Overview

Operational context and Humanitarian needs
Russia’s full scale invasion of Ukraine has brought unimaginable destruction, displacement, and suffering. While the humanitarian situation remains dire as intense hostilities and indiscriminate attacks continue, the displacement inside Ukraine is becoming protracted, diversifying the range of needs and requiring mid to longer term solutions.

According to the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Ukraine, an estimated 17.6 million people will need humanitarian assistance in 2023, of whom humanitarian actors will target 11.1 million people.

Humanitarian needs are particularly acute among the long-term internally displaced; those with pre-existing vulnerabilities who have remained at home throughout the war, especially in the east and south; and those who have returned to areas still lacking in basic services and other support for reintegration, primarily in the north and south.¹

In western parts of Ukraine, many displaced people struggle to find accommodation and new sources of income. People who have seen their loved ones killed or injured and their homes and cities destroyed suffer enormous mental distress. People with disabilities and older people often face additional barriers accessing safety and protection and assistance services.

UNHCR’s emergency response
Since the start of the humanitarian emergency caused by the Russian invasion, UNHCR has strived to design and deliver its programmes in a way that help address an immediate need, while simultaneously strengthening and reinforcing the national and local capacity, to support sustainability and national leadership and ownership.

In 2023, UNHCR aims to assist 3.6 million people in Ukraine by supporting and complementing the Ukrainian authorities’ response with over 4.6 million services in protection, emergency shelter and housing support, and cash and in-kind assistance.*

To support the government’s commitment to durable solutions, including safe, dignified, and sustained returns, reintegration and recovery, and in line with the National Recovery Plan, UNHCR will contribute to area-based and participatory approaches to support returnees in communities of origin and promote economic recovery and reconstruction with development and other actors. UNHCR prioritizes partnerships with local partners, including national NGOs and community-based organizations led by affected communities.

UNHCR works within the inter-agency response under the leadership of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator and coordinates the humanitarian clusters on Protection, Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI), and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM).

2023 Targets

- 3.6 million people targeted for assistance with 4.6 million services*
- 21 partners including 13 national NGOs
- $602.5 million total financial requirements

*The total number of services UNHCR aims to deliver is 4.6 million. Approximately 20% of beneficiaries are expected to receive multiple services. All targets are indicative and subject to the availability of funds. Targets may also be adjusted in response to changes in the operational situation.

¹ - See the OCHA 2023 Ukraine Humanitarian Needs Overview sections for more information on population needs and methodology.
2023 key activities

Well-being and basic needs - $271.7 million

**Essential items**

UNHCR will distribute standard relief items, such as blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps, and non-standard items, such as dignity kits, folding beds, mattresses and winter clothes and shoes, to people in need, mainly in areas along the front line and to newly displaced people, as well as to people living in newly accessible areas who have endured months of constant shelling.

The response includes a contingency stock for immediate response to new shocks as well as winterized NFIs for the 2023-2024 winter period.

2023 targets for assistance:

- **1 million** people supported with essential non-food items  
  $109.2 million

**Multi-purpose cash assistance**

UNHCR is implementing a multi-purpose cash assistance programme that is aligned with the national social assistance programme, enabling vulnerable war-affected, and displaced persons and returnees to cover immediate basic needs, in line with the memorandum of understanding signed with the Ministry of Social Policy in April 2022.

Cash assistance remains one of the most optimal means and most requested forms of support among IDPs and other war-affected people. Multi-purpose cash is key to stabilizing populations and bridging the economic shocks caused by the hostilities and displacement with eventual (re)employment or inclusion in government assistance programmes. Investments made in 2022 to strengthen the government's capacity to conduct registration of internally displaced Ukrainians will facilitate increased access to the national social protection system in 2023 and 2024.

2023 targets for assistance:

- **800,000** people supported with cash assistance  
  $162.5 million
Sustainable housing and collective sites - $210.6 million

**Sustainable housing**

UNHCR will continue to provide emergency shelter materials to people in areas directly impacted by shelling and attacks and in areas newly retaken by the Government of Ukraine. UNHCR will also increasingly invest in repairs and advise on housing solutions that can help people return to their homes, where possible. For those who are unable to return to their former homes and are living in collective sites, UNHCR is supporting through improvements or creation of accommodation in identified sites through refurbishment works.

The repair and reconstruction of destroyed or damaged homes is one of the top priorities expressed by people displaced due to the war – and a crucial factor for their ability to return in a dignified and sustainable way. The Ministry of Communities, Territories, and Infrastructure Development and UNHCR – as the Shelter/NFI Cluster lead agency – launched a new collaborative platform 'Ukraine is Home' to match supply and demand for assistance with housing repairs and reconstruction. The platform aims to provide a transparent and efficient system for humanitarian, recovery, development, private sector, and other partners to pool funds and material support to help people, including refugees and IDPs, repair their damaged houses so they can return home.

2023 targets for assistance:

- **720,000** people assisted with shelter support (long-term, transitional, or emergency)  
  $196.3 million

**Collective sites**

As part of the CCCM response, conditions and needs in collective sites where IDPs continue staying will be closely monitored. UNHCR will provide support to the management of collective sites to ensure protection services are accessible, inclusive and community-based and work to improve the quality of life and dignity of IDPs during displacement. Socioeconomically or otherwise vulnerable IDPs are likely to remain in collective sites until they consider their area of origin is safe for return, and they have access to support with housing repairs, basic services, and livelihoods.

2023 targets for assistance:

- **150,000** internally displaced people have access to multi-sector services at the site level through improved site coordination (CCCM)  
  $14.3 million

**Protection - $99 million**

UNHCR programmes support national systems and local social protection services by strengthening the identification and case management of persons with specific needs, including cases for gender-based violence and child protection, providing information and legal advice, especially on civil documentation and housing, land and property rights, and providing psychosocial support. Regular presence at border crossing points by protection teams ensures that the conditions of crossing and movement patterns are closely monitored and people crossing in both directions are assisted with information and counselling.

In addition to working in close alignment with national service providers, UNHCR’s protection strategy relies heavily on participatory approaches, the mobilization of local partners, and direct engagement with IDP and war-affected communities. A network of up to 200 community outreach facilitators and more than 200 community-based organizations work with UNHCR and partner staff in the field to disseminate information about services available and linking people in need.

Protection advocacy will focus on access to documentation, with a particular focus on simplified procedures for birth, death and marriage registration; compensation and reparations; and de-institutionalization for children without parental care and persons with disabilities. UNHCR is also working with the State Migration Service to continue to ensure access to effective and efficient asylum procedures, improve statelessness determination procedures and strengthen efforts to prevent, reduce and address statelessness.

2023 targets for assistance:

- **1.9 million** people supported with protection assistance
Local integration and Durable solutions - $21.3 million

Notwithstanding the continuation of the war, people themselves and the government is prioritizing early recovery through its National Recovery Plan, including programmes that will enable refugees and IDPs to return, reintegrate and contribute to the economic revival and reconstruction of Ukraine.

UNHCR is leveraging its expertise and quarterly IDP intention surveys carried out in partnership with the World Bank to ensure that people’s views and suggestions inform area-based approaches to recovery, reconstruction, economic inclusion, livelihoods and development that can be implemented with development actors and in support of the Government of Ukraine. UNHCR will support municipalities and local communities hosting IDPs to facilitate local integration through developing and implementing activities that enable employment initiatives, as well as social cohesion and community empowerment projects.

2023 targets for assistance:

- 80 municipalities/entities receiving technical/material assistance to promote durable solutions in the context of area-based development
- 16,000 beneficiaries supported with self-reliance and livelihoods activities

Coordination

In addition to leading the Protection, Shelter/NFI and CCCM clusters, UNHCR co-leads the Durable Solutions Steering Group, leads the Legal Aid Task Force under the national Protection Cluster, co-leads the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Task Force with OCHA, and is a member of the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Working Group.

The Government of Ukraine maintains a strong lead role in responding to the needs of its population. UNHCR signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with three key Ministries in April 2022 - the Ministry of Social Policy, the Ministry of Reintegration of the Temporarily Occupied Territories of Ukraine, and the Ministry of Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine to align UNHCR activities with government social programmes. In January 2023, UNHCR signed a new MOU with the merged Ministry of Communities, Territories, and Infrastructure Development to solidify cooperation around access to housing repairs and solutions and launch the cooperation platform Ukraine is Home.

To solidify ongoing collaboration and strengthen cooperation related to humanitarian assistance and activities at the oblast level, UNHCR is signing MoUs with Oblast State Administrations. As of March 2023, nine MoUs have been signed so far in Chernihivska, Khersonska, Khmeinytska, Kyivska, Mykolaivska, Odeska, Zakarpatska, Zaporizka, and Zhytomyrska oblasts with more underway.

2 - These targets are included in the target figure for protection. They are expressed separately to illustrate UNHCR’s focus on durable solutions and local integration in 2023.
3 - The Ministry of Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine and the Ministry of Infrastructure have merged to form the Ministry of Communities, Territories, and Infrastructure Development of Ukraine.

For more information

Read the full UNHCR Supplementary Appeal 2023.
Visit the Operational Data Portal for up-to-date information on the Ukraine country response.