



Winterisation assistance

Central and Eastern Europe



RESPONSE

The response will be focused on shelter support, urban displacement outside of camps, and information, counselling, and legal assistance.



TARGET

46,457 persons

LOCATIONS

Ukraine, Poland, Romania, and Moldova.

Since the escalation of the international armed conflict in Ukraine in February of this year, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has been responding to the increasing humanitarian needs in Central and Eastern Europe, as a result of the war. Through its Country Offices in Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, and Poland, NRC is providing humanitarian assistance both directly and through national partner organisations to people in need.

As a result of widespread hostilities in Ukraine, millions of people have fled from their homes, including an estimated 6,975,000 displaced inside Ukraine and up to 7,643,944 people who have fled to neighbouring countries or further afield across Europe. The humanitarian community estimates there are nearly 18 million people in need in Ukraine. Plummeting winter temperatures, a shortage of shelter and rising fuel costs are likely to exacerbate already existing vulnerabilities amongst people affected by this conflict, and subsequently worsen the humanitarian situation, including for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugee hosting communities. Targeting and destruction of vital civilian infrastructure needed for water, electricity and heating in Ukraine will also accelerate displacement as winter approaches, as people seek warm and safe shelter.

Below is a brief summary of NRC's planned winterisation assistance.

UKRAINE

To help families survive the cold winter, key priority needs in Ukraine across the country include core relief items, such as blankets and stoves, as well as critical repairs and rehabilitation for collective shelters hosting IDPs, conflict damaged residential homes, and critical community infrastructure such as schools. Broad shelter support is also needed for hosting communities and vulnerable populations. NRC's team in Ukraine is working with national Ukrainian partners, such as Vostok SOS, Luhanska Association of Organizations of People with Disabilities, the League of Business and Professional Women of Ukraine, and others to provide stoves, blankets, and sleeping bags to families who have no access to heated, secure shelter, primarily in newly accessible areas along the front line where temperatures will drop below -10°C . NRC continue to provide support in locations

with high concentration of IDPs through repairs to collective shelters, distribution of multi-purpose cash grants for most vulnerable households, payment of utilities for schools, and cash for rent. Priority is being given to hard-to-reach (H2R) communities that have been living in active conflict, and have not received any humanitarian assistance since February. We are also assisting people who have returned to their homes in newly accessible areas with wood for shelter repairs and insulation materials. NRC's winterisation activities are being carried out in the North (Chernihiv and Kyiv), East (Kharkiv, Donetsk, and Zaporizhyya), West (Lviv and Ternopil), and South (Odessa and Mykolaiv) of Ukraine. NRC is using flexible response modalities to ensure that assistance is effective and suitable for specific geographical locations and the local context. For example, we provide cash in areas where the local markets are functional, so people can make their own decisions based on their needs while also supporting the local economy's resilience.

NRC is concerned about the current situation and the future of people in the non-government-controlled areas, who do not have safe, unimpeded, and predictable access to humanitarian assistance, and for whom harsh winter conditions will potentially have the most severe impact.

POLAND

Key priority needs for Ukrainian refugees in Poland for the winter include cash assistance to vulnerable individuals, distribution of core relief items and access to information, counselling, and legal assistance in order to access rights and services in their host country. We are working with local authorities, UNHCR and the wider humanitarian community, to ensure reception points are ready for winter. NRC in Poland, working almost exclusively through partners, is focusing our efforts towards supplementing winterisation needs for Ukrainian refugees, including through procurement of winter clothing for distribution at NRC's transit site in East Warsaw, and targeted multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). Towards the Belarus border, NRC is planning to support the Polish Hospitality Foundation in their humanitarian monitoring centre to ensure those crossing the border have access to information and assistance. Winterisation assistance will be targeted towards Lublin with multi-purpose cash assistance. The East Warsaw transit site will be extended through the winter to receive Ukrainians. In total, 21,500 individuals will benefit.

Poland is supporting an estimated 1.5 million refugees; 45% of whom are currently hosted by Polish families, who are also struggling with a cost of living and fuel cost crisis. As winter approaches families would benefit from an extension to the solidarity hosting assistance (40 PLN per person per day) and the creation of a 'winter hosting package' (10 PLN per person per day), commensurate with the coal subsidy that some Polish families will receive in certain areas of Poland. Long term financial support to Poland will be necessary to cover the gaps between the social welfare safety net and the additional costs winter will bring to refugees and those hosting them.

ROMANIA AND MOLDOVA

In Romania and Moldova, there is an urgent need for temporary insulation and improvements to buildings to ensure they are fit for winter and dropping temperatures. Moldova is currently experiencing 30% inflation in a context where 70% of refugees are being hosted by local families. Up to 130,000 refugees and 92,000 Moldovans are in need of support over winter. In Romania, host communities are also vulnerable to rising fuel costs. In Moldova, NRC is providing winterisation assistance and plans to deliver small items, bedding, mattresses, blankets, and warm clothes, as well as identify households for rapid insulation and improvements to winter proof homes. NRC teams in Romania will work through ADRA, a national partner organisation, to provide bedding and small items to refugees in collective shelters and for those living in host communities, in addition to heaters to households in rented accommodation. These activities will be targeted towards Moldova, and Romania (Bucharest area), and will serve approx. 6620 individuals.



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is an independent humanitarian organisation helping people forced to flee. We work in crises across 35 countries, providing emergencies and long-term assistance to millions of people every year. We stand up for people forced to flee, advocating their rights.