



UNICEF/P2021/Romania/Moldovan

Dancing is a way to express emotions with no words. UNICEF encouraged Ukrainian refugee children studying in Bucharest, to express their emotions through dancing. With the help of a Romanian choreographer, kids prepared a special dancing moment after classes. This was their way to show their support to all the Ukrainian people who need to live in peace again.

15 June – 12 July 2022

UNICEF is implementing refugee response interventions in 13 affected countries: Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic and Turkey.

Highlights

- As of July 12, over 5.8 million refugees from Ukraine are recorded across Europe, with 3.6 million registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes.ⁱ
- Together, UNICEF and UNHCR are operating 37 Blue Dots in across six countries (Bulgaria, Italy, Poland, Moldova, Romania and Slovak Republic).
- Overarching partnerships in Poland were formalized for systemic change, including an MOU signed with the Ministry of Health targeting 750,000 people with equitable access to health services.
- At the regional level, UNICEF signed an agreement with Eurocities, a network of across more than 200 cities in 38 countries, to support city-level exchanges of good practice in critical areas.
- 24,392 households reached with UNICEF funded multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers in Moldova to date, with plans to disburse \$45 million by the end of the year.
- As of July 11, UNICEF has \$261 million available against its \$324.7 million ask for the refugee response. UNICEF appreciates the generous contributions from public and private sector donors.

UNICEF Response Key areas



Establishment of 'Blue Dots' to provide critical support and protection services for children and families, provision of technical support for registration, screening, case management and referrals, including family tracing for unaccompanied children, psychosocial support and prevention and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse.



Provision of education and recreational supplies for children and adolescents, facilitate access to temporary learning, recreational and early childhood development activities; support host-government in coordination and integration of children into national education systems.



Provision of essential health services for mothers and children, promotion of vaccination, infant and young child feeding, provision of essential commodities, including vaccines, health supplies, medicines, and micronutrient supplements.



Provision of temporary water and sanitation services, distribution of critical hygiene and dignity products for families, women and children, support infection prevention and hygiene promotion.



Support multi-purpose cash interventions for vulnerable households with children, strengthen capacity of national social protection systems to integrate refugee children.

Europe and Central Asia Region (ECAR)

Ukraine Situation: Refugee Response in Neighboring Countries

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 14 - 2022

Situation in Numbers

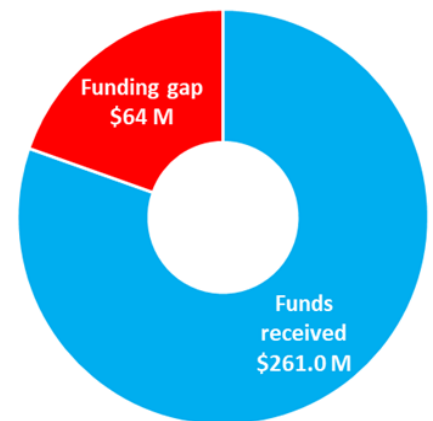
5,816,729 millionⁱ individual refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe since 24 February 2022 (UNHCR)

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 Appeal 2022 US\$ 324.7 millionⁱⁱ

Funding Status as of 11 Julyⁱⁱⁱ (USD 261 million)



ⁱ UNHCR. Operational Data Portal as of 13 July 2022. <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>
ⁱⁱ This reflects requirement for Pillar 2 (Refugee Outflow - covering interventions in neighboring 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

In line with the revised Inter-agency Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)¹ and under Pillar 2 (Refugee Outflow) of the [2022 Ukraine Humanitarian Action for Children \(HAC\) appeal](#), UNICEF is seeking US\$324.7 million to respond to the humanitarian needs of refugee children and their families fleeing Ukraine to Europe until the end of 2022. As of July 11, UNICEF has \$261 million available. Allocations are done based on the emerging needs and existing funding gaps of the refugee response plans. Continued flexible contributions will enable UNICEF and partners to continue addressing critical service gaps and strategically strengthening systems where the needs are greatest.

Timely, generous commitments of public sector partners remain critical for this endeavour. Special recognition goes to the Governments of Austria, Denmark, Germany, 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 country offices have generated timely, and 69 per cent flexible, support from the private sector including from corporate partners, foundations, philanthropy partners and individual donors, with actual funds already remitted amounting to US\$507.8 million for the refugee response. Private sector support has been unprecedented, with donations for the Ukraine crisis received from over 620 businesses, 203 philanthropy partners, 108 foundations and a large base of individual donors across over 24 countries. Some prominent private sector donors and partners who have made significant contributions include BP, Epic Games, ING Netherlands, Capgemini, Visa International, Lego Foundation, Google, Axa, Hitachi, Heartland, Formula One, Daichi Sank, United Internet, Action, Ericsson, BMW, Daimler Trucks, Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix and Olam Group, SHO Partners, Akelius, Blackstone Charitable Foundation, Aeon Corporate Ltd and Co-op Deli Consumers Cooperative Union, Lund Trust, Apple, Google, ING, Binance Blockchain Charity Foundation and Ikea.

UNICEF is working closely with UNHCR, other UN Agencies, and humanitarian partners to scale up its multi-sectoral response. In Europe, UNICEF is leveraging 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 Ukraine.

Regional Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Since the beginning of the war, on February 24, there have been 9,152,696 registered border crossings *from* Ukraine and 3,546,305 crossings back *into* the country.² As of 12 July, 5,816,729 people from Ukraine were recorded across Europe: 3 million remain in neighboring countries, and the rest has spread across 37 countries. Over 3.6 million have registered for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes across Europe.

Poland remains a major entry point, with over half of all border crossings from Ukraine (or 4.6 million), followed by **Hungary** (949,664), **Romania** (831,957), **Moldova** (531,869), **Slovakia** (589,147) and **Belarus** (16,674). Of those refugees who have applied for temporary protection or similar national protection schemes in these neighbouring countries, 1,207,650 are registered in **Poland**, 42,742 in **Romania**, and 80,343 in **Slovakia**.³

As populations move beyond neighbouring countries to others across Europe where is working with Governments and partners to support refugee children, the number of refugees who have registered for temporary protection varies: 387,945 in the **Czech Republic**; 132,619 in **Italy**; 119,517 in **Bulgaria**; 15,379 in **Croatia**; 4,885 in **Montenegro**; and 795 in **Serbia**.⁴

Accommodation issues continue to vary across countries. In **Romania**, occupancy rates in accommodation centres remain low at 17%. In **Bulgaria**, the government accommodation scheme, which currently hosts 26,937 refugees, ends on August 31, and alternatives will need to be planned, especially in case of escalation of the war in the south-west of Ukraine. The same applies to Moldova and Romania. In **Croatia**, 92% of refugees (19,238) are in private accommodations, whereas 3,200 refugees (38% children, 5% infants) are staying in 79 Refugee Accommodation Centres in **Moldova**. In **Slovakia**, reception centres are being downscaled and, in several countries, temporary housing subsidies for Ukrainians and host families are set to expire by end July, which will exacerbate housing shortages. Differential access to housing for Roma children and families from Ukraine are reported.

Other challenges were observed during the reporting period. Public health systems in **Croatia, Romania and Slovakia** do not have appropriate mechanisms or capacities in place to cope with the growing numbers of people in need of health

¹ UNHCR Operational Data Portal (12 July 2022). <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/92257>

² UNHCR Operational Data Portal (12 July 2022). This figure reflects cross-border movements (and not individuals). Movements back to Ukraine may be pendular, and do not necessarily indicate sustainable returns as the situation across Ukraine remains highly volatile and unpredictable.

³ UNHCR Operational Data Portal (12 July 2022) for countries neighboring Ukraine.

⁴ UNHCR Operational Data Portal (12 July 2022) for countries neighboring Ukraine.

services. In addition to strained resources in **Serbia**, information dissemination and access to services remain challenging, especially with refugees scattered across the country, in private accommodation, and largely unregistered.

A recent profiling survey by UNHCR with more than 461 refugees who arrived in **Hungary** revealed that transportation and ways to contact their families, followed by accommodation and education, were their most pressing needs. In **Bulgaria**, Red Cross teams observed a higher number of people with mental and psycho-social issues during the reporting period. Similarly, in **Italy**, a UNICEF assessment showed several needs ranging from psycho-social support for both adults and children to the importance of socialization with peers and school inclusion for children and adolescents, as well as GBV related risks.

In **Romania**, 3,152 UASC were identified by the Border Police in cooperation with the National Child Protection Authority (by June 14), with 221 currently in the protection system. In **Italy**, 5,122 UASC are currently hosted in reception facilities. In **Bulgaria**, 505 UASCs were identified and are being overseen by the government, with close monitoring of UNICEF.

Regional Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination, and Strategy



Protecting children remains a critical pillar of the immediate humanitarian response in surrounding countries. UNICEF contributes to strengthening national, local, and cross-border child protection systems and capacities to prevent and protect refugee children against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), trafficking, sexual exploitation, and abuse. The UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots are one-stop-shop safe havens equipped to enhance refugee children and families' coping and resilience capacities. Significant investments in expanding social work and social service workforce capacity at municipal level are rolling out across response countries.

At regional level, UNICEF signed a partnership with **Child Helpline International**, which is present in 24 European countries. The partnership will support the helplines in Ukraine and all its neighbouring countries (Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Romania and Moldova), ensuring harmonized support to refugee children with regards to information, psycho-social support, targeted support for UASC, and support to children at risk. It is expected that support will reach at least 50,000 children at risk, including UASC. UNICEF also partnered with Child Circle – a centre of expertise and public interest engagement to protect children from violence and promote their rights in Europe – to conduct a **study of legal aspects of the protection of unaccompanied and separated children** as well as groups of children evacuated from institutions in Ukraine. The study will have a particular focus on (1) caregiving and custodial arrangements, including access to the national child protection systems; (2) guardianship; (3) access to immediate protection under international, EU or national law, such as the Temporary Protection Directive, asylum procedures, where applicable, and national humanitarian procedures; and (4) best interests procedures to identify comprehensive, durable solutions, including inter alia, potentially return to Ukraine, asylum, family reunification in another country or integration in a host country. This partnership will benefit at least 10,000 UASC across the response countries.

UNICEF continues **working with municipalities** caring for refugee children and women by supporting access and complementing services in health, nutrition, social work, WASH, social protection, children's safety, as well as creating opportunities for youth mobilization so that basic needs are met while abiding by principles of non-discrimination in access to protection and services.



UNICEF supports **early childhood development (ECD) for refugees** by (i) establishing play and learning hubs at the municipal level; (ii) adopting a cross-border approach to parenting support through promotion and amplification of the [Bebbo app](#); (iii) expanding national pre-school capacities to accommodate refugee children; and (iv) strengthening the capacity of teachers and administrators. UNICEF is working with the research company Ecorys to conduct a situation analysis exercise (updated every two months) on ongoing and emerging ECEC national needs, responses, and good practices across host countries in support of the youngest refugee children (0-6) and their families.

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



UNICEF has initiated **social media listening**, producing weekly reports. UNICEF engages in misinformation tracking and management, develops approaches and messages to address misinformation, promotes positive messages around refugees, and strengthens social cohesion in the neighbouring countries. In collaboration with WHO, UNHCR and ECDC, UNICEF created tools for Risk Communication and Community Engagement to accelerate refugee health response in all refugee receiving countries. Training guidelines were prepared for volunteer Scouts to improve interpersonal communication skills of different audience including volunteers, frontline workers, civil society partners. WHO and UNICEF finalized a joint Risk communication and community engagement partnership strategy. More emphasis has been given to creating longer term collaborations and partnerships on PSEA with WHO and UNHCR and a multi-country poll on positive messaging and social cohesion was designed.

As part of the UNHCR **inter-agency co-ordination mechanisms**, UNICEF co-chairs the Child Protection and Education Sub-Working group; the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network, and participates 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 and needs assessments.



UNICEF continues **disseminating information** to refugees in seven countries (Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, and Italy) through the Viber channels and U-Report created for refugees to inform them about their rights and entitlements and provide life-saving information on services and how to access them.

UNICEF is engaged in the Regional Gender Task Force to mainstream and integrate **gender equality and the empowerment** of women and girls in refugee response, ensuring gender analysis and advocacy is available, disseminated, and utilized, including for strategic planning purposes such as development and implementation of refugee response plans.



Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Child protection

During the reporting period, UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots provided integrated services, ranging from referrals to social protection, health services and education, protection services, identification and reunification, mental health and psychosocial support, and WASH facilities and supplies, accommodation, targeting:

- 2,645 affected people (1,164 children, including 114 affected people with disabilities) in **Poland**.
- 3,028 people (1,496 children and 1532 caregivers) in **Moldova**.
- 40,000 refugees across **Romania**.
- 4,546 people (1,303 children) in the **Slovak Republic**, in addition to 113 people (66 children) in collaboration with the CSO partner, Mareena.
- 2,478 people (569 children) in **Bulgaria**.
- 705 people (264 children) in **Italy**.

In **Italy**, two Blue Dots were established in collaboration with UNHCR near the borders with Slovenia and Austria as well as dedicated interventions across Italy.

In **Moldova**, UNICEF signed an MoU with the municipality of Chisinau to provide technical support to improve existing and create relevant services, focusing on refugee children. In addition, UNICEF provided technical support to the Ministry of Finance and the Parliament to amend legislation allowing central public authorities to receive humanitarian funding for emergency-related technical assistance projects.

In **Romania**, UNICEF provided technical and financial assistance to the National Authority for the Protection of Child's Rights and Adoption (ANDPCA) to adapt and roll out CPMIS+/PRIMERO, an open-source software platform from UNICEF that facilitates case management, incident monitoring, and family tracing and reunification. Social workers from 41 county-level General Directorate of Social Assistance and Child Protection (DGASPCs) were trained. UNICEF Romania upgraded its anti-trafficking capacity to cooperate with local authorities and neighbouring countries (including the EU).

In **Moldova**, 30 professional assistants (14 financially supported by UNICEF and 16 by local public authorities) were trained to support up to 90 children, including UASC. In **Hungary**, UNICEF also supported UNHCR in the schematization of the existing child protection referral pathways to support work on UASC, which will be followed up during an upcoming workshop with key stakeholders to discuss case referrals/flows for refugee children.

In **Belarus**, 37 children (15 girls) received case management support and psycho-social support, and 50 psychologists were trained on GBV prevention and child safeguarding principles. In addition, 40 hotline specialists, psychologists, and Red Cross volunteers gained knowledge on coping mechanisms to prevent burnout and psychological resilience. UNICEF also conducted a roundtable on MHPSS provision for 30 specialists and, under the mentorship of professionals from the Republican Center on Psychological Aid, participants agreed on a mechanism to provide MHPSS and case management. With UNICEF support, the Brest Red Cross opened a Crisis Centre for refugees from Ukraine with provision of MHPSS.

In the **Slovak Republic**, through a recent agreement with the NGO Ipčko, psychosocial support is provided benefiting about 3,600 people per month close to the border in Kosice and Presov. Refugee children and families will also have access to anonymous free psychosocial first aid provided by Ukrainian experts through telephone, email, and video counselling. UNICEF supports the Child Safety Line, which provides counselling for 2,000 children per month as well as Amber alert services.

In **Hungary**, UNICEF signed an agreement with the NGO, Terre des hommes (Tdh) to set up protection and support hubs (based on the Blue Dot concept) and strengthen the capacities of the frontline in child protection in emergencies, child safeguarding, PSEA, PFA, and MHPSS.

Similarly, in the **Slovak Republic**, together with UNHCR, WHO, IOM, IFRC and the CSO Human Rights League, UNICEF co-organized the first two of five joint workshops on PSEA on June 24 (23 participants) and July 8 (approximately 20 participants). The goal is to generate a common understanding of PSEA, map out local policies and prevention and response mechanisms, and strengthen capacities. UNICEF also signed a letter of exchange with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family (MoLSAF) for improved access to child protection and other cross-sectoral services, through outreach, strengthened capacities of social service workforce, and translation services targeting UASCs.

In **Croatia**, with support from UNICEF, the Centre for Social Work is conducting identification, appointment and monitoring of guardianships of 188 UASC placed in a hotel in Split. Workshops for children and caregivers as well as mental health and psychosocial support are offered. A rapid assessment showed the need for additional human capacities and financial resources. In addition, a three-day training course on GBV training started with the participation of 113 professionals.

In **Italy**, a multi-sectoral assessment is ongoing, covering key strategic areas in the country with high concentrations of people fleeing the war and at border areas. So far, 129 individuals have participated through focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and consultations, while 189 participated through polls. Since the beginning of the crisis, in addition, 240 cases were managed with individual MHPSS and legal counselling via the U-Report platform. During the reporting period, 35 frontline workers were trained on GBV co-organized with the International Rescue Committee and the NGO Centro Penc, following global standards on women and girls safe spaces. In addition, UNICEF and partners reached 39,026 women, girls and boys with GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions through a mixed modality of in-person activities and online messaging on access to GBV services.

In **Serbia**, with support from UNICEF, a virtual and on-site info hub led by the City of Belgrade has received 600 inquiries to date, mostly related to employment services, relocation to Serbia, and other legal rights. UNICEF organized a training for 15 volunteers who work in the Info hub on key principles of humanitarian work, child safeguarding principles, safe referral for child protection and GBV cases, as well as guidance on how to provide information on the formal educational system in the country, promoting the enrolment of children into schools.

In **Bulgaria**, the State Agency for Child Protection (SACP) is following up on 505 UASC identified (some accompanied by a relative or another close person). UNICEF is working with the SACP on a plan to strengthen the National Child Help Line for the provision of MHPSS to vulnerable children and women as well as a first contact point to share concerns about children at risk including UASC. UNICEF has expanded the child protection services with a new Blue Dot in Varna which is the sixth one in the country. In **Montenegro**, in partnership with the Red Cross, 60 children and 30 parents in need of psychosocial support were identified and participated at psychosocial support and mental health workshops with engaged psychologists from local communities in three municipalities.

In **Turkey**, in coordination with Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS) and the Presidency for Migration Management (PMM), UNICEF is currently supporting Turkish Red Crescent (TRC). With UNICEF support, TRC has established safe spaces at the two Antalya hotels where children under Ukrainian State Care have been residing. As part of the immediate response to the needs of these children (1,129 children and 422 caregivers), UNICEF supported the initial assessment of the children under Ukrainian State Care (supporting the deployment of eight interpreters to work with the MoFSS Social Workers).

Health and nutrition

UNICEF continues to support countries to prevent disease outbreaks through advocacy, support the revision of regulatory framework to eliminate bottlenecks in accessing immunization services, communication and demand generation, vaccine procurement and support for catch-up vaccination.

In **Poland**, UNICEF signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Health of Poland to enable around 750,000 Ukrainian women and children to benefit from improved and equitable access to essential maternal and child services targeting host communities and refugees. UNICEF also signed an MoU with the Municipality of Katowice and the Ministry of Health for the strengthening of national systems and capacities to address the needs of refugee children and families in Poland. UNICEF procured and delivered to the Ministry of Health 5,000 paediatric doses of Hepatitis A vaccine, targeting 5,000 children in accommodation and reception centres and those at risk. As of end June, around 3,434 Ukrainian children received recommended vaccinations, including 253 for measles and 1,010 for polio.

In **Romania**, a new partnership was signed with the Regina Maria Foundation for the provision of health services through mobile teams to Ukrainian refugees. The health services include general and internal medicine consultations, treatment administration (medicines, injections, perfusions), wound dressing, minor surgical procedures, ultrasound (abdominal, thyroid, etc.); blood tests. Ukrainian doctors and nurses will be included in the program in the mobile medical teams or as medical facilitators/translators within the associate/collaborating clinics.

In the **Slovak Republic**, materials on infant and young child feeding (IYCF), breastfeeding, immunization, personal hygiene, and COVID-19 protection measures were printed and distributed in the Bratislava region, reaching 352 parents/child guardians with health information/promotion services and 44 mothers with new-borns counselled on breastfeeding.

Health system strengthening interventions include support to countries for expansion of PHC/paediatric services, including by hiring Ukrainian doctors and nurses in **Slovakia** (targeting 8,000 refugees) and provision of health services

via mobile teams in **Slovakia** and **Romania** (targeting 4,000 mothers and children). In **Poland**, system strengthening, and nutrition support are mainstreamed in seven municipality plans targeting 500 health workers and 5,000 and their caregivers.

To ensure that refugee children in **Moldova** are covered with health services in accordance with a basic package of health in-patient and outpatient services, the National Health Insurance Company developed a regulatory framework and reporting forms for services provided to refugee children in health facilities. UNICEF will finance training sessions for all managers of health facilities on how to report health services. At the facility level, information sessions for doctors were provided by managerial staff, and reporting forms were distributed. In UNICEF provided essential drugs to 41 PHC facilities and equipment to improve neonatal care services in 11 perinatal care centres is under procurement, expected to be delivered by end of July.

In **Moldova**, UNICEF and WHO drafted a rapid assessment tool for refugee caregivers to assess nutritional practices, challenges, and gaps. Preliminary results show that 76% of refugee children aged 0-6 were vaccinated against measles in Ukraine and 4% in Moldova. In addition, 74% of refugee children aged 0-6 were vaccinated against Polio in Ukraine and 4% in Moldova.

Under the umbrella of the regional partnership with the NGO, CUAMM, country specific plans are under development to provide health services to Roma population in accommodation centres (i.e., in **Moldova**) and increase capacities of hospitals on disaster risk reduction and provision of emergency health services in at both national and subnational levels in Ukraine and **Romania**. It is expected that over 20,000 beneficiaries will be supported through this partnership.

Education

In **Poland**, UNICEF initiated activities under a joint Work Plan with the municipality of Krakow to ensure that Ukrainian children have access to formal and non-formal education and are participating in different summer activities. In **Hungary**, UNICEF also finalized a work plan with the Municipality of Záhony and partners to advance non-formal educational programmes, from summer camp and language acquisition to early childhood education and MHPSS.

In **Poland**, UNICEF and the Unbreakable Ukraine Foundation welcomed 650 children enrolled in summer camps in four cities, while 3,000 Ukrainian children are expected to benefit from recreational activities via bi-weekly cohorts by the end of the summer. Ongoing campaigns for the 2022-2023 academic year inspired 1,108 applications (558 girls) to date. Polish language classes at the "First Ukrainian School in Poland" were attended by 440 refugee children (258 girls) and 41 teachers (female) in three cities.

In **Moldova**, 1,897 new Ukrainian refugee children (1,197 girls), including those of pre-school age, enrolled in formal or non-formal UNICEF-supported educational activities during the reporting period. The non-formal education activities included: hot meals and snacks for children, psychosocial support services for 60 children in need (28 girls), and individual learning materials for 417 children (180 girls). Online modules developed by UNICEF and the NGO Step by Step, allowed additional teachers in the Chisinau municipality to participate in the training on building social cohesion with refugee children. The modules were further shared with other education partners to scale up teacher training. The total number of teachers reached with the training has increased to 1,418 teachers (98% females), including 22 Ukrainian refugee teachers.

According to a recent education rapid needs assessment conducted by the Inter-Agency Refugee Education Working Group in **Moldova**, recreational activities are considered most helpful for children by the majority of the surveyed refugee parents (68%). To meet this need, a diverse range of activities were offered to refugee children and caregivers, including puppet shows, sports, art classes, and field trips, among others. Meanwhile, in **Poland**, 120 animators have been trained on quality learning and working with refugee populations, integration, and psychological first aid. During the reporting period, 623 refugee children (330 girls) were reached with early learning and play services and benefitted from learning supplies, including the distribution of ECD kits. During the same period, 321 refugee children (156 girls) participated in community-based activities with host communities through provision of early learning and play services at Child-Friendly Spaces.

In **Romania**, in collaboration with the NGO Step by Step, UNICEF held an information session with representatives from 42 municipalities to establish Play and Parenting Hubs. During the reporting period, 108 more children accessed non-formal education, including early learning services, in two day-cares and four educational centres supported by partner NGO organizations, Regina Maria Foundation and the Romanian Angel Appeal in Bucharest.

In **Hungary**, as co-chair of the education coordination sub-group, UNICEF with partners developed draft EU guidelines to support education inclusion based on the experience from EU countries and mapped key stakeholders engaged in education activities in the country. Programmatic response include: (i) non-formal summer programmes (summer camps, language classes, etc.); (ii) on-line support for the Ukrainian curriculum; and (iii) support for school integration and raising awareness of teachers and parents about administrative requirements like vaccination, providing supply and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). UNICEF and the education sub-group conducted a summer camp exchange in Hungary, bringing the local municipality of Záhony and partner organisations from Moldova and Hungary together to share approaches, best practices, possible challenges and implementation stages. Main challenges include finding multi-lingual teachers speaking Ukrainian and Hungarian, ensuring participation of children and families, finding additional financial resources, identifying suitable co-organisers for logistics and ensuring targeted groups participate.

In **Moldova**, another 276 refugees and local children played football together to overcome stress through sports and 151 refugee children were equipped with sports equipment. In addition, 79 refugee children from the accommodation centres benefitted from UNICEF-supported Play and Learning Hubs providing non-formal education services in Chisinau municipality. Another 10 Play and Learning Hubs were established in eight cities and two in the Balti municipality. Finally, 61 refugee children received MHPSS from psychologists at the Play and Learning Hubs. In **Bulgaria**, UNHCR and UNICEF, together with local authorities, will support the organization of learning hubs for Ukrainian children and integrated activities for children, including Bulgarian language classes.

In the **Slovak Republic**, UNICEF and NGO partner, Wide Open School held the first training with coordinators and front-line workers and are implementing activities in six newly established Play and Learning Hubs in different parts of Slovakia aimed at benefiting more than 2,000 children aged 0-8 years.

In **Croatia**, UNICEF and the NGO Forum for Freedom in Education conducted an analysis on school needs for better inclusion of Ukrainian students. Responses from 88 basic and 16 secondary schools with Ukrainian students showed that language, how to assess learning of Ukrainian students, and how to involve parents were critical obstacles to school integration. MHPSS and remedial teaching needs have also been mentioned as bottlenecks to inclusion. Teachers expressed that they lacked access to communities of practice for reflection, exchanging ideas and clear guidelines from relevant bodies on the adjustment of classroom practice.

In **Greece**, UNICEF, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Education (MoE), developed a series of tools and initiatives to support integration of refugee children into schools, including a Ukrainian/Russian guide on the Greek compulsory education system, interpretation services in schools for families, a short lexicon with first words for school, a guide on Greek language learning, adaptation of educational materials, and an induction workshop for teachers on teaching in an intercultural environment. In cooperation with the MoE, the Religious Affairs and the Institute of Educational Policy, a workshop on the integration of Ukrainian children with hearing impairment in the two special schools of Attika was organized.

WASH

In **Moldova**, UNICEF led a WASH in Emergencies training with 22 participants from governmental institutions, UN agencies, INGOs, and NGOs to strengthen WASH technical knowledge of emergency preparedness and planning, WASH standards and guidelines, hygiene promotion, and PSEA and GBV risk mitigation in WASH facilities. UNICEF procured six sanitary containers that were delivered to the UNHCR warehouse and will be on stand-by as part of contingency planning in case of an influx of refugees. During the reporting period, 1,087 refugees (923 female and 164 male), including 434 children, accessed safe and adequate WASH facilities at the Blue Dots. Meanwhile, in **Belarus**, 108 children (58 girls) received basic hygiene items. During the reporting period, an additional 5,335 people were accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs and using safe and appropriate sanitation facilities in the **Slovak Republic**. In **Serbia** UNICEF has procured and distributed 300 hygiene packages for refugee families with babies and young children residing in three family asylum/reception centres, including key necessities for adequate hygiene and care.

Social protection

UNICEF has surpassed its targets for households reached by multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers in **Moldova**, reaching 26,393 households (64,078 people) to date. In addition, 47,319 individual refugees received the second transfer and 17,656 received the third transfer. Distributions to date total \$15,486,360, with plans to disburse \$45 million by the end of the year.

In the **Slovak Republic**, UNICEF partnered with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family and humanitarian partners to provide monthly cash transfers to refugee households. Over 24,528 households have registered to date and are receiving material needs benefits. UNICEF is covering 40 per cent of this caseload, out of them 9,300 households has already received the cash transfer. In addition, UNICEF provides Carer's Benefits to meet the additional cost of care to support and integrate children with disabilities. A disability assessment tool developed by UNICEF and endorsed by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, and Family is used to assess eligibility and care needs and the first Carer's Benefits have been provided.

In **Bulgaria**, a Cash Working Group (CWG) was set up to ensure that humanitarian interventions are linked with the government and local response. UNICEF is exploring how to complement this one-off cash assistance for vulnerable refugee families with UNHCR.

In **Poland**, UNICEF is supporting local governments, including the municipalities of Krakow and Wrocław, to expand social protection for vulnerable refugees, including children under temporary care or guardianship and children with disabilities for an estimated reach of 5,500 children (primarily children with disabilities or children in foster/ temporary care) and an estimated spend of USD 3.46 million. Discussions are underway with the Ministry of Family and Social Policy to provide additional support at national level.

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

Through U-Report Europe-Connecting Ukrainians UNICEF has continued to disseminate relevant, correct and verified information in seven countries (**Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, and Italy**) to inform refugees about their rights and entitlements and provide life-saving information on services and how to

access them. There have been 18,699 activations of the U-Report Chatbots, with 8,214 young refugees who have joined U-Report Europe. Results so far show that most people are interested in their rights and information specific to countries. 73% of participants said the information was either very or partially useful.

In **Poland**, 30,000 people (caregivers, youth and children) were reached with Viber message by the UNICEF web platform [Spilno](#). An additional 5,120 Ukrainians based in Poland consulted the site during the reporting period. Information provided by U-report on useful information and available services in the country was activated by additional 320 people. UNICEF and the Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform published a [brief](#) on the drivers influencing vaccination-related practices and behaviours among refugees. A booklet with a comprehensive set of MHPSS messages for caregivers and adolescents was finalized and shared with the UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots staff, users, and partners. Finally, training on the feedback and complaints mechanism, tools, referrals, and flow engaged 77 Blue Dot staff from both UNICEF and UNHCR.

In **Moldova**, UNICEF distributed posters at the UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots to promote the Bebbi mobile app, which contains materials and tools to help parents monitor the health and development of children from birth to six years. During the reporting period, 2,200 young people expressed their opinions on the U-report platform by participating in one regional chatbot launched in coordination with **Ukraine, Romania, and Poland** on youth perception of wars and conflicts and one national poll regarding equitable education. In **Bulgaria**, 40% of 1,300 U-Reporters said the loss of human life and destruction is what affects them the most during wars and conflicts, followed by 36% who voiced concern over the economic consequences. In **Romania**, UNICEF finalized a partnership with the Romanian Health Promotion Association (ARPS) for interventions related to AAP. Under this partnership, UNICEF conducted the first participatory review of the UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots. Over 35 participants met to discuss their experiences and identify the learning and priorities for the next Blue Dots.

In **Bulgaria**, in partnership with the Astra Forum Foundation, UNICEF held nine trainings and awareness conferences for 534 doctors. Each was provided with supporting materials on importance of vaccination for both general population and refugees from Ukraine. Inter-personal communication was a major element of the training. Additionally, Astra Forum Foundation and UNICEF advocated with 839 doctors from all over the country to accept refugees as their patients.

In **Italy**, a social and behaviour change communication strategy led by UNICEF was validated with partner UN Agencies (UNHCR and IOM), a prioritization exercise to initiate implementation is ongoing. The strategy aims to raise awareness about child protection and safeguarding, promote positive behaviours, and engage people for social change. During the last two weeks of June, young Scouts have supported 82,410 Ukrainian individuals, 53,780 of whom were children and young people. Under the auspices of the [Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action](#), an inter-agency initiative to build the skills of young humanitarians was organized by UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR, the Norway Refugee Council (NRC), ActionAid, the Scouts, Global Refugee Youth Network (GRYN), Gooddler Foundation, and the Youth Compact Champions. A two-day inter-agency online workshop brought together young participants serving as Heads of youth-led organizations, founders of volunteer networks, both inside and outside Ukraine. The workshop provided opportunities for young people to share their experiences of supporting displaced and refugee families, peers and communities in **Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, Romania**, and other surrounding areas.

Adolescent Development and Participation

UNICEF continued leveraging youth engagement to support cross-sectoral response to the Ukraine refugee crisis by mobilizing and orienting young volunteers. This has been done through delivery of frontline support, integration, competency and skills-building methods and meaningful participation.

In **Moldova**, a new series of UPSHIFT boot camps started on June 24 with the participation of 95 young people, including 15 refugee adolescents. The boot camp training will last throughout July, with a total of 15 sessions on local mobilization, social innovation, and resilience building. With support from UNICEF, 390 young people participated in the leadership and public speaking training organized by the Municipal Youth Centres, including educational, sports and artistic activities organized in two cities. In addition, 280 refugee adolescents benefited from services provided by eight youth workers at Youth and Adolescent Friendly spaces.

In **Poland**, in the framework of the UNICEF-WOSM partnership, Scouts have provided support to 27,700 Ukrainians through educational programmes, trainings, supply distribution and humanitarian aid assistance, through a total of 37 information and reception points along the country; and 6 warehouses where humanitarian assistance is being delivered. Among the beneficiaries, 5,560 were children (3,220 boys and 2,340 girls), 12,500 women and 890 men. 12 Scout volunteers deliver psychosocial aid to Ukrainian children as well as their own members to ensure young people's wellbeing during the response.

Coordination, partnership, strategy, funding

Operating in the context of high- and middle-income countries with functioning systems, capacities, strong European Union and public support, requires strategic partnerships.

At the regional level, UNICEF signed an agreement with Eurocities to share the lessons learned from key refugee-receiving cities in neighbouring countries with cities in other parts of Europe which are increasingly seeing refugee arrivals. The agreement will support city-level exchanges of good practice in critical areas such as access to high-quality

early childhood development services and vaccinations. UNICEF also organized a city exchange on refugee integration showcasing Warsaw, Bratislava, Bucharest, and Sofia at the 2022 World Urban Forum, presenting presented the Joint UNICEF-WOSM partnership.

In the **Czech Republic**, UNICEF signed an MOU with the City of Prague on June 15, opening the door for cooperation to support the largest refugee-receiving city in the Czech Republic. Another MoU was signed with the Ministry of Health on June 28, and cross-sector workplans are developed with the City of Prague and the ministries of Health, Labour and Social Affairs and Education. The NGO OPU will map and assess the needs of UASC in the country and provide a comprehensive package of services to up to 300 unaccompanied and separated children in close collaboration with the statutory child protection services. UNICEF in partnership with WHO and the National Mental Health Institute, are finalizing an agreement for a programme to support strengthening capacities of schools in providing Psycho-Social Support to children, adolescents, educators, and caregivers experiencing psychological trauma and stress.

In **Poland**, UNICEF finalized work plans with the municipalities of Krakow, and Lodz, to support a wide range of activities on child protection, health, WASH, education, social protection and adolescent development. In **Hungary**, as co-chair of the sub-groups on child protection and education, UNICEF supported the finalization of terms of reference to distinguish tasks between the groups and avoid duplication. Meanwhile, in **Bulgaria**, UNICEF signed two new partnerships. The Foundation Za dobroto will support MHPSS community engagement of 100 adolescents and the start-up 7 Digit, will build an online platform (USupportMe) for mental health and psychosocial, which could become a sustainable e-service. In **Moldova**, UNICEF signed an MoU with the municipality of Chisinau to provide technical support to improve existing and create relevant services, focusing on refugee children. In **Slovakia**, MoU is signed with Bratislava municipality on provision of Blue Dot services and supporting early learning activities through play and learning hubs. UNICEF also signed an MoU with the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports to support school integration and expansion of preschool capacities.

Romania approved its National Action Plan on June 28 and UNHCR and UNICEF updated their contingency plans. A Blue Dot “Participatory After Action Review” took stock of lessons learned and operational improvements, jointly with key partners. An internal review of the Refugee Response Plan indicators took place to improve reporting and mobilize partners on joint understanding of key milestones and results delivered.

External Media

UNICEF Moldova (article): [On World Refugee Day, Maha shares her story and advocates firmly for the protection of every child.](#)

UNICEF Bulgaria (press release): [UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Maria Guleghina visits vulnerable children in Bulgaria; UNHCR and UNICEF Bulgaria open a support centre for refugees from Ukraine ‘Blue Dot’ in Varna](#)

Programme Results

The Humanitarian Performance Monitoring (HPM) table is currently being revised, adjusted, and standardized to better account for partnerships with municipalities and measure the breadth and country-specific diversity of the response.

Next Sitrep: July 29, 2022

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