

A new foundation to restore hope: Giving solace and empowering displaced Ukrainians to rebuild their lives

February 2024



Ukrainians are facing a third year of war and destruction. A third of the population has been uprooted. They urgently need support to get respite, regain a sense of hope and rebuild better futures.

*“It was an ordinary sunny day,” Anastasiya recalls the day everything changed for her as the war reached her home. **“All I thought at that moment was to see my son, and I ran to look for him. Only then I realized that a rocket hit my house.”** That day, Anastasiya and her family **survived a missile attack in Dnipro that killed dozens and injured many more** in their building and neighbourhood.*

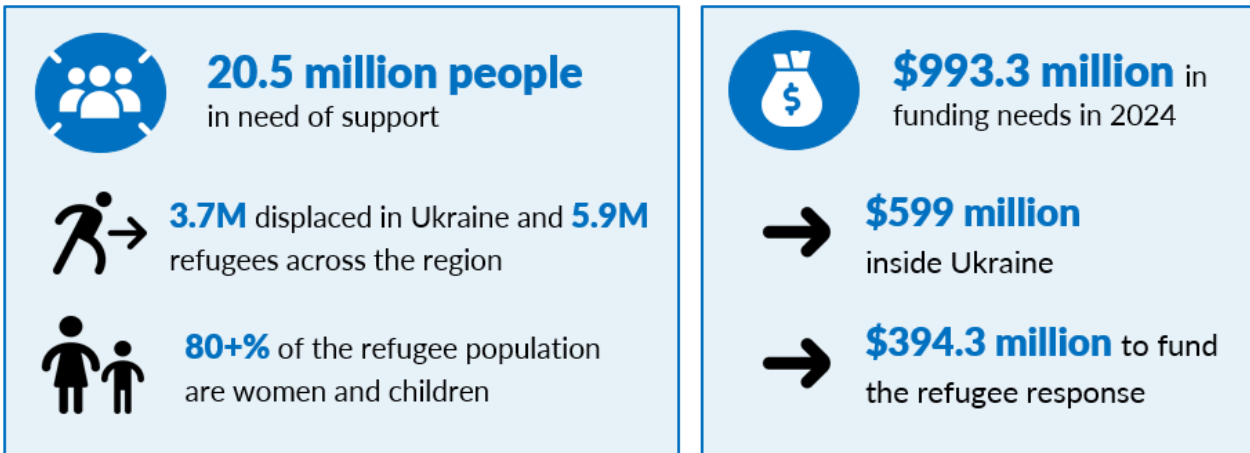
Two years of relentless war have **left Ukrainians without homes and without hope**. Businesses cannot operate as normal, people have lost their jobs, electricity is running short, and prices are skyrocketing. People are struggling to meet their basic needs.

*“Our hope is to come back to our apartment and rebuild it, **so that children can play again in the yard, and we can hear their laughs. We hope for skies that are blue and peaceful**” – adds Anastasiya.*

Amidst the rubble and **shattered memories of their former life**, people like Anastasiya feel alone and need solidarity. You can help them to recover and **start rebuilding their lives with a glimmer of hope for the future**.

Photo: © UNHCR / Alina Kovalenko

KEY FIGURES AT A GLANCE



DESTROYED HOMES, SHATTERED LIVES

The war in Ukraine has led to **destruction beyond imagining**. As the conflict enters its third year, continued support is critical both for the humanitarian response in Ukraine and for refugees hosted in countries across Europe.

In Ukraine, 5.1 million people are forcibly displaced and over **17 million** rely on humanitarian assistance to survive. Damaged homes and critical infrastructure have not been fully repaired and attacks continue to destroy them further. Efforts by the Ukrainian government, UNHCR and the international community have helped stabilize basic services in some places. Yet, in many areas especially close to the frontline in the east and south of the country, people live without proper access to food, water, electricity, and heating, under the **constant sound of bombardment**. According to the Rapid Damage Needs Assessment 2 (RDNA2)¹, direct damage in Ukraine has reached over \$135 billion, including 1.4 million homes. Huge recovery challenges lie ahead, notably in demining, housing, social infrastructure and services, jobs, and energy. **The recovery needs were estimated at about \$411 billion.**



A room in a kindergarten in central Odessa is in shambles after the city was hit by shelling. Photo: © UNHCR/ Yulia Marchenko

¹ Undertaken jointly by the Government of Ukraine, the World Bank, and the United Nations in early 2023.

As the war continues, businesses cannot operate as normal and job opportunities are limited. The conflict has also made prices skyrocket. **People’s resources have been depleted** and they rely on humanitarian assistance to pay for rent, food, and clothes. Many are **forced to live in damaged homes with leaking roofs** and broken windows, in collective centres in disrepair, or in temporary settlements away from their communities.

In **countries hosting refugees having fled the Ukraine conflict**, progress has been made to support local inclusion and to increase refugees’ access to services and opportunities. However, refugees and host communities **continue to face hardship**. Many refugees hoped that the situation would be temporary but are facing the harsh reality that they probably cannot return home any time soon.

Their savings are long gone. When trying to access housing, and jobs, they **face obstacles such as legal barriers**, language issues, lack of networks, or limited options for childcare. It is even harder for people with specific needs including **older people, people with disabilities, and those with severe medical conditions**. A worrying trend is that 59% of refugees say that they might be forced to go home to Ukraine if they continue to face challenges with their legal status and their ability to find work.

Over 80% of the refugee population are women and children. Without access to childcare, refugee women struggle to get meaningful jobs and provide for their families.

Host communities generously welcome refugees but **local services and infrastructure are often not prepared** for a large influx of people. For example, Moldova, one of the smallest economies in Europe, has seen over 1 million arrivals since February 2022, this is **1 refugee for every 3 Moldovan citizens**. Refugees and refugee-hosting communities need support to deal with this unprecedented situation.

After over two years having their lives turned to shreds, displaced communities are exhausted. **Their courage and hope are wavering**. They need a **respite**, and they need support **to get back on their feet**. By contributing to UNHCR, you can support on both fronts, helping deliver immediate lifesaving humanitarian assistance while empowering displaced people to find longer-term solutions.

“Many people don’t have homes to return to. Some towns no longer exist – there is nothing left,” says Svitlana, a refugee woman in Poland who now works for UNHCR. *“Many people are **only just realizing** that their lives have changed forever and **maybe this is home now.**”*

Svitlana interviews Nadia (68) who fled Kharkiv with only one bag. She has run out of money and has a chronic medical condition. She is living in temporary accommodation in Krakow, but she does not know how long she can stay. She confesses to Svitlana that she is **completely lost and doesn’t know what to do next**.



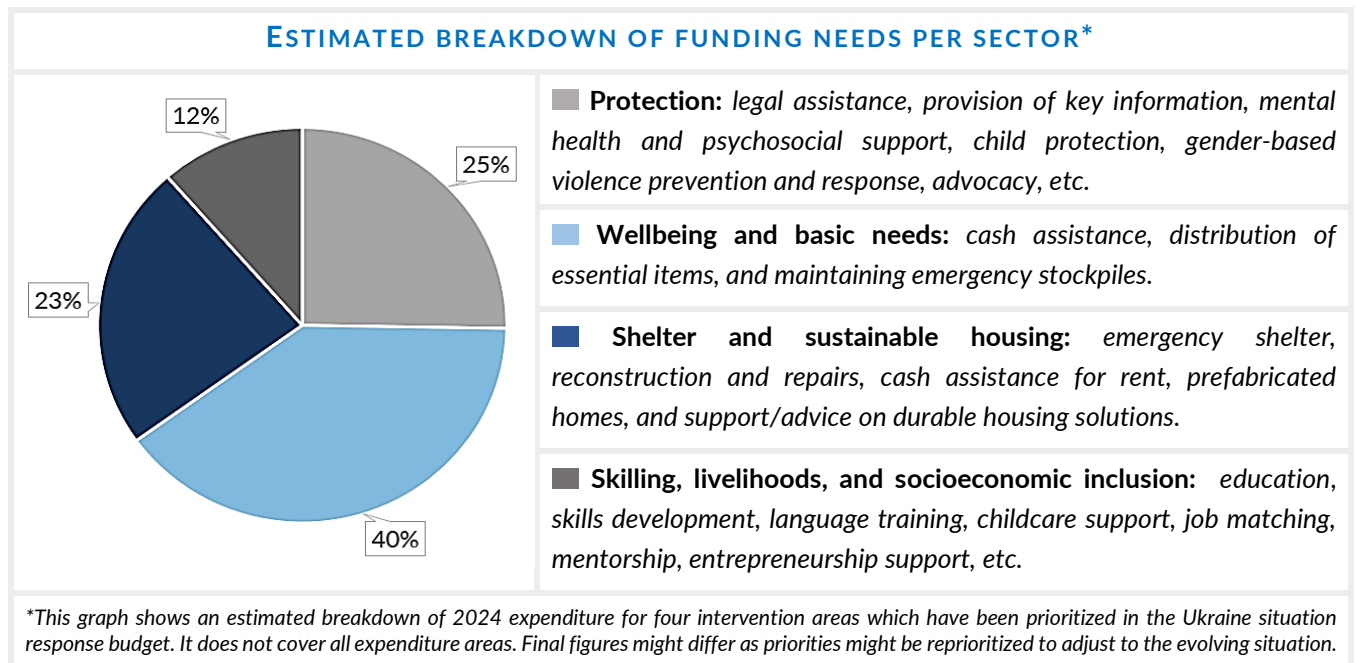
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RESTORING HOPE, REBUILDING FUTURES

UNHCR is appealing for **\$999.3 million to deliver on the response to the Ukraine crisis** in 2024. The strategy works across two priority fronts: **providing relief** to meet urgent humanitarian needs and empower displaced people with information, tools, skills, and opportunities **to bring early recovery and unlock longer-term solutions**.

Both priorities must be **tackled simultaneously to effect change**. Humanitarian needs are still alarming and cannot remain unaddressed, especially in frontline areas in Ukraine where the fighting is most intense, and for vulnerable communities such as disabled or elderly persons.

At the same time, UNHCR surveys consistently show a high interest in returning home among IDPs (82%) and refugees (76%). In addition to security concerns, major factors influencing their decision-making include housing, access to services, and livelihoods. It is thus essential to increasingly work on **early recovery** and **deliver more sustainable interventions** such as reconstruction and access to education, skilling, and livelihoods – because displaced and host communities need to be **equipped with the right support to deal with their new reality and look to the future with hope again**.



Your support can contribute to the delivery of lifesaving assistance and durable solutions for displaced communities across **four key priority areas.**



PROTECTION

- Monitor and ensure **effective access to legal status, protection, and rights** and work with governments to address challenges affecting access to vital rights and services such as accommodation, emergency healthcare and social assistance for unaccompanied children.
- Provision of **legal assistance and counselling**, for example to help internally displaced and war-affected people in Ukraine to get access to identity documents they have lost or ensure that they can get property documents and compensation for damaged homes.
- **Child protection**, including monitoring and identification of children at risk, psychosocial support, prevention, and awareness-raising activities – particularly for unaccompanied children.
- Prevention of and **response to gender-based violence**, trafficking, and sexual exploitation and abuse, including support to GBV survivors and training of government and NGO staff on prevention.

- **Mental health and psychological support** for refugees and IDPs – to help them with their trauma and distress, and as a key foundation to strengthen their ability to rebuild their lives and contribute to the development of their communities.
- **Evidence-based advocacy and technical support provided to governments** to shape laws and policies which are based on human rights, increase access to solutions for refugees and IDPs, and promote integration of displaced persons into local systems and services.
- **Monitoring, analysis, vulnerability assessments, and two-way engagement with displaced communities** to understand their situation and needs, raise awareness about risks and provide vital information on where to seek help. Effective outreach and cooperation with refugee and community leaders will be prioritized to ensure their voices are heard and they can participate in decision-making.
- **Specialized protection services for vulnerable individuals** at higher risk, including the elderly, disabled persons, LGBTIQ+ persons, or disadvantaged minorities such as the Roma community.



WELLBEING AND BASIC NEEDS

- Provision of essential items, such as **blankets, kitchen sets, solar lamps, dignity kits, beds, and mattresses**, especially in remote locations and areas where markets are disrupted and face shortages. This includes distributing core relief items to help displaced people to stay warm in winter, through the rising prices of energy and the ups and downs of power supply, including thermal clothing, and heating appliances.
- **Cash assistance** to enable people to meet their immediate and basic needs include food, medicine, clothes and rent. Cash continues to be the preferred mode of support for most displaced persons and remains a core intervention given the evolving nature of the war.
- Maintain **UNHCR's emergency/contingency stock as a preparedness measure in case hostilities escalate** and there is a significant new wave of displacement.



SHELTER AND SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

- **Emergency shelter** assistance for IDPs and war-affected people in Ukraine and winterization of homes, e.g., provision of insulation materials.
- Improvement of **living conditions in collective accommodation sites** including enhanced safety assessments,
- **Repair to homes and infrastructure** – in particular through 'Ukraine is Home,' an initiative by UNHCR and the Government of Ukraine which provides technical assistance, materials and other support to repair and reconstruct damaged homes and restore vital communal infrastructure.
- Support to transition people from temporary or sub-par accommodation and collective sites to their preferred sustainable living solutions in Ukraine or in hosting countries. This can include **provision of prefabricated homes**, cash assistance to cover rent, or **advice to displaced persons on sustainable housing solutions** – with a focus on quality, long-term accommodation which enables people to stay within their communities and become self-sufficient.



SKILLING, LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIOECONOMIC INCLUSION

- Ensure access to **quality education for children and youth** and promote inclusion in local systems and structures. This includes after-school educational support such as language courses and youth empowerment activities but also awareness-raising with families, and anti-bullying activities in schools to foster cohesion between displaced and host communities.
- Provision of **vocational training**, language training, and re- and **up-skilling opportunities**
- Provision of support to access **decent employment or self-employment**: job profiling and matching, counselling, mentorship, advice on employment regulations and local job market conditions, organization of recruitment events (job fairs and talent days), and engagement with local businesses, chambers of commerce



and business associations to understand labour market needs and requirements. Specific programmes will be **designed for people facing discrimination in the job market**, including youth, elderly, people with disabilities, long-term unemployed, women head of households, and ethnic minorities.

- Improved **childcare** to promote inclusion of women into the labour market.
- Support **access to financial services** including for business development and entrepreneurship.
- Working with governments and institutions to **remove legal, sociocultural, and economic barriers** to education and work, e.g., advocacy for employment rights, technical advice on policy development, promoting recognition of past diplomas and skills, etc.
- **Public awareness and promotion of socioeconomic inclusion** including through analysis on impact of refugee inclusion in local economy and dissemination of results through communications and campaigns.

A NEW FOUNDATION TO RESTART

Your support does not only ensure that UNHCR can deliver assistance and solutions for people forced to flee. It also **sends a precious signal to displaced people that the world has not forgotten about them**. Despite the hardship, the fear, and the uncertainty, **this gives them strength to keep going**.

While the resilience of Ukrainian people has been strong so far, they need the **global community to stand with them** as they face this unthinkable hardship. We cannot let displaced communities put their lives on hold and be defined by destruction and loss. You have the power to **bring about change**, providing relief to allow displaced Ukrainians to recover and restart, and empowering them with the tools and opportunities that they need to **work towards the future with renewed hope**.

| FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS (IN USD MILLIONS) * | | TARGETS | |
|--|--------------------------------|----------------|--|
| | Ukraine | \$598.9 |  3.4 million people reached with assistance and solutions in Ukraine and in refugee-hosting countries |
| Refugee response plan countries | Bulgaria | \$16.9 | |
| | Czech Republic | \$11.8 | |
| | Estonia | \$4.2 | |
| | Hungary | \$14.2 | |
| | Latvia | \$4.2 | |
| | Lithuania | \$4.2 | |
| | Poland | \$85 | |
| | Republic of Moldova | \$102.8 | |
| | Romania | \$52.9 | |
| | Slovakia | \$20.3 | |
| | Regional coordination | \$22.7 | |
| | Other countries | \$55.1 | |
| | Ukraine Situation total | \$993.3 | |
| | | |  267,000 people reached with initiatives to boost livelihoods and socioeconomic inclusion |

*For more details on financial requirements and targets: <https://reporting.unhcr.org/ukraine-situation-unhcr%E2%80%99s-2024-plans-and-financial-requirements>