

HelpAge

Ukraine Situational Report

July 1, 2022



Ukraine

As fighting intensifies in eastern Ukraine, in the Donbas region, older people who remain at home are often without support. Those who have fled encounter serious obstacles to obtaining appropriate accommodation, humanitarian aid, health care and other services in many regions in Ukraine. There are increasing numbers of people returning home to unsafe areas because they cannot afford the extra costs of living in displacement.

11 million Ukrainians are over 60 (Ukrainian Government)

6.2 million Ukrainians are internally displaced (IOM)

People reached

- **We are supporting food kits for 35,000 displaced people** in Lvivska and Chernihivska oblasts in the west and Dnipropetrovska obslast in the east. Each kit contains items such as pasta, beans, canned meat, and rice and is distributed by HelpAge volunteers and our partner organizations Turbota pro Litnih v Ukraini (TLU) and Right to Protection.
- We are registering **4,000 displaced people** to receive multipurpose cash assistance to cover basic needs for 3 months, distributed via the Ukrainian post office (Ukrposhta).
- **2,690 older people** in the Donbas region in eastern Ukraine continue to receive psychosocial and emotional support via phone calls from HelpAge's 189 volunteers. These older men and women are those whom HelpAge supported prior to the current escalation of the conflict.
- **2,000 hygiene kits** were distributed via two local NGOs (Hands of Friends and Slavic Heart) and two municipal authorities (Psychoneurological Center and Social Center for Mothers) in Donetsk oblast. HelpAge staff also distributed kits in Lvivska oblast. Kits include incontinence pads, personal protective equipment, and absorbent pads.



Hygiene items and disposable diapers provided to older people in care homes close to Lviv.

In the coming weeks, HelpAge plans to:

- Establish 5 community safe spaces in Lvivska oblast where older displaced people can meet, connect, and reconnect with others; seek psychosocial support from HelpAge staff; and receive referrals to existing services.
- Distribute 2,000 special needs kits for older people with incontinence and provide a range of assistive products, such as walkers, canes, and toilet chairs, for people with mobility disabilities.
- Provide grants to approximately 37 organisations providing accommodation in collective centers for displaced Ukrainians. These grants can be used flexibly in response to most pressing needs, such as beds, kitchen equipment, upgrading of sanitation facilities, or utility bills.
- Provide home-based support services from HelpAge expert staff to over 4,000 older people, who are unable to leave their homes.

Partners in Ukraine

Right to Protection has been a leading voice standing up for the rights of those most at risk in Ukraine since 2001. Since the start of the conflict, they have been active across much of Ukraine, providing food, water, medicines, generators, cash, and legal advice.

TLU is a Ukrainian NGO which has been supporting older people since 1999. During the crisis, their large network of volunteers is providing food, medicine, and hygiene items.

Poland

There are currently 1.16 million registered refugees in Poland. Of these, 87,900 are over 60. The number of refugees residing in Poland has remained unchanged over the last few months, despite many Ukrainians crossing in both directions. These refugees are living throughout Poland, with a higher concentration in major cities and close to the border. Most reside with relatives or provided accommodation by a Polish resident. However, this generosity cannot be relied on indefinitely, and longer-term solutions must be found.

87,900 refugees in Poland are over 60 (UNHCR)

The current top needs of refugees include employment, financial support, access to medicine, and support in returning home. While the Polish government has provided refugees with access to the labor market and its public services, many of the recent arrivals are likely to be poorer and less connected and may require higher levels of support.

HelpAge plans

- HelpAge's partner Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM) will provide more than 2,000 older Ukrainian refugees and people with disabilities with cash assistance for the next 6 months.
- HelpAge's partner Foundation E will provide cash grants to 10 local initiatives that support the social and cultural participation and integration of older Ukrainian refugees and their families into their new communities.

Partners in Poland

PCPM was established in 2006 to provide humanitarian assistance to at-risk communities across the world, including in Lebanon, Ukraine, Nepal, Peru, and South Sudan. In response to the large influx of refugees from Ukraine to Poland, they have capitalized on their overseas experience to now provide support within their home country. This includes large-scale distribution of cash assistance.

Foundation E is a small grassroots organization, founded in 2002, that implements social and cultural activities to bring together people from across marginalized communities to share ideas and contribute to social change.

Moldova

There currently 82,700 registered refugees in Moldova. Recently there has been a slight increase in refugees residing in Moldova due to the intensification of violence in eastern Ukraine. Of these 14%, or 11,500 people, are over 60. While most reside within the community in hotels or rented accommodations, or are hosted by relatives, around 3,384 older refugees live in 85 refugee accommodation centers across the country. They have faced often difficult and traumatizing journeys to reach safety. Recent assessments have highlighted that when older people arrive in Moldova they can face barriers to essentials, including healthcare.

82,700 refugees are remaining in Moldova (UNCHR)

14% of refugees are over 60 (REACH)

HelpAge is providing:

- **Hot meals and food vouchers to 2,500 refugees** in 49 refugee accommodation centers across Moldova.
- **Hygiene vouchers and kits to 5,000 refugees** at 45 refugee centers, enabling them to obtain soap, masks, hand sanitizer, and cleaning products.
- **Institutional hygiene kits to 35 refugee accommodation centers**, with mops, dish soap, hand sanitizer, and other items.



Food kits being provided to refugees residing in accommodation centers in Moldova.

HelpAge plans to:

- Set up 3 safe spaces for Ukrainian refugees in communities where refugees can access a range of services, including psychosocial and legal support from a team of experts.
- Provide older refugees with assistive products and hygiene items, including through outreach programs to those who cannot leave their homes and those in refugee accommodation centers.

Advocacy calls

We call on all parties to the conflict and on humanitarian actors responding to the conflict to ensure:

- Safe, rapid, and unimpeded humanitarian access to ensure older men and women and people with disabilities who have not been able to leave their homes, including those living in institutions, can be reached, can access essential life-saving humanitarian support and tailored and prioritized assistance, and can be evacuated to safety.
- Older Ukrainians who have fled to other areas of the country can access full basic services, including food and water, healthcare, including mental health support, social services including pensions, transport, and information. Those who have been evacuated should not be forced to move into institutions.
- Older men and women should be included in humanitarian assessments and program activities to ensure that they are provided with appropriate humanitarian protection and assistance.

For more information you access our latest advocacy brief: "[No Time for Business as Usual](#)"

Learn More and Support

Visit our [Ukraine page](#) for the latest updates on HelpAge's work, including testimonies from older people and our colleagues in Ukraine, Rapid Needs Assessments, interviews, and news statements.

To support our life-saving work, visit [our donation page](#).

For more information, contact Cindy Cox-Roman: ccoxroman@helpageusa.org.

Recent media coverage:

- The Sunday Times: [They are sick, poor and frightened, yet Donbas's elderly don't want to leave](#)
- Al Jazeera: [100 days of the Russia-Ukraine war](#)
- HelpAge (Press Release): [100 Days on: Millions of older people missing out in the response to the world's oldest humanitarian crisis](#)