



Kamilla (2, right) and her brother Ioane (7, center) with their cousin Timur (10, left) from Mykolayiv, Ukraine, at the Palanca border crossing in the Republic of Moldova on 15 March 2022.

Europe and Central Asia Region (ECAR)

Ukraine Situation: Refugee Response in Neighbouring Countries

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 9 - 2022

27 April – 3 May 2022

Highlights

- As of 2 May, over 5.6 million refugees have fled Ukraine (over 3M to Poland, 836,173 to Romania, 448,170 to Republic of Moldova, 534,821 to Hungary, and over 1M to other countries).¹
- 40% of the targeted UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots have been established: 23 in total (7 Moldova, 7 Romania, 4 Poland, 2 Italy, 2 Bulgaria, 1 Slovakia) with capacity of reaching up to 1,000 people, including 500 children a day with referrals, protection services, identification and reunification, Mental Health and Psychosocial support (MHPSS), social protection, education, health and WASH.
- In partnership with City of Warsaw, a detailed work plan was developed for UNICEF support programmes in the amount of USD 6.5M targeting 1,880 professionals, 5,500 parents/caregivers and 15,000 children.
- Youth-engagement partner, the World Organization of the Scout Movements, held the first partner kick-off meeting in Poland with representatives from across the 9 partner countries.
- As of 29 April^{***}, UNICEF has USD 125.7 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, 5,597,483ⁱ refugees from Ukraine into neighboring countries since 24 February 2022 (UNHCR)

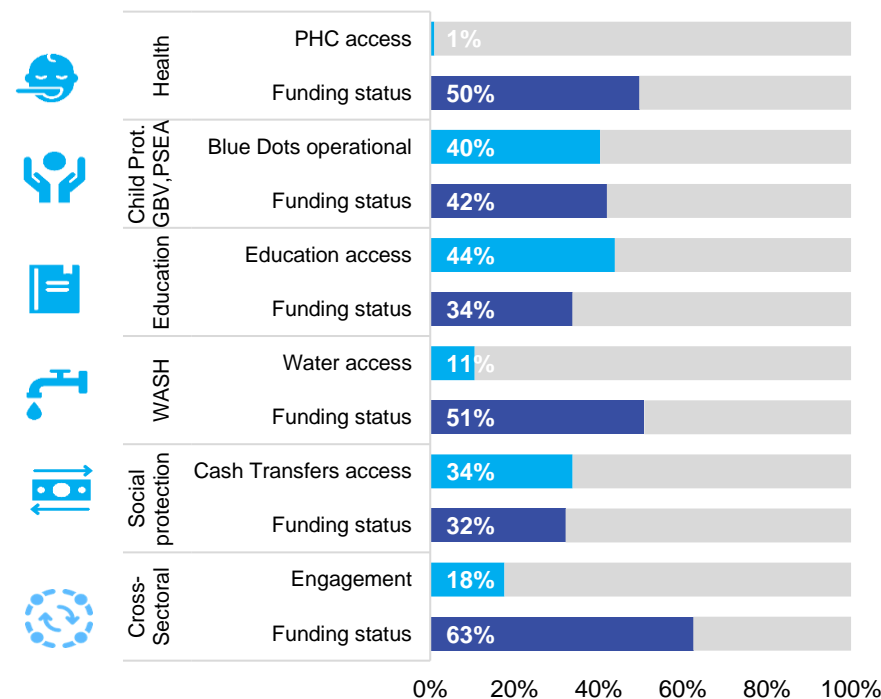


2,225,000 children in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF HAC April 2022)



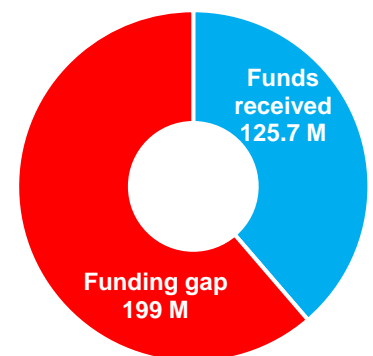
1,170,000 children to be reached by UNICEF's response in refugee hosting countries. (UNICEF HAC April 2022)

UNICEF Targets in Key Areas



UNICEF Appeal 2022 US\$ 324.7 million**

Funding Status as of 29 April^{***} (USD million)



¹ UNHCR. Operational Data Portal as of 2 May 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.
^{***} The funding information for this week will be available in next week's sitrep.

Regional Funding Overview & Partnerships

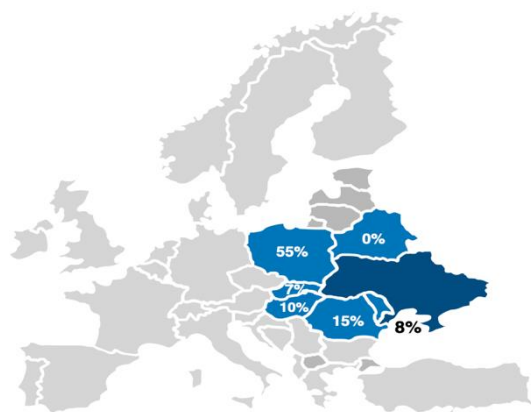
In line with the revised Inter-agency Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)¹ and under Pillar 2 of the [2022 Ukraine Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\) appeal](#), UNICEF is seeking USD 324.7 million to respond to humanitarian needs of refugee children and their families fleeing Ukraine to Europe until the end of 2022. As of 29 April, UNICEF has USD 125,7 million available (35% fully flexible). Continued flexible contributions will enable UNICEF and partners to act quickly and respond strategically to where the needs are greatest.

The timely and generous commitments of public sector partners are critical for this endeavor. Special recognition goes to 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).

UNICEF National Committees and Countries Offices have played an instrumental role in generating a broad-based, timely, and flexible support from the private sector, including from corporate partners, philanthropy partners, and individual donors. About 300 corporate donors across 24 countries contributed about USD 70 million for Pillar 2 and nearly USD 130 million for Pillar 1. Some prominent long-time supporters of UNICEF contributed significantly to continue supporting the work of UNICEF (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 programmes, 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



5,597,483 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

Since last week, 280,264 people left Ukraine for Europe, bringing the number of refugees in Europe to 5,597,483 million (as of 2 May). Over half arrived in **Poland** (over 3 million people), with significant caseloads in **Romania** (836,173), **Moldova** (448,170), **Hungary** (534,821), **Slovak Republic** (382,024), and **Belarus** (25,002)² (see map - percentages based on UNHCR Portal). Meanwhile, 1,384,500 Ukrainians are reported to have returned to Ukraine,³ although it is too early to forecast migration trends given the volatility of the situation in Ukraine.

The estimate number of children on the move vary. In **Poland**, 50% of refugees are children. In **Romania**, children make up 35% of the refugee population (233,949, with 126,333 girls, and 107,616 boys),¹ with 2,686 unaccompanied children identified to date. In **Moldova**, 35% of refugees are also children, but of the 93,914 refugees who have remained in the country, 51% are children.

Facilitated by the activation of the European Union (EU) Temporary Protection Directive⁴ since the beginning of the war, 539,821 refugees have entered **Hungary**; 106,597 arrived in **Italy** (52% women, 35% children), and 16,719 went to **Croatia** (49,6% women, 35% children) with 67% having registered for temporary protection status in the country.⁵ Of the 233,474 refugees who went to **Bulgaria**; 101,354 have remained in the country (68,405 children) and 83% currently have the status of temporary protection and are entitled to receive a one-time social assistance of approximately USD 200.⁶ In the **Czech Republic**, almost 300,000

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

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

³ UNHCR. Operational Data Portal as of 2 May 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.

⁴ European Commission, Document 52022PC0091, 3 March 2022.

⁵ As reported by UNICEF Country Office.

⁶ Government sources reported by respective UNICEF Country Offices.

special visas have been granted to Ukrainian refugees and 162,000 refugees have requested the humanitarian cash allowance of CZK 5,000 from the state (94% has been processed).

Reception capacity in hosting countries also varies. In **Moldova**, 70% stay with family/friends.⁷ In **Croatia**, 89% are staying in private accommodations and the remaining in reception/collective centres.⁸ In the **Czech Republic**, a financial assistance of 125 euros per month is given for people hosting refugees. In **Bulgaria**, with the beginning of tourism season and the end of the state humanitarian accommodation program, refugees living in hotels for free will need to leave them on May 31. About 1,500 beds in municipal or state dormitories will be provided for those unable to work, but many will have to look for housing on their own. The government is working on a contingency plan and needs assessment to offer necessary support with a priority for the people with health conditions. In **Italy**, child protection and GBV concerns linked to informal accommodation provided by the hosting communities have been raised. A cash transfer program has been created for those who have applied for a residence permit for temporary protection and have found independent accommodation even with relatives, friends or host families.

Regional Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

Protecting children remains a critical pillar of our immediate humanitarian response in surrounding countries. UNICEF contributes to strengthening national, local, and border child protection systems and capacities to prevent and protect children on the move against Gender Based Violence (GBV), trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse. The UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots are one-stop-shop safe havens equipped to enhance the coping and resilience capacities among displaced children and families.

Support for hosting governments and communities is essential 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. Partnerships with large municipalities (e.g., Warsaw, Krakow, Bratislava and others) provide technical support and help Ukrainian mothers and children navigate and utilize EU support systems. UNICEF provide technical expertise to those municipalities and relevant actors in niche areas of child protection, education integration, and adaptation of children, early learning and development, mental health, adolescent engagement.

UNICEF has adopted a cross-border approach to provide parenting support for caregivers through promotion and amplification of the Bebbio app and supports national initiatives to reinforce preschool capacities to accommodate refugee children in the new school year; as well as to strengthen the capacity of teachers and administrators across education levels to welcome and support refugee children in their classroom.

UNICEF, WHO, UNHCR and ECDC Regional Offices are working on leveraging the comparative advantage of each agency and provide coordinated guidance and support to countries (through Country Offices and country teams). This is resulting in a harmonized approach, and increased access to information on the geographic distribution of refugees in countries which can better inform our response.

Opportunities for learning and integration into schools are also possible through access to online education curriculum as well as initiatives to register and integrate children and teachers into local schools and kindergartens through support to host country education systems and working with schools in municipalities with a high concentration of refugees.

UNICEF is monitoring social media and producing weekly reports that have identified negative sentiments and conversations around the refugees in all neighboring countries, being led sometimes by misinformation, unverified facts or negative attitudes towards Ukrainians and the support they receive from the host countries. These negative conversations may contribute to spreading misinformation, creating tensions between refugees and the host communities, negatively affecting their social inclusion. UNICEF will engage in misinformation tracking and management, development of approaches and messages to address misinformation and promote positive messages around refugees, strengthen social cohesion in the neighbouring countries.

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.

⁷ Reported by Country Office based on interviews conducted with people crossing from Ukraine into Moldova.

⁸ Reported by Country Office.

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

The UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots are strategically located in transient routes that provide children on the move with immediate access to critical services. In the past week in **Poland**, 4 existing UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots supported 1,803 individuals (639 children; 1164 adults). During the same period, in **Moldova**, 1,083 people (542 children; 541 caregivers) benefited from integrated services at the 7 UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots. In **Italy**, integrated services reached 218 children and 100 adults in the past week and a joint blended UNICEF-UNHCR training programme on protection, child protection and GBV was developed. Meanwhile, 2 Blue Dots were launched in **Bulgaria**.

To prevent risks of trafficking and exploitation, in **Poland**, UNICEF deployed two social workers from Ukraine to help identify 267 unaccompanied children in the past 4 weeks (241 were reunited with their families, appointed temporary guardians, and/or provided with alternative care). In **Moldova**, UNICEF and UNHCR provided support to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection to develop Standard Operating Procedures for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). In **Croatia**, 222 UASC were registered as of 29 April and a letter of agreement was signed with Centre for Social Welfare Split to ensure support to 81 UASC. Meanwhile, in **Bulgaria**, since the previous week, 964 refugees received legal information and/or were referred to specialized legal support. In **Italy**, UNICEF reached an agreement with the Child's Court in Catania to monitor the conditions of Ukrainian children hosted in formal reception systems or in private accommodations together with relatives.



2,686 unaccompanied and separated children identified in Romania to date

Complementing and strengthening national child protection systems require the painstaking job of coordination, capacity building, and technical support. Although results are not immediate, they contribute sustainable interventions. In **Poland**, in partnership with City of Warsaw, a detailed work plan was developed for UNICEF support programmes in the amount of US\$6.5M targeting 1,880 professionals, 5,500 parents/caregivers and 15,000 children. In the **Czech Republic**, UNICEF supported the integration of refugee children's rights into the Child Guarantee National Plan led by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

In **Poland**, 15 local stakeholders acquired increased knowledge and multidisciplinary resources following a technical workshop on the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support humanitarian framework sponsored by UNICEF, WHO and UNHCR. Furthermore, an agreement was reached with the Polish Department of Special Education, Psychological and Pedagogical Assistance of the Education Office to strengthen the reach and understanding of MHPSS response and adaptation.

Health and Nutrition

In **Poland**, UNICEF worked with the Ministry of Health to define the details of the MOU signed in the previous week, including the operationalization of a work plan for the procurement of vaccines, immunization campaigns, newborn care and hospitalization of children, etc.

In **Moldova**, UNICEF signed a Programme Cooperation Agreement with Doctors with Africa CUAMM to cover neonatal care, disaster preparedness, provision of critical goods, strengthening of healthcare workers' skills (including those with disabilities).



20,697 children and women have accessed primary health care through UNICEF-supported mechanisms in Slovakia to date

Education

In the **Czech Republic**, an agreement was reached with the Department of Preschool, Special and Art Education of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports for cooperation and support for pedagogical-psychological counseling centers, further clarifying their role in the Czech education system, and their involvement in the provision of services to Ukrainian children and their families.

In **Romania**, a partnership with the NGO, Step-by-Step Romania, was launched to create Play and Parenting Hubs in communities with the largest influx of Ukrainian children and families. Together with the Ministry of Education and partners, UNICEF is also working towards harmonizing specific education initiatives (e.g.,

defining payment for Ukrainian teachers' salaries, teacher training curricula, etc.) and contributing to the recruitment of Ukrainian teachers.

In **Moldova**, UNICEF organized a Training of Trainers for 12 Moldovan and 2 Ukrainian youth workers in the UPSHIFT program. In turn, they will mentor 100 young refugees and Moldovan youth to implement 20 social start-ups aimed at resilience building and crisis alleviation for young Ukrainian refugees. Working with the Municipal Mobile Team of Youth workers, UNICEF reached 250 refugee adolescents in Bubuieci village, Moldova State University dormitories, and the educational institution in Chişinău with information on services and benefits for refugees.



200,000 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning in Poland to date

Also, in **Moldova** UNICEF and UNHCR started a 3-day training for the members of the Refugee Education Sector Working Group aimed at strengthening knowledge and capacities in coordination and strategies for education in emergency, needs assessment/analysis, planning and resource mobilization, and monitoring and evaluation. In **Croatia**, UNICEF is finalizing a partnership with the NGO, Forum for Freedom in Education, to strengthen

the capacities of schools on trauma-informed teaching.

Digital educational platforms are being explored in different contexts. In **Romania**, the Bebbio app, which provides parents with tips and guidance on early childhood development, is being translated and adapted to help refugee parents in the country and those crossing the border. In **Italy**, UNICEF began collecting data on the number of children who will benefit from the Akelius e-learning platform, which supports refugees and migrant children to acquire Italian and English language skills.

In **Slovakia**, an agreement was reached with the Ministry of Education and the National Institute for Education to: (i) strengthen the education system to include Ukrainian learners in pre-school, primary and secondary education and improve inclusion; (ii) increase institutional capacities to plan, implement and monitor integration of Ukrainian learners in education; and (iii) support expansion of preschool capacities and introduction of diversified early learning provisions in affected/selected municipalities. Similarly, UNICEF landed on an agreement with the National Institute for Education to (i) develop and roll-out a methodological guidance for preschool educators and administrators on integration of Ukrainian children into education system; (ii) professional development/capacity building of teachers on methodological guidance; and (iii) printing of language textbooks for learning Slovak as a second language for all ages.

WASH

In **Romania**, a WASH needs assessment at 4 border locations was completed and a supply and procurement plan developed. The plan contemplates different simulations for refugee influx, including the extreme scenario of 5,000 to 6,000 refugees/day/location. Procurement and arrival of supplies are expected within 2 to 3 weeks. To date, 250 persons received individual hygiene kits at Isaccea Blue Dot. WASH will be included in the Inter-agency Basic Needs Working Group and a request to have a coordination platform or subgroup was raised.

In **Moldova**, UNICEF signed a partnerships agreement with the NGO, Solidarity International, to support the national emergency WASH response to improve conditions in Refugee Accommodation Centers, camp-like settings, cross-border points (including the Blue Dots), and host communities. The partnership is expected to benefit an estimated 74,600 refugees. In addition, toilet and shower containers were installed at the Blue Dot located close to the Palanca border crossing with Ukraine.



13,560 people reached with critical WASH supplies in Moldova to date

In **Poland**, upon request of the Rzeszow governorate, distribution of WASH and Dignity Kits and other materials started the past week.

Social Protection

In **Moldova**, within the joint WFP-UNICEF proposal for Social Protection Responses for crisis-affected vulnerable Moldovan Families, UNICEF drafted terms of reference to develop simulations and costed options

for new targeting and calculation formula, based on inflation and commodity/energy prices impact on the poorest quintile of the population. This past week, 4,388 households were reached with UNICEF funded multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers.

Social and Behavior Change (SBC), Community Engagement, Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

The regional U-Report chatbot continues engaging young refugees and their families with information about their rights and services in host countries. To date, 3 national U-Report platforms have activated the chatbot and other countries are planning to launch it soon. A total of 7,955 unique users access the chatbot (up 481 from previous week). The most activated sections of the chatbot are: (i) traveling outside of Ukraine (with EU and Moldova subsections equally divided); (ii) how to stay safe and alert while on the move; and (iii) country-specific information (with Italy and Poland being the most accessed countries).

In **Poland**, 25,044 people were reached with messages on free social services and useful links through Viber, whereas another 17,889 received key information and location for PESEL registration (the national registration system in the country). UNICEF continues supporting the Ministry of Education to reinforce its national feedback mechanism (hotline and email) to address the increased requests from Ukrainian caregivers.



On 16 March 2022, Sofiya draws on a pink paper in the UNICEF tent at the Medyka border in Poland, where she is staying temporarily with her mother Tanja.

From 29 April – 2 May, the World Organization of the Scout Movements, UNICEF’s partner for youth engagement, held the first partner kick-off meeting in Warsaw, Poland. Representatives from across the 9 partner countries (**Ukraine, Moldova, Romania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia and Lithuania**) participated in the meeting, joined by the European and EurAsian regional teams.

The international project team reviewed actions taken to date, set key milestones for success, developed national annual action plans, and set up project management systems. UNICEF also supported them how to best use Social Media platforms for humanitarian communication. The Scouts have continued their activism on the ground in key areas of supply distribution, information provision, centre coordination, transport and storage of supplies, delivery of educational activities, etc - serving thousands of people, with a focus on supporting children and young people in particular, with the basic support and/or educational opportunities.

External Media

- UNICEF Romania: [A new school and a new life in Bucharest for the Ukrainian children](#)

Next Sitrep: 14 May 2022

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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							
		Girls	Boys	Women	Men	% PWD	Total Result	% Cumulative Progress	Change ▲▼
Health									
# Children and women accessing primary health care through UNICEF-supported mechanisms	2 341 200	23%	10%	67%		0.21%	22 292	1%	3 182 ▲
# Of parents/child guardians reached with health information/promotion services	1 024 300			100%			10 360	1%	1 000 ▲
Nutrition									
# Primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving IYCF counselling	86 500			100%			187	0.2%	1 005 ▲
Child Protection									
# Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	1 164 350	29%	31%	24%	15%	5%	3 991	0.3%	2 174 ▲
# UASC identified	11 870	28%	72%				3 420	29%	2 927 ▲
# Children with access to CFS with intersectoral programming interventions	408 400	49%	51%			3%	5 013	1%	2 337 ▲
# UNHCR/UNICEF operational blue dots	57						23	40%	2 ▲
# Women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	810 200	2%	0%	98%		1%	4 610	0.6%	763 ▲
# People with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers	601 400						10	0%	0 =
Education									
# Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	463 600	50%	50%				203 588	44%	554 ▲
# Of children receiving individual learning materials	60 000	51%	49%				2 785	5%	249 ▲
WASH									
# People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs	130 000	36%	16%	46%	2%	0.32%	13 749	11%	3 396 ▲
# People use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities	650 000	35%	16%	46%	4%	0.32%	14 099	2%	2 896 ▲
# People reached with critical WASH supplies	1 093 200	19%	19%	41%	22%		14 204	1%	31 ▲

# Reception centers and accommodation facilities supported to ensure appropriate access to wash facilities and services	29						6	21%	0	=
# Children accessing appropriate wash facilities and services in learning facilities and safe spaces	590 000	69%	31%				6 840	1%	735	▲
Social Protection										
# Households reached with UNICEF funded multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers	42 500						14 388	34%	4 388	▲
SBC/C4D/AAP										
# People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	5 075 600	0%	0%	63%	37%		122 909	2%	29 689	▲
# People participating in engagement actions for social and behavioral change	123 000	1%	1%	70%	28%	2.3%	21 701	18%	6 678	▲
# Of people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms	43 900	28%	28%	43%	1%	4%	911	2%	228	▲

* Quantity and disaggregation level 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.

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

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

****Romania: The UASC identified figure is for the entire period starting from 19 March 2022, which was made available recently.

****Countries that contributed to progress by Sector:

Health/ Nutrition: Bulgaria, Moldova, Slovak Republic

Child Protection: Poland, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, Belarus, Slovak Republic, Italy

Education: Poland, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria

WASH: Moldova, Romania, Slovak Republic, Bulgaria, Belarus

Social Protection: Moldova

Social Behaviour Change /C4D: Poland, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, Belarus Slovak Republic.