



SITUATION SUMMARY

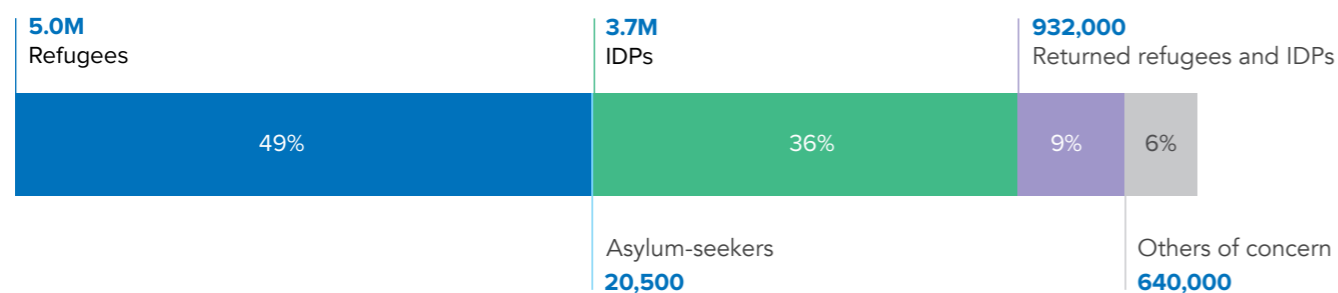
UNHCR and its partner Proliska install winter insulation in a home in Smiach village, Chernihiv region, Ukraine, close to the border with the Russian Federation. The support helps war-affected families keep their homes warmer and cope with harsh winter conditions amid ongoing security risks. © NGO Proliska/Sergey Zakurdaev

Ukraine situation

Countries involved in the response: Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine.

2025 year-end population figures

10.3 million Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring countries and IDPs



Context

Four years into the full-scale invasion, the war in Ukraine continues to inflict severe suffering on civilians, driving displacement and compounding protection, housing and economic vulnerabilities. In 2025, civilian casualties were 31% higher than in 2024. Targeted attacks on energy infrastructure caused widespread power outages, severely disrupting heating and water supplies during one of the coldest winters in recent years. The psychological impact of the conflict remained profound, with approximately 60% of households reporting mental health concerns. Older persons, persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses, and single caregivers were among the most affected, while populations living near the front lines and those under evacuation orders faced heightened exposure to risks.

By end of 2025, an estimated 3.7 million people were displaced within Ukraine, while 5.9 million refugees had fled abroad, including over 5 million across Europe. Humanitarian needs remained acute, with approximately 12.7 million people requiring assistance. Despite protracted displacement and insecurity, nearly half of Ukrainian refugees (49%) and internally displaced people (51%) reported hopes or intentions to return in the future, identifying improved security, access to housing, and availability of services as key conditions for return.

Across host countries, inter-agency assessments indicated a broadly stable situation. Refugee employment rates continued to approach those of host populations, and enrolment of refugee children in formal education increased to 86%. Temporary Protection remained the primary legal framework enabling access to rights and services, although gaps in documentation and inconsistencies in implementation persisted. Significant vulnerabilities continued to affect specific groups, particularly older persons, persons with disabilities, and survivors of violence.

Economic inclusion remained fragile, and employed refugees earned only half as much as local workers. Underfunding posed the most critical constraint, with the regional response receiving just 33% of the required \$690 million

UNHCR in action

The ongoing war has left millions facing protection risks, housing insecurity and acute economic vulnerability, with funding constraints have limited the response. UNHCR prioritized urgent life-saving needs while maintaining a durable solutions-oriented approach, delivering multi-sectoral assistance and strengthening national systems and community-based structures.

Inside Ukraine, UNHCR and partners reached nearly 594,000 internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees and war-affected people with legal aid, social services and psychosocial support. The most common legal needs related to housing, land and property rights, access to social protection and personal documentation. Protection monitoring, including the [Ukraine Protection Survey](#), contributed to ministerial agreement on a new IDP strategy and a review of the national evacuation mechanism. At 30 border crossing points, UNHCR and partners provided protection information and support to more than 9,500 people, primarily those departing Ukraine.

Major achievements in Ukraine

- 1.3 million** services delivered
63% women and girls | 35% older people
- 333,000+** people received financial aid
- 203,000+** people supported with emergency shelter
- 100,000** people received essential relief items

Across 11 host countries

- 715,000+** refugees received protection and inclusion support

Through support to community-based organizations – 57% of which were women-led – UNHCR reached more than 200,000 people with resilience-building and social cohesion activities. While UNHCR is not currently facilitating or promoting returns to Ukraine, it continued to monitor return intentions among refugees and IDPs through annual [intention surveys](#), ensuring that displaced people's voices remain central to discussions about their future. As part of preparations for voluntary returns, when conditions allow, UNHCR partnered with Brunel University of London to develop a model simulating potential refugee return patterns under several plausible future scenarios. The first [results](#) disseminated in 2025, providing an analytical foundation for forward-looking recovery planning.

UNHCR provided cash assistance to over 333,000 war-affected people, including multi-purpose cash assistance to over 125,000 people and winter cash assistance to 178,000 people, including 25,000 with disabilities, to help cover heating and essential energy needs. More than 203,000 people received emergency shelter and housing support, and since July 2022 UNHCR and partners have repaired over 55,000 war-damaged homes, enabling families to return to or remain in their communities. Nearly 100,000 people were supported with essential relief items. In collaboration with the Ministry of Social Policy, UNHCR piloted a social adaptation service for vulnerable IDPs, supporting over 80 individuals, and jointly developed a digital IDP Pathway to facilitate earlier access to solutions-oriented support.

Outside Ukraine, the UNHCR-led [Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#) brought together 195 partners across 10 countries, 80% of them local organizations. Protection services reached over 133,000 refugees against a target of 209,000. Legal assistance was provided to 51,000 people, while nearly 59,000 received cash assistance.

In Bulgaria, Compass Centres supported over 32,000 refugees with legal, protection, and inclusion services.

In Czechia, more than 9,300 refugees received protection assistance, and over 12,000 children accessed psychosocial support.

In Hungary, over 12,000 refugees received protection services, with 91% of children enrolled in formal education.

In Slovakia, UNHCR advocacy contributed to the introduction of compulsory education for all refugee children from September 2025.

In Poland, UNHCR and partners reached 77,000 refugees with information on rights and services and provided legal counselling to nearly 10,000 people.

In the Republic of Moldova, UNHCR provided nearly 23,000 refugees with cash assistance, supported 15,200 with legal aid, delivered legal guidance in support of the Government's extension of Temporary Protection until March 2027.

In Romania, UNHCR provided protection counselling and legal support to 11,900 refugees, distributed core relief items to 46,600 people, and delivered livelihood and employment services to 5,900 individuals. Despite severe funding constraints, UNHCR maintained its Community Centre at RomExpo in Bucharest as a key one-stop service point hub and transferred 208,500 contingency relief items valued at \$6.6 million to national authorities to strengthen emergency preparedness.

Coordination and partnerships

UNHCR leads the coordination of the refugee response to the Ukraine situation through the RRP, covering 10 host countries across Central and Eastern Europe. In line with the Refugee Coordination Model, UNHCR provides strategic leadership, convenes regional and national coordination platforms, and ensures coherence across protection, assistance, and inclusion efforts, while progressively supporting the transition toward nationally led and sustainable coordination mechanisms.

In 2025, UNHCR coordinated the work of 195 partners, including host governments, UN agencies, national and international NGOs, refugee-led and women-led organizations. Despite a challenging funding environment, more than

715,000 refugees across the region received protection, assistance, and inclusion support. While refugees from Ukraine benefitted from Temporary Protection regimes safeguarding access to safety, rights, and essential services, UNHCR and partners pursued coordinated advocacy to address inconsistencies in implementation across countries.

Inter-agency assessments, including the Socio-Economic Insights Surveys (SEIS), showed that regional refugee employment rates increased to 68%, close to host population levels. They also found that 86% of refugee children were attending formal education, 87% of refugees had access to healthcare, and over 70% of those in need could access mental health and psychosocial support. Most of those surveyed also reported improved well-being. SEIS findings draw on a regional [analysis](#) conducted in 2025 (based on 2024 data) across thematic areas including [protection and accountability](#), [education](#), [employability](#) and [health and well-being](#). Country-level outcomes are available in the RRP 2025 [End of Year Report](#), with individual country reports for [Bulgaria](#), [Estonia](#), [Hungary](#), [Latvia](#), the [Republic of Moldova](#), [Poland](#), [Romania](#) and [Slovakia](#).

UNHCR led and co-led key coordination structures, including the Protection Cluster and the Shelter/ Non-Food Items Cluster, and maintained 20 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with oblast administrations and five active MoUs with line ministries, including the Ministry of Social Policy.

Partnerships with the Office of the Ombudsman of Ukraine and the Olena Zelenska Foundation complemented UNHCR's engagement across protection, social cohesion, and accountability.

UNHCR's network of 100 IDP Councils – 68% chaired by women, with women comprising 77% of total membership – and more than 550 community-based organizations facilitated meaningful participation of displaced people in decision-making and service delivery. A newly launched digital platform for IDP Councils strengthened coordination and structured participation at the national level. Collaboration with development actors and international financial institutions advanced through UNHCR's forecasting model, which provided return projections to inform strategic and operational planning.

Use of flexible funding

Flexible funding was critical to sustaining a rapid and adaptive response across Ukraine. It enabled UNHCR to scale up multi-purpose cash assistance quickly following missile strikes and sudden displacement, extend support to newly prioritized groups such as stateless persons, and pilot innovative initiatives, including the social adaptation service for vulnerable IDPs and the digital IDP Pathway. These activities would not have been possible under tightly earmarked funding conditions.



Revolut's Clear Sky campaign for Ukraine



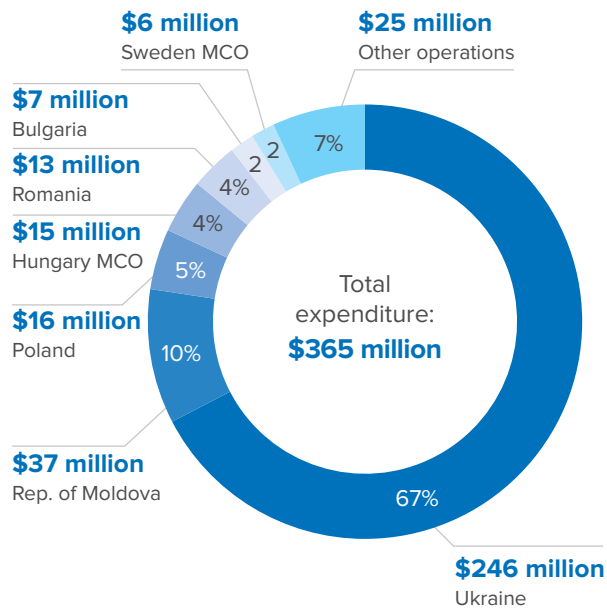
© UNHCR/Dmytro Babenko

Revolut and UNHCR partnered on the Clear Sky campaign, featuring a limited-edition card designed by Ukrainian artists and giving customers a simple way to show support.

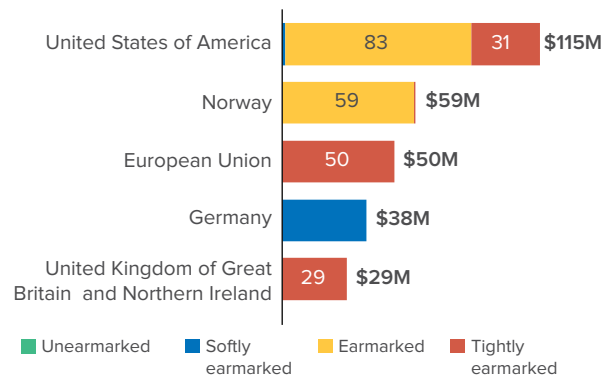
The campaign raised more than £900,000 (\$1.1 million), including a £200,000 (\$250,000) contribution from Revolut. This flexible funding helped UNHCR provide protection, cash assistance, shelter, mental health care and psychosocial support and emergency relief for forcibly displaced people in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

Financial overview

Expenditure by operation



Top 5 donors



Voluntary contributions from all other donors, carry-over and other adjustments were \$61.0 million.

Funding received

In 2025, UNHCR required a total of **\$803 million** to address the Ukraine situation but received only **44%** of that amount.

