

UNICEF Refugee response programme results

Since the start of the response, UNICEF has worked closely with national, regional and local authorities to expand services in child protection, education, health and nutrition, WASH, and social protection. UNICEF's work integrates social cohesion, gender and disability, and accountability to affected populations.

Child Protection

2,618

Children and caregivers accessed mental health and psychosocial support

309

Children received individual case management

Social Protection

425

Households reached with UNICEF funded multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers

WASH

1,993

People reached with critical WASH supplies

Education

683

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

Social and Behavior Change

198,976

People reached through messaging on prevention and access to services

26,215

People participated in engagement actions for social and behavioural change

Acronym: WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.

Sources: UNICEF (as of 15/02/2023)

In the spotlight

Building on its existing programmes and partnerships and the well-established national systems in Belarus, UNICEF was able to integrate a tailored, Ukraine refugee response by providing critical hygiene supplies, psychosocial support and education to children, young people, their families and caregivers. Strategies focused on advancing the humanitarian-development nexus approach, which strengthened the national system and expanded partnerships. Steps included integrating the refugee response into existing work plans and developing new partnerships at the national and subnational levels to provide critical services to the most vulnerable children and their families.

In developing broader protection responses, UNICEF worked closely with Brest and Gomel Oblast administrations to build the response based on existing practices, addressing urgent needs in supplies, including hygiene kits, stationery and school uniforms for children, mental health and psychosocial support, education and referrals to case management. Over 550 refugee families with children were supported and referred to available services.

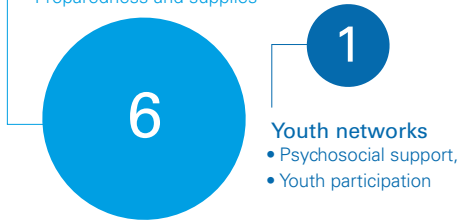


Psychosocial support to Ukrainian Refugee girl at child-friendly space in Brest.

Delivering through partnerships

Central and local Government partnerships

- Protection profiling
- UNICEF/UNHCR Blue Dots, Psychosocial support, Education, Health services
- Preparedness and supplies



Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

- Case management
- Psychosocial support
- Child friendly spaces



Source: UNICEF (as of 15/02/2023)

UNICEF signed 10 agreements with governmental and civil society organizations to ensure that the critical needs of Ukrainian refugees were addressed in an integrated manner. The Belarus Red Cross was a key partner, using its wide network to undertake needs assessments and support the delivery of a rapid response for refugees. This partnership delivered vital services such as protection profiling, provision of critical hygiene supplies, psychosocial support sessions for parents and children, referrals to relevant services, and information points through UNICEF/UNHCR Blue Dots and child-friendly spaces.

UNICEF also partnered strategically with the Belarus Post Office, leveraging its vast distribution network, with more than 3,000 offices nationwide, to enable partners to guarantee delivery of cash transfers to vulnerable refugees in the most remote areas of the country.

Stories about our work



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Bogdan and his friends recreating at the summer camp.

In September 2022, Tatyana and her 10-year old son Vadim fled the war in Ukraine and settled temporarily in neighbouring Belarus. *“How can you fit your whole life in one suitcase?”* Tatyana asks with confusion, not expecting an answer. *“We left everything in Mariupol. We had to pack up very quickly. I took a few of the children’s possessions and mine. Inevitably, we left all school supplies behind.”*

Vadim’s family could eventually access a UNICEF-supported cash transfer scheme and they used the money to buy warm clothes and school supplies. *“Warm clothes are the most relevant items these days,”* Tatyana adds. *“We bought a warm hat, jacket and proper winter boots. I am glad Vadim can go to school and learn with his peers.”*

[Read more about this story here >>](#)

Delivering through national systems

With multiple stakeholders, relatively strong economies and established national government structures in refugee hosting countries, UNICEF adopted an approach of responding to humanitarian crisis using national systems. This involved working with Government at national and sub-national levels to make sure established, but overstretched national services and systems, were expanded to host refugees - bridging humanitarian and development interventions. As a result, immediate emergency needs were met while ensuring longer-term investment in systems to support vulnerable populations, which allowed for an expanded humanitarian response and helped build systems that were more resistant to crises.

Looking ahead

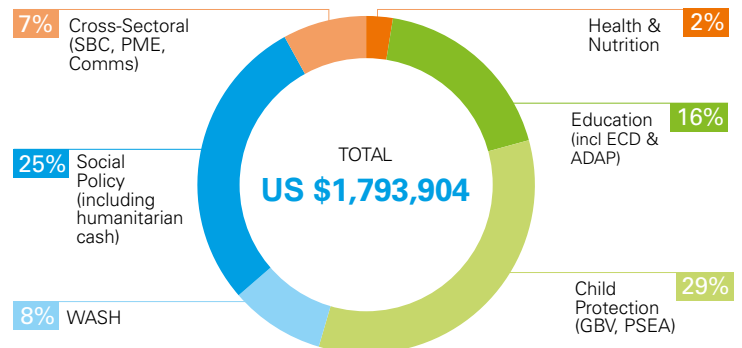
In 2023, UNICEF in Belarus will continue working with all partners to strengthen social systems so that they can prepare for and respond to existing and any new emergencies. This will include developing national and subnational contingency plans, identifying needs, delivering supplies, and providing psychosocial support, case management, education, youth-friendly health services, early childhood development services and counselling for refugees and other vulnerable population in Belarus.

UNICEF will strengthen outreach and identification of the needs of the refugees in partnership with Belarus Red Cross and other UN agencies. UNICEF will continue providing individual and group psychosocial support and recreational activities in the child-friendly spaces and strengthen referral and case management.

In education, UNICEF will work with the Ministry of Education to identify out of school refugee children and support them to integrate in the schools and support online education to continue education curriculum of Ukraine in parallel. In health, UNICEF will support relevant partners in providing early childhood identification and consultation services to younger children and youth-friendly health services to adolescents and youth. Parenting support and counselling will be provided to all families, especially to those with children with developmental difficulties and disabilities.

UNICEF will continue improving access to information via UNICEF/UNHCR blue dots and information points in the bordering and major transit corridors together with other partners to maintain access to information, key supplies and access to legal, psychosocial support and other critical assistance, referral and services. Lastly, efforts will also focus on social cohesion and integration of refugee children and adolescents to build a safe, integrated and inclusive environment in Belarus. For additional information on **UNICEF’s 2023 Humanitarian response for children outside of Ukraine** please visit the UNICEF Ukraine [2023 Humanitarian Action for Children](#).

Funding requirements for 2023



Acronyms: ECD: Early Childhood Development, ADAP: Adolescent Development And Participation, GBV: Gender-based violence, PSEA: Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Source: UNICEF

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