

Europe and Central Asia Region (ECAR) – Ukraine Situation: Refugee Response in Neighbouring Countries

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 6 - 2022

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Emma, 5 years old, from Odessa, Ukraine, plays with UNICEF staff at the UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dot safe space in Isaccea bord crossing in Romania

6 April - 12 April 2022

Highlights

- As of 12 April, nearly 4.7 million refugees have fled Ukraine (close to 2.7 million to Poland, over 709,000 to Romania, around 416,000 to Republic of Moldova, over 434,000 to Hungary, and almost 761,000 to other countriesⁱ).
- UNICEF has established 16 UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots (Romania, Moldova and Poland)* which have reached around 33,200 people. Establishment of 30 more is being accelerated for Bulgaria (4), Hungary (4), Italy (2), Moldova (2), Poland (11), Romania (2), and Slovak Republic (5), which will reach at least 15,500 people, including 6,200 children, per day.
- UNICEF and UNHCR have finalized a UN-to-UN agreement for scaling up the cash assistance programme to reach 50,000 people with USD 6 million in Moldova, where high inflation is impacting refugee and host communities particularly hard.
- UNICEF established the first ever Play and Parenting Support Hub in Poland, engaging Ukrainian animators to support young children and caregivers. The model will be scaled up to 30 Hubs across 6 municipalities.
- To scale up programme capacities, UNICEF has deployed 148 surge missions (child protection, WASH, social protection emergency coordination, operations, supply & logistics) to Poland (73), Moldova (19), Romania (19), Hungary (18), Slovakia (13) and Czech Republic (6).
- As of 12 April, UNICEF has USD 72.3 million available against its USD 324.7 million ask for the refugee response under this humanitarian appeal. UNICEF appreciates the generous contributions from public and private sector donors.

*including fully equipped and lighter versions, depending on the contextual needs and capacities.

Situation in Numbers

4,656,509ⁱⁱ



Refugees who have crossed borders from Ukraine into neighboring countries since 24 February 2022

2,225,000



children in need of humanitarian assistance.

1,170,000

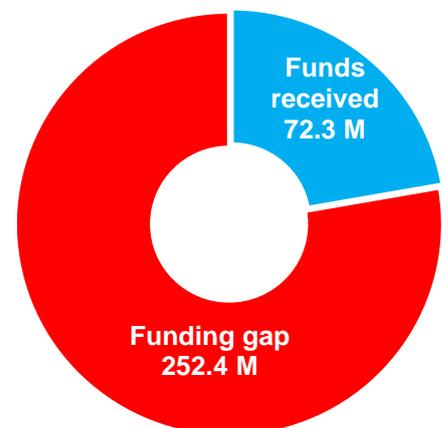


children to be reached by UNICEF's response in refugee hosting countries.

UNICEF Appeal 2022

US\$ 324.7 million**

Funding Status as of 12 April
(USD million)



i&ii UNHCR. Operational Data Portal as of 12 April 2022.

<http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

iii Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Belarus, Hungary, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic

** This reflects the current requirement under Pillar 2 (Refugee Outflow) against the revised HAC (April 2022) which covers interventions in neighbouring countries

UNICEF Targets in Key Areas

Icon	Area	Target	Value
	NUT/HEALTH	Primary Health Access	2,341,200
		IYCF counselling	86,500
	CP /GBV	MHPSS access	1,164,350
		GBV risk mitigation access	810,200
	EDU	Education access	463,600
	WASH	Water access	130,000
		Wash supplies	1,093,200
	SOC. PROT.	Cash transfers*	122,500

*Households

Regional Funding Overview & Partnerships

With the rapidly evolving situation, intensified fighting, continued displacements, and exponential increase in the number of refugees, the humanitarian response and related financial requirements were increased in the [2022 Ukraine Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\)](#) to reflect needs until the end of 2022. Under Pillar 2 of the revised HAC appeal and aligned with the interagency Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)¹, UNICEF is seeking USD 324.7 million to respond to urgent humanitarian and protection needs of refugee children and their families fleeing to neighbouring countries in Europe. As of 12 April, UNICEF has USD 72.3 million available (50% fully flexible). Continued flexible contributions will enable UNICEF and partners to act quickly and respond strategically to where the needs are greatest.

UNICEF acknowledges the timely and generous commitments of public and private sector partners, including from the Governments of Austria, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America, the European Commission, and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Ongoing fundraising campaigns by UNICEF National Committees have generated significant, timely and flexible support from the private sector, including corporate partners and individual donors.

Regional Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

As of 12 April, nearly 4.7 million refugees have crossed from Ukraine into Europe. Close to 60% arrived in Poland (almost 2.7 million people), with significant caseloads in Romania (709,249), Moldova (415,850), Hungary (434,342) and Slovakia (323,020).² UNICEF estimates that over 2 million refugees are children, many separated or unaccompanied. Children and women on the move are at risk to violence, trafficking, sexual and labour exploitation and abuse. Preventing family separation, ensuring immediate identification, reunification registration, safe spaces is an urgent priority.

Six weeks into the war, the enrolment rate in national education systems varies. In Czech Republic, one third of refugee children are enrolled in public schools, close to 22.8% in Poland, while only 3.7% in Moldova. UNICEF supports Governments to absorb additional children in schools. Data is a challenge and assessments are ongoing in the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovak Republic, and Czech Republic. UNICEF is working with municipalities to address gaps.

More than 28,000 refugees were engaged through a second Viber poll in Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Moldova and Romania. Between 67% and 80% responded that they do not know where and how to access health services. Social media was the preferred source of information mentioned in Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, while messaging apps were the main choice in Moldova and Romania. In response, UNICEF is collecting relevant country-specific information and sharing it through Viber channels. UNICEF has also initiated social listening to identify topics of interest and concerns among Ukrainians as well as host communities.

Regional Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

UNICEF is working closely with UNHCR, other UN Agencies and key humanitarian partners to rapidly scale up its multi-sectoral response. UNICEF is leveraging its presence and partnerships established through longstanding country programmes, including in the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Belarus, relationships with government and a strong network of National Committees in Poland, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, and beyond. UNICEF continues to build on and expand its close relationships with municipalities - where partnerships have been established with Warsaw, Krakow, and Bratislava - Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

UNICEF is part of national and inter-agency coordination mechanisms and is also engaging with national networks and youth to ensure support for children and their families in refugee hosting countries. UNICEF co-chairs and participates in the Sub-working Groups for Child Protection, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Health, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Humanitarian Cash Transfers, Education, WASH, Capacity Development, and Information Management, and supports government-led working groups with inputs to their national Emergency Response Plans as well as ongoing needs assessments.

UNICEF's cross-sectoral approach to supporting early childhood development (ECD) includes expansion of preschool provision for refugee children, including children with disabilities, support for parental well-being, capacity building and mental health support to the ECD workforce. UNICEF is supporting host countries with planning and needs assessments of supply/demand of ECD services at national and local levels, as well as funding, staffing, and infrastructure gaps. UNICEF will also leverage the UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots to promote interventions, such as parenting support and Mother Baby Corners, and will set up digital training resources in Ukrainian and local languages and provide MHPSS.

UNICEF, in coordination with U-Report platform, has activated a regional chatbot to provide information to Ukrainian refugees such as safety recommendations, registration requirements, conditions of entry to host countries, their rights,

¹ Figures represent UNICEF's input to the UNHCR Refugee Response Plan, which is currently under revision and as such are provisional and subject to change following the finalization of the inter-agency process.

² UNHCR. Operational Data Portal as of 5 April 2022. <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

and assistance available in Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia. The chatbot is available in Ukrainian and can be activated through various channels, including Telegram, WhatsApp, and Viber.

Poland

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The Government has so far registered 846,650 Ukrainian refugee children (including 284,000 under 12 years of age and 425,320 between 12 and 18 years of age). An estimated 10% of children registered are separated, while 50% of refugees who have registered for a social security number are children. UNICEF continues to receive reports of groups of children from institutions inside Ukraine, now hosted in different arrangements across Poland ranging from private sector hotels to religious organizations to pre-existing children's homes. Reports from local NGOs suggest that in some cases the children have unmet medical, MHPSS, or other needs, and that the caregivers that have accompanied the children are overwhelmed. Government registrations for social protection and other benefits continue, with over 800,000 people registered so far.



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Jasmine (6, 2nd from left) a refugee from Ukraine and her family at the Ukrainian-Polish border crossing in Medyka, Poland.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Child Protection: Four UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots are now active, having reached 1,191 people at UNHCR cash enrolment sites in Warsaw and Krakow, 200 people in Medyka, and 1,800 refugee children within the first five days of the newly established child friendly space in the PESEL stadium in Warsaw. Approximately 2,000 refugees register for government support and services daily at the stadium. UNICEF is collecting information on children from institutional care facilities in Ukraine. So far, information has been obtained and follow up initiated regarding 1,207 children. UNICEF and the City of Warsaw have signed an agreement valued at USD 6.5 million, to reach 15,000 children and 5,500 parents and caregivers focussing on MHPSS, parental/caregiver support, and specialized services to families at risk for separation. UNICEF also trained ten senior management staff of civil society partners on PSEA. A training package and materials in Polish for frontline staff have been developed, including modules on humanitarian and child protection principles and issues such as UASC, GBV, MHPSS, and PSEA, including codes of conduct and reporting obligations.

Health and Nutrition: UNICEF agreed with the Municipality of Krakow on a joint work plan. The Ministry of Health requested UNICEF to procure polio and Hep A vaccines and ARV drugs and support the national vaccination campaign.

Education: The first ever Play and Parenting Support Hub was launched at the PESEL Stadium registration site, offering spaces for early childhood stimulation, learning support and non-formal education, caregiver support and parenting; 5 animators from Ukraine have been trained. UNICEF established a formal partnership with Comenius Foundation for Child Development to establish up to 30 Play and Parenting Support Hubs across 6 municipalities. UNICEF is supporting short-term expansion of the school system, is rolling out digital learning to help children complete the current school year and acquire language and social skills to integrate into Poland, is building the capacities of teachers to identify and support MHPSS needs of children affected by conflict; and is provide learning supplies.

Social and Behavior Change, Community Engagement, AAP: Messages with links and information about reception centers, national registration numbers, and other useful services were shared through Viber, reaching 8,213 refugees and shared 612 times. To address recent polls showing lack of knowledge on available health services, key messages with useful information were developed to be shared by Viber and U-Report channels. A mapping of Ukrainian teachers, social workers, coaches, medical professionals who are currently in Poland has been shared. 220 U-Reporters were reached to promote and share with refugees a chatbot in Ukrainian to connect them with key information about their rights and humanitarian services in Poland.

Republic of Moldova

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Women make up to 83% of all refugee arrivals. And 39% say they intend to stay in Moldova, while roughly 47% are not sure. Many people coming into Moldova are coming from Mykolaiv (41%) and Odesa (34%). The proportion of children in Refugee Accommodation Centres remains high (44%). The ability to target refugee children and families who are with host families remains a challenge. Inflation continues to rise in Moldova. Released [statistics for March](#) show that food prices were 27% higher compared to March 2021. The EU has [announced a package of financial](#) support to Moldova, including a macro-financial assistance programme, humanitarian assistance and borders support through Frontex.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Child Protection: UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots reached 5,483 people, including 3,040 children (48% boys and 52% girls) during the reporting period. Services were also provided to 126 children with disabilities, 24 UASC, 148 cases of violence against children and GBV, 49 cases of parents under the age of 18, and 22 pregnant and lactating women. Two undocumented and four unaccompanied children were identified and referred to services. This brings the total beneficiaries to 10,744 people, including 5,952 children since the setup of the six Blue Dots.

Education: 1,780 children have been enrolled, 561 in pre-primary and 1,219 in primary and secondary schools. UNICEF, together with the local authorities, launched a Youth Centre in Chisinau to provide services to refugees and host populations. The centre is part of UNICEF's support for three youth centres in the city which are expected to reach 10,000 children in the coming months.

Social Protection: UNICEF has partnered with UNHCR to deliver cash assistance to host and refugee families, reaching 8,585 individuals in 2,837 households. UNICEF and UNHCR have finalized an UN-to-UN agreement for scaling up the cash assistance programme to reach 50,000 people with USD 6 million. Furthermore, UNICEF and WFP are working on transitional social safety nets, as in addition to the refugee crisis, thousands of people may fall into poverty due to rising inflation rates.

Social and Behavior Change, Community Engagement, AAP: Information on cash assistance to refugees was shared through a dedicated Viber channel, accessed by almost 3,000 persons. Workshops with health professionals were initiated across the country on immunization, with a component to strengthen interpersonal communication to improve confidence in vaccines and address vaccine hesitancy, reaching 400 healthcare workers across the country.



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UNICEF supports recreational activities and psychological support within the Child Friendly Space in Chisinau.

Romania

Situation Overview & Programme Response

Currently, 82,635 Ukrainian refugees are still in Romania, including 34,404 children. The number of people who requested temporary protection is relatively low, around 4,775. UNICEF is part of the health and child protection working groups set up at governmental level.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Child Protection: Six UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots are operational, most at the border with Ukraine (Sighet, Siret, Tulcea) and with the Republic of Moldova (Albita and Husi). The Hub in Brasov is set up, where a community of Ukrainians is forming. Since their setup, the Blue Dots have served 24,000 Ukrainians, mainly women and children.

Health and Nutrition: A partnership agreement with the Romanian Angel Appeal was signed to provide health, educational and social services, including psychological support, for children and parents in need in two centres.

WASH: An initial WASH needs assessment and refugee analysis were conducted in Isaccea and Vaslui border crossing points that led to recommendations on adjustment of standard hygiene kits for transit and accommodation centers.

Education: Currently, 1,487 Ukrainian students are enrolled in Romanian schools. UNICEF supported the Government in developing the education chapter in the national Emergency Response Plan. Mapping of the activities and resources is ongoing.

Social and Behavior Change, Community Engagement, AAP: UNICEF is piloting feedback mechanisms at three border UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots (Isaccea, Vaslui, Siret), to be extended as an integrated part of all Blue Dots.



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Sofiya and Liza fled with their teachers to Bucharest. Their families are still in Odessa, and they are waiting to get back to their parents as soon as it will be safe to return home

Other Countries

Situation Overview & Programme Response

In the **Slovak Republic**, there is a decrease in the number of daily arrivals, almost reaching pre-war time figures. At the same time, there are movements in the opposite direction – going back to Ukraine. Refugees who have relocated to areas inside Slovak Republic require assistance more than those at the border. Many vulnerable refugees are in large accommodation centres without access to basic services. UNICEF and the Bratislava City Municipality signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on child protection and education, including establishment of UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots, capacity building of Bratislava city Police and front-line professionals on prevention of trafficking. 250 Border Police officers, 17 NGO representatives, and 18 child protection officers were trained to identify victims of trafficking and on child-friendly communication and referrals for services. 40 front line workers, child protection authorities and NGOs were introduced to the key aspects of child safeguarding mechanisms and tools.

In **Belarus**, 21,852 refugees have arrived. Using an existing partnership with the Republican Center of Psychological Assistance and a network of crisis psychologists, UNICEF is facilitating the creation of PSS mobile groups. The first group was established in the Gomel oblast. In **Hungary**, 268 Ukrainian children are attending kindergarten and 1,050 children are in schools. The integration of children who do not speak Hungarian is a challenge, however, students are offered catch-up classes and language learning activities. Establishment of UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots services and Help Points is being pursued at border crossings, in Budapest, and in accommodation shelters through partnerships with municipalities and Charity Council Hungarian faith-based organizations. In **Czech Republic**, approximately 269,860 refugees are present. UNICEF is liaising with Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and other partners to: support child protection structures on a regional level (including legal and social protection units within municipalities), build capacities of key social welfare cadre of front liners in screening and high-risk cases (how to conduct child friendly interviewing and techniques, the provision of MHPSS for children), and is working to identify qualified NGOs to provide services. In **Bulgaria**, out of 175,812 arrived refugees, there are 25,951 children in temporary protection. UNICEF and UNHCR are supporting provision of legal aid and PSS at the Central Railway Station in Sofia and other key points and are working towards a joint Blue Dot in Sofia and scaling-up services and support in Russe and Durankulak border check-points, Burgas and Varna, and potential mobile services.

External Media

- UNICEF Romania Press Release: [Fondation Botnar supports UNICEF response with US\\$ 4.86 million](#)
- UNICEF Romania Article: [Emma's bright day at the UNICEF's Blue Dot in Isaccea, Romania](#)
- UNICEF Romania Article: [Yulia, the Ukrainian mother who saved her daughter from the war](#)
- UNICEF Romania Article: [Olena and her son feel Romania belongs to another world](#)
- UNICEF HQ Remarks: [UNICEF Emergency Programmes Director Manuel Fontaine's remarks at the Daily Press Briefing by the Spokesperson of the Secretary-General](#)
- UNICEF ECARO Article: [Far from home, Ukrainian children fear for the future](#)
- UNICEF ECARO Press Release: [UNICEF and World Scouting join forces to support refugees](#)
- UNICEF Poland Appeal: [The children of Ukraine desperately need peace](#)

Next Sitrep: 22 April 2022

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Annex A: Summary of Programme Results (March – 12 April)

Sector		UNICEF Target 2022	Total Results - Outflow Countries						
Indicator	Country		Girls	Boys	Women	Men	Disability %	Total Result	Progress %
Health									
# Children and women accessing primary health care through UNICEF-supported mechanisms									
Bulgaria		1,200						65	5%
# Parents/child guardians reached with health information/promotion services									
Moldova		30,000						1,000	3%
Nutrition									
# Primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counselling									
Moldova		5,000						12	0%
Child Protection									
# Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support									
Bulgaria		100,000						105	0%
Moldova		5,000	258	254			6%	512	10%
Belarus		2,000						23	1%
Poland		585,600	301		199			500	0%
# UASC identified									
Bulgaria		800						221	28%
Moldova		500	6	6				12	2%
Belarus		70						10	14%
Romania		2500						255	10%
# Children with access to CFS with intersectoral programming interventions									
Moldova		100,000	575	618			4%	1,193	1%
# Active Blue dots									
Poland		20						4	25%
Moldova		7						6	86%
Romania		20						6	30%
# Women, girls, and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions									
Bulgaria		15,000						79	1%
Moldova		100,000	53					53	0%
Education									
# Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning									
Moldova		28,100						1,780	6%
Poland		300,000						160,000	53%
Romania		5000						1,487	30%
# Children receiving individual learning materials									
Romania		10000						360	4%
WASH									

# People use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities								
Moldova	100,000	153	153	354	190		850	1%
# People reached with critical WASH supplies								
Bulgaria	15,000						126	1%
Moldova	150,000	2,133	2,133	4,929	2,654		11,849	8%
Belarus	40,000						200	1%
Romania	15,000						1,270	8%
# Reception centres and accommodation facilities supported to ensure appropriate access to wash facilities and services								
Moldova	5						1	20%
Romania	24						5	21%
Social Protection								
# Households reached with UNICEF funded multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers								
Moldova	28,100						2,837	10%
SBC/C4D/AAP								
# People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services								
Bulgaria	50,000						2,022	4%
Belarus	40,000						200	1%
Poland	585,600						160,000	27%
Romania	1,000,000						5,900	1%
# People participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change								
Poland	20,000						8,433	42%
# People sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms								
Poland	5,000			23	11		34	0%
Romania	3,000						5	0%

*Quantity and disaggregation level of data will increase progressively with the reinforcement of Monitoring & Reporting mechanism at country level. ** Multisectoral Need Assessments are ongoing in most of the neighbouring countries. The results may affect the targeting for key interventions.