

# Ukraine

October 2021

In Ukraine, UNHCR responds for three populations: refugees and asylum-seekers, stateless persons and persons with undetermined nationality, as well as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other conflict-affected persons.

Since the beginning of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the temporary occupation of Crimea in 2014, UNHCR has provided protection and humanitarian assistance and support, including shelter repairs, to IDPs and other conflict-affected persons on both sides of the contact line.

UNHCR began implementing a construction project to improve the crossing conditions at the inter-state border crossing point (IBCP) Milove; the IBCP is used by NGCA residents trying to enter GCA via the Russian Federation when more direct access to GCA is restricted.

## KEY INDICATORS

**244**

refugees and asylum-seekers **assisted in accessing healthcare** in October.

**215**

Undocumented persons **received advice on the acquisition or confirmation of nationality** in October.

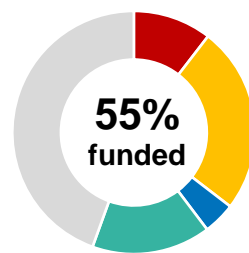
**236**

Internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons **were provided with social accompaniment** in October.

## FUNDING (AS OF 9 NOVEMBER 2021)

**USD 28.9 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2021



- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked
- Unearmarked
- Funding gap



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Participants of the Cities of Solidarity Forum visit the construction site of future housing for internally displaced persons in the city of Vinnytsia, central Ukraine. The housing is being built through a cooperative involving a unique collaboration of civil society, internally displaced persons and local authorities.

The Cities of Solidarity Forum dedicated to finding durable housing solutions for IDPs was hosted on 19 October 2021 by UNHCR Ukraine together with Vinnytsia city authorities, the Vinnytsia Regional State Administration, and the NGO "Spilna sprava". Read more [here](#).

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS)\*

**734,000\*\***

## OTHER CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS\*\*\*

**1,62 million\*\*\*\***

## REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN UKRAINE

**4,931\*\*\*\*\***

## STATELESS PERSONS AND PERSONS WITH UNDETERMINED NATIONALITY

**35,875\*\*\*\*\***

\*Residing more permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA)

\*\*Source: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)

\*\*\*Vulnerable, conflict-affected persons living along the 'contact line' in GCA and in non-government controlled areas (NGCA)

\*\*\*\*Sources: Protection Cluster, UNHCR, December 2020

\*\*\*\*\*Source: UNHCR's Refugee Population Statistics Database, mid-year 2021

## Updates on Context

- New restrictions were introduced at the Stanystia-Luhanska EECF from 10 October to 11 November in response to a spike in COVID-19 cases and deaths, causing crossings to drop to approximately one tenth of their previous level. Previously, Stanystia-Luhanska was the only fully functioning EECF on both sides of the contact line, however those crossing were required to present proof of residency in order to cross (Ukrainian residence permit for those travelling into GCA and proof of residence in NGCA for those travelling in the opposite direction) or obtain a special humanitarian permission in advance. Humanitarian permission can be granted in case of death of family member, to seek medical treatment (including for COVID-19 vaccination), for study and some other limited exceptions. An immediate impact was observed on crossings via Milove during this period, with unofficial data showing that crossings increased from a daily average of 150 to 780, with peaks of up to 1,400 daily crossings. Further data on crossings through EECFs is available [here](#).
- In October, COVID-19 cases in Ukraine continued rising and 15 oblasts (including Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts) and the city of Kyiv were in the red zone of quarantine restrictions by the end of the month. In some regions of Ukraine, asylum-seekers began receiving COVID-19 vaccines, however, the situation differs across the country. In general, undocumented persons do not have access to COVID-19 vaccination in Ukraine. However, there were four cases known to UNHCR and its partners of persons with undetermined nationality and stateless persons receiving their first jabs. It still remains to be seen if these people would receive official vaccination certificates after their second doses of the vaccine. UNHCR thus continues to advocate for full and unhindered access to vaccination.
- On 28 October the Government of Ukraine [adopted the IDP Integration and Durable Solutions Strategy, which is valid until 2024, and its 2021–2023 Action Plan](#). The Strategy's primary purpose is to create conditions where IDPs will not require any specific assistance and/or protection due to their internal displacement and will be able to exercise their rights in full without discrimination. The Strategy is expected to focus on facilitating IDPs' access to administrative, social and other services in their host communities. UNHCR contributed to the elaboration of the Strategy at various stages.

## Working in Partnership

The humanitarian response to displacement in Ukraine is a coordinated effort by the Government of Ukraine, international organizations, national and international NGOs. UNHCR works closely with the Government, including its line ministries and central and local administrations and authorities to ensure the protection of and durable solutions for persons of concern to UNHCR. In relation to IDPs, UNHCR has signed a Letter of Understanding with the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories. In relation to refugees and stateless persons, UNHCR cooperates closely with the State Migration Service (SMS) of Ukraine. In 2021, UNHCR has agreements with eight local NGO project partners. UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and Shelter/Non-food Items (NFI) Cluster under the Humanitarian Response Plan. UNHCR together with OCHA co-leads the Logistics Working Group responsible for facilitating humanitarian convoys to eastern Ukraine.

## Refugees and Asylum-Seekers



- On 8 October, to commemorate the 160th anniversary of the birth of Fridtjof Nansen, UNHCR and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway, in cooperation with the Institute of International Relations of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, held a round table discussion on the importance of humanitarian work and the legacy of Fridtjof Nansen in addressing forced displacement. The round table was joined by the State Migration Service (SMS) of Ukraine, as well as researchers from Ukraine and Norway.
- On 12 October, with the aim of improving technical capacity for the consideration of asylum cases, UNHCR and NGO partner NEEKA in co-operation with the Lviv regional branch of the National School of Judges of Ukraine held a workshop in Uzhhorod on judicial assessment of the rights of asylum-seekers in Ukraine for judges of district administrative courts of Khmelnytskyi, Volyn, Lviv, Rivne and Zakarpattia oblasts. Eighteen judges, attorneys of Free Legal Aid Centres (FLACs), representatives from NEEKA and another UNHCR NGO partner, Right to Protection (R2P), attended the event.
- On 22 October, UNHCR's NGO partner R2P in cooperation with the National School of Judges of Ukraine delivered a training in Kharkiv on the assessment of asylum cases by national and international courts. Twenty-six judges working on refugee status determination and non-refoulement from Donetsk, Kharkiv, Luhansk and Poltava oblasts participated in the event.



### Community Engagement

- UNHCR's NGO partner R2P continued supporting a refugee women's group in Kharkiv to foster the development of an informal network of refugee women and girls and support their integration into the local community. A culinary master class and two online evening talks were held during which women shared their dreams, ideas and plans for the future.
- UNHCR's NGO partner Rokada in co-operation with the school of entrepreneurship and leadership for children and adolescents "MBA Kids International" conducted four career guidance trainings for 72 asylum-seekers and refugees in Kyiv. A group of girls and women, two groups of young people and a group of high school children were among the participants. Those interested also took part in two guided tours to the "Wolf" printing production house and to the 1+1 Media Group.
- On 15 October, UNHCR's NGO partner the Tenth of April (TTA) conducted a third training module from a comprehensive four-part course "Fundamentals of Project Management" for 18 representatives of refugee community organizations in Odesa. The series of trainings is done at the request of the communities and is aimed to develop their management and structure.
- On 17 October, UNHCR's NGO partner TTA with support of the Fare network organized a mini-football tournament in which 28 representatives of various communities took part, namely asylum-seekers and refugees, internally displaced persons, Roma persons, as well as representatives of the amateur football club Arab United FC. The tournament was held as part of the #FootballPeople campaign that united supporters, clubs, players, minority groups and communities affected by discrimination to stand for equality and inclusion. TTA is partnering with this campaign for the third year in a row.



### Protection

- UNHCR's NGO partners in Kyiv and Odesa continued providing the new Afghan applicants who were evacuated from Afghanistan to Ukraine in August and September 2021 with social assistance, including emergency financial support for those in the most vulnerable situations. Legal assistance


was also provided to the asylum-seekers in the procedure.


- UNHCR provided cash-for-school assistance to 105 refugee and asylum-seeker households, a monthly subsistence allowance to 120 households, supplementary food assistance to 19 households and reimbursed regular medical expenses of people from 40 households.

### Key Figures

Result achieved in October 2021

 **636**  
 Persons **received legal assistance**  
 (refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **244**  
 Persons were **assisted in accessing healthcare**  
 (refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **42**  
 Persons **received psychosocial assistance**  
 (refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **100**  
 Persons **provided with language training for livelihoods**  
 (refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **69**  
 Persons **provided with guidance on livelihoods opportunities**  
 (refugees and asylum-seekers)

## Stateless Persons and Persons with Undetermined Nationality


### Advocacy and Capacity Building

- On 1 October, UNHCR's NGO partner R2P conducted a roundtable discussion in Sievierodonetsk, Luhansk oblast, with regional SMS officers on challenges and best practices in the application of the Statelessness Determination Procedure (SDP) launched in May of this year. UNHCR and its NGO partners continue assisting SDP applicants in submitting their applications: 90 out of 591 SDP applications registered by the SMS were submitted with the assistance of UNHCR partners.
- On 26 October, UNHCR and the State Statistics Service of Ukraine organized the webinar "Improving data on stateless persons: sustainable development goals and how to achieve the Leave No One Behind principle". Representatives of Ukrainian ministries, SMS and international organizations took part in the event and discussed ways of improving data on the scale and profile of stateless and undocumented persons in Ukraine, including through the 2023 national census.
- On 28 October, UNHCR's NGO partner R2P and the SMS organized a seminar in Sloviansk, Donetsk oblast to discuss the challenges in implementing the SDP, which are causing a backlog of registered cases at the SMS.

### Key Figures

Result achieved in October 2021

 **14**  
 Persons with undetermined nationality **obtained a passport or other document certifying nationality**

 **215**  
 Undocumented persons **received advice on the acquisition or confirmation of nationality**

 **6**  
 Persons **obtained birth certificates**

 **11**  
 Persons **assisted with applying to the statelessness determination procedures**

## Internally Displaced and Other Conflict-Affected Persons



### Advocacy and Capacity Building

- In October, the Government-owned *Oschadbank* announced that it will stop automatically renewing bank cards for IDPs as of January 2022. IDPs have their pensions and social benefits, including IDP targeted assistance, paid through this bank and will have to approach the bank to have their cards renewed. This measure will adversely affect NGCA residents who will be obliged to travel to the GCA to renew their cards. UNHCR is advocating with *Oschadbank* for possible solutions to this situation.
- From 21 to 22 October UNHCR and its NGO partner R2P organized a seminar in Sviatohirsk, Donetsk oblast, on the legal aspects of compensation for damage caused by the conflict in the east of Ukraine. Twenty-two judges from Luhansk and Donetsk attended the seminar and shared their expertise on the topic.
- On 28 October, in the framework of UNHCR's NGO partner R2P's pilot Decentralisation Project to empower five communities led by Civil-Military Administration in Ukraine an online training exercise was organized on creating local budgets in line with the 2022 national budget. The participants included representatives of the project's target communities as well as the local authorities of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv and Zaporizhzhia oblasts.



### Community Engagement

- On 19 October, UNHCR and an IDP-led NGO "Spilna sprava" co-organized a local Cities of Solidarity Forum in Vinnytsia to highlight the IDP housing solution that was achieved through the advocacy of a local IDP community. In Vinnytsia, the first IDP-led cooperative housing solution is being implemented, with the support of local and Oblast authorities. This is the first event in a series of initiatives that will demonstrate how tailored housing solutions can be developed to respond to the needs of IDP communities throughout Ukraine. Thirty participants, including local authorities and IDP organizations, took part in discussions on best practices on housing solutions and prepared joint recommendations to central and local authorities, international organizations and the donor community.



### Protection

- In October, UNHCR started work on a construction project to improve the crossing conditions at the inter-state border crossing point (IBCP) Milove. Since COVID-19 EECF closures have been implemented, the IBCP is increasingly used by residents of NGCA seeking to enter GCA via the Russian Federation when more direct access to GCA is restricted. Currently, the IBCP in Milove does not provide any protection from severe weather and there is no sanitation point for those crossing the border. The project envisages asphaltting the area and constructing prefabricated buildings which will consist of waiting areas and sanitation facilities. The project is implemented in cooperation with local authorities, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and the SMS.

### Key Figures

Result achieved in October 2021

 **914**

Internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons received legal assistance

 **1,756**

Persons benefited from individual protection counselling

 **17**

Group consultations on protection-related issues were provided to 144 people in areas along the 'contact line'

 **236**

Persons were provided with social accompaniment

10.2 per cent of the individuals who were provided with social accompaniment are persons with disabilities. This includes assistance in obtaining personal documentation, accessing administrative and other essential services, and receiving authorization to cross EECPs.

 **57**

Persons received psychosocial assistance

Psychological assistance helps conflict-affected persons deal with trauma, domestic violence, grief, depression and anxiety, including the effects of quarantine restrictions.



### Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)

UNHCR continued identifying and providing the most vulnerable conflict-affected individuals in eastern Ukraine with Individual Protection Assistance (IPA), in cash where possible. The assistance is provided within a case management approach and helps enable the beneficiaries, particularly persons with disabilities, access public services. In areas where State services are not accessible, UNHCR and NGO partners provided in-kind IPA. Since June, UNHCR is also providing financial assistance to support IDPs with specific needs and help them endure the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This IPA targets displaced persons living in different regions of Ukraine and not only in locations along the 'contact line'.

 **51**

IPA beneficiaries received cash assistance by UNHCR and its NGO partners

 **21**

IPA "in kind" beneficiaries received assistance from UNHCR and its NGO partners

 **10**

IDPs received IPA cash to help them cope with the impact of the COVID-19



### Shelter Assistance

- In October, UNHCR's NGO partner Proliska distributed emergency shelter materials (plastic sheeting and tarpaulin) for households affected by the recent shelling: nine households in Triokhizbenka village, Luhansk oblast, and to one household in Hranitne village, Donetsk oblast.

 **10**

IPA beneficiaries received cash assistance for shelter repairs

In 2021, UNHCR started providing tailored IPA cash for shelter to fill urgent and limited needs for repairs in houses located close to the contact line, in GCA. This supplements the roof repairs conducted by the State Emergency Service and enables households to procure additional construction materials, such as windows, doors, materials for interior work, accessibility parts, and

essential furniture, or to restore the functioning of utilities, such as heating, electricity or water supply.



**Conflict-affected family**  
(2 people) relocated  
to a safer home

Since 2019, UNHCR is supporting the exceptional voluntarily relocation of families at specific risk, who live in unsafe areas along the ‘contact line’ to safer locations. People who benefit from this project are carefully selected based on protection vulnerability criteria and a security assessment of the settlements to which they relocate.

## Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical financial support provided by donors who have contributed to the Ukraine operation, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programs with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.



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