

Ukraine

November 2021

In Ukraine, UNHCR responds for three populations: refugees and asylum-seekers, stateless persons and persons with undetermined nationality, as well as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other conflict-affected persons.

Since the beginning of the conflict in eastern Ukraine and the temporary occupation of Crimea in 2014, UNHCR has provided protection and humanitarian assistance and support, including shelter repairs, to IDPs and conflict-affected persons on both sides of the contact line.

The first 25 stateless persons were recognized under the Stateless Determination Procedure (SDP) launched in May of this year. Recognized stateless persons will be granted access to rights and services similar to Ukrainian citizens. This is a major landmark in UNHCR's advocacy and capacity-building efforts.

KEY INDICATORS

114

refugees and asylum-seekers were provided with language training for livelihoods in November.

212

Undocumented persons received advice on the acquisition or confirmation of nationality in November.

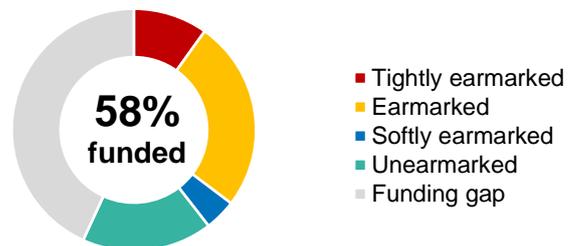
1,213

Internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons received legal assistance in November.

FUNDING (AS OF 7 DECEMBER 2021)

USD 28.9 million

UNHCR's financial requirements 2021



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Forcibly displaced children in Ukraine recorded audio fairy tales from around the world to promote inclusion and diversity in Ukraine. The project was organized by an IDP-led VESELKA TV, a professional TV studio for youth and children. It was implemented through UNHCR's Innovation Fund. Read more [here](#).

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS)*

734,000**

OTHER CONFLICT-AFFECTED PERSONS***

1,62 million****

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN UKRAINE

4,931*****

STATELESS PERSONS AND PERSONS WITH UNDETERMINED NATIONALITY

35,875*****

*Residing more permanently in government-controlled areas (GCA)

**Source: 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)

***Vulnerable, conflict-affected persons living along the 'contact line' in GCA and in non-government controlled areas (NGCA)

****Sources: Protection Cluster, UNHCR, December 2020

*****Source: UNHCR's Refugee Population Statistics Database, mid-year 2021

Updates on Context

- The first 25 stateless persons were recognized under the Stateless Determination Procedure (SDP) launched in May of this year, following sustained UNHCR advocacy and capacity building. Recognized stateless persons in Ukraine will be granted access to rights and services similar to Ukrainian citizens and the possibility to naturalize after three years. This is a major landmark in progress towards ending statelessness in Ukraine and under UNHCR's #IBelong campaign to end statelessness globally by 2024. As of the end of November, 675 people have applied to the procedure. In November the six-month period for consideration of the first SDP applications submitted in May came to an end. The consideration of most cases was prolonged for another six months.
- UNHCR delivered four humanitarian convoys to the non-government controlled areas (NGCA). On 3, 11 and 18 November, a total of 14 trucks containing personal protection equipment for medical workers as well as construction materials for shelter repairs of private houses damaged as a result of the conflict arrived to Donetsk NGCA through the Entry-Exit Crossing Point (EECP) in Novotroitske.
- On 10 November, the Government of Ukraine adopted Resolution [#1165](#), introducing procedures and allocating budget for the payment of pension arrears to registered IDPs, including NGCA residents, heirs of deceased IDP pensioners and “former” IDPs who have relinquished their IDP certificates. This positive development follows ongoing UNHCR advocacy and will help some of the most socioeconomically vulnerable IDPs and conflict-affected person meet their basic needs. Arrears will be paid in monthly instalments equivalent to the minimum wage (approximately USD 73). The new procedures will go into force in January and UNHCR will closely monitor their implementation.
- On 3 November, the Government of Ukraine adopted a Resolution [#1134](#) allowing IDPs to apply for IDP targeted assistance remotely through the governmental *Diya* internet portal. This development will minimize a number of visits IDPs have to pay to social protection departments and a number of documents to be provided. This could also potentially mean that registered IDPs who reside in NGCA would not need to come to GCA every six months to get verified in person by Ukrainian authorities if there were no changes in their personal data accumulated in e-databases.
- On 11 November, the additional restrictions that had been put in place at the Stanytsia-Luhanska Entry-Exit Checkpoint (EECP) in response to the worsening COVID-19 situation since 9 October were lifted. Those who crossed were required to register in advance and present a humanitarian justification for crossing, which caused movement across the EECP to fall sharply.

Working in Partnership

The humanitarian response to displacement in Ukraine is a coordinated effort by the Government of Ukraine, international organizations, national and international NGOs. UNHCR works closely with the Government, including its line ministries and central and local administrations and authorities to ensure the protection of and durable solutions for persons of concern to UNHCR. In relation to IDPs, UNHCR has signed a Letter of Understanding with the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories. In relation to refugees and stateless persons, UNHCR cooperates closely with the State Migration Service (SMS) of Ukraine. In 2021, UNHCR has agreements with eight local NGO project partners. UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and Shelter/Non-food Items (NFI) Cluster under the Humanitarian Response Plan. UNHCR together with OCHA co-leads the Logistics Working Group responsible for facilitating humanitarian convoys to eastern Ukraine.

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

Advocacy

- UNHCR's NGO partner, Right to Protection (R2P) successfully advocated for the exclusion of the requirement of mandatory registration of asylum seekers' place of residence from the draft law # 5463 on registration and declaration of residence in Ukraine adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament on 5 November. Thanks to this advocacy asylum-seekers will not be subjected to fines for failing if they fail to register their place of residence within 30 days after receiving their asylum certificates.

Capacity Building and Institutional Support

- On 19 November, UNHCR's NGO partner Right to Protection (R2P) organized an offline training on preventing professional burnout for nine staff members of Kyiv Regional Migration Service.

Community Engagement

- On 19 November, 18 representatives of refugee community organizations in Odesa participated in the final training module from a comprehensive four-part course "Fundamentals of Project Management" given by UNHCR's NGO partner the Tenth of April (TTA). The series of trainings is carried out at the request of the community organizations and is aimed to develop their management and structure. As a result of the course, participants improved their project development, analysis, teamwork, communication and presentation skills.

Basic Needs and Self Reliance

- To support refugees and asylum-seekers in most vulnerable situations, UNHCR provided supplementary food assistance to 34 households and reimbursed regular medical expenses of people from 31 households. Additionally, 75 people received assistance for the newly arrived and six persons were provided with emergency assistance.

Key Figures

Result achieved in November 2021

 **556**
Persons received legal assistance
(refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **244**
Persons were assisted in accessing healthcare
(refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **30**
Persons received psychosocial assistance
(refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **114**
Persons provided with language training for livelihoods
(refugees and asylum-seekers)

 **87**
Persons provided with guidance on livelihoods opportunities
(refugees and asylum-seekers)

Stateless Persons and Persons with Undetermined Nationality



Capacity Building and Institutional Support

- From October to November, UNHCR delivered personal protection items to the staff of civil registry offices providing services to undocumented people to support the offices' smooth operation during the Covid-19 pandemic. The institutions in Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Luhansk, Odesa and Zakarpatska oblasts and the city of Kyiv received transparent plastic face shields, face masks, sanitizers, gloves and contactless disinfectant dispensers.



Community Engagement

- On 18 November, to facilitate integration and peaceful coexistence between Roma and other local communities in Zakarpatska oblast, UNHCR's NGO partner NEEKA opened an exhibition of Roma children's drawings titled "Ukraine is my homeland". The event was attended by representatives of the General Consulate of Hungary in Uzhgorod, Zakarpattya Regional Migration Service, the Regional Employment Center as well Zakarpattya Regional State Administration and members of civil society.

Key Figures

Result achieved in November 2021

 **18**

Persons with undetermined nationality **obtained a passport or other document certifying nationality**

 **212**

Undocumented persons **received advice on the acquisition or confirmation of nationality**

 **17**

Persons **obtained birth certificates**

 **15**

Persons **assisted with applying to the statelessness determination procedures**

Internally Displaced and Other Conflict-Affected Persons



Protection Monitoring

- On 29 November, UNHCR together with its NGO partner Proliska and with the support from the Protection Cluster, presented the report "[Protection Monitoring in settlements along the contact line in eastern Ukraine, 2021](#)". It analyses the findings from the first five months of protection monitoring carried out from February to May 2021 in eastern Ukraine. The report offers an evidence-based overview of the key protection risks and challenges in access to essential services faced by people living in settlements affected by the conflict and located along the contact line in GCA in eastern Ukraine. The findings of the monitoring have substantially informed the development of the [2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) and Humanitarian Response Plan, and are aimed to support authorities, humanitarian and development actors in their decision-making and programming. The collected information is also available at [Protection Monitoring Dashboard](#). It is the only tool externally available to all national and local, humanitarian, development and civil society actors in Ukraine that systematically shows, on a monthly basis, the key protection risks, gaps and trends affecting people living close to the contact line.



Capacity Building and Institutional Support

- UNHCR delivered nine laptops to rural medical centres (Feldsher Points or FAPs) in seven villages along the contact line in Luhansk oblast, GCA, to increase capacities of local FAPs in provision of medical services to the population.



Community Engagement

- On 18 November, UNHCR jointly with an IDP-led “Veselka TV”, a professional TV studio for youth and children, presented a social project “Diversity of cultures in Ukraine: tales from around the world through children’s voices” to a wide audience during a press conference. The participants presented an audiobook of tales recorded in Ukrainian to encourage a culture of diversity and cultivate zero tolerance for xenophobia, hate speech and bullying. The audiobook “speaks” with the voices of refugee children and asylum-seekers from different countries as well as displaced children from eastern Ukraine and Crimea, and children with disabilities. The project was implemented through UNHCR’s Innovation Fund with the support of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The audiobook is available free of charge on the “Veselka TV” Youtube channel. Earlier, on 6 November, the UNHCR Representative in Ukraine met with children who participated in recording the fairy tales and participated as a special guest in the children’s talk show on “Veselka TV”.

 **18**

**Community
Support Projects
(CSPs)
approved**

In 2021, UNHCR refined its Community-Based Approach in eastern Ukraine. To support the capacities of conflict-affected communities, UNHCR implements Community Support Projects (CSPs). These include small to medium repairs of social or community premises and provision of equipment, improving access to services and training activities. The CSPs aim at strengthening the capacity of communities (IDPs and conflict-affected) to access their rights and basic administrative and social services.



Gender-based violence (GBV)

- On 25 November, in the framework of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign, young activists from Ivano-Frankivsk and IDP community presented an animated cartoon calling to seek help in cases of gender-based violence. The young people developed the design of youth campaign during the training activities on awareness raising on GBV and HIV prevention offered by UNHCR in September. The presentation took place in King Danylo University in Ivano-Frankivsk and was supported by a regional representative of the Ukrainian Parliament's Commissioner for Human Rights, representatives of the National Police, the Department of Youth Policy and Sports, social services, children's services, the Regional Free Legal Aid Center, NGO “Kolping’s Family”, IDP-led NGO “The League of Tolerance”.

Key Figures

Result achieved in November 2021

 **1,213**

Internally displaced and other conflict-affected persons received legal assistance

 **2,054**

Persons benefited from individual protection counselling

 **11**

Group consultations on protection-related issues were provided to 69 people in areas along the ‘contact line’

**221****Persons were provided with social accompaniment**

21.3 per cent of the individuals who were provided with social accompaniment are persons with disabilities. This includes assistance in obtaining personal documentation, accessing administrative and other essential services, and receiving authorization to cross EECs.

**109****Persons received psychosocial assistance**

Psychological assistance helps conflict-affected persons deal with trauma, domestic violence, grief, depression and anxiety, including the effects of quarantine restrictions.

**Individual Protection Assistance (IPA)**

UNHCR continued identifying and providing the most vulnerable conflict-affected individuals in eastern Ukraine with Individual Protection Assistance (IPA), in cash where possible. The assistance is provided within a case management approach and helps enable the beneficiaries, particularly persons with disabilities, access public services. In areas where State services are not accessible, UNHCR and NGO partners provided in-kind IPA. Since June, UNHCR is also providing financial assistance to support IDPs with specific needs and help them endure the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This IPA targets displaced persons living in different regions of Ukraine and not only in locations along the 'contact line'.

**72****IPA beneficiaries received cash assistance by UNHCR and its NGO partners****115****IPA "in kind" beneficiaries received assistance from UNHCR and its NGO partners****61****IDPs received IPA cash to help them cope with the impact of the COVID-19****Shelter Assistance**

- In GCA, UNHCR continues to follow-up on the repair of 13 houses taken over from the Norwegian Refugee Council in June 2020 that could not be completed last year. As of 30 November 2021, the repair of 10 houses is completed (3 with light or medium and 7 with heavy damage), while the repairs of three houses are still ongoing (all with light or medium damage).
- In Donetsk NGCA, 89 houses have been repaired so far in 2021 and repairs of four more houses are currently ongoing through the direct distribution of construction materials. In addition, 40 houses were repaired (26 with light or medium and 14 with heavy damage) while the repair of 53 houses is underway using a contracted construction company. Lastly, the windows were replaced on 229 houses, while the replacement of windows on 71 more houses is ongoing.
- In Luhansk NGCA, 11 houses have been repaired through the direct distribution of construction materials, while the repair of 41 more houses is ongoing. An additional 69 houses (60 with light or medium and 9 with heavy damage) have been repaired with the use of a construction company, while the repair of eight more houses is ongoing.
- In November, UNHCR's NGO partner Proliska distributed emergency shelter materials (plastic sheeting and tarpaulin) for households affected by the recent shelling: one household in Stanytsia Luhanska, two households in Bolotene village and one household in Muratove village, Luhansk oblast.

 **39**

**IPA beneficiaries
received cash assistance for
shelter repairs**

 **4**

**Conflict-affected family
(11 people) relocated
to a safer home**

In 2021, UNHCR started providing tailored IPA cash for shelter to fill urgent and limited needs for repairs in houses located close to the contact line, in GCA. This supplements the roof repairs conducted by the State Emergency Service and enables households to procure additional construction materials, such as windows, doors, materials for interior work, accessibility parts, and essential furniture, or to restore the functioning of utilities, such as heating, electricity or water supply.

Since 2019, UNHCR is supporting the exceptional voluntarily relocation of families at specific risk, who live in unsafe areas along the 'contact line' to safer locations. People who benefit from this project are carefully selected based on protection vulnerability criteria and a security assessment of the settlements to which they relocate.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical financial support provided by donors who have contributed to the Ukraine operation, as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programs with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.



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