

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

FACTSHEET

OVERVIEW: *the situation in Ukraine has given rise to diverse shelter contexts and needs.*

- Individuals remain in areas which continue to be directly affected by conflict and need support to undertake urgent repairs on damaged or temporary housing.
- Individuals have either remained in or been able to return to damaged housing in conflict-affected areas which have now stabilised and need support with house repairs.
- Large-scale internal displacement, broadly from the east and the south to the centre and west, has placed additional pressure on housing stock and created demand for collective centres.



Totally destroyed apartment block in Borodyanka, close to Kyiv
June 2022 © UNHCR/Richard Evans

UNHCR's Shelter Programme in Ukraine: The shelter programme aims to ensure that the most vulnerable among those affected by the war, both those in-situ and those who have become displaced, have access to adequate housing, especially through the winter period. UNHCR is taking different approaches depending changing local contexts, including support that contributes to long-term recovery and durable solutions.

Emergency Shelter Kits and Materials:

Target:
27,500
households

→ **Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs):** These emergency kits and materials provide immediate relief. They facilitate urgent and quick fixes to people's homes and temporary shelter. They follow the Shelter Cluster's guidelines and consist mainly of plastic sheeting, wood, and fixings, with a low cost of US\$120. They can be rapidly and flexibly deployed anywhere with access and the focus is currently on generally less accessible areas, including newly accessible areas, that are not yet being targeted by light and medium repairs (see below). Stock is prepositioned and distributed as needs arise.

Target:
7,500
households

→ **Provision of Shelter Materials:** UNHCR also provides construction materials to Operational Partners (Oblast/Hromada/local authorities, local NGOs, volunteer groups) to support them to rapidly respond to needs as they arise, to expand capacity to respond, and to increase access.

House repairs:

Target:
8,200
households

→ **House repairs** support those who remained in damaged housing or have returned to damaged housing. The work is more substantial than emergency shelter support and suitable in locations without imminent threat of renewed conflict. In this way, the work contributes to durable solutions. The repairs are undertaken directly by UNHCR and by partners with an average anticipated cost of US\$3,500 as well as through cash for repairs, which gives ownership over the process to those supported. Light and medium repairs also contribute to reducing thermal losses and thus contribute to winterization efforts.

Improvement and expansion of accommodation for IDPs:

Collective centres (CCs) are a communal form of housing that often support the most vulnerable cohort of IDPs who lack the financial capital to rent or the option of moving-in with friends or family. **The availability of dignified conditions in CCs is key to ensuring return is voluntary.** CCs operate in a range of buildings/settings, such as abandoned hotels and dormitories.

Target:
6,800 beds
(improved)

→ **Improvement of collective centres:** UNHCR partners are conducting work to *improve the living conditions* in existing CCs. Work typically includes preparing the centres for winter through weatherproofing and improving washing facilities.

Target:
7,600 beds
(additional)

→ **Expansion of collective centres:** This more substantial work will add additional capacity (*space for additional beds*) to existing or newly identified CCs. This work is conducted directly by UNHCR through contractors.

**CCs are carefully selected to maximise the longevity of benefits, focussing on facilities that have been earmarked for the longer-term habitation of IDPs. The buildings are selected in conjunction with the local authorities.*

Temporary housing structures (Pre-fabs & RHUs):

As a complementary measure, prefabricated units and refugee housing units (RHUs) have been utilized during the summer in Kyivska oblast to support families that have chosen to return to heavily damaged housing.

Prefabricated units, which are fully insulated and will last through the winter also provide immediate housing for those with no alternative. These units can also allow families and individuals to remain in or close to their communities.

WINTER & WINTERIZATION:

Winter in Ukraine is harsh. Temperatures can fall as low as **-20 degrees Celsius** in parts of the country.

The winterization response is UNHCR's top priority right now. Ensuring the availability of winter appropriate housing is a crucial component of the response; this is especially true considering the damage caused to critical infrastructure through airstrikes.

Shelter assistance provided by UNHCR and partners contributes to winterization efforts and prepares IDPs and conflict affected individuals for the winter. For example, replacing and repairing windows is essential to reducing thermal losses and making a building fit for winter.

Targeted areas:

Emergency Shelter Kits and Materials

- Conflict-affected and returnee households in conflict-affected areas *that are accessible*.
- Longer-range missile attack sites which are further from more frequently conflict-affected areas.
- Broad area: east and south.
- Oblasts include: Mykolaivska, Odeska, Kharkivska, Sumska, Khersonska, Zaporizska and Dnipropetrovska.

Light and Medium Repairs

- Formerly conflict-affected areas that are deemed to have stabilized *and are accessible*.
- Within these areas, prioritization is undertaken to identify the most vulnerable and in-need.
- Broad area: north and south.
- Oblasts: Chernihivska, Kyivska, Dnipropetrovska, Mikolaivska, Odeska, Poltavska, Sumska, Zaporizska, and Zhytomyrska.

Collective centre works

- Focus is being placed on collective centres in the west and east where displacement has placed pressure on the housing stock.
- The target locations are identified with and by central and local authorities.
- Broad area: west and centre.
- Oblasts: Cherkaska, Chernivetska, Dnipropetrovska, Ivano-Frankivska, Kirovohradska, Kyivska, Lvivska, Odeska, Mykolaivska, Poltavska, Ternopil'ska, Vinnytska, Volynska, and Zakarpatska.

Working with government:

UNHCR works with and in coordination with the authorities to ensure alignment and complementarity of shelter activities. In pursuit of this and with regard to shelter activities, UNHCR has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) with two key ministries.

Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine: On 16 April, UNHCR and the Ministry for Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine [signed an MoU](#) setting out areas of cooperation, including the mapping of abandoned buildings, such as sanatoriums, that could be rehabilitated and repurposed to accommodate people who have lost their homes.

Ministry for Communities and Territories Development: On 18 April, UNHCR and the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development [signed an MoU](#) which aims to find sustainable and accessible housing solutions for people who have been forced to flee their homes due to the war.

Shelter and NFI Cluster:

The Shelter and NFI Cluster is led by UNHCR and consists of over 100 partners who are working to provide emergency shelter and NFI support. A key priority of the shelter cluster was the development of a coordinated Winter Priority Procurement & Repair Plan.

Achievements in the early stages of response:

In the first weeks of the conflict, UNHCR's shelter activities focused on the provision of emergency shelter support at transit and reception centres and at borders.

During these earlier stages, **UNHCR and partners created or improved close to 90,000 sleeping spaces in almost 300 locations** with items such as folding beds, mattresses, and blankets.

Although many of these temporary structures remain in situ, their use has declined, allowing UNHCR to focus on repair and rehabilitation of damaged housing and to assist those in collective centres.