



Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan

Summary and Inter-Agency Funding Requirements for Belarus

March-December 2022

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6
INTER-AGENCY
PARTNERS IN A
COORDINATED
RESPONSE PLAN



TO ASSIST UP TO
50,000
INDIVIDUALS IN NEED
OF HUMANITARIAN AID



WITH A TOTAL
\$11.5 M
OF INTER-AGENCY
REQUIREMENTS

Overview

The Regional RRP

The **inter-agency Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)** outlines the comprehensive response and activities to support countries' efforts to protect and assist refugees, and other persons in need of humanitarian aid, coming from Ukraine. It includes the financial requirements of partners in all countries under the Regional RRP (including UN agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations and civil society), covering the period from March to December 2022, and working closely with concerned host Governments.

Belarus

In **Belarus**, RRP partners will support Government-led efforts through a multisectoral approach. The response will focus, among others, on protection, reception/accommodation, distribution of core relief items (CRI) and non-food items (NFI) to the most vulnerable groups and people with specific needs, facilitation of access to sustainable livelihoods, and strengthening of national capacities. The response will identify and address refugees' needs, with due considerations related to age, gender and diversity.

This summary of the inter-agency RRP in **Belarus** presents the needs analysis and response priorities, as well as the financial requirements of partners, which are reflected under the "Other Countries" response chapter.

Country Context

As of December 2021, Belarus was host to 2,732 refugees and 128 asylum-seekers. Amongst those, 2,378 refugees and 14 asylum-seekers were Ukrainian nationals, most of whom arrived in Belarus due to conflict that had erupted in the eastern Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk in 2014. Asylum-seekers and refugees also come from other countries of origin, such as Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq.

Due to the deteriorating situation in Ukraine, a total of 24,477 refugees from Ukraine have crossed the border to Belarus from 24 February 2022 to 24 April 2022. 244 persons are third country nationals. 7,599 persons have transited through EU countries before entering Belarus (6,862 through Poland, 642 through Lithuania, and 95 through Latvia).¹ 4,943 Ukrainians have registered with the Department on Citizenship and Migration (DCM) and are expected to remain in Belarus for protection. According to DCM data, about 40 per cent are women, 30 per cent are men and 30 per cent are children. Most refugees arriving in Belarus come from the regions around Kyiv and Chernigiv. Groups of people at heightened risk include women; female-headed households; children, especially unaccompanied and separated children (UASC); elderly; people with disabilities; and people in need of medical support. The number of people fleeing from Ukraine to Belarus is relatively small compared to other neighbouring countries. However, the Government and RRP partners need to be prepared for an increase in arrival numbers as the crisis in Ukraine unfolds in an unpredictable manner and Ukrainians continue to arrive increasingly through EU countries.

The Government of Belarus allows all refugees from Ukraine to access Belarusian territory without visa requirements. Those who wish to seek international protection have access to asylum procedures, irrespective of their nationality. All COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted at border crossing points with Ukraine and no PCR test is needed to enter Belarus for those seeking protection.

The Government leads the response to the Ukraine refugee situation in Belarus with the Belarusian Red Cross Society (BRCS) recognized by law as the main entity for channelling international aid delivery and distribution. An inter-agency Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) led by UNHCR has been established at country level to complement the efforts of the Government.

Refugees from Ukraine may either self-accommodate with relatives or friends or receive temporary accommodation in designated facilities while opportunities for long-term accommodation are being identified by the regional authorities. Employment opportunities and accommodation are available mostly in rural locations and collective farms. The spring agricultural season will also create more work opportunities. The authorities are ready to relocate people who are willing to use this employment opportunity.

Needs Analysis

Initial assessments show that critical support is required to cover **basic needs** of refugees arriving at border points. In case the numbers of new arrivals increase, the BRCS has the capacity to operate tent transit points to provide refugees with the opportunity to rest and receive food, hygiene items, medical aid, and medicines before proceeding to the destinations of their choice or to temporary accommodation facilities (TAFs). These transit points will need additional support by RRP partners to establish a safe space, offer basic services, provide information, and cover transport costs.

Protection needs include identifying the most vulnerable refugees, including survivors of violence; victims of trafficking; elderly; single women; female-headed households; people with disabilities; and children, particularly UASC. Protection services, referral pathways and follow-up systems will need to be strengthened in collaboration with relevant Government entities and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). This includes legal counselling and assistance, rehabilitation support, **child services** including Best Interest Procedures (BIP), as well as capacity building on **GBV** including risk prevention and response, and temporary safe accommodation.

One of the most urgent needs identified is to strengthen the capacity on **psycho-social and mental health** services. Emergency medical treatment is generally provided free of charge in Belarus and the Ministry of Health (MoH) has given instructions to provide temporarily Ukrainians who arrived through “humanitarian corridors” to Belarus with free of charge **medical services** until new legislation is adopted. At the same time, some groups of people, such as third country nationals, may not fall under these regulations and will need to be supported with medical services.

The authorities identify **employment opportunities** and support the integration of refugees from Ukraine into the local labour market. A good understanding of socio-economic profiles, market opportunities and key stakeholders is vital in order to assist and enable refugees to protect their assets, adapt to local market needs, and contribute to local economies. The needs of the **host community** must also be addressed in the planning of all interventions to foster social cohesion and a welcoming environment.

¹ These statistics are provided by the State Border Committee of Belarus (SBC) and reflect all border crossings from Ukraine and EU countries. These may include pendular cross-border and transit movements.

Response strategy and sector priorities

Priority will be given to collection of **data disaggregated by age and gender**, with a focus on onward movement, to ensure that multi-sectoral needs are continuously assessed and addressed. The capacity of local actors in data collection, assessment and analysis will be strengthened.

In cooperation with national authorities, partners have already launched their emergency response during the first weeks of the crisis through provision and prepositioning of **basic needs** items for immediate assistance after arrival at border crossing points and at TAFs. This support has included food parcels and supplementary food, blankets, mattresses, sleeping bags, bed linen, hygiene kits, clothes and shoes, toys, games, and stationery for children. RRP partners are also supporting transportation of new arrivals from border crossing points to TAFs.

Within the **protection response** strategy, partners will continue to regularly monitor access to territory and asylum procedures, reception conditions, and protection profiles of new arrivals. Individual counselling is offered through available hotlines including for people in need of legal counselling and for vulnerable people who may require referrals to adequate services. Social services will be provided with particular attention to elderly and people with disabilities. Some individuals and families with specific needs may be assisted with one-time emergency cash-assistance. Third country nationals not in need of international protection will be assisted to voluntarily return to their countries of origin, when possible to do so in a safe and dignified manner.

Child protection response activities will focus on working with CSOs and local education and social protection administrations to strengthen the child protection system. Attention will be paid to creating child-friendly spaces for children and families and applying the “Blue Dot” methodology within transit points and in TAFs. Child protection coordination will be strengthened to respond to immediate protection needs of UASC and other children at heightened risks and to prevent further risks.

Protection from GBV will be provided using the existing social structures and capacities in Belarus including the national GBV protection network of social and healthcare service providers and CSOs that provide psycho-social counselling, case management and referral to other specialized services, as well as safe shelter. The establishment of mobile teams for GBV survivors, with particular attention to the specific needs of elderly women and men, girls and boys with disabilities, will be important in the Belarusian context of decentralized and self-arranged accommodation.

A key response priority is **psycho-social support** particularly for children and their caregivers, women, elderly, and people with disabilities, who might have suffered from or witnessed violence, including victims of trafficking. A psycho-social mobile team has been established and started capacity building for frontline workers working with children. Partners are working towards provision of psycho-social support to survivors and those at-risk of GBV and efforts are being made to strengthen the multi-sectoral response system. Partners will support **mental health services** by strengthening the local healthcare system’s capacity.

Depending on the number of arrivals and needs, RRP partners will support provision of primary **healthcare services** particularly to those groups of refugees from Ukraine who do not have access to free of charge healthcare services, such as third country nationals. Special focus must be given to the needs of people with terminal and chronic diseases and disabilities. RRP partners will also strengthen provision of antenatal, obstetrics and post-natal care in accordance with international standards particularly for pregnant women in TAFs. Early childhood services will include counselling on nutrition and vaccinations and providing multidisciplinary services to families with children affected by developmental delays or disabilities. Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) interventions will include family planning and STI/HIV prevention and treatment and will be provided by mobile SRH teams, including youth-friendly health-service outreach.

Partners will develop a **livelihoods and resilience** strategy in collaboration with the Government to better plan mid- and long-term interventions. Joint rapid assessments from a development perspective will be conducted together with local authorities. Refugees and host communities will benefit from skills mapping, job intermediation and placement, and awareness raising on employment, self-employment and other income-generating opportunities. Digital solutions will contribute to these efforts.

As women and children comprise the majority of refugees from Ukraine, specific attention to **gender issues** will be cross-cutting in the response planning. Recognizing the need for communities’ voices to drive decision-making, efforts will be made to support partners in meaningful engagement and

communication with communities. To address potential **sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)** risks, all national and international partners involved in the provision of support will be informed, coordinated and trained on protection from SEA. Effective and accessible feedback and response mechanisms will be established and will include confidential and safe channels.

Coordination

RRP partners support the Government's efforts to respond to the refugee influx from Ukraine. UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the RRP in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) and in close collaboration and consultation with relevant Government counterparts, and with the support of inter-agency partners and other stakeholders.

Within the framework of this RRP and building on existing country-level humanitarian coordination structures, an inter-agency Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF), composed of all partners involved in the response, has been established at country level. This will enable RRP partners to work efficiently together to maximize the response, ensure complementarity and avoid duplications. It will also aim at guiding joint advocacy initiatives and resource mobilization efforts.

Financial requirements March-December 2022 | USD

RRP partners are appealing for an estimated **\$ 11.5 M** covering the period from March to December 2022. The below table presents the financial requirements of appealing inter-agency partners per sector in Belarus.

The RRP will be revised as the situation evolves.

Organization	Protection (incl. GBV and CP)*	Food Security	Health & Nutrition	Livelihoods & Resilience	Logistics, Telecoms & Operational Support	Education	Basic Needs (Accommodation / Shelter, CRIs, Transportation, CBI**)	Energy & Environment	WASH	Total
UN-IOM	150,000	200,000	100,000		75,000		550,000		75,000	1,150,000
UN-UNDP				2,029,750				225,000		2,254,750
UN-UNFPA	400,000		195,000						65,000	660,000
UN-UNHCR	1,830,000						2,170,000			4,000,000
UN-UNICEF	850,000		565,000	365,000	617,200	350,000			350,000	3,097,200
UN-WHO			349,000							349,000
Total (USD)	3,230,000	200,000	1,209,000	2,394,750	692,200	350,000	2,720,000	225,000	490,000	11,510,950

*Breakdown of Protection requirements

Organization	Protection	GBV	Child Protection	Total Protection
UN-IOM	150,000			150,000
UN-UNFPA		400,000		400,000
UN-UNHCR	1,480,000	150,000	200,000	1,830,000
UN-UNICEF	255,000	235,000	360,000	850,000
Total (USD)	1,885,000	785,000	560,000	3,230,000

Total Cash Assistance requirements \$ 800,000
Basic Needs
\$ 800,000

** This is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. As the modality of choice of persons of concern, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.

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