

With you

What's Inside

UKRAINE EMERGENCY IN NUMBERS

One month after the crisis broke out, more than 4 million refugees have fled Ukraine and you have helped provide immediate relief and protection assistance

THE HUMAN SIDE OF THE UKRAINE CRISIS

Refugees and responders share their thoughts and encounters on the on-going conflict and how they remained hopeful and inspired by the community who showed them support

IN THE PHILIPPINES: STRENGTHENING PROTECTION FOR PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

The Philippines has taken an active role in protecting people forced to flee and institutionalizing access to services through several landmark partnerships, laws, and durable solutions



Dear valued donor,

We welcomed the first quarter of 2022 with renewed hope and a deeper sense of community and compassion. As we rose above challenges together, **we're grateful that you stood with us to be the pillar of strength for the most vulnerable in their moments of greatest need.**

From tests within our borders to emergencies that shook global consciousness, the magnitude of kindness that we witnessed amid crises that challenged our solidarity is very inspiring.

In this newsletter, we share with you updates and stories where **your immediate response to our call for support in Ukraine allowed us to provide emergency assistance and protection as the crisis continues to develop.** We thank you for joining the global community – governments, communities, organizations, and individuals like yourself – in heeding the call for support when and where the need is most urgent.

The stories of those who are forced to flee to find safety; the stories of UNHCR staff who

continue to stay on the ground and deliver assistance amid fear and uncertainty; and the stories of communities coming together to raise awareness and support for the most vulnerable – these demonstrate that the outpouring of support can ignite hope and strength in the darkest times.

In the Philippines, **we continue to work with the Government and partners to strengthen the protection space for refugees, stateless persons, asylum seekers, and the internally displaced** – ensuring that their rights are protected and they have access to essential programs and services.

Thank you for sharing our mission and creating a difference in the lives of the forcibly displaced. We continue to rely on your commitment and solidarity as we help the most vulnerable have a hopeful tomorrow.

***With gratitude,
Your UNHCR Philippines family***

UNHCR Ukraine Response in Numbers

24 February - 27 March 2022

In over a month, Ukraine has confronted a new reality – with cities in rubble and a humanitarian crisis that is worsening by the second. As of end March, more than 4 million refugees had fled the country, over 6.5 million are displaced within Ukraine, and almost 13 million people are stranded in hard-to-reach areas. These numbers are increasing by the day. With the growing numbers of displacement, the risks and needs are also exponentially multiplying. The conflict is indiscriminate – causing constant fear to all those who remain within the Ukrainian borders and those who have fled to temporary shelters. Our UNHCR colleagues in Ukraine, despite some becoming internally displaced themselves, have not stopped working around the clock with partners, local communities, volunteers, authorities and municipalities. **With your support, we continue to deliver aid and protection to ensure that it can reach those in need.**



65,538 people received essential items and food



22,521 people received targeted protection assistance and information at border points, transit, and reception centres and through hotlines



11,862 people with damaged homes received shelter assistance



8,913 individuals enrolled to receive cash assistance and first payments initiated

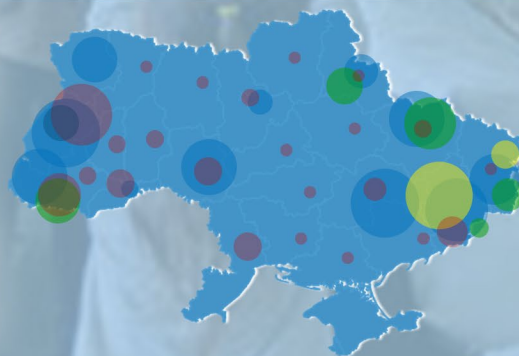


8,100 people received assistance through 3 convoys delivered to hard-hit areas



73 reception centres and collective centres were newly equipped with essential items to increase capacity

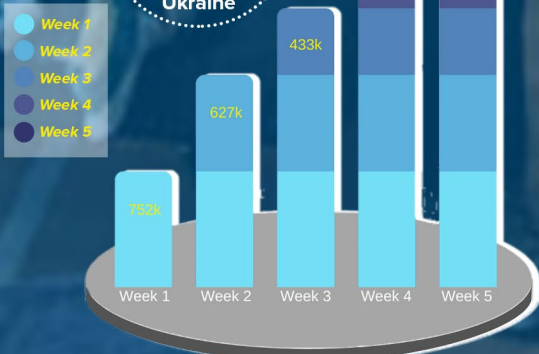
We have provided **protection assistance** in the form of hotline services, legal consultations, monitoring missions, protection support and counselling, and social accompaniment. Immediate relief in the form of **food, shelter, and multi-purpose cash assistance** were also delivered in receiving areas and host centres to ensure urgent care is provided to displaced populations arriving.



Delivered with partners (since 24 February)

- Protection Assistance
- Shelter Kits
- Food Assistance
- Shelter/NFI/Hygiene Items
- Multi-Purpose Cash

Donors from the Philippines raised over **Php 2.45 M** of funds for Ukraine



IN THE PIPELINE



1.1 million people will receive protection assistance and information



360,000 people will receive Multi-purpose Cash Assistance



550,000 non-food items including 100,000 mattresses pledged by Ingka Group (IKEA)



200 reception & collective centres will be equipped with essential items

THE HUMAN SIDE OF

Sharing spaces became a new reality for those forcibly displaced. Women, elderly, and children are among the most vulnerable groups in the displaced population who live by the day and face the fear of an uncertain tomorrow.



LIFE AS REFUGEES >>

“ I never thought I would have to leave my home. That I would have to flee to save my life. ”

In her difficult week-long search for safety, Valentina journeyed with her nephew, Andrii, in her arms wrapped in blankets amid the harsh cold, covering hundreds of kilometers on foot, by bus, and train from Kharkiv, Ukraine. In a large sports hall situated Medyka, a Polish border town, hundreds of camp beds lay on the playing courts as temporary accommodation for the refugees from Ukraine. At the last stretch of walking towards the Polish borders, Valentina arrived with her sister, daughter and nephew and were welcomed into safety by volunteers and other displaced families. “Everyone here was so friendly. They took us in and first gave us something warm to eat”, shares Valentina.

“We were suddenly... refugees,” shares Iniria, Andrii’s mother, as she recalls the dreading shock of the sound of explosions and the moment they decided to escape. Still coming to terms with their new reality, she continues, “Our men stayed behind to defend our country. We took our children to safety.” Still trying to make sense of the events that took place and forced them to flee, Valentina says, “I never thought I would have to leave my home. That I would have to flee to save my life.”

Andrii, at two months, is now one of the youngest of the millions of refugees from Ukraine. Valentina shares,

“ He is a refugee now, but he won’t stay one. We’ll look after him for now. And when he is big and strong, he will rebuild our country. ”

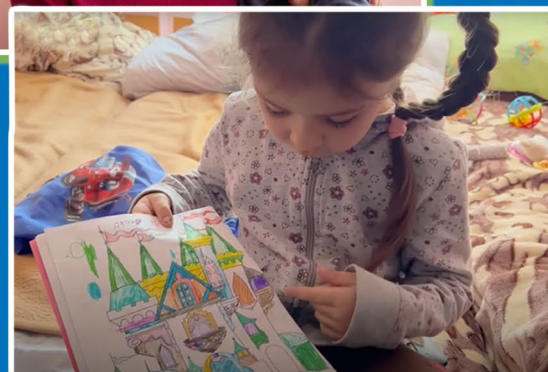
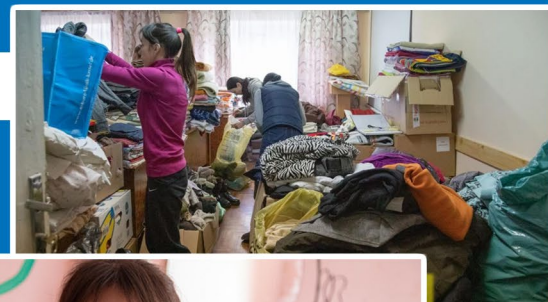
She followed with a kiss on Andrii’s forehead, saying “maybutnye”. “Future.”

INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN UKRAINE >>

Within Ukraine, what was once a university hall filled with students is now hosting families who were forced to abandon their homes from the heavy shelling and fighting in other parts of the country and serves as a temporary shelter within the country’s borders. Oleksandra, who traveled with her daughters Milana and Polina and mother, Natalia, is among those who arrived at the University. Oleksandra recalls the dawn of the experience – “at five o’clock in the morning, we heard loud sounds of explosions, and we knew that the war had started. So, we packed and left immediately.” She continues, “my husband drove us here and went back because there is conscription to the army. All men aged 18 to 60 must serve. I worry about him very much,” says Oleksandra. “We miss him,” daughter Milana follows.

Mukachevo State University is one of the facilities in western Ukraine that has opened its doors to provide shelter for displaced people. “We are very grateful that the University hosts us in this room, [but] I have no idea how long we will stay here,” Oleksandra shares.

Despite being confronted with this situation of fatigue and uncertainty, 6-year-old Milana’s optimism does not waver as she draws a picture with a heart for her father at the desk in the dormitory room she shares with her family. Remaining hopeful that their family will safely return to their home and reunite, she shares, “the war will be over soon. We will go home in four days, and I will see both my grandmas and granddad”, beaming with optimism.



THE UKRAINE CRISIS

SOLIDARITY ON THE GROUND >>

UNHCR and our partners continue to stay and deliver critical support and protection in neighbouring countries and areas where the forcibly displaced have sought refuge. In these times where hope seems frail, the generosity and compassion of communities coming together to provide shelter and comfort are inspiring. Our team on the ground continue to witness this firsthand. Here are some excerpts from a blog post from Moldova by Kisut Gebreegiabher, a member of the UNHCR Emergency Response Team.

“ One thing I am often asked is ‘what happens to refugees once they cross the border into a new country?’ Here in Moldova, borders have remained open for all of those fleeing Ukraine. This is a real step of solidarity and compassion with people who are in their darkest hour. ”

I’m working with UNHCR on the border between Ukraine and Moldova as a member of our Emergency Response Team. At the time of writing, around 3 million refugees from Ukraine have fled the country into neighbouring countries like Moldova—however, by the time you are reading this, I know that this number will be even higher. Most of the refugees who have entered the Republic of Moldova and other neighbouring countries are women and children. I have seen fathers hug their children and partners at the border before turning back to Ukraine. It is a heartbreaking sight. Despite the scale of this emergency, I’ve been inspired by the courage of the people I have met and the generous welcome they are receiving in Moldova: people like Tamara and her husband Anatolie, who are generously hosting two families of refugees from Ukraine in their little three-bedroom house. **“We don’t have much to spare, but these people are finding themselves in a much worse situation than us - we need to share what we have with them”,** Tamara told me.

Our team is present in the transit centre established at the border by the authorities, providing information, counselling and psychosocial support to refugees entering the country. We’re providing essential supplies too. Our first humanitarian airlift arrived on 2 March with around 8,000 thermal blankets, and a few days later, a six-truck convoy arrived in Moldova with hundreds of family tents, thousands of sleeping mats and much more like solar lamps, face masks and baby kits. Thanks to your support, we’ve got even more convoys and airlifts scheduled in the next few days. We’re also rushing to set up warehouses where we can store everything before it gets distributed to people in need. My colleagues are on the ground across the region, delivering aid wherever and whenever possible— shelter support, food and clothing when the security situation allows—and we will continue to do so.



My colleagues Erno Simon, Public Information Associate and Batyr Sapbyiev, UNHCR Romania Representative, offering advice to a refugee at Palanca border crossing in Moldova



This is me speaking with Tamara about what motivated her to host refugees from Ukraine in her home



Me speaking with Tamara and the two refugee families who have received a warm welcome in Tamara’s home

Strengthening Protection for People Forced to Flee

Executive Order No. 163 >>

Institutionalizing Access to Protection Services for Refugees, Stateless Persons and Asylum Seekers

The Philippine Government has expressed willingness to welcome people fleeing from Ukraine, just days after an Executive Order was issued to strengthen protection for refugees, asylum seekers and stateless people. This is expected to make the country's refugee and stateless status determination procedures more efficient and improve these vulnerable groups' access to rights.

“The **Philippines** has proven once again that it is a **leader in the region** when it comes to ensuring the **inclusion** of refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and those at risk of statelessness in **Government programs and services, especially during these challenging times.**”

Maria Ermina Valdeavilla-Gallardo
UNHCR Philippines Head of National Office

Accession to the 1961 Statelessness Convention

In a historic move, the Philippines has taken a major step towards eradicating statelessness in the country by acceding to the **1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness**, becoming the 78th country to do so. The 1961 Convention provides **several safeguards to prevent statelessness at birth and later in life**. Most importantly, it **allows children to acquire the nationality of the country in which they were born** if they cannot be accorded any other nationality.

Naturalization >>

The Philippine Supreme Court has approved the Rule on Facilitated Naturalization of Refugees and Stateless Persons, a landmark development that **streamlines the judicial naturalization process for refugees and stateless persons**.

With the approval of the Rule, the Philippines becomes the **first in the world to have a judiciary-led initiative to simplify and reduce legal and procedural hurdles in the naturalization procedure** for refugees and stateless persons, facilitating access to durable solutions to their displacement or lack of nationality.



Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo hands over a printed copy of the Rule on Facilitated Naturalization of Refugees and Stateless Persons to Chancellor Rosmari Carandang of the Philippine Judicial Academy for publication. The Rule will take effect 15 days after publication in two newspapers.



Representatives from UNHCR and the Department of Justice conducted a site visit to the Columban College campus as part of early preparations for the institution's reception of Complementary Pathways programme beneficiaries. © The Premier Post

<< Durable solutions for Rohingya youth

UNHCR and the Department of Justice (DOJ) of the Philippines have signed an agreement with **Columban College, Inc. (CCI)** to **allow young Rohingya to enroll at the educational institution** as part of a landmark national programme to provide a durable solution for Rohingya refugees in the region.

Super Typhoon Rai (Odette) Response >>

With your support and in line with our core protection mandate, UNHCR has provided **life-saving emergency assistance** to affected families and continues to prioritize **protection monitoring** with project partners, **protection mainstreaming, advocacy, distribution of core relief items**, and providing **technical support in protection coordination and information management**.



CARAGA REGION

Shelter-grade tarpaulins and plastic sheeting, solar lamps, hygiene kits, and mosquito nets have been distributed, helping improve the living conditions of approximately more than 7,800 individuals (1,577 families) in the severely affected islands and coastal barangays of Surigao del Norte province. © UNHCR/Jalanie Pangalilan



SOUTHERN LEYTE

UNHCR is working with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office in Region VIII and provincial actors to institutionalize an enhanced protection coordination framework for disaster response and internal displacement in Southern Leyte. Coupled with capacity building initiatives for data collection, information management, and protection mainstreaming and coordination, these efforts to improve the policies and systems for disaster response and IDP protection aim to address identified gaps and challenges in the provision of humanitarian assistance. © MSWDO Libagon

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Within and beyond the borders of the Philippines, you have responded to the call for help, especially during emergencies. How quick we are able to respond to the needs of those who were forced to flee is a testament to how fast you respond to our call for support. Thank you for your steadfast contribution to our mission to protect the most vulnerable in their dire need.

The challenges faced by the forcibly displaced population can be protracted, and the impact of your support will be for the long run. Here are more ways you can respond and get connected with the families and communities you're helping:

GIVE AN ADDITIONAL GIFT >>

Responding to the current crisis as soon as possible can help us provide immediate relief to those who continue to seek refuge. Much like Johnson, who sent his support as soon as the crisis broke out and heeded the call of our appeal.



“

I'm Johnson Tam, a Filipino-Chinese residing in Manila. I currently operate a boutique hotel in Bataan named Casa Veles Hotel. After learning and seeing the horrible scenes of Ukraine in the news, I just felt the need to help. It's hard not to be heartbroken seeing the tremendous losses suffered by the Ukrainian people.



The truth is, we are all connected, and we should help out in any little way we can towards alleviating human suffering.

DEDICATE YOUR CELEBRATION >>

As part of the UNHCR family of donors and supporters, you have made an amazing impact in the lives of people forced to flee their homes and continue to give them life-saving assistance and protection when they need it the most.

Birthdays, anniversaries, or thanksgiving – celebrate your special day by sharing your gift with the most vulnerable. As you celebrate, a family in need can share in the joy of your occasion.

Send us an email or visit unhcr.org/ph/birthday for details.

SHARE THE MISSION WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES >>

Collective effort can go a long way. By coming together to raise funds, the compounded generosity can assist more families and provide more assistance. Just like friends working together at Bright Research Consulting, a market research consulting firm, together they have raised PHP 19,000 for the refugees from Ukraine.

Q: What prompted you to dedicate a collective effort for the people fleeing Ukraine?

A: We heard that some people in our industry were suffering because of the war in Ukraine. We decided as a team to pool some funds together to try and help. Although we didn't have much, we knew that we were blessed enough to be in a position to give and help out with the little that we could.

Q: How did you learn about and choose UNHCR?

A: After we decided that we wanted to donate, the next challenge was to find a reliable institution that we know would make sure that funds are channeled properly and immediately to those in need. Apart from this, we needed one that would allow us to donate in pesos just to make it easier for us to pool our funds together. A quick Google search led us to the UNHCR website. UNHCR's website made it easy to donate and its reputation / track record assured us that our intention to help will be realized for the families and individuals in Ukraine.

Q: What is your hope for the forcibly displaced families benefiting from your contribution to the Ukraine Emergency Response?

A: Our hope is that the refugees from Ukraine would be placed in a position where they no longer have to suffer the atrocities of war and where they can look forward to a better future for them and their families. We know that so much more is needed so we hope that UNHCR will continue to advocate for their needs and make it easy for people like us to contribute.



GO GREEN AND JOIN OUR MOVEMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT >>

We endeavor to provide you with updates on the impact of your unwavering support. And as you continue to share our mission with us, we will share with you news and stories, minus the grave impact to the environment. Paper and mailing have a costly effect to the environment.

Help us maximize your support to the forcibly displaced by reducing our ecological footprint by going paperless. To support our campaign, update your details and preferences here.



SCAN TO UPDATE DONOR DETAILS



THE MASSIVE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN UKRAINE IS GROWING BY THE SECOND.

Help us respond to one of the biggest humanitarian crises of our time.

[**donate.unhcr.org/ukraine**](https://donate.unhcr.org/ukraine)

STAY INFORMED WITH UPDATES



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