

Poland

February 2025

Nearly **one million refugees from Ukraine** are currently present in Poland, the majority women and children, representing some 2.5 per cent of the total population of Poland.

UNHCR coordinates the response of 77 organizations under the Ukraine Situation **Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) chapter for Poland**, the majority of which are local and refugee-led organizations.

UNHCR works with the Government of Poland to ensure refugees have **access to territory legal status, documentation**, and **enjoy their rights**.

POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2024)*

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Refugees | 980,034 |
| Asylum-seekers | 9,266 |
| Stateless people | 1,487 |
| Others of concern | 1,328 |

Top three countries of origin*

| Refugees | | Asylum-seekers | |
|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Ukraine | 963,859 | Russian Federation | 2,837 |
| Belarus | 8,794 | Ukraine | 2,258 |
| Russian Federation | 2,845 | Belarus | 1,740 |

*UNHCR mid-2024 Trends and UNHCR data finder

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of February 2025, **998,070** refugees from Ukraine were recorded in Poland.

Protection: refugees from Ukraine are granted Temporary Protection Status, extended until September 2025. UNHCR shares legal analysis and recommendations with decision makers. UNHCR coordinates with legal partners on advocacy and counselling for refugees.

Support to the most vulnerable refugees: UNHCR is working with partners to protect children, survivors of violence affecting women and children, including sexual violence, and communicate with refugee communities.

Economic inclusion: UNHCR works with authorities, the private sector and partners to address barriers to refugee inclusion. Forfor instance, UNHCR works with experts on recommendations to improve teaching Polish as a second language. UNHCR also uses evidence-based advocacy to promote inclusion, such as a Deloitte study estimating that refugees from Ukraine contributed about 1% to Poland's GDP in 2023.

Coordination: In line with the **Refugee Coordination Model**, UNHCR leads and coordinates the humanitarian response of 77 partners, in collaboration with the Government of Poland. The **coordination architecture** is built on five sectors and four main working groups. UNHCR co-leads the Protection and Economic Inclusion sectors, the Information Management Working Group and the PSEA Network.

HIGHLIGHTS

[Proposed Ammendments to the Act on Granting Protection to Foreigners](#)

UNHCR provided detailed [comments](#) on the proposed amendments to the Act on Granting Protection to Foreigners, emphasizing the need for compliance with international and regional refugee protection standards and offering recommendations to ensure fair and humane asylum policies. UNHCR [made a statement](#) at the parliamentary Public Hearing in February 2025.

[UNHCR Supports Flood Response in Poland, Strengthens Emergency Preparedness](#)

In September 2024, after the flooding caused by Storm Boris in southwestern Poland, UNHCR [coordinated](#) with the Polish government and crisis teams to provide emergency relief to local communities, including refugees. Throughout the year, UNHCR also conducted contingency planning workshops with authorities to strengthen emergency preparedness in case of future crises.



Irene has 25 years of experience as a nurse and wants to share it with her new community in Poland. © UNHCR/Anna Liminowicz

Three years on, employment opportunities in Poland means hope for refugees from Ukraine

In addition to its catalytic role to enhance [refugee inclusion](#) in the labour market, UNHCR supports NGOs who help vulnerable refugees and entrepreneurs start businesses and find jobs. They help refugees by referring them to employers, preparing them for job interviews, teaching Polish, aiding with CVs, and organizing reskilling programs., with about 75 per cent securing jobs for more than three months.

- [Read the story](#) about Irena, Viktoria and Nataliia
- [Read the stories](#) of Irena, Viktoria and Nataliia

Key Priorities

- **Access to asylum and protection:** In coordination with the Polish authorities, UNHCR conducts border monitoring at border crossing points and in border areas. In 2024, UNHCR conducted 63 such visits. UNHCR provides training and equipment to authorities, NGOs and others. UNHCR also conducts detention monitoring visits (38 visits in 2024) and promotes [alternatives to detention](#) of asylum seekers. UNHCR advocates for refugees rights, based on its legal expertise and mandate.
- **Facilitate inclusion, resilience and solutions for refugees:** In support of authorities and together with private actors, UNHCR plays a catalyst role to connect refugees with job opportunities and support their socio-economic inclusion, including access to social protection systems (education, health, social services). UNHCR collaborates with authorities and international institutions on key issues such as access to affordable housing, economic inclusion of female-headed households and underemployment. This sustainable approach aims at expanding the human potential of refugees while minimizing dependency on aid.
- **Reach, protect and empower the most vulnerable:** in community centers and through mobile teams, UNHCR and partners provide protection services, such as legal counseling and assistance, mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS). They also provide language classes, child-friendly spaces, individual and group activities. Over 56,000 refugees benefited from such services in 2024. Mobile teams of protection monitors referred 14,000 individuals to specialized services across 13 voivodships. UNHCR shares updated information with refugees through its [UNHCR HELP page](#), leaflets and posters, social media platforms and a regional toll-free UNHCR counselling line (☎ 800 012 948).

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Prime Minister's office, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Family and Social Policy, Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy, the Border Guard, and the Office for Foreigners, among other central authorities. UNHCR also works closely with local and municipal authorities, as well as with the Polish Central Statistical Office (GUS).
- UNHCR currently partners with ten Polish partners (Caritas Polska, Towards Dialogue, Empowering Children Foundation, Feminoteka, Habitat for Humanity Poland, Halina Nieć Legal Aid Center, Polish Migration Forum, Association for Legal Intervention, Centrum Wsparcia Imigrantów i Imigranek, Internationaler Bund Polska) and, through these partnerships, with an additional ten local Polish organisations throughout the country.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR works to maintain support towards refugees and asylum seekers through engaging with donors, media, partners and supporters, whether Polish or foreign.

Statelessness

Poland has not acceded to the 1954 or 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness and currently does not have a statelessness determination procedure in place. UNHCR is engaging Members of Parliament to take on [UNHCR's recommendations](#) made in its 2019 mapping to address gaps identified.

UNHCR Presence in Poland

Staff:

85 National Staff
 36 International Staff

Offices:

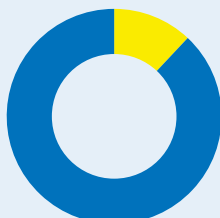
1 Country Office in Warsaw
 3 Field Offices in Lublin, Rzeszów and Warsaw
 1 Sub Office in Kraków

Financial information (as of 31 January 2025)

Financial requirements

\$ 42.0 M

Funding gap 88%
 \$ 37.17 M



Funded 12%
 \$ 4.83 M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors in 2024 and 2025::

Australia | Belgium | Denmark | Europe Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Republic of Korea | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | Sweden | Switzerland

UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.