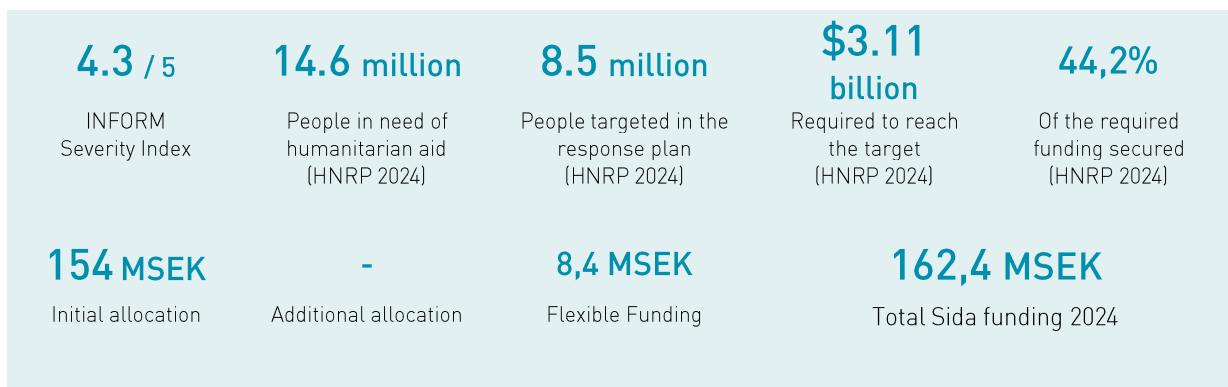


### 1. Crisis overview



The humanitarian situation in Ukraine escalated drastically as the Russian Federation launched a full-scale invasion of the country in February 2022. This prompted the largest wave of displacement in Europe since the Second World War, with more than one third of the population being forced to leave their homes. Two and a half years into the war, immense human suffering and severe humanitarian needs persist, with thousands killed or injured, including many children. In 2024, fighting continues to devastate civilian infrastructure, repeatedly damaging homes, schools, hospitals, and essential services. About 44 per cent of the people in Ukraine are in need of humanitarian aid.

The coming winter season 2024-2025 brings new dimensions to the grave humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Attacks on energy infrastructure, water and gas systems further aggravate the situation and a significant electricity deficit is expected in the coming months. Russian-held areas, with limited access, and front-line communities, where attacks continue to cause damage to homes and add on the already massive destruction, are particularly affected.

The influx of funding for the humanitarian response was substantial in the beginning of the escalated crisis, with over \$3.7 billion registered as support to the 2022 Flash Appeal, and another \$2.7 billion against the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan. In mid-September 2024 \$1.4 billion was registered as support against the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan - less than half the needed amount. This shortfall means that humanitarian organisations will increasingly need to prioritise the most urgent and severe needs in their responses. Robust recovery and reconstruction funding is essential to complement the humanitarian response, addressing basic needs, creating conditions for durable solutions, and supporting resilience-building efforts.

## 2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Two and a half year into the war, the humanitarian situation in Ukraine shows no signs of improvement as ongoing conflict displaces millions and exacerbates urgent needs for food, shelter, and healthcare amid significant damage to civilian infrastructure. While the conflict affects all regions, life-threatening needs are most concentrated in frontline communities and areas under Russian control, where destruction and lack of access to basic services are most severe.

Households with disabilities face specific challenges, and those who are displaced or have recently returned to their homes are suffering from heightened severity of needs. Among the displaced, over a hundred thousand individuals live in temporary shelters, many of which are inadequately equipped and at risk of disruptions to electricity and heating due to targeted attacks on critical infrastructure.

The crisis also raises significant protection concerns. Attacks on civilians and infrastructure, alongside the risks posed by mines and unexploded ordnance, drive urgent protection needs. Barriers to accessing legal identity and justice continue to harm individuals and communities. Multiple forms of gender-based violence are being reported, with particularly high insecurity and risk for women and girls on the move, at border crossing points and in collective centres.

While the conscription of men has affected men's lives, as well as those of their families, the impact of the war affects women disproportionately. Women constitute the majority of the displaced population, both within and outside of the country, and they are also confronted with particular challenges in accessing necessary services and are experiencing a greater loss in sources of livelihoods. Age and minority status also play a key role in determining how people are affected by the war.

Before the full-scale Russian invasion in 2022, Ukraine already had a high mental health burden. According to a United Nations' survey, Ukrainian people believe that one of the more significant impacts of the war was on their mental health. The levels of fear and anxiety about exposure to violence and trauma – along with stressors related to displacement, family separation and the loss of livelihoods – have only risen as the war continues.

Humanitarian assessments in Russian-controlled areas remain severely limited, but conditions there are presumed to be similar or worse for communities inaccessible to the international humanitarian community. Civilians in occupied territories are increasingly coerced into adopting Russian citizenship to access the limited basic services available.

## 3. The humanitarian response

In 2024, the humanitarian community will target 8.5 million people for support. During the initial months following the full-scale invasion, the majority of people reached with assistance

were in western Ukraine in areas receiving most internally displaced people (IDPs) and where humanitarian organisations had better access. Because of the rapid escalation and limited data, assistance was often provided on a blanket basis, i.e. not adjusting the support to particular vulnerabilities. Since then, the response has evolved into more vulnerability-oriented assistance, and the relative weight in the response shifted to the east, northeast and southeast regions of the country. There is a need for this shift to continue, as well as to address needs in remote rural areas where gaps exist. Much focus is also on the situation for IDPs in collective centres or other temporary accommodation settings. Prolonged displacement has pushed many to the brink, and returning home will not be an option until the security can be guaranteed, houses have been rebuilt, and basic services restored in their areas of origin.

The main hindrance to the humanitarian response remains the pervasive access challenges. This is especially the case in areas close to the frontlines and in areas controlled by the Russian Federation. Foremost, this is a result of the security situation, but also of landmines and unexploded devices, as well as bureaucratic and administrative impediments.

With regards to newly accessible areas, key developments have been the Ukrainian counteroffensives in Kharkiv and Kherson during the autumn of 2022. These have resulted in significant areas being retaken and becoming accessible. To be able to better respond under such circumstances, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has developed a Rapid Response Mechanism, whereby interagency teams can deliver blanket assistance and start assessing needs within 72 hours. This mechanism was first introduced in November 2022 in Kherson. The humanitarian community should continue to advance the ability to act swiftly and comprehensively when additional areas become accessible. Since autumn 2022, only very small areas have been made accessible, and the current trend is that Russia is gaining ground, mainly in Donetsk oblast, although slowly.

In the late summer of 2024, Ukraine made an incursion into Kursk oblast in Russia, and has held a large area for several weeks. So far, there has been no assessment of humanitarian needs in the area, and the humanitarian actors are not responding there.

Since the full-scale invasion, there has been an upsurge in local and national non-governmental organisation and volunteer networks that have been critical for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and protection services. International organisations have relied heavily on these actors for the response, and the prolonged strain on these local and national organisations risks leading to burnout and a reduced response capacity, which would severely affect the provision of humanitarian assistance in frontline areas. There is increasing recognition that the partnership between international and local/national organisations need to become more equal, wherein the local and national organisations have a more active role in project designs, and that they have the capacity and resources needed, not at least when it comes to a holistic duty of care, to continue delivering life-saving assistance in hard-to-reach areas.

Another key development is the Russian Federation's annexation of Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson in September 2022, which has further limited access particularly for

the UN. The humanitarian aid that is currently being delivered in these areas is at such limited scale that is not able to meet the humanitarian needs. The ability for humanitarian organisations to provide assistance and protection services in these occupied territories will continue to be central for the humanitarian response in 2024.

## 4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

While needs remain across all of the country, it has become increasingly evident that the situation is particularly concerning in areas in close proximity to the frontline. It is also in these areas where humanitarian organisations have the clearest added value vis-à-vis other actors, such as local authorities and development organisations. With an expected substantial drop in the overall humanitarian funding to Ukraine in 2024, including a 30 per cent reduction in Sida's initial humanitarian allocation in 2024 compared to the year before, humanitarian organisations will need to make difficult but necessary decisions in line with the principle of impartiality. Against this backdrop, Sida will prioritise partner organisations that have the presence and capacity to meet the most pressing unaddressed cases of distress in the east and south of the country. Additional attention will also be given to the sectors with the most extreme needs gaps, namely protection and health. Another priority that informs Sida's selection of partner organisations is the way in which they engage, and are planning to more equally engage, with local and national organisations.

The reduction in Sida funding is in no way a recognition that the humanitarian situation in the country has improved, but rather a result of Sida's updated humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The overall aim of the update was to more clearly inform an allocation of funding that is proportional between crises, based on transparent analysis in line with Humanitarian and Good Humanitarian Donorship principles. The reduction in the initial humanitarian allocation to Ukraine can thus be explained by relatively extreme levels of needs, and a low financial coverage of the humanitarian response, in other countries compared to in Ukraine.

PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)	
		2024	2025
DRC	Cash, Protection	15,000,000	-
ICRC	Health, Food Security, Protection, WASH	40,000,000	-
IRC	Cash, Health, Protection	20,000,000	-
NRC	Cash, Education, Food Security, Protection, Shelter	15,000,000	-
Save the Children	Education, Food Security, Protection, Shelter, WASH	30,000,000	-
UHF	Multi-sectoral	34,000,000	-
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>154,000,000</b>	<b>-</b>

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS 2024		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING <sup>1</sup>	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
PUI	361,200	-
OCHA Field Coordination <sup>2</sup>	8,000,000	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,361,200</b>	<b>-</b>

## 5. Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus

Overall, needs far surpass what is possible to address with humanitarian or other forms of assistance alone. With the humanitarian assistance expected to decrease in 2024, it is increasingly imperative to facilitate complementarity between the humanitarian strand of work and efforts related to recovery, reconstruction and development. Where possible, synergies should also be explored, whilst safeguarding a principled humanitarian response.

The increased efforts and resources that are allocated towards early recovery and durable solutions are guided and coordinated through the government of Ukraine's National Recovery Plan as well as the United Nation's Transitional Framework. Together, these documents lay the groundwork for long-term recovery and system-strengthening and looks further ahead of the immediate humanitarian response by focusing on, inter alia, infrastructure reconstruction, energy and environment, housing, livelihoods and jobs creation as well as mine action.

In June 2023, the Swedish government adopted the Strategy for Sweden's Reconstruction and Reform Cooperation with Ukraine 2023-2027. The strategy comprises a total of SEK 6 billion, making it Sweden's largest-ever bilateral development assistance strategy to date. The objectives of the strategy, which are very much aligned with the government of Ukraine's National Recovery Plan and the United Nation's Transitional Framework, are; 1) reconstruction; 2) green transition and sustainable development; 3) inclusive economic development, enterprise, and trade; 4) security and stabilisation, and; 5) human rights, democracy, the rule of law, and gender equality.

Multi-purpose cash assistance continues to be a preferred modality in the humanitarian response. Between January and November 2023 alone, humanitarian agencies reached around 3.7 million people with humanitarian cash assistance amounting to \$523 million. With an expected decline in humanitarian contributions, referrals between humanitarian and social protection programs could enable a smooth and seamless support to affected people with multiple needs, and help to ensure that they receive the most appropriate services. The Ukrainian Ministry of Social Policy has shown interest in a partial handover of the cash

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<sup>1</sup> Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.

<sup>2</sup> Sida provides flexible funding to OCHA's field coordination, and this preliminary allocation is therefore subject to change.

assistance. They have, together with UNICEF and a group of humanitarian and development donors, formed the so called 'Perekhid Initiative', which aims to bridge achievements and lessons from humanitarian cash transfers to strengthen the national social protection system.

Mine action is another area where the linkages between humanitarian assistance, development and peace are evident. Land clearance and release are prerequisites for humanitarian agencies to deliver assistance to people in need, and it helps to enable the immediate and long-term safety of communities. The needs for mine action (including landmines and other explosive devices) in Ukraine are massive and will take a long time to address. A rapid scale-up by Ukrainian authorities and the international community is underway. Sida's humanitarian funding contributes to this work in various ways, including through explosive ordinance risk education and strengthening blast trauma care capacities. Meanwhile, Sida's Strategy for Sustainable Peace has funded mine action in Ukraine since 2018.

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<sup>i</sup> The 2024 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The methodology was updated during 2023 to more clearly inform an allocation of funding that is proportional between crises, in line with Humanitarian and Good Humanitarian Donorship principles. Key changes in funding levels between the initial allocations for 2023 and 2024 for specific crises are therefore not only reflecting changes in the humanitarian situation but also changes in the analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data, thereby allowing future allocations to be informed by how indicators have changed since previous allocations. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.