

Ukraine

February 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.

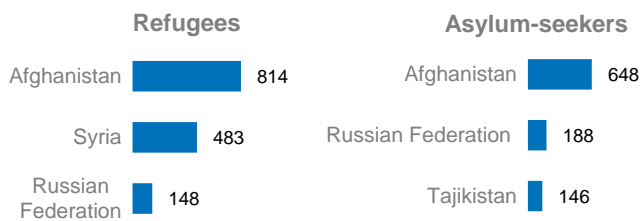
Legal framework: Ukraine acceded to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol in 2002. A 2011 law regulates the treatment of refugees and other persons of concern in Ukraine.

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 for 2018-2022.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

Refugees	2,212
Asylum-seekers	2,232
Internally displaced persons	734,000
Stateless persons	35,642
Conflict-affected persons	1,68 M

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



Data source: UNHCR 2020 Mid-Year Statistical report and UNHCR [data finder platform](#)

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

Advocacy: UNHCR advocates for easing restrictions on crossing the 'contact line' in eastern Ukraine and unimpeded humanitarian access to the non-government controlled areas (NGCA).

Inclusion of persons of concern: UNHCR advocates with the Government to include asylum-seekers into the medical system of Ukraine to ensure their access to free health care (see [video](#) in Ukrainian).

Communication with Communities: UNHCR and its NGO partners supported [translation of information about COVID-19 prevention and response](#) in languages spoken by refugees and asylum-seekers. In eastern Ukraine, UNHCR distributed information materials and used loudspeakers to reach residents in isolated locations.

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

28,333

IDPs and conflict-affected persons were provided with hygiene items since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic

12,496

IDPs and conflict-affected persons received legal assistance from UNHCR's NGO partners in 2020.

872

persons with specific needs living near the 'contact line' in eastern Ukraine benefited from "cash for protection" in 2020

548

refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from monthly subsistence allowance cash grants in 2020.

173

persons received a national passport/ID thanks to UNHCR and NGO partners in 2020.



Winterization program helps 450 families survive cold winter temperatures

This family with six children fled from Somalia and applied for asylum in Ukraine. The COVID-19 outbreak brought new challenges for them during winter. Read [here](#) how UNHCR helps refugees and asylum-seekers to cope with the impact of the pandemic.

Key Priorities

- **Protection:** Through its traditional core mandate, UNHCR monitors the situation of persons of concern and intervenes directly to ensure adequate protection of refugees and asylum-seekers.
- **Asylum procedures:** UNHCR works with the Government to strengthen the asylum system, including through **capacity development of asylum authorities** (State Migration Service of Ukraine), judges, lawyers, and State Border Guard Service. UNHCR focuses its advocacy on the **amendments to the national legislation on asylum** to bring it in line with international and European standards. In January and April 2020, UNHCR published its comments on two successive versions of the draft Law on Granting Protection. Overall, UNHCR observed a deterioration in the protection standards in the last version of the draft law registered in the Parliament.
- **Durable Solutions:** UNHCR assists refugees to find sustainable solutions by facilitating **voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement**. In line with its MYMP Strategy and in light of the shrinking global number of resettlement places, UNHCR reduced the number of persons submitted for resettlement. UNHCR changed its focus to self-reliance and integration assistance instead.
- **Promoting Social Cohesion:** Since the start of its Community Support Initiatives program in 2018, UNHCR has assisted **26 refugee community initiatives and funded 18 projects to promote peaceful coexistence** between refugees and their host communities. In 2020, UNHCR established **Community-Based Protection Working Group** engaging NGO partners and government counterparts at the central and regional levels.
- **Livelihoods Support and Self-Reliance Grants:** UNHCR provides **financial assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers** who want to start their **own business** or attend **vocational training** to achieve self-reliance.
- **Integration:** UNHCR provides **language training** for persons of concern and advocates with the Government to initiate **certified state language courses**.

Working with Partners

- In the case of IDPs, UNHCR works with the **Ministry for Reintegration of Temporarily Occupied Territories**. In supporting refugees and stateless persons, UNHCR cooperates with the **State Migration Service of Ukraine** and

other line ministries. UNHCR works with **eight NGO partners** and jointly is responsible with OCHA for facilitating **humanitarian convoys to eastern Ukraine**.

- **External Engagement:** UNHCR works to strengthen partnerships with **recovery and development actors** to pave the way for the gradual transition of responsibilities to national authorities.

Internally Displaced and Conflict-Affected Persons

- UNHCR advocates for positive change in policies on the needs and rights of IDPs in areas of **housing solutions, birth registration, freedom of movement and access to pensions** for residents in NGCA.
- UNHCR shapes its response through **protection monitoring** at both the community and individual level.
- UNHCR and NGO partners provide **individual case management**, through legal assistance, protection counselling, psychosocial support, and cash-based and in-kind individual protection assistance.
- **Community Support Projects** involving IDP and host communities facilitate durable solutions and promote social cohesion.
- UNHCR and NGO partners deliver **shelter and NFI assistance** to IDPs and conflict-affected persons.
- UNHCR 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 authorities adopted a law introducing a **Statelessness Determination Procedure**.

UNHCR Presence in Ukraine

Staff:

102 National Staff

18 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Kyiv

1 Sub-Office in

Sloviansk

2 Field Units in Mariupol

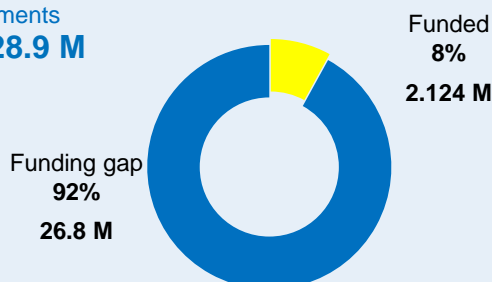
and Sievierodonetsk

2 Field Offices in

Donetsk and Luhansk

Financial information (28 February 2021)

Financial Requirements
USD 28.9 M



UNHCR is grateful to the major donors of unearmarked contributions* to the 2021 global programmes (USD, as of 28 February):

Norway 80 M | Sweden 66.9 M | Netherlands 36.1 M | Denmark 34.6 M | Germany 22.1 M | Switzerland 16.4 M | Ireland 12.5 M | Belgium 11.9 M

*Unearmarked contributions allow UNHCR for critical flexibility in how best to reach populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Above are donors of USD 10 million or more.

UNHCR Ukraine is also grateful for 2021 contributions from the following donors (as of 28 February):

Japan | Sweden | Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (Country-Based Pool Funds)