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UKRAINE SITUATION FLASH UPDATE #2

11 March 2022

UNHCR PUBLICATIONS

7 Mar

[Press Release](#): Unaccompanied and separated children fleeing escalating conflict in Ukraine must be protected

8 Mar

UNHCR - [News Comment](#): UNHCR's Grandi praises Europe's welcome for Refugees fleeing Ukraine

8 Mar

UNHCR launches [Supplementary Appeal](#) for an initial \$ 510 million USD

9 Mar

[Press Release](#): UN welcomes and supports initiative to fast-track transfer of people fleeing Ukraine to Romania through Moldova

10 Mar

[Story](#): Ukrainian family confronts new reality of life as refugees

11 Mar

[Briefing Note](#): UNHCR scales up for those displaced by war in Ukraine, deploys cash assistance

11 Mar

[Press Release](#): UNHCR, Polish Government Unite to Deploy Cash Aid to Refugees Fleeing Ukraine

11 Mar

[Story](#): University dorm in western Ukraine offers escape for fleeing families

Flash Update #1 available [here](#)

REFUGEES FLEEING UKRAINE

2,504,893

Data as of 11 Mar 2022

More details: [UNHCR Operational Data Portal](#)
[Ukraine Refugee Situation](#)

BACKGROUND

The Russian Federation launched a military offensive against Ukraine on 24 February 2022. In the space of just two weeks, more than 2.5 million refugees have been forced to flee Ukraine, while an additional 1.85 million people have been displaced internally within the country. An estimated 12.65 million people have been affected in the areas hardest hit by the war within Ukraine.

The escalation of conflict has triggered an immediate and steep rise in humanitarian needs, both within the country as well as in the neighbouring countries receiving refugees.

UNHCR continues to call for the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure, respect for international humanitarian law, and appealed to neighbouring countries to continue keeping their borders open to those fleeing.

UKRAINE

- According to the Protection Cluster - an UNHCR-led coordination group comprising all partners focusing on Protection - there are currently an estimated **1.85 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ukraine, and some 12.65 million people in areas worst affected by the conflict.**
- Following several failed attempts at securing safe passage for the evacuation of civilians trapped in areas under heavy hostilities, **some evacuations have finally taken place.** National authorities report that on 8 and 9 March at least 51,000 people were evacuated, mainly from the northeastern city of Sumy and the city of Enerhodar, including some 1,700 foreign students. On 10 March, 22,000 more people successfully evacuated from Sumy as well as 2,000 people evacuated from Bucha, Irpin and Borodyanka and 2,000 more from Izyum and Kharkiv.
- However, **tens of thousands more people remain trapped under dire humanitarian conditions** in areas including Mariupol and towns outside of Kyiv including Bucha, Hostomel, Irpin, Makariv and Vorzel.
- Across the east, north and south of Ukraine, some **650,000 people are estimated to be without electricity and at least 130,000 without natural gas** amid ongoing hostilities. In Mariupol and the surrounding villages alone, some 400,000 residents have no access to electricity, heating and water due to damaged or destroyed infrastructure, and food and medical supplies are dwindling.
- On 9 March, **an airstrike stuck a maternity and children's hospital in Mariupol, resulting in multiple civilian casualties.** In the eastern city of Lysychansk, the railway was damaged, halting further evacuations. The UN once more called for respect for international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure.
- **Access to conflict-affected communities remains restricted** due to the security situation, exacerbating humanitarian needs. The UN continues to negotiate to secure access, safety and security for the delivery of lifesaving aid.
- **Lviv in western Ukraine is currently hosting some 200,000 IDPs, more than a quarter of its normal population,** according to Government estimates, and authorities have expressed concern about the city's capacity to absorb further displaced people.
- **Tens of thousands of IDPs in central Ukraine urgently require assistance** including mattresses, blankets, pillows, baby food, medication, heaters, power banks and lanterns. In eastern Ukraine, food, water, shelter, basic household items, medicine, cash, building materials, and generators continue to be urgently needed. Needs are still being assessed for cities in the south such as Kherson, Mykolaiv and Odesa.
- **A New Protection Cluster Snapshot for 6-9 March with further details on the protection situation within Ukraine can be downloaded [here](#).**



University dorm in western Ukraine offers escape for fleeing families. Ukraine, 11 March 2022.
© UNHCR/Igor Karpenko

UNHCR RESPONSE IN UKRAINE

In Eastern Ukraine:

- UNHCR is coordinating with partner Proliska to mobilize humanitarian assistance from the west to the east of the country. 1,400 square meters of tarpaulin were delivered to families whose homes were damaged in the shelling in Popasna town to protect them from the cold, as well as baby food and hygiene items.
- UNHCR also delivered humanitarian supplies, including 2,000 cans of stewed meat and 700kg of frozen meat, to Sievierodonetsk, Lysychansk and Popasna cities.
- In Sievierodonetsk, UNHCR delivered 1.5 tonnes of meat products, frozen fish and fish preserves to Rubezhne. The city is on the verge of a humanitarian catastrophe after prolonged heavy shelling.
- In Luhansk, UNHCR handed over 25 Emergency Shelter Kits for further direct distribution in Shchastia. Trucks with additional supplies are also on standby to dispatch additional supplies to Luhansk as soon as security conditions permit.
In Donetsk oblast, UNHCR partner Proliska conducted needs assessment in Zaitseve which was heavily shelled and provided individual case management to the people affected.

In Central and Western Ukraine:

- UNHCR is supporting local authorities to establish and expand transit and reception centres for IDPs in western oblasts, in particular in Lviv, Chernivtsi, Volyn, and Ivano-Frankivsk. This includes the identification of partners to scale up protection services, provision of sleeping materials and other core relief items, and support with coordination and referral systems to ensure IDPs have access to services.
- In **Lviv**, UNHCR distributed 400 mattresses and 400 blankets to a reception centre run by local authorities in a school. The centre hosts some 200 people per day.
- On 8 March, four trucks with 8,600 thermal blankets and 3,000 mattresses arrived from Poland to Lviv. UNHCR has also established two new warehouses in Lviv and Chernivtsi.
- 4 trucks with some 20 metric tons of humanitarian cargo departed to Dnipro. Once the security situation allows, the trucks with 400 family kits, 400 buckets, 400 kitchen sets, 1200 thermal blankets, 400 jerry cans, 400 sleeping mats, 400 solar mats and 1200 mattresses on board will bring the relief items to Mariupol.
- UNHCR is preparing to roll out a pilot multi-purpose cash assistance programme, in collaboration with WFP and local authorities for IDPs in Lviv. UNHCR will train up to 60 registration staff to support. Many stores in Ukraine now require cash payments making delivery of cash support critical.
- UNHCR is also working with partners to provide heating points near border crossings.
- In **Vinnitsia**, UNHCR distributed over 1,000 blankets, 230 mattresses and 30 sleeping mats to three transit centres with the most urgent needs, hosting some 350 people nightly. UNHCR conducted needs assessments in another 13 transit centres to inform forthcoming support.
- UNHCR is working with local authorities in western Ukraine to produce information materials that include QR codes of UNHCR Help sites, hotline numbers, referral roadmaps, and other resources to distribute to people at checkpoints.
- In **Uzhgorod**, local authorities expect 400,000 more people to arrive to Zakarpattya region in the coming days. UNHCR is providing software for registration of IDPs and the mapping of all existing accommodation centres in Zakarpattya region to support the authorities.
- UNHCR received 2,200 blankets through Terminal Nova Poshta in Uzhgorod and will distribute them to accommodation centres in the region.
- In **Chop**, UNHCR and partners are working with local authorities to assist in organizing a transit centre and protection services. UNHCR is providing support to accommodate 4,300 people and to provide legal, psychological and information support at reception points.
- In **Kryvyi Rig**, core relief items such as blankets and kitchen sets were delivered to students who evacuated from Mariupol Law School.

In Southern Ukraine

- In **Odesa**, UNHCR's partner is delivering food, tea and blankets at transit points in the train station where some 600 evacuees from Mykolaiv arrive per day to await trains to western Ukraine.

Hungary

- **Protection:** UNHCR's partner Menedék established a mobile social care team to provide support to refugees in temporary shelters coordinated by Budapest Municipality. Support is provided for residence, family reunification, employment, health care and education. The team visits facilities based on identified needs and shelters can request Menedék's support.
- UNHCR continued monitoring missions to border areas in eastern Hungary, visiting Collection and Help Points as well as temporary shelters where refugees are registered and receive initial assistance.

Moldova

- **Protection:** A UNHCR partner continues to provide legal advice and counseling to new arrivals at border crossing points.
- An initiative to accelerate the transfer of people fleeing Ukraine from Moldova to Romania, organized by the Moldovan and Romanian authorities and supported and facilitated by UNHCR and IOM, began on 10 March. During the day, two convoys of buses carrying refugees left the Palanca border crossing point in Moldova and arrived in Romania, transporting a total of some 500 refugees. It is planned to scale up this partnership, reducing overcrowding at Moldovan borders, and sharing responsibility in the region.
- The first train journeys westward from the Palanca border to Causeni town in Moldova began on 10 March, with some 900 people traveling by train. UNHCR teams are stationed at Palanca and Causeni to monitor and provide assistance.
- **Multipurpose Cash Assistance:** UNHCR, with the Ministry of Social Protection and a local partner, started emergency cash distributions on 28 February, while the mechanism for larger-scale assistance is being set up with more payments reaching vulnerable refugees in coming days. A one-off cash grant for 50,000 host families is also being set up with the authorities.
- **Core Relief Items:** UNHCR is establishing warehouse space in Moldova in two locations. Further deliveries of core relief items, including sleeping bags, hygiene items, and additional blankets, are scheduled to arrive to Moldova in the coming days. This includes 2,000 tents, 2,000 winterization kits, 25,000 thermal blankets, 5,000 sleeping bags and 60,000 blankets by airlift.

Poland

- **Protection:** UNHCR is following up on concerns raised by humanitarian actors of GBV incidents on trains from the border.
- UNHCR is also in the process of identifying enumerators to administer the Protection Monitoring Tool, a rapid needs assessment at the border.
- UNHCR and UNICEF are advancing in the rollout of the 'blue dot' system. 'Blue dots' are information and support hubs for children, families and others with specific needs, initially set up in Europe in 2016. The 'blue dots' offer a safe space and one-stop-shop for basic services, counseling and information provision.
- UNHCR is compiling information material on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and identifying additional partners to support in child protection and legal support.
- **Multipurpose Cash Assistance:** On 11 March, UNHCR, Caritas Poland and other partners launched the pilot multipurpose cash assistance programme in Warsaw. The programme will quickly expand to towns and cities in the country hosting large numbers of refugees. The project also partners with Santander Bank, using its innovative BLIK instant payments system, available across Poland. Initial one-off payments will be made available to registered refugees. To support the recipients a free helpline has been put in place. Cash assistance allows refugees to prioritize what they most need, while providing an economic boost to local Polish businesses
- **Core Relief Items:** UNHCR is identifying mechanisms to distribute thermal blankets, hot food and information to those waiting to cross the border from Ukraine.

Romania

- **Protection:** UNHCR partner staff providing asylum counseling and information are present at six border crossing points and in eight government-run transit centers (out of 14 centers for up to 3,710 persons)
- UNHCR Protection staff is working directly at the National Coordination Cell in Romania to ensure the coordination of UN and partners with the Government emergency response.
- On 10 March, the first group of 500 refugees arrived in Romania from the Palanca border crossing point in Moldova, thanks to the joint initiative to accelerate the transfer of people fleeing Ukraine to Romania via Moldova,



UNHCR is working with authorities and partners in neighbouring countries to roll out **multipurpose cash programmes**. The payments will support refugees, allowing more dignity and independence, until they can work or receive social support.



UN estimates that there are now **1.85 million IDPs** in Ukraine and **12.65 million people** have been affected in the areas hardest hit by the war

organized by the Moldovan and Romanian authorities and supported and facilitated by UNHCR and IOM. It is planned to organize daily transfers.

- On 11 March, the information and resource management platform DOPOMOHA.ro was launched. Created by Code4Romania in record time under coordination of PM Chancellery and the Dept Emergency Situations, integrates both needs and resources for people fleeing Ukraine. UNHCR and partners contributed with asylum-related content from help.unhcr.org, provides updates and promotes it widely online and through info materials at border points and transit centers.

Slovakia

- Protection:** A UNHCR partner has scaled up presence to ensure protection monitoring presence at all three border crossings since 7 March.
- UNHCR carried out monitoring visits to two large capacity centres in Humenné and Michalovce as well as a travel hub point for foreigners launched by Košice city in a train station. UNHCR will provide additional support based on the identified needs and gaps.

FINANCIAL NEEDS

Links:

Ukraine Situation: [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#)

UN: [Ukraine Flash Appeal](#)

UNCHR: [Supplementary Appeal](#)

COORDINATION

Ukraine

UNHCR leads the Protection and Shelter Clusters. As of 1 March 2022, the Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster was activated in Ukraine. In addition, as co-lead of the Logistics Working Group in Ukraine, UNHCR is facilitating the movement of humanitarian convoys in coordination with OCHA.

Regional Refugee Response

UNHCR has facilitated the establishment of coordination structures in line with the Refugee Coordination Model. A Regional Refugee Response Plan has been developed and is currently under adjustment and more partners will contribute.

At regional and country level, relevant sectoral groups have been created, to maximize the response on the ground. The structures are meant to be agile and shall be adjusted as the situation evolves.

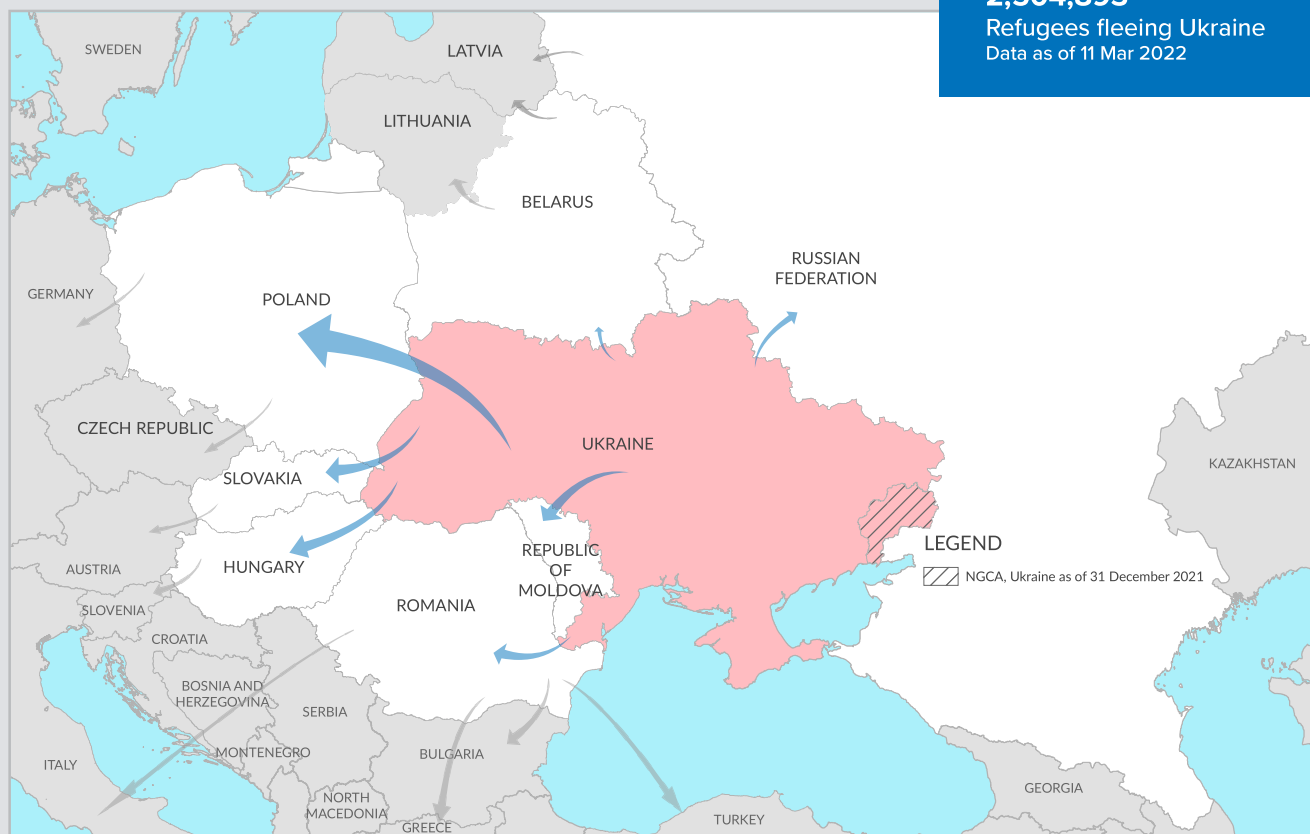
UNHCR has deployed coordination and protection experts including protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) emergency coordinators in Hungary, Moldova, Poland and Romania.

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► UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION

2,504,893

Refugees fleeing Ukraine
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