



Europe and Central Asia Region (ECAR)

Ukraine Situation: Refugee Response in Neighbouring Countries

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 8 - 2022

20 April - 26 April 2022

Highlights

- As of 26 April, over 5.3 million refugees have fled Ukraine (over 2.9M to Poland, 790,000 to Romania, 437,000 to Republic of Moldova, 502,000 to Hungary, and over 1M to other countries).¹
- 24% increase in the number of UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots from the previous week, for a total of 21 (7 Moldova, 7 Romania, 4 Poland, 1 Slovakia, 2 Italy) with capacity of reaching 500 children and women a day with referrals, protection services, identification and reunification, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), social protection, education, health and WASH.
- In Poland, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNICEF and the City of Krakow to support refugee children with psychosocial and integration services.
- In Moldova, 11,795 individual refugees (90% women/children) received cash grants of USD 120 per person.
- 75,000 refugees were reached in 7 countries with information on how to find and access social services, registration process and trafficking prevention messages.
- As of 26 April, UNICEF has USD 115.4 million available against its USD 324.7 million ask for the refugee response. UNICEF appreciates the generous contributions from public and private sector donors.

Situation in Numbers



5,317,219¹ refugees who have crossed borders from Ukraine into neighboring countries since 24 February 2022 (UNHCR)



2,225,000 children in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF HAC April 2022)



1,170,000 children to be reached by UNICEF's response in refugee hosting countries. (UNICEF HAC April 2022)

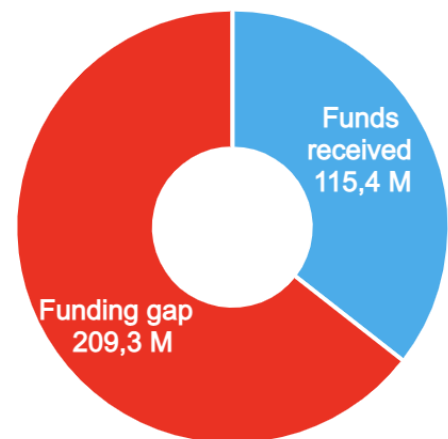
UNICEF Targets in Key Areas

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

UNICEF Appeal 2022 US\$ 324.7 million**

Funding Status as of
26 April (USD million)



¹ UNHCR. Operational Data Portal as of 26 April 2022. <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

** This reflects requirement for Pillar 2 (Refugee Outflow - covering interventions in neighbouring countries and beyond) under UNICEF's overall Ukraine HAC appeal of US\$ 949 million. The figures on funds received reported to the FTS may differ for the same period due to exchange rate fluctuations, recovery cost estimates, as well as in process allocation of flexible funding.

Regional Funding Overview & Partnerships

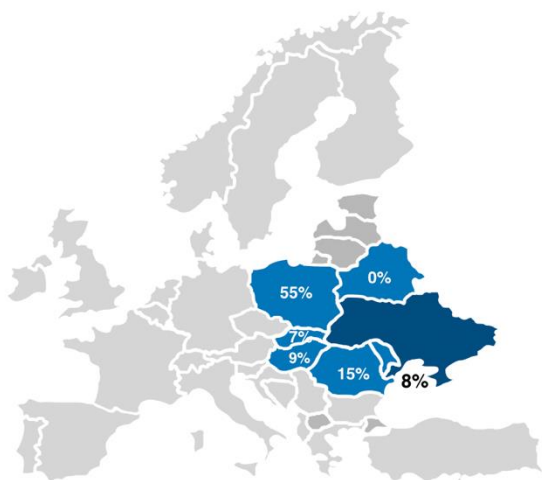
For the Refugee Response in surrounding countries portion of the [2022 Ukraine Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\) appeal](#) UNICEF is seeking USD 324.7 million, aligned with the revised Inter-agency Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP),¹ to respond to humanitarian needs of refugee children and their families fleeing Ukraine to Europe until the end of 2022. As of 26 April, UNICEF has USD 115.4 million available (33% fully flexible). Continued flexible contributions will enable UNICEF and partners to act quickly and respond strategically to where the needs are greatest. For detailed information on all contributions received, please refer to the [HAC appeal funding update as of 25 April 2022](#)

UNICEF acknowledges the timely and generous commitments of public 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 and Countries Offices have generated broad-based, timely and flexible support from the private sector, including from corporate partners, philanthropic partners and individual donors. On the corporate side, the response has been unprecedented, USD 70 million for the refugee response, with about 300 corporate donors across 24 countries. Some prominent long-time supporters of UNICEF contributed significantly to UNICEF work (Ikea, Lego Foundation, ING, and Akelius Foundation).

UNICEF is working closely with UNHCR, other UN Agencies and humanitarian partners to rapidly scale up its multi-sectoral response. UNICEF in Europe and Central Asia is leveraging its partnerships established through longstanding country programs, relationships with governments and a strong network of National Committees. UNICEF continues to work with national governments, expand its close relationships with municipal authorities, partner with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and develop new multi country relationships with key networks, like the World Organization of the Scouts Movement (WOSM), covering Poland, Hungary, Moldova, Romania, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia as well as within Ukraine.

Regional Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs



5,317,219 refugees

Figure 1 The map does not reflect the position of UNICEF on the legal status of any country, territory, or definition of any frontier

As of 26 April, over 5,317,219 million refugees have crossed from Ukraine into Europe. Around 55% arrived in Poland (over 2.9 million people), with significant caseloads in Romania (793,420), Moldova (437,362), Hungary (502,142), Slovak Republic (360,458), and Belarus (24,719)² (see map - percentages based on UNHCR Portal).

Facilitated by the activation of the European Union (EU) Temporary Protection Directive³, and the tremendous support of many EU Member States, an estimated 1.8 million have moved to other countries in Europe⁴. Italy, for example, has received 101,204 refugees to date (52,308 women and 36,247 children) and 213,474 went to Bulgaria with 95,271 remaining (35,000 are children).⁵ Meanwhile, 1,209,500 Ukrainians are reported to have returned to Ukraine,⁶ although it is too early to forecast migration trends given the volatility of the situation in Ukraine.

UNICEF estimates almost half of refugees are children; many separated or unaccompanied. Protection remains a major concern, including ensuring safety and wellbeing of children evacuated from state residential institutions and boarding schools in Ukraine, preventing family separation, ensuring identification, reunification and registration, emergency care and safe spaces, including

¹ UNHCR, <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/92257>

² UNHCR, Operational Data Portal as of 19 April 2022, <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

³ European Commission, Document 52022PC0091, 3 March 2022.

⁴ UNHCR estimate.

⁵ Government sources reported by respective UNICEF Country Offices.

⁶ UNHCR, Operational Data Portal as of 19 April 2022, <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>. Due to the constantly changing situation, this figure has not been deducted from the overall refugee numbers until more data on cross-border movements will be available.

for the elderly and people with disabilities. With continued outflows, there is pressure on national systems, creating gaps in shelter and unequal access to quality basic services for refugee as well as host communities.

Regional Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

As part of the immediate humanitarian response in surrounding countries, UNICEF has focused on working with national authorities to make sure that children are protected. This entails a multi-pronged approach, from strengthening the capacities of border authorities, supporting registration of children using national systems, to working through the UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots and national child protection systems to establish referral pathways, identify unaccompanied and separated children, and monitor children's needs, in particular for children with special needs and disabilities.

Prevention and protection from Gender Based Violence (GBV), trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse are key pillars of our response. Support to mental health and psychosocial support is also critical to help children cope with the traumatic events. UNICEF supports the expansion of social services at the community level and by working through civil society partners and government services.

Support to hosting governments and communities is critical to maintain a conducive protection environment for the arrival of current and future refugees. UNICEF works with municipalities caring for refugee children and women by supporting access and complementing services in health, nutrition, WASH and multi-purpose cash so that basic needs are met, while abiding to principles of non-discrimination in access to protection and services. UNICEF has established partnerships with large municipalities, including Warsaw, Krakow, Bratislava and others to provide technical support and help Ukrainian mothers and children navigate and utilize EU social support. UNICEF brings technical expertise in niche areas of child protection, education integration and adaptation of children, early learning and development, mental health, adolescent engagement. UNICEF leverages our relationship with the Government of Ukraine, knowledge and "know how" of the Ukraine social policies to help EU municipalities prototype refugee response services, as well as overcome system barriers, where these exist.

Opportunities for learning and integration into kindergarten and schools are possible by building the foundations for policy, engagement, advice, and support to national governments. This includes access to online education curriculum as well as initiatives to register and integrate children into local schools and kindergartens and teachers through support to host country education systems and working with schools in municipalities with a high concentration of refugees.

As part of the UNHCR inter-agency coordination mechanisms, UNICEF co-chairs the Child Protection and Education Sub-Working as well as the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network, while also participating in working groups related to GBV, Health, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Humanitarian Cash Transfers, WASH, Capacity Development, and Information Management. UNICEF supports governments with inputs to their national Emergency Response Plans as well as on ongoing needs assessments.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Child Protection

Children make up almost half of the refugee population. To cope with the traumatic events and family separation, specialized child protection and MHPSS services are required, along with the capacity to identify acute protection risks, such as trafficking and exploitation. In **Moldova**, UNICEF and UNHCR reached 642 people (348 children and 294 caregivers) with integrated services at Blue Dots. In addition, in cooperation with the border police, UNICEF and UNHCR are scaling-up Blue Dot services in Palanca (e.g., setting up tents, pre-positioning and preparing containers for the youth and child-friendly spaces). UNICEF also joined the Task Force to support the Roma community and deliver services to the host location. Assessments for additional UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots, voucher support, and partner capacity are ongoing.

Capacity building is also critical for scalable interventions in child protection. In **Poland**, UNICEF conducted an orientation on PSEA for 69 actors from the PSEA network, Education working group and Child Protection sub-working group. In addition, 15 UNICEF staff members were trained in Psychological First Aid, Basic Child Protection and PSEA. In **Moldova**, UNICEF and UNHCR provided training on UASC for over 100 local and central government authorities in an effort to scale up services at the border.

In partnership with the Bratislava City Municipality in the **Slovak Republic**, UNICEF strengthened capacities of local police officers and front-line social service professionals on prevention of trafficking and child-sensitive communication. The training modules are adapted to target child protection workers and representatives from volunteer organisations. In **Belarus**, experts from the Republican Centre of

Psychological Aid trained 21 psychologists in psychological assistance, how to work with traumatic stress in crisis, mental help through art therapy and play, and the creation of a safe space. During this past week 62 children were reached through mobile teams of psychologists.

With focus on supporting governments through complementing and strengthening national child protection systems, in **Bulgaria**, UNICEF facilitated the finalization and approval of a National Coordination mechanism on UASC, including for children from Ukraine. UNICEF continues to map child protection services in the **Czech Republic**, analyzing response mechanisms to child abuse cases (including sexual violence, trafficking and exploitation), cases of child custody and the judicial oversight, determination of the best interests, child participation, and application of child-friendly approach in judicial proceedings from the perspective of child refugees. In the **Slovak Republic**, UNICEF will support the review of the legal and policy framework related to alternative care and support national efforts to prevent family separation and transit from an institutional-based approach towards family-based care.

In **Italy**, two UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots were launched, reaching 142 children and 207 adults in the past week. UNICEF also supported and facilitated the visit in Italy of a high-level delegation from the Government of Ukraine on 25-26 April which aimed at strengthening the inter-institutional collaboration with the Italian authorities, specifically in the areas of protection of unaccompanied and separated children and access to health, education and social services.

Health and Nutrition

In **Poland**, UNICEF initiated the process of procuring 50,000 doses of Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) and 5,000 doses of adult and 5,000 pediatric doses of Hepatitis A vaccine, as requested by the Ministry of Health. Meanwhile, in **Moldova**, 30 additional primary health care workers were trained in immunization, including the vaccination of refugee children. In the **Slovak Republic**, 17,985 women and children have accessed primary health care through UNICEF-supported mechanisms to date.

Education

To provide immediate education, learning, and recreational opportunities for children and young people, in **Moldova**, UNICEF and the Municipal Mobile Team of Youth workers reached 200 refugee adolescents and youth with information on services and benefits in the reporting period. Three containers for adolescent-friendly spaces are being procured targeting 100 young refugees and a new Child Friendly Space (CFS) was set up. Around 150 young refugee children can learn, play and benefit from arts and sports therapies, and other recreational activities at the already established CFS in Chisinau. UNICEF, Israeli-based NGO, IsraAID and CBS-Research conducted a rapid needs assessment in education to determine access and related barriers. In **Poland**, a child-friendly space at the UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dot in Warsaw has been staffed and animation activities for children have started. To date, 200,000 children have been accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning.

In the **Slovak Republic**, the establishment of learning hubs to help Ukrainian students finish the school year through learning and psycho-social support is underway in Bratislava, with plans for further expansion. The Bebo parenting app had been introduced to the Ministry of Education, with the potential to adapt the app for the Slovak context and for Ukrainian refugee mothers/caregivers.

With a longer-term view of supporting inclusion in the national education systems and avoiding the creation of parallel mechanisms, in **Romania**, a draft national action plan is being developed with a multi-sectoral approach to respond to the needs of refugee children and their families. For Early Childhood Development (ECD), the draft action plan envisages the enrolment of young children in existing preschools, complemented by the establishment of informal early education and parenting support activities in kindergartens, nurseries, and daycares (e.g., toy library, parents' library, play groups, counselling and courses of parents). The plan also includes activities aiming at promoting extra-curricular activities in school premises, offered by County Directorates of Youth and Sport and NGOs. In **Bulgaria**, UNICEF is co-leading the coordination working group engaging on facilitating enrolment of children in childcare and schools.

In the **Czech Republic**, UNICEF is prioritizing early childhood education services with focus on integration, teacher/child group leader training and support to mothers, MHPSS, technical/ planning support for key municipalities, supporting broader reforms and ensuring consistency in quality and eventual integration into formal system.

WASH

In **Moldova**, UNICEF is procuring 50,000 baby hygiene kits, mainly for Children and Family support hubs in UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots and is installing 12 new shower and toilet containers at key locations (Blue Dot

and border crossing). In **Hungary**, UNICEF is planning a child and adolescent MHPSS workshop in the next MHPSS Task Force meeting.

Social Protection and cash transfers

The joint UNICEF-UNHCR cash assistance in **Moldova** enrolled an additional 11,795 individual refugees with a monthly cash grants of USD 120 per person this past week, bringing the total to 29,795 since 25 March (90% are women and children, and 13% are over the age of 60). Eight enrolment centers are operational, with over USD 3.57 million disbursed to date. Originally, this cash assistance provided a one-off payment of USD 120 per person. However, in coordination with state authorities, additional monthly payments for refugees staying in Moldova were allowed to better respond to their needs and to the length of the crisis.

SBC, Community Engagement, Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

In partnership with Viber, UNICEF disseminated information on hotlines and information portals, access to social services, accommodation, cash assistance, registration process, prevention of trafficking reached more than 75,000 refugees in seven countries (**Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia**).

In **Poland**, UNICEF and Polish-based NGO, FDDS, disseminated PSEA key messages to partners and the PSEA (276 views 70 downloads in one week). Furthermore, useful contacts and links for refugees in **Poland** were shared through Viber, reaching respectively 22,957 refugees. Information on how caregivers can understand if a child needs professional help and where to access services was added into the recently launched U-Report and was accessed by 141 people. Meanwhile, in **Croatia**, UNICEF and UNCT are developing a range of relevant information materials for Ukrainian refugees. To ensure accountability to affected people and inclusion, in the **Slovak Republic**, 2,742 people have shared their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms to date.

In **Poland**, preliminary results of the rapid research on immunization conducted in Warsaw revealed positive attitude from refugees towards children's vaccination: 79% caregivers fully support it and 45% of respondents are ready to get all necessary vaccinations for their children. From the 28% who are not ready to get their child's vaccinated, 55% plan to leave Poland soon and 10% say they have insufficient information on the vaccination process in the country. Similarly, preliminary results from rapid research on education revealed that 28% of refugees already sent their children to a local school and 24% plan to do so. From the 34% who do not plan to send their children to Polish schools, 47% will report they will return to Ukraine soon, 40% are going to move to another country and 16% have their children attending online Ukrainian school classes. A comprehensive and national wide report of these two rapid research will support the design and implementation of the immunization and education campaigns planned.

In **Moldova**, UNICEF developed key social and behavior change messages around hygiene and sanitation practices, immunization with a focus on polio vaccination, promotion of exclusive breastfeeding, child protection and education. Together with WFP and UNHCR, UNICEF developed a perception survey questionnaire to monitor refugee and host community perceptions of the quality of humanitarian assistance.

In **Italy**, UNICEF is conducting a rapid assessment with the Ukrainian community and service providers to identify priority multi-sectorial needs, risks and vulnerabilities of Ukrainian refugee children, their caregivers, youth, and women, as well as leading the development of a Social and Behavioral Change Communication Strategy on Child Protection, GBV and Education targeting multiple stakeholders.

External Media

- UNICEF Moldova Article: [Family doctor about assistance to women and children fleeing war](#)
- UNICEF HQ Photo Essay: [Childhood upended by war in Ukraine](#)

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Next Sitrep: 6 May 2022

Annex A: Summary of Programme Results

UNICEF has established a Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) table across six countries in the region so far (**Poland, Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Belarus, Italy**). The HPM ensures greater transparency, improved governance, and close monitoring of performance against predefined indicators. The HPM table (Annex A below) provides a weekly overview of cumulative results across 20 key indicators disaggregated by age, sex and disabilities. Results should be interpreted considering two factors: the table does not fully capture the preparatory groundwork or policy engagement needed to deliver sustainable results for children and it requires ongoing capacity support across countries to ensure consistent level of reporting. UNICEF is working to improve on both fronts.

At this initial stage, results are aggregated by all reporting countries, providing a regional snapshot of progress. Disaggregation of data will increase progressively with the reinforcement of Monitoring & Reporting mechanisms at country level. With improved data collection, and as activities are initiated and scaled up, country results will be added progressively under the indicators.

Sector		UNICEF Target 2022	Total Results - Outflow Countries						
Indicator	Country		Girls	Boys	Women	Men	% Disabilities	Total Result	% Progress
Health									
# Children and women accessing primary health care through UNICEF-supported mechanisms		2 341 200	25%	11%	65%		0,13%	19 110	1%
# Of parents/child guardians reached with health information/promotion services		1 024 300			100%			9 360	1%
Nutrition									
# Primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counselling		86 500			100%			112	0,1%
Child Protection									
# Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support		1 164 350	50%	31%	20%		6%	1 817	0,2%
# UASC identified		11 870	52%	48%				457	4%
# Children with access to CFS with intersectoral programming interventions		408 400	48%	52%			3%	2 676	1%
# UNHCR/UNICEF operational blue dots		52						21	40%
# Women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions		810 200	2%	0%	98%		1%	3 847	0,5%
# People with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers		601 400						10	0%
Education									
# Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning		463 600	67%	33%				203 034	44%
# Of children receiving individual learning materials		60 000	57%	43%				2 808	5%
WASH									
# people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs		130 000	41%	18%	40%	1%	0,23%	10 353	8%
# People use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities		1 093 200	39%	18%	40%	3%	0,23%	11 203	1%
# People reached with critical WASH supplies		1 105 200	19%	19%	41%	22%		14 173	1%
# Reception centers and accommodation facilities supported to ensure appropriate access to wash facilities and services		29						6	21%
# Children accessing appropriate wash facilities and services in learning facilities and safe spaces		590 000	70%	30%				6 105	1%
Social Protection									
# Households reached with UNICEF funded multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers		42 500						10 000	24%

SBC/C4D/AAP								
# People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	5 075 600	0%	0%	83%	17%		92 788	2%
# People participating in engagement actions for social and behavioral change	123 000	1%	1%	57%	42%	2,7%	14 606	12%
# Of people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms	43 900	29%	29%	39%	3%	7%	504	6%

* Multisectoral Need Assessments are ongoing in most neighboring countries. The results may affect targets for key interventions.

**For interventions where no accurate disaggregated data was available, sex and age proportion were estimated based on trends.

***Countries that contributed to progress by Sector:

- Health/ Nutrition: Bulgaria, Moldova, Slovak Rep
- Child Protection: Poland, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, Belarus, Slovak Rep, Italy
- Education: Poland, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria
- WASH: Moldova, Romania, Slovak Rep, Bulgaria, Belarus
- Social Protection: Moldova
- Social Behavior Change /C4D: Poland, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, Belarus Slovak Rep.