

Ukraine Humanitarian Fund

2026 Winter Response Reserve Allocation

July 2026

Allocation Details

Allocation Title	2026 Second Reserve Allocation (Winter Response)
Allocation Type and Round	Reserve Allocation – Winter Response, Round 2
Allocation Amount	US\$80 million
Emergency Type	Conflict Symptom
Emergency Sub-Types	Displacement
Allocation Launch Date	17 July 2026

Section 1: Strategic Statement

Through this allocation, the UHF aims to support time-critical winterization assistance in complementarity with the 2026–2027 Winter Response Plan (WRP), which intends to reach 2.1 million people, including 0.4 million IDPs and 1.7 million non-displaced people, through 17 activities between October 2026 and March 2027, with a total requirement of US\$358.4 million. Owing to the time-sensitive character of the supported intervention, the UHF allocation will fast-track pre-selected partners with demonstrated technical and operational capacity to ensure that assistance is delivered before the winter peak, focusing on vulnerable people living close to the frontline, newly displaced and evacuated people, and conflict-affected households at heightened risk of cold exposure and service disruption.

In line with the differentiated approach of the 2026–2027 WRP, the allocation will focus on selected interventions under 2026 HNRP Strategic Priorities (SP) 1, 2, and 3, where UHF funding can add timely, and operationally feasible value, rather than covering the full scope of the Winter Response Plan. The allocation will prioritize rural and frontline areas, collective sites and transit centres, as well as high-risk urban centres, excluding cities of Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, and Odesa, affected by prolonged energy and service disruptions. UHF-funded projects will focus on selected critical winter response activities directly linked to maintaining safe, warm, and dignified living conditions during winter and implemented through humanitarian partners in coordination with the Shelter/NFI, WASH, Food Security, and Protection clusters, and the Cash Working Group. Assistance will be provided in cash where markets are functional, while in-kind or service-based support will be used where required due to access constraints, market limitations, specific vulnerabilities, or the nature of the intervention.

The allocation will also be designed to complement Government-led winter assistance, including the Humanitarian Response and Resilience Account, through which the Government of Ukraine is expected to lead winter cash assistance within the 0–20 km frontline zone. UHF partners will therefore focus on complementary in-kind support in the 0–20 km frontline zone where required, while providing cash, in-kind, or combined assistance to vulnerable populations in the 21–50 km zone and in high-risk urban centres, depending on assessed needs, operational feasibility, and market functionality.

The UHF will continue to promote localization by prioritizing national and local partners, including organizations with access to hard-to-reach areas and strong contextual knowledge, either as direct recipients or through meaningful sub-partnership arrangements. The allocation will also reinforce cross-cutting priorities, including protection mainstreaming, gender and age considerations, disability inclusion, community engagement, and accountability to affected populations. Through this targeted approach, the UHF will help close urgent winter gaps under the 2026–2027 Winter Response Plan while maintaining a focused, timely, and complementary role within the broader humanitarian response.

Section 2: Humanitarian Context

As Ukraine approaches a fifth consecutive winter under full-scale war, winter-related humanitarian needs remain severe, driven by continued hostilities, damaged housing, displacement, repeated attacks on energy, heating, and water infrastructure, and reduced household coping capacity. The 2025–2026 winter demonstrated how harsh weather, prolonged blackouts, and disruption of essential services can rapidly intensify humanitarian risks, particularly for older persons, persons with disabilities, children, IDPs, residents of collective sites, and other vulnerable groups with limited mobility or access to support.

According to the REACH [2026–2027 Cold Spot Risk Assessment](#), winter-related risks remain concentrated mainly in north-eastern and eastern Ukraine, with 33 raions classified as high or highest risk. These risks are driven by the combined impact of low temperatures, population exposure, demographic vulnerability, infrastructure disruption, conflict intensity, power outages, and reduced coping capacity. Eleven raions have shifted from moderate to high or highest risk compared to the previous year, reflecting the continued deterioration of conditions in affected areas.

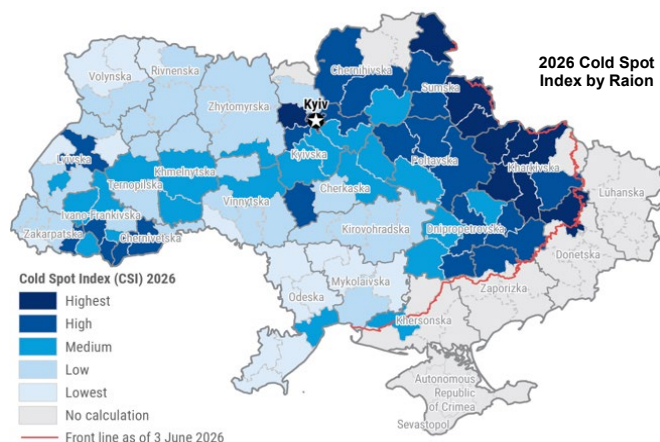
The coming winter is expected to particularly affect rural and frontline communities, collective sites and transit centres, as well as high-risk urban centres where centralized electricity, heating, water, and social services remain vulnerable to prolonged disruption. In this context, timely, targeted, and flexible winter assistance is critical to help vulnerable people maintain safe, warm, and dignified living conditions, while complementing Government-led efforts and focusing limited humanitarian resources on the most urgent and time-sensitive needs.

Section 3: Prioritized Activities and Locations

The allocation will prioritize selected winter-specific activities under the 2026–2027 Winter Response Plan, focusing on vulnerable people living close to the frontline (SP1), newly displaced and evacuated people, residents of collective sites and transit centres (SP2), and populations affected by strikes and prolonged disruption of essential services (SP1 and SP3). The allocation will support a package of winter response activities to address critical winter needs and service disruptions. Assistance will be provided through cash, in-kind, or combined modalities, depending on assessed needs, beneficiary preferences, market functionality, access constraints, partner capacity, and the nature of the activity.

In line with the WRP's modality framework, cash will remain a key response modality where markets are functional, and assistance can be delivered safely and effectively, noting that 70 per cent of the overall Winter Response Plan is expected to be delivered through cash. The allocation will also align with two complementary cash approaches introduced under the Plan: (i) the Government-led Humanitarian Response and Resilience Account, which is expected to cover household-level winter cash assistance within the 0–20 km frontline zone and should therefore not be duplicated by UHF partners; and (ii) Group Cash Transfers, a building-level modality piloted for homeowners' associations and collective entities to help sustain essential services during outages. Accordingly, UHF-funded cash assistance should be clearly defined as supporting household-level winter cash, Group Cash Transfers, or both, and should be focused on the 21–50 km zone and high-risk urban centres, while complementary in-kind support may be provided in the 0–20 km zone where required.

Geographically, the allocation will be primarily directed to **Chernihivska, Dnipropetrovska, Donetsk, Kharkivska, Khersonska, Mykolaivska, Sumska, and Zaporizka oblasts** due to their frontline exposure, high and highest Cold Spot Index classification, and severity 4 and 5 needs. The allocation will also cover cities in frontline oblasts, excluding those specified in the strategic statement, with support focused on urban-specific responses to prolonged energy and service disruptions. This will be capped at 10 per cent of the allocation envelope, or approximately US\$5–6 million. Sub-oblast prioritization will draw on the REACH 2026–2027 Cold Spot Index (SCI), which identifies 33 raions as high or highest risk, including 11 raions that shifted upward from moderate risk due to increased conflict intensity, infrastructure damage, and power outages, with particular attention to rural and frontline areas, collective sites and transit centres, and pilot programming in high-risk urban centres. The final planned reach will be informed by the Winter Response Plan, HNRP severity analysis, and the REACH Cold Spot Index, while considering vulnerability, proximity to hostilities, market functionality, access constraints, and service disruption patterns. For details of prioritized raions please refer to the list in the attached **Annex 1**.



This allocation will prioritize winter response activities in locations of severity 4 and 5 as well as piloting programming in urban areas, with the priority in frontline cities, using the HNRP intersectoral severity map across all Strategic Priorities. Please refer to **Annex 2** for the prioritized activities and associated indicators.

Section 4: Project Selection Criteria

In addition to alignment with the strategic and operational priorities outlined above, all project proposals submitted under this allocation will be assessed against the following key programmatic considerations and cross-cutting principles, regardless of the submitting partner:

1. **Access and operational capacity:** Only submissions by partners with demonstrated operational presence/access in prioritized locations and capacity to absorb the allocated funds and implement prioritized activities in line with the sectoral technical requirements in time for the winter season will be recommended for the Strategic Review. For this, partners should have consulted and shared their activities with the relevant clusters before submitting a proposal under this allocation.
2. **Localization:** Direct submissions from eligible national NGOs and submissions from eligible international NGOs with sub-implementing partnerships with national and local partners, including small civil society organizations (CSOs) and volunteer groups (VOs) operating in targeted communities, will be prioritized. **Note: Ukrainian civil society organizations (public associations) that do not have the legal status/registration of a charitable organization may not provide tax-exempt humanitarian cash assistance under subparagraph 170.7.2 of the Tax Code of Ukraine.**
3. **Duty of Care (DoC):** Main partners leading the project submission are encouraged to include in the project log frame appropriate capacity support, a Duty of Care (DoC) package, and monitoring activities for quality control and risk assurance, and to budget these activities accordingly. It is strongly recommended to include a mandatory Duty of Care package for NGO/CSO/VO personnel **operating near the frontlines or in other high-risk environments**, covering at minimum: 1) life and medical insurance for CSO/VO staff, 2) psycho-social support (PSS) / stress management guidance, 3) first aid training, and 4) personal protective equipment (PPE), unless a Duty of Care package has already been provided. In the latter case, this should be indicated in the log-frame and budget tab comments sections in OneGMS.
4. **Programme Support Costs (PSC):** Proposals involving sub-partners and/or consortium members must include the **mandatory 7 per cent Programme Support Costs (PSC)** share, calculated based on the size of their sub-grants. **Projects that do not comply with this requirement will not advance to the strategic review stage.**
5. **Sub-partnerships:** Proposals involving sub-partners should ensure that they have been appropriately onboarded by the grant recipient partner through due diligence and capacity assessment processes, confirming their institutional, operational, and technical capacity.
6. **Consortia:** Only UHF-eligible partners may serve as consortium leads or members. Each consortium submission should be supported by a written MoU clearly defining governance arrangements, roles, responsibilities, accountability, implementation modalities, and the division of deliverables among all parties. Each consortium member may request funding up to its applicable risk-based budget ceiling, and the consortium's total budget may not exceed the combined ceilings of all consortium members.
7. **Protection Mainstreaming:** Partners should incorporate protection principles and promote meaningful access, safety, and dignity in humanitarian aid, including for the prevention, mitigation, and response to **gender-based violence (GBV)**.
8. **Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP):** The project design should demonstrate the involvement of affected people in all phases of the project cycle and accessibility of collective feedback and complaints mechanisms for affected people across gender, age, disability, and other diversity factors, in line with the 2022 Ukraine AAP Action Plan.
9. **Evidence-based Approach:** Needs are clearly identified and articulated and supported by beneficiary data disaggregated by gender, age group, type, disability, and other factors contributing to the need for specialized assistance. Partners aiming to cover hard-to-reach areas with limited needs data should include in the proposed response planned assessments and relevant justification, in consultation with Clusters.
10. **Cost Effectiveness:** The budget should be fair and proportionate in relation to the context. Proposals demonstrating better cost effectiveness will be prioritized, where: a) for comparable activities and outputs, the total cost is less; b) cost per assisted person is competitive and within an acceptable range for the cluster (based on activity-based costing and cluster-specific standard costs); c) the level of support and personnel costs is reasonable and in line with a given type of implementation modality; and d) the proposed period of implementation is adequate and represents best use of resources at that time.
11. **Monitoring:** A realistic monitoring and reporting plan should be incorporated into the project, covering the lead partner, consortium members, and/or sub-implementing partners, as applicable, to measure the achievements against planned outputs and timelines and the quality of assistance provided, including through sub-implementing partners.
12. **Risk Management:** Assumptions and risks should be comprehensively and clearly spelled out, along with risk mitigation and management strategies. A comprehensive risk matrix should be uploaded during the proposal submission.
13. **Coordination and Complementarity:** The project should demonstrate the partner's coordination with relevant clusters and key stakeholders, as well as local authorities and other humanitarian partners in the project location, while ensuring

complementarity with activities implemented by other actors or through other funding sources, including the Government-led Humanitarian Response and Resilience Account.

- 14. Gender and Age Considerations:** Specific needs of different gender and age groups and response to address them should be articulated in the project design and implementation plan (including in needs assessments, log frame, monitoring, and accountability mechanisms with appropriate resources budgeted).
- 15. Disability Inclusion:** Programming should reduce discrimination and barriers for persons with disability to fully engage with and benefit from the response and be articulated in the project design and implementation plan (including in needs assessments, log frame, monitoring, and accountability mechanisms with appropriate resources budgeted).
- 16. Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):** The project should demonstrate that the partner (and any sub-implementing partners) has mechanisms in place to prevent, detect, report, and manage incidents of SEA, including assistance to survivors, in line with the 2022 Ukraine PSEA Action Plan.

Section 5: Partners Eligibility Parameters and Guidance to Applicants

5.1 Partner Eligibility

- Partners planning to submit proposals under this allocation must notify and seek guidance from Clusters/HOCCG of the sectoral components of their planned projects. Projects from partners who have not notified the relevant clusters will not advance to the strategic review stage.
- Only current UHF-eligible partners with due diligence approved can apply for direct funding, while non-assessed partners may be sub-implementing partners in submissions led by an eligible partner. **However, UN Agencies and partners onboarded through the Contextualized Capacity Assessment (CCA) modality are not eligible to apply under this allocation.**
- Partners with their Due Diligence (DD) unapproved will not be able to see the open allocation window in OneGMS.
- Partners are requested to ensure that their Due Diligence information in OneGMS is complete and up to date, particularly the sections related to the legal representative, authorized signatories, organizational address, contact details, and banking information.
- Partners with outstanding compliance issues are not eligible to apply for this allocation. Proposals from these partners will not reach the Review Committees (RC) stage and will be rejected.
- **Partners must perform due diligence on suppliers who participate in their procurement processes to ensure that they are not subject to a successful criminal prosecution in the past 5 years.** Partners who have identified suppliers involved in confirmed incidents of corruption or fraud are kindly requested to share this information with UHF by emailing ocha-uhf@un.org and copying nduta@un.org and roman.oleksienko@un.org.

5.2 Partner Selection Criteria

As a reserve allocation, this round uses pre-selection rather than an open call. Partners will be shortlisted against the recommended selection criteria, with particular emphasis on the following considerations appropriate to a fast-track, time-critical allocation:

- Past grants with UHF – reflects the partner's track record with the Fund, with priority given to organizations that have received ≥ US\$4 million in cumulative UHF grants.
- Technical competence – demonstrated technical expertise in the relevant sector, aligned with sector standards and guidance.
- Past experience with activity type, including track record across at least the two winter seasons between 2023–2026.
- Cluster feedback – feedback from the relevant clusters on the partner's coordination, technical alignment, and engagement in sector processes.
- No known performance issues with UHF programs – absence of unresolved compliance, safeguarding, or programmatic performance concerns.
- Performance Index score – the partner's rolling GMS performance record across current and past UHF-funded grants.
- Geographic/severity alignment – the partner's presence in locations prioritized under the current severity or needs analysis.

Please refer to **Annex 3** for the list of pre-selected partners.

5.3 Project Duration, Modality, and Budget

- Priority will be given to project proposals that can be implemented within six months, commencing no later than October 2026 and completing by April 2027.
- Under this allocation, **each partner may submit only one proposal, either as a lead or as a stand-alone applicant. Participation as a sub-implementing partner or consortium member is not subject to this limitation and does not preclude an organization from submitting a separate proposal as a lead applicant.**
- While UHF does not restrict partners from submitting single-sector proposals, proposals that provide an integrated response and, where relevant and feasible, meaningfully combine interventions across two or more sectors will be particularly welcomed.
- Project budget ceiling, disbursement arrangements, and monitoring and reporting requirements for the projects to be funded under this allocation will follow the UHF Operational Modalities below:

Risk Level	Project Duration (months) ¹	Project Value (thousand USD)	Max. Amount per Project (thousand USD)	Disbursements (in % of total)	Financial reporting			Narrative reporting		Monitoring ³		Audit
					For Disbursements ²	31-Jan (Calendar year reporting)	Final	Progress	Final	Project Monitoring	Financial spot-check	
NGOs and RC/RCs												
High	< 6 months	≤ 250	-	60-40	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 mid	Yes	1	1	Yes
		> 250	600	50-50	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 mid	Yes	1	1	
	6 to 12 months	≤ 400	-	50-50	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 mid	Yes	1	1	
		> 400	1,000	40-40-20	Yes	Yes	Yes	2	Yes	1	1	
Medium	< 6 months	≤ 500	-	100	-	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	-	-	
		> 500	1,500	80-20	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 mid	Yes	1	-	
	6 to 12 months	≤ 1,000	-	100	-	Yes	Yes	1 mid	Yes	1	-	
		> 1,000	3,000	80-20	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 mid	Yes	1	1	
Low	<12 months	≤ 900	-	100	-	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	-	-	
		> 900	5,000	80-20	Yes	Yes	Yes	-	Yes	-	-	

¹ While the reserve allocation modality generally allows projects to run for up to 12 months, projects under this allocation are expected to be implemented within a maximum of six months due to the seasonal and time-critical nature of the Winter Response. Partners must therefore complete all planned activities and achieve the agreed results within the initially approved implementation period. **No-Cost Extensions will not be granted.**

² In the event of a cost extension, submission of a Financial Report is required to trigger the disbursement of the extension amount, which can only occur once 70 percent of the original budget has been liquidated.

³ The UHF reserves the right to conduct additional ad-hoc monitoring or FSC of any partner projects.

5.4 Project Preparation

- All project proposals should be submitted via the UHF One Grant Management System (OneGMS) (<https://cbpf.unocha.org>) **by Monday, 03 August 2026 at 18:00 p.m. (Ukraine time). Any submission after this deadline will not be accepted.** Eligible partners registered in OneGMS with the approved due diligence module may submit a proposal.
- Partners should visit the [CBPF OneGMS Help Portal \(Project proposal template and submission\)](#), which provides technical instructions on how to submit a project proposal.
- Project proposals should be prepared in line with the strategic and operational priorities outlined in this Allocation Strategy. These must be supported by a clear log frame with outcomes, outputs, SMART indicators, and detailed activities. An offline project proposal template can be downloaded [here](#) to help with proposal drafting. However, the finalized proposal should be submitted to OneGMS by the deadline specified above. **No offline submission will be accepted.**
- **Partners should consult relevant cluster coordinator(s) during the project proposal preparation phase to receive further details of the cluster priorities for the allocation (see section 7).**

- For projects involving cash assistance, partners should ensure that the proposed interventions are designed in accordance with the Ukraine Cash Working Group (CWG) Legal Task Force taxation guidance, taking into account the type of planned cash interventions and the legal status of the implementing organization. The guidance and supporting resources are available [here](#).

5.5 Project Budget Preparation

- All project proposals must have a detailed budget outlining all the project-related costs under relevant budget lines.
- Budget proposals must reflect the correct and fair budget breakdown of the planned costs and clearly outline units, quantities, and percentages. When budget lines contain costs of multiple items equal to and/or greater than US\$10,000, a budget breakdown should be provided as one Excel file in different sheets named after the BL codes, listing item, unit, quantity, and cost (per unit and total cost).
- Provide a budget narrative (as an essential component of the budget) that clearly explains the purpose and the rationale of any budget line.
- Given the expected short project implementation period (up to April 2026), partners are encouraged to limit operational costs and office equipment costs (e.g., laptops, printers, generators) in their proposals and utilize assets procured from previously received UHF grants.
- Project proposals that do not meet the above requirements or lack financial and budgeting information (including comprehensive cost breakdowns, full-bodied standardized budgets of sub-implementing partners) will not make it to the Review Committees stage and may be rejected.**
- Project budgets submitted beyond the ceilings (maximum amount per project) provided in the UHF Operational Modalities will not make it to the Review Committees stage and will be rejected.**
- Project proposals with Budgets for non-prioritized locations may be rejected at the pre-strategic review phase.**
- Partners should consult the UHF Finance team during the project proposal preparation phase to receive feedback on the project budget and ensure that it meets requirements outlined in the UHF Budget Preparation Guidance.

5.6 Project Start Date and Eligibility of Costs

- The UHF will liaise with the recipient partner to determine the start date of the project upon project budget clearance. The agreed-upon start date will be included in the Grant Agreement and will determine the date of cost eligibility. Under the terms of the Grant Agreement, the earliest possible start date of the project (and eligibility of costs) is the date of budget clearance in OneGMS. However, the Grant Agreement is valid and becomes legally binding only after all parties have signed it.
- Upon signature by the HC, the UHF will send the Grant Agreement for partner counter-signature. Once the partner has counter-signed, it will be sent to OCHA Headquarters for the final signature by the Executive Officer (EO).
- Following the final signature of the Grant Agreement by the OCHA Executive Officer, the initial disbursement of funds will take place within 10 working days.

Section 6: Process and timeline

6.1 Allocation Strategy Development Process

The allocation round uses the reserve allocation modality, with strategic scope and prioritization criteria developed in line with the Ukraine Winter Response Plan 2026-2027. Relevant cluster inputs and consultations within OCHA informed the proposed demographic and geographic targeting, as well as operational and cross-cutting priorities, which were ultimately endorsed by the Humanitarian Coordinator in consultation with the UHF Advisory Board.

6.2 Allocation Timeline

Standard Allocation Workflow	Start Date	End Date	Responsible body
Step 1. Allocation Launch	17-Jul-2026		OCHA/HFU
Step 2. Submission of project proposal(s)		03-Aug-2026	Partners
Step 3. Review of project proposal(s)	03-Aug-2026	14-Aug-2026	OCHA/HFU, Review Committees
Step 4. Final technical and financial review	17-Aug-2026	21-Aug-2026	OCHA/HFU, technical experts, Partners
Step 5. Final approval by HC and Grant Agreement	From 24-Aug-2026		OCHA/HFU, HC
Step 6. Disbursement	From 08-Sep-2026		OCHA/HFU, CBPF Section

Section 7: Key Contacts

Up-to-date contact details for Cluster and inter-sectoral working group coordinators are provided below:

Food Security & Livelihoods	Vitalii Razzhyvin	WFP	Co-coordinator	vitalii.razzhyvin@wfp.org
Food Security & Livelihoods	Dmytro Krukovets	FAO	Co-coordinator	dmytro.krukovets@fao.org
Protection	Katarzyna Kot-Majewska	UNHCR	Co-coordinator	KOTMAJEW@unhcr.org
Shelter	Irene Mutevu	UNHCR	Coordinator	Mutevu@unhcr.org
WASH	Damian Seal	UNICEF	Coordinator	dseal@unicef.org
Cash WG	Annette Savoca	Acted	Co-coordinator	annette.savoca@acted.org
Cash WG	Rabia Bindal Guner	OCHA	Co-coordinator	bindal.guner@un.org
Cash WG	Olena Skrypnikova	Ukrainian Red Cross Society	Co-coordinator	o.skrypnikova@redcross.org.ua

All correspondence regarding the UHF should be sent to ocha-uhf@un.org.

Section 8: Complaints and Feedback Mechanism:

Complaints from stakeholders regarding the UHF allocation process should be sent to feedback-uhf@un.org.
The OCHA Ukraine Head of Office will receive, address, and refer any critical issues to the HC for decision-making.

Section 9: List of Annexes

Annex 1: List of Prioritized Locations
Annex 2: List of Prioritized Activities and Indicators
Annex 3: List of Pre-selected Partners
Annex 4: OneGMS Proposal Template
Annex 5: UHF Budget Preparation Guidance
Annex 6: UHF Sub-IP Budget And BoQ Templates
Annex 7: UHF Guidance Note on Consortium Partnerships