



Ukraine Emergency: Six-Month Impact Update

Oksana, Yurii and their daughter Svitlana stand at the remains of their destroyed home in Nalyvaikivka, in Kyiv Oblast, after it was hit with two missiles while they were still inside. The family is currently living in a shelter provided by UNHCR.

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Humanitarian context

Since the start of the international armed conflict on 24 February, Ukraine has been the site of death, destruction and devastation on a dramatic scale. The Russian Federation's invasion of the country has triggered not only a grave humanitarian crisis, but also the largest forced displacement crisis in the world today.

The ongoing hostilities have caused extensive damage to civilian infrastructure, including homes, shops and public service facilities. Six months since the invasion, over 5,000 civilians have been recorded as killed and another 7,000 injured – although the actual figures are likely to be far higher.¹ This is in addition to millions of people, including women and children, who have been trapped by active fighting, forced to live under threat of bombing for days, weeks or even months, at times without access to basic lifelines like food, clean water and medicine nor critical services like electricity.

Just six weeks after the war began, a quarter of the population, equivalent to over 11 million people, had fled their homes within Ukraine and across borders. After six months, well over a third of the population - or more than 14 million people - remain displaced. This includes nearly 7 million people who are now estimated to be displaced inside the country, with over a million more still considering the need to leave their homes due to the war.² An estimated further 7 million refugees from Ukraine have been forced to flee to other countries in Europe since the Russian invasion³, the vast majority of whom are women, children and older people. While the refugee movements have slowed down compared to the first weeks of the war, people are still fleeing areas of active fighting and dire conditions in Ukraine. Countless others are suffering from the war's impacts on public services and socio-economic conditions, with Ukraine's economy devastated by the conflict. As of late April, some 53 per cent of employed Ukrainians had already lost their jobs since the war began, and the country's economic losses are estimated to exceed US\$1 trillion.⁴

BY THE NUMBERS: UNHCR'S RESPONSE TO THE UKRAINE EMERGENCY

- Over **1.74 million people** inside Ukraine reached with emergency relief items, shelter support, cash assistance and protection
- Over **350 trucks of emergency aid supplies** transported into Ukraine from Poland, carrying critical items like blankets, warm clothes, and hygiene kits and a further **225 inter-agency convoys have delivered the supplies to hard-hit areas in Ukraine**
- **36 Blue Dots** currently operational in 7 countries, supporting refugees fleeing Ukraine with access to family and child-focused services, advice and information; some 155,000 people reached through Blue Dots across the region

¹ OHCHR: [Ukraine: civilian casualty update 1 August 2022](#)

² IOM: [Ukraine – Internal Displacement Report – General Population Survey Round 8 \(17 - 23 August 2022\) | Displacement \(iom.int\)](#)

³ UNHCR: [Operational Data Portal for the Ukraine Refugee Situation](#)

⁴ UNHCR: [Ukraine Regional Refugee Response Plan and Flash Appeal Summary – April 2022](#)

- **Over 382,300 refugees provided with cash assistance** in Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia to help them buy the essentials they need, with over US\$140 million disbursed across the countries⁵

This report covers UNHCR's assistance from 24 February to 24 August 2022. For the latest information, please visit [UNHCR's data portal for the Ukraine situation](#) for refugee figures, and the [UNHCR Global Focus page](#) for the latest external updates on the Ukraine emergency.

UNHCR's emergency response in Ukraine

On 25 February, UNHCR declared a Level 3 Emergency in Ukraine – the most serious on the scale – signalling an exceptional response to the crisis. UNHCR rapidly scaled up its presence inside Ukraine to be able to reach people in need across the country, opening offices and warehouses in new locations and sending teams of emergency responders into the country with more than 200 staff now on the ground. Despite intensifying hostilities, teams have remained operational throughout the crisis to quickly deploy stocks of emergency supplies as well as reinforce essential protection services such as psychosocial support and legal advice to people in need.

SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS



87-year-old Lyudmyla and her granddaughters speak with UNHCR staff at a reception centre in Uzhhorod, western Ukraine, where they found shelter. Originally from Kharkiv, the family fled across the country seeking safety before receiving shelter at the UNHCR-supported centre.

"We stayed overnight in many towns on our way. We didn't know where exactly we were going. Volunteers told us about reception centres in Uzhhorod, so we came here. We were very grateful to be given accommodation and hot meals".

© UNHCR/Igor Karpenko

Some **717,000 people** who are displaced within Ukraine or cannot move due to intense fighting have been reached with essential supplies including food, relief items, winter clothes and shelter materials. This includes nearly 160,000 people who have received food packages. While access to deliver life-saving aid in areas of intense fighting has remained extremely challenging for humanitarian actors since the start of the war, UNHCR has managed to reach **144,000 people trapped in conflict-hit areas** such as Dnipro with life-saving assistance through 225 inter-agency convoys with items such as sleeping bags and hygiene kits.

Nearly 90,000 sleeping spaces have been improved or created in reception centres and collective shelters. This has entailed UNHCR working with authorities to assess

suitable buildings that can be transformed into places hosting large groups to displaced people, then carrying out repairs and equipping 294 centres with supplies like beds, refrigerators and

⁵ The figure of US\$140 million includes more than one payment to the same individual.

washing facilities. **More than 27,000 emergency shelter kits have also been provided to people with damaged homes**, and these kits – comprised of hardware materials like wooden planks, nails and tarpaulins – are also being distributed to help repair dormitories and community centres hosting large groups of people. In areas where the situation has stabilised, UNHCR is carrying out home repairs for the most vulnerable individuals whose homes have been damaged by the conflict – especially critical ahead of upcoming harsh winter weather conditions.

CASH ASSISTANCE

UNHCR’s multi-purpose cash assistance is an effective way to give displaced people the capacity and dignity to purchase the items they need the most, while helping reduce the risk of exploitation of people who have become socio-economically vulnerable and dependent due to their forced displacement. As families fled with little more than what they could carry, abandoning their homes and jobs in search of safety, UNHCR set up a cash assistance programme inside Ukraine in record time. From the start of the programme launching in the country in mid-March, **525,000 people have now received cash assistance** to support their basic needs – with more people being reached each week.

“In the first months of the war, when millions of people were fleeing within a very short period of time, it was very important to quickly launch this cash assistance programme”

Karolina Lindholm Billing,
UNHCR Representative in Ukraine



Internally displaced people register for cash assistance at a UNHCR enrolment centre in Lviv, in the west of the country. The centre also provides emergency housing, legal aid and psycho-social help, including support for women victims of violence.

© UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

A priority is to ensure that the most vulnerable people are supported, such as single-parent families, older people, foster families caring for unaccompanied or separated children, and people with specific needs like disabilities. Among the internally displaced people enrolled in the cash programme, over 75 per cent are women and children. The assistance is normally used to cover basic needs such as accommodation, food, medicine and toiletries. So far, **some US\$110 million has been distributed via monthly cash grants**, provided for a three-month period. First provided at branches of the national postal service, the programme has now been reinforced up so that those with bank accounts can receive direct deposits and are alerted by SMS.

PROTECTION

As people continue to flee within the country and across borders, UNHCR has strengthened its programmes providing protection advice and support at border crossing points, reception and transit centres, and collective shelters where people are seeking refuge. **Over 495,000 people have benefitted from protection assistance, advice and referrals.** Some 218,000 people have received protection information, support and counselling and a further 61,000 people have received legal assistance or counselling. UNHCR has also provided social accompaniment for some 10,000 people, such as helping families access social services or regain critical personal documentation such as ID cards which may have been lost or destroyed in the fighting. UNHCR and partners are significantly increasing the availability of psychological first aid assistance to those who are affected, and 50,000 people have benefitted from specific psychosocial support and psychological first aid services to address depression, grief and anxiety.

UNHCR has also established a presence at border crossing points, transit centres and reception centres to reach people on the move, as well as ramped up its helpline services with trained professionals to ensure protection advice is accessible to those who cannot physically reach services. Nearly 148,000 calls have been received and assisted through the helpline.

UNHCR teams have conducted over 5,000 protection monitoring missions – field visits around the country that help teams thoroughly understand the diversity of risks and needs of people forced to flee, covering a wide range of issues such as legal, psychological and physical needs, as well as assessing and mitigating risks for specific groups such as children and women. As the situation remains in flux, these missions are essential to understand the needs and risks facing people forced to flee, as well as map available services to support them.



Children displaced from southern Ukraine walk towards a reception centre for displaced people in Chernivtsi in western Ukraine, where UNHCR is conducting a needs assessment. © UNHCR/Anton Fedorov

UNHCR's emergency response in the region

Thanks to careful contingency planning, UNHCR was able to quickly scale up its operations throughout Europe as the scale of the Ukraine refugee emergency became clear. While national authorities remain in charge of registering refugees, UNHCR, as the leading UN agency protecting people forced to flee, has worked closely to help identify those most at risk who need additional support. UNHCR has also remained present at borders with all neighbouring countries of Ukraine and in major areas receiving refugees, ensuring a quick launch of wide-scale awareness campaigns

to help refugees protect themselves, identify legitimate offers of assistance, and report incidents of sexual misconduct or criminal activity given the high number of women and children fleeing. The UNHCR-led response – as detailed in the [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) – together with national authorities as well as NGO and UN partners, has been key to reinforcing protection of those affected.

HUNGARY

- UNHCR has set up **three Blue Dots in Hungary** to be able to provide advice and support to refugees from Ukraine arriving in the country – one in Záhony and a second in Tiszabecs, both towns on Hungary’s eastern border with Ukraine, as well as a mobile Blue Dot, with some 6,000 people reached so far through the Blue Dots. Overall, at Blue Dots and other key locations such as border crossing points and temporary shelters across the country, **24,000 people – the majority of them woman and children - have been supported with protection assistance**, including legal information, counselling and psychosocial aid.
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- UNHCR continues to monitor conditions across reception centres, **conducting over 100 assessments** of both official shelters designated by the authorities as well as those operated privately or by local municipalities to ensure they meet the needs of people forced to flee. In Budapest, a mobile social care team is roving to provide support and counselling to refugees in these temporary shelters on topics like residence, family reunification and healthcare.
- UNHCR has delivered **training to local partners on critical topics** such as protecting children, combatting gender-based violence and preventing sexual abuse and exploitation, as well as volunteers helping to staff Blue Dots.
- UNHCR has distributed over **6,500 hygiene kits of essential toiletries such as soap and toothbrushes to newly arriving refugees**, and maintains a stockpile of prepositioned supplies including blankets to be able to immediately respond to new displacement.



UNHCR staff support refugees arriving by train in the Hungarian border town of Záhony on 16 March. © UNHCR/Zoran Stevanovic

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

- There are now **eight Blue Dots operational in Moldova**, including three in the capital. **Nearly 27,000 people have received support and advice** at these centres including 13,000 children helped to access specialised services such as healthcare and social welfare. Internet connections have also established at Blue Dots as well as dozens of refugee accommodation centres and other key sites where refugees can access services via free wi-fi.
- In addition to the [Help webpage for Moldova](#), **UNHCR supports a free helpline** to respond to questions and needs from refugees and host communities, **that has received some 29,000**

calls. UNHCR also supports the training of call operators on how to handle reports of sexual exploitation and abuse, as part of broader training and capacity-building efforts. In total, **some 2,500 people, including frontline responders and government and NGO staff have been trained on protection issues** across the country such as responding to cases of gender-based violence.

- As UNHCR and child protection specialists estimate that two percent of refugee children in Moldova – some 900 children – are travelling alone and have been separated from their families, a process has been established to ensure these vulnerable children undergo **best interests assessments** and can be quickly referred for specialised support. UNHCR has also supported the printing of children’s books in Ukrainian distributed to these accommodation centres, local schools and libraries.
- Since the cash programme was set up in March, **over 72,000 people have already received** cash assistance through a prepaid card following biometric enrolment. Protection desks have also been set up at locations where refugees enrol for cash assistance, to help identify and support people with specific needs and make referrals to specialised services.
- To date, **over 2,000 refugees have been provided with psychosocial support and psychological first aid assistance at main border crossing areas and other key transit points, such as the bus station in Palanca.** People who have severe psychological symptoms are also referred to specialized mental health and psychosocial support services.

POLAND

- Since the cash programme was launched in March, **some 265,000 refugees have been provided with cash assistance, of whom 94 per cent are women and children.** To ensure refugees are easily able to receive support, **over 10 cash enrolment sites** were set up nationwide at the height of enrolment activities, with mobile enrolment teams supporting people in remote areas or vulnerable persons otherwise unable to access the physical facilities.



*Children sit with UNHCR staff at the Blue Dot Safe Space, Protection and Support Hub in Warsaw Praga cash enrolment centre in Poland.
©UNHCR/Maciej Moskwa.*

- UNHCR has continued developing its remote support services to be able to provide counselling and advice to refugees in Poland, regardless of their location. Around 2.5 million visits have been made to UNHCR’s [Help page for Poland](#), and a **new counselling helpline was set up in late July operating in four languages**, receiving some 6,000 calls since its opening.
- UNHCR has been present at border crossing points, reception centres and transit points since the onset of the crisis. Field teams continue to carry out field monitoring visits to identify issues and provide support. There are also now **eight Blue Dots** operating in Poland in six different cities and towns; some previously operational Blue Dots, established on a temporary basis, have since transitioned to serving as community centres. **Some 32,000 people have been counselled through these Blue Dots**, mostly related to health services, transport, financial support and protection; one of the two Blue Dots in Warsaw now offers refugees legal support from lawyers operating full-time at the site. To help **refugees overcome barriers when entering the labour market** and support integration efforts, UNHCR is also rolling out additional support including **workshops to help job-seekers prepare CVs** and has worked in collaboration with a local university in the south-eastern city of Rzeszów to launch free **Polish language courses**.
- Also in Rzeszów, UNHCR rapidly set up a **logistics hub** with warehousing facilities to house hundreds of thousands of relief items like bedding, blankets and mattresses. **Over 350 trucks full of emergency supplies** have travelled from the hub into Ukraine for internally displaced people in need. Dozens more trucks have delivered goods around Poland, from Gdansk in the north, to Katowice in the south, and to many more towns and cities across the country where refugees are staying at reception and accommodation centres.

ROMANIA

- UNHCR teams are present at **11 border crossing points** to provide information and counselling to new arrivals and are providing a wide range of protection services in person across the country. With **7 Blue Dots open** across the country, including two in the capital, over **45,000 people have been counselled** including with protection advice and information. A further **12,000 people have been reached through** helplines and 19,000 in person with essential information about access to services and asylum procedures, and more than 66,000 visits have been to UNHCR’s [UNHCR Help page for Romania](#).
- Nearly **15,000 people have received cash assistance** to help meet their basic needs, of whom around 90 per cent are women and children. **Five cash enrolment centres are operational**, including one in the capital Bucharest where partners are also providing legal and health referral services on site.
- A new warehouse has opened in Bucharest with 10,000 square miles of capacity to stock **thousands of supplies like tarpaulins,**



Refugees from Ukraine enrol for UNHCR cash assistance in Bucharest. Once enrolled, they will receive a pin to their phone which allows them to withdraw the cash at a local store. © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

hygiene kits, bedding, winter clothing and generators. UNHCR has also been on hand to support ad hoc needs, such as **delivering ten tons of clean water to reception centres and border crossing points** in the summer's soaring temperatures.

- UNHCR regularly undertakes monitoring visits and assessments to accommodation centres, transit sites and residential care facilities for children, with **over 115 locations visited** to date many on several occasions; trainings are also provided to partners in key areas like data protection and supply.

SLOVAKIA

- Helping refugees meet their immediate needs and transition to their stay in Slovakia, a **cash assistance programme was launched in May with over 30,000 refugees provided with** cash assistance. **Five physical enrolment sites** have been set up around the country, while a **mobile team** is roving throughout the country and conducted home visits to reach refugees in more remote areas.
- **Three Blue Dots** are now operating in Slovakia to provide advice and information as well as referrals to services including in Bratislava, Michalovce and at the main train station in Košice in eastern Slovakia, which receives direct arrivals from Ukraine. More than 21,100 people have been assisted through the Blue Dots so far.
- UNHCR's **[Help page for Slovakia](#)** has received 159,000 visits, with information accessible on the page in four languages. UNHCR has also been operating a **helpline** for refugees together with UNICEF, with around 4,800 calls received to date. While the majority of queries are relating to cash assistance and protection concerns, staff are also trained in dealing with sensitive issues like sexual exploitation and abuse, to be able to identify and support individuals that require further action.

Your support in action: Ukraine



Oksana, Yurii and their daughter Svitlana stand at the remains of their destroyed home. The family is currently living in a shelter provided by UNHCR. © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

On 4 March, the quiet village of Nalyvaikivka on the outskirts of Kyiv was awoken by the shrill sound of air raid sirens and shelling overhead.

One local family, Yurii, Oksana and their daughter Svitlana, fled to the cellar. As the door of the cellar was closing above our heads, I heard the sound of glass shattering,” says Oksana. When the family emerged, they found that their home had been hit.

Fearful for their safety, they fled to a nearby town, only returning some weeks later when troops had withdrawn. Oksana explains the destruction they saw on returning: “The whole street was grey from the ashes of burnt buildings. Our yard was full of rubble, slate, window frames, glass. We spent many days trying to clean up, moving very carefully as we didn’t know if there were any unexploded ammunition or other dangerous things in our yard.”

Many of the villagers of Nalyvaikivka lost everything, as weeks of shelling and missile attacks saw more than 220 houses damaged, including 30 which were completely destroyed. Aside from the trauma of losing their homes, the villagers are also coming to terms with the loss of people they

had known all their lives. Oksana looks over the garden fence at a destroyed house – one of seven destroyed on her street. “Our two neighbours didn’t survive. The son died during the shelling, and his mother died afterwards in hospital.”

As millions of Ukrainians are reeling from the impact of war and facing the approach of a bitterly cold winter, UNHCR, with the generous support of its donors, is working to support people affected by the conflict. Displaced people are receiving cash and legal assistance. Housing – including residential centres and homes – is being repaired, and household items provided to those in need like Oksana.

With the support of donors, UNHCR was able to provide the family with a temporary shelter and ensure they have a safe and dignified place to stay. To make the feel more like a home, UNHCR also provided mattresses, bed linen, solar lamps and other essential household supplies like soap and towels.



The family stands outside their shelter, provided by UNHCR after their house was destroyed. © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

Despite all that has happened, the family has not given up. Their strength is inspiring. Yurii has already started to rebuild their beloved home, brick-by-brick, and UNHCR will provide additional materials to help. Oksana, an avid gardener, has even created new flower beds from the damaged bricks of her home. “At least I can give new life to the bits and pieces of my ruined house.”

Your support in action: Moldova

Antonina, 38, and her son Artem look at a family photo on her mobile phone taken back home in Ukraine. She remembers trying to persuade her husband Seryozha to be in the photo – he finally agreed when she reminded him it could be their last picture together for some time.



Sitting in their room at the accommodation centre, Antonina smiles as she shows her son Artem family pictures from back home in Ukraine. © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

Antonina and four-year-old Artem were forced to flee their home in Mykolaiv, a southern city on the cusp of the Black Sea, as the bombing came too close to bear. “When they started shelling Odesa, we heard the explosions shudder”, she says. Artem’s safety was her only thought. “It is my duty to protect him – first and foremost mentally, and secondly physically. When rockets arrive, it’s really scary, and my job is to take him out and save him”.

Leaving his father behind, Artem and his mother piled into a car with other family members – including his aunt and her own small children, one of whom is just 18 months old. Finally, the group reached safety at the Moldovan border, where UNHCR and partners were on hand to assist.

Since the war started on 24 February, Moldovan authorities have recorded more than 550,000 border crossings from Ukraine into the country. While some have gone back to Ukraine or onwards

to other countries, currently, there are still about 89,000 refugees from Ukraine like Antonina and Artem staying in Moldova.

Since being received at the border, Antonina and Artem have been staying at an accommodation centre supported by UNHCR that provides shelter, material assistance and hot meals in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova. In addition to helping convert the site from an exhibition centre to accommodation, UNHCR teams are on site to support newly arriving refugees access information and enrol for services like cash assistance. Arriving in a new country and not speaking the language nor having many belongings from home, Antonina been grateful for the warm welcome and support. “In my opinion, it’s helpful for people and protects them... you shouldn’t wish for more”.



Antonina and Artem walk in the halls of their refugee accommodation in Chisinau. © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

It is still a stressful situation, and recovery will take a long time. Artem has asked his mum what ‘being shot’ means – something that no four-year-old should ever have to understand. To begin returning to a sense of normality, Antonina is looking to enrol him in kindergarten soon. Until then, with a range of children’s services available at their accommodation centre, Artem has a lot of ways to keep busy. Antonina says his day normally starts in the playground, and there is also a children’s room with colouring pencils and paper where he can draw as well as adults and other children for him to talk to. As the majority of those fleeing Ukraine are women and children, the adjacent Blue Dot Hub established by UNHCR, UNICEF and authorities also offers support for children and families, and other vulnerable people.



Antonina and Artem share a peaceful moment in the sunshine outside their accommodation in Chisinau. © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

Antonina hopes to find seasonal work to help support her family and save some money for when they can return to Ukraine – something she longs for, without knowing when it will be possible. “I still hope that in a couple of months, the war will end and we’ll be able to go home”. Until then, Antonina can rest safe in the knowledge that her and Artem are safe.

The war in Ukraine has enormous national, regional and global repercussions, including for the scale, reach and effectiveness of UNHCR's work around the world. These exceptional circumstances have called for exceptional support – and you have responded. With your help, millions of people have been reached in the last six months with lifesaving assistance, supplies, and protection inside Ukraine and in nearby countries across the region.

We are extremely grateful to you for having responded with urgency and empathy to the needs of people displaced within Ukraine as well as those forced to flee to neighbouring countries at a time of unprecedented suffering. As the war continues preventing most refugees from going back home in safety and dignity and the harsh winter season approaches, your continued support to people forced to flee within Ukraine and in the region remains essential and as important today as ever.

At the same time, the devastating global ripple effects of the war in Ukraine are pushing up food and fuel prices and disrupting supply chains, leading to a wave of collateral hunger, and creating additional strain on displaced communities across the world who were already extremely vulnerable and reliant on humanitarian assistance, especially in the world's most forgotten and underfunded crises. We count on your continued partnership and support for the Ukraine emergency and towards all people forced to flee – whoever they are, wherever they flee from and whenever they are uprooted.

On behalf of everyone at UNHCR and the people we serve, **thank you** for your generosity and solidarity.