

Ukraine

October 2023

UNHCR's local partner Proliska responded quickly with essential items and psychosocial support to survivors of the horrific and deadly attack on Hroza village, Kharkivska oblast. See more [here](#). © Proliska

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

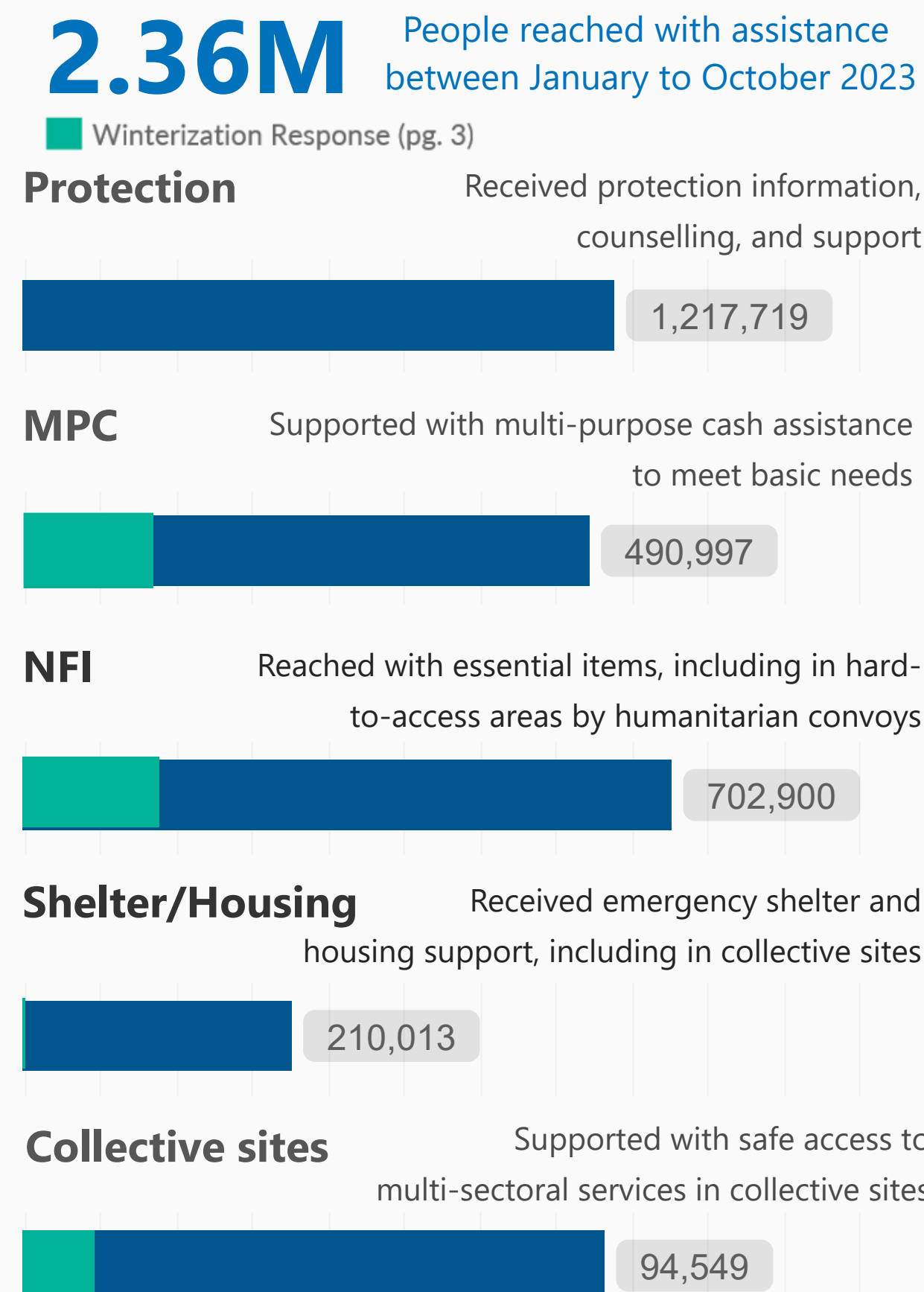
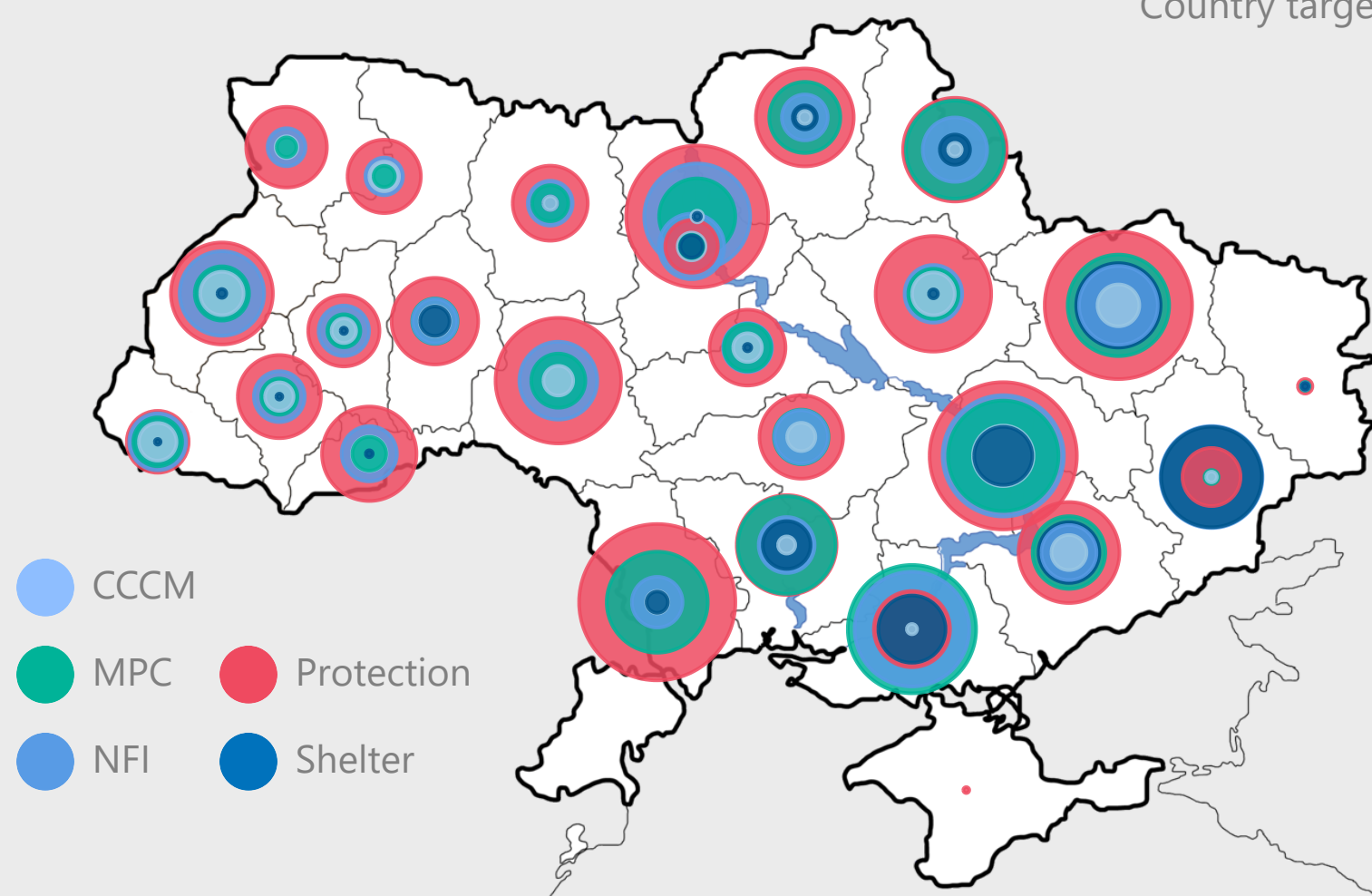
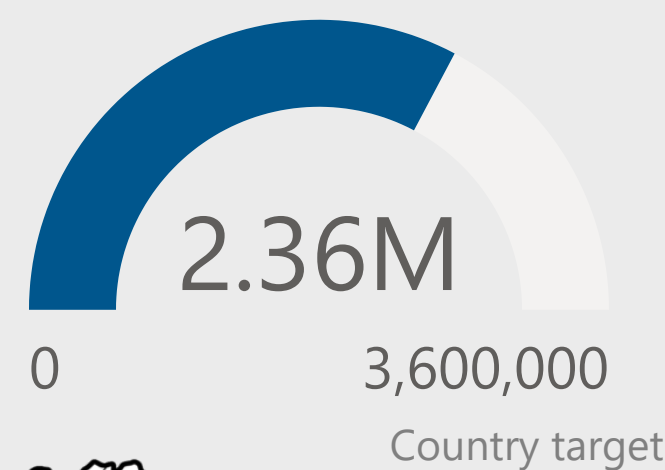
Attacks in many parts of the country continue to impact civilians – damaging homes and critical infrastructure as temperatures drop. On 5 October, a missile struck a café in the small village of Hroza, Kharkivska oblast in eastern Ukraine, killing 59 people attending a funeral reception including two humanitarians working for [Polish Humanitarian Action](#) and [Save the Children](#). It was one of the [deadliest](#) single incidents for civilians in Ukraine since February 2022. The UN Secretary-General strongly condemned the attack. The UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine released a new [report](#) on the situation in the country, highlighting that **almost 10,000 civilians have been killed since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine**, and that the war has caused millions of Ukrainian civilians to fall below the poverty line. Meanwhile, a new [Post Disaster Needs Assessment](#) published by the Government of Ukraine and the UN in October found that the destruction of the Kakhovka dam inflicted almost US\$14 billion in loss and damage on Ukraine, compounding the already disastrous impacts of Russia's full-scale invasion. UNHCR contributed to the needs assessment of the housing sector.

KEY FIGURES

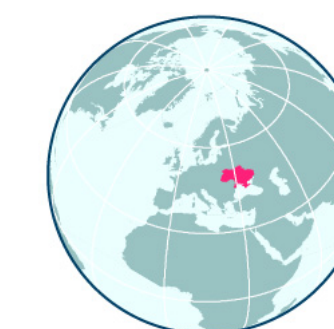
4.3M people reached with UNHCR assistance in 2022 (24 February - 31 December 2022)	17.6M people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2023 (source: OCHA)	11.1M people targeted for humanitarian assistance in the Humanitarian Response Plan	3.6M people aimed to be reached with 4.6M services in 2023, some of whom will receive several forms of support
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People Reached in 2023

2,357,831



* The targets are subject to the receipt of the funding requirements

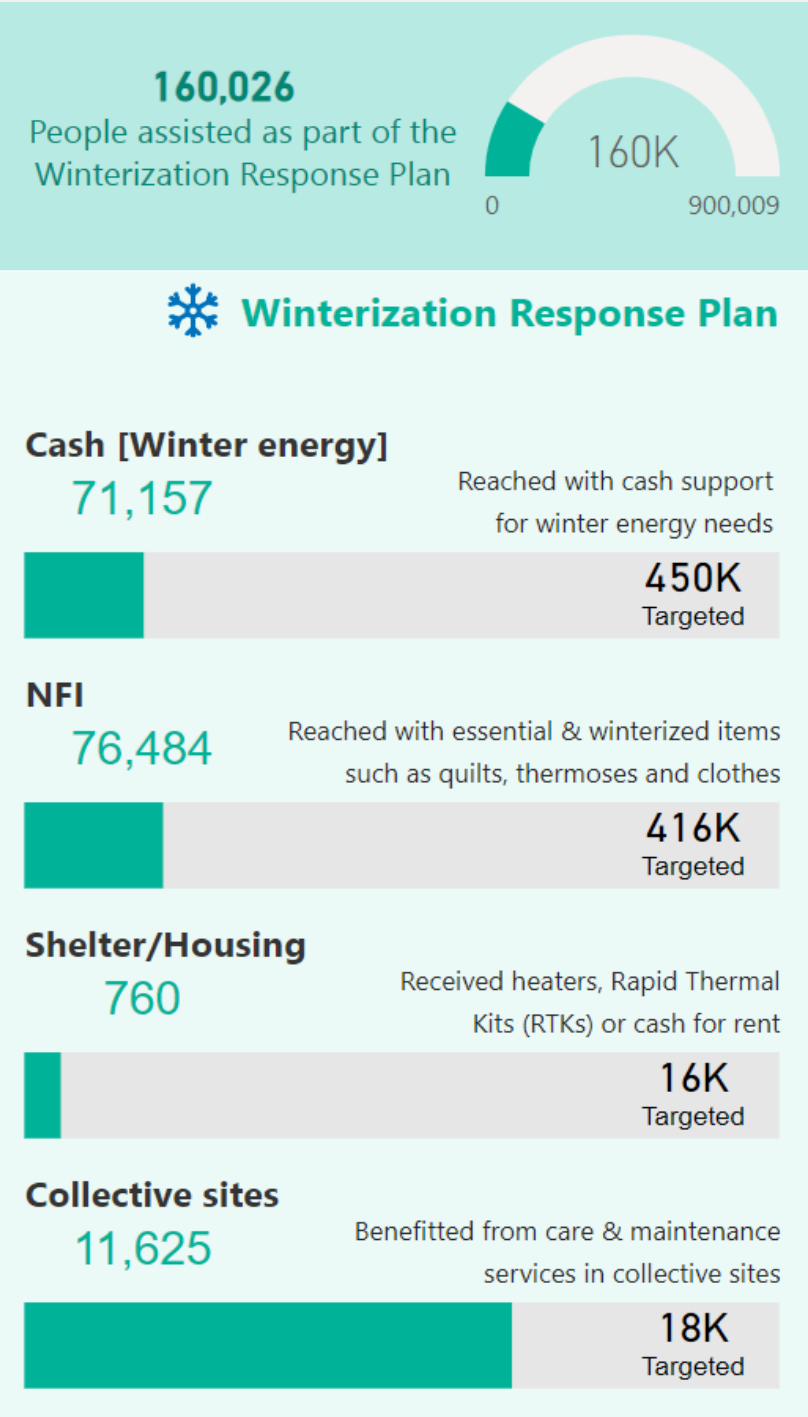


20 local NGO partners
9 international NGO/UN partners



WINTERIZATION RESPONSE

The winterization response is UNHCR’s priority over the coming months. In coordination with the Government of Ukraine, and contributing to the broader [Ukraine Winter Response Plan](#) (updated September 2023), UNHCR’s winterization response will target **900,000 vulnerable, displaced and war-affected people** between 1 September 2023 and 29 February 2024. **Strengthened protection referrals**, with a particular focus on psychosocial support and legal assistance to support access to key civil and housing, land and property documentation to support solutions from the start, accompany UNHCR’s winterization response.



Figures represent people reached with partners as of 31 October 2023. Figures are subject to data cleaning and retro-active corrections may occur.

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Cash for winter energy needs:** 60,500 war-affected and displaced people received cash support in October alone to help them cover the additional costs associated with winter. They received UAH 6,660 per person.
- Shelter response:** In October, UNHCR started the distribution of Rapid Thermal Kits (RTKs) to families living in older houses that have poor thermal insulation. These kits consist of items which are traditionally used by people in Ukraine to improve home insulation and include reflective insulation screens, transparent plastic sheet for window repairs, foam draft blocker, and building tape. They are designed to seal old window frames, reduce draft from doors and reflect heat back into a house. A total of 3,000 households living in multistorey apartment blocks and houses with poor insulation will receive rapid thermal kits, supporting people to keep their homes warm. Meanwhile, as of end-October, around 580 people have already received heaters to help keep them warm.
- Collective sites:** Camp coordination and site management (CCCM) partners continue to implement care and maintenance interventions to better prepare collective site premises as temperatures drop. This includes roof insulation, upgrades of heating and electrical systems, and the replacement of radiators, among other interventions. So far, 11,625 displaced people have benefited from these interventions.

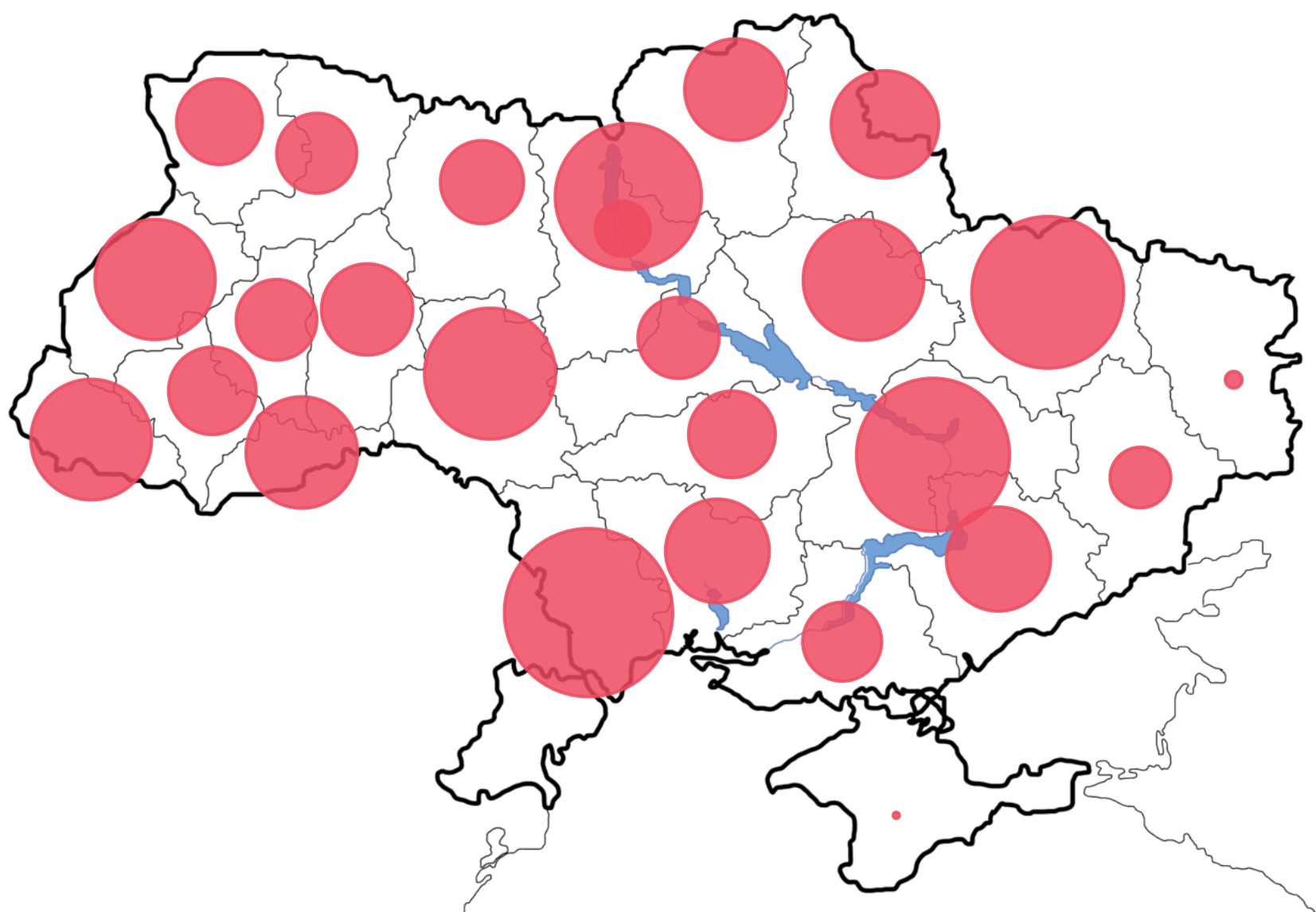


UNHCR’s partner Right to Protection this month distributed insulation materials to a collective site in Poltavka oblast, ensuring residents are better protected from the cold weather. © Right to Protection

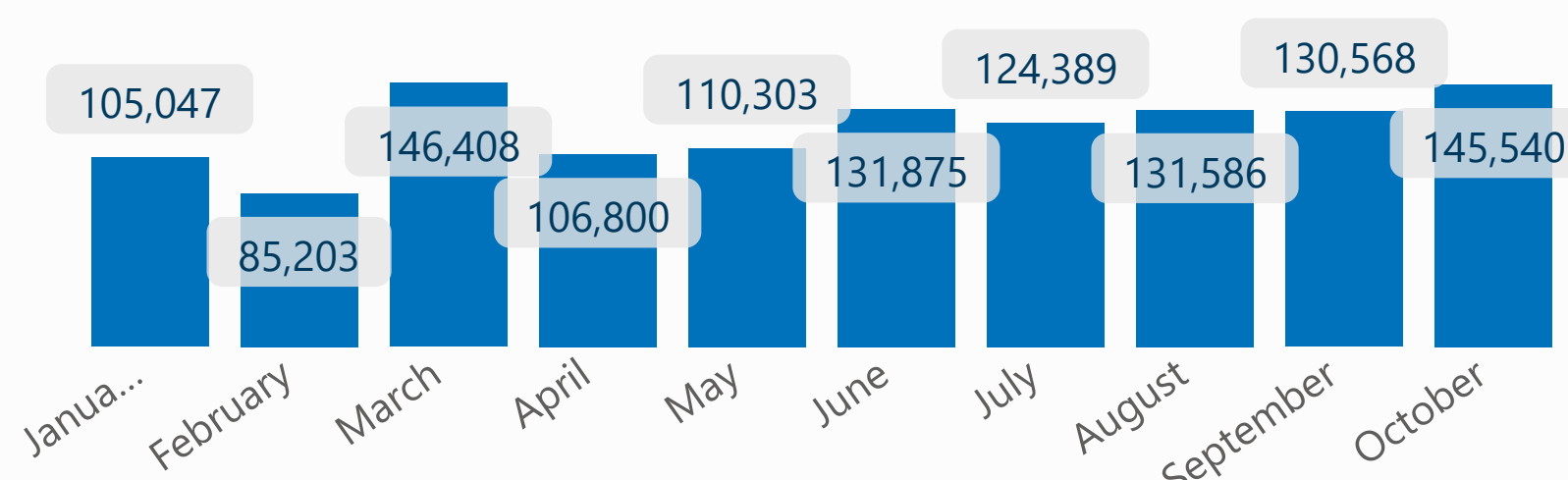
Protection services

Partners organized events across the country to mark world mental health awareness week in October. In Lviv, UNHCR facilitated a workshop with partners to plan mental health and psychosocial support activities for 2024. © UNHCR

UNHCR's protection programmes are designed to complement or reinforce the capacity of the national system and local protection services and are centred on 4 objectives: (i) ensuring access to social, legal and other protection services; (ii) strengthening access to information, complaints and feedback mechanism and participation in decisions and solutions; (iii) strengthening national legal and policy frameworks; and (iv) promoting rights-based solutions.





People reached by Month




PROTECTION: KEY FIGURES


 **1,217,719** Reached as of October 2023

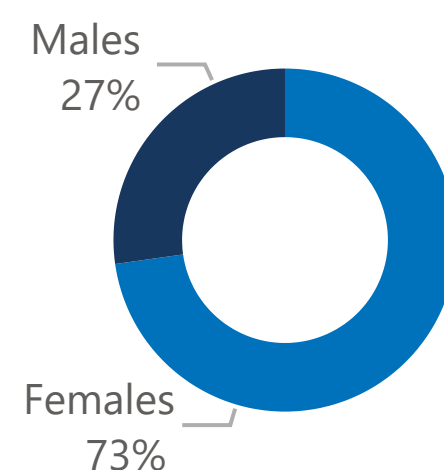
 **86,554**
Individuals receiving PSS/PFA

 **157,764**
Legal consultations provided

 **3,176**
Persons received targeted GBV services

 **25,612**
Individuals supported with case management services

 **4,137**
Supported with other protection services



1,217,719
IDPs and war-affected population

8,006
Stateless

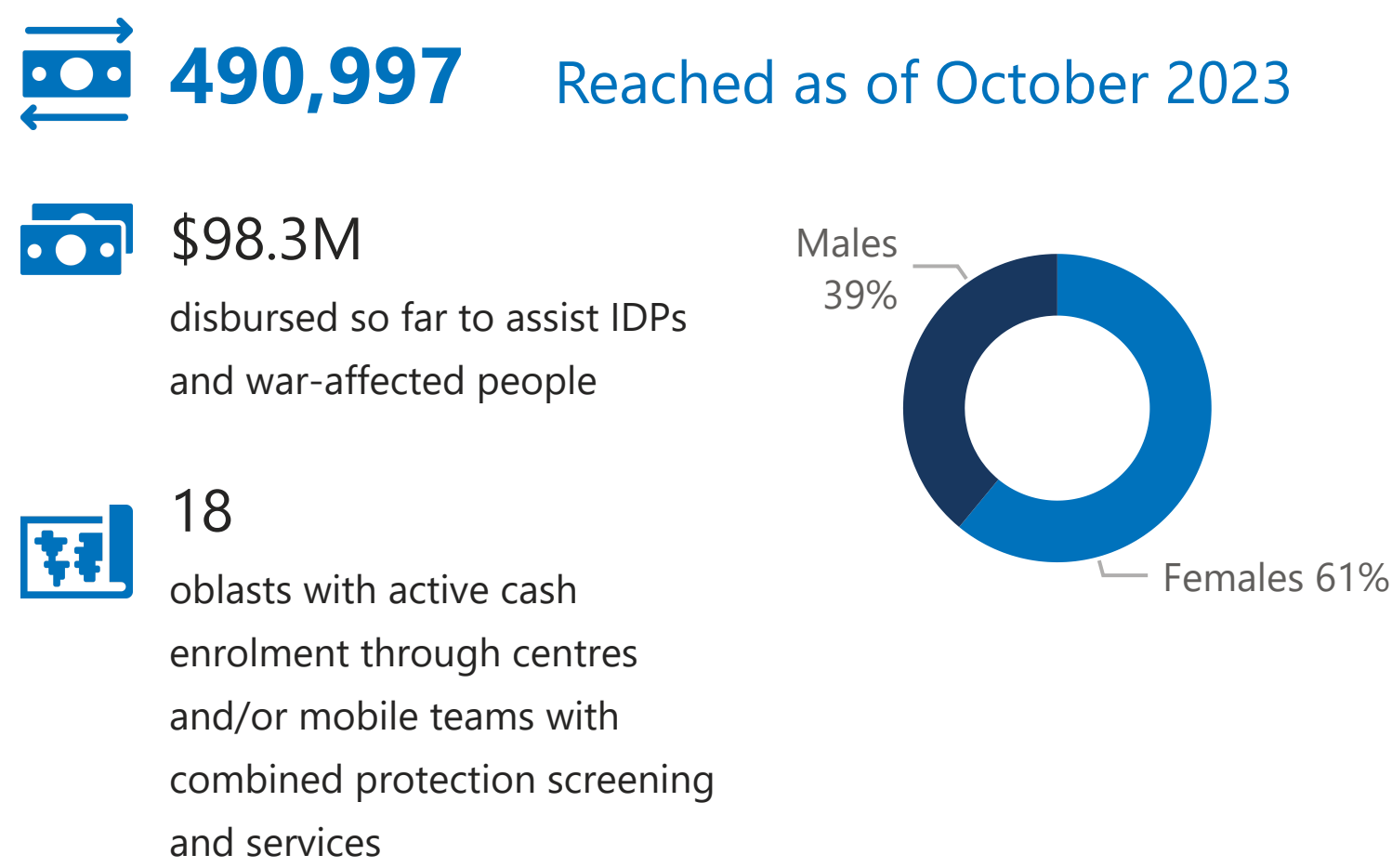
3,038
Refugees & asylum seekers

Highlights:

- **Border monitoring:** During October, UNHCR partners Right to Protection, NEEKA and The Tenth of April conducted 308 monitoring visits to the border crossing points with Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. Border monitoring teams provided information, legal assistance, protection counselling and social support to more than 1,200 people leaving Ukraine to seek international protection or to those returning to Ukraine.
- **Training for border guards:** Two training workshops on combatting human trafficking and handling unaccompanied and separated children were conducted in Vinnytsia this month in cooperation with IOM for 37 officers of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (SBGS). Since August 2023, a total of 147 border guard officers deployed at the border with the EU and Moldova were trained on prevention of and response to human trafficking and the protection of unaccompanied and separated children.
- **Child protection:** UNHCR is working to reinforce the capacity of its partners delivering child protection services and to promote higher standards for case management. From 23-27 October, UNHCR with its partner Save the Children delivered training on child protection case management for 24 practitioners and a Training of Trainers for 18 practitioners. As of October 2023, UNHCR provided case management to more than 2,700 children at risk in Ukraine. The case management of children at risk done by UNHCR complements the work of social child protection services in communities hosting displaced people or in war affected areas.

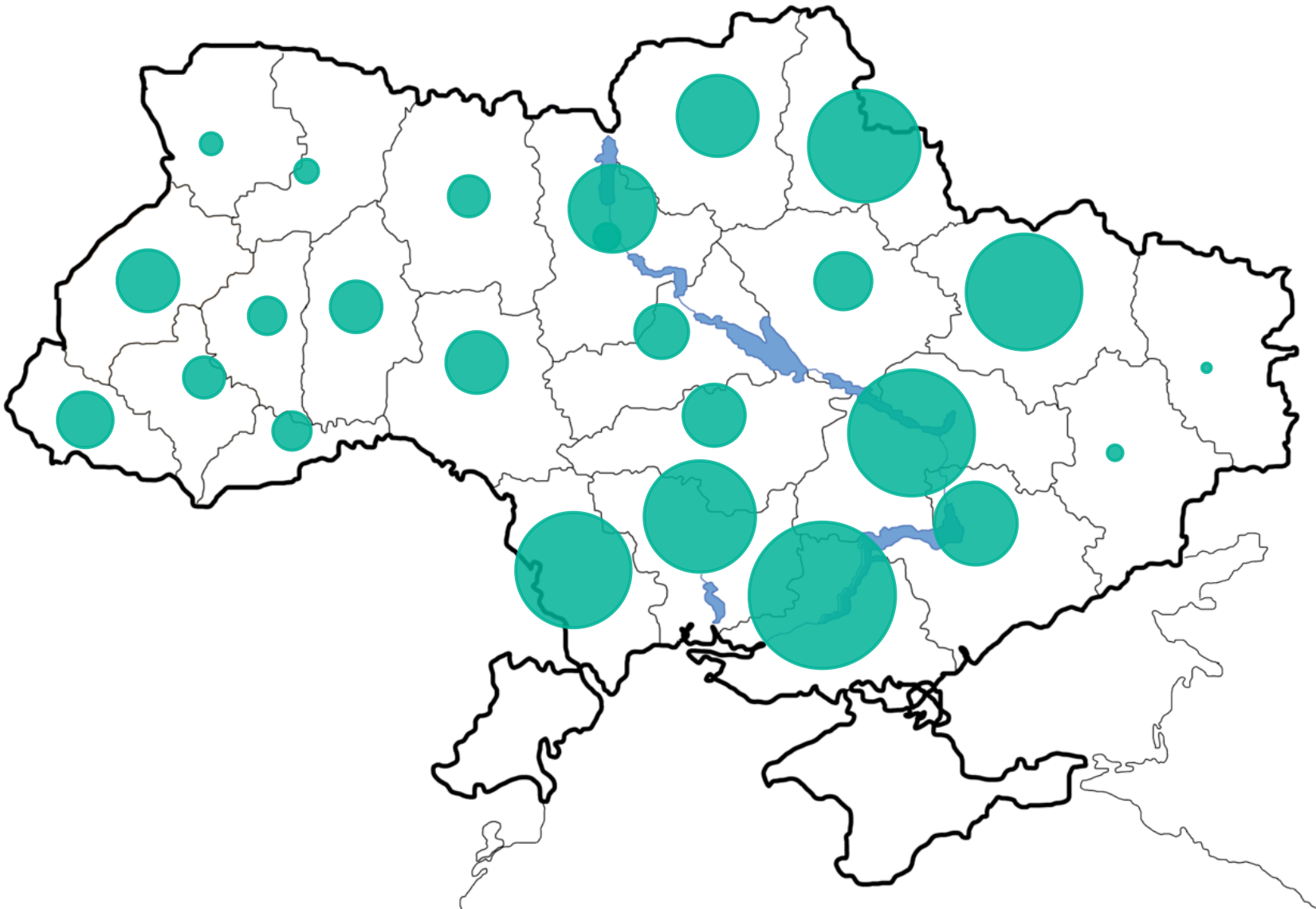
Cash assistance

MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE: KEY FIGURES

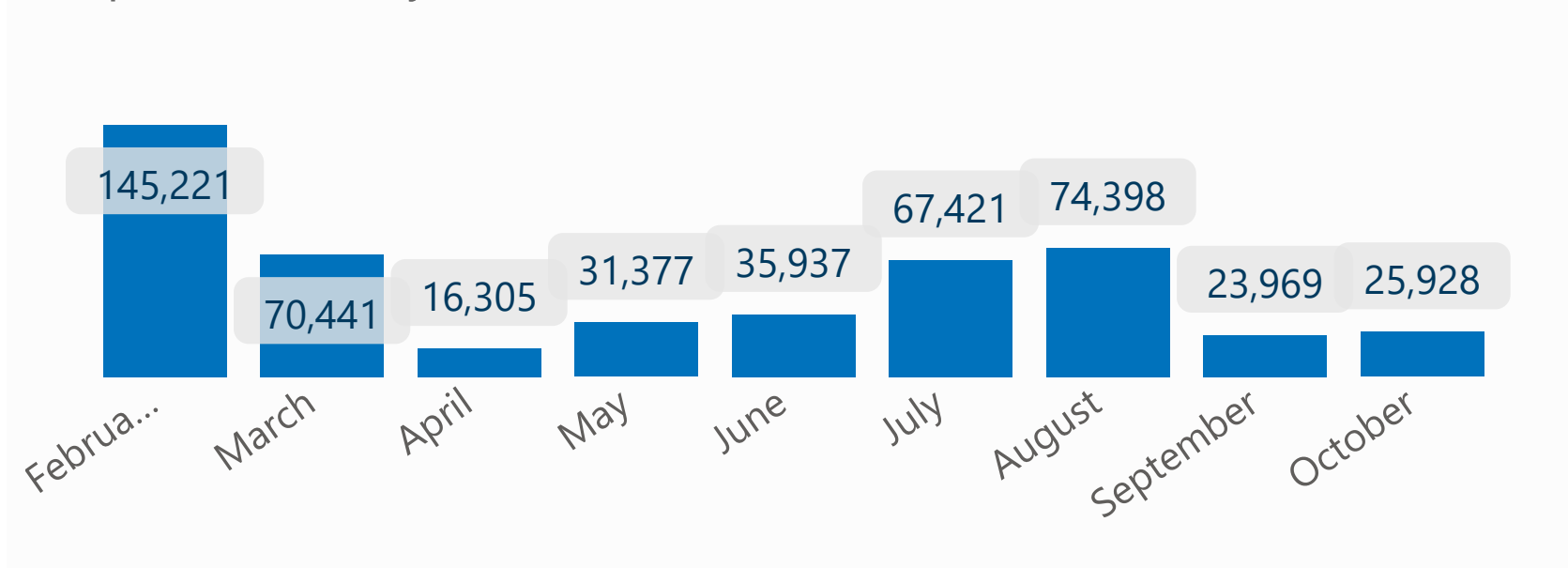


Our partner Right to Protection is enrolling displaced people in the multipurpose cash assistance programme in the “YaMariupol” centre in Kyiv. © UNHCR/Alina Kovalenko

Cash assistance remains one of the most optimal means and most requested forms of support among IDPs and other war-affected people. UNHCR is implementing a multi-purpose cash assistance programme that is aligned with the national social assistance programme, enabling vulnerable war-affected, and displaced people and returnees to cover immediate basic needs, in line with the memorandum of understanding [signed](#) with the Ministry of Social Policy in April 2022.



People reached by Month




Highlights:


- In 2023, **UNHCR has so far distributed US\$98.3 million through the multipurpose cash programme to over 490,997 people.** As of 1 October, the [transfer amount](#) increased from UAH 2,220 to UAH 3,600 per person in line with Cash Working Group recommendations. The multipurpose cash assistance helps vulnerable war-affected and displaced families to cover the costs of basic items like food, medicines, clothes, accommodation and utilities.
- UNHCR also provides **cash assistance for shelter repairs** and **rental support** to ensure access to sustainable housing options. In October, **645** families were supported with cash for shelter repairs and **768** received cash assistance to help cover rent.
- As part of the high-level Steering Committee chaired by the Ministry of Social Policy (MoSP) and UNICEF, **UNHCR continues to provide support at policy and technical level for the Perehid Initiative**, which aims to guide the transition of the humanitarian multipurpose cash assistance programme to an inclusive shock-responsive social protection system. UNHCR provides technical assistance through the secondment of a Senior Social Protection Officer to the Technical Assistance Facility, responsible for formulating evidence-based recommendations to the Committee. In October, UNHCR and Perehid launched an in-depth study on access to state social protection programmes. The results will inform a response strategy to persons in need of social protection due to the war.


Essential items

NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs): KEY FIGURES

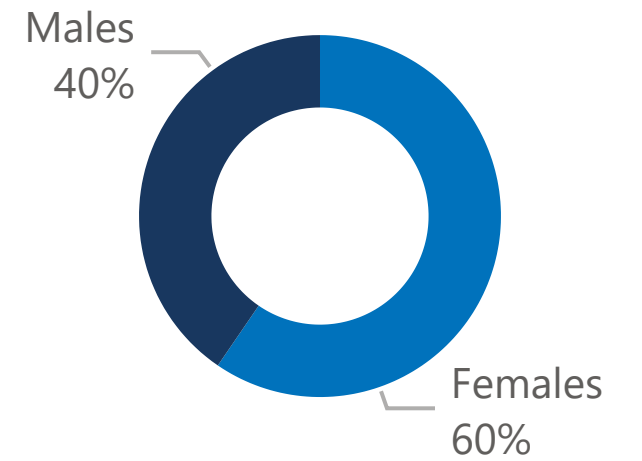
 **702,900** Reached as of October 2023

 **548,391**
Individuals receiving standard NFIs

 **303,740**
Individuals receiving hygiene kits

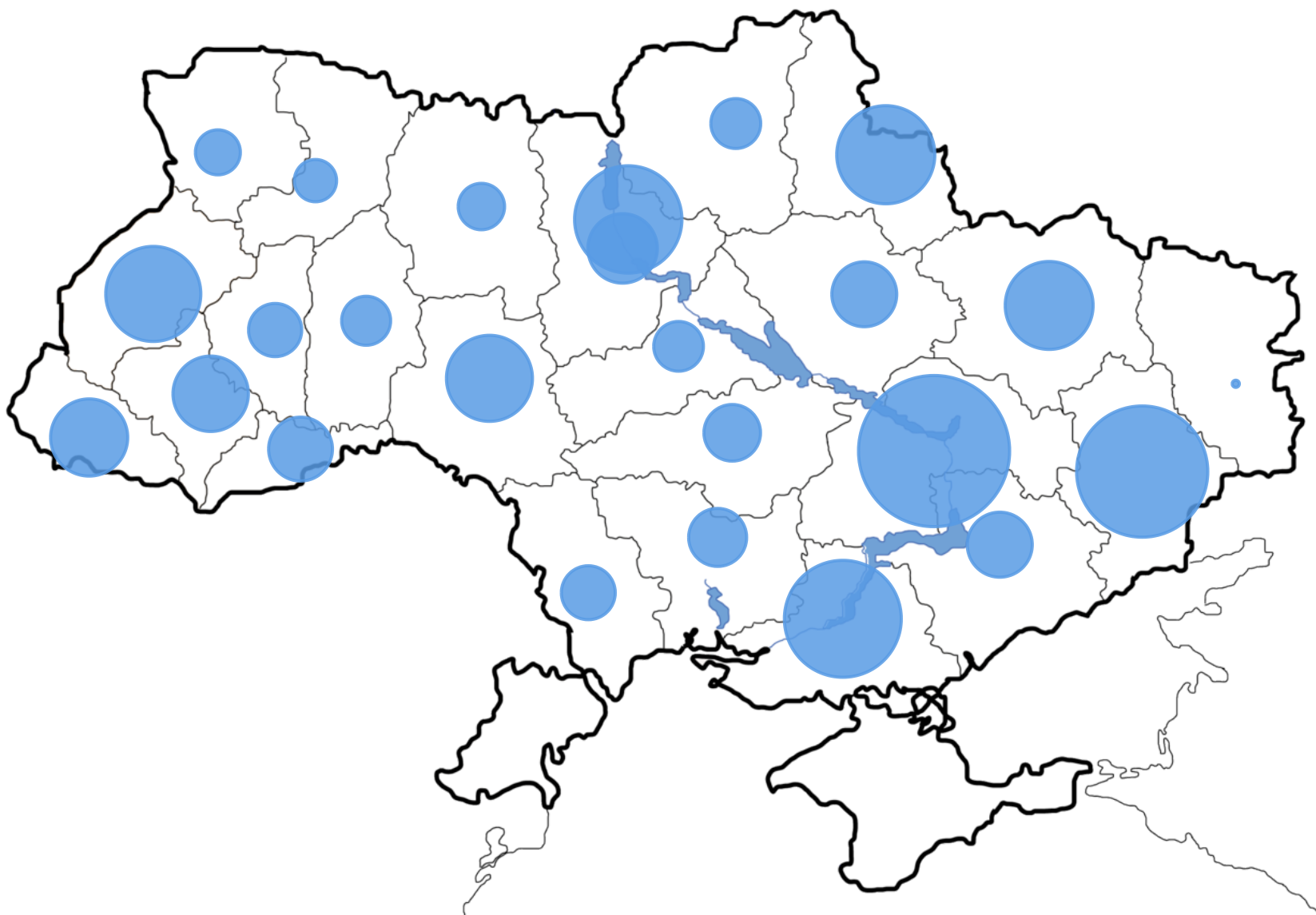
 **169,231**
Individuals receiving other items

 **207,797**
Individuals receiving non-standard NFIs



UNHCR helped furnish a bomb shelter in a kindergarten for children in Kyivska oblast by providing beds, bedding sets and other essential items. © Dmytriy September

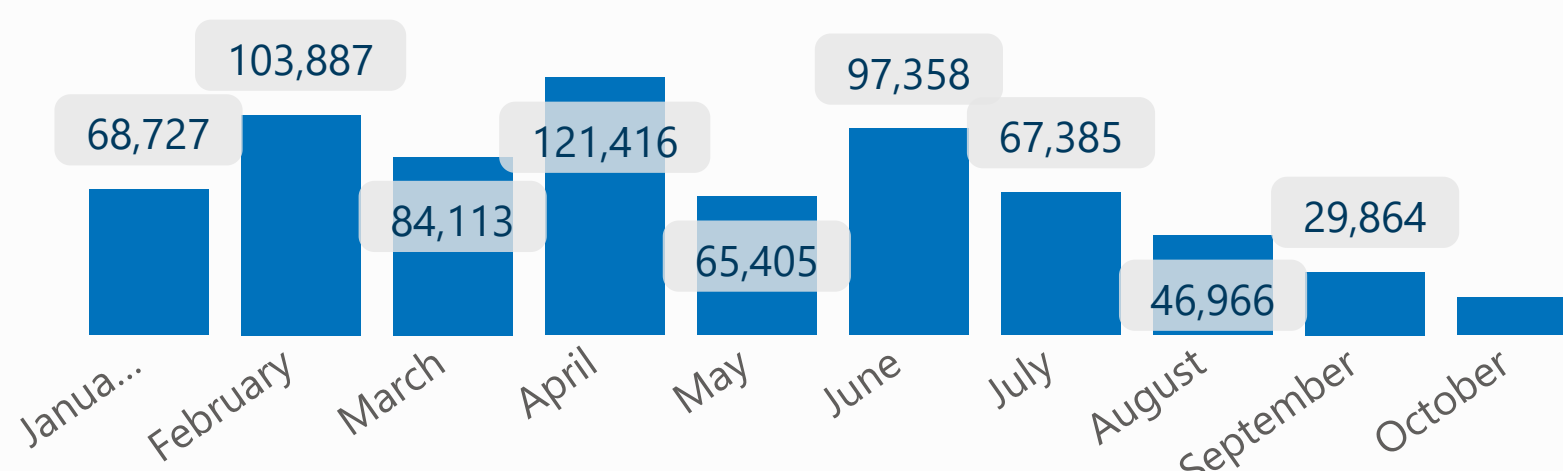
UNHCR distributes standard relief items, such as blankets, kitchen sets and solar lamps, and non-standard items such as dignity kits, mattresses, and clothes to people in need, mainly in areas along the front line and to newly displaced people, as well as to people living in newly accessible areas who have endured months of constant shelling. NFI distribution is done through implementing partners, local administrations, direct distribution, or contribution to inter-agency responses.



Highlights:

- **Interagency convoys:** As part of efforts to support people living in frontline areas, UNHCR participated in [two interagency convoys](#) to Donetsk oblast, the first to Toretsk on 10 October and the second to [Chasiv Yar](#) on 13 October, delivering 900 pieces of tarpaulin, three rolls of plastic sheeting and 200 solar lamps. These deliveries will support vulnerable people in frontline areas as low temperatures set in.
- **Hygiene kits:** In October, almost 21,500 displaced and war-affected people in 22 oblasts across Ukraine received hygiene kits with items such as soap, toothbrushes and sanitary towels. In total this year, over 300,000 people have received a hygiene kit. These items help ensure that people affected by the ongoing war can meet their basic hygiene needs, which in turn helps reduce the spread of infectious disease.


People reached by Month




Shelter and Housing

EMERGENCY SHELTER AND HOUSING: KEY FIGURES

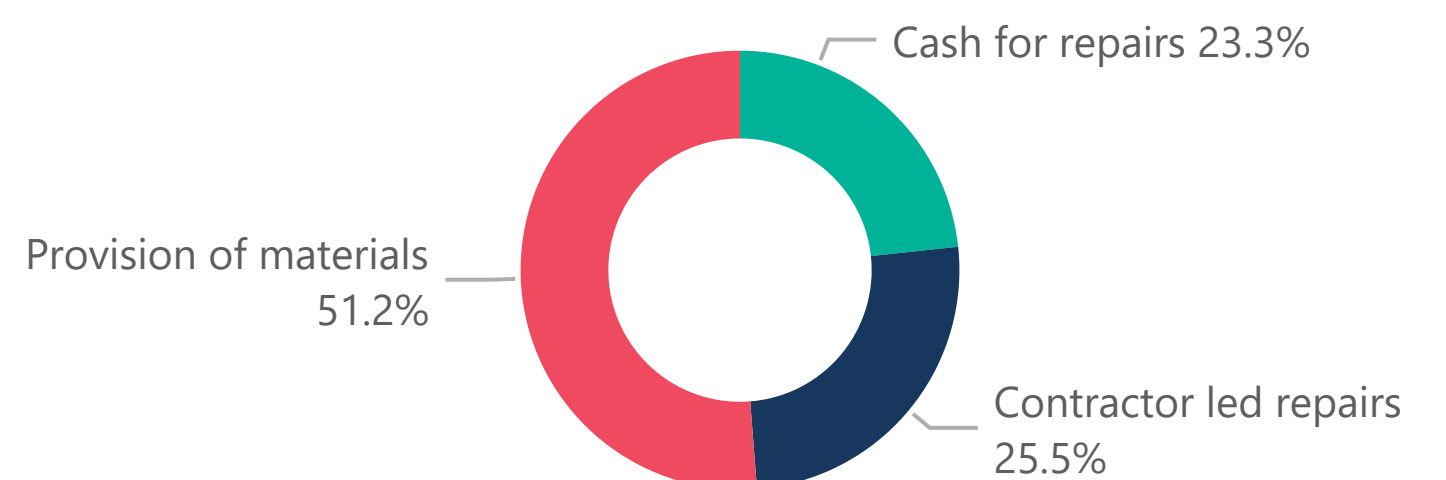
 **210,013** Reached as of October 2023

 **156,247** **75,064**
Individuals / Households supported by ESKs

 **46,487** **16,387**
Individuals / Households benefitting from repairs

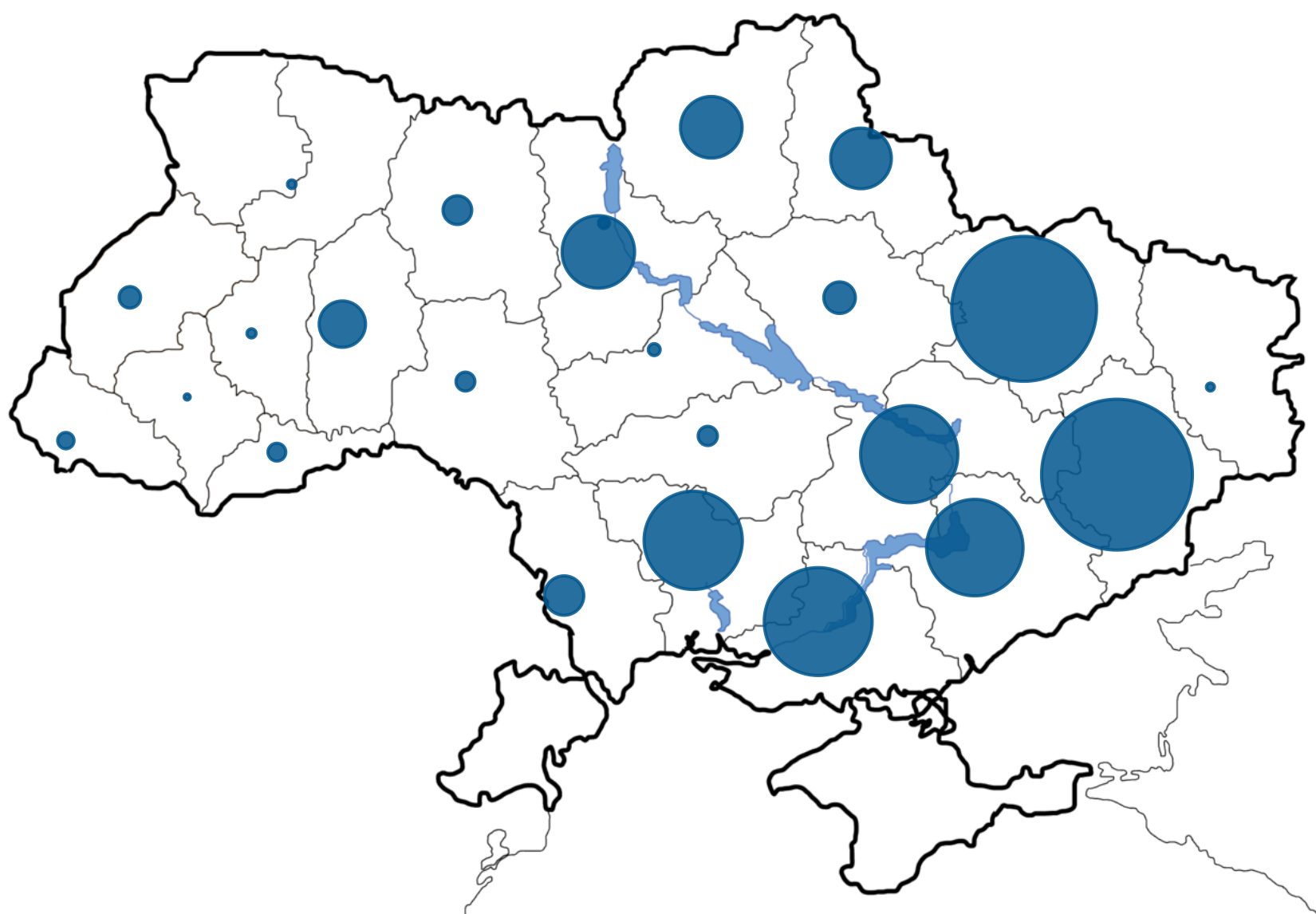
 **6,037**
Sleeping spaces created/improved

Beneficiaries of repairs by modality

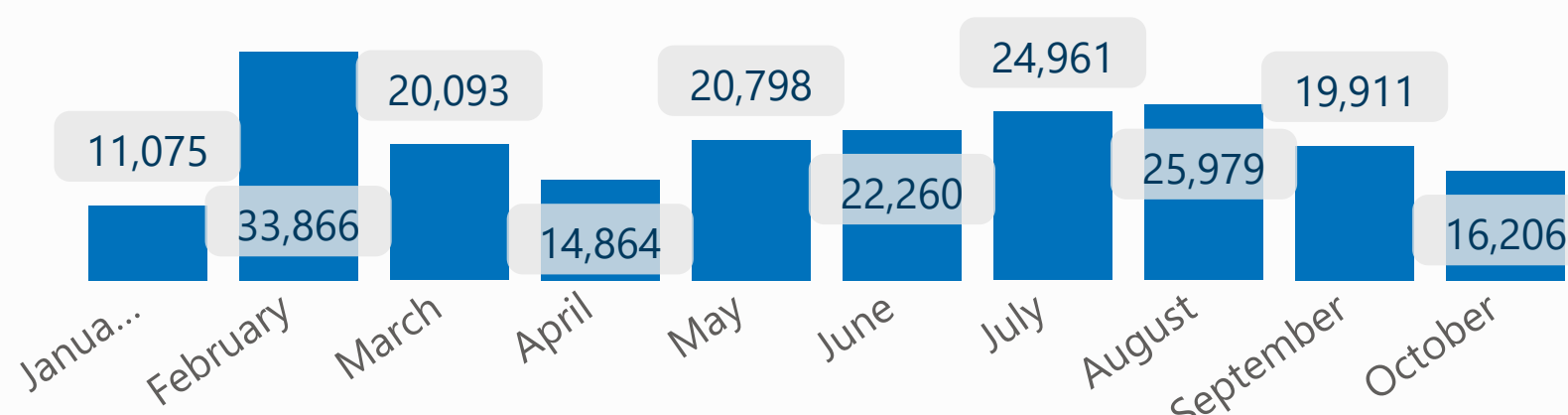


UNHCR's partner Proliska delivered emergency shelter materials including wooden boards to residents in Kharkiv following a Russian attack. © Proliska

UNHCR's shelter and housing programme supports people impacted by the war through three activities: (i) emergency shelter for those with immediate needs in areas directly impacted by shelling and attacks (ii) repairs and housing solutions that can help people return to their homes, where possible and (iii) improvement or creation of accommodation in collective sites for IDPs who cannot live at home.



People reached by Month



Highlights:

- Rental market initiative:** UNHCR's rental market project continues to help displaced families seek alternative housing by helping them rent accommodation in their host community until more durable solutions can be found. In October, over 850 families moved into new accommodation in nine oblasts from Ivano-Frankivska in the west to Kirovohradska in the centre of the country. These families, often moving out of collective sites, have benefitted from technical and legal assistance to make the transition into private rental accommodation more comfortable. Additionally, families will receive at least six months of rental support, the amount of which is determined by family size and location and is calculated based on UNHCR rental market assessments.
- Emergency and durable housing response:** UNHCR continues to support families to recover from missile strikes across the country. Often this support starts from the rapid distribution of Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs), which allow families to protect the house or apartment from the rain and cold by sealing the windows, roofs and even walls that have been impacted. Where applicable, this support is then followed by more durable house repairs, either led by contractors or through distribution of building materials. UNHCR reached an important milestone of 20,000 houses and apartments repaired across Ukraine since the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Read more [here](#).

Collective sites

CCCM: KEY FIGURES



94,549

Reached as of October 2023



6,836

Site assessments conducted & recorded



94,549

People residing at sites supported with CCCM services



9,265

Individuals trained



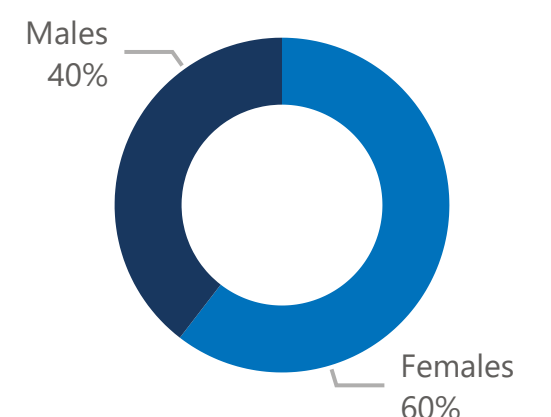
20,641

Individuals participated in awareness raising sessions



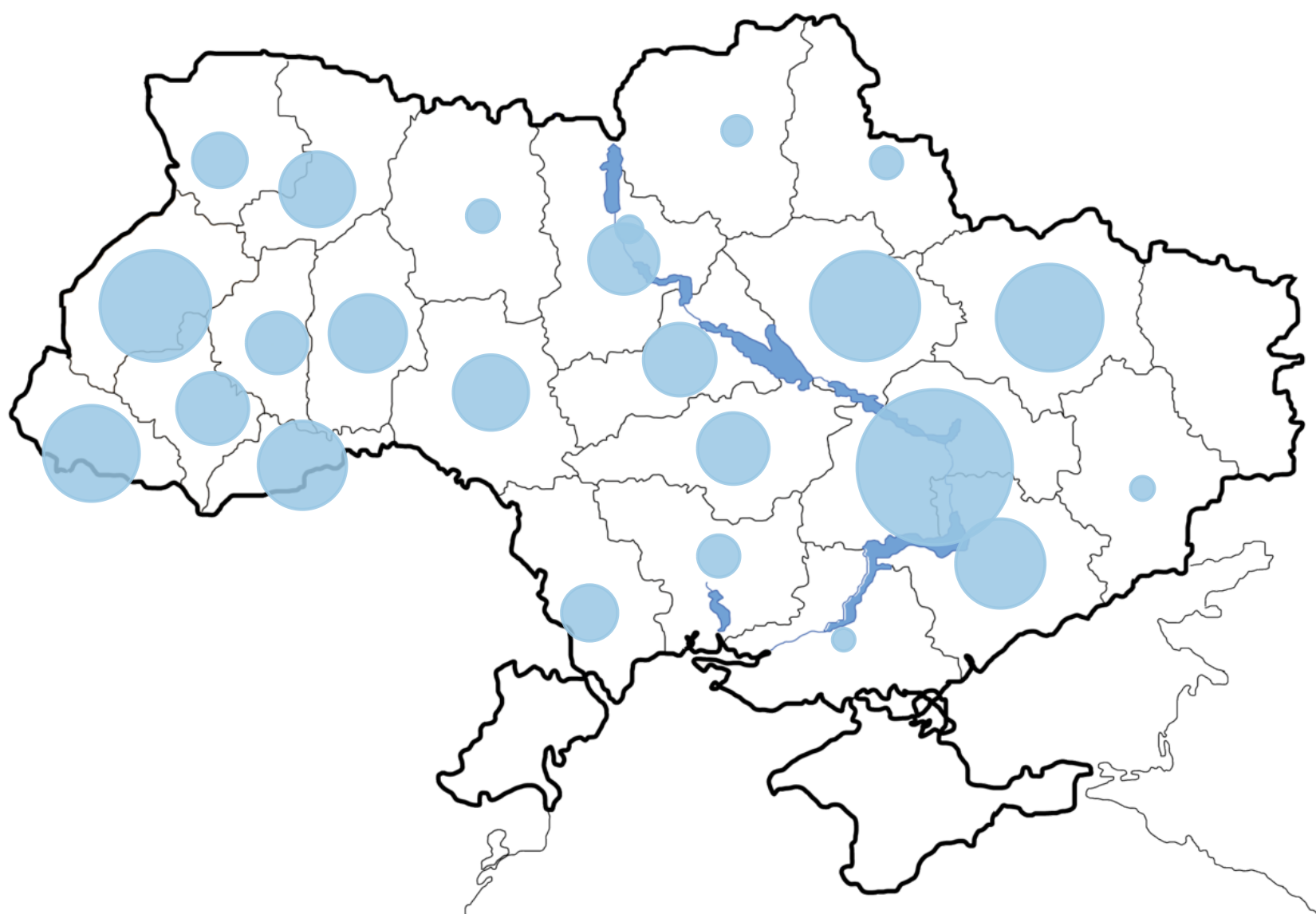
59,667

Individuals benefitting from care and maintenance and community-led activities

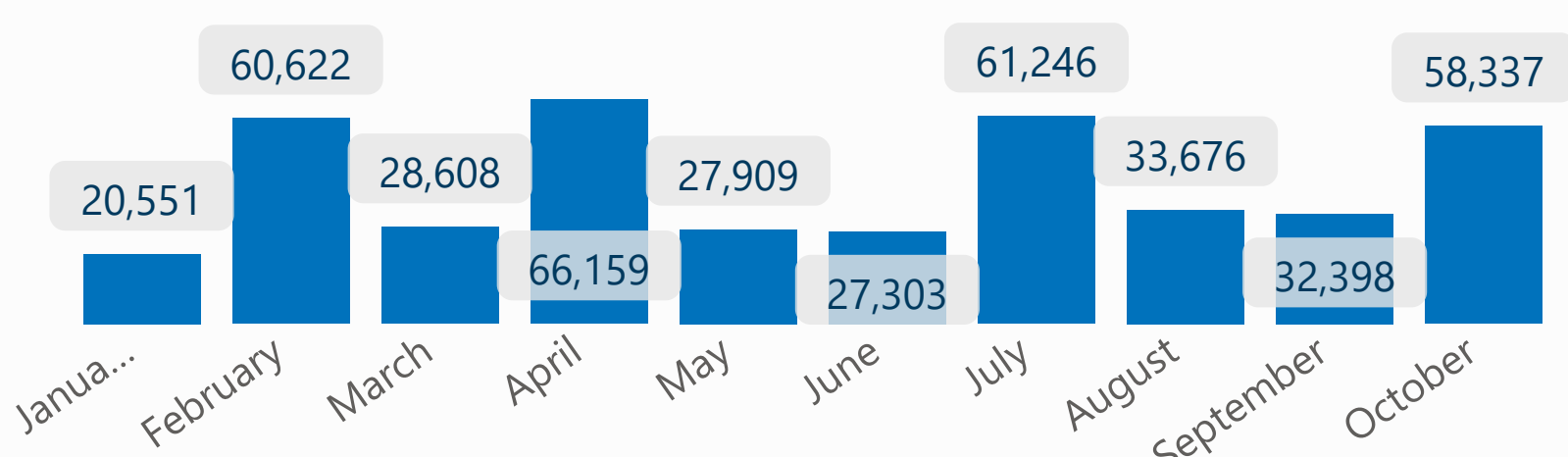


Roof repairs to a collective site in Poltavaska oblast will help ensure residents are better protected from the cold weather.
© Right to Protection

UNHCR provides support to the management of collective sites to ensure protection services are accessible, inclusive, and community-based and works to improve the quality of life and dignity of IDPs during displacement. As part of the CCCM response, conditions and needs in collective sites will be closely monitored. Socio-economically or otherwise vulnerable IDPs are likely to remain in collective sites until they consider their area of origin is safe for return, and they will have access to basic services there.



People reached by Month



Highlights:

- As temperatures drop, UNHCR and partners are implementing **care and maintenance interventions to improve heating and insulation in collective sites**. At the same time, the **demand for mould control and household detergents for cleaning purposes remains high**. To address the identified needs, UNHCR's CCCM partners supported 167 collective sites with care and maintenance interventions, such as roof insulation, upgrades of heating and electrical systems, replacement of radiators, installation of fire extinguishers and fire alarm systems, as well as distribution of household cleaning detergents and tools.
- Following the adoption of [Resolution No. 930](#), UNHCR, in collaboration with CCCM Cluster, conducted **three workshops on the New Legal Framework for Collective Sites Functioning** for 90 humanitarian workers between 9 to 13 October in Dnipro, Lviv and Vinnytsia. The main objectives were to raise awareness about the resolution, which regulates the functioning of collective sites in Ukraine, and to enhance coordination among humanitarian partners.
- UNHCR partners joined some of the **Government-led monitoring visits of collective sites, in line with Resolution No. 930**. Some of the needs and gaps identified include the lack of disability-friendly infrastructure and ill-equipped common spaces and sleeping areas. The authorities are incorporating the identified needs into their response plans.

Durable solutions, Recovery & Development Nexus

[Visit](#) of the Resident Coordinator to Ivankiv, Kyivska oblast, where the recovery of people and community services is ongoing. © UNHCR

Coordination

A new cooperation agreement between UNHCR and Poltava Regional State Administration will reinforce support to and inclusion of displaced people. © UNHCR/Viktoriia Tiutiunnyk

HIGHLIGHTS

- **UNHCR, in coordination with UNDP and IOM, hosted a visit of the Resident Coordinator, Denise Brown, to Ivankiv in Kyivska oblast** to see first-hand the impact of durable solutions programming within the community. The visit included the Ivankiv Youth Centre, that organizes activities to engage young people from the community in the recovery work; the school in Kukhari, which was heavily destroyed in the first months of the war, but has now been renovated and refurbished, allowing children to return to school; and the rebuilt culture centre in Olyva village, which has ensured a place for the community to come together and organize different social activities. UNHCR supported the repairs and refurbishment of all these sites. Ivankiv is an initial pilot location for a joint UNHCR-UNDP-IOM project, in close collaboration with the Hromada administration, to develop a common understanding and shared methodology for durable solutions programming and a response focused on solutions and recovery that build community engagement; promote social protection; support economic empowerment and deliver rehabilitation/reconstruction of housing and social infrastructure.
- **UNHCR, in its role as co-chair of the Durable Solutions Working Group**, this month supported meetings with Dnipro, Kharkiv and Mykolaiv oblasts to agree on specific hromadas within each oblast to engage with. Next steps will include hromada engagement to agree on a shared vision for support and to start the process of recovery planning and need assessments.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **On 17 October, UNHCR and the Poltava Regional State Administration signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**, reaching an important milestone in strengthening the ongoing cooperation aimed at supporting war-affected and displaced people. As of October 2023, Poltavaska oblast hosts over 186,000 internally displaced people. UNHCR has been contributing to the authorities' efforts to receive people fleeing the hostilities by improving the living conditions in several collective sites, as well as promoting durable solutions for those who have been displaced. Read more [here](#).
- **UNHCR has so far concluded MoUs with 18 Oblast Administrations and four Ministries** (the Ministry of Communities, Territories and Infrastructure Development; Ministry of Education and Science; Ministry of Reintegration; and Ministry of Social Policy) aimed to enhance cooperation and mutual engagement that include provision of in-kind humanitarian and cash assistance, legal aid, repairs of homes, refurbishments of collective sites, as well as activities that support displaced people's social and economic inclusion.
- **UNHCR attended a [UN Procurement and Vendor Fair](#) in Odesa on 16 October**. Participants were primarily local business owners from Kherson, Mykolaiv, Odesa and the wider region. The fair aimed to increase their awareness of UN procurement practices and how to join the UN's pool of vendors. Over 300 people attended in person and online.

Clusters

UNHCR's humanitarian response is based on the needs and priorities set out in the [2023 Ukraine Humanitarian Response Plan](#) and in the 2023-2024 UN Transitional Framework. In addition to leading the **Protection, Shelter and Non-Food Item (NFI), and Camp Coordination Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters**, UNHCR co-leads the Durable Solutions Steering Group with IOM, OCHA and UNDP, and currently co-chairs the Community Planning for Durable Solutions and Recovery Working Group. UNHCR also 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.

PROTECTION CLUSTER

- **Protection monitoring:** In October, almost 2,200 key informants were interviewed by 14 Protection partners, assessing in total 902 hromadas in 23 oblasts. Highlights and detailed results are available at the [Protection Monitoring Tool Dashboard](#).
- **The Protection Monitoring Tool was presented as a tool for collecting data relevant for durable solutions programming** at the Data for Solutions and Recovery (D4SR) meeting. The aim is to support engagement at the hromada level across a range of interventions such as housing, land and property-related concerns; compensation for war-related injuries; access to civil documentation and social services; renewal of lost documentation; and compensation mechanisms for example for damaged houses and people who have sustained injuries.
- **Capacity-building:** To strengthen the centrality of protection in humanitarian response, protection specialists from NGOs and UN Agencies in Kharkiv received capacity-building training. The training aimed to enhance participants' understanding of the legal framework in Ukraine, human rights monitoring mechanisms, protection analysis and programming for protection.
- In October, the Protection Cluster developed **coordination hub-level factsheets** in Ukrainian for [Dnipro](#), [Kyiv](#), [Lviv](#), [Uzhhorod](#), and [Vinnytsia](#).

SHELTER AND NFI CLUSTER

- **Emergency shelter assistance** remained a critical part of the Shelter Cluster's operation, with rapid responses including the provision of 19,080 ESKs for immediate protection and support to the affected population, particularly those near the frontlines. These efforts were complemented by the distribution of NFI kits to cover basic needs, with a total of 77,519 standard NFIs (such as blankets, bedding, solar lamps, and kitchen sets) and 19,495 non-standard NFIs (such as refrigerators, cookers, and washing machines) reaching those in urgent need.
- **Shelter repairs and refurbishments** were also a key focus, with light and medium repair works conducted on damaged houses to improve living conditions. This included a notable achievement of reaching 4,567 households with repair services, enhancing the quality of life for 13,700 individuals in various regions.
- **Winterization efforts are being prioritized.** The strategy involved detailed planning and distribution of winter-specific aid, including fuels for heating as well as winter clothing. Coordination meetings across the hubs facilitated the establishment of consolidated tables outlining the needs for winterization supplies, like winter clothing and heaters, and the distribution of cash to buy fuel. These efforts were complemented by technical meetings to address the critical aspect of winterization in regions like Donetsk, Kharkiv and Kherson aiming to ensure that affected communities would be well-prepared for the harsh winter conditions.

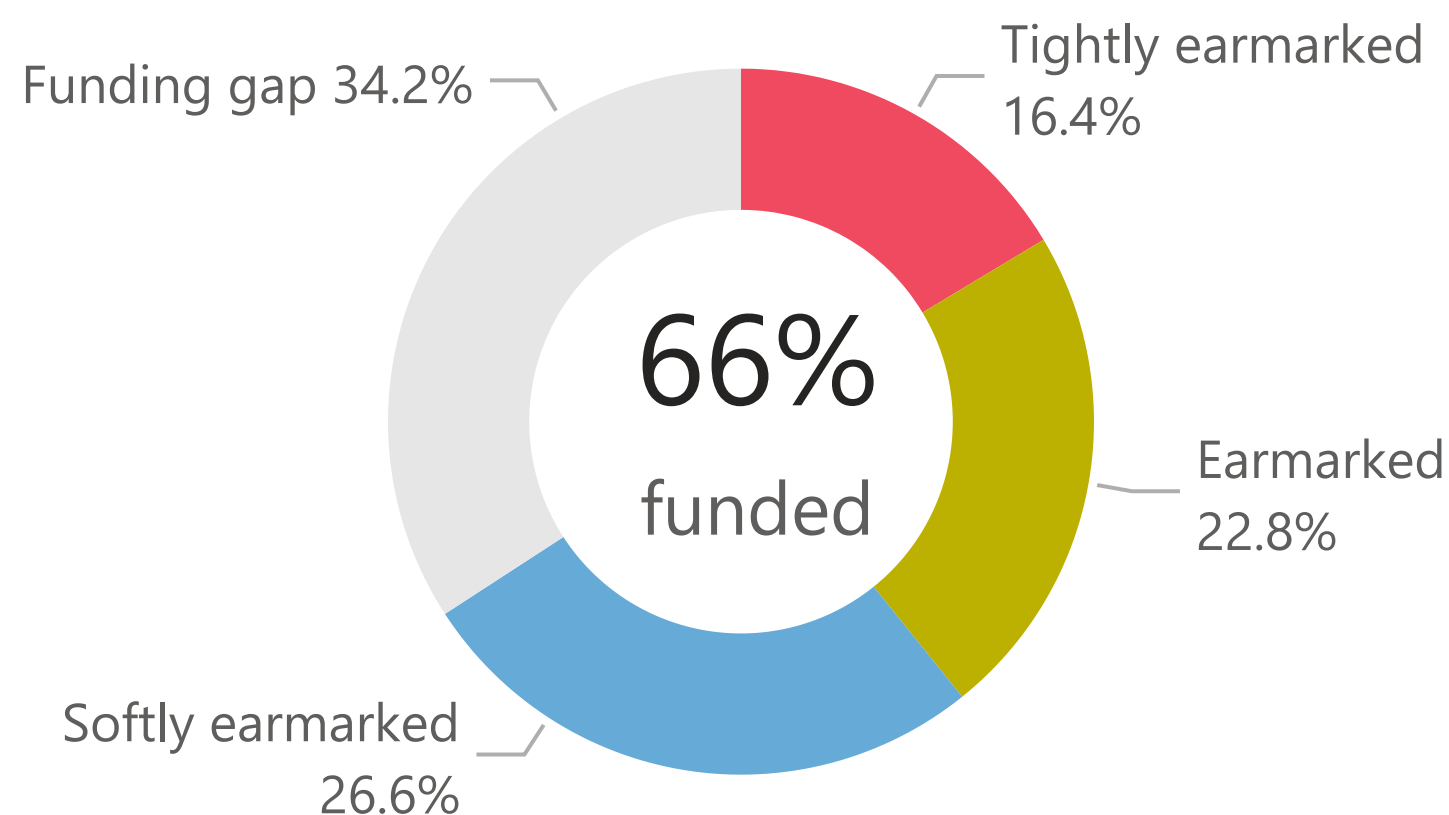
CCCM CLUSTER

- On 5 October, the CCCM Cluster, jointly with the Ombudsman Office and Ministry of Reintegration, hosted an advocacy event, **'Right to Dignity in Collective Sites'** aimed at providing a forum to discuss challenges associated with the implementation of Resolution No. 930 and possible solutions, including ensuring minimum humanitarian standards in sites, procedures for site legalization and closure, and security of tenure for displaced people. The event gathered over 70 representatives of national and local-level authorities as well as humanitarian actors, and over 800 participants joined online.
- The **CCCM Cluster Capacity Development Working Group**, co-chaired by IOM, conducted two-day CCCM induction trainings for over 60 representatives of partner organizations in Kyiv and Lviv. On 16-17 October, the Working Group organized a workshop for the national pool of CCCM trainers to exchange experiences and establish peer-to-peer support for new CCCM national trainers. As an outcome of the event, the trainers will contextualize and translate the Standard CCCM Training Package for the Ukraine context for partners' use.

Financial updates

\$602.5M

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this emergency as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with softly earmarked and unearmarked funds



Publications

- ❖ Ukraine Situation Winterization Plan 2023-2024
- ❖ Ukraine Cash Assistance Factsheet
- ❖ Lives on Hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees and IDPs from Ukraine #4
- ❖ Ukraine Situation: Supporting an area-based approach to durable solutions
- ❖ Ukraine Position on Voluntary Return to Ukraine - June 2023

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Contact **UNHCR's Hotline 0-800-307-711** for feedback and advice on assistance and services