UKRAINE CRISIS **Response**

Ukraine Crisis Response | #22 | October - November 2023

>> Programmatic

- A total of **1,526,604 people were reached** through Food, NFI, Cash Assistance, Protection and Education interventions, Livelihood and MHPSS programming. 48% of the total reach are children.
- Ukraine winterization plan developed and rolled out in the total value of USD 37,276,192 to benefit estimated 151,819 people. The plan will be implemented from October 2023 through March 2024 through the cash assistance modality.
- **Memorandum of Partnership and Cooperation signed with the National Social Service of Ukraine** with the purpose of for the further implementation of policies, projects or services aimed at improving the well-being of children, youth and families with children; strengthening the system of protection of children and youth, especially the most vulnerable groups of the population; as well as providing legal and social services to strengthen their capabilities and integration/reintegration into society, in order to engage them in active participation in decision-making that affects their lives.
- Child Friendly Spaces Guide developed in cooperation with UNICEF, Save the Children, and Plan
 International
- UCR Education Policy brief developed, endorsed by the GC to inform further work in advocacy in the area
- WV provided inputs into the development of the HNRP 2024, Ukraine at the UN cluster platform
- Together with 15 NGOs in Moldova, World Vision were among the lead organizers of the Mental Health
- Awareness Week campaign
- WV UCR Moldova received 2 awards from the Disaster Management Team for: "Outstanding Performance in Information Reporting and Accounting" and "The Most Responsive Field Office" in connection to the WFP Project implemented in Moldova.
- Environmental Stewardship has been mainstreamed into one of the new designs

Institutional

- Catherine M. Green, WV UCR Country Response Director, Ukraine is separating from the UCR as of December
 5. There are some **structural changes** undertaken reflected in the most recent organigram.
- UCR Phase 2 Strategy development process commenced in consultation with the RO and with the final draft to be completed by mid-February 2024.
- Standardized monthly partner reporting and consolidated project reporting templates developed and rolled out in Ukraine. Moldova roll-out to start for January 2024 reporting onward
- **GESI assessment** finalized with an action plan pending development
- Annual **Safeguarding report** in Ukraine and Moldova completed
- Livelihood and Child Protection new recruits join the Technical Advisors' team starting in December and January respectively. MHPSS advisor's position yet remains vacant.



People reached by country



296,303

Ukraine:

996,964



254,729



Georgia: 21,848

World Vision

Highlights at a Glance

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Deliver life-saving in-kind and cash assistance to meet basic food, shelter and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) needs.



people provided with livelihood

support services

Ukraine 55% Moldova 22% Romania 18%

Moldova 135

Ukraine 95

Romania 4

Ukraine 17

Moldova 10

Romania 6



Advocacy and External Engagement

- High-level meetings with Metropolit of Bessarabia, Bishop of Balti and Bishop of Southern Bessarabia under the Romanian Patriarchate aiming at exploring partnership opportunities with Moldovan Churches and FBOs in response to Ukrainian Refugees
- In collaboration with Plan International, Save the Children International, NRC, WV prepared and shared education policy briefing during back-to-school campaign and Prioritizing school enrolments for Ukraine refugee children. WV UCR participated in the 2024 Refuge response plan preparation
- Engagement with Kherson authorities to coordinate the response activities for new wave of displacement/ evacuation
- Mercy Corp/NGO platform meta-analysis of localization work in Ukraine
- WV Ukraine facilitated UN training of trainers on Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Action in Poltava for IPs
- WV supported training of 55 people from 38 agencies on cash programming in Ukraine
- UCR Moldova held an introductory meeting with heads of various departments within the Ministry of Labor
 and Social Protection

- UCR Moldova and WV Global Cash Team in collaboration with the Cash Learning Partnership (CALP) conducted a 5-day training for 24 humanitarian workers (WV UCR staff, UNCHR, ADRA, CRS, IOM, and local organizations) on Cash and Voucher Assistance.
- WV Georgia organized a meeting for ECHO representatives gathering NGOs that implement various projects supporting Ukrainian Refugees in Georgia
- UCR Romania entered an agreement with HCR to participate in comprehensive research on Measuring the Contributions of the Refugee Response in Romania: Enhancing Understanding and Promoting Durable Solutions"
- Meetings held with FCDO, Ambassador of Australia to Moldova, USAID, NRC and US Ambassador to Moldova, UNICEF
- Hosted visits from: WV Austria, WV Korea



US\$168.8 M



US\$95.3 M Actual spending

Human Story

On this scorching Wednesday, the refugee hub for Ukrainian families in Constanta, Romania, runs its usual routine. Distribution lines move quickly, as people collect their food items and sanitary kits in turns. The Happy Bubble, a child-friendly-space, brims with enthusiastic children.

Nataliia locates a spot for her upcoming English lesson in the front row of the packed classroom in the refugee center. She joins twenty other Ukrainian women who joined the language classes funded by **Global Affairs Canada** to support integration to the country context.



Nataliia attends World Vision's English language courses along with twenty other Ukrainian women.

Participants pull out tiny notebooks and go over the vocabulary from the last lecture. Twenty words, visibly hurriedly scrawled in the notebook by Nataliia are read out by the entire group, repeating the syllables in a synchronized chorus. "She is a woman," reads the group from the screen imitating the teacher's accent. "Learning English and the Romanian language has not only provided me with new career prospects, but also given me the confidence to interact with local communities," says Nataliia, who fled war-torn Sumy, a city in northeastern Ukraine and sought refuge in Romania. She attends World Vision's weekly language courses in Constanta facilitated by a project supported by **Global Affairs Canada (GAC)**, while her seven-year-old daughter, Sofiia, plays games at the Happy Bubble.

Ukrainian refugees appreciate positive impact of World Vision's project activities in Romania

"Besides providing language courses, the GAC-funded project focused on mental health and psychological support activities," shares lozefina Teodorescu, World Vision's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency field officer.

She adds, "The activities of the project had a major impact on helping the Ukrainian families to overcome the trauma of the war and fight the toxic stress caused by these difficult times." **"Wake up, it has started."**

As Nataliia rebuilds a life 1200 kilometers away from home, everything reminds her of Ukraine. She recalls the first day of the ordeal – the first day of war. At 5:30 a.m. on February 24, she was woken up by a call. "Wake up, it has started," said her friend in a trembling voice.

She instantly knew what her friend was referring to, woke up her husband and two children. "On February 23, the school advised us to pack 'emergency bags' with food and water for the children. We bought granola bars, small bottles of water, nuts, and raisins for snacks," recalls Nataliia.

In the minutes following the call, she quickly crammed a pair of pants, two t-shirts, and one sweater for each of them into a compact travel backpack. In her shoulder bag, she stuffed the passports and all the cash that she found in the apartment.

Call after call, she was trying to get her family out of the city. "The hope of leaving Sumy and going to Western Ukraine was melting away with each passing minute," said Nataliia. "I was getting desperate."

At 1:30 p.m. the same day, she finally found a car that could take her children out of the city, but only 30 kilometers from Sumy. The tanks were already stationed in the city as they were departing.

"There were battles on the highway, so we took a detour," recalls Nataliia. "The tanks were standing there, almost "staring" at us with their muzzles," she went on.

On the second round, they reached the village 30 kilometers away from Sumy. Ten people were living in a small house, four of them sleeping on a double sofa. "We were just happy to be alive," said Nataliia. From the very first day, she started helping the men and women fighting on the frontline.

When Sumy's power plant was destroyed, Natalia's family had to relocate. "Our new place of residence was a 15-minute walk from the troops," she said.

March felt like a prolonged winter. As the glass windows were cracked by several blast waves, the house was engulfed by an icy cold that penetrated your bones. "I clearly realized that I needed to leave the region for western Ukraine at the earliest opportunity," explained Nataliia.

The escape: As she plotted their escape, the "green corridors" began in Sumy. According to Nataliia, people would identify themselves as volunteers, promising to transport you to a safe location, and then take you out of town and rob you. "I was nervous and terrified of losing my children on the way," she recalled.

On March 18, she finally found a volunteer who was bringing food to the military and promised to take them to western Ukraine.

"It was scary," said Nataliia. She continued, "My mom was crying. She didn't want to go and didn't want us to go.""I was joking with fear that maybe we would drive a few kilometers away and return home," she went on.

Nataliia and her children arrived safely in Romania in February 2023, after spending one month in a cellar, two months escaping to western Ukraine, and five months in Bulgaria. "I did it for my children."

World Vision in Romania has reached more than **294,000 people** like Nataliia, assisting Ukrainian refugees with basic needs, shelter, psychosocial, education, protection, health, and cash programs.

Story and photos by Laurentia Jora, Communications Coordinator

For all stories visit: https://www.wvi.org/emergencies/ukraine

World Vision Publications

Response Dashboard

Impact of War on Ukraine's Children: A Child Protection Report Impact of War on Ukraine's Children: A Child Protection Report World Vision's Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Services in Moldova World Vision Ukraine Crisis Response One Year On Report Child Protection Multisectoral Needs Assessment - Ukraine 2023 Joint Statement: Prioritizing school enrolments for Ukraine refugee children in Moldova, Poland and Romania **UCR Policy Brief on Education**

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MOLDOVA

We World HelpAge Moldova Communitas AO Banca de Alimente (Food Bank Moldova) Pas cu Pas Moldova (Step by Step Keystone Moldova Copil Comunitate Familie AVE Copiii Moldova CIDDC (engl. CRIC) - Child Rights Information Centre Moldova Chisinau City Hall (Primaria Chisinau)

ROMANIA

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