



Regional Refugee Response  
for the Ukraine Situation  
2024 MID-YEAR REPORT



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Cover photo: Ukrainian children during a debate workshop at the educational centre Happy Bubble Brancusi in Bucharest, Romania. The centre is part of World Vision's livelihoods and economic inclusion project. © UNHCR/Ioana Moldovan

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## REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The war in Ukraine has been the fastest growing and largest displacement crisis in Europe since World War II, leading to a large-scale regional refugee response.

The 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Ukraine Situation outlines the multi-sector response strategy of inter-agency partners supporting the host Governments of Belarus, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia in providing assistance and protection to refugees from Ukraine.

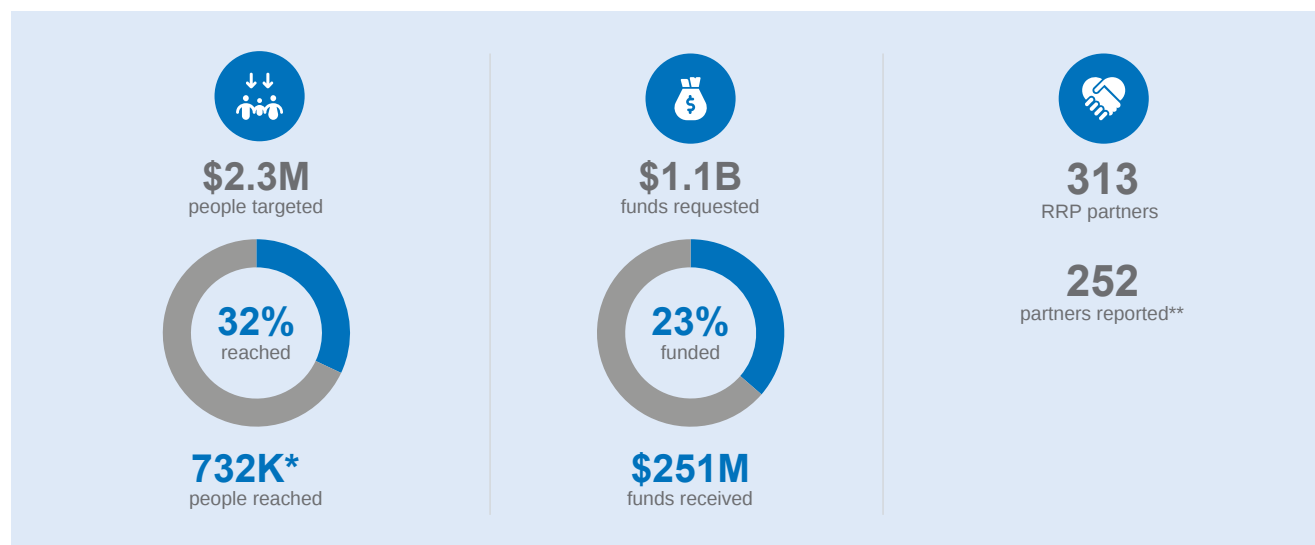
The 2024 RRP aims to provide practical and specialized support from partners to host countries through four pillars. These include ensuring refugees can access legal status and rights, offering targeted assistance to refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities, enhancing refugees' self-reliance and socio-economic inclusion as well as fostering social cohesion between refugee and host communities.

Mainstreamed across these four strategic objectives are a number of cross-cutting response priorities, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS); age, gender and diversity considerations; disability inclusion; accountability to affected people; protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; localization; Government ownership and maintaining emergency capacities.

This mid-year report, covering January – June 2024, captures the progress and achievements made against the strategic objectives and identifies gaps and consequences of underfunding. It also includes advocacy messages targeting Government, donors and other key stakeholders. It is accompanied by regional and country-level reporting on funding levels and output indicators.



## REGIONAL MID-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS (2024)



| Sector                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                           | People reached | % reached | People targeted |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------------|
|    | <b>Protection</b>                                                                                                                                         |                |           |                 |
|                                                                                     | Individuals who have been supported accessing protection services                                                                                         | 530k           | 54%       | 982k            |
|                                                                                     | Children provided with child protection services                                                                                                          | 124k           | 24%       | 516k            |
|                                                                                     | Participants trained on child protection and children's right                                                                                             | 7k             | 61%       | 11k             |
|                                                                                     | Individuals who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes                                                                                                | 66k            | 16%       | 416k            |
|  | Trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV Knowledge on Prevention, Response, and Risk Mitigation Measures                      | 2k             | 24%       | 7k              |
|                                                                                     | Individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions                                                                          | 78k            | 14%       | 572k            |
|  | <b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>                                                                                                                             |                |           |                 |
|                                                                                     | Health consultations provided to refugees                                                                                                                 | 52k            | 14%       | 384k            |
|                                                                                     | Health care providers trained to provide health services to refugees                                                                                      | 13k            | 60%       | 21k             |
|  | Individuals reached through counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services, and how to access health care | 77k            | 22%       | 342k            |
|                                                                                     | <b>Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)</b>                                                                                                   |                |           |                 |
|                                                                                     | Focused and specialized services MHPSS consultations provided                                                                                             | 74k            | 37%       | 198k            |
|  | Individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities                                                                                                | 145k           | 38%       | 382k            |
|                                                                                     | <b>Education</b>                                                                                                                                          |                |           |                 |
|                                                                                     | Children enrolled in formal education in host countries                                                                                                   | 295k           | 81%       | 367k            |
|  | Children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries                                                                           | 150k           | 44%       | 340k            |
|                                                                                     | PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response                                                        | 2k             | 38%       | 4k              |
|  | <b>Basic Needs</b>                                                                                                                                        |                |           |                 |
|                                                                                     | Individuals who received assistance for basic needs                                                                                                       | 205k           | 31%       | 665k            |

\*The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double counting.

\*\*This figure is the total of all RRP partners reporting - one partner may therefore be counted multiple times if operating and reporting in more than one country.

## BULGARIA

### Progress against the strategic objectives

In Bulgaria, to improve refugees' access to legal status, protection and rights, RRP partners provided recommendations for amending the Law on Asylum and Refugees during the first quarter of 2024. Partners monitored the temporary protection (TP) re-registration exercise conducted by the Government in February – March 2024. They then shared key observations with authorities, such as the lack of official stamps on renewed documents and ensuing challenges faced by refugees in accessing government institution services. Through the Education Working Group, partners completed a survey on refugees' interest in accessing tertiary education to further inform advocacy for, and comments to, the Council of Ministers' proposed procedures for enrolment of TP holders in state universities.

Partners continued to provide targeted support to refugees with specific needs, including in community centres where specialized care and educational and recreational activities were provided for children with special needs and those affected by trauma. RRP partners supported over 12,100 refugee children through non-formal education programmes and trained around 120 educational personnel to better respond to refugees' needs. In the second semester of the 2023 – 2024 school year, some 3,580 children, (30 per cent of school-age refugees) were enrolled in Bulgarian schools. Partners also provided capacity-building for parents of children with disabilities, to support their integration into new communities and assisted in obtaining disability certificates, thereby enabling access to monthly benefits and specialized social services. Refugee-led organizations (RLOs) also formed community online groups to share experiences and information among refugee families. Partners continued case management and psychosocial support services as well as awareness raising on the importance of MHPSS. This was done to promote acceptance of, and facilitate access to, available services. Partners provided focused MHPSS consultations to 7,300 individuals, while 86 staff were trained on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA).

In Q2 2024, the Ministry of Health, supported by WHO, initiated regional health coordination mechanisms to discuss refugee inclusion in health services and ensure important information such as vaccination campaigns reached refugee caregivers. Partners provided over 3,700 medical consultations in the first half of the year.

RRP partners reached more than 20,000 individuals with livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions. This included the organization of job fairs establishing connections between local employers and refugees, entrepreneurship programs, employment counselling and individualized plans to access the Bulgarian labour market. During the first quarter of the year, partners established connections with local organizations and institutions to hold information sessions on finding employment in Bulgaria, including at government-sponsored accommodation sites. Socio-economic inclusion services included supporting refugees be aware of their labour rights and safeguarding refugees against exploitation in the labour market. Further, RRP livelihood and legal protection partners continued advocacy with national banks on refugees' access to bank accounts to

facilitate easier access to financial services. They also engaged relevant Ministries on more efficient recognition of diplomas to enable refugees to access skilled labour opportunities.

Partners reinforced social cohesion between refugee and host communities through activities in community centres for both refugee and local communities. Community-based organizations facilitated distributions of in-kind donations from both communities, reaching those with needs, including new arrivals in government-sponsored accommodation facilities.

## Gaps and consequences of underfunding

The extension of Temporary Protection has been seen as a pragmatic way to provide continued protection to refugees from Ukraine in the absence of other, readily available common approaches within the EU. It remains essential that any alternative forms of residency enhance legal certainty and socio-economic inclusion prospects for refugees and are aligned with international protection, and that refugees are provided with comprehensive and accessible information on legal status options, along with legal support as required.

Limited resources affected partners' ability to provide services to more children and families, particularly those households containing children with specific needs. With the increase in demand for therapy and specialized services, funding gaps made it challenging to ensure that each child received the individualized attention and care they required. Funding gaps also impacted the ability to retain specialized professionals such as doctors, occupational therapists, child psychologists and capacitated teachers to address the diverse needs of refugee children with autism, development disabilities and other specific needs. Medical and psychological consultations, palliative care and social support are vital for the well-being of refugees. Insufficient financial support will jeopardize the ability to continue offering these necessary services, leaving many vulnerable individuals without the help they need.

Funding gaps also affected the ability to plan trainings, including training of trainers, on burnout prevention and structured psychological interventions. The need for such trainings were raised by RRP partners for frontline workers, and to enhance community mental health. Without funding, the ability to enhance the technical capacities of organizations providing key mental health services becomes limited.

For smaller community-based organizations, limited support particularly undermined their capacity to maintain community spaces that bring together refugees and the local community. If funding is not secured, a community-based organization under the 2024 RRP will have to close its community center in Sofia. This closure would end the child-friendly space and social cohesion activities it currently offers, despite its efforts in fundraising and advocacy. Refugee-led organizations need capacity building to effectively engage with local institutions and the funding to support efforts and ensure that capacity building is successful.



*Bulgarian language classes provided for adults at government accommodation locations in Sunny Beach, Bulgaria by the Bulgarian Red Cross. ©UNHCR/Dobrin Kashavelov*

## Advocacy message

While Bulgaria has not yet reached a parliamentary majority to form a new government, despite the national elections in June 2024, it is important to ensure that refugee inclusion and integration remain high on the next government's agenda through the following measures:

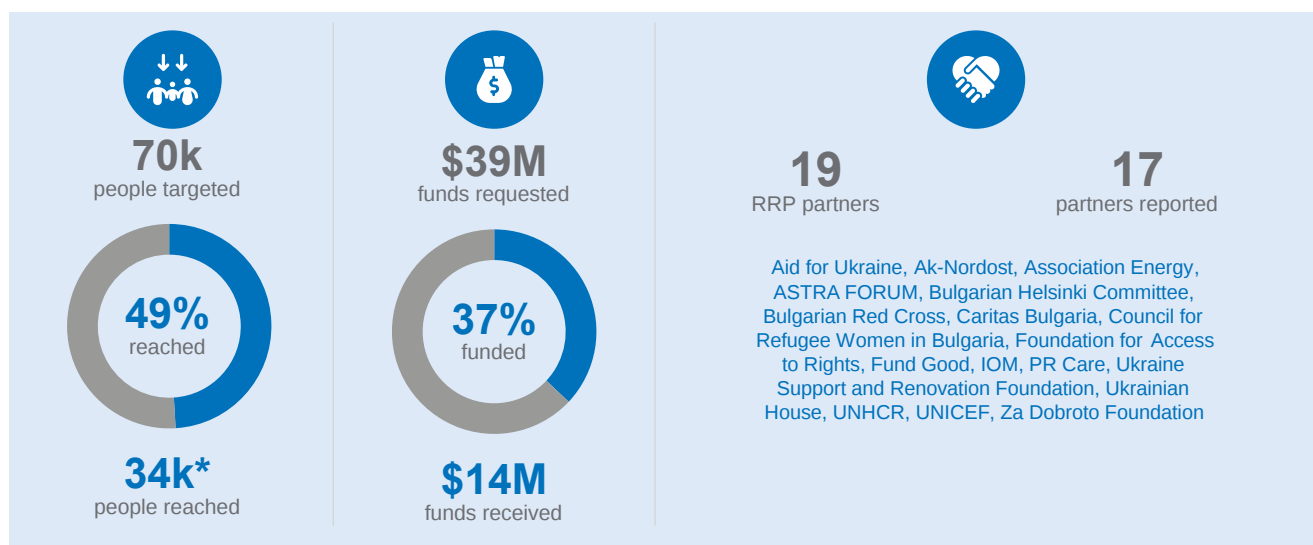
- The adoption of a longer-term humanitarian assistance program, rather than short-term extensions, will allow for refugees' planning and well-informed decisions.
- A long-term integration program for refugees is required to address integration needs, which includes increasing employment opportunities for skilled professionals, such as the integration of health mediators within local administrations and general practitioners. For refugees' enhanced socio-economic inclusion, ensuring access to financial institutions is integral, as refugees continue to report facing challenges. Together with RRP partners, continued provision of MHPSS, particularly for children and adolescents who struggle with adaptation, will also further enhance social inclusion.
- Eliminating financial barriers to health care is essential to ensure that refugees' access to health services is not constrained by financial barriers.

- Ensuring spaces for placement of refugee children in kindergartens, daycare and schools is important for both refugee children and their caregivers as it allows refugee children to continue their education in Bulgaria while their caregivers work. In collaboration with RRP partners, government support for targeted programmes addressing low enrolment rates as well as early childhood education and catchup support for refugee children enrolled in schools will meet refugee children’s long-term educational needs.

Moreover, ensuring sustainable funding to community-based organizations and refugee-led organizations is crucial for supporting localization efforts and maintaining key community empowerment and community-based activities.



Recreational activities for refugee children at RRP partner Aid for Ukraine's Ukrainian Hive center in Sofia, Bulgaria. ©Aid for Ukraine/Tatyana Cherkshenko



| Sector                                                                              |                                                             |                                                                                                                                                           | People reached |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|    | <b>Protection</b>                                           | Individuals who have been supported accessing protection services                                                                                         | 9k             |
|                                                                                     |                                                             | Children provided with child protection services                                                                                                          | 14k            |
|                                                                                     |                                                             | Participants trained on child protection and children's right                                                                                             | 374            |
|                                                                                     |                                                             | Individuals who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes                                                                                                | 255            |
|  | <b>Livelihoods &amp; Socio-Economic Inclusion</b>           | Individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions                                                                          | 21k            |
|  | <b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>                               | Health consultations provided to refugees                                                                                                                 | 4k             |
|                                                                                     |                                                             | Health care providers trained to provide health services to refugees                                                                                      | 8k             |
|                                                                                     |                                                             | Individuals reached through counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services, and how to access health care | 3k             |
|  | <b>Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)</b>     | Focused and specialized services MHPSS consultations provided                                                                                             | 7k             |
|                                                                                     |                                                             | Individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities                                                                                                | 6k             |
|  | <b>Education</b>                                            | Children enrolled in formal education in host countries                                                                                                   | 4k             |
|                                                                                     |                                                             | Children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries                                                                           | 12k            |
|  | <b>Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)</b> | PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response                                                        | 86             |
|  | <b>Basic Needs</b>                                          | Individuals who received assistance for basic needs                                                                                                       | 4k             |

\*The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double counting.

## CZECH REPUBLIC

### Progress against the strategic objectives

The response to the needs of refugees from Ukraine has seen significant achievements across multiple sectors, driven by the collaborative efforts of various partners. These efforts have primarily focused on vulnerable groups such as adolescents, older refugees, single parents, and members of the LGBTIQ+ community, extending beyond urban centres to ensure comprehensive support. Notably, 110,000 individuals were reached under the RRP.

Partners focused efforts on supporting TP holders access decent housing and legal employment, as well as on preventing labour exploitation. More than 85,000 TP holders were supported in accessing protection services. Social and intercultural workers facilitated access to safe housing for vulnerable groups, including survivors of domestic violence and families with children. Research on the needs of older TP holders and barriers to transitioning from collective accommodation to standard housing identified specific challenges, which may lead to improved targeted support. Social, legal counselling and employment counselling programs have seen high engagement, helping TP holders access the labour market and integrate into the local economy. Partners have also engaged private companies to provide employment opportunities to TP holders.

RRP partners have been pivotal in providing health services and mental health support. More than 13,100 individuals participated in MHPSS services and activities, with over 4,600 TP holders receiving information on health topics, available services, and how to access healthcare through individual counselling sessions. Mental health initiatives included specialized support for TP holders with disabilities and those with cancer, as well as broader community mental health services. Partners support also included expanding primary healthcare centres, addressing multi-drug resistant tuberculosis and enhancing public health data management systems. Collaboration with the Institute for Post Graduate Medical Education facilitated the integration of Ukrainian healthcare professionals into the Czech health system.

Over 11,600 refugee children participated in non-formal education. The capacity of over 6,000 teachers and caregivers was strengthened through training on the academic and social inclusion of refugee children. Additionally, 435 Ukrainian and Czech teaching assistants passed the final exams of the qualification course. Mobile teams provided support and consultations on inclusive education approaches to 32 schools and/or their founders (municipalities). Projects such as “STRONG” and “e-Elektra” programs focused on the mental well-being and trauma-informed education for children and educators.<sup>1</sup> Further projects engaging young TP holders helped combat social isolation and foster self-development by inviting them to identify and pursue their interests, with digital skills courses being particularly popular.

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<sup>1</sup> Online module on trauma-informed practices for professionals working with children is accessible at [e-Lektra - Society for all](#).

Projects on social cohesion included information campaigns that highlighted stories of successful refugee inclusion, showcasing personal narratives of resilience and achievement. These campaigns aimed to raise a positive outlook on the Ukrainian community, fostering empathy and understanding among local residents. Several partners also provided Czech language courses of different levels.

## Gaps and consequences of underfunding

Housing has emerged as one of the most pressing issues. The demand for stable and affordable housing far exceeds available capacity, especially as the cost-free housing provision will be limited to 90 days after arrival from September 2024. Vulnerable groups, including older people and families with children, face the risk of losing their accommodation, underscoring the urgent need for sustainable housing solutions. Despite efforts to secure housing, the capacity remains insufficient to meet the growing demand, particularly for those who will lose access to free accommodation.

Employment barriers are another major challenge. Many refugees face difficulties in having their qualifications recognized, forcing them into lower-skilled jobs that do not utilize their full potential. Limited capacity at Labour Offices and language barriers further complicate access to employment support services. Efforts to engage private companies in providing employment to TP holders have been made, but challenges persist.

Legal challenges have also been noteworthy. While the TP Directive has been largely implemented, refugees from Ukraine who have previously applied for or were granted TP in another EU Member State are facing administrative barriers to accessing TP status in the Czech Republic. RRP partners have been supporting refugees facing this situation through legal assistance and by bringing individual cases before national courts, seeking compliance with relevant provisions of the TP Directive. The practice of national authorities will be reviewed by the EU Court of Justice of the EU as national courts initiated the preliminary ruling procedure.

Access to health services has been facilitated by intercultural workers who provide interpretation and communication assistance with healthcare providers. Without this support, many TP holders would struggle to access necessary health services. However, the shortage of general practitioners and paediatricians continues to hinder timely access to primary healthcare for children and adolescents, highlighting the need for targeted interventions to address this gap.

The integration of refugee children into the education system also presents difficulties. Efforts are needed to desegregate occasional segregated classes, with around 1,000 children still educated in Ukrainian-only classes. Barriers to integration include predominantly a lack of infrastructure. Additionally, many refugee youth face financial challenges, often working in the grey economy to support their families, which detracts from their education and skill-building opportunities.

Frequent changes to laws regarding rights of TP holders and widespread disinformation campaigns have created a challenging environment, complicating integration efforts. Moreover, securing sustainable funding

for ongoing projects remains a significant challenge, particularly for specialized programs for refugees with disabilities and older refugees, as well as MHPSS activities.

These challenges require coordinated, strategic, and sustained efforts from all partners involved to ensure effective support and integration of TP holders into the Czech society.

## Advocacy message

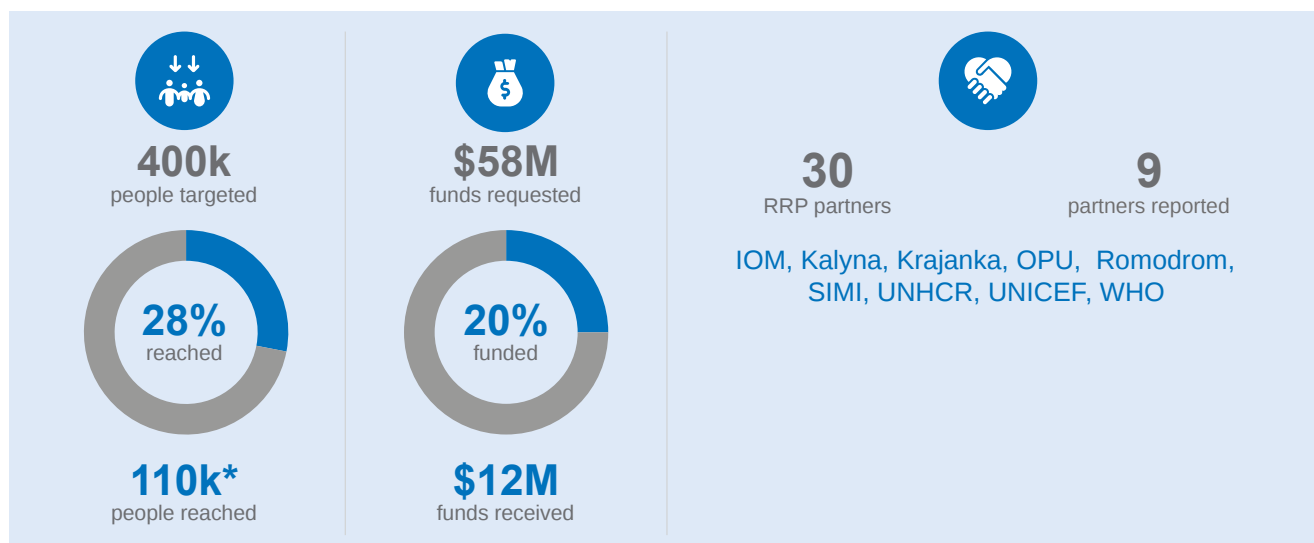
Vulnerable TP holders, such as older people, single parents, and individuals with disabilities, need targeted support to overcome systemic barriers. Investing in specialized services and comprehensive support systems will ensure their needs are met and promote their successful integration into society.

Ensuring stable and affordable housing for TP holders is essential for their successful integration. As increasing focus is placed on self-reliance, it is important to develop sustainable housing solutions. Supporting vulnerable groups, such as families with children and older people, is key to preventing TP holders from falling into income poverty and fostering social cohesion.

TP holders face barriers in entering the labour market, including challenges with qualifications recognition and limited language skills. To unlock their potential and foster economic integration, it's crucial to provide tailored employment support and improve recognition of foreign qualifications.



Refugee children playing in an early development childhood centre in Prague. ©UNICEF/Anton Filonenko



| Sector                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                           |  | People reached |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------------|
|  <b>Protection</b>                                             | Individuals who have been supported accessing protection services                                                                                         |  | <b>86k</b>     |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Children provided with child protection services                                                                                                          |  | <b>24k</b>     |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Participants trained on child protection and children's rights                                                                                            |  | <b>150</b>     |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Individuals who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes                                                                                                |  | <b>27k</b>     |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV Knowledge on Prevention, Response, and Risk Mitigation Measures                      |  | <b>12</b>      |
|  <b>Livelihoods &amp; Socio-Economic Inclusion</b>           | Individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions                                                                          |  | <b>2k</b>      |
|  <b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>                               | Health consultations provided to refugees                                                                                                                 |  | <b>2k</b>      |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Health care providers trained to provide health services to refugees                                                                                      |  | <b>1k</b>      |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Individuals reached through counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services, and how to access health care |  | <b>5k</b>      |
|  <b>Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)</b>     | Focused and specialized services MHPSS consultations provided                                                                                             |  | <b>6k</b>      |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities                                                                                                |  | <b>13k</b>     |
|  <b>Education</b>                                            | Children enrolled in formal education in host countries                                                                                                   |  | <b>48k</b>     |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries                                                                           |  | <b>12k</b>     |
|  <b>Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)</b> | PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response                                                        |  | <b>51</b>      |
|  <b>Basic Needs</b>                                          | Individuals who received assistance for basic needs                                                                                                       |  | <b>4k</b>      |

\*The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double counting.

## ESTONIA

### Progress against the strategic objectives

In the first half of 2024, RRP partners in Estonia made commendable progress in addressing the needs of refugees from Ukraine, despite significant funding challenges. By the end of Q2 2024, only 18 per cent of the required \$10.6 million had been raised. However, despite constraints RRP partners managed to reach close to 9,000 out of 32,800 refugees from Ukraine in need.

During this period, partners conducted over 300 interviews for protection monitoring and produced a qualitative data report that highlighted refugees' perceptions of problems and service gaps. Partners also conducted 45 protection monitoring visits, achieving 86 per cent of their target, and identified and referred 60 individuals with specific needs to appropriate services. Legal partners provided assistance to 193 forcibly displaced people and secondary counselling to 186 individuals.

Partners carried out 8 advocacy interventions, including contributions to the Estonian LGBTIQ+ equality action plan and appeals related to TP. The reporting process for protection monitoring visits was also streamlined to ensure that multilingual resources were available to refugees.

Partners also conducted 25 communication interventions, including public discussions and social media campaigns, to raise awareness and disseminate information. Partners managed budget reallocations to cover increased costs for protection monitoring visits and reorganized resources to handle the increased client load effectively.

Art therapy sessions were implemented in cooperation with professors and master's students of visual art therapy from Tallinn University (School of Natural Sciences and Health). A total of 15 groups received therapy, including 33 boys and 55 girls (ages 7-15). Partners also facilitated Estonian language classes for 40 refugee teachers from Ukraine as well as providing them with training for working with children who are experiencing trauma.

Partners were instrumental in fostering refugee inclusion and community engagement. They reached 1,278 unique participants through outreach activities, doubling their initial target. A Refugee Forum with 25 diverse members was also established, holding its first meeting and training session aimed at enhancing refugee representation and community cohesion.

Four integration events were facilitated to foster interactions between Estonian and refugee populations, addressing prejudices and fears of the unknown. In total, 510 people attended the integration events, including 102 refugees.



## Gaps and consequences of underfunding

Despite the progress made in the first half of 2024, there remain significant gaps in humanitarian assistance for refugees from Ukraine in Estonia, exacerbated by funding shortfalls and operational challenges.

With only \$1.6 million of the required \$10.6 million for the year raised, there is a critical \$9 million funding gap. This shortage has limited the scope of humanitarian activities, affecting the ability to fully implement planned programs and meet the needs of the refugee population.

Several partners faced delays due to staff changes and restructuring, which impacted their advocacy efforts and community coordination. Some partners also struggled to meet the target for specific needs referrals, achieving only 60 per cent of their goal. Additionally, engaging local communities proved challenging, highlighting the need for more effective outreach strategies.

Partners also experienced challenges related to staff shortages and increased client demands. Operational difficulties included the postponement of planned events due to budget constraints, delays in reporting, and issues arising from overlapping surveys, which contributed to confusion and fatigue among the target group.

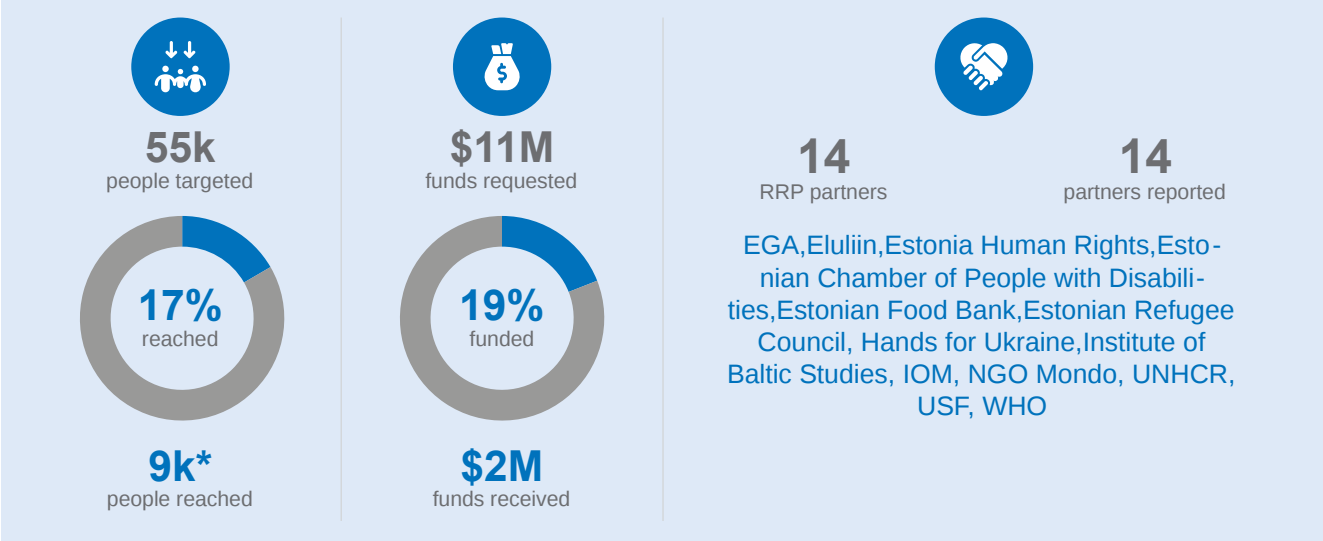
These gaps underscore the need for increased funding and improved strategies to address both immediate needs and long-term goals for refugees from Ukraine in Estonia.

## Advocacy message

There is an urgent need for increased funding and strategic support from partners and donors to address the critical gaps in the RRP for Estonia. Essential programs, including legal assistance, protection services, and community engagement activities, require immediate financial backing to meet the needs of refugees from Ukraine. Prioritizing funding for these areas is crucial for bridging the \$9 million funding gap, enhancing the effectiveness of the RRP, and ensuring successful outcomes for refugee support efforts.



*Estonian Refugee Council and Mondo organized a special Community Festival in Tallinn to mark World Refugee Day. At the festival, locals and refugees could engage in fun activities, taste delicious food, listen to live music, participate in workshops, and shop at the craft fairs. ©UNHCR/Olga Sõtnik*



| Sector |                                              |                                                                                  | People reached |
|--------|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|        | Protection                                   | Individuals who have been supported accessing protection services                | 5k             |
|        | Livelihoods & Socio-Economic Inclusion       | Individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions | 184            |
|        | Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) | Individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities                       | 30             |
|        | Education                                    | Children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries  | 102            |
|        | Basic Needs                                  | Individuals who received assistance for basic needs                              | 4k             |

\*The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity , per sector and/or per region, to avoid double counting.

## HUNGARY

### Progress against the strategic objectives

In the first half of the year, 21 local organizations, including refugee-led groups, UN agencies, and international NGOs, supported nearly 34,000 refugees in Hungary. Response efforts focused on the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees, assisting vulnerable households and mitigating protection risks. RRP partners operated nationwide, especially in Budapest, Pest, and near the Ukrainian border, engaging refugees both in-country and in transit. An updated interagency service mapping in April 2024 optimized resource allocation and referrals across the country.<sup>2</sup>

Efforts to enhance the inclusion of vulnerable refugee groups, led by the Refugee Coordination Forum, identified key actions to address challenges faced by older refugees,<sup>3</sup> youth,<sup>4</sup> and dual nationals fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.<sup>5</sup> This initiative brought together humanitarian actors, civil society, and relevant government departments. As a result, in the first half of 2024, over 1,400 refugees with disabilities, 2,600 Roma refugees, and 2,000 older refugees received support. Coordination and advocacy with stakeholders continued in the areas of safe and decent accommodation, healthcare and child protection.

Recognizing the importance of regular and decent employment as the largest source of disposable income for refugee households, labour market inclusion efforts by RRP partners increased, leading to interventions targeting the removal of common barriers such as a lack of decent work opportunities language and skill mismatches. Partners supported over 4,000 refugees in accessing employment and skill development opportunities, with 1,350 adults receiving language training.

Over 7,800 vulnerable refugees, of whom many faced significant barriers to work, were supported through cash-based interventions (CBI). Assistance types included multipurpose cash, winterization cash, vouchers, and unconditional cash for vulnerable groups. Post-distribution monitoring highlighted the importance of cash as a socio-economic integration tool, particularly for covering food, accommodation, clothing, education, and health-related expenses. The interventions also reduced reliance on negative coping mechanisms, such as opting for cheaper food and borrowing money. Cash assistance was complemented by coordination and deduplication efforts and the mainstreaming of protection principles.

To support the enrolment and participation of refugee children and youth in Hungarian schools, partners implemented a coordinated back-to-school campaign for the 2024 - 2025 school year. To reduce the out-of-school population, particularly amongst recent arrivals, and to address the reliance on online and remote learning for Ukrainian students, RRP partners organized education initiatives at the community level and in

<sup>2</sup> See <https://data.unhcr.org/en/dataviz/299?sv=54&geo=10783>

<sup>3</sup> See [Hungary: RCF - Cross-sectoral Support for Older Refugees from Ukraine in Hungary \(February 2024\)](#).

<sup>4</sup> See [Hungary: RCF - Recommendation Note on Inclusion of Youth Refugees in the Response \(June 2024\)](#).

<sup>5</sup> See [Hungary: RCF - Recommendation Note / Call to Action - Protection of Hungarian Nationals Fleeing the Russo-Ukrainian Conflict \(April 2024\)](#).

cooperation with educational institutions. These included catch-up and non-formal education classes and learning support for nearly 3,200 children, and recreational education services for over 5,000 refugee children.

Access to rights and services for refugees was strengthened by protection partners through updated interagency referral pathways (child protection<sup>6</sup> and GBV<sup>7</sup>) and case management, with nearly 1,100 refugees receiving protection case management and over 230 legal counselling. Capacity-building initiatives with authorities and civil society reached over 580 people in the first half of 2024, providing updated knowledge on legal, GBV, and child protection. Harmonized community messages regarding significant legislative changes affecting TP status and accommodation subsidies were issued. The PSEA Resource Hub interagency learning corners promoted more advanced knowledge and skills reaching 380 humanitarian staff, while 335 responders completed the UN PSEA e-learning.



MHPSS and recreational activities for older refugees at the Budapest Helps! Information and Community Centre, June 2024 ©IOM/Marton Monus

<sup>6</sup> See [Overview of referrals for unaccompanied children](#).

<sup>7</sup> See [GBV Referral Pathways Hungary](#).

## Gaps and consequences of underfunding

The Hungary appeal is 23 per cent funded. Maintaining adequate and timely funding availability for partners in Hungary is crucial to ensuring the continuity of inclusion and protection programming and vulnerable refugees' access to decent employment opportunities and basic services. Funding is also integral for localization and support for national and refugee-led organizations. Lack of funding has also impacted preparedness efforts such as maintaining emergency response infrastructure, border presence, and contingency capacity, given the ongoing conflict situation in Ukraine.

In the absence of comprehensive public policies aimed at enhancing the socio-economic resilience of refugees, inclusion-related programs for vulnerable refugees primarily remain at the pilot initiative stage and serve to address immediate needs. Critical gaps continue around longer-term shelter options, particularly for the most vulnerable. In 2024, due to a lack of funding and staffing, three major shelter sites in Budapest had to cease operations. Further closures are anticipated due to recent changes in legislation on subsidized accommodation,<sup>8</sup> resulting in refugee families of collective sites being at risk of losing their housing. Partners will continue to monitor the situation and engage with the Government to minimize protection risks for refugees without jeopardizing socioeconomic inclusion opportunities.

Language barriers continue to hinder refugees' access to rights and services in Hungary, affecting their enrolment and participation in education (particularly in secondary and higher education), employment, and access to mental health and healthcare services. Expanding language support services is crucial for maximizing opportunities for socioeconomic inclusion and strengthening refugee resilience. This includes providing language training for adults, interpretation in healthcare settings, language assistance programs in schools for students, and translation of documents and certificates.

Despite progress in refugee employment, the estimated unemployment rate of refugees from Ukraine in Hungary remains notably high compared to host country nationals, along with the proportion of youth not engaged in employment, education or vocational training. Safe employment and the prevention of labour exploitation among refugees remains a priority for partners. Targeted employment and protection programs, including for youth, must be expanded in collaboration with institutions and private and public actors to provide more higher education and employment opportunities for the most vulnerable categories.

Access to national social protection systems and welfare nets can be further broadened, to include refugees with disabilities, older individuals, refugees with chronic medical conditions and children. Due to a lack of funding, several RRP partners were forced to discontinue CBI programs, or drastically reduce their assistance.

Protection services, including case management, referrals to institutional services, and awareness programs require continuous adjustments to meet the multiple and complex needs of the most at-risk refugee groups, such as minority groups, women and children. This includes expanding MHPSS services and implementing programs to effectively address bullying in schools and discrimination against marginalized ethnic groups. It

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<sup>8</sup> See <https://safeinhungary.gov.hu/en/news/alert>.

also involves overcoming administrative barriers, such as those related to safe shelters for survivors of GBV and custodial care for unaccompanied children.

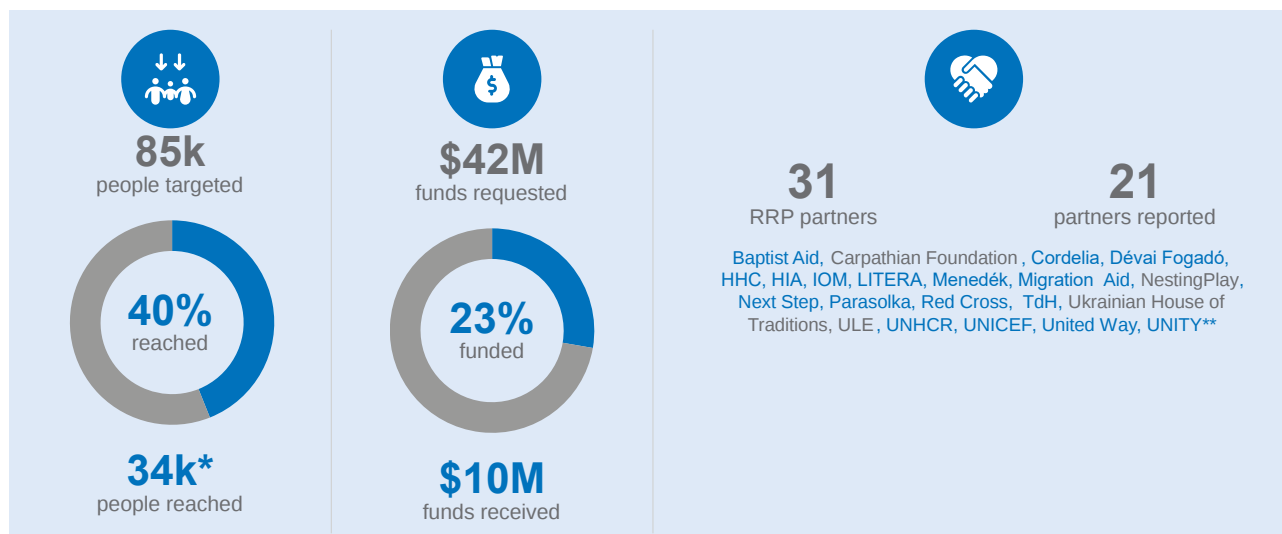
## Advocacy message

To further support the socioeconomic inclusion of vulnerable refugee groups in Hungary, legislative changes and inclusive policymaking are necessary. These measures should integrate TP holders into social safety nets like the Disability Act, Social Care Act, and Child Protection Act while also removing administrative barriers. Furthermore, accurate data on in-country refugees, for example, from a country-wide re-registration exercise, is crucial for appropriate financial allocation, understanding refugee profiles and addressing public perception.

Recent restrictions limiting subsidized accommodation to TP holders from war-affected areas in Ukraine risk negatively impacting vulnerable refugees from Transcarpathia and other regions. This affects their right to suitable housing under the TP Directive and introduces differentiation based on oblast origin rather than needs. With 13 per cent of refugee households in Hungary relying on rental aid, transitions from subsidized accommodation should be approached with caution to protect vulnerable households and ensure a gradual shift to alternative shelter solutions.



1 February 2024. Two months old refugee girl from Ukraine getting vaccinated at the UNICEF funded medical container, operational at the Dorcas Ministries Accommodation Centre in Debrecen, Hungary. ©UNICEF/Jouzas Cernius



| Sector                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                           | People reached |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|  <b>Protection</b>                                             | Individuals who have been supported accessing protection services                                                                                         | <b>23k</b>     |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Children provided with child protection services                                                                                                          | <b>3k</b>      |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Participants trained on child protection and children's right                                                                                             | <b>127</b>     |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Individuals who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes                                                                                                | <b>6k</b>      |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV Knowledge on Prevention, Response, and Risk Mitigation Measures                      | <b>280</b>     |
|  <b>Livelihoods &amp; Socio-Economic Inclusion</b>           | Individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions                                                                          | <b>5k</b>      |
|  <b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>                               | Individuals reached through counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services, and how to access health care | <b>1k</b>      |
|  <b>Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)</b>     | Focused and specialized services MHPSS consultations provided                                                                                             | <b>8k</b>      |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities                                                                                                | <b>7k</b>      |
|  <b>Education</b>                                            | Children enrolled in formal education in host countries                                                                                                   | <b>5k</b>      |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries                                                                           | <b>6k</b>      |
|  <b>Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)</b> | PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response                                                        | <b>380</b>     |
|  <b>Basic Needs</b>                                          | Individuals who received assistance for basic needs                                                                                                       | <b>27k</b>     |

\*The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double counting.

\*\*In black are partners that reported activities but did not appeal in the RRP.

## LATVIA

### Progress against the strategic objectives

In the first half of 2024, the RRP partners in Latvia made progress through providing services to over 5,000 refugees from Ukraine in need, representing approximately 10 per cent of the refugees from Ukraine in Latvia. This was done facing significant funding constraints; by the end of Q2 2024, only 17 per cent of the required \$9.7 million had been secured.

In addressing basic needs, partners piloted support activities at the Manavi border, providing essential rest and refreshment facilities for refugees in transit. This initiative ensured that individuals crossing the border received critical support during a vulnerable period. Across the country, partners collaborated to organize community events aimed at fostering a supportive environment for refugees and furthering social cohesion.

In relation to livelihoods, protection monitoring surveys were pivotal in gathering data on the employment needs of refugees and identifying gaps in job opportunities. Together with the multi-sector needs assessment (MSNA), the data gathered is crucial for shaping strategies aimed at enhancing economic self-reliance and supporting refugees' access to existing employment opportunities., particularly in municipalities such as Valka and Varkai where needs are most acute.

Protection efforts were significantly advanced by partners who provided counselling and support services to new arrivals. These services addressed critical needs including further information on the refugee status determination (RSD) and TP processes, employment and family reunification. Protection monitoring surveys also contributed to understanding and documenting refugee needs, which in turn informed the design of protection interventions. Additionally, partners engaged in advocacy efforts to improve asylum-seekers' conditions, including requests for better transport fare policies and enhanced interpretation services.

Health and nutrition needs were addressed through monitoring visits, which identified important issues such as inconsistent access to medical services and the need for essential items in detention centres. Findings underscored the need for ongoing efforts to ensure refugees' health and nutrition needs are met.

In the education sector, partners conducted community engagement activities, including workshops on sexual reproductive health for refugee mothers and creative sessions such as candle making and ceramic master classes. Cultural events, such as the Midsummer solstice celebration, also provided opportunities for community building and cultural integration.

## Gaps and consequences of underfunding

Despite achievements, there are significant gaps in the humanitarian response that must be addressed. The considerable funding shortfall has impacted the ability to provide comprehensive support across all sectors.

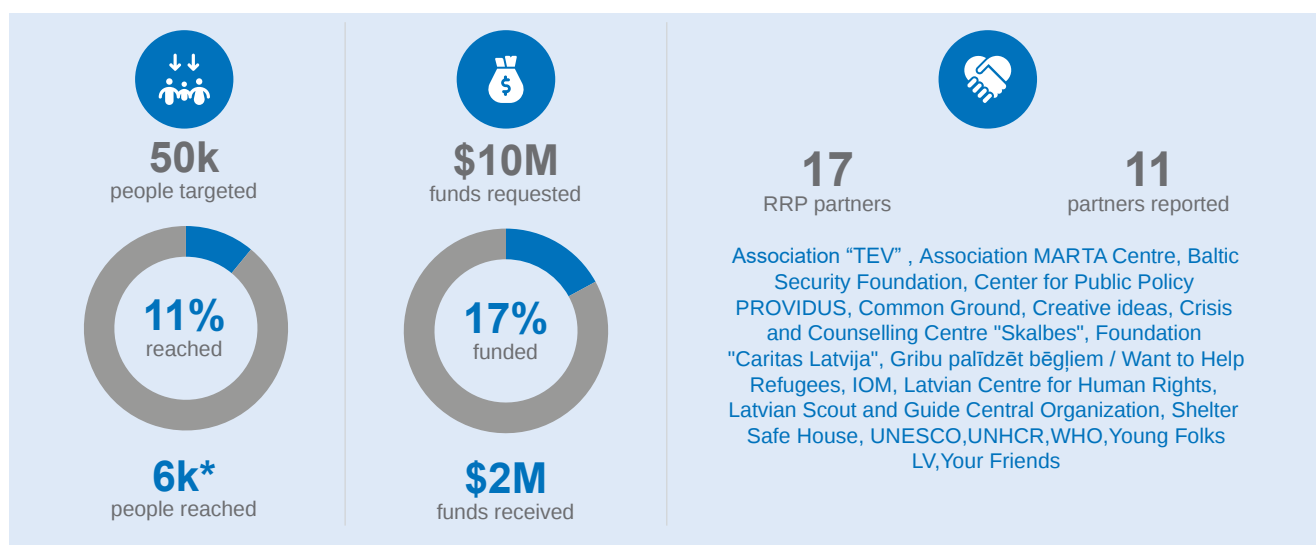
A major gap in the response is the persistent lack of livelihood opportunities, particularly in municipalities, which hinders refugees' efforts towards economic self-reliance. Furthermore, there is an insufficient level of MHPSS services for refugees, notably in Liepāja.

Difficulties persist with the implementation of language and cultural orientation courses for refugee children from Ukraine, underscoring the need for improved educational support services. Additionally, detention centres lack sport and recreational equipment and there is insufficient support for pregnant refugees.

## Advocacy message

Increased support from partners and donors is urgently needed to address critical funding gaps in the RRP for Latvia. Enhanced financial resources are necessary for expanding efforts in key areas such as employment opportunities, comprehensive mental health support and medical services. There is also a pressing need for additional funds to support educational services and long-term integration initiatives, including language and cultural orientation courses. Addressing these resource constraints will be essential to secure refugee self-reliance and social inclusion.





| Sector                                                                              |                                                                                  | People reached |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|    | <b>Protection</b>                                                                |                |
|                                                                                     | Individuals who have been supported accessing protection services                | <b>2k</b>      |
|  | <b>Livelihoods &amp; Socio-Economic Inclusion</b>                                |                |
|                                                                                     | Individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions | <b>1k</b>      |
|  | <b>Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)</b>                          |                |
|                                                                                     | Focused and specialized services MHPSS consultations provided                    | <b>77</b>      |
|  | <b>Education</b>                                                                 |                |
|                                                                                     | Children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries  | <b>50</b>      |
|  | <b>Basic Needs</b>                                                               |                |
|                                                                                     | Individuals who received assistance for basic needs                              | <b>2k</b>      |

\*The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity , per sector and/or per region, to avoid double counting.

## LITHUANIA

### Progress against the strategic objectives

In the first half of 2024, the RRP partners achieved progress in delivering essential services to refugees from Ukraine.

By mid-year, RRP partners reached over 13,105 of the 43,800 refugees from Ukraine in need. The primary areas of focus during this period included the provision of protection services and the advancement of social and economic inclusion initiatives.

A total of 7,067 individuals received protection services addressing critical needs such as legal assistance, child protection and targeted support for refugees with specific needs. These services were instrumental in working towards the safety and well-being of the most vulnerable refugees.

Initiatives undertaken by partners to promote social and economic integration reached 4431 individuals. These included training programs aimed at entrepreneurship, business creation and employment skills development. The programs were designed to equip refugees with the tools necessary for self-sufficiency and long-term integration into their host communities.

By the end of Q2 2024, more than 400 individuals were supported to enrol in 27 Lithuanian language course groups. The online courses focused on both language acquisition and social integration. Participants were awarded certificates upon completion, which enhance their job application prospects and facilitate their integration into Lithuanian society.

MHPSS programs for children and positive parenting groups for Ukrainian parents were offered. In addition, cash assistance was provided to 307 individuals, with a particular emphasis on supporting new arrivals with children and single-headed households living below the poverty line.

Over the past six months 500 hygiene kits were distributed, 184 commodity cards issued, and a range of support services including financial aid, food assistance, and legal and psychosocial services offered to approximately 1,479 refugees. RRP partners also assisted with residence permit applications and organized self-help groups focused on employment and Lithuanian language training.

Psychological group sessions for women, addressing critical topics such as self-awareness, stress management, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) were organized. These sessions fostered improved well-being and a stronger sense of community among the participants.



## Gaps and consequences of underfunding

Significant funding gaps exist, with 8 of 18 partners having not received any funding for their projected initiatives. As a result, these organisations have not been able to commence their programs. Consequently, 70 per cent of the current refugee population, 30,695 people, remain unreachable.

The cash assistance program represents a critical gap. This program is vital for supporting newly arrived single-headed households with children, yet it remains severely underfunded, leaving many of the most vulnerable refugees without the necessary financial support to meet their basic needs.

The closure of child-friendly spaces at registration centres has created a significant gap in support services for children during the registration process. These spaces provided essential support and comfort to children navigating the registration and asylum process, and their absence has left a notable void.

The financial strain on refugee families has also been exacerbated by delays in state assistance for rent payments. These delays have resulted in additional financial burdens on families, who have had to rely on interim support from humanitarian organizations to cover their housing costs.

The shortage of Lithuanian language teachers and rising costs have further impeded efforts to provide effective language education. This shortage has affected the ability of refugees to learn the language, which is crucial for integration and self-reliance.

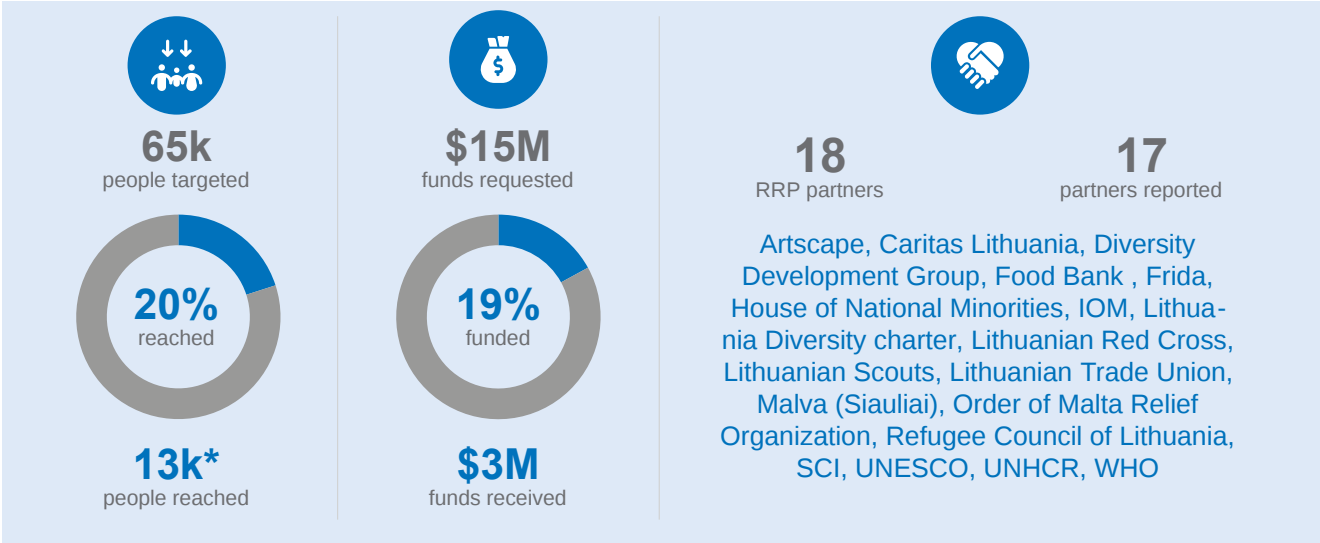
Difficulties in accessing health professionals were reported to RRP partners by a small number of refugees, which compounded challenges faced by refugees in obtaining necessary medical care. There is also a high demand for MHPSS services for both children and caregivers, alongside housing issues related to high rent prices and a scarcity of suitable accommodations, particularly impacting single-headed households with young children.

## Advocacy message

Urgent and increased support from partners and donors is crucial to address critical funding gaps in the RRP. Specifically, underfunded programs such as cash assistance and child-friendly spaces require immediate attention to meet the pressing needs of vulnerable refugee families from Ukraine. Priority should be given to funding housing support and integration programs including language education and job placement services. These initiatives are essential for fostering refugee self-reliance and successful integration into host communities.



*To commemorate World Refugee Day, the arts agency Artscape organized the Cultural Rhythms festival in Vilnius. Cultural Rhythms embodies the idea that different cultures have their unique rhythms, reflecting their traditions, experiences, and expressions. ©Artscape/Marija Frolova*



| Sector |                                                                   | People reached |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|        | <b>Protection</b>                                                 |                |
|        | Individuals who have been supported accessing protection services | 5k             |
|        | Children provided with child protection services                  | 2k             |
|        | <b>Livelihoods &amp; Socio-Economic Inclusion</b>                 | 4k             |
|        | <b>Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)</b>           | 102            |
|        | <b>Basic Needs</b>                                                | 2k             |

\*The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity , per sector and/or per region, to avoid double counting.

## REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

### Progress against the strategic objectives

In the first half of 2024, the Moldova refugee response made significant progress in enhancing protection and promoting inclusion for refugees from Ukraine, with partners supporting over 85,000 people during this period. Key milestones included the extension of TP until March 2025 as well as addressing key advocacy points raised by RRP sectors and partners in 2023. Aligned with this decision, health financing mechanisms, with compensation from external donors, were revised in collaboration with the National Health Insurance Company. The health benefit package for TP holders was expanded to cover specialized outpatient medical care, compensated medicines and medical products.

The Government initiated the development of a mechanism for the phased integration of foreigners, including refugees, aligned with the National Development Plan (NDP) 2025-2027. The mechanism comprises a costing exercise supported by RRP partners. At the local level, the protection and inclusion of refugees is being advanced, in part, through the Cities of Solidarity Initiative, which seeks to leverage the presence of refugees in communities across Moldova to support the improvement of systems and services for all. Moreover, RRP partners collaborated with the National Employment Agency to expand job opportunities and childcare services for refugees, thereby supporting their socio-economic inclusion.

In education, partners supported the Ministry of Education and Research in developing a roadmap for the inclusion of refugee children in the national education system. By June 2024, 2,325 refugee children from Ukraine were enrolled in Moldovan schools, including 727 in early childhood education. Furthermore, over 30,000 children participated in non-formal education programs during the reporting period. Most refugee children from Ukraine in Moldova continue to study on-line through Ukrainian schools.

Child Protection partners provided trainings for 149 newly hired government child protection specialists and 77 Border Police staff. Partners also provided services to over 6,179 refugee children and 1,400 caregivers at Blue Dots and other child-friendly spaces, including case management, safe referrals to national guardianship authority and recreational and/or child friendly MHPSS activities. . Additionally, 152 unaccompanied and separated children were identified and assisted.

The GBV sub-sector started developing standard operating procedures for GBV Case Management in coordination with the national social protection system and reached over 7,000 individuals with information and prevention activities. GBV response partners provided MHPSS and legal aid to more than 4,180 people, conducted GBV-related health consultations and continued to integrate cash assistance to GBV case management. The sub-sector also strengthened referral pathways, directing over 200 individuals to other services.

The cash assistance program underwent refinement to ensure it reached those most in need. Cash Working Group partners developed a new targeting methodology using a score-card system. The ongoing

implementation of the Refugee Assistance Information System (RAIS) digital platform improved coordination and prevented duplication in cash distribution. By June 2024, approximately 56,700 refugees were receiving multi-purpose cash assistance.

The Refugee Accommodation Center (RAC) consolidation process continued, with partners from the Basic Needs and Protection Working Groups collaborating closely. By the end of June 2024, 35 RACs were hosting 1,831 individuals, with three hot meals provided daily through the support of Food Security sub-sector partners. As part of this process, housing assistance remained a key component of the refugee response. Partners continued to provide rental support to both refugees and host families, helping to alleviate the financial burden of accommodation costs. By June 2024, 1,240 households were supported with rental assistance.

To support local organizations as they work to protect and include refugees, RRP partners launched several funding and capacity-sharing initiatives. As of June 2024, the Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund had funded 12 projects in Moldova, reaching over 5,000 women and girls. These projects focused on various areas including economic empowerment, GBV prevention, and women's participation in decision-making processes.

## Gaps and consequences of underfunding

Despite the extension of TP until March 2025, there remains a lack of clear pathways for long-term local integration for TP holders in Moldova. This absence of a defined route to permanent residency or citizenship creates uncertainty for refugees who may wish to stay in Moldova long-term.

The Moldovan asylum system came under increased strain as the number of asylum applications from Ukrainian nationals in Moldova experienced a significant surge in recent months, with a notable increase from 354 applications in March to 1,008 in April, peaking at 1,327 in May. This surge followed changes to the Ukrainian conscription law, including a lowering of the age of conscription.

Low enrolment of refugee children from Ukraine in Moldovan schools remains a significant challenge. Despite concerted efforts to increase enrolment, numbers have risen only slightly. Language barriers, preferences for the Ukrainian online curriculum, and concerns about bullying are frequently cited reasons for low enrolment rates. Furthermore, there is no system in place to track the attendance or progress of children studying online, creating a gap in understanding their educational development.

Roma refugee children face particularly severe educational marginalization. While about 100 Roma refugee children, primarily those in RACs, receive literacy and numeracy classes from humanitarian partners, the absence of a national accredited Accelerated Learning Programme to bridge educational gaps and facilitate transition to formal education makes education inclusion for this group of refugee children more difficult.

Access to MHPSS and specialized health services remains limited, especially in rural areas. This includes a lack of medical and rehabilitation services for people with disabilities outside major urban centres. The unavailability of social assistance services, such as personal assistants, creates significant obstacles to independence.

Employment opportunities for refugees are limited due to various factors including low wages, skills mismatches, language barriers, and lack of childcare services. While the private sector shows openness to employing refugees, there is a lack of flexible or remote work arrangements to help balance work and caregiving responsibilities.

Capacity gaps exist in addressing GBV, including limited ability of entry points to handle GBV disclosures and mandatory reporting requirements that deter survivors from accessing services. More training and advocacy targeting service providers are needed on the specific needs of disproportionately affected groups.

Following the end of the state of emergency in late 2023, the referral process of UASC from the Border Police to the Guardianship Authority became less systematic. There is an ongoing need to improve case management for children, survivors of violence, including sexual violence, through capacity building for social workers.

The consolidation of RACs has created challenges in ensuring adequate support and services for relocated refugees. Additionally, there are gaps in reaching and assisting the most vulnerable populations as cash assistance programs are scaled back and retargeted, potentially leaving some vulnerable individuals without coverage. Furthermore, limited access to social assistance services and benefits for TP holders presents an additional challenge amid decreasing humanitarian funding and coverage.

Limited access to affordable housing options, especially for large refugee families, remains an issue as accommodation support programs are adjusted.

These gaps highlight ongoing needs across sectors like education, health, livelihoods, and protection as the refugee response transitions to longer-term solutions. Addressing these gaps will require sustained funding, capacity building of local systems, and targeted interventions for the most vulnerable groups.



*Nadejda, 16 years old, taking part in an IT lesson at a high school in Cahul, Moldova. ©UNICEF/Ion Buga*

## Advocacy message

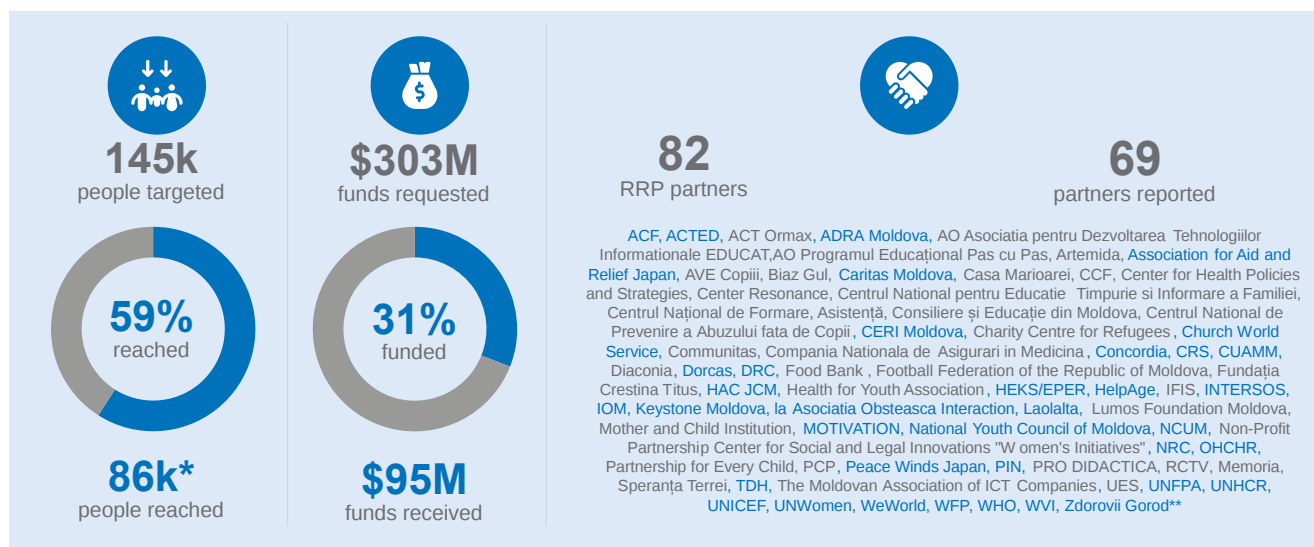
Considering the Government's decision to develop a mechanism for the phased integration of foreigners, including refugees from Ukraine, and the ongoing review of asylum legislation, it is crucial to establish clear pathways to permanent residency or citizenship for refugees holding TP status who wish to remain in the country long-term. This will provide stability for refugees, facilitate better planning for their futures, and contribute to Moldova's socio-economic development.

In line with the principles and objectives of the GCR, RRP partners and donors must continue to support Moldova's efforts to build resilient and inclusive systems that serve both refugees and host communities in the long term. Such support is aligned with the country's development priorities and fosters the socio-economic inclusion of refugees. This process requires ongoing efforts to include refugees into national systems, including education, health, and social protection. These efforts must address the immediate challenges refugees face when accessing public services while engaging with the government and development actors to address structural barriers that limit inclusion opportunities.

To advance these objectives, the Government of the Republic of Moldova, RRP partners and donors, must collaborate to:

- Increase support for integrating refugee children into the Moldovan education system, including language assistance, catch-up programs, and measures to address barriers faced by Roma children.
- Expand access to health services for refugees, particularly in rural areas, by addressing registration barriers and enhancing the availability of specialized care and rehabilitation services.
- Enhance livelihood opportunities for refugees through flexible work arrangements, skills training, pathways to self-employment, and addressing childcare needs to facilitate employment.
- Strengthen systems to prevent and respond to GBV, including revising mandatory reporting requirements, improving the capacity of service providers, and bolstering the national child protection system, particularly in the referral process for UASC between Border Police and Guardianship Authorities.
- Ensure continued targeted assistance for the most vulnerable refugees during program transitions, including cash assistance and sustainable housing solutions.

# MOLDOVA MID-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS (2024)



| Sector                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                           | People reached |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|  <b>Protection</b>                                             | Individuals who have been supported accessing protection services                                                                                         | <b>46k</b>     |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Children provided with child protection services                                                                                                          | <b>6k</b>      |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Participants trained on child protection and children's right                                                                                             | <b>3k</b>      |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Individuals who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes                                                                                                | <b>22k</b>     |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV Knowledge on Prevention, Response, and Risk Mitigation Measures                      | <b>685</b>     |
|  <b>Livelihoods &amp; Socio-Economic Inclusion</b>           | Individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions                                                                          | <b>4k</b>      |
|  <b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>                               | Health consultations provided to refugees                                                                                                                 | <b>26k</b>     |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Health care providers trained to provide health services to refugees                                                                                      | <b>1k</b>      |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Individuals reached through counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services, and how to access health care | <b>18k</b>     |
|  <b>Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)</b>     | Individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities                                                                                                | <b>31k</b>     |
|  <b>Education</b>                                            | Children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries                                                                           | <b>30k</b>     |
|  <b>Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)</b> | PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response                                                        | <b>165</b>     |
|  <b>Basic Needs</b>                                          | Individuals who received assistance for basic needs                                                                                                       | <b>86k</b>     |

\*The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double counting.

\*\*In black are partners that reported activities but did not appeal in the RRP.

## POLAND

### Progress against the strategic objectives

After concerted advocacy efforts by RRP partners the Government of Poland introduced the possibility for TP holders to access a 3-year residence permit, which is not conditional upon work or study. The government has also extended the possibility for Ukrainian psychologists to perform their profession without validation of diplomas. RRP partners supported 232,854 refugees with information on rights and services; 30,7752 people with specific needs were referred to access national services; 13,777 individuals were assisted with legal aid provision; 37,668 participants were reached through the implementation of community psychosocial group activities; 6,056 people were trained on preventing GBV; and 231 staff from municipalities, local authorities and civil society organizations were trained in LGBTIQ+ inclusion.

Mandatory enrolment into schools for refugee children from Ukraine was announced in June. The Education Sector presented to the Ministry of Education the description of the profession of the intercultural assistant as a permanent position at schools whenever children with migrant or refugee background enter the Polish education system. In addition, members of the Education Sector conducted a survey and published reports presenting barriers among adolescents in accessing education.<sup>9</sup> Differences between Polish and Ukrainian systems, lack of knowledge of Polish, and bullying from peers were mentioned as the most common obstacles. Those finding were shared with the Ministry of Education to better prepare the school environment to receive new students in September 2024.

Partners active in the Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion response implemented activities in the areas of entrepreneurship and financial inclusion, labour market assessments, skills development and training, employment facilitation and access to housing. Most of these entities were NGOs, including many RLOs. Through these efforts, in the first quarter of the year, partners successfully directly assisted 17,363 forcibly displaced people in enhancing their access to employment opportunities and improving their overall economic inclusion and stability.

Shelter Sector leads and partners actively followed the situation in collective centres across Poland and developed joint advocacy statements on housing/accommodation policy in collaboration with UNHCR. They were published as official statements in response to the Ministry of Interior (Moi) official invitation to provide comments on the Special Act amendments. Furthermore, through advocacy efforts, sector co-leads further strengthened collaboration with the Mooi, while actively working on prospective Special Act amendments that entered into force in July. In January 2024, the Cash for Rent (CfR) Technical Working Group was established and developed recommendations for CfR programming to ensure support the harmonization of CfR programming and data deduplication. In the reporting period, 1157 individuals were provided with support on

<sup>9</sup> See [https://www.care.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Out-of-School-Report\\_pl-1.pdf](https://www.care.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Out-of-School-Report_pl-1.pdf) and [https://ceo.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/CEO\\_Refugee-students-from-Ukraine-in-the-Polish-education-system.pdf](https://ceo.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/CEO_Refugee-students-from-Ukraine-in-the-Polish-education-system.pdf)

housing, including research and interpretation services; 981 persons received cash for rent for individual accommodation; 628 individuals were provided with accommodation in collective centres and 247 with non-cash assistance for short-term (up to 30 days) individual accommodation; and 32 site managers received capacity-building activities.

In the area of PSEA and Accountability to Affected People, partners reached over 32,900 individuals through community centres or via partners' outreach activities. Several partners delivered with INTERPOL a PSEA Training of Trainers for 30 participants from Polish law enforcement agencies. National NGOs and UN Agencies collaborated on PSEA awareness-raising videos for refugees. The UN's Office of the Victims' Rights Advocate delivered a training on survivor-centred approach for 30 members of the PSEA Network.

## Gaps and consequences of underfunding

Through the RRP partner organizations have collectively appealed for more than \$377 million in 2024. Despite ongoing advocacy efforts with national and international stakeholders, reported donor funding has only reached 14 % in Q2.

Refugees without valid travel documents will require legal and financial support to confirm their identity and access status and documentation. Safe and affordable housing remains the most urgent need as over 500 facilities will be closed or consolidate into bigger sites and the financial support to private hosts was discontinued as of 1 July 2024. The official estimates indicate that approximately 45,000 refugees have been hosted by private owners and will be affected by these measures, with the majority requiring continued support in Government-run accommodation. Child protection monitoring indicated several challenges faced by refugee children from Ukraine in Poland, including social isolation, loneliness, and experiences of discrimination, with increasing needs for mental health support. The capacities of national systems to provide multisectoral support to refugee women and girls who survived GBV remain limited.

By September 2024 all refugee children from Ukraine and adolescent should attend Polish schools. The main gaps and challenges include the unknown number of the children out of school (estimates range from 75,000 to 145,000), the lack of capacity at local school to absorb students from Ukraine while it has become mandatory to enrol them (for which the Government of Poland should scale up support), lack of accessible information about the enrolment process for parents, the lack of mechanisms to report protection concerns including instances of bullying, no guarantee to have intercultural assistants at schools, insufficient training and support to teachers in creating inclusive space for new students.

Limited resources and capacity constraints among organizations, particularly those with less experience, create a gap in re-skilling and up-skilling opportunities for refugees. Efforts are underway to address these challenges through additional funding mechanisms and capacity-building initiatives. Another major gap is the insufficient quantity and quality of Polish classes as a foreign language. Additionally, opportunities for re-skilling and up-skilling are hindered by constraints facing refugees, such as lack of affordable childcare and housing solutions.

In the absence of a mapping of national government-run and privately-run collective centres, there is a high fragmentation among actors providing accommodation services, which affects coordinated and effective humanitarian support. Additionally, a limited number of Shelter partners can continue providing short-term accommodation for people in transit, mainly due to the lack of funds. Limited funds also impact further development of Cash for Rent programs. Furthermore, insufficient solutions for elderly refugees and refugees with disabilities, who cannot live independently and are still living in non-adequate conditions in collective centres, continue to be one of the biggest systemic gaps. Lastly, in the past months, several changes in laws affecting accommodation and housing have been made, but limited information has been provided about those changes, affecting the people at risk of relocation and causing stress, anxiety and also triggering decisions of premature return to Ukraine.

According to the PSEA and AAP Network, a major challenge is limited awareness on available complaint and feedback mechanisms (CFMs). Increased awareness raising efforts, strengthening the effectiveness of existing CFMs and ensuring closing the feedback loop is necessary. Furthermore, inadequate capacity and funding, underreporting of PSEA and legal barriers to safe recruiting have been observed as challenges in the reporting period. Lastly, the recent amendments of the Special Act related to closure of shelters below ten persons have increased the risk of PSEA.

Challenges remain in accessing healthcare, including language barriers and long waiting times, and partners will continue monitoring and ensuring provision of health services to maintain overall health, including mental health, and well-being of population.

Specialists of the “School that Connects” project conducted a communication workshop for Ukrainian scouts Plást Rzeszów. © PSAR



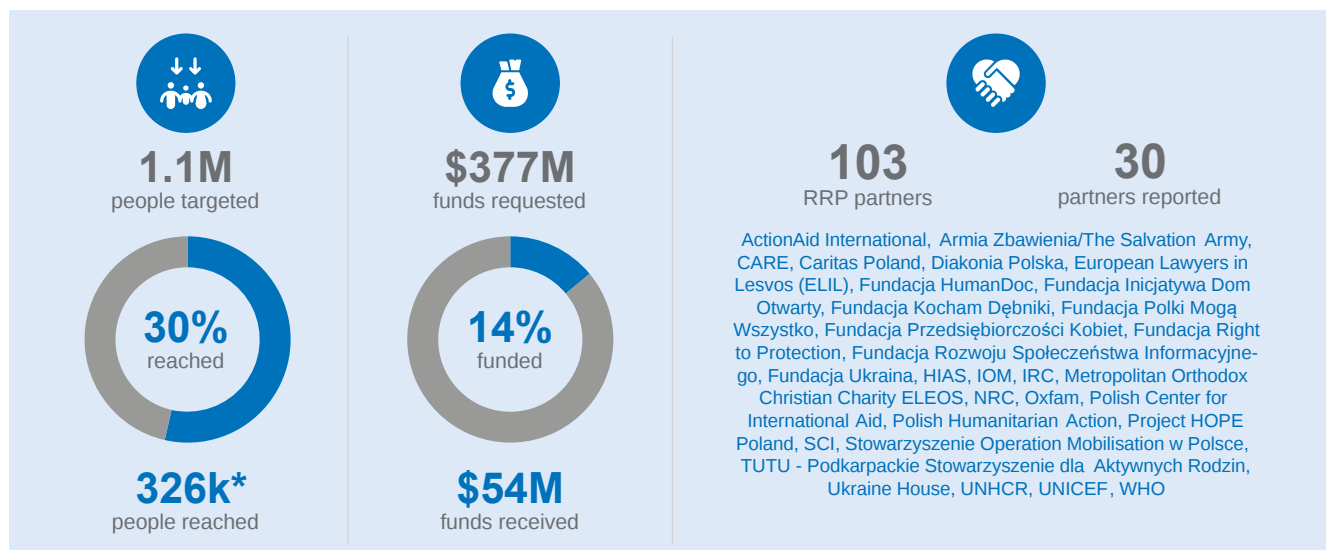
## Advocacy message

To effectively implement the recently adopted legal provisions and avoid protection-related gaps, financial support for municipalities and voivodeships will be required. This support is particularly important for the inclusion of refugee children from Ukraine in schools and to mitigate the risk of evictions due to the discontinuation of financial support for private hosts. The inclusion of intercultural assistants in the national register of professions is recommended. Tailored support services are essential, including Polish language training for both general and technical professions, as well as opportunities for upskilling and reskilling, and improved access to housing and childcare services. Additionally, promoting policies that enable those living in collective shelters to transition from the informal to the formal market is a priority. Highlighting the economic contributions of refugees as employees, taxpayers, and consumers is recommended. Financial inclusion should be encouraged through instruments such as microfinance for entrepreneurs, youth, and refugee-led SMEs. Better collaboration with central and regional authorities could enhance transparency and improve access to support services tailored to vulnerable refugee groups. Furthermore, implementing safe recruitment legal regulations in Poland is essential.



*Art Therapy workshop for families. A group between the ages of 5 and 45 of Ukrainian and Belarusian nationality.  
© Association KLANZA/Małgorzata Joanna Borowska*

# POLAND MID-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS (2024)



| Sector                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                           | People reached |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
|  <b>Protection</b>                                             | Individuals who have been supported accessing protection services                                                                                         | <b>278k</b>    |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Children provided with child protection services                                                                                                          | <b>53k</b>     |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Participants trained on child protection and children's right                                                                                             | <b>2k</b>      |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Individuals who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes                                                                                                | <b>8k</b>      |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV Knowledge on Prevention, Response, and Risk Mitigation Measures                      | <b>231</b>     |
|  <b>Livelihoods &amp; Socio-Economic Inclusion</b>           | Individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions                                                                          | <b>17k</b>     |
|  <b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>                               | Health consultations provided to refugees                                                                                                                 | <b>3k</b>      |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Health care providers trained to provide health services to refugees                                                                                      | <b>1k</b>      |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Individuals reached through counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services, and how to access health care | <b>239</b>     |
|  <b>Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)</b>     | Focused and specialized services MHPSS consultations provided                                                                                             | <b>22k</b>     |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities                                                                                                | <b>66k</b>     |
|  <b>Education</b>                                            | Children enrolled in formal education in host countries                                                                                                   | <b>181k</b>    |
|                                                                                                                                                 | Children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries                                                                           | <b>75k</b>     |
|  <b>Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)</b> | PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response                                                        | <b>287</b>     |
|  <b>Basic Needs</b>                                          | Individuals who received assistance for basic needs                                                                                                       | <b>44k</b>     |

\*The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double counting.

## ROMANIA

### Progress against the strategic objectives

Significant work was undertaken in the first half of 2024 to support the protection environment in Romania. RRP partners collaborated closely with the Government of Romania on the development of a legal framework to include Ukrainians under temporary protection into the social protection schemes in Romania. To empower refugees, nearly 52,000 were reached with information on rights, services, GBV prevention and response, and access to services through help desks, information campaigns, and Telegram channels. Over 3,100 refugees benefited from targeted protection interventions and counselling, including legal advice on documentation, administrative barriers, and certificate recognition. Nearly 6,500 refugee children received specialized child protection services. Services were provided through various service providers and one-stop centres managed by RRP partners, including RomExpo in Bucharest, the Nicolina Centre in Iasi, the Ukraine House in Cluj, and the KATTYA Centre in Brasov, which facilitate comprehensive service provision and better linkages with government services.

To promote the social and economic inclusion of Ukrainian refugees, the livelihoods sector actively engaged with civil society, the private sector, and national authorities, embodying a "whole of society" approach. This coordination significantly improved access to Romanian language classes, vocational training, and employment assistance. RRP partners provided Romanian language classes to over 7,000 refugees and vocational training support, entrepreneurship opportunities, and counselling and mentoring tailored to the Romanian labour market to an additional 6,000 refugees. Consequently, over 7,200 refugees are currently gainfully employed with active labour contracts. Over 30,000 refugees benefited from cash support to meet their basic needs.

With dwindling resources, RRP partners refocused interventions from a blanket approach to targeted programming for those with specific needs and vulnerabilities. Twenty-one RRP partners, alongside the municipalities of Bucharest and Brasov, enhanced a vulnerability assessment scorecard to better target assistance. This inter-agency and cross-sectoral tool is being rolled out to systematize a more targeted approach across the RRP response.

To support social cohesion, RRP partners strengthened national systems in Romania for all beneficiaries. Nearly 1,850 service provider staff participated in capacity enhancement sessions, including 221 on PSEA and 350 teachers on MHPSS and inclusive education. A health translation hotline was launched to provide free Romanian-Ukrainian interpretation during medical consultations, and an "Employment Agency Guide" was published in multiple languages on the Government Agency for Employment (ANOFM) website.<sup>10</sup> Over

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<sup>10</sup> See <https://www.anofm.ro/?idpostare=28529>

8,500 host community members and refugees participated in joint events, such as cultural days and sports tournaments, to enhance interaction and inclusion.

RRP partners also supported local solutions to protection issues, developing local GBV referral pathways in two counties, deploying county coordinators and cultural mediators to facilitate healthcare access, and supporting local coordination networks to discuss protection issues and find local solutions in collaboration with the Prefectures.

## Gaps and consequences of underfunding

By the end of Q2, 29 per cent of the total requested funds (\$34.3M) had been received by the 37 appealing partners of the RRP in Romania. All sectors continue to face significant funding shortfalls, with gaps particularly pronounced in Child Protection, GBV, Basic Needs, Education, and Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion. Of particular concern, 46 per cent of partners reported receiving no new funding since the beginning of the year. This has a direct effect on organizations and programming: 11 of the 37 RRP partners reported scaling down and interrupting many activities, while 5 partners phased out or suspended their activities completely.

The funding gaps risk undermining efforts to support the socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Romania. Currently, 45,000 refugee students are enrolled in the Romanian education system, but 24,458 remain with transitional status of audient due to continued language barriers and only around 14,000 (30 per cent) are attending schools. Lack of funding affects efforts to increase attendance and support retention. Nearly 9,000 pupils are attending classes in education hubs, with concerns about the system's capacity to fully absorb and meet the educational needs of those enrolled still with a transitioning status of audient who largely rely on education hubs and/or online learning. These education hubs play an important “bridge” role supporting the progressive integration in Romanian schools and delivery of Romanian language courses. Due to a lack of funding to continue the work of 53 education hubs beyond the current school year, pupils are at risk of dropping out, of not being able to continue their education, and resorting to negative coping mechanisms. Partners also report being unable to sustain language classes for children and scaling down support for non-formal educational programs.

In terms of economic participation, with only 9 per cent funding received for Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion programming, partners report being unable to continue or implement language classes, job searching, and vocational training, hindering refugees' ability to achieve economic self-sufficiency. This would immediately affect 3,000 individuals who are at risk of remaining without vocational training support and 4,800 individuals who would not receive support in entrepreneurship and financial inclusion.

Funding shortages also affect the immediate humanitarian support provided by RRP partners. Currently, around 5,500 vulnerable refugees from Ukraine are hosted in collective accommodation centres, run privately (hosting around 5,000 refugees) or through local authorities (hosting an additional 500 refugees). A lack of a comprehensive legal framework and funding gaps affecting service providers put these refugees at risk of

losing access to temporary shelter and accommodation assistance. This could force refugees to either return to Ukraine or live in poorer conditions, exposed to health risks and severe poverty.

Child Protection and Health actors report decreasing psychosocial support for children and sexual reproductive health programs, leaving the refugee population exposed to risks of mental health disorders caused by war trauma and forced displacement, as well as an increased risk of STDs without sufficient prevention measures. GBV programming activities at risk of scaling down include support for victims and awareness campaigns, which was signalled in relation to a reported increase in domestic violence caused by family reunification or observed in mixed host-refugee couples.

Overall, the lack of sufficient funding significantly hampers the ability of RRP partners to provide essential services, support socio-economic inclusion, and maintain the protection and well-being of refugees in Romania.



Refugees from Ukraine during Romanian Language courses organized by Suceva Youth Centre (National Youth Foundation) in Suceava on 27.10.2023. ©National Youth Foundation/Radu Andonie

## Advocacy message

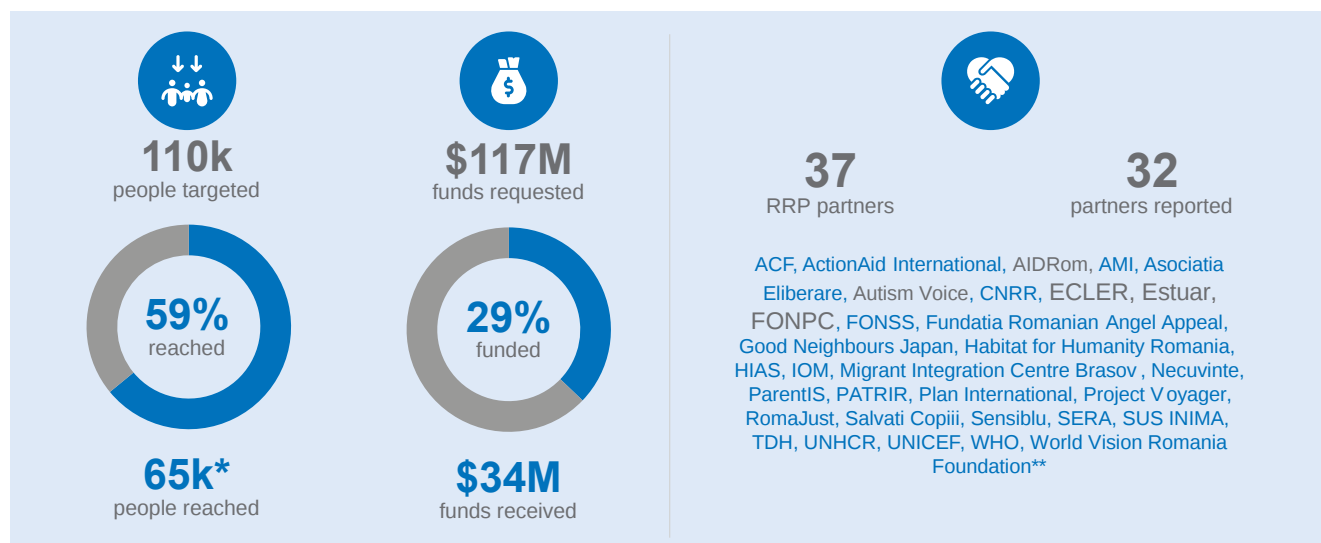
Since the onset of the refugee situation, the Government of Romania has made remarkable efforts to create a comprehensive housing support program for refugees from Ukraine, ensuring their basic needs were met through collective accommodation. However, the phase out of this assistance program on September 30, 2024, presents challenges and potential protection risks for vulnerable refugees currently in shelters. Many refugees have complex needs, such as disabilities and serious medical conditions, which hinder self-reliance without ongoing support. Ensuring their housing needs remains crucial. RRP partners urge continued support for these vulnerable refugees through sustained collective accommodation and building local capacity for social and protection services, while maintaining the ability to accommodate new influxes or emergencies requiring medium-term housing.

With significant increases in the registration of refugee children from Ukraine into the formal education system, barriers remain to enhance the effective attendance and participation. RRP partners will continue to advocate for the increased support for the inclusion of refugee children into the Romanian formal education system and to rekindle efforts to enhance actual school attendance, including through catch-up/remedial programs and tailored support services, language assistance, including training of teachers to teach Romanian as a foreign language and social cohesion activities.

While refugees from Ukraine have the same access to the national healthcare system as Romanians, some practical barriers such as how to register with a family doctor and access specialist medical services including vaccination remain. RRP partners will continue working with the Ministry of Health, the National Health Insurance House and (sub)national authorities to ensure equitable access to health services for refugees by addressing barriers, registration issues, supporting refugees with navigating the health system and ensuring basic health and health access information is easily available.

With only 29% of the requested funds received, RRP partners urge continued international financial support. Underfunding risks undermining progress made in humanitarian areas and impacts the sustainable integration of refugees in Romania with critical shortfalls in the field of livelihoods and economic inclusion, education, and gender-based violence programming.

# ROMANIA MID-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS (2024)



| Sector                                                      |                                                                                                                                                           | People reached |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Protection</b>                                           | Individuals who have been supported accessing protection services                                                                                         | <b>42k</b>     |
|                                                             | Children provided with child protection services                                                                                                          | <b>6k</b>      |
|                                                             | Participants trained on child protection and children's right                                                                                             | <b>736</b>     |
|                                                             | Trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV Knowledge on Prevention, Response, and Risk Mitigation Measures                      | <b>64</b>      |
| <b>Livelihoods &amp; Socio-Economic Inclusion</b>           | Individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions                                                                          | <b>8k</b>      |
| <b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>                               | Health consultations provided to refugees                                                                                                                 | <b>6k</b>      |
|                                                             | Health care providers trained to provide health services to refugees                                                                                      | <b>907</b>     |
|                                                             | Individuals reached through counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services, and how to access health care | <b>44k</b>     |
| <b>Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)</b>     | Focused and specialized services MHPSS consultations provided                                                                                             | <b>3k</b>      |
|                                                             | Individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities                                                                                                | <b>7k</b>      |
| <b>Education</b>                                            | Children enrolled in formal education in host countries                                                                                                   | <b>46k</b>     |
|                                                             | Children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries                                                                           | <b>12k</b>     |
| <b>Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)</b> | PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response                                                        | <b>328</b>     |
| <b>Basic Needs</b>                                          | Individuals who received assistance for basic needs                                                                                                       | <b>23k</b>     |

\*The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double counting.

\*\*In black are partners that reported activities but did not appeal in the RRP.

## SLOVAKIA

### Progress against the strategic objectives

In the first half of 2024, Slovakia continued to show exceptional support for refugees, with the Government leading the efforts to provide protection and assistance to refugees from Ukraine. In February, the Government extended Slovakia's temporary protection status until 4 March 2025, following an EU decision.

RRP partners supported the Government in its efforts to enhance refugee protection and inclusion in the country. Efforts included monitoring of new arrivals, strengthening of national support mechanisms as well as local capacities to host the existing case load and new arrivals. Inter-agency partners also continued to complement the government-led cash programmes with targeted cash assistance, including cash for protection.

RRP partners continued to identify specific needs, including persons with disabilities and older persons, for referrals to specialized services. Among the achievements was the development of Child Protection Inter-Agency Referral Pathways for Slovakia, which provides guiding principles and procedures to organizations working with protection cases of children and families from Ukraine and other forcibly displaced children.

Regarding the socio-economic inclusion of refugees, RRP partners carried out vocational training and job counselling, enterprise skills and self-employment trainings using existing community and integration centres, and through synergies with host and refugee community networks. A strong support from the Government and municipalities, as well as the key role of community-based and refugee-led organizations were particularly important in realizing inclusion activities. Following advocacy by RRP partners, a legislative amendment proposal that allows self-employment of TP holders, aligning with the EU Temporary Protection Directive, was approved in June 2024. This is a significant legislative improvement to the livelihoods and economic inclusion of Ukrainian refugees in Slovakia which RRP partners can further build on.

Social cohesion among the refugee and host communities was promoted through various community and awareness-raising activities that facilitated social interaction, cultural exchange, increased understanding of refugee rights and contributed overall towards an environment free of xenophobia and exclusion of refugees and other minority groups. Again, the involvement of local actors was key at ensuring a bottom-up approach to such efforts among the communities across the country.

### Gaps and consequences of underfunding

While the protection environment remained overall favourable, refugees in Slovakia, especially those most vulnerable and the newly arrived, also continued to have urgent needs and face various challenges.

The Government of Slovakia has enabled TP holders to access significant portions of the public social protection system, however certain social benefits remain inaccessible for refugees due to their legal status, as TP is not linked to temporary or permanent residence in Slovakia. These benefits include, but are not limited to, parental, child, birth and unemployment allowances, as well as compensation for persons with disabilities. On the other hand, it is commendable that the Government designed certain social and humanitarian benefits specifically for TP holders.

One of the gaps is compulsory education. Despite strong advocacy by partners, the necessary legislative changes to introduce compulsory education to TP holders has not yet been introduced, meaning that education will not be compulsory for refugee children with TP status for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year.

Regarding accommodation, the Government's robust support system to TP holders – which ensured increased access to accommodation through subsidies given to private property owners who offered their apartments and houses to refugees, owners of non-commercial collective accommodation sites, and to commercial accommodation providers – was in place until June 2024. The adjustment of the accommodation programme, which only targets new arrivals and certain vulnerable groups, has resulted in some anxiety and uncertainty especially for those refugees previously benefiting from the programme. The covering of additional accommodation costs is expected to be a burden especially for older people, single mothers and people with disabilities in the second half of the year.

The inter-agency response in the first half of the year also continued to be negatively impacted by the current funding shortage. Due to lack of funding, RRP partners were forced to prioritize activities, meaning that not all needs could be met. Funding constraints have an adverse impact on many key activities that have the potential to facilitate strengthened socio-economic inclusion, such as language classes and daycare for children to enable the employment of the parents, particularly that of single mothers. With limited funding, it will also be challenging for RRP partners to cover the gap left in the provision of accommodation support.



Ukrainian families participating in an information session.  
©UNHCR/Kristína Valjentová

## Advocacy message

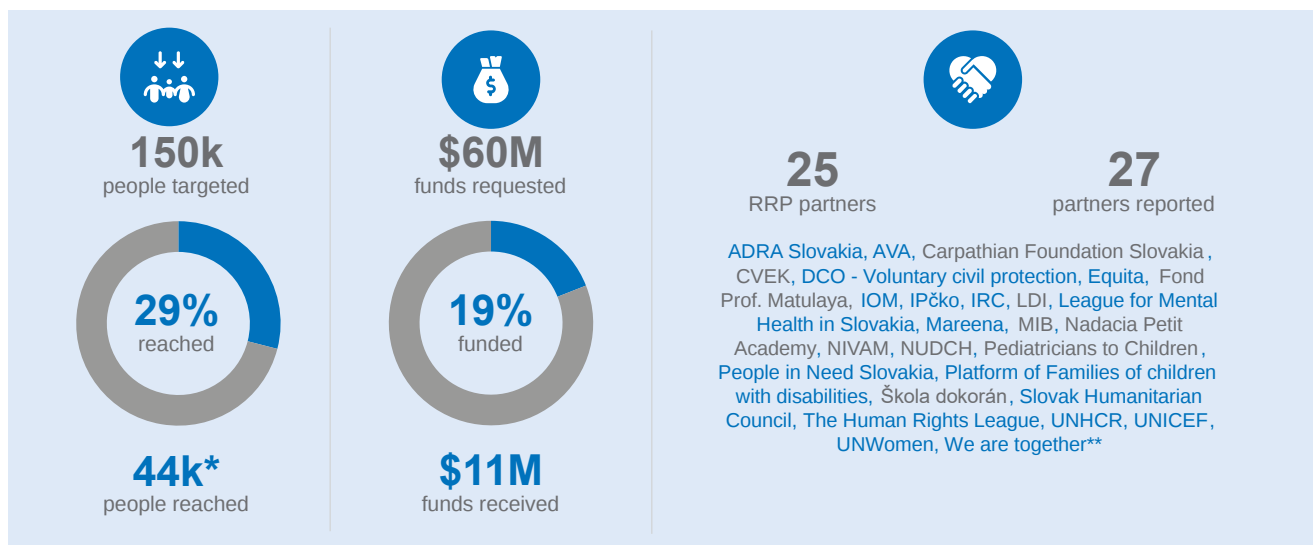
The inter-agency partners call on the Government of Slovakia to strengthen refugees' access to accommodation. This could be achieved through mobile outreach services for vulnerable individuals who are unable to seek accommodation subsidies in person at the municipalities; providing emergency accommodation for new arrivals and those at risk of homelessness; expanding the criteria of vulnerable groups eligible for accommodation support; informing in advance of changes related to accommodation provision; and introducing minimum standards for collective centres.

Similarly, partners continue to advocate for the necessary legislative amendments to ensure compulsory education for TP holders to increase enrolment rates of school-aged refugee children in Slovakia. Partners also urge the Government to expand TP holders' access to additional services, on par with Slovak nationals; and to increase access to Disability Allowance related assessments, including by ensuring they are conducted in the languages of the refugees and take into consideration any specific needs of applicants. Finally, raising awareness among healthcare workers of refugees' rights, including to healthcare coverage, is also critical.



*Sewing is helping Ukrainian refugees to rebuild their lives, find comfort and purpose, create a sense of normalcy, and foster hope for the future, promoting inclusion in their new environment. ©UNHCR/Martina Matejova*

# SLOVAKIA MID-YEAR ACHIEVEMENTS (2024)



| Sector                                                      |                                                                                                                                                           | People reached |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Protection</b>                                           | Individuals who have been supported accessing protection services                                                                                         | <b>29k</b>     |
|                                                             | Children provided with child protection services                                                                                                          | <b>14k</b>     |
|                                                             | Participants trained on child protection and children's right                                                                                             | <b>343</b>     |
|                                                             | Individuals who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes                                                                                                | <b>2k</b>      |
|                                                             | Trained humanitarian response actors and government personnel on GBV Knowledge on Prevention, Response, and Risk Mitigation Measures                      | <b>289</b>     |
| <b>Livelihoods &amp; Socio-Economic Inclusion</b>           | Individuals who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions                                                                          | <b>15k</b>     |
| <b>Health &amp; Nutrition</b>                               | Health consultations provided to refugees                                                                                                                 | <b>11k</b>     |
|                                                             | Health care providers trained to provide health services to refugees                                                                                      | <b>39</b>      |
|                                                             | Individuals reached through counselling sessions or health education with information on health topics, available services, and how to access health care | <b>5k</b>      |
| <b>Mental Health &amp; Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)</b>     | Focused and specialized services MHPSS consultations provided                                                                                             | <b>25k</b>     |
|                                                             | Individuals participating in MHPSS services and activities                                                                                                | <b>14k</b>     |
| <b>Education</b>                                            | Children enrolled in formal education in host countries                                                                                                   | <b>12k</b>     |
|                                                             | Children participating in non-formal education programmes in the host countries                                                                           | <b>3k</b>      |
| <b>Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)</b> | PSEA network members and partner personnel trained on SEA risk mitigation, prevention and response                                                        | <b>326</b>     |
| <b>Basic Needs</b>                                          | Individuals who received assistance for basic needs                                                                                                       | <b>6k</b>      |

\*The number of individuals reached is an estimate based on the highest number of individuals reached per activity, per sector and/or per region, to avoid double counting.

\*\*In black are partners that reported activities but did not appeal in the RRP.