800	108,000	2,128,800

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Talk to Loop	100,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000
Tavidraugi	674,000	-	-	-	-	-	510,000	1,184,000
TENENET (NGO)	200,000	200,000	10,000	200,000	10,000	1,000,000	-	1,620,000
Terre des hommes Moldova	-	1,750,000	-	-	-	-	-	1,750,000
The Human Rights League	848,558	-	-	-	-	-	-	848,558
The Polish Center for Torture Survivors	-	-	100,000	-	-	100,000	-	200,000
The Roma Lawyers Association in Romania	338,000	-	-	140,000	84,000	-	495,000	1,057,000
The Romanian National Council for Refugees	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
Towards Dialogue Foundation	70,000	-	-	180,000	-	-	208,000	458,000
TUTU - Podkarpackie Stowarzyszenie dla Aktywnych Rodzin	80,000	881,400	147,200	142,800	-	-	-	1,251,400
Ukraine House	920,000	90,000	-	340,000	380,000	240,000	130,000	2,100,000
Ukrainian Education Hub in Poland (Pro Futuro Foundation)	159,820	-	-	170,508	293,342	-	-	623,670
Ukrainian House	-	5,300	-	8,530	8,435	-	30,460	52,725
Ukrainian school in Prague	-	-	-	510,000	-	-	-	510,000
Ukrainians for Ukrainians	-	92,708	-	71,450	-	52,000	-	216,158
Ukrajinská Iniciativa Jižní Moravy / Ukrainian Initiative of South Moravia	79,000	-	-	7,000	48,000	-	-	134,000
Ukrajinská iniciativa v České republice	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	-	50,000

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
Ukrajinské kulturně-vzdělávací centrum v Brně / Ukrainian cultural and educational center in Brno	-	5,000	-	5,000	-	-	-	10,000
Union of Young Roma "Tarna Rom"	-	-	-	73,203	-	-	-	73,203
UNITATEM Foundation - Poland Welcomes	-	-	-	100,000	-	-	1,595,166	1,695,166
United Way Hungary	-	-	-	470,795	256,775	109,218	439,400	1,276,188
Uniunea pentru Echitate și Sănătate	-	-	-	-	-	194,000	-	194,000
Voluntary civil protection	-	-	-	9,000	290,000	4,800	70,000	373,800
Warsaw House Foundation	-	-	37,500	-	-	198,500	619,900	855,900
We are together	-	-	70,000	160,000	180,000	70,000	-	480,000
World Vision Romania Foundation	-	1,000,000	-	1,500,000	995,000	-	800,000	4,295,000
Young Folks LV	36,000	-	-	-	-	-	187,000	223,000
Za Dobroto Foundation	39,343	25,536	-	46,781	31,500	-	72,000	215,160
Ми в Чехії Pisek a okolí	4,000	-	-	6,000	-	-	-	10,000
Academia								
Maria Grzegorzewska University	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	100,000
Sports Organisation								
Asociace Evrosen-Baiterek / Evrosen-Baiterek Association	-	50,000	50,000	100,000	217,391	25,000	434,780	877,171
Total	194,566,842	97,563,009	42,791,044	120,663,167	182,996,240	99,529,768	342,449,932	1,080,560,002



**Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation**