

A Ukrainian refugee boy makes paper flowers at a UNICEF-supported learning and play space in Golden Sands, a seaside town in Bulgaria, hosting a large number of Ukrainian refugees.



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Europe and Central Asia Region (ECAR)

Ukraine Refugee Response in Neighboring Countries

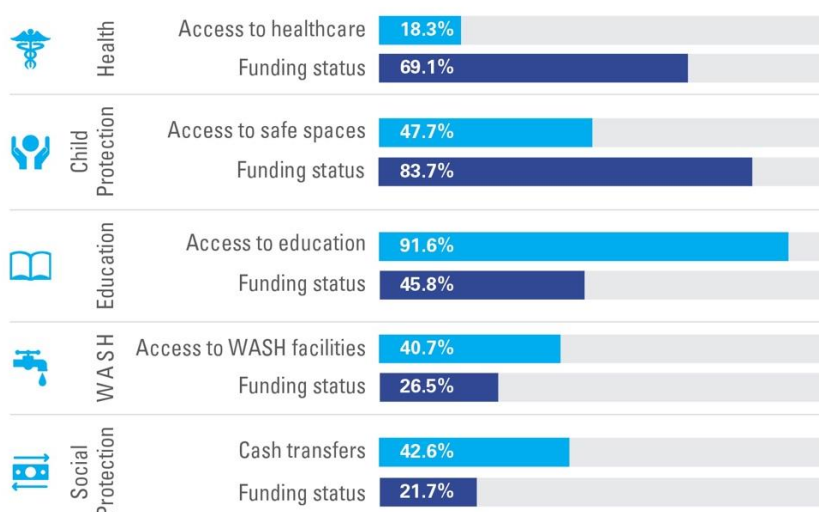
Humanitarian Situation Report No. 21 – 2023

Reporting period: 1 January–24 April 2023

Highlights

- The war in Ukraine continues to trigger refugee movements, with more than 8 million refugees recorded across Europe and just over 5 million registered for national protection schemes. Access to longer-term accommodation remains a key challenge in the Ukraine refugee response, limiting refugees' access to education, work, and social services and increasing the risks of exploitation and human trafficking.
- Since the beginning of the year, 552,862 children and caregivers have accessed mental health and psychosocial support and 49,334 women and children have received primary health care services through UNICEF-support mechanisms, and 598,261 children have benefitted from formal and non-formal education including early learning. Nearly 8.4 million people have been reached through messaging on prevention and access to services. 67,661 households were reached with cash transfers through an existing government system with UNICEF technical assistance.
- So far, 56 per cent of the targeted number of new formal partnerships have been established with national and subnational authorities to support the extension of quality social services for refugees.
- 31 out of the targeted 38 UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots are currently operational across refugee-hosting countries, reflecting current needs.

UNICEF Progress in Key Areas



For Health and Child protection, the funding status includes carryover from 2022, which represents 87.5% of the total funding received, explaining the high status of funding. The implementation however, started in Q1 of 2023, thus results are still to be reported. The results reported under education, cash and WASH include results achieved with funding committed in 2022.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

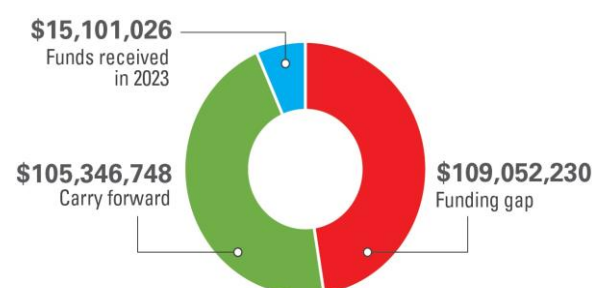
8,174,189 refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe since 24 February 2022 (UNHCR data as of 18 April 2023)

2,289,177 children in need of humanitarian assistance (UNICEF 2023 HAC)

1,546,259 children to be reached by UNICEF's response in refugee-hosting countries. (UNICEF 2023 HAC)

UNICEF Appeal 2023 US\$229.5 million*

Funding status as of 26 April 2023
US\$120.4 million



*Funding ask reflects the requirements for Pillar 2 (Refugee Response) under UNICEF's 2023 Ukraine and Refugee Response HAC appeal of US\$1,058,740,404.

The overall HAC funding gap 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.

Regional Funding Overview & Partnerships

In line with the UNHCR [Refugee Response Plan](#) (January–December 2023) and under Pillar 2 (refugee response) of the 2023 [Ukraine and Refugee Response Humanitarian Action for Children](#) (HAC), UNICEF requires US\$229.5 million to respond to the continued humanitarian needs of refugee children and families from Ukraine and impacted host communities in Europe until the end of 2023. As of 26 April, UNICEF has US\$120.4 million available. This includes US\$105.3 million carried forward from 2022 and US\$15.1 million newly received in 2023. Of this, 72 per cent has already been utilized to meet the critical needs in the first quarter of the year.

Jointly with UNHCR, other United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners, UNICEF continues to support a multi-sectoral humanitarian and systems strengthening response and leverages partnerships established through long-standing country programmes, relationships with governments, and a strong network of National Committees. UNICEF works closely with national governments, local authorities, municipalities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) while also engaging in multi-country partnerships with [Eurocities](#) and the [World Organization of the Scouts Movement](#).

Regional Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The ongoing war and resulting power outages and other service disruptions in Ukraine continue to trigger refugee movements, with more than 8 million refugees recorded across Europe and just over 5 million registered for national protection schemes¹ by 18 April 2023. Border crossings remain pendular. Between the beginning of 2023 and early March, around 2.2 million border crossings were noted from Ukraine to neighbouring countries, whereas 1.7 million border crossings were recorded back to Ukraine, based on the government's data.² More recently in April, border crossings back to Ukraine increased, most likely because of the orthodox Easter holidays on 16 April.³ According to the recent UNHCR Regional Protection Analysis #2 (19 April),⁴ nearly a quarter (22 per cent) of refugee households had at least one member with a specific need. These households encountered difficulties meeting their needs in host countries, leading to increased protection risks and potential influence on return decisions, even in sub-optimal conditions in Ukraine. Access to longer-term accommodation in host countries also remains a key challenge in the Ukraine refugee response, limiting access to rights including education, work, and social services and increasing vulnerability to protection risks such as exploitation and human trafficking.⁵

Regional Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination, and Strategy

UNICEF continues to work closely with national, regional, and local authorities to expand existing services in child protection, education, health and nutrition, basic needs, WASH, and social protection. Multi-sectoral humanitarian response for children and families needing protection and support is provided through [UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots](#) as well as through local systems, for those settled in host communities. UNICEF's work integrates social cohesion, gender and disability, and accountability to affected populations (AAP). At national level, UNICEF works with relevant line ministries to strengthen national protection systems and prevention and response to gender-based violence (GBV), child trafficking, and sexual exploitation and abuse, provision of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and education, including early education and non-formal education, especially for adolescents. In addition, UNICEF provides policy advice, technical guidance and financial support to strengthen the capacities of national and local systems to deliver humanitarian and nexus interventions.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

CHILD PROTECTION

Overall, 552,862 children and caregivers (48 per cent of those targeted) accessed MHPSS. In addition, 508,688 people (68 per cent) accessed safe spaces, protection, and support hubs. 383,901 people (63 per cent) benefited from safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers. There are now 31 operational UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots (82 per cent) in the targeted countries.⁶

In **Poland**, 454,636 children and caregivers received MHPSS through child protection, education, and health interventions. 1,736 children deprived of parental care, including unaccompanied and separated and evacuated children, were provided with alternative care services, MHPSS, medical treatment, food, and other essential supplies. In addition, 148,583 girls, boys and women accessed GBV risk mitigation, prevention and response while 34,454 children received individual case management services through UNICEF-supported interventions in the Blue Dots and other community-based social service mechanisms. 331,396 people had access to protection and support hubs across

¹ UNHCR. Operational Data Portal as of 18 April 2023. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

² UNHCR, Ukraine Situation Flash Update, #42, 10 March 2023.

³ UNHCR, Ukraine Situation Flash Update, # 44, 6 April 2023.

⁴ Based on surveys, focus group discussions and border monitoring conducted between October 2022 and January 2023 in Hungary, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia.

⁵ UNHCR, Displacement patterns, protection risks and needs of refugees from Ukraine, Regional Protection Analysis #2 Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania and Slovakia, April 2023.

⁶ The variation in number of established UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots is due to their opening/closing depending on varying demand in different locations.

Poland. More than 320,046 people continued receiving support through the seven functioning Blue Dots. 322,823 people were also provided with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers.

In **Moldova**, 65,769 refugee and local children and their caregivers were assisted through partnerships with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and Chisinau Municipality. 3,021 children and their caregivers accessed MHPSS services through 11 Blue Dots while 2,952 children, including those with disabilities, and their caregivers were reached with multi-sectoral assistance and protection activities in community-based safe spaces. 27,773 women, girls and boys were reached through GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions, of which 374 girls and women accessed GBV response services and prevention. 28,999 individuals accessed safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers.

In **Romania**, 5,835 unaccompanied and separated children had been identified and registered in the national child protection system as of 24 April 2023. 5,662 children were provided with alternative care or reunified, while direct support was provided to 173 children in institutional care evacuated from Ukraine. 9,176 children registered in the child protection system received individual case management. In addition, 4,321 caregivers and children were supported with MHPSS while UNICEF and partners reached 36,163 people with access to at least one service in safe spaces and support hubs.

In **Bulgaria**, 21,393 adults and 5,019 children were supported with child protection interventions, including 18,804 adults and 3,856 children supported by Blue Dots. 2,511 adults and 1,069 children were provided with MHPSS, and 84 (38 boys and 46 girls) children were identified as unaccompanied and separated and received multi-sectoral support.

In **Hungary**, 3,587 children and their parents/caregivers were provided with MHPSS, 469 children received individual case management, and 6,557 people were able to access safe, protection and support hubs. In addition, 1,938 people had safe access to channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers. Child helpline services were strengthened by training 30 professionals to assist Ukrainian refugees while the child helpline supported 684 girls, 501 boys, and 813 parents/caregivers. A national social media campaign to promote the helpline reached 1.1 million people.

In **Slovakia**, UNICEF increased the number of Blue Dots and safe spaces from three to four, with the Blue Dots supporting approximately 14,000 children and caregivers with multiple services since the beginning of 2023. More than 400 parents of children with disabilities received peer counselling through UNICEF's new partnership with the Platform of Families with Children with Disabilities. UNICEF's comprehensive MHPSS programme reached operational presence in all eight regions, with 79 service points reaching 40,760 children and families through hotline and face-to-face modalities.

In **Czech Republic**, 37,067 children and caregivers were reached with psychosocial support (PSS) and 22,229 people had access to safe spaces, protection, and support hubs. 530 children, including Roma children, received individual case management through civil society partners. GBV risk mitigation, prevention and response interventions reached 3,756 women, girls while 4 053 children and adults were able to access safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers.

In **Belarus**, more than 2,730 individuals (21 with disabilities), including 1,118 children, benefited from MHPSS while online platforms and social networks provided information on services for refugees, covering more than 45,800 individuals. Around 180 children (106 girls) benefitted from child friendly spaces and more than 100 individuals, including 31 children received individual case management support. Outreach capacity was strengthening for 20 professionals from implementing partners. More than 40 staff overseeing migration and citizenship as well as in border service were trained on child safeguarding principles to ensure their safety, identify boys and girls who need help, and establish referral pathways for services and support.

Other refugee-hosting countries: In **Croatia**, 2,996 women, boys and girls were able to access GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response measures. Of these people, 2,911 (312 children) received individual case management during the reporting period. In **Greece**, 462 children and caregivers accessed MHPSS. In **Italy**, 437 children were reached with direct child protection and MHPSS support and 161 women, girls and boys with in-person GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions. In **Montenegro**, 1,447 refugee children and caregivers benefited from MHPSS, and 717 women, girls and boys received information on how to access GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions. In **Serbia**, 54 children and caregivers participated in recreational activities and received PSS. In **Türkiye**, 813 people (606 children and 207 adults) living in Ankara child home sites and two hotels in Antalya received basic child protection services.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

Through UNICEF-supported mechanisms, 49,334 women and children (18 per cent of the target)⁷ accessed primary health care while 7,409 children and caregivers received infant and young child (IYCF) counselling sessions.

In **Poland**, UNICEF provided primary health care services to almost 9,500 children and women through health check-ups in nurseries, schools and medical centres. In addition, more than 77,500 women and children were able to access municipal health care services through the delivery of essential health supplies. Over 69,000 children and caregivers in

⁷ Unique beneficiaries.

preschools and primary schools, dormitories, and hostels benefited from warm meals/complementary food through UNICEF-supported mechanisms. Nearly 3,000 hours of counseling on IYCF in emergencies were provided to mothers in 11 maternity hospitals and 1,300 health professionals were trained to support mothers in proper nutrition of children in crisis.

In **Moldova**, UNICEF extended the partnership agreement with the National Health Insurance Company, covering primary health care, specialized health services, and hospital services for Ukrainian refugee children (0 to 18 years old). 3,791 parents and child guardians were also reached with health, nutrition, immunization information materials/messages while more than 1,500 caregivers received IYCF counselling sessions through UNICEF-supported mechanisms. In addition, 100 refugee adolescents benefited from the 24/7 health support hotline, including MHPSS.

In **Romania**, 4,780 children and women accessed primary health care and over 11,412 caregivers were reached with health information services with UNICEF support.

In **Bulgaria**, in Varna region, 72 children and women received primary health care services through UNICEF-supported mechanisms and 99 health check-ups. 17 women received IYCF counselling sessions.

In **Hungary**, within the partnership with the Municipality of Debrecen, 379 children and women received primary health care services through UNICEF-supported mechanisms and 290 children and women received secondary/tertiary health care services.

In **Slovakia**, 3,680 unique beneficiaries (851 girls, 862 boys and 1967 women) received primary health care services through the Rovniankova clinic in Bratislava, the capital city that hosts around 30,000 refugees. Altogether, in the reporting period, the clinic provided 5,253 primary health care services. An additional 1,609 beneficiaries were reached through health information and promotion activities. In addition, a vaccination campaign was launched during World Immunization week to address low immunization rates among Ukrainian refugee children. 2,250 people were provided with health information services within the Blue Dots. 877 parents and caregivers received IYCF counseling.

In **Czech Republic**, more than 30,000 children and women from refugee and marginalized Czech communities benefitted from quality health services through the establishment of 10 outpatient centres for children and adults in six hospitals and 25 general practitioner facilities across the country. Supported by UNICEF, 56 Ukrainian-speaking and bilingual health mediators were trained and employed by the National Institute of Public Health to implement health promotion programmes in 14 regions. 2,768 Ukrainian and Czech adolescents were also provided with information, knowledge and skills to prevent HIV and other sexually transmitted illnesses.

Other refugee-hosting countries: In **Croatia**, the Med-info centre for Ukrainian women and children in Zagreb, which provides information on access and referrals to health care services, provided 301 individual services to children and caregivers from Ukraine (1,256 in total). In **Montenegro**, 641 refugees were provided with primary health services and 27 mothers from Ukraine were supported with IYCF counseling in the primary health centres. In **Serbia**, two refugee parents/caregivers of two children under 5 years in the asylum centre 'Vranje' received parenting support on the care and development of their children and 10 primary health services were provided to those children and caregivers.

EDUCATION AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD)

Overall, 598,261 children (92 per cent of the target) accessed formal and non-formal education, including early learning. In addition, 491,571 children (65 per cent) received individual learning materials.

In **Poland**, UNICEF provided access to education materials for more than 420,000 children, as well as continued capacity building for around 15,000 teachers and educators. Non-formal education services reached 59,000 children while capacity development on multicultural integration and student civic engagement in over 200 public schools benefitted almost 400 teachers and school principals and over 37,000 students.

In **Moldova**, UNICEF reached 19,542 refugee and Moldovan children and adolescents through formal and non-formal education, including early learning. Moreover, over 13,000 preschool-aged refugee and Moldovan children from 61 municipal early education centres received early childhood education kits, LEGO and DUPLO boxes, learning materials, and educational and cognitive toys provided by UNICEF and LEGO Foundation through the partnership with Chisinau Municipality.

In **Romania**, 5,284 Ukrainian refugee children accessed formal education and are officially progressively enrolled in the national education system. Fifty-eight learning hubs are operating with UNICEF support, including 23 play, learning and parenting hubs, 24 education hubs, and 11 youth hubs, extending access to non-formal learning opportunities to 2,250 children and youths. UNICEF also procured learning support materials, including 353 laptops, to 1,536 children, as well as textbooks and learning materials for 1,140 children and stationery and school bags for 5,660 children. Additionally, 3,000 multilingual reading support materials for young children and 5,000 multilingual conversation guides for adolescents, teachers and adults were distributed with UNICEF support. Education information desks have been set up in the main refugee information centres.

In **Bulgaria**, the Blue Dots in Ruse, Varna, Burgas and Dobrich delivered non-formal learning and socialization activities for 182 children and adolescents. Learning and play hubs engaged over 5,366 children aged 3 to 17 in regular learning, sports and inclusion events. 5,008 refugee children (2,495 girls, 2,513 boys) were provided with learning materials,

including access to the Internet, to continue online education. Over 5,280 three-year-old children in hosting kindergartens were reached with an ECD kit in a cartoon and over 28,400 children aged 7 to 18 in hosting schools were provided with educational supplies to foster social inclusion.

In **Hungary**, UNICEF partner Dorcas Ministries provided access to formal and non-formal education to 402 children while providing learning materials to 374 children. UNICEF supported access to play-based learning and development activities for kindergarten teachers in Budapest, Debrecen and Győr benefiting 531 children. UNICEF has also partnered with civil society organizations to support inclusion of Ukrainian refugee children in public education including language learning, academic catch-up sessions.

In **Slovakia**, the National Institute of Education and Youth (NIVAM) and its 16 regional coordinators supported by UNICEF continue to support enrolment and inclusion of Ukrainian children in schools across Slovakia. From January to April, 938 schools, 3,018 teachers and 2,020 Ukrainian children across Slovakia received support. The regional coordinators assisted with school enrolment, including support from psychologists and interpreters to schools and families, reaching 1,468 people, and distributed language textbooks for learning Slovak as a second language to 12,799 Ukrainian children. Play and learn corners were established in 13 schools, benefiting 3,891 school-aged children. In addition, 26 play and learning hubs (including three new ones) across 16 municipalities in Slovakia welcomed 5,746 young children.

In **Czech Republic**, 55,356 children and adolescents, including 312 refugee children with disabilities and over 24,000 vulnerable children in the host communities, were assisted with their learning, development and integration through UNICEF-supported interventions such as capacity building of educators, non-formal education and early learning programmes, and a back-to-school campaign. UNICEF also actively contributed to evidence-based policies and strategic decision-making through the collection, analysis and use of data in the area of education and learning among the refugee children.

In **Belarus**, 70 boys and girls were provided with tablets so that they can access the online Ukraine education curriculum in addition to the support they get through local schools.

Other refugee-hosting countries: In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, 22 children were reached with non-formal education and individual learning materials distributed by UNICEF. In **Croatia**, in partnership with CSOs and the Ministry of Education, three webinars for school professionals were conducted and one online mentoring meeting with teachers was held, benefitting 193 participants. In **Italy**, 116 new Ukrainian students were registered on the AKELIUS e-learning digital platform; 343 students participated in 11 Junior Achievement innovation and creativity camps in six cities; and 70 Ukrainian refugee adolescents and young people participated in the learn-to-earn 'Cashme' challenge on the Mygrants digital platform, developing job-oriented hard and soft skills through online modules. In **Montenegro**, 505 Ukrainian children are currently enrolled in formal education and 120 refugee children were reached with non-formal learning support such as Montessori learning, art and music classes, and Ukrainian Saturday school for first graders, as well learning materials. In **Serbia**, an ECD emergency training package was rolled out for 26 frontline workers, service providers and CSOs who support refugee and migrant children and their caregivers. A capacity development and learning support programme also started in 16 schools implementing the learning clubs benefitting 309 Ukrainian and other refugee and migrant children. In addition, 78 teachers were supported through different capacity-building interventions.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Overall, in targeted countries, 16,118 people (40 per cent of the target) were able to access sufficient safe water for drinking and domestic needs in targeted countries. Meanwhile, 35,659 people (119 per cent)⁸ accessed safe and appropriate sanitation facilities and 30,844 people (41 per cent) were reached with critical WASH supplies.

In **Poland**, UNICEF provided access to hygiene supplies and services to more than 177,000 children and caregivers in collective centres.

In **Moldova**, 23,900 refugees were able to access safe and appropriate sanitation facilities in refugee accommodation centres while 23,935 refugees received hygiene kits through UNICEF support. 1,820 winter clothing kits were distributed among refugee children aged 0 to 12 years. UNICEF also installed 17 WASH sanitary containers at critical border crossing points.

In **Romania**, UNICEF procured 27 toilet containers for partners supporting refugees and other vulnerable people, which are also disability-friendly, while winter clothes were provided in 2023 to 18,571 children across the country.

In **Bulgaria**, as part of UNICEF's winterization support, 1,855 children received winter clothing and 1,557 adults and children were provided with WASH and dignity kits.

In **Belarus**, new hygiene supplies were purchased and compiled based on the beneficiary feedback and needs. These supplies were distributed to 1,470 individuals, including 509 children.

⁸ The overachievement in this indicator is due to increased border movements of refugees between Moldova and Ukraine which resulted in higher usage of the sanitation facilities in Molodva.

Other refugee-hosting countries: In **Croatia**, hygiene supplies were provided to 103 unaccompanied and separated children living in the biggest collective accommodation centre for unaccompanied children from Ukraine and 30 caregivers placed in a collective accommodation centre in Split. In **Serbia**, 70 girls and women from Ukraine in private accommodation received dignity/hygiene kits. In **Türkiye**, 1,460 children hygiene kits were procured and delivered to children and families in Elazig temporary accommodation centre run by the Turkish Red Crescent.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

Overall, 4,385 households (4.6 per cent of the target) were reached with UNICEF-funded multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers. In addition, 67,661 households (43 per cent of the target) benefitted from new and additional social transfers from governments with UNICEF technical support.

In **Poland**, through UNICEF's partnerships with municipalities, 25,944 children and adults benefited from cash assistance interventions supported by UNICEF in Wroclaw, Bialystok, Gdansk, Gdynia, Poznan, and Krakow. Households with children with disabilities, children and families under temporary care arrangements, and families with financial difficulties are the main target population for cash and social assistance.

In **Moldova**, UNICEF's contribution to cash assistance for refugees, which was UNICEF's largest financial contribution to the humanitarian crisis in Moldova in 2022, came to an end. A cumulative total of 97,338 people had benefited from this initiative since it was launched in April 2022. UNICEF continued to provide technical support to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection for its social protection system reform, which also aims to define and validate new eligibility criteria for cash assistance to refugees and the minimum package of services for children, thus aligning the reform with the roll-out of temporary protection for refugees in Moldova. In addition, UNICEF and WFP cash assistance for the most vulnerable families with children during the winter period reached 56,000 households during its six-month period, ending in April 2023.

In **Romania**, UNICEF and the World Bank agreed to join efforts in strengthening the shock-responsiveness of the national social protection system joint advocacy and technical assistance package will be shared with the government and key stakeholders by July 2023. In April, UNICEF teamed up with UNHCR and IOM and provided recommendations to the government to facilitate and ease the processes for the Ukrainian families and children to register and apply for humanitarian assistance provided by the state.

In **Bulgaria**, UNICEF continued to compliment the cash assistance programmes implemented by UNHCR and other partners by providing additional funding to its implementing partners to set up an emergency or vulnerability fund that provides material and cash assistance to vulnerable refugee families with children to meet emergency needs. In addition, UNICEF scaled up cash assistance programmes that provide pre-paid vouchers for food and non-food items and started the provision of multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers to vulnerable Ukrainian refugee families with children.

In **Hungary**, on February 2023, UNICEF, through its partnership with Zahony Municipality, provided the second installment of unconditional multi-purpose cash grant to 239 households, including refugee and host families with children residing in Zahony. A total of 374 children benefitted from the cash grants. Preparation to roll out an unconditional multi-purpose cash support to 3,500 refugee families with children in Budapest started within partnership with the Municipality of Budapest and Metropolitan Social Foundation.

In **Slovakia**, through UNICEF support, a winterization payment was made to 1,548 people, including 624 children, and the Carer's Grant reached 155 people, including families with children, with a once-off benefit. UNICEF assessed an additional 181 people to determine their eligibility for support through a civil society partner. This was the final batch of beneficiaries that will be supported within currently agreed schemes. The cash scheme beneficiaries' database has been transferred to the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

In **Czech Republic**, the 'Financial Assistance Programme for Ukrainian Refugee Children with Disabilities with Temporary Protection in the Czech Republic' was launched on 19 April 2023 to support refugee children with disabilities. The pre-registration process was started along with an information campaign, which reached 62 regional branches of the Czech Red Cross, 276 social service providers participating in supporting Ukrainian refugees, 131 patients' organizations, and 162 cooperating contact people in organizations helping Ukrainian refugees.

In **Belarus**, 415 households with 1,267 individuals, including 639 children, benefitted from an unconditional one-time cash support. Additional cash vouchers were provided to more than 80 newly arrived families in Brest and Homel regions to meet their immediate needs.

Other refugee-hosting countries: In **Croatia**, social welfare centres approved 6,848 once-off benefits amounting to € 2,081,057.80 and 176 guaranteed minimum benefits. In **Georgia**, 3,181 children were supported with one-time cash assistance, with an additional 790 children remaining on the waiting list for support as resources have been exhausted. In **Serbia**, UNICEF delivered humanitarian cash transfer assistance to 173 Ukrainian and other refugee and migrant households in Serbia with a total of 198 children (97 girls and 111 boys).

SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE (SBC)

UNICEF and partners reached 8,368,849 people (85 per cent of target) through messaging on prevention and access to services. Furthermore, 146,518 people (19.5 per cent) participated in engagement actions for social and behaviour change.

In **Poland**, almost 1.4 million refugees received information on essential services for health, education, and child protection (with 50 per cent women, 8 per cent men, 21 per cent girls and 21 per cent boys). Gdansk's campaign 'Look for what unites us' reached more than 500,000 Ukrainians and Polish people with messages on solidarity. A dedicated Spilno website was visited by over 60,000 refugees from Ukraine living in Poland.

In **Moldova**, over 57,000 refugees and Moldovans were reached online and offline with key messages on services supported by UNICEF, including key information on the temporary protection of refugees. Furthermore, 2,345 people were engaged in various SBC activities, including end-of-project assessments.

In **Romania**, 982,821 people were reached with messaging on prevention and access to services, including social protection, health, nutrition and education. 8,469 people were engaged in SBC activities.

In **Bulgaria**, 843,388 refugees and host community members were reached with SBC messaging on prevention and access to services and 33,106 people (online and offline) were engaged in SBC community actions.

In **Slovakia**, more than 7,500 Ukrainians were reached by 62 articles on services for refugees, events, and other topics of interest through UNICEF's partnership with the Ukrainian language version 'Noviny' of the national newspaper, The Slovak Spectator. To facilitate the inclusion of Ukrainian refugees, 2,847 people were engaged in local social activities including empathy walks, thematic workshops and local level decision-making processes. 850,971 people were reached with messaging on prevention and access to services, including through UNICEF's MHPSS campaign.

In **Czech Republic**, 1.17 million people were reached by a communication campaign to foster social cohesion via the inclusion of refugee and other vulnerable children in the Czech educational system. A back-to-school campaign, created by a Ukrainian director with participation of refugee youths and families, reached 730,909 people. A vaccination campaign reached over 2 million refugees and host populations.

in **Belarus**, 27,141 people were reached with messages on cash and voucher support, hygiene kits, and vital services provided through Red Cross, socio-pedagogical centres, youth health centres and other partners.

Other refugee-hosting countries: In **Croatia**, 682,909 people benefitted from messaging on prevention and access to services. In **Italy**, 35,395 youth people (18 to 24 years) were reached with messages to encourage Ukrainian teens to subscribe to UNA1, the Ukrainian virtual teenage influencer. In **Montenegro**, 2,480 people were reached with messaging on access to social and child protection, legal, health and education services. In **Serbia**, 385 people were reached through messaging on prevention and access to services.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATION (AAP)

Overall, 73,329 people (45 per cent) shared their concerns and asked questions through established feedback and complaints mechanisms.

In **Poland**, almost 40,000 refugees provided feedback and shared concerns through Spilno Hubs and associated channels, Blue Dots, online and offline outlets. Over 3,000 people took part in the polls on various topics about psychological support, medical assistance, adaptation, and socialization conducted on the Spilno social media channels.

In **Moldova**, over 11,470 refugees and local people shared their feedback, concerns, and asked questions through an established feedback mechanism.

In **Romania**, 7,847 people shared their concerns and asked questions through regular, established feedback mechanisms of UNICEF's partners. UNICEF launched a social media campaign to enhance social cohesion by promoting inclusive and welcoming attitudes identified through a social cohesion survey of 1,000 participants.

In **Bulgaria**, 1,606 people shared their feedback through established mechanisms and more than 60 refugees were consulted on their needs and the relevance of Blue Dot services as part of a UNICEF-UNHCR Blue Dots analysis.

In **Hungary**, UNICEF organized an induction training on AAP for all partners in February. The induction included a presentation by the regional Emergency Specialist on AAP in the context of the refugee response.

In **Slovakia**, 1,520 beneficiaries used UNICEF's established feedback mechanisms to share their concerns or ask questions on available support services – in most cases related to child protection and social policy.

In **Czech Republic**, UNICEF supported five local CSOs to formalize and strengthen feedback mechanisms. UNICEF also partnered with national and local government authorities to unify and/or connect their multiple platforms to enable better analytics and stronger connection between feedback and action.

Other refugee-hosting countries: in **Belarus**, more than 250 individuals, including 160 women, provided their feedback highlighting issues and making recommendations on cash and voucher support, information needs, and the content of the hygiene kits distributed to them. In **Montenegro**, 535 people (80 per cent women) were able to share

their concerns and questions through a feedback and complaints helpline established by a Ukrainian women's NGO. In **Serbia**, 53 people shared their concerns and asked questions through established feedback mechanisms.

ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT AND PARTICIPATION (ADAP)

149,003 Ukrainians were supported through youth engagement mechanisms of whom 124,888 were children and young people. Communication actions and social media interactions were translated into an estimated reach of 1.3 million people, including adolescents and youths, across the different partner platforms.

In **Poland**, in partnership with municipalities, UNICEF engaged around 37,400 adolescents from Ukraine and Poland in education and recreational activities as well as well-being and MHPSS. In partnership with the Polish Scouts and Guides, more than 34,000 adolescents benefited from non-formal life skills development programmes, including winter camps and after school activities. Additionally, almost 23,000 adolescents benefited from the work of information points coordinated by Scouts; such an extensive outreach was possible thanks to almost 2,400 volunteers engaged as partners in all interventions.

In **Moldova**, 2,500 adolescents were trained in local mobilization, business development, and startup management and implementation through the UPSHIFT social innovation programme. U-report engaged 15,000 u-reporters in online consultations, chatbots and livestreams across Facebook and Viber. Working directly with nine youth centres, UNICEF engaged 1,500 young volunteers in capacity building, outreach and peer to peer sessions reaching 10,000 Moldovan and refugee adolescents and youth.

In **Romania**, 512 Ukrainian adolescents received MHPSS, 158 received primary health services, 1,472 accessed formal education, and 1,195 adolescents were engaged in non-formal activities, including language learning and skills development. The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation (the Award) launched its project, and 50 adolescents had a taste of the project's offerings during 'Buddy-Up' events in București, Brașov, and Cluj-Napoca. The Scouts' Bucharest EDU Hub organized activities for 240 adolescents and additionally hosted activities held by Junior Achievement, Youth for Youth and other NGOs. Sports for development activities are being developed to further facilitate integration and the U-report approach has been extended to Ukrainian adolescents.

In **Bulgaria**, 186 Ukrainian and local youth were engaged in non-formal education activities through the Stand By Me partnership between UNICEF and the Award, delivering around three weeks of volunteering, skills development, and physical activity. 111 Ukrainian and local children and youth were also introduced to the Scouts movement and 252 children and youth participated in civic engagement activities such as volunteering or community engagement. 693 children and youth participated in UPLIFT innovation camps and competitions, generating 23,166 learning hours of entrepreneurial content. Adolescent development and participation kits facilitated the engagement of 2,300 adolescents in non-formal education and skills-building activities across the country.

In **Hungary**, through the partnership with Junior Achievement, UNICEF supported access to formal and non-formal education for 467 children, including skills development programmes for children and adolescents, and supported access to learning material for 306 children. 368 Ukrainian youth and children were supported through the partnership with the Scouts that operates in refugee centres, shelters and schools.

In **Slovakia**, 2,072 Ukrainian children and youth were reached by activities implemented by the Scouts, and through the partnership with Junior Achievement, 1,367 adolescents and young people, including out-of-school adolescents were engaged in non-formal education, including life and entrepreneurial skills and Slovak language classes. More than 500 Ukrainian adolescents in grades 13 to 17 continue to attend the [Ukrainian School in Evacuation](#) supported by UNICEF and benefit from leisure activities.

In **Czech Republic**, the first of the planned 19 youth-friendly spaces was launched in January by the diaspora-led refugee support community centre MRIYA. To date, 230 adolescents have accessed the space to enjoy movie nights, concerts, and gaming nights. In addition, over 100 youth took part in non-formal education offered through the youth-friendly space, including Czech and English courses and speaking clubs, as well as a workshop series covering soft skills and skills for employability. Beyond the youth-friendly spaces, over 2,500 adolescents and youth participated in non-formal education and social cohesion activities provided by UNICEF partners.

in **Belarus**, 75 youth and adolescents, including refugees from Ukraine, benefitted from social integration activities and awareness sessions on 21st century life skills, digital security, prevention of cyberbullying, PSS and reproductive health at an education and health related events.

Other refugee-hosting countries: In **Italy**, as of April 2023, there were 698 U-Reporters from Ukraine and 14 mobilization sessions had been organized in Sicilia, Abruzzo, Lombardia, Friuli Venezia Giulia, and Lazio in reception centres, churches, schools and Ukrainian CSOs. In **Serbia**, 14 adolescent refugees (nine boys and five girls) from Ukraine living in private accommodation and in asylum center were included in UPSHIFT and UPLIFT activities, helping them build skills and preparing them for the job market. In the **Baltic States**, 150 Ukrainian children in Latvia attended the Scouts winter camps in January and February while in Lithuania, 1,055 Ukrainian refugees participated in trainings, workshops and camps organized by the Lithuanian Scouts. In Latvia, through the UNICEF/Junior Achievement project,

85 employers offered nearly 550 job shadowing vacancies for Ukrainian youth in different [Latvia](#) regions. Ukrainian and local youth also participated in regional competitions in [Latvia](#) and [Lithuania](#).

COORDINATION, PARTERSHIPS, STRATEGY AND FUNDING

UNICEF established 24 formal partnerships with national and sub-national authorities (56 per cent of the target) to support the extension of quality social services to refugees, with 142,854 targeted people (3.9 per cent) in municipalities receiving UNICEF technical assistance for systems strengthening through municipalities.

In **Poland**, UNICEF continues to strengthen existing national and sub-national capacities and provide technical and financial support through partnerships with 12 municipalities.

In **Moldova**, UNICEF's partnership with the Municipality of Chisinau has contributed to strengthening child protection systems in Moldova's largest municipality through the provision of equipment and materials and training and capacity development for Municipality's social services workforce. UNICEF is replicating this model of collaboration in other municipalities in Moldova hosting significant proportion of refugees.

In **Romania**, UNICEF continued working closely with the local and county authorities engaged in the refugee response. New partnerships were signed with 11 county-level authorities (school inspectorates) to support the response in București, Brașov, Oradea, Sibiu, Cluj, Vâlcea, Vaslui, Suceava, Maramureș, Satu Mare, and Mureș. An estimated 90,046 refugees reside within the areas covered by the UNICEF agreements with the municipalities in Romania.

In **Bulgaria**, building on the successful collaboration with the European Child Guarantee, UNICEF is designing new partnerships with municipalities to help them provide social services to Ukrainian refugees. The ongoing MoU with Burgas Municipality, which includes the provision of social services, childcare, education, and Bulgarian language courses, as well as activities for adolescents, will model future partnerships with Sofia, Varna, Ruse, Dobrich, Plovdiv, Pomorie.

In **Hungary**, a partnership agreement and a work plan were also finalized with the Municipality of the City of Győr in March, which will provide access to community-based children protection services, health care, parenting initiatives, and recreational activities for refugee adolescents, children and their families and vulnerable host community children.

In **Slovakia**, UNICEF's direct cooperation with four municipalities (Bratislava, Nitra, Prešov, Košice) is reaching more than 45 per cent of the overall refugee population in Slovakia. Another partnership with the City of Trnava is expected to be formally signed in the coming months.

In **Czech Republic**, UNICEF supports the Municipality of Prague, which hosts 25 per cent of all registered refugees in the country, to strengthen and expand services for Ukrainian refugee children and other vulnerable groups. Around 1,877 refugees (55 per cent women and 26 per cent children) were provided with support in housing, enrollment in education, MHPSS, legal, protection and health-related counselling and referrals.

In **Belarus**, UNICEF signed a rolling work plan with Homel region that, in addition to provision of critical services and supplies to Ukrainian refugees, also strengthens the capacity of the regional authorities in emergency preparedness and response.

Other refugee-hosting countries: In **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, through its education response, UNICEF engaged with the Ministry of Education Herzegovina-Neretva Canton and the local primary school in the municipality, ensuring that refugee children were provided with an adequate learning environment within one classroom designated by the school. In **Italy**, UNICEF continued its close coordination and technical support to the Italian Department of Civil Protection, particularly on GBV risk mitigation and child safeguarding in family reception centres. In **Serbia**, since most Ukrainian refugee population in Serbia reside in private accommodation, UNICEF and implementing partners collaborated closely with municipal trustees who are the focal points for the reception of refugees and migrants in their respective municipalities.

REGIONAL RESULTS

In **social policy**, UNICEF ECARO supported Slovakia, Czech Republic, and Hungary to design and roll out cash programmes for refugee children and Moldova Country Office to advocate for the inclusion of refugees into their national social protection system. In addition, the regional social protection team finalized an operational review of the social protection responses in refugee-receiving countries during the first six months of the Ukraine crisis, which will help shape the UNICEF social policy offer in emergencies in high income countries. In **education**, a framework was developed to support on-going national efforts in language integration of Ukrainian refugee children in Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. The regional education team also mapped multiple and flexible pathways for refugee adolescents to help strengthen their access to education, training and employment in refugee-hosting countries. In **ECD**, 6,223 children at risk or with disabilities and their caregivers were supported through the regional partnership with the European Association of Service providers for Persons with Disabilities. The Ukrainian version of Bebbi onboarded 6,065 new users (taking total to 49,200 users) from January to April 2023. As part of Bebbi's new social media campaign, messages on parenting and reached 75,800 Ukrainian parents in April 2023. In addition, 57 new play and learning hubs were established in Poland, Romania, Moldova, Slovakia, and Bulgaria. To advocate for the importance of early childhood education and care, UNICEF published two policy briefs with INNOCENTI and one situation analysis

with Ecorys and the European Commission providing recommendation to countries. In **health and nutrition**, UNICEF participated in a sub-regional high-level consultation, organized by the Slovak government and the WHO Regional Office in April, on strengthening national health systems and the delivery quality health services. In **SBC**, a regional survey on children's education and parenting identified that most children under 18 years old were enrolled in host country (44 per cent) schools or Ukrainian online (40 per cent) schools. A regional IoT platform (www.kindweb.org) was launched to provide free access to educational and life-saving information on health, nutrition, learning, and positive parenting in 10 countries. In **AAP**, the regional AAP/SBC team worked with all refugee response countries to mainstream AAP across programmes and operations. A learning series called AAP-Ideasphere was launched in April 2023 to bring global good practices to countries responding to refugee crisis in the region. UNICEF ECARO launched a learning series on **gender integration** in the Ukraine response programmes in March, providing the Ukraine Country Office and refugee-receiving offices a platform to exchange evidence, learning and strategies for the effective implementation of the gender Core Commitments for Children. In **ADAP**, the regional team continued supporting U-Report Europe. 3009 new Ukrainian youths joined the platform (21,910 in total). A regional [survey](#) on the needs of Ukrainian youths in host countries revealed that most young people (41 per cent) needed mental health support and access to accurate information on available services. In response, a mental health chatbot was launched on U-Report Europe.

Human interest stories and external media

- UNICEF Poland story: [How a mobile consultation point drives immunization among refugees in Poland](#)
- UNICEF Moldova story: [Ukrainian children, including those with special needs, access education, and health services](#)
- UNICEF Moldova press release: [UNICEF provides body-worn cameras to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Moldova to prevent trafficking of children from Ukraine](#)
- UNICEF Romania story: [UNICEF Children's #e-MOTIONS Exhibition Celebrates Inclusive Self-Expression Through Art](#)
- UNICEF Bulgaria story: [Shattered by war, Ukrainian families find solidarity in Bulgaria](#)
- UNICEF Bulgaria press release: [The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award and UNICEF are launching a joint program for youth from Ukraine and Bulgaria](#)
- UNICEF Hungary story: [HIS: Ukrainian refugee pursues cinematography passion in Hungary: Danylo's story](#)
- UNICEF Slovakia story: [Photo essay: A place full of contrasts](#)
- UNICEF Czech Republic story: [Despite her difficult situation, young refugee from Roma community continues to learn and is a role model for children and adults.](#)
- UNICEF Belarus story: [Refugee families from Ukraine started receiving social benefits through postal money orders money](#)
- UNICEF Croatia story: ["I put all my strength into protecting my children from the consequences of the war."](#)
- UNICEF Georgia story: [How Ukrainian Teen Refugee Girls Live in Georgia](#)
- UNICEF Greece press release: [War in Ukraine pushes generation of children to the brink, warns UNICEF](#)
- UNICEF Italy press release: ["Can you smile for me?" photo exhibition launch](#)
- UNICEF Serbia: [A circle of friendship - making wishes come true | UNICEF](#)

Next Sitrep: 30 June 2023

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Annex A: Summary of programme results (1 January–24 April 2023)^{9 10}

Sector	UNICEF targets 2023	TOTAL RESULTS							Progress against targets (%)
Indicator		Girls reached	Boys reached	Women reached	Men reached	Non-disaggregated beneficiaries reached	% of people with disabilities reached	Total results	
Programme Strategy									
# new formal partnerships established with national and subnational authorities to support the extension of quality social services to refugees	43	-	-	-	-	-	0,0%	24	55,8%
# targeted population in municipalities receiving UNICEF technical assistance for system strengthening	3 631 998	16 482	17 064	47 730	23 467	38 111	0,0%	142 854	3,9%
Health									
# of children up to 15 years vaccinated through UNICEF supported mechanisms	5 670	2 305	2 356	-	-	297	0,5%	4 958	87,4%
# children and women receiving primary health care services through UNICEF supported mechanisms (number of unique beneficiaries)	269 390	18 945	19 629	10 588	-	172	1,6%	49 334	18,3%
# primary health care services provided to children and women through UNICEF supported mechanisms (number of contacts/visits/services)	409 030	-	-	-	-	-	0,0%	51 668	12,6%
# of children and women receiving secondary/tertiary health care services through UNICEF supported mechanisms (number of contacts/visits/services)	1 580	67	86	137	-	300	0,0%	590	37,3%
# of children and women receiving secondary/tertiary health care services through UNICEF supported mechanisms (number of unique beneficiaries)	1 640	-	-	-	-	-	0,0%	347	21,2%
Nutrition									
# of children/caregivers receiving IYCF counselling sessions through UNICEF supported mechanisms.	14 970	1 757	1 834	1 892	127	1 799	1,0%	7 409	49,5%
# of IYCF counselling sessions received by children/caregivers through UNICEF supported mechanisms	17 860	-	-	-	-	-	0,0%	4 254	23,8%

⁹ The results reported in the HPM table include results achieved in the first quarter of 2023 with funding committed in 2022.

¹⁰ The overachievement in the WASH indicator '# people use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities' is due to increased border movements of refugees between Moldova and Ukraine, which resulted in higher usage of the sanitation facilities in Molodva.

Child Protection									
# children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	1 158 460	98 167	105 031	254 458	91 991	3 215	0,3%	552 862	47,7%
# of consultations provided for mental health and psychosocial support	98 150	-	-	-	-	-	0,0%	37 872	38,6%
# unaccompanied and separated children identified	13 960	743	629	-	-	412	0,1%	1 784	12,8%
# of unaccompanied and separated children who were provided with alternative care and/or reunified	11 559	1 629	1 193	-	-	6	0,0%	2 828	24,5%
# people with access to safe spaces, protection and support hubs	753 020	95 055	77 434	250 584	85 615	-	0,4%	508 688	67,6%
# of UNHCR/UNICEF Operational Blue Dots	38	-	-	-	-	-	0,0%	31	81,6%
# women, girls and boys accessing GBV risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	581 241	45 374	36 929	41 157	-	32 921	0,1%	156 381	26,9%
# of trained participants who increased their GBV knowledge on prevention, response and risk measures	5 230	-	-	126	71	20	0,0%	217	4,1%
# people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers	610 160	54 638	54 206	196 300	62 201	16 556	0,4%	383 901	62,9%
# of children who have received individual case management	164 725	26 472	19 441	-	-	-	0,3%	45 913	27,9%
# of participants trained on child protection and children's rights	7 040	-	-	1 025	260	514	0,4%	1 799	25,6%
Education									
# of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning, through UNICEF-supported system-strengthening and programmes	653 080	296 521	298 933	-	-	2 807	4,1%	598 261	91,6%
# of children receiving learning materials	759 732	223 885	218 767	-	-	48 919	0,0%	491 571	64,7%
WASH									
# people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs.	40 000	3 226	2 678	7 605	2 609	-	0,0%	16 118	40,3%
# people use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities.	30 000	13 864	4 136	10 896	6 763	-	0,0%	35 659	118,9%
# of population reached by critical hygiene and WASH supplies	75 855	12 482	2 967	7 568	6 367	1 460	1,5%	30 844	40,7%
# reception/placement centres equipped with sanitation facilities	40	-	-	-	-	-	0,0%	1	2,5%
Social Protection									
# households reached with UNICEF funded multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfers	94 708	-	-	-	-	-	0,0%	4 385	4,6%
# households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system with UNICEF technical assistance	158 750	-	-	-	-	-	0,0%	67 661	42,6%
SBC									
# people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services (including social protection, health, nutrition, education, etc)	9 885 560	623 758	498 869	3 616 698	1 634 132	1 995 392	0,6%	8 368 849	84,7%
# people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change	752 000	10 006	12 117	64 429	24 173	35 793	0,6%	146 518	19,5%
SBC3_# of people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms	163 520	2 008	1 999	53 499	12 697	3 126	0,3%	73 329	44,8%

Annex B: Funding status as of 26 April 2023¹¹

Sector	Requirements	ORE funding received	Carry forward	Total funds received	Funding gap	
		A	B	D=A+B+C	\$	%
Health & Nutrition	15,891,889	1,709,371	9,277,800	10,987,171	5,254,718	33%
WASH	5,539,917	829,052	641,683	1,470,735	4,069,182	73%
CP, GBViE &PSEA	51,278,716	6,085,345	36,816,815	42,902,161	8,376,555	16%
Education	74,890,431	5,340,578	28,988,498	34,329,076	40,561,355	54%
Social protection	74,609,389	775,349	15,411,758	16,187,106	58,422,283	78%
Cross-sectoral (SBC, CE, AAP)	7,289,662	361,331	10,194,753	10,556,084	-	-
Being allocated	-	0	4,015,441	4,015,441	-	-
Funds received 2023	229,500,004	15,101,026	105,346,748	120,447,774	109,052,230	48%

Note on funding requirements: While US\$120.4 million has been made available in 2023, 72 per cent has been utilized to meet critical needs in the first quarter of the year. These generous funds have helped ensure critical services for still vulnerable refugee children and their families who remain temporarily settled on countries across Europe, unable to return home as the war in Ukraine wages on. Only US\$15.1 million has been received as new funding in 2023. Without immediate, continued support, UNICEF will not be able to sustain critical support to vulnerable children and their families in the coming year, nor respond to new needs arising from additional refugee movements.

¹¹ Figures reported to FTS may differ for same period due to in-process allocation of flexible funding. The sectoral breakdown is provisional, and resources are mobilized based on the needs/gaps.
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