

# Slovakia

February 2023

UNHCR provides assistance and protection to refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless individuals - including people fleeing the war in Ukraine under temporary protection.

UNHCR provides quality support, information, and makes referrals to relevant services available – through Blue Dot Hubs, partners, and complaint and feedback mechanisms.

UNHCR is shifting its emergency response towards refugee inclusion, while continuing to support host communities and ensuring contingency preparedness.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022\*

Refugees	<b>84,885</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>50</b>
Stateless persons	<b>2,940</b>

## Top three countries of origin\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	<b>83,297</b>	Bangladesh	<b>18</b>
Afghanistan	<b>366</b>	Russian Federation	<b>9</b>
Russian Federation	<b>273</b>	Ukraine	<b>8</b>

\*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

## UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of mid-February, **109,000** refugees from Ukraine were registered for Temporary Protection in Slovakia.

**Winterization:** 43,000 people received UNHCR winterization support, including NFIs and cash, with the winterization budget amounting to USD 2.7 million.

**Border Monitoring:** UNHCR and partners carry out monitoring and profiling at border crossings and registration centres to identify needs, provide services, and make referrals. Ten protection desks offer information and counselling.

**Blue Dot Hubs:** Since their establishment in 2022, 35,763 people have received support at Blue Dot Hubs.

**Supporting the most vulnerable:** UNHCR has scaled up the protection response, identifying and referring children at risk, mitigating gender-based violence risks, and communicating with communities through the UNHCR Help page, helpline, and the popular [Telegram channel](#).

**Cash-Based Intervention:** UNHCR has provided cash assistance to 29,278 refugees from Ukraine and vulnerable third-country nationals, and winter cash assistance to 19,782 individuals. well as winter cash assistance to 19,782 people.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Coordination

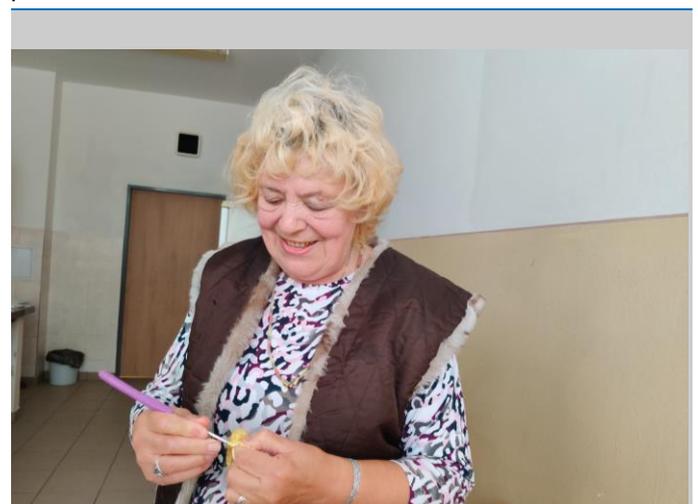
Within the Refugee Response Plan, UNHCR supports the government to coordinate humanitarian actors via the Refugee Coordination Forum, which includes sector-specific working groups aligned with the national response.

### Promoting international protection standards

To promote international refugee law standards, UNHCR regularly comments on the draft amendments to various laws – most recently to draft amendments of the Act on Education and Training, while advocating for compulsory education of children under temporary protection.

### Legislation related to Ukraine

Through UNHCR advocacy, as of 1 January, children with temporary protection status are eligible for universal health care on the same footing with Slovak children, regardless of their parents' employment status. Coverage includes medical examinations, emergency healthcare, medical procedures and other treatments.



### SEEKING REFUGE IN SINGING FOR PEACE

With only a limited pension from Ukraine to sustain her and her family, Albina was one of around 30,000 Ukrainian refugees supported by UNHCR with cash assistance in Slovakia during their first months of displacement. Her story is [here](#). © UNHCR / Yelena Sim

## Key Priorities

- **Access to territory and protection:** UNHCR monitors the situation of people in need of international protection seeking access to the territory, the asylum procedure and temporary protection, at Slovakia's border with Ukraine and across the country. UNHCR also advocates for the inclusion of persons under temporary protection in national health, legal, and protection systems.
- **Coordination:** UNHCR supports the government to coordinate humanitarian actors via the Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) for the Slovak Republic.
- **Legal Assistance:** UNHCR provides legal counselling for asylum-seekers and people applying for temporary protection.
- **Community-based protection:** UNHCR supports refugee-led organizations and other community structures to help them respond to protection and inclusion challenges.
- **Child Protection:** UNHCR strengthens the national child protection system to ensure inclusion of refugee children in available services and procedures.
- **Gender-based violence (GBV):** UNHCR supports national systems in strengthening the capacity to prevent, mitigate and provide a comprehensive adequate and safe response to GBV.
- **Integration:** UNHCR champions and supports community-based approaches. It promotes social cohesion and integration objectives through projects that involve both refugee and local communities, and it advocates for long-term integration.
- **Education:** UNHCR advocates for the inclusion of refugee pupils from Ukraine into the national school system, expands access to quality tertiary and

higher education for refugees, and builds the capacity of the national education system to accommodate displaced students.

- **Cash-Based Assistance:** UNHCR supports the Government by providing short-term emergency cash assistance to meet the material needs of refugees from Ukraine.
- **Capacity Building:** UNHCR is bolstering capacity-building and training on refugee-specific needs for partners and state authorities.
- **Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA):** UNHCR co-chairs the PSEA Task Force with the Slovak National Centre for Human Rights, and coordinates inter-agency activities to raise awareness and increase organizations' capacity to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse in Slovakia.

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with five partners to respond to the most pressing needs of individuals fleeing Ukraine under temporary protection in Slovakia: the Slovak Humanitarian Council, Human Rights League, People in Need, Mareena, and SME SPOLU ("We are together"), and leads the refugee coordination structure in Slovakia, in support of the response.

## Statelessness

- Slovakia is a party to both Statelessness Conventions. UNHCR advocates with the government to develop a statelessness determination procedure.

## UNHCR Presence in Slovakia

### Staff:

25 National Staff

19 International Staff

### Offices:

1 National Office in Bratislava

1 Field Office in Kosice

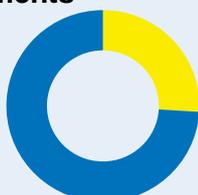
## Financial information\* (February 2023)

\*Information relates to the Representation for Central Europe, which covers the Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, and Slovenia.

### Financial requirements

USD 51.1 M

**Funding gap**  
74%  
37.8 M



**Funded**  
26%  
13.3 M

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