

Refugee Crises: Ukraine.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine has resulted in the largest displacement of European citizens since WWII, with women and children accounting for the majority of refugees (1). One million people reportedly fled Ukraine in the first week of conflict following the Russian invasion on February 24, 2022 (2); one year later, figures record a sum of 8,108,448 refugees from Ukraine living across Europe (3)(13).



Causes:

On February 24, 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin declared a full-scale land, sea, and air invasion of Ukraine (4). The ongoing violence as a result of the Russian invasion has caused devastating civilian casualties, as well as the destruction of critical infrastructures. This has severely threatened the safety of people living in Ukraine and has subsequently triggered an influx of people fleeing Ukraine, towards neighbouring countries (5).

Consequences:

Women and children are facing many challenges as they arrive in host countries. The education of Ukrainian children has been severely disrupted not only by having to leave their school environments behind, but also through the language barriers that restrict their ability to continue their learning within host countries (6).

Many women fleeing Ukraine have experienced limited access to vital healthcare services regarding their reproductive, pre and post-natal health (7).

Despite fleeing Ukraine for universal reasons, Black individuals have been subjected to racism, discrimination and violence within the host countries they seek sanctuary within (8). This has been experienced across many minority groups, often by those who had been studying or working in Ukraine prior to the outbreak of conflict (9).

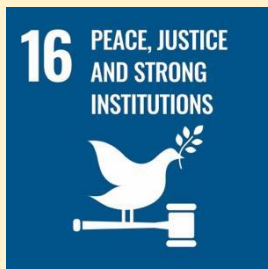
Current action:

The **International Rescue Committee** provides emergency protection services, medical services and equipment, and critical care assessments to individuals displaced within Ukraine. They have provided over 100,000 individuals with cash assistance to cover basic needs (10).

The **UNHCR** supplies emergency kits, cash assistance, as well as legal and psychological support to people who have been forced to flee Ukraine; this has so far reached 4 million people. The UNHCR also provides emergency shelter to people whilst they carry out housing repairs (11).

Save The Children assist education support, and social integration programmes for children displaced and unsettled by the war. They deliver essential services such as school repairs and medical care provision to many families impacted by the crisis (12).

Sustainable Development Goals:



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