

# Ukraine

September 2021

**Presence:** The UN Refugee Agency has been working in Ukraine since 1994 and established a country office the following year. A host country agreement was signed in September 1996.

UNHCR works to ensure the protection of and solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers, stateless persons, persons with undetermined nationality, IDPs and conflict-affected persons.

**Strategy:** UNHCR's work in Ukraine is guided by its **Multi-Year, Multi-Partner Protection and Solutions Strategy** which sets forth UNHCR's plans for engagement in 2018-2022.

## POPULATION OF CONCERN\*

Refugees	<b>2,274</b>
Asylum-seekers	<b>2,359</b>
Internally displaced people	<b>734,000</b>
Stateless people**	<b>35,875</b>
Conflict-affected people	<b>1.62 M</b>

## TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN\*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Afghanistan	<b>822</b>	Afghanistan	<b>673</b>
Syria	<b>491</b>	Tajikistan	<b>184</b>
Russian Federation	<b>165</b>	Russian Federation	<b>161</b>

\* Data source: UNHCR 2020 Global Trends report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

\*\* UNHCR's estimation

## COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

**Advocacy:** Since access to Entry-Exit Check Points (EECPs) along the 'contact line' in eastern Ukraine was restricted due to COVID-19 measures, UNHCR advocates for restoring their full functionality and unimpeded humanitarian access to the non-government controlled areas (NGCA).

**Inclusion:** UNHCR advocates for inclusion of asylum-seekers in the medical system of Ukraine to ensure their access to free health care, including vaccination against COVID-19.

**Health:** UNHCR supports [medical expenses of refugees and asylum-seekers](#). In eastern Ukraine, it focused its COVID-19 response on strengthening capacities of [primary health and social care providers](#).

## HIGHLIGHTS

**1,499**

refugees and asylum-seekers received legal assistance from January to June 2021.

**7,005**

Internally displaced (IDPs) and other conflict-affected persons received legal assistance from UNHCR's NGO partners from January to August 2021.

**93**

houses have so far been repaired in conflict-affected areas on both sides of the 'contact line' in 2021

**65**

Stateless persons were assisted with applying to the [statelessness determination procedure](#) since it became operational in May 2021.

## SYRIAN YOUTH IN UKRAINE IS BUILDING ITS FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION



A record number of 8,347 students were globally enrolled in DAFI scholarships in the 2020/2021 study year. In 2018 Reema received DAFI funding to study Economy and Management in a Ukrainian university. Read her story [here](#).

## Asylum

- **Protection:** UNHCR monitors the situation of persons of concern and intervenes to ensure access to asylum procedures and protection for refugees.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR works with the Government to enhance efficiency and fairness of the asylum system through [capacity-building](#) of authorities, judges, lawyers and border guards. UNHCR advocates for [amendments to national asylum legislation](#) to align it with international and European standards. In 2020, UNHCR [published comments on the draft asylum law](#) with recommendations on the right to work for asylum-seekers and access to social protection. The draft law is pending first reading in Parliament.
- **Durable Solutions:** UNHCR focuses on integration and self-reliance support, providing [language training](#) and [grants for starting own business or attaining vocational education](#) to refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR also advocates for the establishment of [certified state language courses](#).
- **Promoting Social Cohesion:** Since 2018, through its Community Support Initiatives programme, UNHCR assists [refugee community initiatives and funds projects to promote peaceful coexistence](#). UNHCR's [Community-Based Protection Working Group](#) engages NGO partners and government counterparts at the central and regional levels.

## IDPs and Conflict-Affected Population

- UNHCR [advocates](#) for positive changes in [policies](#) on IDP inclusion, birth registration, freedom of movement, access to pensions, and compensation for destroyed or damaged property for IDPs and residents of NGCA, and access to housing options to enable IDPs to attain durable solutions.
- UNHCR shapes its response through [protection monitoring](#) and jointly with NGO partners [support](#)

- [individuals with particular vulnerabilities](#) with legal assistance, protection counselling, psychosocial support, and cash and in-kind protection assistance.
- UNHCR capacitates IDPs to advocate for their rights and access services and durable solutions through [community mobilisation](#).
- In NGCA, UNHCR [repairs](#) individual homes damaged in the conflict, and leads the [Protection and Shelter/Non-food Items \(NFI\) Clusters](#).

## Statelessness

- Ukraine acceded to the 1954 and 1961 statelessness conventions in 2013. In June 2020, following years of UNHCR [advocacy](#), the Government adopted a [law introducing a Statelessness Determination Procedure](#), operational since May 2021.
- UNHCR and NGO partners identify and provide [legal aid](#) to persons with undetermined nationality and irregular stateless persons. UNHCR advocates with and builds the capacities of Ukrainian authorities to implement the [#IBELONG Campaign](#).

## Working with Partners

- UNHCR cooperates with the [State Migration Service](#), the [Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories](#) and other ministries. UNHCR facilitates, with OCHA, humanitarian [convoys to eastern Ukraine](#) and works with [eight local NGOs](#).
- **External Engagement:** UNHCR cooperates with [recovery and development actors](#) on gradual transition of responsibilities to national authorities.

## UNHCR Presence in Ukraine

### Staff:

104 National Staff  
 18 International Staff

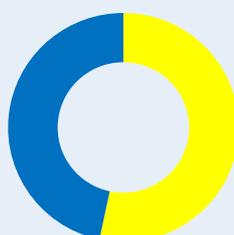
### Offices:

1 Country Office in Kyiv  
 1 Sub-Office in Sloviansk  
 2 Field Units (Mariupol, Sievierodonetsk)  
 2 Field Offices (Donetsk and Luhansk)

## Financial information (28 September 2021)

Financial requirements  
**USD 28.9 M**

Funding gap  
 44%  
**13.5 M**



Funded  
 53%  
**15.4 M**

UNHCR is grateful to the donors of unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions to the 2021 global programmes. Donors of USD 10 million or more are:

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UNHCR Ukraine is grateful to donors who supported the 2021 programme (as of September 2021):

Canada | Estonia | European Union | Japan | Norway | Russian Federation | Sweden | United States of America | Country-Based Pooled Funds | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS