



UKRAINE SITUATION

# REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

January-December 2023



Regional Refugee Response  
for the Ukraine Situation

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# A word from the Regional Refugee Coordinator



**Pascale Moreau**

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

It is difficult to convey the enormity of the destruction and human suffering in Ukraine – and the impact the war is having across the region, where neighbouring countries have, since the outset, welcomed millions of refugees fleeing the violence.

The support offered to those fleeing Ukraine has been nothing short of extraordinary – from governments, civil society, individuals and volunteers, NGOs and local organizations, as well as private sector actors. In the European Union, the swift activation of the Temporary Protection Directive in March 2022 was historic and proved the EU can effectively receive and include refugees. Non-EU countries must also be commended. The Republic of Moldova has, in particular, shown exemplary leadership in extending protection to the refugees on its territory, modeled largely on that provided in EU Member States, despite significant challenges.

With much achieved in 2022, refugees and host communities are counting on our continued solidarity in the year to come. As in Ukraine, our immediate focus in the refugee-hosting countries must be on supporting national efforts to ensure that refugees in Europe have adequate and safe shelter during the difficult winter months ahead. At the same time, knowing that the conflict dynamics inside Ukraine may lead to further outflows, we continue to work with governments to develop contingency plans that will allow us to quickly respond to the urgent needs of new arrivals. This includes, among other things, providing targeted cash assistance, while supporting national and municipal efforts to ensure access to secure, dignified shelter through renovations and winterization of identified facilities. Prolonged stays in collective centres or group housing inevitably create protection risks, particularly for the most vulnerable. We must all redouble efforts to ensure they are safe through prompt identification and referral to appropriate services.

In the medium and long-term, the best way to protect refugees – and harness their potential to contribute – is through their inclusion in national systems. The implementation of the EU's Temporary Protection Directive ensures that refugees can find safety in EU countries in the region and provides a legal basis for refugees to access rights and services. This includes rights that allow refugees to access the labour market and secure decent work. Going forward, addressing the practical, administrative and legal barriers to the enjoyment of rights will be a vital part of supporting their sustainable stay in host countries. It is important to support their swift and effective

inclusion into national systems to promote self-sufficiency and mitigate protection risks that can result if refugees are unable to meet their basic needs.

We are aware of the challenges ahead: the ripple effects of the war are widening, causing economic impacts in refugee-hosting countries and beyond. Fuel shortages and inflation loom large in the coming months. Reception and accommodation capacities are stretched, as are social welfare systems. Notwithstanding these realities, I remain reassured by the solidarity and creativity, political will and hands-on support that host governments, communities and partners have demonstrated over the past ten months – the speed and comprehensiveness of the response to date is a testament to what can be achieved when we work together. I take this opportunity to, once again, highlight the critical role of national and local non-governmental organizations, including refugee-led organizations, as first responders to urgent humanitarian needs since 24 February. They will remain the bedrock of our collective preparations and response, and they need our support to further strengthen their capacities.

I do not underestimate the magnitude of what we are asking when we encourage our partners to stay the course. The situation remains unpredictable, and we must continue to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable refugees, particularly older persons, people with disabilities, and unaccompanied children and adolescents. I trust that together we can find ways to work together to ensure that people forced to flee Ukraine continue to find safety, assistance, and protection until they can safely return home.

**Pascale Moreau**

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

# > At a Glance

## Regional Planned Response (January-December 2023)



**4.035 M**

targeted refugee population



**120 K**

targeted host community members



**\$1.7 B**

total financial requirements in USD



**243<sup>1</sup>**

partners involved

REGION	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD	PARTNERS INVOLVED
Bulgaria	43,387,258	18
Czech Republic	81,578,288	4
Estonia	9,135,766	14
Hungary	62,741,799	37
Latvia	11,989,791	14
Lithuania	17,813,459	10
Republic of Moldova	426,961,899	73
Poland	709,399,440	83
Romania	153,603,900	34
Slovakia	80,126,073	28
Regional support	88,757,581	7

<sup>1</sup> This figure represents the total number of partners operating regionally, and counts partners only once even if operating in more than one country. The country chapters provide the absolute number of partners per country.



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

# REGIONAL OVERVIEW

## Executive Summary

Now approaching the one-year mark since the escalation of hostilities, the war in Ukraine has resulted in a displacement and humanitarian crisis of epic proportions. The response by the refugee-hosting countries has been characterized by a spirit of welcome and unwavering generosity, with families and communities opening their doors to millions of refugees from Ukraine. The local response, led by national and municipal authorities across the region, has been equally remarkable: legions of volunteers, national and local non-governmental organizations and civil society actors – including many of which had never previously worked in refugee contexts, Ukrainian diaspora communities, and refugees themselves all mobilized to provide protection and assistance to those fleeing violence.

At the same time, humanitarian partners, under the overall leadership of host governments, have supported and complemented the national response, through coordinated and inclusive interventions. Many of these activities were captured in the original Regional Refugee Response Plan, launched in early March 2022, revised on 25 April 2022 and ‘recalibrated’ in October 2022 to take into account winter-related needs and other priorities which emerged across the RRP countries.<sup>2</sup>

The situation at the start of 2023 remains of grave concern and continues to require a coordinated humanitarian response at the regional level. As of end December, some 4.9 million people have registered for temporary protection<sup>3</sup> or a similar national protection scheme in Europe, and looking forward, it is expected that refugees may continue to arrive, due to the ongoing conflict and a harsh winter exacerbated by the targeting of energy and civilian infrastructure in Ukraine.

This Plan, which covers activities from January to December 2023, outlines the multi-partner, multi-sector response strategy and financial requirements of 243 different partners supporting the host governments of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The RRP also includes financial requirements related to

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<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, [Ukraine Situation: Recalibration – Regional Refugee Response Plan – March-December 2022](#), October 2022.

<sup>3</sup> Temporary protection is defined by UNHCR as a pragmatic ‘tool’ of international protection, which is used at times as an emergency response to the large-scale movement of asylum-seekers, providing immediate protection from refoulement and basic minimum treatment. The EU triggered application of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) on 4 March 2022 in response to the war in Ukraine; see the [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/382 of 4 March 2022](#). While the TPD is an EU mechanism, similar national protection schemes have been implemented in non-EU Member States, including Iceland, Norway, Switzerland, Montenegro, Serbia and the United Kingdom. This figure may include multiple registrations of the same individual in two or more EU+ countries; registrations that remain incomplete for various reasons, or registrations of refugees who have moved onward, including beyond Europe.



activities in Belarus as well as technical support provided by the partners to ensure regional coherence and coordination.

As in 2022, the 2023 RRP aims at ensuring refugees' access to protection and assistance on a non-discriminatory basis, including the rights associated with temporary protection or similar legal statuses in host countries. Special attention will be given to those refugees who are already or risk becoming vulnerable, as humanitarian support is reduced and they are no longer able to draw on savings or rely on assistance from family and friends and may also face challenges finding work. In this regard, the identification of people with specific needs for whom the provision of targeted assistance will be critical. In addition, whereas the RRP in 2022 focused primarily on the urgent provision of protection services and humanitarian assistance upon arrival, the plan for 2023 also places an emphasis on refugees' socio-economic inclusion, in recognition of the challenges faced by refugees as their displacement becomes more protracted. As the Ukraine Situation extends into its second year, supporting the capacity of communities to extend services and assistance to refugees will help to avoid overstressing resources and maintain the strong culture of solidarity witnessed in the hosting States. In this context, support to host communities will focus on support to institutions, services and facilities used both by refugees and members of host communities, particularly in urban areas. This is also crucial to promoting solidarity and social cohesion between host and refugee communities.

In 2023, particular attention will again be given to the Republic of Moldova, as a non-EU Member State. There, host communities will be included in the target population figures, where the pressures of hosting refugees have particularly strained local capacity and put pressure on scarce resources. In the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees, it is key to promote more predictable and equitable responsibility and burden-sharing to ease pressure on the Moldovan society and support it to address the needs of host and refugee communities in the country.

## Part 1: Current Situation

### Situation Overview

Since the escalation of hostilities in February 2022, nearly one-third of the population has been forced from their homes in Ukraine, making it one of the largest human displacement crises in the world today. Within Ukraine, there are over 17.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including 6.3 million people internally displaced by the war.<sup>4</sup>

In response to the large-scale refugee situation, the European Union triggered on 4 March 2022 the application of the Temporary Protection Directive, the duration of which was recently extended until March 2024. As of end December 2022, over 4.9 million refugees from Ukraine have registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes across Europe.

According to latest available data in countries covered in the RRP, women and children represent 86 per cent of the overall refugee population. The overall proportion of children stands at approximately 39 per cent, while some 9 per cent are older persons. Moreover, findings from UNHCR's latest Regional Protection Analysis Report in countries neighbouring Ukraine<sup>5</sup> show that the majority of respondents (78 per cent) are separated from some of their immediate family members, the primary reason being the restriction of freedom of movement for men due to conscription. Among those who travelled accompanied, 5 per cent travelled with unrelated children. While 32 per cent of respondents are in rented accommodation, the majority – some 64 per cent – are either being hosted or are staying in collective sites, planned sites and reception or transit centres. Twelve per cent of respondents have relatives in their host country. According to the latest UNHCR's Regional Intention Report, while most refugees surveyed in neighbouring countries hope to return to Ukraine one day (81 per cent), for the time being the majority plan to continue to stay in their current host country, with only 13 per cent planning to return in the next 3 months. The main impediment to return reported by refugees is the safety and security situation in places of origin, along with concerns about lack of access to basic services and adequate living conditions.<sup>6</sup>

Mitigating the effects of a harsh winter, worsened by attacks in Ukraine on energy and civilian infrastructure, and of the rising prices globally will remain a focus of the humanitarian response within Ukraine and in neighbouring countries in the first quarter of 2023. Access to winter-specific assistances is particularly challenging – and crucial – for vulnerable groups, such as older persons and persons with disabilities, as well as the women and children who comprise the clear majority of the refugee population, and further support is required to avoid magnifying vulnerabilities and the potential rise of harmful coping mechanisms.

In 2023 the international response to the Ukraine refugee situation remains in support of government-led efforts and is grounded in the principles of partnership governing humanitarian action, namely equality, transparency, a results-oriented approach, responsibility and

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<sup>4</sup> OCHA, [Global Humanitarian Overview](#), 29 November 2022

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR, [Displacement Patterns, Protection Risks and Needs Of Refugees From Ukraine - Regional Protection Analysis # 1](#), 26 October 2022.

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR, [Lives on Hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees from Ukraine #2](#), September 2022.

complementarity. In addition to the tremendous support provided by hosting countries, 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, continue to play a central role. Present on the ground well before the crisis began, these stakeholders bring a wealth of experience, capacity and local knowledge crucial to a well-informed response, particularly as the focus shifts from emergency response to inclusion and social cohesion. Strong solidarity and practical support on the part of the international community, in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees, will be more important than ever, especially given the mounting strain on national and local capacities and services in a difficult and uncertain global economic climate.

## Targeted Population

Of the over 4.9 million refugees from Ukraine registered for temporary protection or similar national protection scheme across Europe by mid-December, it is expected that at least 80 per cent plan to stay in their current host countries until hostilities subside and the situation improves. The refugee response is, broadly speaking, moving away from the acute phase of the emergency towards effective and sustained inclusion in national systems and services, maintaining protection space, and targeted support to the most vulnerable. That said, new displacement from Ukraine is likely to continue, due to the ongoing war, the harsh conditions of winter and a lack of access to fuel and adequate shelter inside the country. These newer arrivals may face particular difficulties in meeting their basic needs and are less resilient to displacement-related shocks, necessitating continued investments in anticipatory action and emergency assistance.

In 2023, the RRP population figures include refugees from Ukraine, as well as third-country nationals (TCNs) in need of international protection and people who are stateless or at risk of statelessness.<sup>7</sup> Host communities are included among the target population figures for the Republic of Moldova only. Within the EU, host community members are not included in the RRP as individuals targeted for assistance, but the Plan does address the needs of impacted host populations at the community level, with a view to expanding community resources and services that may be under strain due to the arrival of the refugee population.

The planning figures in the RRP have been agreed following consultations with governments and inter-agency partners and reflect the projected population that will require assistance from RRP partners over the course of 2023. These figures allow for planning, programming and budgeting. The projected population that will require assistance in 2023 includes refugees already in the RRP countries as well as projected new arrivals who will receive assistance in transit and those who will remain in their country of destination. Some refugees in transit may require certain types of assistance in more than one country depending on their needs. Partners in a number of RRP countries continue to provide assistance to many people who arrive but subsequently move

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<sup>7</sup> For the purposes of brevity, the term “refugees from Ukraine” will be used henceforth, and is understood to include refugees from Ukraine, as well as third-country nationals in need of international protection and people who are stateless or at risk of statelessness as appropriate. Third-country nationals are persons who have fled Ukraine but for whom Ukraine is not their country of origin, and who may be in need of international protection.

onwards – this emergency assistance – such as monitoring the ability of arrivals from Ukraine to access territory, protection, and the enjoyment of rights without discrimination and supporting host governments to strengthen reception facilities, facilitate accommodation options, provide core relief items and cash to meet basic needs – is vital and needs to be supported through the RRP. At the same time, over the course of 2023, many refugees are likely to stay in their host country as their situation becomes somewhat normalized and seek opportunities for inclusion in the local society. Support to those partners facilitating socio-economic inclusion is vital, as their activities pave the way towards longer-term solutions.

These planning figures may not align precisely with population present across the countries at any given moment in such a dynamic and rapidly changing environment, but they do aim at capturing the extent of resources required for next year.

### Targeted refugee population

Country	Refugees registered for Temporary Protection or similar national protection schemes as of end Dec 2022 <sup>8</sup>	Targeted Population in 2023
Bulgaria	149,268	200,000
Czech Republic	473,216	500,000
Estonia	41,432	115,000
Hungary	33,273	200,000
Latvia	44,367	120,000
Lithuania	72,302	150,000
Republic of Moldova	102,000 <sup>9</sup>	200,000
Poland	1,508,338	2,000,000
Romania	101,733	350,000
Slovakia	104,764	200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,630,693</b>	<b>4,035,000</b>

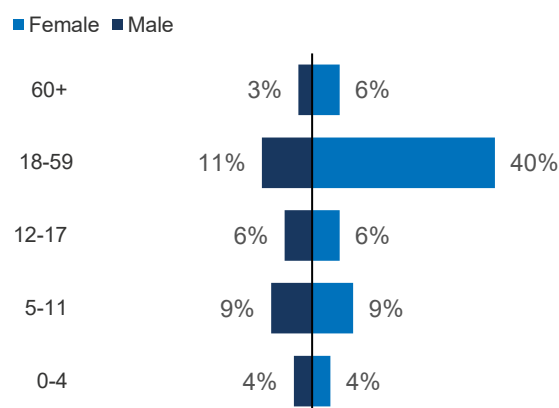
### Targeted host population

Country	Targeted Population in 2023
Republic of Moldova	120,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>120,000</b>

<sup>8</sup> This figure may include multiple registrations of the same individual in two or more EU+ 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](#). The figures for temporary protection are based on data available in late December 2022. They may be slightly different from the actual end-of-year 2022 figures as the reporting timeline of the countries differ from one another and there are usually retroactive updates and adjustments.

<sup>9</sup> As of December 2022, the legal status of the temporary protection was not yet in effect in Moldova. The figure included here represents the number of Ukrainian refugees who entered the country after 24 February 2022, and who were lawfully remaining in the country under the emergency law, based on government border crossing data.

## Age and gender breakdown



**13 to 15%**<sup>10</sup>

Persons with disabilities



**66%**

Women and girls



**34%**

Men and boys

## Regional Protection Needs, Vulnerabilities and Risks

UNHCR protection monitoring activities have identified several key protection risks for refugees from Ukraine in surrounding countries.

While the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) in the EU and similar legal regimes in other countries has ensured prompt access to protection and rights for many, research has indicated that a number of practical, administrative and legal barriers limit access to rights.<sup>11</sup> These barriers have an important impact on the ability of individuals to access a range of rights, including education, social protection, accommodation, decent work and health care. Gaps in harmonisation between states in respect of rights granted to temporary protection beneficiaries have also been noted. In addition, access to temporary protection registration procedures continued to be challenging in some contexts for third-country nationals and stateless persons. In some cases varying periods spent outside of the host country may negatively impact on the legal status and on the access to certain benefits, such as accommodation and financial assistance. All of these factors have the potential to limit effective inclusion in national systems, undermining possibilities for self-reliance and increasing protection risks and harmful coping mechanisms which can result if refugees are unable to meet their basic needs and contribute to their host societies.

According to UNHCR's Regional Protection Analysis,<sup>12</sup> family separation is a defining feature of the Ukraine refugee crisis, with 78 per cent of consulted refugees reporting that they had been separated from close family members as a result of their departure from Ukraine. In the current context, the high incidence of family separation has led to a significant proportion of single caretaker (predominately single female-headed) households. Family separation in a refugee context can exacerbate several protection risks including gender-based violence (GBV), human

<sup>10</sup> For planning purposes, it is estimated that the proportion of persons with disabilities is between 13% (pre-war estimates of People in Need with disabilities in 2021 Ukraine Humanitarian Needs Overview) and 15% (as per WHO benchmarks). Findings from Multi-Sector Needs Assessments (MSNAs) in some of the RRP countries show similar proportions.

<sup>11</sup> UNHCR, [The Implementation of the TPD Directive – Six Months On](#), October 2022.

<sup>12</sup> UNHCR, [Regional Protection Analysis #1: Displacement Patterns, Protection Risks and Needs of Refugees from Ukraine](#), October 2022.

trafficking, exploitation, isolation and exposure to potentially traumatic events, particularly for unaccompanied and separated children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Twenty-four per cent of protection monitoring respondents reported at least one household member with a specific need, including persons with disabilities, serious medical needs, older persons and separated or unaccompanied children. Persons with specific needs may face barriers that prevent them from fully enjoying their rights or accessing the services they need, and can face heightened risks of discrimination, abuse, violence and neglect during displacement and in their country of asylum. Data from protection monitoring indicates that households with one or more persons with specific needs may have fewer resources and more limited access to support networks in their host countries than other groups amongst the refugee population. Many may have limited access to information on existing services (including health) and face limitations in accessing employment opportunities, including family members who are required to provide care at home. Research has also demonstrated that persons at heightened risk face increased barriers in accessing their rights as temporary protection beneficiaries, with a lack of systematic identification of their specific needs one of the root causes.<sup>13</sup> The protracted nature of the crisis exacerbates distress situations and the consequent need for mental health and psychosocial (MHPSS) services. Unaddressed mental health needs, combined with the reluctance to receive such support due to stigma, can result in increased distress, marginalization and exclusion.

Access to civil documentation is also a key concern; 31 per cent of protection monitoring respondents do not hold international biometric passports, which permit a greater freedom of movement. In addition, data available prior to the escalation of the international armed conflict demonstrates that there are groups within the Ukrainian population who are stateless, or who may lack the civil documentation needed to acquire or confirm their Ukrainian citizenship and are therefore at risk of statelessness. This has also been confirmed by ongoing monitoring and legal assistance activities in hosting countries. Whilst States have implemented flexible approaches to documentation for individuals seeking to leave Ukraine as a result of the international armed conflict, reliable access to civil documentation is likely to become a pressing concern for many refugees in order to ensure their continued access to rights and services. A lack of civil documentation may also pose a barrier to return, once conditions permit.

Systematic identification and registration of unaccompanied and separated children by the authorities of the hosting countries remains a challenge, and significantly increases the risk that these children will remain outside national child protection systems, impeding their access to protection and services. In several countries, there is limited access to systems for appointment of legal guardians, or challenges in the revision of the existing care arrangements, which were in some cases established under time pressure due to the emergency situation. There is a reported shortage of suitable care-giver profiles and appointment procedures may be complex and time-intensive. RRP partners have observed a lack of systematic inclusion of unaccompanied and separated children into national child protection systems, resulting in the absence of national equivalents of best interest procedures being conducted in relation to these children. This particularly concerns the situation of children who arrived from care institutions in Ukraine.

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<sup>13</sup> UNHCR, [The Implementation of the TPD Directive – Six Months On](#), October 2022.

Continued advocacy and awareness raising is required on risks associated with potential returns of children to Ukraine, particularly during the winter, given the ongoing conflict and the precarious situation of accommodation and institutional care structures.

As in most refugee and conflict settings, risks of multiple forms of GBV increase, with women and girls placed at heightened risk at all stages of displacement. Conflict-related sexual violence in areas under military control in Ukraine, as well as risks of trafficking for purposes of sexual exploitation at border points, during the journey, or after arriving in host country have been reported by refugees fleeing Ukraine. Exploitation, harassment, and abuse have also been reported in private and public accommodation, transport, and other basic services accessed by refugees. Adolescent girls, Roma women, and LGBTIQ+ individuals may face additional risks of GBV and trafficking, as a result of discrimination and/or harassment acting as a barrier to access to basic needs and protection services.

Barriers to access to services for GBV survivors are multi-fold and often parallel challenges to accessing other types of services, including language and lack of information on specialized services (both in terms of their availability and how to access them). Stigma around reporting GBV and accessing mental health services has also been noted as a challenge. For survivors, such barriers can have life-threatening consequences, including when relating to sexual violence where the need for time-sensitive intervention is critical. In some countries, Ukrainian mental health professionals are stepping in to fill gaps and are showing to be a successful entry point for GBV survivors. Mandatory reporting laws, as well as other legal, procedural or policy measures, continue to be major barriers for survivors' access to specialized health care, however, especially sexual and reproductive health care, including lifesaving post-rape care. Clinical Management of Rape Protocols are in some cases absent, lack effective systematic implementation, or do not fully comply with WHO guidelines. Access to sexual and reproductive health services is a challenge in many areas, particularly for adolescent girl survivors. Legal restrictions on emergency contraception or prescription requirements may also impede access to an effective GBV response, especially where refugees either cannot access a doctor or lack the funds to purchase them. Advocacy and systems strengthening on access to sexual and reproductive health remains an important intersectoral task for this response.

Refugees reported that cash was one of their most common urgent needs, as a modality to meet basic needs, such as accommodation and employment. Indeed, accommodation is likely to become a pressing need, as rental costs and energy prices continue to increase in refugee-hosting countries.

## Part 2: Regional Protection and Solutions Strategy

The Regional Protection and Solutions Strategy is focused on four key areas:

- Ensuring that all refugees from Ukraine continue to have access to territory, legal status and rights in host countries without discrimination, in line with the provisions of the Temporary Protection Directive or relevant national legal protection provisions and relevant international, regional and national refugee and human rights law.
- Reinforcing accountability to affected people through two-way communication with communities, effective feedback and response mechanisms, and a community-based approach, increasing access to information and awareness raising for refugees fleeing Ukraine on their rights and access to assistance and services through the community's preferred and trusted channels and working to support the meaningful participation and the capacity of community-based actors, including refugee- and women-led organizations and other community-based organizations.
- Supporting the prompt assistance to persons at heightened risk, with a particular focus on the prevention, risk mitigation of and response to GBV, human trafficking, protection of children and other refugees with specific needs and intersecting age, gender and diverse characteristics exposing them to further protection risks. This will include activities that focus on the promotion of mental health and psychosocial wellbeing.
- Finally, the strategy will focus on promoting effective inclusion into national systems, including health, education, accommodation, social protection, labour markets and others, without discrimination and on a par with nationals. Effective inclusion in national systems will be promoted as tool to enhance refugee protection, including by mapping barriers to refugees' access to and enjoyment of key rights and services, and by working to address those barriers with national authorities and other key stakeholders. Protection actors will also monitor the potential for rising tensions between refugee and host communities and work with national authorities and partners in support of peaceful coexistence.

Throughout the protection response, the primary role and responsibility of host countries to provide protection and access to rights will be emphasized. Protection interventions will be focused on building on, enhancing and scaling up national protection capacities as required, providing additional support and technical expertise where needed, with a view to enabling national protection actors and systems, as well as community-based and refugee-led initiatives, to stay the course for the longer term. Protection actors will also enhance and advocate for the meaningful participation and inclusion of refugees of different age, gender and diverse characteristics in the identification of needs, prioritization and design of interventions within the refugee response, in line with the Accountability to Affected People (AAP) and Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) approach. Partners working in the protection response will help promote access to a broad range of quality protection services and assistance through establishing effective partnerships with refugees, refugee-led, community-based and women-led organizations, national NGOs/civil society actors, governments, private sector actors, international NGOs and other UN agencies.



## Partnership and Coordination

In support of the government-led responses, UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the inter-agency RRP in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) in a collaborative and consultative manner with authorities, aid agencies, civil society and with affected populations, including women and refugee-led organizations.

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 will 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. The Global Compact on Refugees, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the UNHCR #IBelong campaign to end global statelessness by 2024 and the principle of "Leaving No One Behind" provide important frameworks for collaboration with partners.

At the regional level, RRP coordination is led by the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe (RBE). The RBE Director was appointed in March 2022 as the Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Ukraine Situation to lead the implementation of the RRP through inclusive and effective coordination of all partners, in line with the regional strategic objectives. An inter-agency Regional Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) has been established and specific working groups, networks and task forces (Protection Working Group, Inclusion Working Group, Child Protection and GBV Sub-Working Groups, Anti-Trafficking Task Force, Gender Task Force, PSEA Network) have also been activated to ensure efficient situational information management and country-specific support as required. 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.

Within the framework of this RRP and building on existing country level coordination structures, inter-agency RCFs have also been established in each of the refugee-hosting countries, in support of government-led coordination mechanisms. The country level RCFs are led by the UNHCR Country Representatives and work with all partners in the response, including with relevant sector working groups. This will enable RRP partners to maximize the response and avoid duplications and parallel systems. It will 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.

By articulating the needs of refugees, impacted host communities and other people of concern, stating how and by whom these needs will be addressed and defining the financial requirements of all the partners involved, the RRP serves as an effective channel to more predictable and equitable

Partners involved	243
UN Agencies	13
International NGOs	48
National NGOs	148
IFRC&RC	6
Faith-based Organizations	20
Academia	1
Regional organizations	1
Refugee-led organizations	6

*Note: 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.*

responsibility-sharing, to ease the pressure on host communities and foster social cohesion – two key objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.

More specifically, the many positive actions taken by the hosting Governments, particularly in the areas of inclusion and refugee self-reliance, are examples of policy pledges that could be made at the upcoming Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2023, and that could be matched against continued support from the international community. Country-level Regional Coordination Fora and Working Groups can be venues where potential pledge cultivation and follow-up on the pledges made at the 2019 GRF can be discussed.

In addition, the RRP also serves to illustrate many of the good practices that have implemented across the response by the hosting Governments, such as the swift activation of a temporary protection scheme to facilitate prompt access to protection and services, mainstreaming of refugees in government protection schemes, and prompt access to the labour market, among others. This showcasing of good practices will be instrumental in sharing learnings at the upcoming GRF, to inform and inspire further international solidarity and facilitate comprehensive responses in future refugee emergencies in the region and beyond.

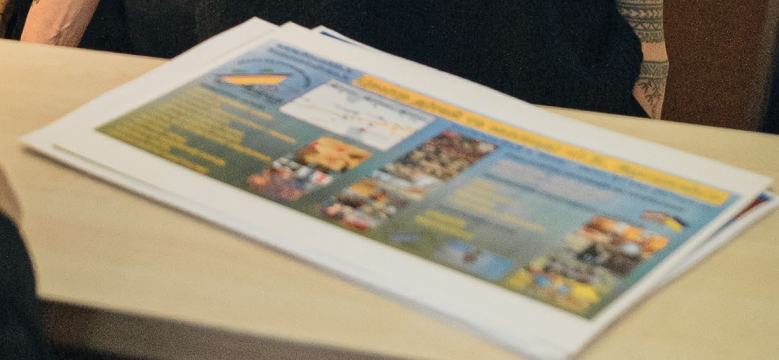
### **Information Management Coordination**

As part of the Refugee Coordination Model, UNHCR has established Information Management Working Groups (IMWGs) at the regional level and in the RRP countries to facilitate inter-agency coordination on data/IM initiatives. Through these coordination structures, UNHCR shares information related to the Ukraine Refugee Situation with IMWG members and ensures there is a harmonised approach to data/IM initiatives within the humanitarian community, and with government authorities and local actors.

In support of UNHCR's protection and coordination mandates, the Refugee Data Management Framework (RDMF) was rolled out in 2022 and will continue to be strengthened in 2023, to ensure a consistent and accurate refugee narrative. Through the RDMF, UNHCR, together with partners, will ensure there are updated refugee population statistics (both flow and stock figures), protection profiling and monitoring and intentions surveys, monitoring of collective sites, area-based assessments and multi-sector needs assessments to inform the response. UNHCR will also undertake other data/IM initiatives in partnership, or as inter-agency initiatives to understand the social economic integration of refugees in host countries. Furthermore, the RDMF will facilitate coordination of data/IM initiatives amongst humanitarian actors to avoid duplication and identify and fill information gaps.

COUNTRY CHAPTER

# LATVIA



# > At a Glance

## Latvia Planned Response (January-December 2023)



**120,000**

targeted refugee population



**\$12 M**

total financial requirements in USD



**14**

partners involved



# LATVIA

## Part 1: Current Situation

### Situation Overview

Since the escalation of hostilities in Ukraine, Latvia indicated its readiness to receive and support refugees fleeing Ukraine. Over the ensuing months, Latvia saw the arrival of tens of thousands of refugees from Ukraine including some who transited through the country and continued towards other countries. The Ukraine refugee situation resulted in Latvia facing the largest influx of refugees in its history.

As of end December 2022, more than 44,000 refugees from Ukraine have been registered for temporary protection in Latvia - representing some 2 per cent of the Latvian population. In addition, more than 230,000 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 territories of Ukraine. The presence of a Ukrainian diaspora in Latvia, the country's generous assistance and support policy, as well as the extraordinary reception and solidarity provided by the Latvian population have all been instrumental factors in supporting the reception and integration of refugees from Ukraine to remain and receive temporary protection in Latvia.

Latvia provides effective access to territory and temporary protection to refugees from Ukraine, whose numbers are steadily growing. Although 4,500 refugees have reported their departure from Latvia, their return to Ukraine may not be sustainable and hence, the authorities do not exclude that those refugees might come back to Latvia. Further, taking into account the ongoing fighting in Ukraine, the severe damage to civilian and energy infrastructure and the upcoming harsh winter conditions, it is assumed that the inflow of refugees into Latvia will continue.

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.<sup>14</sup> Latvia introduced a broad temporary protection definition covering citizens of Ukraine who were in Latvia and became refugees due to circumstances arising in Ukraine (refugees *sur place*), stateless persons and other persons affected by the conflict in Ukraine, including third-country nationals (TCNs) in need of international protection. The Law provides for special regulations for immediate assistance with accommodation and food, expedited registration, and access to education, health care, and social protection. Some 76 per cent of refugees from Ukraine are women and children, including more than 500 unaccompanied or

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<sup>14</sup> 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>.

separated children. The Law stipulates special conditions and increased assistance and support in case of persons with specific needs.

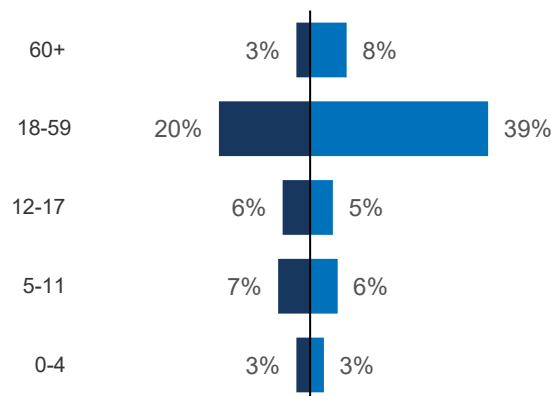
Despite the whole-of-society approach and tailored assistance focused on immediate needs as well as services available for persons with specific needs, refugees continue to face a number of challenges to be able to fully support themselves and their families. In view hereof, the present RRP has been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

## Population Planning Figures

Latvia	Refugees registered for Temporary Protection as of end Dec 2022 <sup>15</sup>	Targeted Population in 2023
Refugee Population	44,367	120,000

### Age and gender breakdown<sup>16</sup>

■ Female ■ Male



**61%**

Women and girls



**39%**

Men and boys

## Country Protection Needs, Vulnerabilities and Risks

Most refugees from Ukraine are women and children (47 and 30 per cent respectively). Consequently, a range of protection risks specifically faced by women and children have become apparent. Women with infants and small children lack employment opportunities and effective access to the labour market. There is a continuous need to raise awareness on child protection matters and risks of GBV, not only among refugees but also with staff and volunteers engaging with refugees.

<sup>15</sup> This figure may include multiple registrations of the same individual in two or more EU+ countries; registrations that remain incomplete for various reasons, or registrations of refugees who have moved onward, including beyond Europe.

<sup>16</sup> Own calculations based on government data.

Protection monitoring has shown that refugees with disabilities have difficulties accessing suitable accommodation due to the lack of adapted living space. Further, due to delays with registration for disability status and limited state resources, support with health care and additional financial support from municipalities does not always reach refugees with disability in a timely manner, thus creating a gap and exacerbating their vulnerability.

Accommodation needs also exist among the refugee population in general. While initial support with accommodation is available for all refugees from Ukraine in the first months after arrival in Latvia, medium to longer-term housing solutions across 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 less employment opportunities and limited public transportation. In municipalities that can offer more permanent housing options, costly renovations are often needed.

Assessments show that many refugees, in particular those who have recently arrived, need psychosocial assistance. Given the limited availability of Ukrainian-speaking mental health professionals in Latvia, a gap exists in this regard. Further, there is a need to provide psychological first aid training to frontline workers, including but not limited to staff and volunteers working in the border areas, who are usually the first ones to engage with newly arrived refugees in Latvia.

The demand for additional Latvian language courses for refugees continues to be significant. As of October 2022, according to the Society Integration Foundation, more than 3,000 Ukrainians had started learning Latvian at A1 level, and close to 200 had started an A2 level course. More opportunities for language learning, including after working hours, are needed to cater for all those who wish to learn Latvian language and for whom this is crucial in view of securing decent work.

Language learning is equally important for school-aged children in order to enable them to effectively be included in the Latvian education system. At the moment, only about one-half of all registered children from Ukraine in Latvia are enrolled in local schools, while the other half presumably follows online education provided by schools in Ukraine.<sup>17</sup> In addition to support with language learning, it is vital to support school children with their emotional needs, including through social and extra-curricular educational activities. Many of them also need support with school supplies and equipment, such as laptops. A priority of this RRP will be to ensure that as many refugee children and youth from Ukraine as possible find a place in formal education in Latvia.

Refugees in transit also face a range protection risks, given their vulnerable situation and dependence on support for their onwards journey. In 2022, more than 230,000 citizens of Ukraine transited through Latvia to other EU Member States or to return to the government-controlled territories of Ukraine. Refugees in transit are in need of a basic reception structure at the border, even for a short period of time only, in order to cover immediate needs such as food, water, warm clothes and sanitary facilities. These short stop-overs provide an opportunity for first responders to

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<sup>17</sup> According to the Ministry of Education, as of the end of November 2022, 4,336 out of 9,882 registered children are enrolled in education institutions.

identify and where possible, address vulnerabilities and specific protection risks, such as human trafficking, protection risks facing children and GBV.

## Part 2: Country Protection and Solutions Strategy

The RRP protection and solutions strategy for Latvia aims at supporting the efforts of the national authorities in addressing the needs of refugees from Ukraine, with a focus on 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 possible 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 TCNs 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.

The following strategic objectives (SO) will guide the response:

### Country Strategic Objectives

#### **SO1: Support the Latvian Government to ensure refugees' access to protection and assistance on a non-discriminatory basis, including the rights associated with temporary protection.**

- 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 mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and humanitarian assistance, that are age-, gender-, and diversity sensitive. Support local actors to provide targeted legal and social counseling and assistance to persons of concern, including through mentoring services.
- 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.
- Support government capacity with regard to the identification and mitigation of GBV, trafficking and SEA risks. Support development of effective prevention and response capacity.



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**SO2: Ensure that refugees with specific needs continue to have access to State services, as well as targeted support and assistance, while also engaging with and strengthening community-level protection mechanisms.**

- Support existing national measures and government systems to ensure that refugees with specific needs continue to have access to targeted referrals, including psycho-social support, as well as assistance with basic needs, including health, housing, food, and non-food items, while strengthening community-level protection mechanisms and promoting humanitarian actors' outreach to the refugee community.
- Complement and enhance government services to persons with specific needs by providing targeted support, including psycho-social support, mentoring services and disability inclusion.
- Reinforce accountability to affected people (AAP) through establishment of two-way communication channels, ensuring that refugees are able to participate in the development of programming for protection and solutions and provide feedback on the same.

**SO3 Work in partnership among the national and local governments and civil society to create solutions and expand refugees' access to social and economic opportunities to facilitate a whole-of-society approach to inclusion.**

- Support refugees' access to livelihood and economic opportunities, including through additional language training and support activities at accommodation sites and other locations, making sure that in particular vulnerable refugees such as single mothers and those with disabilities, receive adequate support.
- Support the government to ensure that refugees are systematically included in the different forms of social protection and government services.
- Complement the central Government's and municipalities' provision of accommodation through short-term support to newly arrived refugees, as well as housing support for refugees with disabilities.
- Support the inclusion of refugee children into the national education system through individual mentoring programmes, while also offering activities that focus on connections and friendship for children and youth.

**SO4: Advance social cohesion between refugees and host communities through targeted interventions.**

- Scale up innovative approaches and strengthened partnerships to enhance refugee inclusion into Latvian society. Support refugee and host community youth to develop capacities and skills.
- Leverage the potential of refugees, to help solve some of the challenges faced in accessing rights and services and facilitate dialogue and information exchange between refugees, government authorities, and the broader population.
- 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.

## Initiatives

Civil society organisations I Want to Help Refugees and Your Friends have set up support points in the border area to help newly arrived refugees from Ukraine. Refugees in transit receive support with some of their basic needs and have access to information and psychological first aid. Since the start of the project, thousands of refugees have been assisted with hot meals and drinks, a warm place to rest, information about temporary protection arrangements in Latvia and onwards transportation.

## Sectoral Responses

### PROTECTION



Partners will conduct protection monitoring to rapidly identify emerging protection risks and gaps in the response to inform evidence-based protection advocacy and engage with authorities at the national level to address key findings. Partners will also 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. Specific attention will be given to single women, female-headed households, unaccompanied and separated children, but also older persons, LGBTIQ+ persons, people with serious medical conditions and persons with disabilities.

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 new arrivals with specific needs, including in border areas and during transit.

Partners will engage with the refugee community and ensure its participation in designing and implementing the response, through participatory assessments, focus group discussions, engagement with refugee and community-led organizations, and other forms of support to the refugee community.

Partners will provide information and counselling – including legal counselling - to new arrivals as well as refugees already in-country, about status questions, including on procedures to access temporary protection and support to access rights and services, in particular with a view to enhancing protection for persons at heightened risk such as persons with disabilities, single women and children. Partners will further provide mentoring services to accompany refugees in their engagement with national service providers and help them navigate the national support systems.

Partners will further create an online coordination and knowledge exchange platform for NGOs working with refugees from Ukraine across the three Baltic countries.

### Sub-Sector: Child Protection



Partners will support the identification, referral and provision of specialized child protection services to children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children. In addition, partners will develop inter-cultural activities for children and their families, enabling them to find their way into new social networks, thus helping with the child's positive development in a new environment. Further, partners will provide a multi-layered approach to services in order to address the mental health and psycho-social needs of children who may have experienced distressing events.

### Sub-Sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



Protection from trafficking for sexual exploitation as well as sexual exploitation and abuse will also form a key part of the response. To address the risk of GBV, including trafficking for sexual exploitation and SEA, specific prevention activities, including training and awareness-raising activities targeting, among others, refugees and volunteers, will be put in place to reinforce coordinated prevention and response mechanisms.

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## HEALTH AND NUTRITION



Health sector partners aim to reinforce the government-led response by supporting the Ministry of Health and other government authorities and local actors with capacity-building and technical assistance as needed. WHO will design, plan, and conduct a survey of unmet medical needs, including the MHPSS needs, of refugees from Ukraine. Translations, adaptations and trainings will be provided in Ukrainian language to reduce barriers to care and access to health services.

Particularly vulnerably refugees, such as those with disabilities, will be provided with a wide range of support measures. Further, refugees will receive emergency dental treatment where this is not covered by the State. In the event of gaps in the provision of mainstream health care to refugees – a situation which may arise in the case of newly arrived refugees – they will receive cash and voucher assistance (CVA) to purchase medicine or undergo medical treatment.

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## LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



The Latvian Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Civilians provides a framework for effective protection and facilitates refugees' access to rights and services on an equal footing with Latvian citizens, including access to education, health care, and social protection. Despite this favourable legal environment, *de facto* barriers for socio-economic inclusion exist, such as gaps in information in terms of the rights and services refugees are entitled to and how to access these, as well as economic inclusion prospects, language barriers and documentation requirements.

The civil society response will include a range of activities focused on provision of legal support, information and individual counselling and mentoring. Partners will provide services such as translation of documents, including birth certificates and educational qualifications. In-depth legal support, including legal counselling on access to rights and services, will be provided in cases where a simple legal consultation is not enough to help refugees on their way to inclusion. Partners will also focus on dissemination of information on rights and access to services and provide individual support and mentoring, including through a peer educator network. Socio-economic inclusion support activities will also be provided at the accommodation facilities.

Partners will further complement the Government's efforts to offer language classes across the country. Language clubs to practice speaking Latvian language will be organised, as well as additional language classes for those refugees who are unable to sign up for classes organised through the national system. Language training will be prioritized so that refugees can more rapidly access decent employment, while refugee job prospects and access to employability initiatives such as trainings, mentorship programmes, internships and apprenticeships will also be enhanced via increased engagement with the private sector.

To foster refugees' social inclusion in Latvian society, partners will organise recreational activities such as welcoming events, cultural events, workshops and exchanges for adults and children. Cooperation with cultural institutions, such as libraries, museums, and cultural centres, may be considered as a potential for synergy to promote inclusion in the local community. Partners will also set up activities that help establish new friendships for young people as well as activities that help refugees to get to know Latvia better. To promote social cohesion, partners will organise awareness-raising campaigns among the local population as well as in schools.

Particular attention will be given to refugee children and youth, and their needs in terms of emotional support and recreational and educational activities. Partners' plans include the opening of a resource centre for young refugees, running emotional support groups and offering safe meeting spaces for youth from both Ukraine and Latvia.

At present, only about 50 per cent of all registered children from Ukraine in Latvia are enrolled in local schools. The reasons parents are reluctant to have their children participate in the national education system relate to language barriers and perceived incompatibility between the Ukrainian and Latvian education systems. Thus, many children still rely on remote education provided by their schools in Ukraine. Civil society partners will continue to advocate for refugee children to enrol in Latvian schools, while also offering language clubs for children and youth as well as other educational and after-school activities to facilitate social inclusion of children, even in situations in which they may not be enrolled in formal education. Further, support with equipment for educational purposes, such as laptops, is envisaged.

To improve the overall refugee response, and with a view to paving the way for more agile service provision in the second year of the Ukraine refugee situation, an assessment of municipalities' performance in terms of reception of refugees from Ukraine will be carried out. The assessment will be followed by solution models for gaps identified.

## BASIC NEEDS



The Law on Assistance to Ukrainian Civilians provides for expedited registration of refugees from Ukraine as well as special regulations for immediate assistance with accommodation and food.

Gaps with covering basic needs have been identified in particular in border areas, where refugees spend a short period of time before moving on to the capital or other places. Strengthening reception conditions for newly arrived refugees from Ukraine and persons with specific needs in transit is crucial, in particular at border crossing points, to ensure that refugees during their short term stay at the border can cover their basic needs, have access to information as well as psychological first aid. Partners will provide support with transportation, temporary accommodation, and cash assistance for refugees in transit.

Further, humanitarian assistance will also be provided at transit sites in main cities in Latvia. At the main bus station in Riga, an assistance desk will be in place, where further transport can be coordinated. There is also a shop where winter clothes and other necessities are offered free of charge. Donations, including food, clothes and furniture, are also distributed from a warehouse in Riga. This warehouse is intended for refugees who are not in transit but cannot cover their basic needs despite the assistance provided by the State.

Short-term accommodation, up to a number of months, is available free of charge in hotels and other accommodation places across Latvia. Further state-sponsored initiatives to create short-term living space include financial support to host families and the reconstruction of a new reception facility offering 250 places and expected to be completed in early 2023. The main gap in terms of accommodation consists in the lack of mid- to long-term housing solutions. Moreover, short-term accommodation requires further scaling-up in order to cater for all who need it.

Partners will provide a small-scale temporary accommodation arrangement for new arrivals for a period not exceeding 30 days. Through this arrangement, a maximum of 70 persons can be assisted at a time. Further, partners will support refugees with disabilities to find suitable accommodation adapted to their specific needs. Housing will be offered to them for a short period of time, and after that, they will receive support to find a suitable longer-term solution. Partners will also assist with adapting accommodation to meet the specific needs of persons with disabilities.

## Country Cross-Cutting Response Priorities

### Accountability to Affected People (AAP)



Activities designed to ensure accountability to affected people and inclusion will continue to be prioritized and will be grouped around the pillars of a) participation and inclusion in line with Age, Gender and Diversity principles for meaningful consultation; b) communication and transparency, including access to information; c) feedback and response; and d) learning and adaptation.

Effective two-way communication and consultation with communities will be achieved through continuous engagement of refugee women, men, girls and boys of diverse backgrounds in all the stages of the RRP's implementation by employing participatory methodologies. Feedback received from persons of concern will help to adjust the response where needed. Refugees will continue to access relevant, timely and up to date information through two-way communication and feedback mechanisms, such as UNHCR HELP Pages, the Digital Blue Dot, the Regional Call Centre and other initiatives. The role of refugee volunteers, community-based and refugee-led organizations will continue to be reinforced, including through capacity development and small grants.

### Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)



Sexual exploitation and abuse directly contradict the principles upon which humanitarian action is based, inflicts harm on those whom the humanitarian and development community is obligated to protect, as well as jeopardizes the credibility of all assistance agencies.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) is therefore a key priority in the response. The Ukraine emergency is also characterized by a number of specific risk factors, such as an exceptionally high incidence of family separation and of female-headed households, as well as a wide range of actors involved in the response, some of whom have limited experience with PSEA. These risk factors may be further compounded by increasing socio-economic vulnerabilities, difficulties in finding suitable accommodation, and potential fatigue among host States and host communities as the emergency extends into its second year.

PSEA is an integral and cross-cutting component of the RRP and is mainstreamed across the response for refugees from Ukraine. In addition, it requires dedicated and proactive collective efforts to mitigate and prevent risks, such as joint SEA risk assessments, partner capacity assessments, capacity building and training, as well as community outreach and awareness raising with the refugee community. A Regional PSEA Network has also been established to support national efforts and ensure consistency, exchange and the collection of best practices in line with PSEA global commitments.

## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)



MHPSS will be a focus of the refugee response in Latvia. The integration of MHPSS across sectors, including health, protection, child protection, GBV, education, and livelihoods is essential to the national response. In line with this, ensuring comprehensive access and provision of MHPSS services across all layers of support must continue to be advocated for and prioritized amongst all partners and actors. Partners will therefore provide psychosocial support through community-based interventions, including group activities such as support groups for women and children and arts-based psychosocial support. Additionally, focused in-person and remote psychosocial support for refugees, such as individual basic counselling, will be provided in parallel to providing and ensuring access to specialized mental health care and support. Refugees who have just crossed the border and who are still in border areas will also be provided with psychological first aid. Also fundamental is the mainstreaming of caring for carers and supportive supervision for frontline providers, who are often from Ukraine, to prevent burnout and promote well-being.

## Partnership and Coordination

In Latvia, the Government has established a coordination structure, referred to as 'Operative Management Centre' which organises weekly meetings with 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.

Partners involved	14
UN Agencies	3
International NGOs	1
National NGOs	9
IFRC&RC	1

*Note: 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.*

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. In addition, RRP partners will come together in a regular coordination meeting co-organised by UNHCR and the Ministry of the Interior.

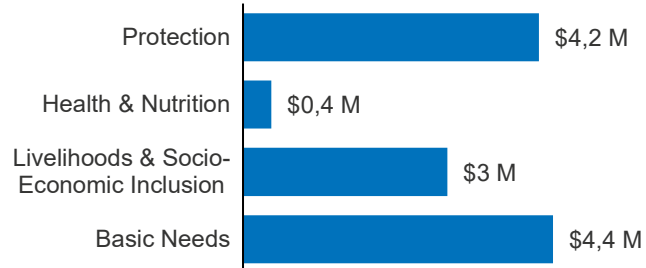
## Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

### Total financial requirements in USD



**\$12 M**

### By sector in million USD



Total Protection requirements	\$4,195,372
Other protection activities	\$3,876,937
GBV	\$68,435
Child Protection	\$250,000

Total Cash Assistance requirements*	\$155,000
Basic Needs	\$50,000
Health and Nutrition	\$105,000

\* This is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets. 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 used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. As the modality of choice of the people we serve, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.

### By partner type

Partners involved	14
UN Agencies	\$6.5M
International NGOs	\$2.8M
National NGOs	\$2.5M
IFRC&RC	\$0.2M



## By partner

Partner / Acronym	Protection	Health & Nutrition	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Basic Needs	Total USD
<b>UN Agencies</b>					
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	1,617,924		970,755	647,170	3,235,849
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	257,143		428,571	2,377,714	3,063,428
World Health Organization (WHO)		230,000			230,000
<b>International NGOs</b>					
PCPM-Polish Center for International Aid	2,196,237			579,391	2,775,628
<b>National NGOs</b>					
Caritas Latvia		22,209	140,494		162,703
Center for Public Policy PROVIDUS			267,908		267,908
Common Ground			265,650		265,650
Crisis and Counselling Centre Skalbes	8,568	18,375			26,943
Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem / I Want to Help Refugees			29,768	69,458	99,226
Latvian Scout and Guide			56,700		56,700
MARTA Centre	115,500				115,500
Samaritan Association of Latvia			736,925	472,360	1,209,285
Young Folks				295,016	295,016
<b>IFRC &amp; Red Cross/ Crescent Societies</b>					
Latvian Red Cross		105,000	80,955		185,955
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,195,372</b>	<b>375,584</b>	<b>2,977,726</b>	<b>4,441,109</b>	<b>\$11,989,791</b>

**UKRAINE SITUATION**

# **REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN**

January – December 2023



**Regional Refugee Response  
for the Ukraine Situation**

UNHCR operational data portal  
[rbeext@unhcr.org](mailto:rbeext@unhcr.org)