



Nazar, 13, is on a rare visit home in March 2025 from a hospital in Kharkiv, where he receives care for injuries due to unexploded ordnance. UNICEF provides cash, mental health and other support.

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Humanitarian Action for Children

Ukraine and Refugee Response

HIGHLIGHTS

- The war in Ukraine is entering its fifth devastating year, marked by an escalation of unrelenting attacks since April 2025¹ and the systematic destruction of critical infrastructure. The war continues to endanger children's lives, disrupt essential services and take a severe toll on mental health. In 2026, an estimated 10.8 million people inside Ukraine,² including 2.2 million children and 3.8 million internally displaced people,³ as well as nearly 546,000 Ukrainian refugees in Belarus, Bulgaria, Republic of Moldova, Poland and Romania⁴ require humanitarian assistance.
- Children and families in Ukraine and in neighbouring refugee-hosting countries face interconnected crises.⁵ Conflict-related destruction and displacement have eroded access to basic services and heightened protection and gender-based violence risks inside Ukraine. Beyond its borders, protracted displacement, social exclusion, psychosocial distress and economic insecurity continue to affect refugee children and their families and strain national systems.
- UNICEF will pursue life-saving, multisectoral assistance to ensure the protection of children and the rehabilitation of essential services in Ukraine's most affected regions in the north, east and south,⁷ while strengthening national systems in host countries to maintain refugee inclusion in this protracted conflict⁸ and expand access to education, protection and mental health support.
- In 2026, UNICEF requires \$387.9 million (\$350 million for the response inside Ukraine and \$37.9 million for the refugee response) to ensure protection, sustain services, strengthen systems and maintain readiness to meet new or escalating needs.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS



160,400

children and caregivers
accessing primary health
care



484,019

children/caregivers
accessing community-
based mental health and
psychosocial support



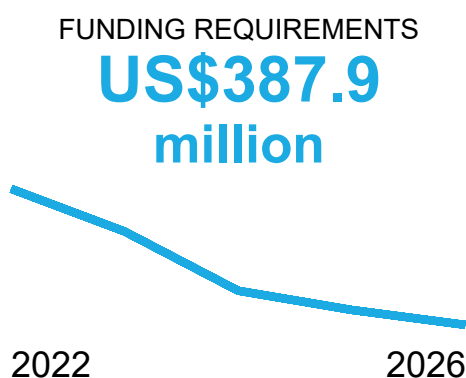
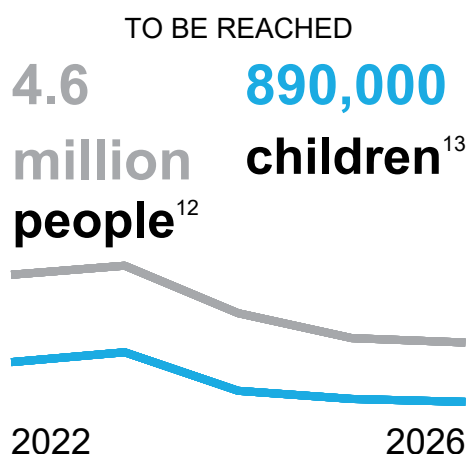
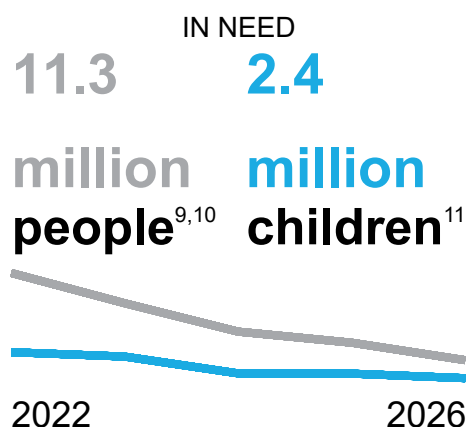
197,166

children accessing formal
or non-formal education,
including early learning



4.3 million

people accessing a
sufficient quantity and
quality of water



Pillar 1 – Inside Ukraine

The ongoing war continues to threaten and impact the lives and well-being of children across Ukraine. Since February 2022, the United Nations has verified 745 children killed and 2,375 children injured due to the war.¹⁴ Verified grave violations from January to October 2025 were 27 per cent higher than for the same period in 2024.¹⁵ The use of explosive weapons in populated urban areas such as Kyiv – which resulted in a 160 per cent increase in child casualties in 2025 compared to 2024¹⁶ – are driving this risk, along with fighting in front-line areas. Children in occupied areas remain largely inaccessible to humanitarian assistance.

Attacks on energy infrastructure escalated in October 2025, with 50 per cent of Ukraine's energy generation capacity along with 60 per cent of natural gas production now offline. Power outages have affected millions of people across the country, impacting water and heating systems as well as disrupting schools, health and other facilities that children rely on. Most damage is recorded in front-line regions highly susceptible to cold weather hazards. One in five families reports health issues linked to cold indoor temperatures.¹⁷

Poverty has increased by 70 per cent since 2021, and 4 out of 10 children now live in poverty.¹⁸ Thirty-nine per cent of households with a single female caregiver face extreme needs.¹⁹ Reports of gender-based violence have surged by 36 per cent since 2022, with adolescent girls increasingly at risk of sexual violence.²⁰

Protection concerns remain paramount, with children at heightened risk of violence. Half of all children are at risk of mental distress, with displaced children and those in front-line areas disproportionately affected.^{21,22} Children with disabilities, returning from abroad and those in alternative care²³ are among the most vulnerable.

Despite progress in reopening schools, 10 per cent of children (316,000 students) are learning fully online and 21 per cent (681,000 students) in blended learning.²⁴ These children are vulnerable to disrupted learning outcomes, isolation and exposure to mental health risks. At least 1,611 schools have been damaged or destroyed, including 348 between January and September 2025.²⁵

WASH infrastructure has suffered \$11.6 billion in damages, with 1,109 km of water supply networks, 82 water pumping stations and 327 km of sewerage networks destroyed or damaged.²⁶ District heating systems have sustained \$2.5 billion in damage.^{27,28}

Half of residents in front-line regions report worsening barriers to healthcare access, including the high cost of medicines, lack of transportation and damaged facilities.²⁹ Seventy-four per cent of respondents cite cost as the main reason for limited access to healthcare or medicines.³⁰

SECTOR NEEDS³¹



4.5 million
people in need of
health assistance



2.5 million
children in need of
protection services



800,000
children in need of
education support



6.4 million
people in need of
WASH assistance

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Twins Viktoriya (left) and Artem (centre), and their cousin Margo (right), attend early learning sessions in Petropil, Zaporizhzhia.

With many kindergartens in Ukraine remaining closed because of the war, early learning sessions funded by UNICEF help support young children's development and provide them with a sense of normalcy. Twins Viktoriya and Artem, 6, and their cousin Margo, 5, look forward to these twice-weekly sessions, where they get to learn and play with their peers and receive psychosocial support in a safe space. "Since attending these sessions, I've seen very positive changes in the children," says Iryna, the twins' mother. "They've started communicating more, speaking better and feeling less afraid. It fills them with excitement, and me with joy."

Pillar 1 – Inside Ukraine

In line with government and inter-agency response plans, UNICEF aims to help save lives, alleviate suffering, maintain dignity and protect the rights of children under four strategic priorities, as well as in response to the intensifying, overlapping energy and winter crises, to ensure children have access to essential services.

For the most vulnerable children and families who remain close to the front line, mobile teams provide critical child protection, health and education services. Water is trucked to the most affected areas. Where safe, UNICEF partners offer group mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence prevention and response and catch-up learning. Water and district heating utilities receive technical and financial assistance for emergency support to water, sanitation and heating systems. UNICEF also rehabilitates school and health facility shelters to ensure children can continue to safely access education and health services.

UNICEF provides cash assistance to families with children affected by evacuations. Life-saving child protection and health services and WASH supplies are available at transit and collective centres, where children also benefit from child-friendly spaces and improved and inclusive sanitation facilities.

Immediately following air strikes, UNICEF partners are on site providing mental health and psychosocial support, case management and supplies, including hygiene items. UNICEF provides cash assistance to those affected and conducts quick repairs to reopen damaged schools and kindergartens. Damaged water and heating systems are also repaired. Through a case management approach, UNICEF addresses the immediate and medium-term needs of affected children and their families.

For the most vulnerable displaced families, UNICEF ensures access to life-saving services, including case management. UNICEF also provides a multisectoral response for children returning from abroad (from the Russian Federation and European Union) and occupied territories, including those in alternative care and affected by the war.

Finally, in response to the energy and winter crises, UNICEF supports water, sanitation and heating services along with social infrastructure, such as health, education and social/child protection facilities with alternative power and heating solutions to ensure children can access critical services. In winter, this is complemented by cash for winter assistance to allow vulnerable frontline families to access fuel and children's winter clothing.

UNICEF uses feedback mechanisms and engagement to design and adapt to the needs of affected populations and ensure gender-responsiveness of interventions and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse. UNICEF's response is informed by gender analysis, and engagement will continue with local organizations advancing the rights of women and girls.

Emergency preparedness is central to UNICEF planning, ensuring readiness to respond to new situations. UNICEF leads the WASH and Education Clusters and is supporting the transition from Child Protection Area of Responsibility to a Child Protection in Emergencies Task Group under the Social Protection Working Group.³⁴

2026 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Health and nutrition

- 160,400 children and caregivers accessing primary health care³⁵



Child protection and GBVIE

- 484,019 children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- 325,920 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- 50,271 children who have received individual case management
- 616,154 children and caregivers provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions



Education

- 197,166 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- 275,970 children accessing protective learning environments



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- 4,260,711 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- 484,626 people reached with critical WASH supplies
- 147 institutions provided with child friendly, gender-responsive and inclusive WASH services
- 1,802,815 people benefiting from restored or maintained heating



Social protection

- 110,000 households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)



Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)

- 1,071,380 people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- 1,000,000 people participating in engagement actions for social and behaviour change³⁶
- 140,000 people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms, and participating in consultations for programme design

Pillar 2 – Outside Ukraine

Four years into displacement, refugee children and families from Ukraine continue to face a precarious future across Central and Eastern Europe. Experts’ analyses highlight the complexity and uncertainty of the situation, suggesting that instability and displacement are likely to remain prolonged.^{37,38} Humanitarian and protection needs continue to be significant, compounded by increasing demographic and economic pressures amid growing anti-refugee sentiment, misinformation and regional fatigue.^{39,40}

More than 1.42 million refugees remain in Poland, Romania, the Republic of Moldova, Bulgaria and Belarus.^{41,42} While access to safety and services has improved, inclusion is constrained by legal, administrative and socioeconomic barriers that sustain vulnerability and strain host systems.⁴³

Across the region, services remain overstretched. Limited absorption capacity, language barriers and rising living costs restrict access to education, protection, health and social protection. Economic insecurity, discrimination and narrowing social assistance schemes further compound these pressures, leaving the most vulnerable families dependent on humanitarian aid. These include children without parental care; children in institutions; adolescents; persons with disabilities; Roma refugees; older persons; and women-headed households.⁴⁴

Education disruption remains a major concern. Refugee children continue to face difficulties enrolling and integrating into host-country schools due to language and curriculum barriers. Overcrowded classrooms and shortages of trained teachers, especially those providing language support, hinder learning. Adolescents face heightened exclusion, with limited access to skills training or vocational pathways. Analyses indicate a growing number of refugee families may permanently resettle in host countries, increasing the number of Ukrainian children entering national education systems.⁴⁵

Protection concerns persist. Unaccompanied and separated children require case management and specialized care, while social-service workloads remain heavy, particularly in Poland and Romania, and capacities limited in Bulgaria and Moldova. Children with disabilities face multiple barriers to support, while reports of gender-based violence continue.^{46,47,48}

Demand for mental health and psychosocial support for refugee children and caregivers continues to rise. In Poland, 21 per cent of children aged 0–17 report mental-health problems, yet only 1.5 per cent of these children receive care, reflecting major access bottlenecks.^{49,50} Across the region, costs, language barriers and limited specialized staff restrict access to services.⁵¹

Healthcare remains uneven and often unaffordable for uninsured refugees, especially for maternal, child-health and primary care. Rising costs of living have pushed many families below the poverty line, further eroding access to care.⁵²

While the European Union has extended temporary protection until March 2026,⁵³ benefits are narrowing and social tensions rising.⁵⁴ Families without stable employment remain at risk of poverty, exploitation or loss of legal status.⁵⁵

These factors underscore a protracted yet evolving situation: many refugees are achieving self-reliance, yet significant pockets of vulnerability persist. For children, the cumulative risks of exclusion, violence and poor mental health are severe. Sustained, system-linked humanitarian support remains vital to safeguard their protection, inclusion and well-being.

SECTOR NEEDS



112,037
women and children in need of health assistance



186,540
children in need of protection services



340,962
children in need of education support



49,960
people in need of income support

STORY FROM THE FIELD



Vasylyna, 27, and her daughter Yuliana, 3, stand at a SUN Centre in Kraków, Poland in May 2025. Vasylyna works as an administrator at the Centre, and her children attend therapeutic sessions.

Vasylyna, 27, fled to Kraków, Poland, with her two children, Artem and Yuliana, after the war in Ukraine escalated in 2022. “For many of us moms who fled our homes, the full weight of caregiving, emotional, physical and financial, now rests on our shoulders,” she says.

The move was traumatic – both children became withdrawn and stopped speaking. At the UNICEF-supported SUN Centre in Kraków, Yuliana regained her speech and Artem, who has autism, began specialized therapy. Vasylyna also received psychological support.

The SUN Centre is part of a municipal network, providing therapeutic and counselling services for children and caregivers, helping families rebuild their emotional and developmental well-being.

Pillar 2 – Outside Ukraine

In partnership with host governments, UNHCR and humanitarian partners, UNICEF will strengthen national responses in Belarus, Bulgaria, the Republic of Moldova, Poland and Romania to meet the needs of vulnerable refugee children and families, as well as host community members facing comparable hardships.⁵⁶ Guided by national leadership and priorities, efforts will reinforce systems and institutions for durable, inclusive support and ensure alignment with Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan January 2025–December 2026.

UNICEF will sustain access to essential services for children and women in protection, mental health and psychosocial support, education, social protection and social cohesion, while staying ready to respond to new displacements or emerging needs. Work will strengthen and complement national systems to reach those most at risk, close service gaps and preserve capacities for rapid scale-up.

UNICEF will promote refugee inclusion within national systems, ensuring essential support is gradually transferred to national authorities and that activities no longer needed are responsibly phased out. UNICEF will work with ministries and local authorities to facilitate enrolment of Ukrainian children and adolescents in host-country schools; provide language and remedial support; and expand flexible learning options – and prioritize strengthening systems to deliver inclusive, quality learning for all, particularly adolescents at risk of dropout and children with disabilities.

Child protection is central to UNICEF's response. Programmes will reinforce national prevention and response systems and strengthen linkages with social protection, health and education. UNICEF will support case management, family tracing and reunification, mental health and psychosocial support and parenting interventions. Priorities include reducing institutionalization, preventing family separation and enabling community-based mechanisms to identify and assist at-risk children, including children with disabilities and survivors of violence. UNICEF will also build the capacity of national and local social workforces to deliver quality, inclusive services across refugee and host communities.

UNICEF will sustain access to social protection, including predictable, life-saving cash assistance for vulnerable households, while supporting governments to extend such benefits equitably and sustainably. Prevention of gender-based violence and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse remain cross-cutting priorities, advanced through capacity-building, awareness-raising and stronger referral pathways. UNICEF will promote social and behavioural change to foster cohesion, counter misinformation and enhance accountability through community engagement.

UNICEF will foster collaboration between the Government of Ukraine and host countries on child protection, deinstitutionalization, education, mental health and psychosocial support and social cohesion. UNICEF will maintain coordination capacities across the region to meet evolving needs while advancing nationally owned, system-linked solutions. UNICEF will strengthen preparedness for potential new refugee arrivals through risk analysis, contingency planning and readiness measures at national and subregional levels.

2026 PROGRAMME TARGETS



Health and nutrition

- 2,500 children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- 1,200 children and women receiving secondary/tertiary health care services through UNICEF supported facilities



Child protection and GBViE

- 72,950 children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- 81,860 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- 2,290 unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified
- 34,885 children who have received individual case management
- 70,000 people with access to safe spaces, protection and support hubs



Education

- 226,640 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- 18,090 children receiving individual learning materials



Water, sanitation and hygiene

- 4,550 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- 6,300 people use safe and appropriate sanitation services
- 9,100 people reached with critical hygiene and WASH supplies



Social protection

- 9,000 households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system with UNICEF technical assistance



Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)

- 152,000 people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- 553,120 people reached through messaging on prevention and access to services (including social protection, health, nutrition, education, etc)
- 151,380 people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change
- 61,820 people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2026

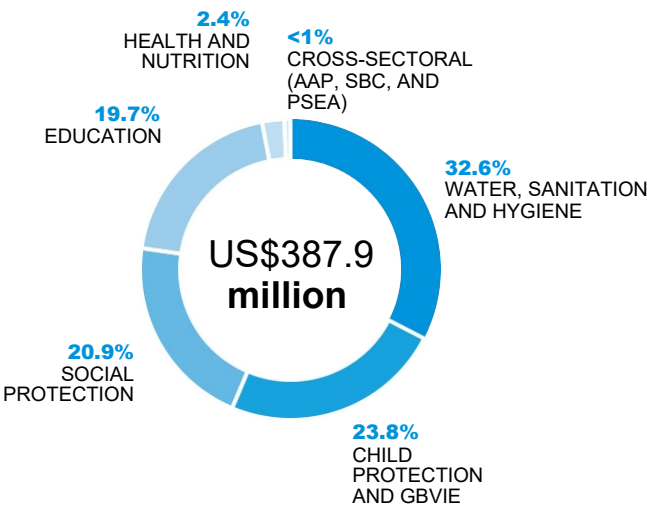
In 2026, UNICEF requires \$387.9 million to meet the immediate and longer-term needs of conflict-affected children and families inside Ukraine and in five refugee-hosting countries in Europe. This appeal targets more than 4.6 million people, including 890,000 children, prioritizing those most affected by war, displacement and the erosion of social systems and services.

Inside Ukraine, UNICEF requires \$350 million to reach nearly 4.3 million people – including 725,000 children – with life-saving and protective assistance in health, education, child protection, gender-based violence prevention, WASH and social protection. Aligned with the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, the response will prioritize front-line and newly retaken areas, supporting communities under evacuation and those affected by repeated air strikes and winter conditions. Outside the scope of the inter-agency Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, UNICEF will target pockets of need in heavily affected areas outside the 50 km front line, where many children are still unable to access in-person education and face heavy bombardment, with high mental health and psychosocial support needs. They lack safe water and sanitation.⁵⁷ UNICEF will also provide alternative energy and heating solutions in these areas through anticipatory action/critical preparedness initiatives. Creating energy and heating independence will allow children to access education, health, water and heating disrupted by attacks on energy infrastructure.⁵⁸

For efforts in Belarus, Bulgaria, the Republic of Moldova, Poland and Romania, UNICEF requires \$37.9 million to address the humanitarian and integration needs of refugee children and families and the needs of host community members who face comparable vulnerabilities. Support will focus on child protection, education and skills building, gender-based violence prevention and response, mental health and psychosocial support, health, social protection and social cohesion. Interventions align with Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan January 2025–December 2026 and complement host-government systems to deliver sustainable, nationally led services benefiting both refugee and host children.⁵⁹

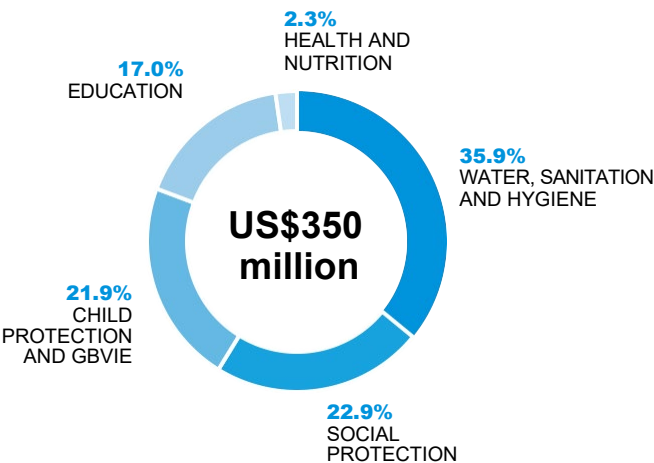
Funding for this appeal is essential to maintain critical humanitarian response operations and remain prepared for potential escalation of war and winter related displacement while supporting the transition from emergency relief to resilient inclusive systems. Without timely resources, millions of children risk losing access to safe water, education, healthcare and psychosocial support, while national and local partners will face reduced capacity to respond to emerging shocks or new displacement. Investing now will enable UNICEF to protect children’s lives today and lay the foundation for their safety, learning and well-being in the years to come.

Ukraine and Refugee Response

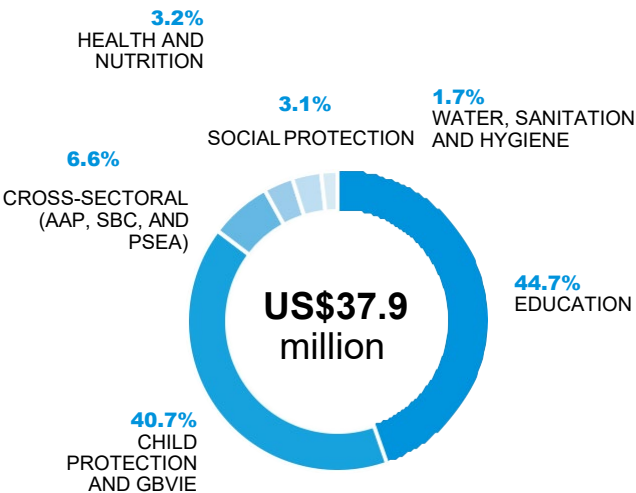


Sectors	2026 total requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition	9,274,692
Child protection and GBVIE	92,157,763
Education	76,354,745
Water, sanitation and hygiene	126,410,327
Social protection	81,184,843
Cross-sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)	2,518,573
Total	387,900,943

Pillar 1 – Inside Ukraine



Pillar 2 – Outside Ukraine



Sectors	Belarus	Bulgaria	Republic of Moldova	Poland	Romania	Ukraine	Other countries, regional coordination and technical oversight	2026 total requirement (US\$)
Health and nutrition	-	-	956,000	-	165,000	8,070,322	83,370	9,274,692
Child protection and GBViE	320,000	949,086	3,005,000	8,581,800	975,500	76,749,213	1,577,164	92,157,763
Education	30,000	884,325	2,542,000	9,080,839	2,737,200	59,429,027	1,651,354	76,354,745
Water, sanitation and hygiene	-	-	520,607	-	-	125,751,002	138,718	126,410,327
Social protection	80,000	-	690,000	-	98,000	79,999,935	316,908	81,184,843
Cross- sectoral (AAP, SBC, and PSEA)	50,980	174,432	1,066,800	717,433	329,000	-	179,928	2,518,573
Total	480,980	2,007,843	8,780,407	18,380,072	4,304,700	349,999,499	3,947,442	387,900,943

ENDNOTES

1. Care Ukraine, “Escalating attacks in Ukraine make humanitarian response deadly task”, press release, Kyiv, 11 June 2025, available at <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/escalating-attacks-ukraine-make-humanitarian-response-deadly-task>.
2. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025, OCHA, April 2025, available at www.unocha.org/publications/report/ukraine/ukraine-humanitarian-needs-and-response-plan-2025-april-2025-enuk.
3. International Organization for Migration (IOM), Ukraine Internal Displacement Report: General Population Survey – Round 20, IOM, April 2025, available at <https://dtm.iom.int/reports/ukraine-internal-displacement-report-general-population-survey-round-20-april-2025?close=true>.
4. This figure refers to the number of Ukrainian refugees in need of humanitarian assistance who are residing in Belarus, Bulgaria, Moldova, Poland and Romania, where UNICEF is carrying out its refugee response.
5. UNICEF's Ukraine response will be revised in the first quarter of 2026 in alignment with the Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2026.
6. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Displacement patterns, protection risks and needs of refugees from Ukraine: Regional protection analysis #6 – Trend analysis, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia, UNHCR, August 2025, available at <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/118280>.
7. Aligned with OCHA, Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025, April 2025.
8. Aligned with UNHCR, Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan January 2025–December 2026, UNHCR, Geneva, January 2025, available at www.unhcr.org/europe/publications/regional-refugee-response-plan-2025-2026.
9. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children, and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.
10. This includes 10.8 million people in Ukraine and 546,000 people in five refugee-hosting countries, in line with the Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 and Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan January 2025–December 2026.
11. This includes 2,160,000 children in Ukraine, based on estimates of 20 per cent children among the Ukrainian population as per the 2026 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, and 236,000 children in the five refugee-receiving countries, based on country-level data sources.
12. This includes 4,260,711 people in Ukraine, based on the target for people to be reached with safe water, and 368,000 people in the five refugee-receiving countries based on their highest programmatic targets.
13. This includes 725,000 children in Ukraine, based on the target of children to be reached with safe water, and 165,000 children in the five refugee-receiving countries, based on 61 percent of the overall outreach, as only some interventions target caregivers and the adult population.
14. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Ukraine: Protection of civilians in armed conflict – October 2025 update, OHCHR, 12 November 2025, available at https://ukraine.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2025-11/Ukraine%20-%20protection%20of%20civilians%20in%20armed%20conflict%20%28October%20%202025%29_ENG_0.pdf.
15. OHCHR, “Ukraine faces intensified attacks on energy infrastructure amid continued high civilian casualties, UN monitors say”, statement, OHCHR, Kyiv, 12 November 2025, available at <https://ukraine.ohchr.org/en/Ukraine-faces-intensified-attacks-on-energy-infrastructure-amid-continued-high-civilian-casualties-UN-monitors-say#:~:text=Three%20large%2Dscale%20attacks%20last,power%20outages%20across%20the%20country>.
16. Ibid.
17. Kyiv International Institute of Sociology (KIIS); UNICEF. Analytical Report on the Results of the Field Survey of Ukrainian Citizens Who Receive Heat and Hot Water – June 2025. Kyiv: KIIS/UNICEF, June 2025. Data also available at: <https://humanitarianaction.info/document/ukraine-winter-response-plan-october-2025-march-2026/article/ukraine-winter-response-plan-october-2025-march-2026>
18. UNICEF, Institute for Demography and Social Research of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and Ukrainian Center for Social Reforms, Socio-Economic Status of Households in Ukraine (according to the results of the nationwide sample household socio-economic status survey (HSESS), conducted in December 2023 – February 2024), Kyiv, 24 July 2024, available at <https://knowledge.unicef.org/ukraine/resource/socio-economic-status-households-ukraine>.
19. Ukraine Cash Working Group, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance Targeting Framework as of July 2025, OCHA, 7 July 2025, available at www.unocha.org/publications/report/ukraine/ukraine-cash-working-group-multi-purpose-cash-assistance-targeting-framework-july-2025.
20. United Nations, Ukraine: Three years of war reverses progress for women and girls, UN News, online information, 19 February 2025, available at <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/02/1160291>.
21. Naeem, Amna et al., “Parent-child mental health in Ukraine in relation to war trauma and drone attacks,” Comprehensive Psychiatry, vol. 139, May 2025, available at www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0010440X25000173.
22. McElroy, Eoin et al., “Change in child mental health during the Ukraine war: Evidence from a large sample of parents”, European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, vol. 33, no. 5, 2024, pp. 1495–1502, available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00787-023-02255-z>.
23. Data from the National Social Service of Ukraine show that as of May 2025, 13,084 children in alternative care remain evacuated, with 7,449 being abroad. In addition, of the 7,496 children from institutions evacuated within Ukraine and abroad after February 2022, 1,532 remain abroad, more than 3,000 have returned to Ukraine and 576 remain evacuated within Ukraine. In 2024 and 2025, there have been continued evacuations of children without parental care from institutions and from alternative care families within Ukraine.
24. Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, Operational Dashboard, September 2025, available at https://lookerstudio.google.com/reporting/6c10cd85-b49c-4586-b6a0-d91e28656ff0/page/p_n6segyixjd.
25. UN-verified data from the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism.
26. World Bank, Government of Ukraine, European Commission and United Nations, Ukraine: Fourth rapid damage and needs assessment (RDNA4) – February 2022 – December 2024, February 2025, available at <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099022025114040022>.
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31. Ukraine Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025.

32. This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs), which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.
33. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised CCCs made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.
34. UNICEF also contributes to the Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, Victim Assistance and Cash Working Groups.
35. Through UNICEF-supported facilities, and through mobile teams and house visits.
36. Number of people participating in engagement actions for social and behaviour change on winterization, safety, parenting, help seeking and self-support practices and others, including in response to strikes
37. Dligach, Andrii, "Scenarios for the End of the War", New Eastern Europe, 1 September 2025, available at <https://neweasterneurope.eu/2025/09/01/scenarios-for-the-end-of-the-war/>.
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39. UNHCR, Ukraine Refugee Situation, operational data portal, available at <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>.
40. Kerasauskaite, Ingrida et al., Risks to Community Cohesion Between Ukrainian Refugees and Host Communities: Romania report, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, white paper, June 2023, available at www.ifes.org/sites/default/files/2023-08/Romania_CSSF.pdf.
41. The total number of refugees in these five refugee host countries where UNICEF has active operations increased from 1.4 million at the end of 2024 to 1.42 million as of September 2025.
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43. UNHCR, Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan January 2025–December 2026, UNHCR, Geneva, January 2025.
44. Ibid.
45. UNHCR, Displacement patterns, protection risks and needs of refugees from Ukraine.
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47. UNHCR, Ukraine Situation: UNHCR's 2025 plans and financial requirements, UNHCR, January 2025, available at www.unhcr.org/ua/sites/ua/files/2025-01/Ukraine%20Situation%20Appeal%202025.pdf. This document identifies persons with disabilities and socioeconomically vulnerable households among those most disproportionately impacted.
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52. Ibid.
53. Council of the European Union, "Ukrainian Refugees: Council extends temporary protection until March 2026", press release, 25 June 2024, available at www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/06/25/ukrainian-refugees-council-extends-temporary-protection-until-march-2026/.
54. Eurofound, Social impact of migration: Addressing the challenges of receiving and integrating Ukrainian refugees, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2024, available at <https://assets.eurofound.europa.eu/f/279033/fe2e019347/ef23030en.pdf>
55. UNHCR, Displacement patterns, protection risks and needs of refugees from Ukraine.
56. In 2025, UNICEF phased out its operations in Slovakia (June) and Czechia (December), following the transition of responsibilities to national authorities and partners.
57. Children in several front-line areas outside the 50 km HNRP zones continue to face severe needs. Key cities are now within range of cheap glide bombs (with range increasing from 90 km to 150 km as of October) and remain under heavy missile and drone bombardment. Winter conditions are worsened by widespread blackouts from strikes on energy infrastructure, with Chernihiv city particularly affected. Insecurity and power cuts mean most students rely on blended or online learning – for example, 90 per cent of students in Dnipropetrovsk region. Kryvyi Rih is still coping with the loss of a safe water source after the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam, and the destroyed main pipeline in Mykolaiv has yet to be replaced, leaving sanitation systems deteriorating. Odesa city recorded the most days of water and heating disruption in 2025, due to repeated strikes on port infrastructure.
58. Specifically, this will include solarization and/or provision of backup power supply systems to health facilities whose operations are disrupted by blackouts. Schools will receive support so that they can meet their unique power and heating needs, to ensure continued in-person learning over the winter months. For water, sanitation and heating, UNICEF will expand its regular package of support (repairs and rehabilitation) to include alternative energy solutions (generators, batteries, co-generation units) that will enable systems to function in the immediate term, while longer-term recovery and reconstruction of the energy grid are undertaken.
59. UNICEF's Pillar 2 – Ukraine Refugee Response funding requirement, which focuses on refugee families in host countries, is fully aligned with UNHCR's Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan January 2025–December 2026. In recognition that UNICEF's support also extends to the most vulnerable families within host communities, the Pillar 2 budget reflects both refugee and host community needs, with approximately 80 per cent of the requirement dedicated to refugee needs and 20 per cent to host communities.
60. Total funding requirement outside of the 2026 HNRP is US\$43,472,712 (or 12.4% of the total for Pillar 1). This corresponds to: 1) pockets of critical need in front-line areas beyond the 0–50 km zone defined in the HNRP; and 2) Escalating energy-related needs, including alternative power and water sources, some of which fall outside the HNRP scope.
61. UNICEF's refugee response addresses the needs of both refugee and vulnerable host community members (not exceeding 4:1 ratio of to be reached and total ask), whereas the UNHCR Refugee Response Plan (RRP) only targets refugees, with the exception of Moldova. As such, UNICEF's Pillar 2 funding requirements are 89% inside the RRP and 19% outside.