

# Europe and Central Asia Region (ECAR)

## Ukraine Refugee Response in Neighbouring Countries

### Humanitarian Situation Report No. 20 – 2022



Angelina (6) and Zlata (5) receive their UNICEF backpacks at the UNICEF - UNHCR Blue Dot in Romexpo, Bucharest.

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#### End-Year Report: 24 February–31 December 2022

#### Highlights

- The escalation of war in Ukraine in 2022 led to one of the largest refugee crises globally. By the end of December, 7.9 million refugees from Ukraine had been recorded across Europe, with nearly 4.9 million registered for temporary or similar national protection schemes.<sup>i</sup>
- Following the escalation of the war on 24 February 2022, UNICEF’s response expanded from initially six neighbouring countries to include 19 countries across the region hosting Ukrainian refugees. Support was provided through country-specific programming in health and nutrition, WASH, child protection, education, social protection, adolescent engagement, and social behaviour change.
- Since the start of the response, 732,340 people have accessed safe spaces, 433,701 women and children primary health care, and 100,350 people, including children, safe drinking water. Formal and non-formal education, including early learning, has been provided to 588,778 children, while UNICEF supported cash transfers to 113,253 household, directly and via governments. Messages on prevention and access to services have reached 10,500,187 people. UNICEF established 54 formal partnerships with national and sub-national authorities.
- Needs remain, and in 2023, UNICEF will continue to ensure critical support for refugee children and families and strengthen national and local systems to provide quality and equitable services, striving to reach 2.3 million refugees, including 1.5 million children.

#### Situation in numbers

**7,915,287 million** refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe since 24 February 2022 (UNHCR)

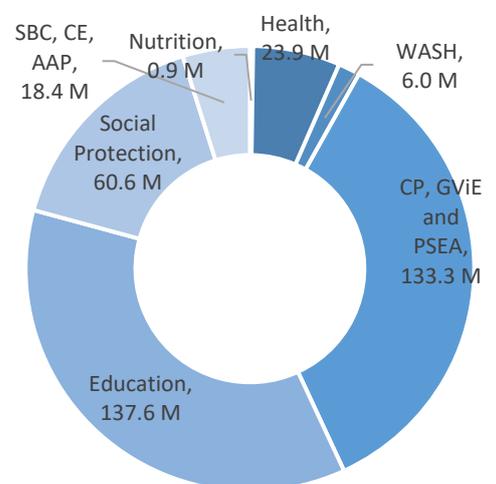
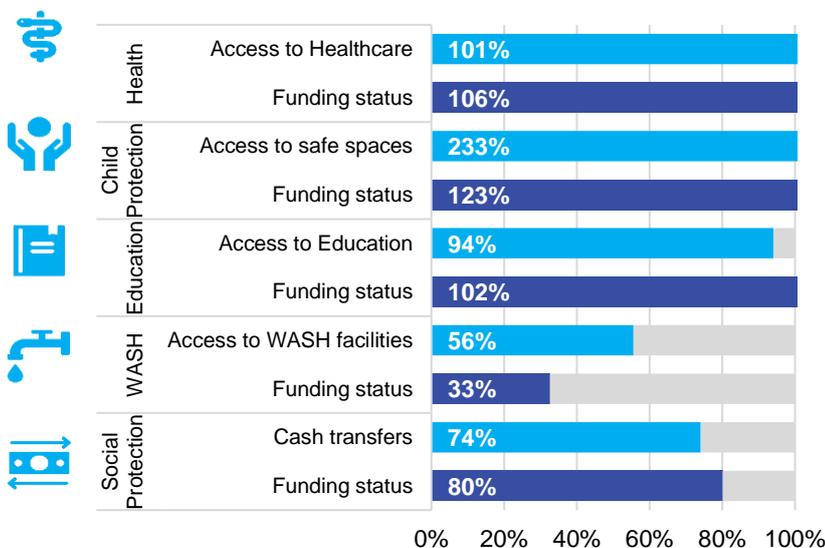
**3,860,000** children in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF 2023 HAC)

**1,487,965** children to be reached by UNICEF’s response in refugee-hosting countries. (UNICEF 2023 HAC)

#### UNICEF Appeal 2022 US\$377.2 million\*

Funding received against sector as of 31 December 2022 - **US\$380.7 million\*\***

#### UNICEF progress in key areas



<sup>i</sup> UNHCR. Operational Data Portal as of 3 January 2023. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

<sup>ii</sup> Estimation based on UNICEF Country Office data collection in the 19 countries covered under Pillar 2. The percentage of children among refugees varies among countries. \*The funding ask reflects requirements for refugee receiving countries (Pillar 2) under UNICEF’s Overall Ukraine HAC appeal of US\$1.4 billion, revised in November 2022. The overall HAC funding status does not represent gaps by sector. For further details by sector, please refer to Annex B. Figures reported to the FTS may differ for the same period due to in-process allocation of flexible funding.

\*\*During the last week of December, UNICEF received earmarked funding for some of the refugee hosting countries (Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Bulgaria) and the Regional Office. This resulted in being slightly over-funded in 2022.

## Funding Overview & Partnerships

UNICEF received US\$380.7 million for the Ukraine Refugee Response (Pillar 2), out of a revised ask of US\$377.2 million<sup>1</sup>. Flexible, timely contributions from governments and private sector allowed UNICEF to meet immediate needs of refugees and address critical gaps in capacities of host countries to respond to the crisis. The Governments of Austria, Denmark, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, the United States of America, the European Commission, and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), all provided important contributions. Fundraising campaigns by UNICEF National Committees and country offices generated flexible, private sector funding from corporates, foundations, philanthropies, and individual donors. Some prominent private sector partners included Mr. Dmitry Muratov, who donated the proceeds of the sale of his 2021 Nobel Peace prize, Novo Nordisk, Fonden, Pandora, William Demant Foundation, Equinor, Ericsson, H&M, Marks and Spencer, JP Morgan, Phillips, Capgemini, Visa International, Lego Foundation, Axa, Hitachi, Heartland, Formula One, Daichi Sank, United Internet, Action, Ericsson, BMW, Daimler Trucks, Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix and Olam Group, SHO Partners, Akelius Foundation, Aeon Corporate Ltd and Co-op Deli Consumers Cooperative Union, Lund Trust, Apple, Google, ING, Louis Vuitton, Toyota, PWC, EY, Heartland, Ikea, Nokia, Valora Management, American Eagle Outfitters, BMW, UBS and Optimus Foundation.

Jointly with UNHCR, other United Nations (UN) agencies and humanitarian partners, UNICEF scaled up its multi-sectoral response and leveraged partnerships established through long-standing country programmes, relationships with governments, and a strong network of National Committees. UNICEF expanded its close relationships with national governments and municipal authorities, partnered with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), and developed new multi-country partnerships with key networks such as Eurocities, a network of over 200 major cities across Europe, and the World Organization of the Scouts Movement.

## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Following the escalation of war on 24 February 2022, the Ukraine refugee crisis became the largest since World War II. Population movements continue as hostilities endure. Within two weeks, over 2 million people had fled Ukraine, and by end of December, 7.9 million refugees were recorded across Europe, with nearly 4.9 million registered for national protection schemes<sup>2</sup>. Host governments showed overwhelming support following approval of a European Union Temporary Protection Directive<sup>3</sup> in March 2022 granting Ukrainian refugees protection and access to services in all EU Member States.

At the onset of the crisis, UNICEF implemented an immediate response in six neighbouring countries<sup>4</sup>, expanding to 19<sup>5</sup> hosting countries by the end of 2022. While **Poland** has continued to host the most refugees, in smaller countries, such as **Moldova** and **Montenegro**, the refugee population now makes up to 5 per cent of the overall population.

Children were impacted by traumatic events, many arriving unaccompanied, separated and/or relocated from institutional care facilities, requiring strengthened capacities for identification, family reunification, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention support. Access to education remained a challenge, with many children continuing online learning and only an estimated 30 per cent of refugee students enrolled in formal schools. Refugees faced significant challenges accessing health care, including preventive care, putting children and adults at risk. The war's economic impact and rising inflation increased economic hardship in most countries in the region, stretching host government capacities to provide services for refugee children and families and making it crucial to complement and strengthen national systems.

While the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimated 1.2 million returnees to Ukraine by early December 2022,<sup>6</sup> persisting war and attacks on critical civil infrastructure, increased humanitarian needs, military threat, economic hardship, and harsh winter continue to inhibit returns and triggered new refugee movements.

## Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination, and Strategy

UNICEF worked closely with national, regional and local authorities to expand services in child protection, education, health and nutrition, WASH, and social protection, including scaling up [UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots](#) to provide humanitarian support to children and families on the move. UNICEF's work integrated social cohesion, gender and disability, and accountability to affected populations (AAP). Given ongoing war in Ukraine, UNICEF also worked closely with national and sub-national stakeholders to enhance preparedness for potential new refugee movements.

UNICEF strengthened national child protection systems, including maintain a robust, dynamic mechanism for cross-border coordination among child protection actions. UNICEF also scaled up delivery of humanitarian support, building capacities of frontline responders, providing emergency cash support, and supporting national systems and capacities in close coordination with governments, UN agencies, CSOs, national networks, youth, and communities.

<sup>1</sup> As per the updated [2022 Ukraine and Refugee Response HAC \(November\)](#), and aligned to the revised UNHCR [Refugee Response Plan](#).

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR. Operational Data Portal as of 3 January 2023. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

<sup>3</sup> European Commission, Document 52022PC0091, 3 March 2022.

<sup>4</sup> Poland, Moldova, Romania, Belarus, Hungary, and Slovakia.

<sup>5</sup> Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, and Türkiye.

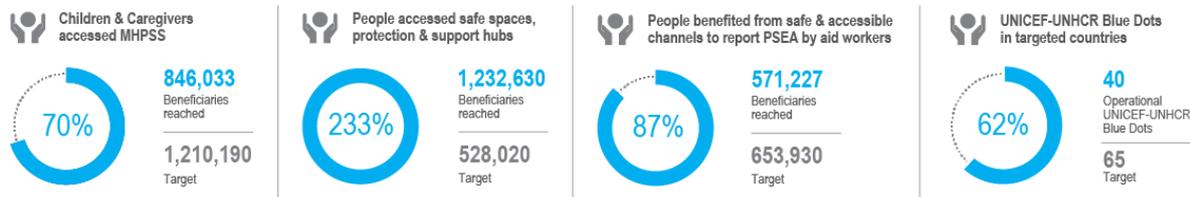
<sup>6</sup> [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\), Ukraine: Internal displacement report - General population survey round 11 \(25 Nov-5 Dec 2022\), IOM, 2022.](#)

UNICEF also focused on school preparedness, enrolment, successful integration of refugee children into schools, and dropout prevention. This included scaling up catch-up, language, and learning programmes (in-person and online), increasing access Advocacy on equitable access for refugee children and families, including refugees and migrants from other countries and minority groups, provision of information on rights and entitlements, and access to services was reinforced by leveraging wide networks, including social media platforms.

UNICEF leveraged strategic partnerships with line ministries, regional authorities, and municipalities to support and sustained a multi-sectoral humanitarian response, providing policy advice, technical guidance, and financial support to strengthen the capacities of national and local systems to deliver humanitarian interventions.

## Summary Analysis of Programme Response

### CHILD PROTECTION



NB. Regarding the second indicator on people accessing safe spaces, protection & support hubs, several countries have exceeded their target due to a rapid scale-up of partnerships in the second half of 2022 that increased access of people to safe spaces, protection or support hubs significantly. There are also some differences across countries in calculating the indicator and some are deviating from the standard definition. Regarding the indicator on UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots, the variation in number of established UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots is due to their opening/closing depending on varying demand in different locations.

In **Poland**, 430,859 refugees (146,664 children) received support services in seven UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots. Over 275,000 children and caregivers received MHPSS through UNICEF-supported social service workforce, UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots, community-based services such as day care centres and integration activities, schools and learning platforms, and from Ukrainian-speaking psychologists/psychiatrists for specialized treatment.

In **Moldova**, 166,454 children, women and caregivers (68 per cent women and girls) accessed safe spaces and protection services provided by UNICEF's governmental and NGO partners. Through 11 UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots (10 currently active) and community-based social service institutions, 43,676 individuals (50 per cent children) were reached with multi-sectoral assistance and protection activities, among whom 13,365 children and women (5,764 women and girls, 7,601 boys, and 665 persons with disabilities) accessed MHPSS activities and services.

In **Romania**, *Primero*, a new case management tool, was handed over to the National Authority for Child Rights. 4,977 unaccompanied and separated children were identified and 4,781 (96 per cent) provided with alternative care or reunified, while support was given to children deprived of parental care, living in displaced institutions. 16,000 caregivers and children accessed MHPSS and special events were organized around Christmas in five cities to provide a sense of normalcy for children.

In **Bulgaria**, over 86,000 children and caregivers were supported with essential services, including 20,319 reached with MHPSS, 5,081 with critical WASH items and 2,759 reached with PSEA and GBV risk mitigation interventions. Six UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots were established reaching 51,068 children and adults with child-friendly spaces, legal aid, counselling, MHPSS, and information and support to access social services. In addition, UNICEF provided critical support and MHPSS to 592 adults and 30 children accommodated in buffer zones during their relocation.

In **Hungary**, UNICEF and partners helped create linkages to national child protection services within child and family support hubs and refugee accommodation centres in nine locations. 487 refugee and local children and caregivers were supported with MHPSS, and 3,852 children benefitted from access to safe spaces, protection and support hubs.

In **Slovakia**, in partnership with the Ministry of Interior, over 270 police officers, social workers and frontline professionals were trained on human trafficking and child-friendly communication. In cooperation with municipalities and national CSOs, UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots served 67,839 children and caregivers. Together with seven CSOs and in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, UNICEF reached over 21,000 children with case management services, over 400,000 children and caregivers benefitted from MHPSS interventions, over 90,000 children and caregivers accessed safe spaces and hubs, and over 26,000 hotline queries were addressed.

In **Czech Republic**, UNICEF partnered with local NGOs to provide legal, social, and psychological support to unaccompanied and separated children, Roma children and children with disabilities. 1,161 children and caregivers were provided with MHPSS, while 18,948 children and caregivers were reached with MHPSS messaging and services.

In **Belarus**, UNICEF and Belarusian Red Cross (BRC) established two information points covering registration, medical and social care, employment, education, and providing hygiene kits and water. To prepare for winter, UNICEF and UNHCR established a Blue Dot at Brest border. MHPSS was provided to over 4,150 individuals, including 1,700 children.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, UNICEF established a child-friendly space and provided MHPSS to 157 children (52 per cent girls) and 75 caregivers (93 per cent women). 224 children and caregivers accessed GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions through the child-friendly space service. In **Croatia**, 264 unaccompanied and separated

children were identified and placed in monitored guardianships. Access to a child-friendly space was ensured for 141 children and 194 caregivers and to protection and support hubs for an additional 92 people. Access to MHPSS was provided to 662 children and 141 caregivers through group workshops and individual counseling in schools and collective centres. In **Greece**, UNICEF partnered with SolidarityNow to establish an emergency response team at the northern border crossing to provide crucial information on available services. UNICEF and partners provided MHPSS programmes benefitting 603 women, men and children. 1,343 women and children had safe and accessible channels to report sexual abuse and exploitation. In **Italy**, 5,921 children (2,850 girls, 3,071 boys) received child protection and MHPSS services and 95,300 women, girls and boys were reached with GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions. Individual case management, referrals and support were provided in Rome, Palermo and Trieste. In **Montenegro**, UNICEF and the Red Cross provided psychosocial support (PSS) to 504 children and caregivers, while 328 women and girls were provided information on GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions. UNICEF supported Ukrainian NGO Dobro Djelo to organize workshops with a clinical psychologist, cognitive-behavioural therapist, and trauma expert, benefitting 393 children and caregivers with MHPSS. In **Serbia**, UNICEF provided tailored child protection, PSS, and recreational activities for refugee children in three reception centres, benefitting 27 girls and boys and 26 family members. UNICEF initiated GBV information sessions and distributed dignity kits to 49 women and girls, to identify GBV risks among women and girls. In **Türkiye**, 1,679 children and adolescents (876 female) were provided with awareness-raising sessions on child rights and protection and 2,551 people, including 2,389 children and adolescents, benefitted from MHPSS activities.

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

In **Poland**, UNICEF provided access to primary health care services to over 338,000 women and children through municipalities. 10,000 refugee children and caregivers in three municipalities underwent health screening. UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) and municipalities to reach over 500,000 refugees with information on essential child vaccination. In addition, UNICEF delivered over 55,000 doses of vaccines to complement government efforts in ensuring the vaccination of around 25,000 refugee children against polio and 5,000 children against Hepatitis A.



Women and children accessed primary health care through UNICEF-supported mechanisms



433,701  
Beneficiaries reached

429,800  
Target

NB. Regarding this indicator, in Poland, this figure measures improved access to primary health care services for refugee mothers and children thanks to UNICEF direct support. Overall, this is a measure of accessibility of services, even if in most countries we are capturing actual utilization of services.

In **Moldova**, UNICEF signed an agreement with the National Health Insurance Company, ensuring free, high-quality health care to at least 5,000 refugee children. UNICEF and partners supported the provision of primary health care services for over 31,000 refugee children and women, while essential medicines were provided to all refugee accommodation centres and host communities through primary health care facilities. In addition, 40,224 parents and child guardians received health promotion and information services.

In **Romania**, over 16,000 children and women accessed primary health care and over 94,000 caregivers were reached with health information services. UNICEF's implementing partners provided IYCF counselling to 1,143 caregivers of children under the age of two.

In **Bulgaria**, UNICEF and the Astra Forum Foundation strengthened the capacity of 4,221 doctors in interpersonal communication, vaccine-preventable diseases, and COVID-19 immunization. UNICEF and the MoH surveyed vaccination attitudes among parents and general practitioners, to support the development of a vaccination handbook and an online vaccine school initiative.

In **Slovakia**, UNICEF supported IYCF counseling and basic paediatric services at UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots, reaching 1,496 caregivers of children under the age of 2. UNICEF supported primary health care services in Bratislava, reaching 43,022 children and women with services and 5,597 caregivers with health information. Through UNICEF-supported mechanisms, 750 children received measles, polio and other routine vaccination and 708 were referred to secondary and tertiary healthcare.

In **Czech Republic**, UNICEF supported the MoH to establish nine paediatric and adult outpatient centres in university hospitals across the country, providing primary health care services to 10,445 children and women and vaccinating around 334 children.

In **Belarus**, over 700 paediatricians and psychologists were trained to identify signs of violence against children through six regional seminars, while 116 Red Cross workers registered and 205 viewed a webinar on this topic, developed in partnership with the Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education.

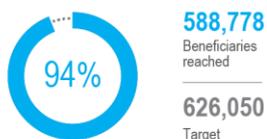
In **Croatia**, UNICEF supported establishment of a med-info centre for Ukrainian women and children in Zagreb, providing critical information to 30,479 people, support in accessing health care, GBV and MHPSS services. In **Greece**, UNICEF and GIVMED donated 1,768 health products to a public organization supporting women from Ukraine, benefitting a total of 2,509 women and children. In partnership with UNICEF, GIVMED also facilitated information sharing with multiple organizations supporting Ukrainian refugees on medical services available and launched a social media campaign to collect feedback about their health-related needs. In **Montenegro**, UNICEF support to the MoH resulted in 117 refugees accessing primary health services. In **Serbia**, UNICEF and the Danish Refugee Council implemented an

ECD emergency training package for frontline workers, service providers and CSOs who support children and caregivers in accommodation centres. In addition, UNICEF supported ECD workshops and counselling on parenting skills.

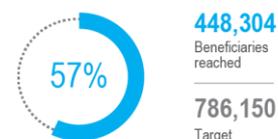
## EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

In **Poland**, UNICEF reached over 600,000 people during a summer back-to-learning campaign and supported national authorities to enroll close to 200,000 children in the Polish education system. UNICEF supported over 9,000 children to study the formal Ukrainian curriculum in accredited schools. UNICEF also helped expand access to pre-school and day care services to 30,000 children through municipalities and CSOs and provided over 10,000 refugee children and their parents with

 Children accessed formal & non-formal education, including early learning



 Children received individual learning materials



NB. The first indicator on children accessing formal and non-formal education, including early learning, covers children who gained access to formal and non-formal learning through indirect support such as training teachers and community members who then facilitate access to school and learning programmes etc. In such cases, UNICEF provides systems strengthening and capacity development support without the distribution of learning materials.

trauma-informed early care, learning and development opportunities, while giving parents the ability to pursue employment and find a sense of community in Poland through 35 early childhood education and care centres. Schools were supported with learning materials, including tablets and laptops, that reached estimated 358,584 children.

In **Moldova**, 36,433 refugees and Moldovan children were reached through formal and non-formal education (NFE), including early learning, while 1,832 children were enrolled in the formal education system. 55,000 adolescents were engaged in skills developments and resilience programmes, while 43,666 refugee and Moldovan children of pre-school age received didactic, learning, and recreational materials, through UNICEF and the LEGO Foundation.

In **Romania**, UNICEF extended access to formal and NFE opportunities, including early learning, to 5,495 Ukrainian children, through learning hubs established in schools and community learning centres offering special classes and learning support, mainly by Ukrainian teachers, adding to the 4,008 children formally enrolled in Romanian schools. UNICEF facilitated provision of individual learning materials, including books, schools-in-a-box, school bags and stationery, benefiting 15,772 children. Partnerships were established NGOs, in collaboration with municipal and education authorities, to facilitate children's enrolment and participation in face-to-face learning in eight cities.

In **Bulgaria**, UNICEF launched NFE and recreational activities, reaching 1,246 children with learning activities and MHPSS. A back-to-school campaign engaged over 3,000 parents and 1,080 children across 10 locations. 384 children completed preparatory Bulgarian language classes before the start of the school year and 2,250 children were enrolled in school. UNICEF provided over 2,354 children with learning materials, including over 730 with access to online education. Five learning hubs and a network of 11 safe learning and play areas reached children in 11 locations.

In **Hungary**, UNICEF supported education services across six locations. 827 children, including illiterate children, accessed formal and NFE, including early learning, through UNICEF-supported programmes. 40 school management training sessions and 40 pedagogical capacity building sessions for teachers were organized, benefitting 3,800 children.

In **Slovakia**, 40,433 children accessed formal and non-formal learning opportunities supported by UNICEF, and 23,181 children benefitted from learning materials. With UNICEF support, over 3,500 new places were created in 183 kindergartens and pre-school institutions for Slovak and Ukrainian children; 8,298 children (including 308 Ukrainian children) participated in summer schools; 10,232 Ukrainian children were enrolled in schools; and over 10,000 children accessed language learning material. Sixteen regional coordinators were also recruited to support school enrolment and inclusion, benefitting 799 teachers and 15,980 children in 363 schools.

In **Czech Republic**, 32,846 children and adolescents, including 294 vulnerable Roma children, were enrolled in Czech schools. A total of 2,619 teachers and school staff were trained to facilitate the integration of refugee children. As a result of the partnership between UNICEF and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, a grant scheme enabled access to non-formal early learning opportunities for 1,212 children under the age of 6, including 1,076 Ukrainian refugees.

In **Belarus**, UNICEF partnered with the Red Cross and provided education vouchers to over 680 children in preparation for new academic year, that allowed them to purchase school supplies and compulsory school uniform.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, 32 children received individual learning materials, including backpacks with school supplies, and access to digital learning content, and were enabled to follow classes in a learning hub established at a primary school. In **Croatia**, UNICEF funded learning materials for 491 schools, enhancing learning outcomes of 1,511 Ukrainian and 10,000 local students. 62 school professionals were trained to provide well-being and mental health support to students from Ukraine and create an inclusive learning environment, benefitting 27,571 students. In **Greece**, 1,212 children were enrolled in formal education, 740 school-age children benefitted from access to NFE interventions supported by UNICEF and eight schools were supported with interpretation services. 1,678 teachers and other education professionals were trained, including through interventions such as [Teach4Integration](#). In **Italy**, UNICEF and ISMU Foundation organized 10 training sessions for 174 teachers on the Akelius e-learning Italian course, benefitting Ukrainian as well as other refugees and migrants. 330 students, including 236 Ukrainians, used the Akelius e-learning platform. In **Montenegro**, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education trained Ukrainian-speaking staff in schools to support children enrolled in the formal education system. PSS was provided to 186 children in group workshops. In **Türkiye**,

UNICEF procured 10,000 learn-at-home kits, including education supplies, which are being distributed in five provinces through NGO partner Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Migrants. UNICEF also supported distribution of 1,000 early childhood education kits in backpacks.

## WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



NB. The relatively low achievement against targets for the second indicator on children accessing appropriate WASH facilities and services was due to the fact that *WASH interventions targeted mainly temporary reception centres and the needs for this support decreased over time.*

ensured that UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots and other child-friendly spaces were properly winterized, focusing on adequate heating devices and winter-proof WASH infrastructure.

In **Romania**, over 33,000 people accessed safe drinking water and over 15,000 received hygiene item. WASH facilities in containers were procured locally as a preparedness measure for new refugee arrivals.

In **Bulgaria**, UNICEF reached 9,718 families and children (girls 852, boys 828) with 4,896 blankets and 4,822 WASH supplies through the six UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots.

In **Belarus**, critical hygiene supplies were distributed to over 1,700 individuals, including almost 1,100 children.

In **Croatia**, hygiene items were provided to 100 children (85 boys, 15 girls), including unaccompanied and separated children and 60 adults (30 women, 30 men). In **Serbia**, winter clothes, shoes, hygiene items, and baby-specific supplies were distributed in reception and asylum centres to support refugees during winter, covering all refugee and migrant children, including from Ukraine. In **Türkiye**, 1,500 hygiene kits were procured for 1,330 Ukrainians residing in Antalya.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION

In **Poland**, UNICEF provided a one-time grant to the Ministry of Family, benefitting 111,385 refugee children. In addition, 3,602 children benefited from cash assistance interventions by UNICEF and municipalities.



In **Moldova**, 51,000 households benefitted from the joint UNICEF-UNHCR cash assistance programme, implemented in close collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. UNICEF, the ministry, and other UN agencies partnered to provide cash assistance to 80,000 vulnerable Moldovan families, including refugee-hosting families, to mitigate the effects of the economic and energy crisis and harsh winter conditions.

In **Romania**, UNICEF provided technical advice to government to review the [50/20 subsidy programme](#), where Romanian citizens hosting refugees receive cash payments of US\$10 per day for accommodation and US\$4 per day for food. Vouchers were distributed to social services to enable them to reach refugees in communities or isolated areas with over 3,000 sets of winter clothes being distributed to the families most in need, at the border and in urban areas.

In **Bulgaria**, UNICEF and partners reached 456 households with vouchers for food and non-food items to cope during winter, including 228 children (114 girls, 114 boys, 33 out of them with disabilities) and 732 adults (209 with disabilities).

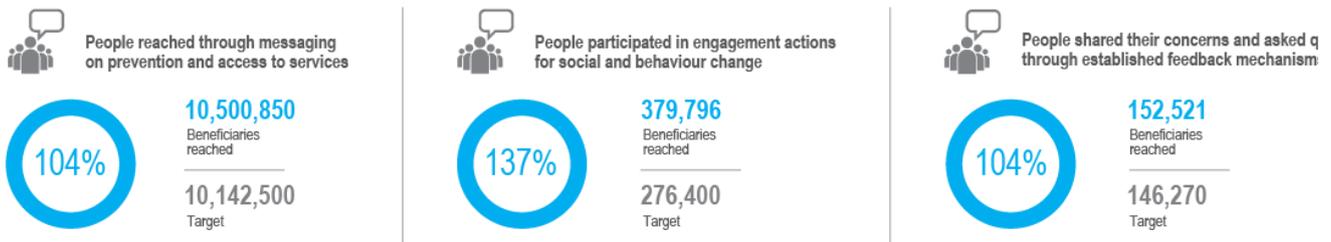
In **Hungary**, in partnership with the Municipality of Zahony, 239 households, including refugee families, received cash transfers. UNICEF partner Terre des Hommes distributed 1,616 vouchers for school supplies, benefitting 142 children.

In **Slovakia**, UNICEF and other UN agencies supported the government to provide over EUR 11 million in universal and targeted cash support. This included a material need benefit (multi-purpose grant) paid to 22,346 people over four months; a carer's grant for covering 186 girls and 118 boys with specific needs, paid to carers over six months; a one-off payment for education and development, to households, covering 9,124 girls and 9,032 boys; and winterization payments to cover household winter-related costs for 19,790 people, including 7,338 children. UNICEF also supported the carer's grant to provide payments to 134 people – including families with children – through a one-off benefit.

In **Belarus**, UNICEF signed a partnership with the Post Office and BRC to deliver winter cash support, based on the government social entitlement scheme and vulnerability criteria, through a network of over 3,000 offices, including in the most remote areas, targeting over 600 vulnerable refugee families (over 2,500 individuals, including 1,500 children).

In **Serbia**, a total of 123 households, with 203 children, were provided with UNICEF humanitarian cash transfers.

## SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND APP



In **Poland**, 3.6 million refugees received information on essential services, including vaccination and back-to-school, and 1.5 million caregivers with messages promoting vaccine confidence through targeted interventions in pharmacies, social media, outdoor and public transport. 110,000 refugees received information on essential services through the [Spilno digital platform](#), 250,000 families received information on access to health and education services through a partnership with Viber messaging app and a Ukrainian mobile operator, while 112,146 people were engaged through interpersonal communication (IPC) interventions implemented in partnership with local government and NGOs in 12 municipalities. 103,110 people provided feedback and shared concerns through UNICEF partners, UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots, Education Hotline, Institute of Mother and Child, and U-Report.

In **Moldova**, UNICEF partnered with the Centre for Health Strategies and Policy to strengthen health workers' communication skills, sensitize local authorities and pre-school teachers and schoolteachers, and inform the population on routine and COVID-19 vaccination. Almost 10,000 people, including 1,116 Ukrainian refugees were reached, with coverage of COVID-19 vaccines increasing from 1,600 to 4,200 in targeted areas. 218,000 people were reached with messages on prevention and access to services and 11,184 people were engaged in social and behaviour change activities at UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots, refugee accommodation centres, youth centres, and through social media.

In **Romania**, 976,685 people were reached with key messages on access to services. 28,714 people were engaged in social and behaviour change activities. UNICEF launched an online campaign with social cohesion messages reaching 256,160 and engaging 1,643 people in host communities. 2,213 refugees provided feedback on services received at UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots, indicating an overall positive perception.

In **Belarus**, over 185,000 individuals were reached with messages on services, including MHPSS, protection, access to education and employment through social networks, media channels, information points and the UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots. Over 25,000 individuals participated in various engagement interventions for social and behaviour change.

In **Bulgaria**, 3,401,854 people were reached with targeted media messages on PSEA, access to health, enrollment in education, mental health care, vaccine mandates, integration and solidarity. 75,346 people were engaged in social and behaviour change interventions. 1,399 people shared their feedback through established mechanisms.

In **Hungary**, UNICEF and Viber reached 12,000 people with messages on services, caregivers guidance, which included messages on protecting children from sexual abuse and exploitation and trafficking, education and available helplines.

In **Slovakia**, 897,260 people were reached with messages on information and access to services, including an MHPSS campaign. Social and behaviour change activities engaged 110,729 people. 4,400 individuals used feedback mechanisms on child protection services at UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots and on CSO platforms.

In **Czech Republic**, 443,188 people received key messages on vaccine hesitancy, MHPSS, access to services, housing and education, and youth peer support information via mass media, social media and other channels, while 14,538 people were engaged in social and behaviour change interventions. UNICEF supported the MoH to launch a campaign on routine and COVID-19 vaccination reaching 12,290 people and engaging 3,279 via IPC channels. UNICEF and the Municipality of Prague launched a social cohesion campaign with MHPSS messages in Ukrainian, Russian, and Czech reaching 27,242 people. 2,130 people shared concerns and feedback through national and NGO-based platforms.

In **Croatia**, 43,718 people were reached through messaging on prevention and access to services, while 30,479 people were reached specifically with information on the Croatian health and educational systems.

In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, UNICEF advocated with the municipality to provide transport for children attending UNICEF-supported education programmes within schools. In **Greece**, 3,852 people accessed reporting and feedback mechanisms, while capacity of partners to establish AAP policies was strengthened. In **Montenegro**, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Education and Embassy of Ukraine to prepare information materials on education support, reaching 880 children and parents. Through Red Cross channels, 250 people received messaging on access to social and child protection, education and legal and health services. In **Serbia**, 263 refugees were reached with information on child protection, ECD, GBV prevention, and MHPSS. UNICEF supported the City of Belgrade to establish an info-hub - a physical space and a [website](#), reaching over 600 people with information on access to legal services, relocate to Serbia, and school enrolment.

## ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION

The Scouts partnership supported 896,097 Ukrainians, including 346,835 children and young people in 3,371 locations. Young people were supported through the Scouting's Educational Methods, facilitated by 21,688 Scout volunteers, which translated communications and social media interactions reached 2,197,567 people, including children and adolescents.

In partnership with Junior Achievement Europe, the UPLIFT programme, reached 12,660 children and youth in nine countries (**Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Serbia**).

In **Poland**, UNICEF organized summer camps and events focused on integration, skills building and Polish language. 3,216 adolescents and young children (1,433 boys, 1,802 girls), including Ukrainian and host community children, participated in recreational activities for social cohesion and integration.

In **Moldova**, 1,400 adolescents benefited from activities under UPSHIFT<sup>7</sup> programmes on local mobilization, business development and startup management and implementation. U-Report engaged 25,000 young people in online consultations, chatbots and livestreams, addressing social cohesion, and providing information on prioritized topics like mental health. 10,000 children and youth benefited from two spaces established in UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots.

In **Romania**, UNICEF partner Junior Achievement provided sessions to 40 teachers and facilitators from six cities working with Ukrainian adolescents, and orientation and entrepreneurship sessions to approximately 400 adolescents.

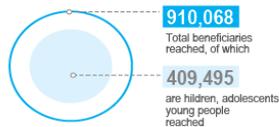
In **Bulgaria**, UNICEF supported integration and social and cultural adaptation of 204 children and young people through summer camps, PSS, NFE, art therapy, psychodrama, creative workshops, English lessons, sports and edutainment.

In **Slovakia**, UNICEF partnered with the National Institute for Education and Youth to design a grant scheme supporting NFE activities for youth to reach out-of-school children, especially adolescents. Activities offered with the City of Bratislava reached 148 children and adolescent from Ukraine.

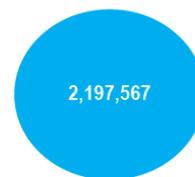
In **Czech Republic**, UNICEF and the Municipality of Prague supported 23 NGOs and city districts in Prague to co-create new youth projects targeting 15 to 17-year-olds.

In **Italy**, UNICEF and Junior Achievement Italia reached 495 participants, including 231 Ukrainian adolescents, in nine UPSHIFT innovation and creativity camps in four regions. Participants were provided with 194 tablets to support their online education. In **Türkiye**, UNICEF worked with Junior Achievement to implement the 'Code Your Career Programme' – an innovative career development training (design thinking, innovation management, competency development) and a tech camp (entrepreneurship, artificial intelligence training), reaching 46 Ukrainian adolescents.

Ukrainian people, including children, adolescents, and young people reached through youth engagement mechanisms

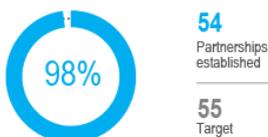


People reached by communication action and social media interactions across different partner platforms



### COORDINATION, PARTERSHIPS, STRATEGY AND FUNDING

Formal partnerships established with national and sub-national authorities to support the extension of quality social services to refugees



People receiving UNICEF technical assistance for system strength through municipalities



In **Poland**, work plans were signed with 12 municipalities hosting 70 per cent of the refugee population, and a presence established in Krakow, Warsaw, and Gdansk to monitor the humanitarian situation and implement the response. Cooperation agreements were signed with the Ministries of Justice, Family and Social Policy, Health, and Education.

In **Moldova**, an agreement was signed with the Municipality of Chisinau to strengthen child

and social protection services for vulnerable children and families, including refugees reinforcing child protection systems in Moldova's largest municipality by providing equipment, materials, training and capacity development for the social services workforce.

In **Romania**, 17 partnerships were signed with municipalities and counties covering an estimated 42,000 refugees. To expand services from the border to urban settings where most refugees settled, hubs offering safe spaces, protection, education, and health support were established, benefiting over 137,000 people.

In **Bulgaria**, UNICEF worked with national, regional and local authorities and stakeholders, including to implement the 'EU Child Guarantee', pilot, a European Commission initiative to ensure the most vulnerable children in the European Union can access health, education, childcare, housing and nutrition. UNICEF signed an agreement with Burgas Municipality to support Ukrainian refugees.

In **Hungary**, agreements were signed with four municipalities designed to reach approximately 41,625 children and their families with services across all response sectors as well as 239 households with humanitarian cash assistance.

In **Slovakia**, formal cooperation was established with two municipalities, reaching close to 11,000 children from Ukraine.

In **Czech Republic**, UNICEF signed a cross-sectoral agreement with Municipality of Prague targeting over 30,000 children including through early learning, education, child protection, health, adolescent empowerment and integration and social cohesion among refugee children and host communities.

<sup>7</sup> UPSHIFT is a methodology of human-centred design aimed at supporting young people to become a force for positive social and economic change.

In **Belarus**, seven partnership agreements were signed ensuring provision of critical services. A work plan was also signed with authorities in Brest integrating emergency preparedness and response, focused on systems strengthening.

## PRIORITIES FOR 2023

Under the 2023 [Ukraine and Refugee Response HAC](#), UNICEF requires US\$229.5 million to support 2.3 million refugees from Ukraine, including 1.5 million children, arriving and hosted in countries across Europe. Funding will support the priorities outlined below.

 <p>Deliver country-specific humanitarian services and supplies, systems strengthening and reform, enhancement of national and local capacities, leveraging different resources and influencing local action.</p>	 <p>Partner with governments, regional authorities, municipalities, humanitarian partners, including UNHCR, and UNICEF National Committees to sustain and scale up child protection, education, early learning, health, nutrition, and social protection support for refugee children and families in 19 countries.</p>
 <p>Facilitate access to critical services and enhance national capacities to maintain a supportive environment for all refugee children, including vulnerable and minority groups such as Roma children.</p>	 <p>Work with stakeholders, expanding protection efforts and integration of children in education systems, strengthening UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots in strategic locations to offer multi-sectoral support, and enhancing cross-border cooperation.</p>
 <p>Accelerate access to inclusive education and local language learning and sustain access to online Ukrainian education.</p>	 <p>Prioritize adolescent engagement and empowerment as well as informal skills building given the high number of out-of-school adolescents.</p>
 <p>Expand cash assistance to prevent children and families' welfare from deteriorating further.</p>	 <p>Facilitate social cohesion using social listening mechanisms to address misconceptions.</p>
 <p>Continue to provide access to WASH and health care, including mandatory immunization, at border-crossing points and in areas where refugees settle.</p>	 <p>Engage with local authorities, civil society, academia, and young people to support cross-sectoral responses, advocate for equitable access regardless of origin, ensure AAP and provide information on services, rights, and entitlements.</p>
 <p>Integrate Ukrainian health workers, psychologists and education professionals ated in the response while the capacities of frontline workers will be strengthened in child protection, GBV, PSEA, and inclusive education.</p>	<p><b>Cross-sectoral approaches</b> to gender, early childhood and adolescent development, and disability will be key components, while UNICEF will locally adapt its support and leverage its comparative advantage in the supply chain, child protection monitoring, and data/knowledge management.</p>

## Human interest stories and external media

- UNICEF Moldova Article: [One can heal themselves by giving back.](#)
- UNICEF Romania Press Release: [A new play, learning and parenting centre opens its doors in Bucharest](#)
- UNICEF Romania Press Release: [Romanian and Ukrainian teachers, united for the education of refugee pupils](#)
- UNICEF Bulgaria: [Stories of children and families fleeing the war in Ukraine](#)
- UNICEF Bulgaria Press Release: [Ukrainian refugees join festive winter celebrations in Sofia](#)
- UNICEF Slovakia Article: [Let's run to the kindergarten!](#)
- UNICEF Czech Republic Press Release: [Vaccination campaign targeting Ukrainian refugees launched](#)
- UNICEF Italy Article: [Oleh, a "Life on the move" from Ukraine to Rome, flying on a skateboard](#)
- UNICEF Italy Article: [Nika, her gaze on Rome and the dream of a clear sky](#)

**Next Sitrep: 24 February 2023**

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**Annex A: Summary of programme results (1 March – 23 December 2022)<sup>(1,2,3,4,8)</sup>**

Sector	UNICEF Target 2022	Total Results - Outflow Countries								
		Girls	Boys	Women	Men	Disability	Total Result	Cumulative Progress	Change From Last HPM Table	▲▼
<b>PROGRAMME STRATEGY</b>										
# New formal partnerships established with national and subnational authorities to support the extension of quality social services to refugees	55						54	98%	7	▲
# Targeted population in municipalities receiving UNICEF technical assistance for system strengthening	1,986,546						1,095,071	55%	284 327	▲
<b>Health</b>										
# Children and women receiving primary health care services through UNICEF supported mechanisms (5)	429,800	24%	24%	52%		7%	433,701	101%	254 599	▲
<b>Child Protection</b>										
# Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	1,210,190	16%	23%	53%	8%	0.9%	846,033	70%	428 423	▲
# UASC identified	34,600	41%	59%			0%	32,148	93%	628	▲
#UASC who were provided with alternative care and/or reunified	23,605	51%	49%				10,840	46%	176	▲
# People with access to safe spaces, protection and support hub (6)	528,020	51%	49%			0.43%	1,232,641	233%	675 427	▲
#UNHCR/UNICEF operational blue dots (7)	65						40	62%	0	=
# Women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	633,000	30%	25%	45%		2.5%	311,896	49%	52 409	▲
# People with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers	653,930	20%	20%	36%	24%	7%	571,227	87%	116 963	▲
<b>Education</b>										
# Children accessing formal or NFE, including early learning	626,050	51%	49%			0.27%	588,778	94%	63 307	▲
# Of children receiving individual learning materials	786,150	51%	49%			0.21%	448,306	57%	124 566	▲
<b>WASH</b>										
# People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs	216,000	19%	17%	47%	17%	0.79%	100,350	46%	101	▲
# Reception centres and accommodation facilities supported to ensure appropriate access to wash facilities and services	52						56	108%	0	=
# Children accessing appropriate wash facilities and services in learning facilities and safe space	100,000	52%	48%			0.06%	55,617	56%	0	=
<b>Social Protection</b>										
# Households reached with UNICEF funded multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers	64,150						47,494	74%	406	▲
# Households benefitting from new or additional social transfers from governments with UNICEF technical assistance support (9)	200,620						65,759	33%	24 505	▲
<b>SBC/CE/AAP</b>										
# People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services	10,142,500	13%	11,0 %	49%	27%		10,500,187	104%	1 572 309	▲
# People participating in engagement actions for social and behaviour change	276,400	5%	2%	64%	28%		379,796	137%	130 963	▲
# Of people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms	146,270	10%	8%	67%	15%		152,398	104%	8 836	▲

(1) This HPM table reports both cumulative progress from beginning of the emergency and change from the last time of reporting.

(2) Quantity and disaggregation level of data increased progressively with the reinforcement of Monitoring & Reporting mechanisms at country level.

(3) Multisectoral Need Assessments continued in most neighbouring countries. The results affected targets for key interventions.

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

(5) This figure measures improved access to primary health care services for refugee mothers and children thanks to UNICEF direct support. Overall, it is a measure of accessibility of services, even if in most countries actual utilization is being captured.

(6) Several countries exceeded their target due to a rapid scale-up of partnerships in the second half of 2022 that increased access of people to safe spaces, protection or support hubs significantly. There were also some differences across countries in calculating the indicator as some were deviating from the standard definition. The change in reporting is due to changes in the method of calculating the HFI starting from October 2022 (break in time series), which has led to underreporting of the Blue Dot data in the HFI data.

(7) The variation in the number of established Blue Dots is due to their opening/closing depending on varying demand in different locations.

(8) The performance of some indicators below 50% was due to delays in implementation of signed partnerships and competing and shifting priorities of counterparts.  
 (9) The increase in achievement was due to a revision of the methods of calculation of the household based on updated data on average household size.

**Countries that contributed to progress by sector:** Programme Strategy: Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Rep, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia. **Health:** Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Slovakia. **Nutrition:** Bulgaria, Belarus, Croatia, Greece, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia. **Child Protection:** Bulgaria, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia. **Education:** Bulgaria, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia. **WASH:** Bulgaria, Belarus, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic; **Social Protection:** Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia. **SBC:** Bulgaria, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia

## Annex B: Funding status as of 31 December 2022 <sup>(1,2,3)</sup>

Sector	Requirements	ORE Funding Received	ORR Funding Received	Carry Forward	Available Fund	Funding Gap	
		A	C	B	D=A+B+C	\$	%
<b>Nutrition</b>	6,387,136	883,924	0	0	883,925	5,503,212	86%
<b>Health</b>	22,654,813	23,939,535	0	0	23,939,535		
<b>WASH</b>	18,337,782	5,976,213	0	0	5,976,213	12,361,569	67%
<b>CP, GBViE and PSEA</b>	108,642,871	133,324,282	0	0	133,324,282		
<b>Education</b>	135,260,555	136,078,378	1,500,000	0	137,578,378		
<b>Social Protection</b>	75,695,843	60,613,806	0	0	60,613,806	15,082,037	20%
<b>Cross-sectoral (SBC, CE, AAP)</b>	10,229,347	18,430,056	0	0	18,430,056		
<b>Funds received 2022</b>	<b>377,208,347</b>	<b>379,246,195</b>	<b>1,500,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>380,746,194</b>		

<sup>1</sup>Figures reported to FTS may differ due to in-process allocation of flexible funding. Sectoral breakdown is provisional. Resources are mobilized based on needs/gaps.

<sup>2</sup>Funding status as of 31 December 2022 is preliminary and subject to change after the financial year is closed in January 2023.

<sup>3</sup>Funding allocated to sectors based on the needs and commitments made.