



WHO field visit to Botosani, Romania, together with UNICEF, looking at a possible field as a site for contingency accommodation. In the picture, from left to right: Lucinda Hiam (WHO consultant), Andreea Popescu (WHO National Professional Officer), Florin Buțura (Mayor of Stefanesti), Georgiana Afumateanu (UN Volunteer) and Cathal O'Connor (UNICEF WASH expert).

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UN Volunteers for Ukraine: delivering services and health care

Over seven and a half million Ukrainians are now refugees, and nearly seven million people are internally displaced within the country. Civilians who have fled the war have the opportunity to join the UN system as Refugee UN Volunteers in neighboring countries, including Hungary and Slovakia. They have become coordinators, protection officers and translators for refugees like themselves.

Refugee UN Volunteers are integral and invaluable members of the **UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)** team in Slovakia. They mirror to UNHCR colleagues the day-to-day life, challenges and resilience of Ukrainian refugees.

Tetiana Korshun and Olena Bilinska, UN Volunteer Protection Assistants with UNHCR in **Slovakia**, are based in Kosice and Bratislava, respectively. They support UNHCR in communicating with refugee communities.

Olena says that serving with UNHCR is her “possibility to provide immediate help to vulnerable Ukrainian refugees.” For Tetiana, this assignment with UNHCR is her first

experience in the UN.

“ Being a part of such a multicultural team, having an opportunity to learn from people with such different backgrounds and cultural approaches is very inspiring. It is a challenge for me to get used to all changes in my life, and it is great to find myself in such a supportive community. --Tetiana Korshun, UN Volunteer Protection Assistant with UNHCR in Slovakia

In the months since the start of the war, UN Volunteers have also provided mental health, psychosocial support, first aid, health care and access to health care serving with the **World Health Organization (WHO)** in neighboring countries. Georgiana Andreea Afumateanu, Clinic Manager and Irina Mateescu, Midwife, recruited in **Romania**, are making an essential contribution in supporting people from Ukraine to access healthcare, including family medicine, sexual and reproductive health services.

“ Engaging UN Volunteers gives us the support of expert colleagues at a time of unprecedented need. Without their contribution, services like the integrated clinic at RomExpo, where people from Ukraine can access a family doctor, sexual and reproductive health services, or psychological support, would not be possible. UN Volunteers enable us to respond to emerging needs and recruit local experts quickly and we appreciate their service. --Caroline Clarinval, World Health Organization Representative and Head of the country office in Romania

In **Poland**, national UN Volunteers Aleksander Andrzej Binek, Wojciech Gasiorowski, Karolina Barbara Siupka-Mróż and Joanna Brzezinska serve in mental health consultations, administration, finance coordination and communications of the WHO offices in Warsaw and Rzeszow.



“ Recruiting UN Volunteers has been catalytical for a rapid response to the current emergency in Europe. Our UN Volunteers have facilitated very important HIV prevention, mental health and psychological support, to mention a few areas. We appreciate their knowledge and their skills, but above all, their dedication and commitment. –Dr. Paloma Cuchí, WHO Representative in Poland

"Currently, almost every person in Poland volunteers", Dr Cuchí continues. "Together we can ensure the health and well-being of the most vulnerable populations, and UN Volunteers are champions to present this mindset to the rest of active global citizens."

The UN is grateful for the compassion and solidarity of Ukraine's neighbours, who are taking in those seeking safety. In support of its partners, UNV is continuing the recruitment of national and Refugee UN Volunteers in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

For **onsite UN Volunteer assignments**, UNV is looking for a wide range of professional profiles, including Information Managers, Risk Communication and Digital Communications Specialists, Field Assistants, Emergency Medical Technicians, Logistic Operations Specialists, among others. Check out available assignments on the dedicated page for the [war in Ukraine](#).

We invite you to join our national talent pool by [creating an account on our UN Volunteer Management Platform](#). Once registered, individuals are requested to include key information, including personal data, qualifications and skills, professional experience and references, among other things. Check here for a step-by-step [video guide](#).


UNV will contact candidates whose profiles match the specific requirements of available UN Volunteer opportunities upon application, which are [updated daily and published through our dedicated webpage](#).

UN Volunteers are entitled to a monthly living allowance and insurance, so they can sustain a modest and secure standard of living, according to the [Unified Conditions of Service](#), during their assignment.

UNV also offers **Online Volunteer assignments** to provide individuals with a platform to support UN Ukraine emergency response programmes virtually, in their spare time. You can become an [Online Volunteer](#) without the need to travel or make a full-time or long-term commitment. Refer to these pages for further information on [Online Volunteering](#) in general and [UNV's Online Volunteering offer for Ukraine](#) specifically.

UN Volunteers are at the forefront of the response to the war in Ukraine. Often refugees themselves, they are serving in the country and in neighboring countries, sharing the perspective of those on the ground.

Do you want to support the UN's response to the war in Ukraine? Volunteer.

 Europe and the CIS

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