



Overview

Refugees, internally displaced and other war-affected populations are facing the **second winter since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine**, with additional challenges posed by the season's harsh conditions and increased living costs most severe in Ukraine and Moldova.

UNHCR has prioritized **900,000 vulnerable, displaced and war-affected people in Ukraine** and **55,000 refugees in Moldova** for targeted winter assistance from September 2023–February 2024.

Cash assistance remains the preferred modality to assist populations to meet winter-related needs, including for energy and rental costs. Where cash is not feasible, UNHCR and partners will distribute **heaters and non-food items** and provide **shelter and housing assistance** to help families remain warm, safe and dignified in their homes, in collective sites or in other communal spaces. Protection teams will visit homes and rural areas so those unable to travel can continue receiving the assistance and services they require.

In collaboration with governments and partners, UNHCR coordinates the [Inter-Agency Winterization Plan](#) in Moldova and is part of the [Ukraine Winter Response Plan](#).

 **\$128.2 million**

Total requirements for UNHCR 2023-2024 winterization activities in Ukraine and Moldova

\$123 million

To support populations within Ukraine

\$5.2 million

To support refugees in Moldova

Key Activities and Planning Figures

September 2023 – February 2024

→ Ukraine



450,000 people to be reached with cash assistance for winter energy needs.



15,750 people to be reached with housing and insulation support. This includes cash for rent for 1,350 displaced households currently in collective sites; rapid thermal kits for 3,000 households living in homes with poor insulation; and 938 solid fuel heaters to be installed in rural homes.



250,000 people to be reached with winterized non-food items, including high thermal blankets, kitchen sets, mattresses, sleeping bags, solar lamps, thermos flasks and towels. In addition, winter jackets and boots will be provided to **62,250 people**.



18,000 individuals to be reached through collective site care and maintenance, including small repairs and heating and electric system support across 362 collective sites.



Protection referrals reinforced, with a focus on psychosocial support and legal assistance to help families access key civil documentation as well as for housing, land and property.



Pre-positioned generators sufficient to support 104,000 people, to be distributed as needed.

→ Moldova



55,000 people to be reached with additional cash assistance to cover winter needs.



Roving protection visits, including for legal aid, mental health and psychosocial support, child protection services and referrals for cash assistance, to be provided to those unable to reach assistance during winter.



Infrastructure and heating support to be provided to over 20 communal spaces, including community centres, Refugee Accommodation Centres, and childcare facilities, benefiting 3,000 refugees and hosts.

UKRAINE SITUATION WINTERIZATION PLAN 2023 -2024



Anastasiya, 33, survived a missile attack in Dnipro, but lost her home and belongings.
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AT A GLANCE: 900,000 INDIVIDUALS

450,000

reached with cash support for winter energy needs

15,750

reached with housing and insulation support

250,000

reached with winterized non-food item kits

62,250

reached with winter clothing

104,000

reached through provision of generators

18,000

reached through collective site management and winter preparation support to collective sites

CONTEXT AND OVERVIEW

- **This is the second winter since the Russian Federation's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.** Some 5 million people remain forcibly displaced in Ukraine and millions more who have remained in or returned to war-affected areas need humanitarian assistance and support during the winter months.
- **Winters in Ukraine are harsh and early interventions are essential to ensure warm, safe, and dignified living conditions for affected people.** Homes have been damaged and destroyed by missile, rocket, and artillery attacks. Not all of the damage caused to the energy and heating infrastructure last winter has been repaired and there is a high risk that energy infrastructure will be attacked again this winter. Conditions in many collective sites will be even more precarious in winter temperatures. As the war continues and livelihood opportunities have been lost, people's resources have been depleted.
- **The winterization response is UNHCR's priority over the coming six months.** In coordination with the government of Ukraine and contributing to the broader [Ukraine Winter Response Plan](#), UNHCR's winterization response will target 900,000 vulnerable, displaced and war-affected people between 1 September 2023 and 29 February 2024.
- **Findings from a monitoring assessment of UNHCR's winter programme last year indicate that cash assistance is the preferred modality for receiving assistance.** Cash assistance allows people to determine their own priorities and to address pressing needs more effectively, including increased costs associated with winter.

MAIN RESPONSE AREAS

1. **Cash support for winter energy needs** to vulnerable families to meet additional costs during the winter months.
2. **Rental support** to help vulnerable displaced people to find warm, safe, and dignified accommodation in winter.
3. **Insulation of sub-standard houses** for improved heat retention and reduced energy needs throughout winter.
4. **Distribution and installation of heaters** in rural houses targeted by UNHCR's house repair programme.
5. **Winterized non-food items**, where cash assistance is not possible or most appropriate, including winter clothes, and generators.
6. **Support to collective sites to ensure readiness for winter** through small insulation improvements and maintenance to heating and electrical systems.

TARGETED POPULATION GROUP

- People living in war-affected areas and regained areas, and particularly those in isolated areas.
- Internally displaced people (IDPs) living in collective sites and in sub-standard dwellings.
- Prioritization of the vulnerable through proactive identification and application of vulnerability criteria to ensure support targets those who are most in need this winter.



A home in Kyivska oblast that was repaired by UNHCR following shelling at the beginning of the full-scale invasion. © UNHCR/Alina Kovalenko

Rapid Thermal Kits

UNHCR will distribute Rapid Thermal Kits to help people stay warm in their homes this winter.

A Rapid Thermal Kit is an extremely cost-efficient, quick to implement, and effective intervention.

They consist of items which are traditionally used by people in Ukraine to improve home insulation: reflective insulation screens, transparent plastic sheet for window repairs, foam draft blocker, and building tape. These items reduce heat lost by homes, making homes easier and cheaper to keep warm, also bringing positive environmental impacts.

ACTIVITIES



UNHCR will target 450,000 people with cash support for winter energy needs, targeting vulnerable displaced and war-affected populations to cope with the additional costs associated with winter. This number includes approximately 350 refugees and stateless people. The cash assistance consists of UAH 6,660.



UNHCR will target 15,750 people with winterized shelter and housing assistance, including rental market support, insulation of sub-standard housing, and provision of heaters:

- Rental market support: up to 1,350 IDP households who currently live in collective sites will receive cash to cover rent for six to nine months, helping them to move out and into safe, warm, and dignified accommodation.
- “Rapid Thermal Kits”: 3,000 households living in multi-story apartment blocks and houses with poor insulation will receive rapid thermal kits, supporting people to keep their homes warm.
- Heaters: 938 solid fuel heaters will be provided and installed in houses in rural areas to upgrade or replace damaged heating systems and mitigate exposure to potential gas and electricity supply disruptions.



In situations where cash is not feasible or not deemed appropriate, UNHCR and partners will distribute winterized non-food items to help people cope with winter temperatures:

- Winterized NFI kits: 250,000 people will receive NFI kits which include high thermal blankets, quilts, mattresses, bed linen, pillows, sleeping bags, thermos flasks, solar lamps, towels, and a kitchen set.
- Winter clothes: 62,250 people will receive jackets and boots to help them stay warm during the winter.



Generators: as a contingency measure, UNHCR has pre-positioned generators with capacity to support 104,000 people and will distribute in coordination with the authorities.



UNHCR will target 18,000 individuals with collective site care and maintenance activities with a focus on winter across 362 collective sites. Interventions will include small repairs, mould control, insulation, and maintenance of heating and electrical systems.

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