



## BUSINESS BRIEF

# UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

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Photo: OCHA/Kateryna Klochko

### 2023 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN



PEOPLE  
IN NEED

21.8M



PEOPLE  
TARGETED

11.1M



REQUIREMENTS  
(US\$)

\$3.9B

### 2023 REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN



PEOPLE  
TARGETED

4.2M



REQUIREMENTS  
(US\$)

\$1.7B

The ongoing war in Ukraine has resulted in large-scale displacement, including refugee outflows, and a humanitarian crisis on a massive scale.

Close to 16 million affected people inside of Ukraine and over 5 million refugees in neighboring countries received assistance in 2022.

Unfortunately needs are still great, and a total of 21.8 million people are expected to require humanitarian assistance in 2023.

Since the war began, there has been an [unprecedented outpouring of support from the private sector](#). In this updated Business Brief from the [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(OCHA\)](#), learn more about how the private sector can help.

## OVERVIEW OF RESPONSE PLANS

OCHA is the part of the United Nations (UN) that is responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. OCHA also ensures there is a framework within which each actor can contribute to the overall response effort. **Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs)** are the result of OCHA's work with humanitarian partners around the world to identify the most critical humanitarian needs in a given context, plan responses, prepare budgets, and determine which organizations are best placed to provide assistance to people in need.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), also known as the UN Refugee Agency, has a mandate to provide international protection to refugees and support the efforts of host governments. **Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRPs)** are prepared by UNHCR to serve as the base from which to implement a strategy and activities in support of refugees. RRP provide an overarching vision and coherent engagement in refugee responses in alignment with host government strategies.

Both HRPs and RRP are prepared following significant efforts to assess overall humanitarian requirements and prioritize assistance for those who are most in need. However, HRPs are focused on affected people who remain within a country (including internally-displaced people), while RRP are focused on affected people who have left their country.

For more information, see the [2023 Ukraine HRP](#) and/or the [2023 Ukraine RRP](#).

## THE HUMANITARIAN CLUSTER SYSTEM

Clusters are groups of humanitarian organizations, both UN and non-UN, in each of the main areas of humanitarian action.

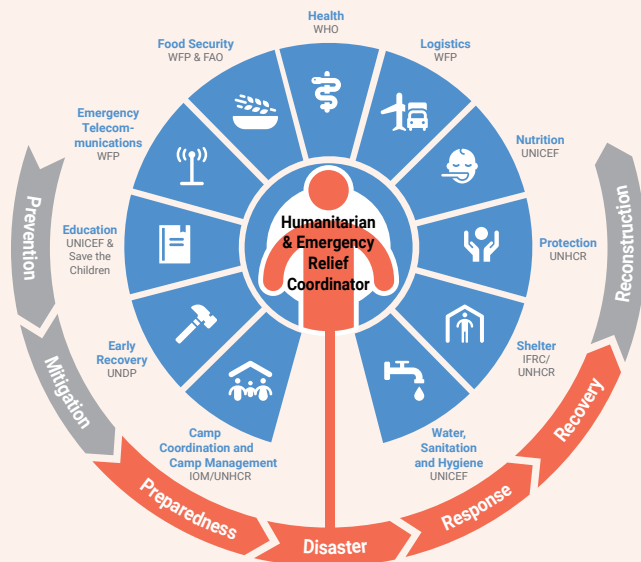
Each cluster is designated by the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\)](#), the longest-standing and highest-level humanitarian coordination forum of the UN system.

The aim of the cluster system is to strengthen partnerships and coordination to ensure that aid reaches those who are most in need.

For example, all of the organizations providing health services in Ukraine are part of the Health cluster which is chaired by the World Health Organization. Together, these organizations develop an integrated and prioritized response plan that then becomes part of the HRP.

For the 2023 Ukraine HRP, the clusters with the greatest requirements are **Food Security and Livelihoods** (US\$993.9 million), **Multi-Purpose Cash** (\$958.6 million), and **Shelter and Non-Food Items** (\$525.1 million).

RRPs are similarly organized, except that requirements are categorized into 'sectors' rather than 'clusters'. For the 2023 Ukraine RRP, the sectors with the greatest requirements are **Basic Needs** (\$738.2 million), **Protection** (\$429.8 million), and **Livelihoods and Socio-Economic Inclusion** (\$179.4 million). Learn more about the humanitarian cluster system [here](#).



# HOW THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN HELP

## 1 MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

The UN and global and local humanitarian partners are committed to staying and delivering assistance and protection to the people of Ukraine. Companies are encouraged to consider making financial contributions directly to organizations included in the HRP and the RRP.

You can support the work of trusted humanitarian organizations by contributing to the **Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF)** online at [crisisrelief.un.org/ukraine-crisis](https://crisisrelief.un.org/ukraine-crisis). Donations to the UHF are collected into a single fund and made available locally to a range of carefully vetted and trusted relief partners on the ground and at the front lines of the response, closest to people in need. If your business wishes to make a large financial contribution, please contact [ocha-ers-ps@un.org](mailto:ocha-ers-ps@un.org).

## 2 MAKE AN IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION OF GOODS OR SERVICES

While humanitarian aid is needed urgently in Ukraine, OCHA urges companies to refrain from sending unsolicited donations that may not correspond to identified needs or meet international quality standards. **Donors are highly encouraged to send cash rather than in-kind donations.**

In-kind donations are useful when they meet a pre-identified need on the ground for which supply through other means is not available. In other circumstances they may not fit needs, can potentially be administratively burdensome (placing demands on thinly stretched emergency personnel), and may undermine local markets (where local supply is available).

**The following organizations are accepting in-kind donations as of the date of publication:**

The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** is providing humanitarian assistance to displaced populations within Ukraine and in neighbouring countries where Ukrainian refugees and Third-Country Nationals have sought safe haven. As the humanitarian situation and corresponding priorities evolve on the ground, IOM endeavours to maintain an updated itemized list of needs in close collaboration with national authorities. Please find a list of needed items [here](#). For further information on in-kind contributions to IOM, please contact [drdpsl@iom.int](mailto:drdpsl@iom.int).

The **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)**, together with partners, is focusing on sexual and reproductive health, including maternal and new-born health; and protection from sexual and gender-based violence, predominately for women and girls and the most vulnerable. As the UN sexual and reproductive health agency, UNFPA is repurposing its existing health and protection programmes in Ukraine and surrounding countries to provide emergency response services to meet urgent needs. For more information on the types of in-kind contributions needed, please contact Chan Ju Park at [cpark@unfpa.org](mailto:cpark@unfpa.org).

The **UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)**: As the leading UN agency supporting people forced to flee, UNHCR is working with authorities, humanitarian partners, and displaced communities themselves to continue assessing and addressing the most pressing humanitarian needs in Ukraine and the region. In 2023, UNHCR will provide protection services such as specialist care for the most vulnerable, protection from sexual abuse and exploitation, psychosocial support, and legal aid, cash assistance, non-food items, durable housing and shelter materials. UNHCR will also contribute to early recovery and solutions-oriented interventions in a coordinated inter-agency response in Ukraine. In neighboring host countries, UNHCR will work with Governments and local authorities to include refugees in national systems, with a focus on support to the most vulnerable, and work with local host communities to expand access to needed services. Contingency plans in place will allow UNHCR

and partners to quickly scale up the response if needed. Financial support and offers of in-kind contributions from private sector companies are greatly valued and needed more than ever; for more details on how you can support people forced to flee, please contact [privatesectorpartnership@unhcr.org](mailto:privatesectorpartnership@unhcr.org).

The **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**'s established, respected partnerships with the Government of Ukraine, key municipalities, and humanitarian partners has allowed it to scale up humanitarian response and ensure sustained delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene; immunisation and health care; education; child protection and humanitarian cash assistance to the most vulnerable population – women and children – despite impeded access caused by security constraints. In neighbouring countries, UNICEF is supporting Ukrainian refugees through the Safe Space, Protection and Support Hubs, ensuring that vulnerable children and adults crossing into Ukraine's neighbouring countries have clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, healthcare and first aid, mental health and psychosocial support including trauma counselling, and specialist protection and legal support. More information on UNICEF's corporate partnerships can be found [here](#).

The **World Food Programme (WFP)** reaches three million Ukrainians with food assistance each month, from ready-to-eat meals for families on the frontlines, to cash assistance in places like Odessa, where banks and markets are functioning. Nearly all WFP food distributed in Ukraine is sourced locally, as we work with local businesses like bakeries that supply the bread that reaches front-line and other hard-hit communities. WFP therefore advises that the most impactful way to support its work to provide food assistance to those most in need in Ukraine is through financial contributions. Please contact [hq.privatepartnerships@wfp.org](mailto:hq.privatepartnerships@wfp.org) for further information.

The **World Health Organization (WHO)**'s priority is to supply critically needed items in a manner that is safe, secure, and responsive to the environment in which we are operating. Based on communications with the Ukrainian Ministry of Health, WHO will continuously revise and publish a list of critically needed medical supplies against which WHO requests support. The current list and general terms can be found [here](#). For donations or questions, please contact Michael Griffin at [hqoslquality@who.int](mailto:hqoslquality@who.int).

For any additional questions about in-kind donations, please reach out to OCHA by emailing [ocha-ers-ps@un.org](mailto:ocha-ers-ps@un.org) with as much detail as possible, including what you wish to donate and how much of it, the estimated market value, your time frame for delivery, details on shipping, and any other conditions. We will then guide you to the most appropriate recipient organization(s). Companies with employees, suppliers, or customers in the country or region, or those with existing agreements with responding humanitarian organizations should aim to provide support directly to these groups.

### 3 SUPPORT PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS

Lend your voice and advocate for the fighting to stop and all hostilities to end. Amplify the message of the UN, calling on all parties to uphold their obligations to allow safe, rapid, and unimpeded humanitarian aid to civilians in need and ensure the freedom of movement of humanitarians. The easiest way to do this is by resharing social media posts on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#) or by including a call to action in internal or external newsletters.

# IMPORTANT REMINDERS

## HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

- All humanitarian response activities must be guided by the principles of **humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence**. For more information, read the CBI [Business Brief: Introduction to the Humanitarian System](#) and [Guidance Note on Conflict Sensitivity in Private Sector Disaster Management](#). You may also wish to consult the Sphere [Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability](#).



### HUMANITY

Protecting life and health while ensuring respect for human beings



### NEUTRALITY

Actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies



### IMPARTIALITY

Action must be carried out based on needs alone with no distinction to social classes



### INDEPENDENCE

Action must be carried out autonomously from the objectives of other actors

- **Accountability to Affected People:** Accountability to affected people (AAP) must be at the core of any humanitarian intervention. The basic concept of AAP is that people who receive humanitarian assistance should have the right to say what they need, receive information on what is being provided, and have an opportunity to assess and provide feedback about the assistance they receive. Learn more in the CBI [Guidance Note on AAP in Private Sector Disaster Management](#).
- **Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse:** People in need of humanitarian assistance must be protected from sexual exploitation and abuse and have access to channels to report and address it. More information for businesses is available in the CBI [Guidance Note on Protection Against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Private Sector Disaster Management](#).

## COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

- The United Nations Secretary-General encourages companies to coordinate their response efforts with the United Nations to ensure coherence with priority needs and minimize gaps and duplications with the other responders.
- Business contributions to UN response efforts must comply with the [Guidelines on a Principle-Based Approach to Cooperation between the United Nations and the Business Sector](#).
- Companies are encouraged to report on contributions made in support of the humanitarian emergency regardless of whether or not such contributions are provided to a UN entity. The OCHA/UNDP Connecting Business initiative is tracking private sector contributions to support the humanitarian response in Ukraine. If your company has made a donation or pledged to make a donation, please consider reporting your donation by emailing [connectingbusiness@un.org](mailto:connectingbusiness@un.org). To view the current list of donations, visit [bit.ly/Biz4UkraineTracker](https://bit.ly/Biz4UkraineTracker).

## MAKE A COMMERCIAL OFFER

- If you wish to make a commercial offer or otherwise do business with the United Nations, please visit the United Nations Global Marketplace at [ungm.org](https://ungm.org).

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For an updated list of maps, situation reports, and other information please visit <https://reliefweb.int/country/ukr>.



*Two residents of Borodianka, Kyiv region, next to a damaged building. Photo: OCHA/Matteo Minasi*

### ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) coordinates humanitarian action to ensure crisis-affected people receive the assistance and protection they need. OCHA also works to overcome obstacles that impede humanitarian assistance from reaching people affected by crises and provides leadership in mobilizing assistance and resources on behalf of the humanitarian system. Learn more about OCHA at [unocha.org](https://www.unocha.org).

### ABOUT THE CONNECTING BUSINESS INITIATIVE

The OCHA/UNDP Connecting Business initiative (CBI) is dedicated to working with the private sector to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Learn more at [connectingbusiness.org](https://www.connectingbusiness.org).

### ABOUT THE UN GLOBAL COMPACT

The UN Global Compact (UNGC) is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative gathering over 15,000 companies from over 165 countries with 69 Local Networks around the world including in Poland and Ukraine. For more information please contact Joe Sadallah, UN Relations & Policy, at [ukrainecrisisresponse@unglobalcompact.org](mailto:ukrainecrisisresponse@unglobalcompact.org)

