



# UKRAINE EMERGENCY

## UNHCR Operational Update

12 March 2026

Visiting Ukraine for the first time since he took up his position, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Barham Salih visited a residential area in Zaporizhzhia city in southeast Ukraine that was hit in a Russian aerial attack on 17 December 2025. © UNHCR/Nikola Ivanovski

### KEY FIGURES:

**1.25 million**

multi-sectorial services delivered to people in need in **2025\*\*\*** (in addition to **1.7M** in 2024, **4.3M** in 2022 & **2.6M** in 2023)

**10.8 million**

people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2026 (source: [2026 HNRP](#))

**3.6 million**

people prioritised (from 4.1M) for humanitarian assistance in the [2026 HNRP](#)

**2.1 million**

multi-sectorial services UNHCR aims to provide to internally displaced, returnees, and war-affected people in **2026\*\*\***

\*\*\*People may receive multiple forms of assistance and services.

### OPERATIONAL CONTEXT & HIGHLIGHTS:

- **The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Barham Salih, travelled to Ukraine in February as the full-scale invasion entered its fifth year.** This was the High Commissioner's first visit to Ukraine since assuming office in January. He [urged](#) sustained international solidarity and stronger support for Ukrainians.
- **The Russian Federation continued to carry out large-scale attacks on Ukraine's energy infrastructure in February,** resulting in prolonged power outages as people continued to experience freezing temperatures. President Zelenskyy [said](#) that over the last three months of winter (December-February), Russian Armed Forces launched more than 14,670 guided aerial bombs, 738 missiles, and nearly 19,000 drone attacks against Ukraine.
- **An updated joint Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA5) was released** on 23 February by the Government of Ukraine, the World Bank Group, the European Commission, and UN. It estimates that the total cost of reconstruction and recovery in Ukraine is almost **\$588 billion** over the next decade, which is nearly three times the estimated nominal GDP of Ukraine for 2025. Direct damage in Ukraine has now reached over \$195 billion, up from \$176 billion in the RDNA4. An estimated 14% of the total housing stock has been damaged or destroyed, affecting more than 3 million households.
- **UNHCR continues to work within the interagency response to support the Government of Ukraine and local authorities to address the most pressing humanitarian needs,** providing life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection services while at the same time helping war-affected people and communities to recover, and displaced people to find durable solutions. See UNHCR's 2026 Programme Summary [here](#).

### 2026 RESPONSE in NUMBERS\*:

(Delivered with partners from 1 January–28 February 2026  
For the **2025-26 winter response**, see pg. 4)

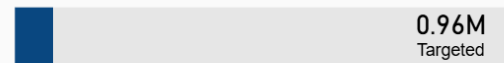
**150,762**

Multi-sectorial services delivered to people in need in 2026

#### Protection

**73,942**

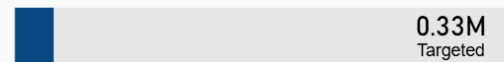
Received protection services and support



#### Shelter/Housing

**25,576**

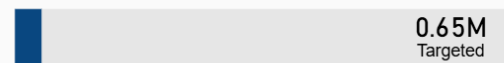
Received emergency shelter and housing support



#### Cash Assistance

**35,254**

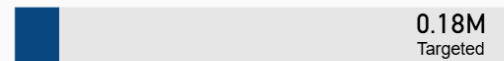
Supported with cash assistance\*\*



#### Essential Items

**15,990**

Reached with essential items



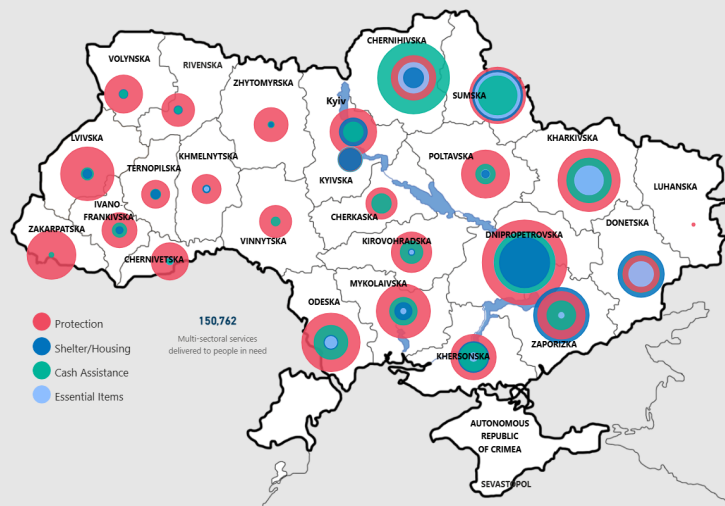
\* The targets are subject to the receipt of the funding requirements  
\*\*Figures may be adjusted as they are subject to reconciliation and verification

Sources: UNHCR Ukraine Partner Reporting Portal (ActivityInfo);  
Contact: UkraineInfoManagement@unhcr.org

All sectorial achievements/targets refer to individuals.  
All reached figures are subject to data cleaning and verification.  
Retro-active corrections may occur.

### WORKING WITH PARTNERS:





## Emergency Response

- Emergency response to attacks:** Large-scale Russian attacks have continued to kill and injure civilians and damage homes. Complementing the work of first responders, UNHCR’s local NGO partners are among the first on the ground after aerial attacks, providing critical emergency shelter materials to quickly protect damaged homes, in addition to psychosocial support, legal assistance for example to restore lost documents or apply for state compensation, and cash assistance or essential items to cover immediate needs.
- In the past month, UNHCR and partners responded to people affected by large aerial attacks in multiple regions on [7 February](#), 22 February, [26 February](#), and [7 March](#), in addition to almost daily incidents impacting communities near the frontline. Kharkiv city and Kharkivska oblast experienced [multiple attacks](#), with emergency responses by UNHCR partners in Kharkivska oblast increasing by 50% compared to January, highlighting deepening humanitarian needs. UNHCR and partners delivered emergency shelter materials and essential items to over 760 people in Kharkivska oblast in February. In east Ukraine, UNHCR’s local protection partners responded to 190 incidents of shelling and aerial attacks in February, primarily in Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, and Zaporizka oblasts, providing psychosocial support to 530 people, in addition to other services.
- Evacuations and response:** Partners continue to report new displacement and facilitate evacuations from frontline areas, primarily from Donetsk and the eastern hromadas of Dnipropetrovska oblasts, as well as ongoing smaller-scale displacement in Zaporizka oblast, with most evacuees preferring to remain within the oblast. In Kharkivska oblast, there was an increase in arrivals at the Lozova transit centre (TC) in February – with daily arrivals reaching 100-150 people. Overall, partners registered almost **11,000 IDPs** (61% female, 39% male) passing through transit centres in February, compared to 12,700 in January. UNHCR and NGO partners remain actively engaged at TCs, Interim Evacuation Points, collective sites, and beyond to respond to the needs of displaced people, providing essential items, cash assistance, legal aid and psychosocial support. In February, almost 4,200 people passing through TCs in Dnipro, Pavlohrad, Voloske, and Zaporizhzhia, as well as at the interim transit point in Stepove, Dnipropetrovska oblast, received essential items including hygiene kits, clothes, and towels.
- Support to frontline communities:** As part of two interagency UN humanitarian convoys to communities in Donetsk oblast on 4 and 6 March, [UNHCR contributed](#) 1,130 solar lamps to support local residents facing frequent power outages.



## UNHCR’s High Commissioner Barham Salih urges support for Ukraine

UNHCR’s HC Barham Salih visited Ukraine from 15-21 February to show solidarity with Ukrainians in the midst of a severe winter and urge continued support for Ukraine. In Kyiv and frontline cities – [Dnipro](#), [Zaporizhzhia](#) and [Kharkiv](#) – the HC met families whose homes had been damaged by glide bombs and missiles and people recently evacuated from frontline communities. He observed UNHCR’s emergency assistance after strikes and in transit centers for displaced people; legal aid for those who lost documents; and work to repair war-damaged houses to allow people to remain in their homes or return.

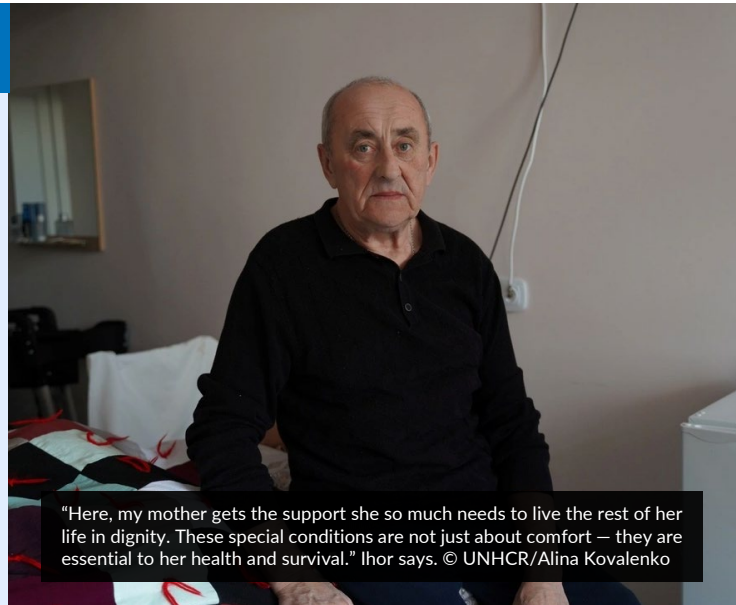
The HC met with [President Volodymyr Zelenskyy](#), as well as Deputy Prime Minister for Restoration [Oleksii Kuleba](#); Minister for Foreign Affairs, [Andrii Sybiha](#); Minister of Social Policy, Family and Unity, [Denys Uliutin](#); Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights [Dmytro Lubinets](#); and local and regional officials. In addition, he met UNHCR’s strong network of Ukrainian partners, community representatives, other UN agencies and the diplomatic community. Read more [here](#).

High Commissioner Barham Salih meets with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv. © Office of the President of Ukraine

## Assisted living and social adaptation services help displaced Ukrainians live in dignity and comfort

For older people, people with disabilities, and those requiring specialized care, displacement can quickly become life-threatening without access to appropriate social services and adapted living conditions. Assisted living services provide a critical solution for people who cannot manage daily life independently.

Ihor and his mother, originally from Horlivka in Donetsk oblast in eastern Ukraine, were displaced in 2014 and again in 2022. They have now moved to Truskavets in Lvivska oblast where they were accommodated in Batkivshchyna sanatorium – a facility providing assisted living social services. The facility is part of a broader initiative supported by UNHCR and implemented in several locations across Ukraine. These services include temporary accommodation, assisted living for people with high care needs, and a pilot social adaptation programme to support transitions to more independent living. UNHCR also supported the comprehensive renovation and refurbishment of the sanatorium, improving essential infrastructure. Read more [here](#).



"Here, my mother gets the support she so much needs to live the rest of her life in dignity. These special conditions are not just about comfort – they are essential to her health and survival." Ihor says. © UNHCR/Alina Kovalenko

### Protection

- **UNHCR continues to strengthen its cooperation with the Ministry of Social Policy, Family and Unity (MoSPFU)**, as well as with regional and local social protection authorities and service providers. On 10 February, a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNHCR, MoSPFU and the Pension Fund of Ukraine [was signed](#). Cooperation under the MoU will include adapting and strengthening the social service delivery system, expanding access to social assistance for the most vulnerable population groups, improving the IDP registry, and developing integrated digital solutions, as well as cooperation in the field of social housing policy to ensure access to adequate housing. Read more [here](#).
- **Support to displaced and war-affected people to access compensation:** For many IDPs and war-affected people as well as returnees, obtaining compensation for housing damaged or destroyed because of the war means a new beginning. Reinforcing and complementing the Government system, UNHCR and partners work to enhance people's access to compensation through legal aid, shelter interventions, strategic advocacy and legal facilitation also enabling future reparations. In 2025, over **25,000** people were supported with shelter assistance that complements the Government's compensation system, and **39,000** compensation-related legal consultations were provided by UNHCR and its partners. Read the full brief [here](#).

### Cash Assistance

- **In January and February 2026**, UNHCR has already delivered cash assistance to over **35,200** war-affected people, totalling **\$8.4 million**. This includes vulnerable people who have been assisted because they are either in need of urgent support following aerial attacks or evacuation, were recently displaced within the last six months, or have recently returned home to war-affected communities. The assistance helps vulnerable people, including those with specific protection needs, to cover the costs of basic needs like accommodation, food, medicine, clothing, and heating—and allows them to prioritize for themselves what is most urgently needed following the shock of sudden displacement or damage to homes.
- **This winter 2025-2026**, UNHCR, in collaboration with relevant Government authorities, has been providing cash assistance to help families cover winter-specific needs such as solid fuel – prioritizing those who live in frontline and border areas, where exposure to the war and damage to infrastructure are most severe. As of end-February 2026, over **193,000** people had received winter cash assistance (see pg. 4), totalling **\$57 million**. The transfer value is UAH 19,400 per household, in line with the Shelter/NFI Cluster recommendations calculated based on the Government's assessment of household winter needs, and agreed with the Ministry of Social Policy, Family and Unity.



The new space enables residents to connect and access essential administrative, social, and other basic services. © Anton Sevastianov/UNDP in Ukraine

## A new community building opens as part of UNDP-UNHCR project to support recovery and returns

In February, UNHCR and UNDP officially [inaugurated](#) a rehabilitated community and village council building in Zavodske, Mykolaivska oblast. The facility, restored with support from the Ukraine Community Recovery Fund (UCRF), houses the local administration offices and provides a vital multi-functional space for civic and social activities in the community.

The efforts are part of a broader joint project by UNDP and UNHCR, "Mine Action and IDP Return in the South of Ukraine", that was launched in August 2024. The project focuses on creating safe conditions for return, rebuilding homes and infrastructure, and restoring essential services in partnership with local authorities and civil society across Mykolaivska and Khersonska oblasts. The project specifically targets four communities with the objective of spurring their early recovery. Read more [here](#).

# UNHCR WINTER RESPONSE 2025-2026: UPDATE #4

Repeated attacks on housing, energy systems and essential services throughout the winter left millions in Ukraine without heating or electricity for prolonged periods as the country faced the harshest winter in a decade. UNHCR's winter response aimed to help war-affected people with specific vulnerabilities, including older people, people with disabilities, people with chronic illnesses and IDPs hosted in collective sites. The focus was primarily on people remaining in frontline areas of eastern and northern Ukraine, where the harsh winter season is compounded by war-damaged homes, disrupted power infrastructure, and limited access to critical services. [UNHCR's winter response](#) is part of a larger [interagency winter response plan](#) and aims to complement the Government's efforts.

UNHCR is the largest provider of cash assistance for winter energy needs to date, in support of Government authorities. UNHCR supported more than **193,300** people with winter cash assistance, totalling **\$57 million**. In addition, over **25,000** people received support to better insulate their homes and living spaces. Complementing these efforts, UNHCR also supplied **53 generators and 222 portable power stations** this winter to communities, authorities and vital facilities to help ensure that critical functions can continue during blackouts.

## Tetiana in Sumy received winter cash assistance and purchased firewood



Delivered with partners as of 28 February 2026\*:

**218,112**

Multi-sectoral services delivered as part of the Winter Response Plan

### Winter Response Plan 2025-2026

#### Cash Assistance

People supported with cash assistance for winter-specific needs

**193,099**

54%

**359,000**  
Targeted

#### Shelter/Housing

People assisted with better-insulated homes and living spaces

**25,013**

83%

**30,200**  
Targeted

\*All sectorial achievements/targets refer to individuals. All reached figures are subject to data cleaning and verification. Retro-active corrections may occur.

For Tetiana in Sumy, ongoing shelling, a limited pension to live on, and the harsh winter made a difficult situation even harder.

UNHCR supported Tetiana and many other war-affected families in frontline and border areas with winter cash assistance, helping them buy firewood and keep their homes warm.

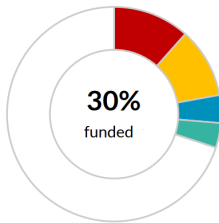
❄️ Watch Tetiana's video [here](#).

Photo: UNHCR/Iryna Tymchyshyn

## FUNDING UPDATE | 2026

### UKRAINE

as of 28 February 2026



**\$470.0 million**

UNHCR's financial requirements 2026

- Tightly earmarked
- Earmarked
- Softly earmarked (indicative allocation)
- Unearmarked (indicative allocation)
- Funding gap (indicative)



UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors and for the generous contributions from individuals and the private sector. Given the immense humanitarian needs, UNHCR continues to seek support to deliver assistance inside Ukraine. For more information, see the [UNHCR Ukraine Situation Appeal 2026](#) and the [UNHCR Ukraine 2026 Programme Summary](#).

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Visit Ukraine's [Operational Data Portal](#) for more information products [here](#).
- UNHCR's [Regional Flash Update](#) on the Ukraine situation can be found [here](#).
- [Ukraine Protection Cluster Response Dashboard](#) can be found [here](#).
- [Ukraine IDP Evacuation Tracker and Transit Centres Dashboard](#) [here](#).
- [Shelter Cluster Response Dashboard](#) [here](#).

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Contact **UNHCR's Hotline 0-800-307-711** for feedback and advice on assistance and services.