



Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

2024



UKRAINE SITUATION

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

January-December 2024

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Contents

<i>Contents</i>	4	Part 1: Current Situation	32
A word from the Regional Refugee Coordinator	5	<i>Situation Overview</i>	32
		<i>Country Risks and Needs</i>	32
REGIONAL OVERVIEW	11	Part 2: Country Response and Solutions	
<i>Situation Overview</i>	11	Strategy	34
<i>Population Planning Figures</i>	13	<i>Country Strategic Objectives</i>	34
Part 1: Regional Risks and Needs	14	<i>Sectoral Responses</i>	35
Part 2: Regional Strategic Objectives and Priorities	16	<i>Partnership and Coordination</i>	39
<i>Regional Strategic Objectives</i>	16	Inter-Agency Financial Requirements	40
<i>Regional Sectoral Responses</i>	20	<i>Budget summary by type at country level</i>	40
<i>Regional Cross-Cutting Response Priorities</i>	25	<i>Budget summary by sector at country level</i>	40
<i>Regional Partnerships and Coordination</i>	27	<i>Budget summary by partner at country level</i>	41
<i>Regional Monitoring Framework</i>	28	RRP Monitoring Framework	42
<i>Monitoring Results</i>	29		
BULGARIA	30	ANNEX 1 – LIST OF ACRONYMS	43
		ANNEX 2 – RRP PARTNERS` PROJECT OVERVIEW	44

A word from the Regional Refugee Coordinator



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Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Ukraine Situation
UNHCR, Regional Director for Europe

Nearly two years have passed since the start of the full-scale war on Ukraine, which has uprooted millions, both inside the country and abroad. Indeed, as UNHCR and partners launch the 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan, there are over 6.3 million refugees from Ukraine globally, including 5.9 million in Europe.

I have seen first-hand the suffering and devastation of the war. But I have also witnessed the extraordinary generosity displayed by host families, communities, cities, municipalities and countries across the region. This solidarity must be sustained as the situation enters its third year and as refugees' – and host communities' – resources are increasingly under strain.

The Temporary Protective Directive, enacted by the European Union in March 2022 – and by Moldova the following year – is proof that States can mobilize political will and act boldly in the interests of refugees.

It is precisely the kind of swift and protection-oriented approach that UNHCR advocates for in all crisis situations. Indeed, the positive experience and solidarity shown towards refugees from Ukraine should be built upon and be extended to all people forced to flee.

While temporary protection has proven to be an effective tool to provide swift access to territory, protection and rights for millions of refugees displaced from Ukraine, discussions are now starting to turn to what will come next, particularly as the application of the Temporary Protection Directive in the EU cannot currently be extended past March 2025 – not to mention the need to inform the refugee community of what will come next.

UNHCR strongly recommends a coordinated and harmonized response amongst hosting states at the point at which the application of temporary protection comes to an end, in line with international principles of cooperation and responsibility-sharing. Without a coordinated approach, we risk undermining one of the key achievements of the response to the Ukraine crisis - the unprecedented and extraordinary solidarity of hosting states.

Return is the preferred option for most refugees, once the situation will allow. Until then, the response to date emphasizes the effective inclusion of refugees in their host communities so that

they can access decent work opportunities, social welfare, medical assistance, education, and accommodation, all of which fosters self-reliance and economic contribution.

UNHCR and its partners, mobilized through this Regional Refugee Response Plan, will continue to advocate for further investments in the area of inclusion and increased self-reliance – such as language courses, job-matching, re-skilling and support to the enrolment of children in national education systems.

The identification of the most vulnerable refugees, such as older people and those suffering from chronic and mental health conditions, remains a priority as well. In this regard, continuing support for their inclusion in national social protection systems remains key.

Local communities, civil society actors, refugee-led organizations, municipalities, the private sector, Governments, and inter-governmental organizations have all played a critical role in ensuring that refugees from Ukraine have been able to access protection and assistance, and in strengthening the social cohesion – which has been remarkable to date – between the refugees and their host communities.

In recognition of the localization of the response, the Refugee Response Plan has grown from 142 partners in its first iteration to 312 partners participating in 2024, most of which are national and local organizations. Efforts will continue to highlight the crucial work of local and national NGOs and refugee-led organizations and to ensure they have visibility, are able to access funding and capacity-building opportunities and receive due recognition for the central role they continue to play.

It is essential that we continue to support these processes. Recognizing the lead role of the Governments in the response, this plan outlines and brings together the collective efforts of local, national and international civil society and international organizations.

> At a Glance

Regional Planned Response (January-December 2024)



2.2 M

projected refugee population



55,000

projected assisted host-community members



\$1.1 B

total financial requirements in USD



312

RRP partners

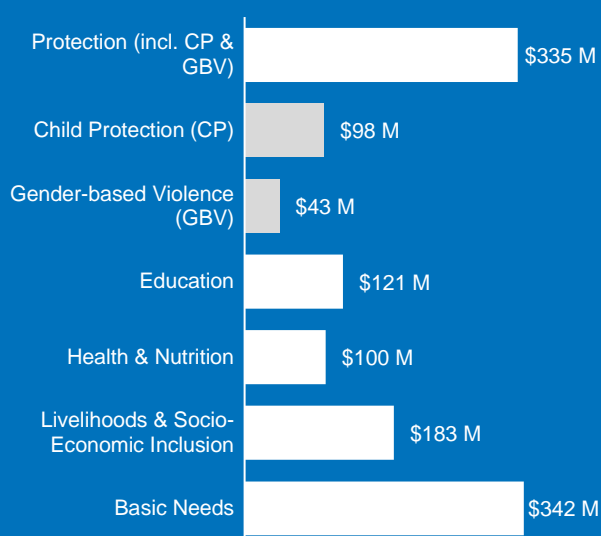


> Regional Financial Requirements

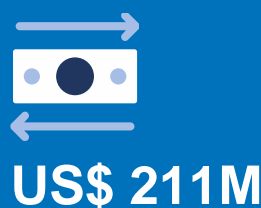
By country

COUNTRY	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD	PARTNERS INVOLVED ¹
Bulgaria	38,561,185	19
Czech Republic	58,264,514	30
Estonia	10,589,248	14
Hungary	42,188,964	31
Latvia	9,682,633	17
Lithuania	15,450,605	18
The Republic of Moldova	303,055,882	82
Poland	377,377,752	103
Romania	117,215,789	37
Slovakia	59,940,518	25
Regional support ²	48,232,912	7

By sector



Cash assistance requirements³



¹ International organizations active in more than one country are reflected in each, the number of partners involved is accurate at country level and cannot be cumulated to arrive at the regional number.

² The regional support budget also includes the financial requirements for Belarus.

³ Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is the modality of choice for forcibly displaced people and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection. Unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector.

By partner type⁴

PARTNER	NUMBER OF PARTNERS	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD
UN agencies	10	679.8M
IFRC & RC	5	39.5M
International NGOs	44	164.4M
Refugee-led Organizations*	3	6.0M
Faith-based Organizations*	8	30.5M
Women-led Organizations*	3	2.3M
National NGOs	251	195.9M
Refugee-led Organizations*	42	18.5M
Faith-based Organizations*	15	14.1M
Women-led Organizations*	89	45.2M
Academia	1	100.0K
Sports organizations	1	877.2K
TOTAL	312	1.1 B

* One organization can be classified in multiple sub-categories (women-led, refugee-led, faith-based, etc.), the individual sub-categories can therefore not be added to arrive at the total.

⁴ This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type.

> Population Planning Figures

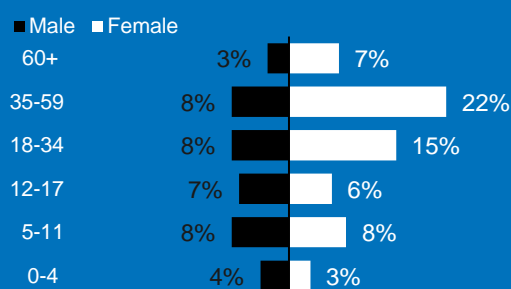
Refugee population

COUNTRY	CURRENT POPULATION AS OF DECEMBER 2023 ⁵	POPULATION PLANNED FOR ASSISTANCE IN 2024
Bulgaria	51,860	70,000
Czech Republic	373,080	400,000
Estonia	50,450	55,000
Hungary	63,775	85,000
Latvia	46,610	50,000
Lithuania	52,305	65,000
The Republic of Moldova	115,862	90,000
Poland	956,635	1,100,000
Romania	83,765	110,000
Slovakia	113,925	150,000
TOTAL ⁶	1,945,307	2,210,000


Host community population

HOST POPULATION PLANNED FOR ASSISTANCE IN 2024	
The Republic of Moldova	55,000
TOTAL	55,000

Age and gender breakdown



 **6%⁷**
Persons with disabilities

 **62%**
Women and girls

 **38%**
Men and boys

⁵ This figure may include multiple registrations of the same individual in two or more countries; registrations that remain incomplete for various reasons, or registrations of refugees who have moved onward, including beyond Europe. Please see UNHCR's [Operational Data Portal](#).

⁶ The total of the table also includes the refugee population and financial requirements for Belarus.

⁷ While this data is lower than the global estimate of 16 per cent of persons with disabilities in the general population, which may reflect under-reporting or under-identification, it is based on multi-sector needs analyses conducted across the RRP countries, which used the Washington Group questionnaire. This applies to all country chapters.

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The war in Ukraine has been the fastest growing and largest displacement crisis in Europe since World War II and has precipitated a regional refugee response of commensurate scale. In the nearly two years since the Russian Federation's large-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the flow of refugees into neighbouring countries, and beyond, has been met by a remarkable mobilization of assistance – by national and municipal authorities, civil society actors, local volunteers, and refugees themselves, all contributing to ensure protection and meet the essential needs of those fleeing violence.

As the refugee response enters its third year in 2024, it continues to address significant needs in host countries, demonstrating an evolving and prolonged situation. Notably, this iteration of the plan reflects the increasing response ownership and greater investment by host governments in the socio-economic inclusion of refugees. The 2024 RRP focuses on practical and specialized support from RRP partners to host countries to ensure refugees have effective access to legal status and rights; that refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities receive targeted assistance; that refugees' self-reliance and socio-economic inclusion are enhanced; and that social cohesion between refugee and host communities is fostered. The RRP complements and aligns with the national strategies and assistance schemes of host governments – who are in the lead of the response – and is grounded in the principles of partnership governing humanitarian action. These principles include equality, transparency, a results-oriented approach, responsibility, and complementarity.

Situation Overview

As the war in Ukraine continues unabated, 3.7 million people are displaced internally⁸ and 6.3 million abroad. As of the end of December 2023, 5.9 million refugees from Ukraine were recorded across Europe, close to 2 million of whom are in the countries covered by the RRP: Belarus⁹, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.¹⁰ The application of the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) in the European Union (EU), recently extended until March 2025, and the Republic of Moldova's Temporary Protection regime, which came into effect in March 2023, have provided favourable frameworks to ensure protection and access to rights and services in host countries for refugees from Ukraine. Challenges remain, with differing approaches to the implementation of temporary protection, which can have a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable groups and their

⁸ [Ukraine | Displacement Tracking Matrix \(iom.int\), October 2023, Round 14.](#)

⁹ The financial needs of Belarus are incorporated in the regional budget.

¹⁰ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

ability to access their rights. Over the course of 2024, governments will be discussing and preparing for the transition beyond the TPD regime.

Relatedly, temporary movements back to Ukraine are increasingly observed, with data from UNHCR's intentions survey showing a rise from 17 per cent in August 2022 to 39 per cent in May 2023 in the proportion of refugees who have visited Ukraine at least once since their arrival in host countries, primarily to check on family and property or obtain documentation.¹¹ These visits are important for refugees' longer-term decisions about more durable return once conditions permit. However, varying approaches of host governments toward the impact of short-term travel to Ukraine on refugees' legal status and access to rights has led to the revocation of legal status and suspension of associated benefits for some, as well as challenges with efforts to re-instate legal status upon return to host countries. For others, this has also discouraged engaging in these important visits.

Barring unforeseen circumstances, newly displaced refugee movements into neighbouring countries and beyond are expected to significantly decrease as compared to the first years of the response. This entails a smaller, yet still substantial, group of refugees arriving in, or moving through, RRP countries who will need initial reception assistance. Among refugees present in host countries, intentions surveys indicate that while most hope to return to Ukraine one day, only 14 per cent plan to do so in the near future, primarily due to concerns about safety and security, the availability of suitable jobs, access to basic services, education, and housing in Ukraine. The majority of refugees plan to remain in their current host country, where they require continued support from host governments and the international community to meet their basic needs, access key services and build their self-reliance and meaningful inclusion in host communities. Some 81 per cent of refugees from Ukraine in RRP countries indicate at least one urgent unmet need, including access to food, employment, healthcare, accommodation, or material assistance, while nearly a quarter of refugee households indicate having at least one member with a specific vulnerability.¹² Challenges accessing decent work, receiving healthcare and social services and securing sustainable housing solutions persist for many due to often interconnected challenges such as language barriers, limited information, financial constraints, job-matching difficulties, lack of childcare and overstretched local resources.

There is a significant number of refugee children, including unaccompanied, separated and children from institutions, who often face challenges accessing national child protection systems and benefitting from respective protection services. This, in turn, may result in gaps accessing their rights in the countries of asylum, as the displacement is becoming protracted.

Moreover, roughly half of school-age refugee children and youth from Ukraine were enrolled in schools in host countries at the start of the 2023-2024 school year. In addition, some 44 per cent of households with school-aged children report at least one child still not registered in the education system of the host country.

¹¹ [Document - Lives on hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees and IDPs from Ukraine #4 \(unhcr.org\)](#).

¹² [Regional Protection Profiling and Monitoring, Protection Risks and Needs of Refugees from Ukraine](#).

Population Planning Figures

The RRP planning figures reflect the projected population that will require assistance in 2024. They have been developed in consultation with country inter-agency refugee coordination forums and government counterparts. The population planning figures include refugees from Ukraine, as well as third-country nationals who fled Ukraine and are in need of international protection and people who are stateless or at risk of statelessness (e.g. the Roma population). The planning figures assume that all refugees and asylum-seekers benefit from protection services and/or humanitarian assistance.

The host community population in the Republic of Moldova prioritized for assistance includes those who are affected by refugee arrivals, for example due to their location, and who will benefit from initiatives that aid refugees as well as host communities. Within the EU, the RRP does not include host community members as individuals targeted for assistance. The plan addresses the needs of impacted host populations at the community level, with an eye to expanding community resources and services that may be under strain due to the presence of the refugee population.

The 2024 population planning figures reflect a reduction from 2023 as some refugees and others in need of international protection in RRP countries have moved outside the geographic scope of the RRP and the remaining population is projected to be more stable in number, with fewer new arrivals and newly displaced persons in transit. Additionally, the refugee population figures for most RRP countries were revised downward in 2023 based on temporary protection validation exercises conducted by governments.

Part 1: Regional Risks and Needs

UNHCR protection profiling and monitoring activities – conducted across the RRP region on an ongoing basis – have identified several key protection risks and needs for refugees from Ukraine.¹³

The Ukraine refugee crisis continues to be characterized by high levels of family separation – almost 80 per cent of respondents in UNHCR’s protection monitoring reported being separated from at least one immediate family member as a result of the war. Family separation in a refugee context can exacerbate several protection risks including gender-based violence, human trafficking, exploitation, isolation, and trauma, particularly for persons with specific needs, such as unaccompanied and separated children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Men 18 years or above constitute only 19 per cent of the refugee population, with 62 per cent of the population being women and girls and 36 per cent children. This age and gender composition, together with the high number of single-parent families, highlights the heightened risk faced by refugee women in the context of employment and accommodation, as well as women and girls’ exposure to GBV risks also in other spheres. Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), sexual exploitation and abuse, and trafficking, among other risks, continue to be of concern, particularly as assistance levels decrease.

Furthermore, 23 per cent of households contain at least one member with a specific need, such as disabilities or serious medical conditions. These households report lower levels of access to various rights, including identity documentation, long-term housing, healthcare and employment as compared to other refugee households, highlighting a worsening vulnerability among these groups as displacement persists. Households including persons with disabilities therefore face increased protection risks in host countries, which may potentially influence early return decisions even in suboptimal conditions in Ukraine.

A full 23 per cent of respondents in UNHCR’s protection monitoring exercise reported in Q3 2023 that household members were missing documentation, mainly biometric passports, whilst an increasing number of refugees report difficulties obtaining or replacing key identity documents in their host countries. Additionally, the necessity to collect documentation continues to drive back-and-forth movements between host countries and Ukraine.

For refugees who have decided to undertake short-term visits to Ukraine, primarily to visit family and retrieve documents, a growing proportion – currently 18 per cent – experienced challenges upon their return to host countries. These challenges include the revocation of legal status, suspension of social protection benefits, and obstacles when re-entering host countries after visiting Ukraine.

According to UNHCR’s analysis, between 40 and 60 per cent of respondents are employed; unemployment is between 10 and 20 per cent, and the remaining are outside the labour force.

¹³ The [first](#), [second](#) and [third](#) regional analysis of data from UNHCR’s protection monitoring exercise are available online, along with a [regional dashboard](#).

Access to decent work remains a key need. Existing barriers need to be addressed – intensive language training, better skills recognition, upskilling courses and job-matching will help facilitate transition into sustainable employment commensurate with a person’s education level. Refugees also require systematic access to information about their rights and entitlements in the labour market, including how to identify and respond to potentially exploitative labour practices.

Access to healthcare is also a key concern; with 25 per cent of respondents in need of healthcare reporting difficulties accessing the national system, due, inter alia, to long waits, language barriers and high costs. Furthermore, according to regional multi-sectoral needs analysis, 30 per cent of households reported having at least one member experiencing mental health or psychosocial problems; over half of those households reported that mental health support was needed. Limited awareness, knowledge and understanding of national healthcare systems is influencing refugees’ ability to seek and accept healthcare services and ability of national service providers to effectively deliver healthcare services that meet the social, cultural, and linguistic expectations and needs of refugees in host countries.

Nearly half of households with school-aged children reported that at least one child was not registered for education in the host country. Similarly, two-thirds of young children are not accessing formal early childhood education and care services.¹⁴ If enrolment of refugee children and youth from Ukraine in national school systems remains low, many hundreds of thousands are at risk of remaining out of formal education for a fourth consecutive school year, often relying on less effective and unsustainable forms of non-formal education. Missing out on multiple years of education may have profound negative consequences for their academic performance, ability to obtain diplomas and degrees and, ultimately, for their future career and life prospects.

¹⁴ [Building bright futures: Integration of Ukraine's refugee children through early childhood education.](#)

Part 2: Regional Strategic Objectives and Priorities

Regional Strategic Objectives

SO1: Refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights in host countries.



On 4 March 2022, the Council of the European Union activated the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) for refugees from Ukraine, initially for one year, later extended until March 2025. This was a significant step, granting refugees from Ukraine access to safety, legal status, rights, and services in the EU. The Republic of Moldova has also adopted similar measures for refugees from Ukraine.

While the TPD effectively responds to the increase in refugee arrivals, inconsistent implementation across EU members has been identified. At the same time, growing vulnerabilities amongst some sections of the refugee community as displacement continues can hinder effective access to rights in host countries, particularly amongst the most vulnerable refugees, including minorities and third country nationals.¹⁵ As displacement enters its third year, it is therefore important to continue to monitor effective access to rights in host countries.

Whilst some refugees briefly return to Ukraine for various reasons, primarily to visit relatives and collect documents, most do not plan a permanent return in the near future due to ongoing conflict and security concerns. In this context, it is crucial that any return to Ukraine is truly voluntary, well-informed, and arrived upon without push factors and inducements for premature return, including restrictions on refugees' ability to access protection, rights, and assistance in host countries. UNHCR advocates that refugees' legal status in host countries be unaffected by a visit to Ukraine lasting less than three months and that legal status be temporarily deactivated rather than revoked in the event of longer-term travel.¹⁶ Some refugees have, however, reported challenges upon return to host countries including the revocation of legal status and associated rights as a result of a short visit to Ukraine. Continued monitoring of access to territory and legal status remains necessary to ensure that all who require protection and assistance are able to access it in practice.

¹⁵ UNHCR, "The Implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive – Six Months On", October 2022, available at: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/96266>

¹⁶ UNHCR Position on Voluntary Return to Ukraine, June 2023, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/649a7c744.pdf>

Discussions on the approach to be taken once the application of the Temporary Protection Directive comes to an end in March 2025 are ongoing within the EU. It is crucial that hosting states apply a coordinated and harmonized response at the point at which temporary protection arrangements come to an end, in line with international principles of cooperation and responsibility sharing. In 2024, key activities will include monitoring effective access to legal status, protection and rights, advocating with governments and regional institutions regarding challenges and barriers affecting access to rights, supporting legislative and policy coordination, and facilitating communication with refugees and host communities, including providing legal support and information.

SO2: Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance.



Systematic identification of those with specific needs is necessary along with targeted assistance, including case management, cash programs, and effective inclusion in social protection programmes. Targeted support will complement or enhance government services to persons with specific needs, including in the prevention, safe disclosure and response to gender-based violence (GBV) and risks for children, provision of healthcare including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), disability inclusion, victims of trafficking, and in the protection of women and children. Early childhood development services are crucial, as is the inclusion of refugee children in national child protection systems.

Despite great efforts from the host countries to provide access to health services for refugees in line with the TPD, constraints remain due to health system capacities, limitations in policy frameworks in several countries and information gaps on service availability, administrative, and financial barriers. Sustained efforts are required to ensure equitable and equal access to quality services, including strengthening health systems and health workforce capacity, addressing policy and legal frameworks, and sharing information on service availability with refugees.

Integrated delivery of MHPSS across the response remains essential. Steps include ensuring the delivery of community-based psychosocial activities and interventions that build on existing individual and community resources, resilience, and capacities. In addition, psychosocial support will be provided through case management and scalable psychological interventions that can be implemented by both trained and supervised specialists and non-specialists, as well as access to clinical mental healthcare.

Concerted efforts are required to ensure access to social housing or targeted support to cover the costs of longer-term independent housing, particularly for vulnerable refugees. Collective sites should be incrementally closed as longer-term accommodation arrangements are made available to refugees, in collaboration with municipalities, on a no-harm basis, and with the best interest of residents in mind.

Ensuring safe, high-quality GBV prevention and response services remains vital for refugee women and girls as well as other groups at heightened risks. Collaboration with governments and local organizations, in particular women-led organizations, is key and continuous investment in capacity strengthening will ensure services are survivor-centred and in line with standards.

Language, addressing cultural sensitivities, and conducting awareness campaigns to promote gender equality and women's participation while preventing GBV from happening in the first place is essential.

Further efforts should be made for the identification and inclusion of refugees with disabilities in national services, including through the recognition of disability certificates issued in Ukraine, accessible accommodation, identifying and mitigating the barriers to services, ensuring availability of accessible information, and further engagement and work with organizations of persons with disabilities.

SO3: Refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities is strengthened and their self-reliance increased.



The TPD grants refugees from Ukraine rights such as work, social welfare, medical assistance, education, and accommodation, fostering self-reliance and economic contribution. However, challenges persist, especially in employment where refugees, particularly women, face difficulties in accessing decent work opportunities, combine employment and care responsibilities, and are at risk of labour exploitation, including through limited access to information on rights and services available. Further investments are needed to offer relevant language courses, address skills mismatches through job-matching, re- and upskilling, such as skills and qualifications recognition, provide information and counselling to refugees and the private sector, strengthen access to business development and financial services, expand access to childcare and child protection, including case management services, and facilitate coordination among stakeholders.

Government social protection benefits are crucial for ensuring basic needs, reducing protection risks and aiding self-reliance. Support can be increased through collaboration with civil society, partnerships with municipalities, and national integration programs.

Advocacy for enrolling refugee children in national education systems of host countries is vital, with low enrolment rates due to hesitancy of parents to do so, language and administrative barriers to enrolment and capacity problems in some host country pre-schools and schools. Efforts should shift toward enrolling refugee children in formal face-to-face education, including early education and care, to ensure quality of learning, psycho-social stability and social interaction. This requires expanding and strengthening of the education systems' capacities, support to parents and children to access education, and reducing reliance on online and non-formal education as an alternative to inclusion in host country education systems.

In 2024, the focus should be on longer-term inclusion and enrolment in national education systems of host countries, providing language education, capacity-building, and MHPSS services. A key priority is to bring refugee children and youth back into formal face-to-face education settings where they can benefit from long-term stability in education, social interaction with host communities, and in-school support. This needs to go hand-in-hand with a phase-out of lower-quality and unsustainable forms of non-formal education. Attention should also be given to adolescents beyond compulsory education age. Close cooperation with Ukraine's Ministry of Education is essential.

SO4: The social cohesion between refugee and host communities is reinforced.

The generosity shown towards refugees from Ukraine has been outstanding but as the war enters its third year and as host communities face increasing costs of living, additional burdens on services, and other socioeconomic challenges, including limited housing, there are locations displaying increasing examples of this welcome turning into fatigue. Countering disinformation and shaping the narrative and language used in a way that is positive, honest, and promotes peaceful coexistence activities will be key.

In a context of limited resources and overstretched systems, host communities will require continued support as they extend their services and assistance to refugees. This support to host communities should focus on institutions and facilities used both by refugees and members of host communities, with a view to alleviating pressures that could give rise to tensions and constrict asylum and protection space. Attention will be paid to how resources under strain can be expanded, meaning that partners will gather evidence and design interventions at the local rather than at the national level. Examples of such interventions include building or refurbishing additional classrooms, supporting renovations of municipal housing stock, expanding community centres, introducing scalable approaches to mental health services, or expanding and supporting health facilities. Skills recognition and allowing refugees to employ their know-how to expand limited services – teachers, psychologists, doctors, nurses, etc. – creates a win-win, serving both the refugee and host communities. Listening to communities and mainstreaming conflict-sensitive language in all activities will be important, including when addressing discrimination.

Social cohesion will be affected by how successfully partners support governments to resolve the cost of living and housing crisis. While housing provision for refugees will need to be locally led and managed, partners will need to advocate for central government intervention on both demand-side housing assistance to individuals and households, and supply-side interventions that aim to stimulate affordable housing construction and free up unoccupied properties, along with improved regulation of the private rental sector.

Engaging local municipal structures, civil society, and refugee-led organizations (RLOs) in the response is important, as they play a vital role in addressing the diverse needs and vulnerabilities of refugees. Municipalities, local civil society and RLOs have a deep understanding of the local context, culture, and community dynamics, often enabling them to establish trust and rapport with refugees. Their proximity to the affected population allows for more effective and targeted service delivery, ensuring that assistance is tailored to meet the specific needs of refugees.

Regional Sectoral Responses

PROTECTION



Protection partners will continue to respond to the urgent needs of refugees from Ukraine for protection and assistance. Systematic protection monitoring, alongside outreach efforts, including strengthening of community structures, support to refugee-led organizations, and direct involvement of refugees in all stages of the programmatic cycle, will help to ensure the continuing relevance of the response to refugee needs.

The protection sector will prioritize access to legal status, protection, and rights. As the protection environment continues to evolve, partners, in coordination with national authorities, will provide legal assistance, counselling and information to ensure that refugees are informed of any changes to the applicable legal frameworks and policies.

Partners will also identify and address the specific needs of the most vulnerable, who will be among the refugees most impacted by the scale down of certain forms of assistance, including cash, and who may require support to be fully included into national social protection programmes. Protection partners will, accordingly, strengthen the capacity of all actors to identify and support persons with specific needs through training, technical expertise and advice to national and local governments, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, as well as through community outreach and engagement with organizations of persons with disabilities and organizations for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ+) people.

RRP partners will also promote accountability to affected people, as well as community-based and Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)-sensitive approaches to government counterparts, municipalities, service providers, and other stakeholders involved in the response, including by engaging in joint activities, providing technical support, and conducting capacity-building. Partners will continue to track practical, administrative, and legal barriers for refugees' access to and enjoyment of basic rights and services, with a view to engaging in advocacy and supporting key interlocutors to reduce or eliminate these obstacles.

Finally, protection partners will seek to enhance social cohesion and identify potential tensions, and work with all relevant actors to address these and to ensure that refugees are supported in a manner that strengthens communities and supports inclusion.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



Through the Regional GBV Sub-Working Group, partners will identify gaps and needs to inform strategic decision-making and advocacy and develop messages and tools to engage stakeholders. The focus will also be on mainstreaming GBV considerations into the broader regional response by providing strategic guidance to the Regional and country-level Working Groups and Sub-Working Groups on GBV prevention, advocacy, risk mitigation, and response strategies.

At the country level, the priority will be on ensuring access to available GBV services by enhancing referrals and advocating for quality of services, and building the capacity of service providers in implementing the survivor-centred approach, coordinating with relevant sectors, identifying resources, and providing necessary trainings. In collaboration with protection, health, and other stakeholders, partners will advocate for the removal of legal and administrative barriers hindering access to life-saving response services, including clinical management of rape and, within the bounds of the law, safe terminations.

On prevention, the main identified gaps revolve around access to essential services, which heighten the vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and exploitation, as well as limited access to information about GBV risks and specialized GBV services. To address these risks and vulnerabilities, partners will advocate and coordinate resources for appropriate prevention and response measures. This includes creating livelihood opportunities for those at higher risk. In order to bridge the information gap, RRP actors will coordinate and harmonize messaging for a comprehensive GBV awareness campaign. Furthermore, advocacy and assessment tools will be developed or contextualized to reduce GBV risks and help adhere to minimum standards.

Sub-Sector: Child Protection



Child protection coordination forums at the national level, either stand-alone or as part of combined protection coordination mechanisms, will continue to inform the child protection response, buttressed by technical expertise and advocacy efforts of the Regional Child Protection Sub-Working Group where needed, as well as other regional advocacy forums and engagements with the key Child Protection stakeholders in the region, such as EU institutions and regional networks. Partners will continue to focus on the inclusion of refugee children in national child protection systems, extending national systems' case management procedures to refugee children from Ukraine and expanding alternative care options, particularly to children from institutions in Ukraine. In addition, identification of children at risk, particularly those unaccompanied or separated from their parents, those with disabilities and those with specific protection needs, and support for their timely referral to protection services will continue to be a priority. Partners will also continue to support children without parental care evacuated from institutions, particularly in terms of access to care and specialized services, as well as ensuring that the children's best interests inform decisions concerning them. Finally, strengthening the capacity of national child protection systems in the countries of asylum and seeking opportunities to complement the national child protection response will remain a priority.

EDUCATION



To prevent long-term learning losses and increase the inclusion of refugee children and youth from Ukraine into host country education systems, including early childhood education and care, RRP partners will step up engagement with States to develop and implement advocacy and support programmes to ensure refugee children from Ukraine are enrolled in national school systems and to ensure access to quality pre-school and tertiary education. Support and guidance will be provided to relevant stakeholders throughout the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years to address capacity problems in education, including expansion of learning spaces and school infrastructure, addressing teacher shortages and gaps in provision of essential language learning and pedagogical and MHPSS services delivered through schools. RRP partners will continue to advocate for the removal of administrative and practical barriers to accessing education.

In addition to inclusion in the national school systems, RRP partners can support, where appropriate, initiatives aimed at maintaining the link between refugee children and youth and their country of origin, regardless of nationality or legal status. Where possible, such complementary education initiatives will be rewarded with grades and certificates which may facilitate return to learning in the country of origin or validation of learning in the host country whenever circumstances allow it. RRP partners will ensure no unsustainable parallel education systems only for refugees will be set up and that existing unsustainable parallel systems will be phased out as much as possible in the 2024-2025 school year. This will take into account the needs of all relevant stakeholders to ensure the best quality education possible, however long displacement may last.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



Refugees will be supported to obtain decent work commensurate with their skills, qualifications, and experience, via increased access to intensive and targeted language training, on-the-job learning, and development opportunities, financial and business development services, streamlined qualifications recognition procedures, and safe and affordable childcare.

Efforts will be stepped up to support governments at the national and municipal levels to design and implement longer-term housing solutions and transition away from the prolonged use of emergency accommodation measures. Support for refugees to access social protection benefits will be reinforced by working closely with civil society and targeting assistance to fill gaps in government coverage. Partnerships with municipalities and continued technical assistance to line ministries will be ramped up to ensure effective access to benefits and service delivery, promote referrals, and secure space for absorption of refugees into national programmes.

The capacity of municipalities to expand their public services, maintain social cohesion in their communities, and implement multi-year inclusion strategies will also be strengthened. Partners will increasingly look to broker connections between municipal governments and strategic partners that facilitate access to flexible financing and direct funding opportunities.

In line with a whole-of-society approach to socio-economic inclusion, partners will work with government authorities at the national and sub-national level, local service providers, refugee-led organizations, other NGOs, educational institutions, development actors and the private sector. Government and NGO capacities to provide individualized inclusion support should be enhanced as much as possible, with special attention lent to intersectional vulnerabilities and needs, especially those of women, girls, older persons and those with disabilities.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



Lack or limited access to health has been highlighted as a key concern in the Multi-Sector Needs Analyses. In collaboration with national governments, the health sector aims to ensure continuity of care and reduce morbidity and mortality by supporting refugees' equitable and effective access to quality health services. Partners will strengthen national health systems and coordination efforts, support capacity strengthening initiatives, foster the inclusion of Ukrainian health workers in the national health workforce, including mental health, and support healthcare financing to enable equal access to health services and essential medicines. Linking refugees with national health services will remain a key focus. Health communication will be upscaled to provide information on health service availability and accessibility as well as the prevention of non-communicable and communicable diseases and enhancing the uptake of vaccinations and promoting better nutritional practices for children. Partners will also continue to support the strengthening of information systems for evidence-based decision-making in public health, including assessments and surveys on access and barriers to healthcare.

Partners will strengthen the continuity of care by linking refugees to national health services with special focus on non-communicable diseases, tuberculosis and HIV, including through cross border collaboration. Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) including access to quality clinical services for survivors of GBV will be among key priorities, including strengthening linkages between SRH, MHPSS, and protection services. Targeted support will be provided to address the specific needs of vulnerable groups including ethnic minorities, LGBTIQ+ people, older persons, and persons with disabilities and/or other specific needs.

BASIC NEEDS



For the year 2024, operations in EU countries will see a further decrease in the number of individuals assisted through cash assistance, in line with the progress made in the inclusion of refugees into national social safety nets. In all RRP countries, cash for basic needs will see the further refinement of targeting approaches, which will privilege highly vulnerable individuals and be complementary to government-led assistance. Whenever relevant and in addition to multi-purpose cash grants, sectorial cash assistance will be maintained and/or strengthened. Cash Working Groups will be maintained along with the current co-leadership by national organizations and/or line ministries, while deduplication arrangements will be further strengthened and systematized. Selected operations such as in the Republic of Moldova will see the introduction of common platforms for the sharing of registration data, targeting data, and caseload among humanitarian actors.

To maintain a dignified standard of living and address additional needs brought about by challenging winter conditions, provision of in-kind support will persist, with a particular focus on emergency relief items and life-sustaining amenities, including warm winter clothing, blankets, quilts, kitchen sets, and sleeping items. In coordination with local authorities and other humanitarian actors, in-kind food assistance will be provided in critical locations, such as border transit and reception areas, as well as collective sites. The water, sanitation and hygiene needs of refugees will also be addressed in these locations through the distribution of hygiene kits to contribute to their good health, dignity, safety, and well-being.

Parallel to the efforts to identify solutions for longer-term accommodation needs, RRP partners will also carry out site facility improvements at different types of premises (i.e. emergency, reception or accommodation centres) through care and maintenance interventions. Efforts will concentrate on heat retention and winter efficiency, with the ultimate objective of sustainability and alleviating distress during the harsh winter periods. Partners will assist in facilitating the transportation of refugees from border points to reception areas or key transport hubs for their subsequent movement.

Regardless of the modality used, cash or in-kind, protection will be mainstreamed throughout the interventions, this includes prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, GBV risk mitigation, functioning feedback and complaint mechanisms and, where necessary, individual considerations.

In the area of Logistics, Telecoms, and Operational Support, RRP partners will maintain the timely provision of humanitarian relief items backed by coordinated service delivery and an evidence-based prioritization of needs. Regional and country-specific logistics hubs have been established and will continue to support the stockpiling and onward distribution of relief items. Supply chain capacity to assess corridors and supply routes, analyze trends, procure goods and services, and optimize and ensure timely delivery of pre-positioned stocks will be strengthened. To this end, coordination and establishment of common supply frameworks and processes will be a priority, to support humanitarian operations across RRP countries.

Regional Cross-Cutting Response Priorities

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)



The delivery of MHPSS services in the region spans various sectors, including health, protection, child protection, GBV, anti-trafficking, victims' assistance, education, and livelihoods, making it a vital component of the overall response. Strengthening the cross-sectoral integration of MHPSS is essential while also improving the access and quality of dedicated activities across all layers of support.

This comprehensive approach includes supporting the development and improvement of supportive systems for families and communities and ensuring the provision of community-based psychosocial activities and interventions that strengthen existing individual and community resources. Furthermore, with health and social systems facing ongoing challenges, adopting and implementing evidence-based practices is essential to optimize resource allocation and maintain the delivery of high-quality care. The concept of task sharing, empowering trained non-specialists to deliver supervised psychological interventions, remains a cornerstone for expanding the reach, efficiency, and impact of MHPSS services. Additionally, the recognition and integration of Ukrainian mental health professionals into public health and social systems is a crucial step forward.

Across all sectors and service areas, safeguarding the well-being of frontline providers through ongoing supervision and training remains a priority. Additionally, concerted efforts are required to fortify the structures and organizations responsible for MHPSS delivery, including effective coordination among national governments, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, and community-based organizations. This collaborative effort also ensures the continuous improvement of service mapping and referral pathways, ensuring community awareness and seamless access to MHPSS services across all layers of support.

Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)



Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) considerations should guide all aspects of RRP partners' work. Collective effort is needed to ensure continuous and meaningful engagement with refugees, understanding their needs and protection risks through AGD-responsive assessments and monitoring, building on their capacities and pursuing protection, assistance, and solutions that take into account their perspectives and priorities.

Sub-Section: Disability Inclusion



Persons with disabilities have the same basic needs as other refugees but often face barriers to having these needs met and may require specific attention and targeted interventions. Furthermore, persons with disabilities face additional challenges, including difficulties in accessing services due to mobility issues, bureaucratic hurdles in submitting or replacing documents, societal stigma and discrimination, and a lack of accessible

information. These challenges are compounded for their families who not only bear increased financial burdens due to the costs of disability care but also face employment challenges as caregivers often cannot commit to regular work schedules. RRP partners will engage based on the key principles of disability inclusion: (i) non-discrimination; (ii) awareness; (iii) participation; and (iv) accessibility. Close cooperation will also be sought with national and local organizations working with persons with disabilities.

Accountability to Affected People (AAP)



Establishing effective and accessible feedback and response mechanisms for all key sector interventions will be a cross-cutting priority in the RRP response. RRP partners will commit to the intentional and systematic inclusion of the expressed needs, concerns and complaints, capacities, and views of refugees and other affected people in their diversity and to being answerable for organizational decisions and staff actions, in all protection, assistance, and solutions interventions and programmes. Reinforcing accountability to affected populations involves creating two-way communication channels, enabling refugees to actively participate in programme development and provide valuable feedback. This commitment extends to strengthening the roles of refugee volunteers, community-based organizations, and refugee-led initiatives through capacity development and small grants. Partners are committed to establishing and maintaining effective communication channels for refugees to actively shape and provide feedback on programming decisions. Feedback and response mechanisms and communication with community channels in all phases will remain crucial to ensuring that refugees are involved in decisions that directly impact their lives. RRP partners will ensure AAP through both traditional analogue and creative means, and through exploring online means. RRP partners will identify and counter misinformation and disinformation through community engagement in digital channels to further inform appropriate messaging and engagement.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)



PSEA is an integral and cross-cutting component of the RRP and is mainstreamed across the response for refugees from Ukraine. It also requires proactive collective efforts for risk mitigation, prevention and response, such as measures to mitigate identified SEA risks, partner capacity assessments, continued capacity strengthening of partners and other stakeholders, as well as community outreach and awareness raising with the refugee community, coordinated through the PSEA networks in place at country level.

All partners participating in the RRP should know and apply the IASC standards of conduct applicable to humanitarian workers and understand their responsibilities in terms of reporting SEA allegations and promoting a victim-centred approach. Refugees and other recipients of assistance must have access to safe, gender- and child-sensitive feedback and complaints mechanisms and information about PSEA, and victims should have access to timely assistance through child protection and GBV services. Efforts should be made to ensure regional exchange, learning and documentation of good practices and supporting authorities to strengthen safeguarding and PSEA approaches.

Localization



The collective response has grown from 142 in the initial RRP in 2022 to 312 partners in this iteration, most of whom are national and local organizations. Collective and concerted efforts will continue to ensure that the crucial work of national NGOs and RLOs have visibility with donors, are able to access funding and capacity-building opportunities, and receive recognition for the central role they continue to play. The activities of municipalities and other sub-national governmental structures are central to the achievement of the strategic objectives of this plan and partners will endeavour to work with and support them.

Government Ownership



Humanitarian actors support governments and cannot substitute for state and EU action. As governments continue to own, lead, and have responsibility for the response at national and municipal levels there remains a need for continued solidarity from the international community and practical, specialized support from humanitarian and development organizations.

Maintaining Emergency Capacities



While the response is now focused on effective inclusion in national systems and services, sustaining protection space, and targeted support to the most vulnerable, capacities to ensure immediate assistance to new arrivals and to scale up in case of a surge in refugee movements will be maintained.

Regional Partnerships and Coordination

In support of the government-led responses across the region, UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the inter-agency RRP in line with the Refugee Coordination Model, collaborating and consulting with authorities, aid agencies, civil society, and with affected populations.

The RRP will broaden the scope of partnerships to mobilize resources and increase visibility for the needs of refugees from Ukraine, third-country nationals in need of international protection, stateless people, and host communities. RRP partners and supporters strive to ensure funding is channelled to frontline responders in a timely and efficient manner and in line with quality funding and quality partnership principles.

At the regional level, RRP coordination is led by the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe. An inter-agency Regional Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) and specific working groups, networks and task forces aim to ensure efficient situational information management and country-specific support

as required.¹⁷ As the UN Agency mandated by the General Assembly to lead refugee responses, UNHCR is the reference entity on refugee data, facilitating and coordinating the provision of necessary data and information to support RRP partners' response planning.

Inter-agency RCFs have also been established in each of the refugee-hosting countries, in support of government-led coordination mechanisms. These structures enable RRP partners to maximize the response and avoid duplications and parallel systems, and also guide joint advocacy initiatives and resource mobilization efforts in support of the country-level response plans. Through the RRP, UNHCR will continue to ensure that joint assessments, data and information management, monitoring and reporting systems, and communication and information-sharing tools are effectively implemented and strengthened in coordination with governments and relevant stakeholders.

Regional Monitoring Framework






A set of common indicators agreed with partners across all RRP countries help ensure the tracking of progress toward the strategic objectives in a consistent manner. A core set of sector indicators covering all RRP countries, with additional indicators at country level, measure specific outputs and outcomes. Achievements will be monitored through an online system "ActivityInfo" where partners report against the indicators set in the monitoring frameworks.

Data on indicators will be summarized in country and regional dashboards on a regular basis to support continuous analysis of progress. Importantly, the framework will allow disaggregation of results by gender, age, and disability to ensure that persons at risk and specific groups, such as women and persons with disabilities are not missed in the implementation of this response plan. To maintain accountability to affected populations, feedback mechanisms continue to operate, allowing affected populations and RRP partners to regularly communicate and ensure that the needs and concerns of affected people guide and adjust the response priorities.

The targets below are based on partners' budgets and capacities, informed by the needs on the ground. Achieving these targets will be subject to a timely receipt of the funding requirements.

¹⁷ These include the Protection Working Group, Socio-Economic Inclusion Working Group, Child Protection and GBV Sub-Working Groups, Cash Working Group, Information Management Working Group, Anti-Trafficking Task Force, Gender Task Force, Informal Technical Hub on Education, PSEA Network, and the Refugee Health Extension.

Monitoring Results

Sector	Indicator	Target	
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	969,200
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services	510,600
		# of participants trained on child protection and children's rights	10,400
	Gender-Based Violence	# of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	414,500
		# of trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV knowledge on prevention, response and risk mitigation measures	6,700
Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	# of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	4,300	
	Education	# of children enrolled in formal education in host countries	365,900
		# of education personnel trained or receiving support to better respond to the needs of refugee learners	340,500
		# of children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries	9,100
	Health and Nutrition	# of refugees reached through individual counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services and how to access them	381,400
		# of health consultations provided to refugees	382,300
		# of healthcare providers trained to provide health services to refugees	16,800
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	382,400
		# of MHPSS consultations provided (includes focused and specialized services only)	196,800
	Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion interventions	571,400
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	656,300

COUNTRY CHAPTER

BULGARIA



> At a Glance

Bulgaria Planned Response (January-December 2024)



70,000

projected refugee population



\$38.6 M

total financial requirements in USD



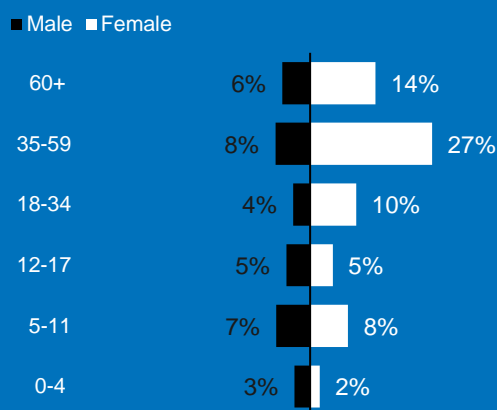
19

RRP partners

Population planning figures

	Estimated population as of end of 2023	Population planned for assistance in 2024
Refugee Population	51,860	70,000

Age and gender breakdown¹⁸



10%

Persons with disabilities



66%

Women and girls



34%

Men and boys

¹⁸ Calculations are based on 2023 MSNA data.

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

During 2023, the Government of Bulgaria granted or renewed temporary protection¹⁹ to some 66,200 refugees. Following a re-registration exercise at the beginning of the year, renewals are ongoing in the State Agency for Refugees centres. As of end-December, some 52,000 refugees currently remain in the country mostly from the Odessa region and eastern parts of Ukraine.²⁰ The 2023 Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA)²¹ findings show that the majority of refugees surveyed have been present in Bulgaria for an average of 13 months, indicating a stable population within the country who are not only in need of continued access to basic services but also of meaningful inclusion within host communities.

The Government of Bulgaria has extended the national humanitarian programme on several occasions, the last extension lasting until end-December 2023. The programme includes government-sponsored accommodation for new arrivals in state facilities and continuing support to those residing in hotels in the coastal areas. The Government is currently working on a new humanitarian programme for 2024 as well as an integration programme for refugees from Ukraine.

The Bulgaria chapter of the regional RRP represents the strong commitment of 19 humanitarian partners to work jointly and through a coordinated response to support and complement the Government's key social protection services and inclusion opportunities. An important priority will be to work closely together with key municipalities and the community-based and refugee-led organizations within the RRP to ensure stronger social cohesion and localization efforts in the third year of the response.

Country Risks and Needs

The 2023 MSNA has identified several key needs for refugees from Ukraine in Bulgaria. Access to healthcare remains a key priority, with some 45 per cent of refugees responding that healthcare services was their top need. A quarter of households with medical needs said they were unable to access the necessary healthcare. The main reported challenges include the inability to afford the costs including transportation expenses, inability to enrol in the national health insurance, and language barriers. Almost half of the surveyed households also said that they were not registered with a General Practitioner or a paediatrician in Bulgaria, which is a prerequisite to access the health system and enrol in the health insurance scheme. Additionally, basic needs namely, food (39 per cent) and accommodation (26 per cent) were the second and third cited priority needs.

¹⁹ In line with the Council Decision 2023/2409 of the European Union, temporary protection for refugees from Ukraine has also been extended by the Government of Bulgaria until March 2025.

²⁰ UNHCR Situation in Bulgaria public dashboard, available at: [Ukraine Situation in Bulgaria - public - Power BI](#). This figure is an estimate based on the number of arrivals and departures of Ukrainian nationals from Bulgaria tracked by the Chief Directorate of Border Police.

²¹ The 2023 MSNA surveyed 1,054 households representing 2,258 household members from Ukraine from July to August 2023.

A fifth of the refugee population in Bulgaria consists of older persons, while one-tenth of the total refugee population are persons with a disability and half of refugee households indicate having at least one member with a chronic or serious underlying medical condition. 61 per cent of interviewed households reported at least one coping strategy – mostly spending savings, but also reducing essential health and education expenditures. Particularly for 34 per cent of single-parent households with dependents, this means they may have fewer resources to meet their basic needs. Moreover, 43 per cent of refugees of working age reported being employed while 20 per cent remain unemployed. Key reported challenges for employment include a lack of Bulgarian language skills, lack of decent employment opportunities, as well as a lack of employment opportunities suited to the refugees' professional skills.

According to the MSNA, among the households who have concerns about risks faced by boys and girls (15 and 18 per cent respectively), the most serious risks cited for boys are psychological harm in the community followed by physical violence and online violence – and deteriorating mental health and psychosocial wellbeing and increased vulnerability to neglect for girls. Children who are separated from their parents face increased vulnerabilities due to neglect, which was also cited among the top five risks faced by children according to the MSNA. Increasing awareness of available child protection services and engagement of refugee communities for enhancing the social emotional well-being of children at risk is a key need. The majority of the refugee population (66 per cent) are women and girls, therefore GBV prevention and risk mitigation continues to be a priority across all sectoral responses.

In Bulgaria, almost three-fourths of parents with school-aged refugee children reported that they were not enrolled in the 2022-2023 academic year. Many of these out-of-school children were accessing remote learning options using Ukraine's school curriculum. According to the Ministry of Education and Science, some 3,800 refugee children – or 22 per cent of the school-age population – have enrolled in Bulgarian schools for the 2023-2024 academic year.²² While many refugee children continue non-formal education (e.g. distance learning with Ukrainian curriculum and other educational activities), this holds risks of learning losses and deterioration of mental health and well-being of children and hinders their full social cohesion within their communities. Furthermore, some 17 per cent of households with youth between 16-24 years of age reported having a member who is not in education, employment, or training.

²² As of end-October 2023, presented by the Ministry of Education and Sciences during the inter-agency Education Working Group meeting of 15 November 2023. There are an estimated 13,000 school-aged refugee children (around 25 per cent of the total population) in Bulgaria as of end-December 2023.

Part 2: Country Response and Solutions Strategy

Country Strategic Objectives

SO1: Refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights.



In 2024, partners will continue to promote the rights of refugees associated with temporary protection through legal support and legislative and policy inputs. Ensuring equal access to protection and rights, monitoring access gaps with the engagement of refugee-led organizations, and advocating for refugees' inclusion in government services and national strategies on a non-discriminatory basis through an age, gender and diversity-sensitive approach will be important. Partners will ensure that refugees have access to accurate information that can enable them to exercise their rights and enhance their access to information on services available to them, in coordination with municipalities and community-based organizations.

SO2: Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance.



RRP partners will support refugees with heightened protection risks and specific needs through targeted assistance and community-level protection mechanisms. This will include strengthening safe referral pathways to specialized services – and ensuring that government social protection services are accessible for those who may be at higher risk, including persons with disabilities, older persons, LGBTIQ+ individuals, survivors of GBV, victims of trafficking or those at risk of trafficking, children at risk and survivors of abuse, exploitation, neglect and violence. Disability inclusion in all locations of service provision and community centres will also be important.

SO3: Refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities is strengthened and their self-reliance increased.



RRP partners will continue to seek strategic partnerships and promote interlinkages with the private sector and development actors. It will particularly be important for partners to pull together and utilize the available data not only on market assessments but also on refugees' skills for targeted interventions and advocacy. Facilitating refugees' access into the local labour markets will remain key, as well as enhancing opportunities for self-employment and working with the Government and municipalities on inclusion policies and programmes. To participate in the labour market access to day care facilities and schooling is important for many women who have care responsibilities.

SO4: Social cohesion between refugee and host communities is reinforced.



RRP partners will aim to strengthen interventions that promote social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, in close coordination with local municipalities, civil society organizations, community-based and faith-based organizations – as well as non-traditional partners in arts, sports and culture. RRP partners will support opportunities to enhance inclusive communities, including safe spaces, activities for art, sports, social, cultural and recreational events, and positive dialogue and information exchange between refugee and host communities. Refugees' positive contributions to communities will be highlighted and shared with stakeholders. Mainstreaming conflict sensitivity language in all activities will be important, including when addressing discrimination.

Sectoral Responses

Cross-Cutting Priorities of the RRP

- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)
- Disability Inclusion
- Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)
- Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)
- Localization
- Government Ownership
- Maintaining Emergency Capacities

Read more in the Regional Overview p. 25

PROTECTION



Protection partners will work with national authorities to ensure refugees' access to legal status, protection and rights in a non-discriminatory manner. This will include supporting relevant authorities in strengthening their knowledge on identifying and working with persons with specific needs. Partners will continue to provide legal information and consultations; awareness-raising on protection risks; and community-based MHPSS. Through protection monitoring, partners will share key trends, changes and needs of the refugee population to inform government responses. A community-based approach will be mainstreamed as partners work closely with communities and enable community-led responses in all protection interventions. This will allow for refugees to support one another, advocate for their rights and mobilize support from authorities and other stakeholders. In the MSNA, 19 per cent of refugees in Bulgaria reported feeling tensions with the host community since arriving in Bulgaria – in the form of verbal aggression, discriminatory behaviour and hostile or aggressive comments in social media or online news forums. To this end, Protection partners will work closely with local municipalities, schools, local youth groups and grassroots organizations to promote social cohesion, address potential tensions and strengthen communities through a whole-of-society approach.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)



RRP partners will support the Government in strengthening existing Standard Operating Procedures on GBV prevention and response – and in establishing and reinforcing safe referral pathways for all refugees, particularly women and girls. Ensuring the inclusion of refugees in the Government’s implementation of the national measures on prevention of intimate partner violence, sexual assault and harassment will also be equally important. For risk mitigation, partners with GBV expertise will work with the Government to implement regular safety audits in government reception centres and accommodation facilities – and with the National Commission for Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings and civil society organizations to reduce the risks of trafficking and provide targeted support for victims of trafficking. In addition to support to the national prevention and response system, RRP partners will work with communities and refugee-led organizations on awareness-raising and key concepts of gender equality. Partners will also focus on providing quality services and work closely with other response sectors including legal and health actors, to ensure a survivor-centred, multi-sectoral quality response.

Sub-sector: Child Protection



RRP partners will prioritize strengthening national child protection systems and services, including national, regional and local authorities’ capacity to support children at risk and their families. In addition to strengthening the capacities of authorities and frontline professionals, partners will support the Government with documentation and identification of children at risk (girls and boys); case management; family tracing and reunification; and appropriate care arrangements for unaccompanied and separated children according to best interest principles and access to child-friendly protection procedures. RRP partners will ensure access to specialized services and social support for children at risk as well as the availability of child-friendly information. RRP partners will ensure psychosocial support including through community-based activities for children at risk. Support will also be provided for caregivers to expand their knowledge, skills and capacities on providing nurturing and responsive parenting.

EDUCATION



Bulgaria has a high percentage – some 78 per cent – of refugee children not enrolled in formal education in the country.²³ Addressing barriers to enrolment and ensuring quality education and equal and meaningful inclusion of refugee children, including children with disabilities, in national educational systems will remain a priority for Education actors. Partners have observed the need for preparatory classes for children who are in transition from distance learning to the education system in Bulgaria – and to support schools’

²³ According to the Ministry of Education and Science, some 3,800 refugee children and youth – or 22 per cent of the school-age population – have enrolled in schools in Bulgaria for the 2023-2024 academic year as of end-October.

capacities for inclusion, including addressing discrimination and bullying. Children in preschool and adolescents in secondary education particularly need additional support to prevent learning loss. In this regard, RRP partners will continue to provide education support including Bulgarian language courses; early childhood development; additional learning support for secondary school students; and educational material support. In close collaboration with local authorities and municipalities, partners will support schools that are receiving large numbers of refugee children for a safe and conducive space for learning and inclusion. Engaging national and local authorities' support for overstretched preschool/school infrastructures and on transportation for children in remote locations to attend school will continue.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION



RRP partners will work closely with and support municipalities and local actors to foster social cohesion and enhance refugees' self-reliance and resilience. Other stakeholders will include national and regional Employment Agencies under the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, academia, media and refugee and host communities. To address the challenges in finding employment, advocacy will focus on validation of diplomas; ensuring safeguards for legal, safe and decent employment opportunities; and relatedly, access to childcare services for working caregivers and those caring for children without parental care. Additionally, partners will provide job matching support, individualized integration plans, career counselling, language classes, skills development and training opportunities in professions that are linked to the labour market in Bulgaria. Partners will also engage with the private sector on ongoing activities to identify potential collaboration and expansion of initiatives such as entrepreneurship programs and to facilitate diverse opportunities fit to refugees' profiles, including initiatives to strengthen livelihoods for refugee women. Partners will also support refugees to find suitable accommodation and housing options with a focus on refugees who are transitioning from the government-sponsored accommodation program to urban areas where livelihood opportunities are more abundant. Furthermore, partners will work with government authorities to improve data collection and analysis of refugees' socio-economic situation and capacities.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



The health response will support the Government's inclusion of refugees in its National Health Strategy 2030 and in providing quality public health interventions. This will include capacity-building of health practitioners in line with the recommendations of the joint UN assessment under the leadership of the MoH Bulgaria²⁴. Advocacy for the diploma certification of refugees from Ukraine health practitioners and their inclusion in the national health systems will also continue, as will contributions to the augmentation of health human resources within the national health system. In complementarity to

²⁴ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240070707>, March 2023.

the Government's response, partners will provide medical consultations for vulnerable refugees who are not covered by the Bulgarian national health insurance fund, links to General Practitioners (GPs), and referrals to access health services, emergency medical care (including for survivors of GBV) and life-saving medication for urgent or chronic medical needs. RRP partners will also provide post-traumatic rehabilitation services; immunization and vaccines for preventable disease; nutrition counselling on breastfeeding and nutrition for young children; and health-related awareness raising and health promotion activities. Focus will be on vulnerable populations, including those with disabilities and specific needs, older persons, and LGBTIQ+ people. Partners will also provide specialized mental health support inclusive of trauma counselling. RRP partners will work with medical associations and GPs on information provision that enhances refugees' understanding of the health system and how to navigate it; and on addressing reported challenges in administrative and language barriers for refugees to access health services.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)

In Bulgaria, mainstreaming MHPSS across all sectors through multi-layered community-based and specialized care remains a significant need. Based on the needs identified, raising awareness on the importance of mental health and available services will remain a priority within the refugee response. Other key priority areas will include capacity-building of service providers (government and frontline staff in all sectors); developing a harmonized national training programme; and enhancing referral mechanisms to cover multi-layered MHPSS interventions. These will be coordinated within the MHPSS Technical Working Group and complement the implementation of the National Mental Health Strategy (2021-2031).

BASIC NEEDS



Across the response in Bulgaria, basic needs such as food and accommodation continue to be a priority. According to the MSNA, out of the 23 per cent of refugees residing in government-sponsored accommodation, the most common concerns included: inability to cook or store food properly; inability to keep living conditions warm or cool; and insufficient privacy. RRP partners will provide hygiene kits, food parcels and non-food items, temporary accommodation, support for refugees to access existing government accommodation and municipal housing programmes and multi-purpose cash assistance based on vulnerability criteria in support of unmet basic needs. This will be complementary to the Government's social protection schemes and will be accompanied by strong protection advocacy for inclusion and continued provision of protection services. Partners will continue to support the national social protection system so it can progressively include refugees and address their basic needs. Cash-based interventions among RRP partners and the Government Social Assistance Agency will continue to be coordinated under the Cash Working Group. Protection and GBV risk mitigation will continue to be mainstreamed across all basic needs interventions.

PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE (PSEA)

PSEA is an integral and cross-cutting component of the RRP and is mainstreamed across the response. In Bulgaria, RRP partners will work closely with the Government to mitigate and prevent risks as well as to ensure a robust complaints mechanism is in place and further strengthened. Through the inter-agency PSEA network, organizations will be supported on capacity-building and feedback mechanisms. RRP partners will share good practices and enhance community outreach and awareness raising on risks of trafficking and SEA with the refugee community. Ensuring the safety and well-being of individuals through prevention activities will be important.

Partnership and Coordination

The national Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) will continue to promote coherence and complementarity between the 2024 RRP and the National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030 which is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.²⁵ Projects under the RRP will bridge the humanitarian response and longer-term development planning to build resilience at the individual, community and institutional level. The participation of refugees and women-led organizations will be reinforced. Within the national RCF, there is a Cash Working Group, Education Working Group, MHPSS Technical Working Group and an inter-agency PSEA network. Discussions are ongoing for the activation of an Inclusion Working Group co-chaired with the Government. In 2024, advocacy will be ongoing for co-chairing and leading of the respective working groups with relevant government ministries. The new Government in Bulgaria, formed in June 2023, has created a national Task Force for the inter-ministerial coordination related to the

²⁵ Available at: [Ministry of Finance: National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030 \(minfin.bg\)](https://minfin.bg)

refugee response for the Ukraine Situation. The national RCF will closely communicate with the Government Task Force on sectoral issues in support of national plans and engage national institutions for data-driven programmes and policy. Academia, private and development sectors will also be engaged in the refugee response.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

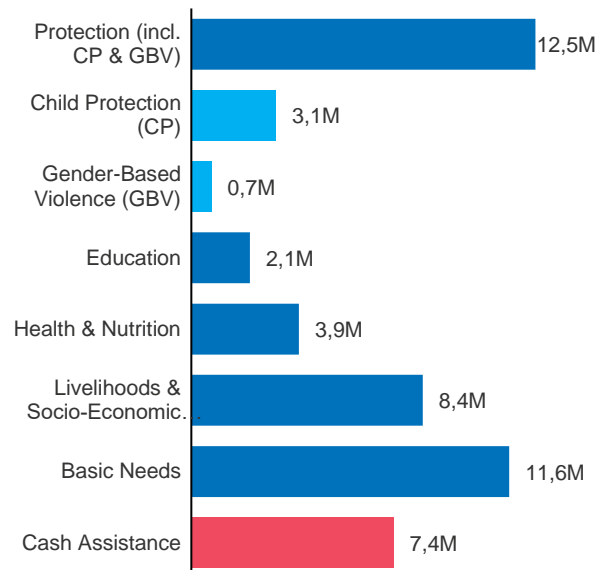
Budget summary by type at country level²⁶

PARTNER	FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS IN USD
UN agencies	24,753,434
IFRC & RC	5,555,000
International NGOs	3,630,000
Faith-based Organizations*	3,630,000
National NGOs	4,622,751
Refugee-led Organizations*	3,785,162
Women-led Organizations*	941,300
TOTAL	38,561,185

* One organization can be classified in multiple sub-categories (women-led, refugee-led, faith-based, etc.), the individual sub-categories can therefore not be added to arrive at the total.

Notes: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which also collaborate with implementing partners additional to those listed here.

Budget summary by sector at country level²⁷








²⁶ Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR’s CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is the modality of choice for forcibly displaced people and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection. Unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector.

²⁷ Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR’s CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is the modality of choice for forcibly displaced people and is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection. Unrestricted/multipurpose cash grants for basic needs are budgeted under the basic needs sector.

Budget summary by partner at country level

Partner	Protection (excluding CP & GBV)	Child Protection (CP)	Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Education	Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion	Health & Nutrition	Basic Need	Total in US\$
UN Agencies								
UN International Organization for Migration	514,953	-	-	51,495	308,972	308,972	1,570,607	2,755,000
UN World Health Organization	-	-	-	-	-	1,400,000	100,000	1,500,000
United Nations Children's Fund	-	1,212,916	-	1,559,457	-	272,607	-	3,044,980
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	-	-	-	-	500,000	-	-	500,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	7,453,454	1,300,000	600,000	300,000	4,000,000	-	3,300,000	16,953,454
IFRC and Red Cross								
Bulgarian Red Cross	330,000	220,000	55,000	-	550,000	1,100,000	3,300,000	5,555,000
International NGOs								
Caritas Bulgaria	-	-	-	-	2,200,000	-	1,430,000	3,630,000
National NGOs								
Aid for Ukraine	40,000	320,000	30,000	150,000	250,000	320,000	202,250	1,312,250
Ak-Nordost	-	-	-	-	-	191,183	-	191,183
Association of Ukrainian organization in Bulgaria MOTHER UKRAINE	-	-	-	-	280,000	250,000	1,300,000	1,830,000
Charitable Foundation Fund Good	4,800	-	-	-	53,800	26,700	11,990	97,290
Council for Refugee Women in Bulgaria	94,129	-	44,400	-	59,292	-	117,282	315,103
Foundation for Access to Rights	163,812	-	-	-	-	-	-	163,812
Open Bulgaria	15,359	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,359
Ot nas zavisi	-	-	-	15,000	20,000	25,500	134,000	194,500
Rotary International - Bulgaria	-	-	-	-	96,669	-	-	96,669
Situation Centre Open Doors	58,650	-	-	-	60,500	19,550	-	138,700
Ukrainian House	-	5,300	-	8,530	8,435	-	30,460	52,725
Za Dobroto Foundation	39,343	25,536	-	46,781	31,500	-	72,000	215,160
Total	8,714,500	3,083,752	729,400	2,131,263	8,419,168	3,914,511	11,568,589	38,561,185

RRP Monitoring Framework

Sector	Indicator	Target	
	Protection	# of individuals who have been supported in accessing protection services	62,130
	Child Protection	# of children provided with child protection services	21,000
	Child Protection	# of participants trained on child protection and children's rights	740
	Gender-Based Violence	# of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	36,000
	Gender-Based Violence	# of trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV knowledge on prevention, response and risk mitigation measures	130
	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	# of PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response	100
	Education	# of children enrolled in formal education in host countries	5,000
	Education	# of education personnel trained or receiving support to better respond to the needs of refugee learners	200
	Education	# of children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries	13,700
	Health and Nutrition	# of refugees reached through individual counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services and how to access them	45,000
	Health and Nutrition	# of health consultations provided to refugees	7,200
	Health and Nutrition	# of healthcare providers trained to provide health services to refugees	4,700
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities	42,560
	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	# of MHPSS consultations provided (includes focused and specialized services only)	11,400
	Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion	# of individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion interventions	30,000
	Basic Needs	# of individuals who received assistance for basic needs	55,260

ANNEX 1 – LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	Full description
AAP	Accountability to Affected Populations
AGD	Age, Gender, and Diversity
CBI	Cash-Based Interventions
GBV	Gender-based violence
GP	General Practitioner
LGBTIQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex and Queer
MHPSS	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support
MSNA	Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment
NGO	Non-government organization
PSEA	Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
RCF	Regional Refugee Coordination Forum
RLO	Refugee-led organizations
RRP	Regional Response Plan
SRH	Sexual and reproductive health
TPD	Temporary Protection Directive
UNSDCF	UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework

ANNEX 2 – RRP PARTNERS' PROJECT OVERVIEW

Sector	Partner	Short Activity Description	Amount required USD	Contact
Basic Needs 	Aid for Ukraine	Distributing food vouchers and vouchers for purchasing personal hygiene and household care items for low-income families with multiple children, single parents, single working parents, elderly people.	202,250	info@uaid.org.ua
	Association of Ukrainian organization in Bulgaria MOTHER UKRAINE	Providing food and non-food items, and multi-purpose cash assistance.	1,300,000	olenasof@gmail.com
	Bulgarian Red Cross	Distributing family food parcels, winter clothing and hygiene kits. Providing multi-purpose cash assistance.	3,300,000	a.vasileva@redcross.bg
	Caritas Bulgaria	Providing multi-purpose cash assistance/voucher assistance – aligned with state social security pension and child allowances – for two months to support refugees in meeting their essential needs .	1,430,000	e.patashev@caritas.bg
	Charitable Foundation Fund Good	Assisting the most vulnerable refugee groups with necessary hygiene products, medicines, food and temporary housing.	11,990	info.dobro.bg@gmail.com
	Council for Refugee Women in Bulgaria	Distributing vouchers to Ukrainian families, especially those in extremely vulnerable situation. Supporting emergency medical needs for 500 refugees including 250 children through the payment of medical expenses, surgeries, medications or examinations for people not covered by health insurance in 2024.	117,282	office@crw-bg.org
	IOM	Providing emergency/short and mid-term accommodation. Distributing food vouchers to families with children. Providing cash-based Interventions based on vulnerability criteria	1,570,607	msamuilova@iom.int
	Ot nas zavisi	Providing humanitarian aid: food for adults, children and babies; diapers, wipes for children and adults. Providing multi-purpose cash assistance: one-off cash support to newly arrived vulnerable families; one-off cash support to vulnerable families with newborn babies. Providing monthly food vouchers for vulnerable refugees from Ukraine.	134,000	team@otnaszavisi.com
	Ukrainian House	Distributing 200 blankets, 20 radiators and hygiene products to 500-550 people. Support people in need of emergency accommodation (approximately 10 nights per person).	30,460	ukrvarna@abv.bg
	UNHCR	Providing multi-purpose cash-based assistance targeting individuals/ households with specific protection needs and support to the national social protection system. Working with partners to provide information and social mediation for refugees to satisfy their basic needs	3,300,000	rodrigun@unhcr.org
Health & Nutrition 	Za Dobroto Foundation	Supporting mothers with children under the age of three with diapers and food-vouchers (three times per year). Providing financial support for medical procedures and hospital inpatient care.	72,000	o.irzhyskaya@zadobroto.com
	Aid for Ukraine	Providing comprehensive support, including MHPSS, to individuals of different age groups, as well as individuals with special needs.	320,000	info@uaid.org.ua
	Ak-Nordost	Supporting refugees integrate into the Bulgarian health system by providing medical advice, support for medication and appointment management. Providing financial support for specialist appointments, chronic & non-chronic medication, and transportation services to doctor appointments and regular lab tests. Offering health promotion courses (dental health, first aid, physiotherapeutic); MHPSS program; and training program on psychological first aid.	191,183	selene@ak-nordost.eu

Sector	Partner	Short Activity Description	Amount required USD	Contact
	Association of Ukrainian organization in Bulgaria MOTHER UKRAINE	Supporting the costs for preventive medical examinations of socially vulnerable groups; the costs of procedures and medical devices; costs of medications necessary for continuing treatment; and costs for funeral arrangements. Supporting health care for children with special needs. Providing psychological assistance to newly arrived refugees.	250,000	olenasof@gmail.com
	Bulgarian Red Cross	Providing cash assistance for medical care and medicine related reimbursements. Providing Psychological First Aid and psychological consultations and community-based psychosocial support (PSS) activities. Supporting a PSS hotline.	1,100,000	a.vasileva@redcross.bg
	Charitable Foundation Fund Good	Providing psychological assistance (mainly consultations to children): online and offline psychosocial support groups; individual consultations; art-therapeutic activities.	26,700	info.dobro.bg@gmail.com
	IOM	Purchasing medicines and covering payment of medical examinations and medical interventions of vulnerable groups. Providing individual and group psychological counselling. Providing trainings on Psychological First Aid for frontline workers and experts. Organizing socio-relational activities and recreational activities for children accommodated in hotels/recreational facilities.	308,972	msamuilova@iom.int
	Ot nas zavisi	Supporting with referrals to hospitals & doctors. Providing group psychosocial support.	25,500	team@otnaszavisi.com
	Situation Centre Open Doors	Providing trauma counselling.	19,550	situationopendoors@gmail.com
	UNICEF	Providing health check-ups to pregnant women and children. Providing nutrition counselling (breastfeeding, proper nutrition for young children. Providing capacity-building of health practitioners. Support certification qualifications of practitioners from Ukraine.	272,607	rbehbudov@unicef.org
	WHO	Providing ongoing support to the Ministry of Health. Supporting access to counselling and therapy, to life-saving medicines, medical supplies, equipment. Supporting the management of environmental health risks during emergencies.	1,400,000	melgaardj@who.int
Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion 	Aid for Ukraine	Providing Ukrainian refugees with opportunities for training in new professions and validating diplomas. Offering Bulgarian language courses for integration purposes, IT courses for skills enhancement and improved quality of life, business courses for entrepreneurship development and specialized courses for acquiring new professions.	250,000	info@uaid.org.ua
	Association of Ukrainian organization in Bulgaria MOTHER UKRAINE	Opening 8 job vacancies in the humanitarian centre of Mother Ukraine. Providing employment assistance, legal consultations, protection of labour rights.	280,000	olenasof@gmail.com
	Bulgarian Red Cross	Providing vocational training, job preparation courses, Bulgarian language classes, and translation services for education & work certificates.	550,000	a.vasileva@redcross.bg
	Caritas Bulgaria	Providing safe, private accommodation to those who express willingness to settle in urban centres but need some time to adapt to independent living. Assisting beneficiaries to find appropriate, safe and secure housing, taking on the role of intermediary between landlords and refugees. Providing support to payment of rent and utilities (up to 3 months).	2,200,000	e.patashev@caritas.bg
	Charitable Foundation Fund Good	Supporting the inclusion of refugees in host society through: Bulgarian language course (2 courses, 6 months each); meetings with career consultants; assisting with writing resumes; group sports events; educational webinars; integration events.	53,800	info.dobro.bg@gmail.com
	Council for Refugee Women in Bulgaria	Providing access to social work activities & medication to 500 Ukrainian citizens such as: administrative translation, accompaniment to national institutions, to employers or to legal organisations. Providing employment consultations and referrals for language courses. Organizing employment-focused events: meetings between hiring companies and Ukrainians searching for work.	59,292	office@crw-bg.org
	IOM	Providing Bulgarian language courses for adult persons (levels: A1, A2).	308,972	gbacheva@iom.int
	Ot nas zavisi	Supporting the economic inclusion of refugees through: support with CV writing, workshops on interview skills workshops and individual support, job matching. Providing online Bulgarian language classes for pregnant women and mothers with small children.	20,000	team@otnaszavisi.com

Sector	Partner	Short Activity Description	Amount required USD	Contact
	Rotary International - Bulgaria	Fostering social cohesion between refugee and host communities with a nonstandard media campaign. Implementing action research initiative.	96,669	kostova@bgmap.bg
	Situation Centre Open Doors	Supporting refugees with personal integration plans; providing career coaching, reskilling and upskilling workshops, and job matching support.	60,500	situationopendoors@gmail.com
	Ukrainian House	Providing Bulgarian language courses level A1 for 90 persons (planned to have 6 groups throughout the year).	8,435	ukrvarna@abv.bg
	UNESCO	Supporting refugees as well as the host government in its refugee response through media development. Increasing refugees' access to reliable information on key topics of interest and concern, enhancing their self-reliance and resilience, and fostering social inclusion. Building the capacities of host-country media outlets to produce and broadcast media programmes in Ukrainian and develop special contents; strengthening the editorial capacities of host-country media outlets; creating national media networks for refugee reporting and cooperation among media outlets	500,000	m.aoyama@unesco.org
	UNHCR	Supporting access to legal & safe employment opportunities through individual case management. Expanding coordination mechanisms with authorities, humanitarian actors & the private sector to facilitate opportunities for refugees, including livelihoods profiling and job matching. Strengthening upskilling, re-skilling and related processes to facilitate access to the job market. Promoting entrepreneurship and self-reliance. Coordinating with and empowering local authorities in their role for the inclusion and provision of services to refugees.	4,000,000	rodrigun@unhcr.org
	Za Dobroto Foundation	Facilitating workshops for retired people from Ukraine focusing on job opportunities, language skills (Bulgarian/English), computer literacy and financial planning. Offering training programs for retired persons who want to become babysitters. Providing training programs for mothers who wish to start a home-based business. Raising awareness about the challenges faced by women entrepreneurs with babies and promote positive role models.	31,500	o.irzhyskaya@zadobroto.com
Protection	Aid for Ukraine	Raising awareness against human trafficking. Providing support and assistance to victims and collaborating with local authorities and organizations to combat human-trafficking through prevention campaigns, victim identification and support, and advocacy for stronger legal frameworks.	40,000	info@uaid.org.ua
	Bulgarian Red Cross	Working towards PGI awareness. Facilitating community outreach events. Provide emergency funds for at risk households.	330,000	s.barakov@redcross.bg
	Charitable Foundation Fund Good	Providing legal consultations for refugees (once a week, as well as in emergency cases). Providing accompaniment by social workers of especially vulnerable categories of refugees to obtain medical documents.	4,800	info.dobro.bg@gmail.com
	Council for Refugee Women in Bulgaria	Provide information on prevention of human trafficking, to at least 500 Ukrainian refugees, women, children and men. Providing community-based mental health support for Ukrainian children and their parents. Supporting access to medical services for Ukrainian refugees, through accompaniment to medical facilities, translation and administrative management.	94,129	office@crw-bg.org
	IOM	Providing individual consultations, referrals, and information sessions on labour market integration, social assistance, health insurance. Supporting with access to basic services - health, education, employment. Raising awareness on protection risks.	514,953	msamuilova@iom.int
	Foundation for Access to Rights	Maintaining a hotline, established in response to the Ukrainian crisis providing holistic services.	163,812	valeria.ilareva@farbg.eu
	Open Bulgaria	Providing psychosocial support to children refugees from Ukraine by conducting support & creativity groups.	15,359	bgopen4you@gmail.com
	Situation Centre Open Doors	Providing group psychosocial support for adults, adolescents and children, including but not limited to using games, art, cultural activities, virtual reality-supported psychological assessments.	58,650	situationopendoors@gmail.com
	UNHCR	Supporting access to Bulgarian territory, legal status & documentation that promotes access to rights and information. Supporting Government processes in policy formulation and implementation that ensure the proper application of the state's international commitments towards refugees' rights. Supporting community-led initiatives toward organization and self-representation.	7,453,454	rodrigun@unhcr.org
	Za Dobroto Foundation	Providing art therapy sessions for Ukrainian women and separate groups for Ukrainian women with their children. Providing psychological support for employees of non-profit organizations that work with refugees. Providing psychological and social support for parents of teenagers from Ukraine; via group	39,343	o.irzhyskaya@zadobroto.com

Sector	Partner	Short Activity Description	Amount required USD	Contact
Child Protection 		counselling for pregnant women from Ukraine. Providing sports classes for teenage refugees from Ukraine.		
	Aid for Ukraine	Providing a nurturing environment for infants and toddlers, focusing on their physical, cognitive, and emotional development. Offering preschool programs that focus on preparing children for formal education. Providing academic support and extracurricular activities for children in primary school. Offering various programs for teenagers, including life skills training, career guidance, and recreational activities.	320,000	info@uaid.org.ua
	Bulgarian Red Cross	Providing Child Friendly Spaces and organising sports events and swimming classes. Providing Bulgarian language classes and first aid trainings for children.	220,000	a.vasileva@redcross.bg
	Ukrainian House	Providing therapy session for children who have experienced stress and traumatic situations.	5,300	ukvarna@abv.bg
	UNHCR	Working with children & youth, and their parents or caretakers to ensure a positive environment at home. Strengthening institutions and service providers working with children, especially those with specific protection needs. Working with authorities that form the extended CP network, at both the national and local level, to promote good practices and best standards for the protection of children. Promoting and strengthen alternative care arrangements and guardianship.	1,300,000	rodrigun@unhcr.org
	UNICEF	Strengthening CP system; supporting access and provision of CP support for children/caregivers. Providing child-centred services (MHPSS, Child Friendly Spaces, outreach, information, legal aid, referral, mediation support) for the adaptation, inclusion & access to services of refugee children/caregivers. Capacitating of local municipalities & Regional Directorates for Social Assistance for individual case management. Providing capacity building on children's rights, GBV prevention response/risk measures, and MHPSS for frontline workers. Supporting adolescents/youth mental health and wellbeing.	1,212,916	rbehbudov@unicef.org
	Za Dobroto Foundation	Providing psychological support for mothers and early development for children. Facilitating acting classes for children ages 5-13.	25,536	o.irzhytskaya@zadobroto.com
GBV 	Aid for Ukraine	Conducting awareness campaigns and workshops on GBV, its forms and impact. Providing support services, including counselling and psychosocial support, to survivors of GBV. Advocating for policies and laws that protect survivors of GBV and promote gender equality. Training community leaders, service providers, and relevant stakeholders to enhance their understanding of GBV and their ability to respond effectively.	30,000	info@uaid.org.ua
	Bulgarian Red Cross	Conducting GBV awareness campaigns. Managing Emergency fund for at risk persons.	55,000	a.vasileva@redcross.bg
	Council for Refugee Women in Bulgaria	Facilitating information sessions on GBV for at least 100 refugees (diversity in gender and age), including on safe disclosure and referral pathways.	44,400	office@crw-bg.org
	UNHCR	Supporting national prevention and response system for GBV, including promoting adoption of international standards and practices, to ensure its accessibility for refugee GBV survivors. Conducting safety assessments of key refugee locations and support follow up of implementation to proactively manage GBV and other key protection risks. Supporting the expansion and/or consolidation of community sensitization and prevention mechanisms including through women's empowerment.	600,000	rodrigun@unhcr.org
Education 	Aid for Ukraine	Delivering courses for children and teenagers (formal and non-formal): Bulgarian and other language courses, IT courses for teenagers, early childhood development, preschool education.	150,000	info@uaid.org.ua
	IOM	Purchasing educational materials for children divided into age groups (3-7; 7-11; 12-17). Supporting a more conducive learning environment.	51,495	msamuilova@iom.int
	Ot nas zavis	Providing non-formal Bulgarian language classes. Facilitating a Buddy program for teenage refugees and Bulgarians.	15,000	team@otnaszavisi.com
	Ukrainian House	Providing 160 English language lessons. Providing consultations for children aged 6 to 11 (for total of 80 persons).	8,530	ukvarna@abv.bg
	UNHCR	Supporting meaningful inclusion of refugee children by promoting access to education and schools. Supporting schools receiving large numbers of refugee children to increase their capacity to provide appropriate support and a safe space for learning and socializing. Promoting access to tertiary education for adult refugees. Promoting sports and arts activities among youth/adolescents.	300,000	rodrigun@unhcr.org

Sector	Partner	Short Activity Description	Amount required USD	Contact
	UNICEF	Providing nurturing care with focus on children ages 0-3. Supporting equitable access to education and continuation of learning for children in transition to and out of the national system. Providing educational support and additional learning support for refugee students in secondary education. Supporting municipalities' social inclusion and skills building programs. Supporting adolescent and youth skills-building, civic participation, innovation, and entrepreneurship.	1,559,457	rbehbudov@unicef.org
Za Dobroto Foundation		Supporting the development and mental health of children. Providing daily care and education for children ages 3-6; non-formal education for children ages 7-13. Supporting Ukrainian children to prepare for their examinations in 7th, 9th, and 12th classes. Providing guidance on college or career choices after graduation for high-school graduates and lessons.	46,781	o.irzhyskaya@zadobroto.com



**Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation**