POLAND FACT SHEET

Poland

April 2024

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

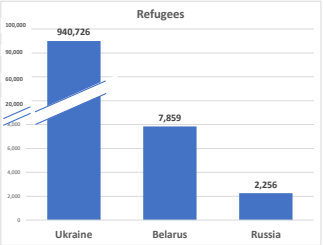
UNHCR coordinates the response of 103 organizations under the Ukraine Situation **Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) chapter for Poland**, the majority of which are local organizations.

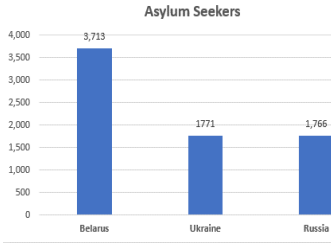
UNHCR supports the Government of Poland to ensure refugees have **access to territory, access to legal status and documentation,** and **access to rights.**

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of Jan 2024) *

Refugees	**954,785**
Asylum-seekers	**9,513**
Stateless people	**321**
Others of concern	**2,076**

Top three countries of origin*





**UNHCR as of January 2024 Trends and UNHCR data finder*

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of March 2024, 953,086 refugees from Ukraine were recorded in Poland.

Protection: Refugees from Ukraine are granted Temporary Protection status, which Poland is in the process of extending until September 2025. UNHCR provided analysis and recommendations on the February amendments to the Special Act and submitted comments and recommendations on the April amendments to the Ministry of Interior.

Support to the most vulnerable refugees: UNHCR is working with partners to protect vulnerable refugees, prevent gender-based violence (GBV) and communicate with refugee communities. Refugees can access information and support in community centres, through mobile teams visiting remote areas as well as online and on social media.

Livelihoods and economic inclusion: UNHCR supports refugees to achieve self-reliance and collaborate with authorities and private sector to connect refugees with jobs.

Coordination: UNHCR leads and coordinates the refugee response in Poland, in support of 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 Working Group.

HIGHLIGHTS

Improving the UN response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)

The UN Under-Secretary General and Special Coordinator on improving the UN response to sexual exploitation and abuse visited Warsaw on 21-22 March. He met with refugees from Ukraine, engaged with the Polish Police and discussed with the dedicated PSEA network in Poland about achievements and challenges in the Polish context.

Supporting displaced LGBTIQ+ people in humanitarian settings

Together with UNHCR, the Organization for Refuge, Asylum, and Migration (ORAM) organized in March a series of training to address the challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals within the humanitarian context, including discrimination, stigma, lack of protection, and fear of disclosure. Overall, 60 participants representing various LGBTIQ+ and humanitarian organizations, as well as UN staff and representatives from local social services took part in Warsaw, Wroclaw and Lublin.

Deloitte. UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Study finds positive impact of refugees on Poland's economy

Refugees from Ukraine have significantly contributed to the Polish economy over the past two years, according to a new study. It estimates that refugees from Ukraine contributed between 0.7 and 1.1 per cent to Poland's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023. The size of their contribution is likely to grow further, as highlighted by the study "Analysis of the impact of refugees from Ukraine on the economy of Poland", which was conducted by Deloitte for UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

📖 Read our press release and the study (English and Polish)

Key Priorities

UNHCR Poland's key areas of focus includes:

- **Ensuring access to asylum:** In coordination with Polish authorities, UNHCR undertakes visits at border crossing points and in border areas, and provides training and equipment to authorities, NGOs, and others. UNHCR also conducts detention monitoring visits and promotes alternatives to detention, while providing legal aid to asylum-seekers.
- **Reaching, protecting, and empowering the most vulnerable:** UNHCR and its partners operate Community Centers and mobile outreach teams, providing various protection services such as legal aid, mental health support, language classes, and group activities. Mobile outreach teams identify and refer individuals in need to specific services. In the first quarter of 2024, 15,774 refugees benefited from various protection services, such as legal and counselling aid, group and individual mental health support activities, child protection activities, etc. In 2023, UNHCR conducted extensive interviews with refugees across 13 voivodeships, allowing useful protection analysis. To understand the needs of refugees and identify the biggest gaps, UNHCR and partners conducted a "multi-sector needs assessment" in July and August 2023. UNHCR plans to conduct another comprehensive need assessment in 2024 to guide the planning and response efforts, ensuring refugee needs are addressed.
- **Facilitate inclusion and resilience of refugees:** UNHCR advocates for refugees' right to work, collaborating with authorities and private sector to analyse the impact of refugee inclusion into the Polish economy. Together with authorities and private actors, UNHCR is connecting refugees with job opportunities and supporting socio-economic inclusion, including access to social security benefits (education, health, social services). So far in 2024, UNHCR has co-organized or participated in 7 job fairs across Poland for refugees and Poles – refugees represent around 20% of attendees. Targeted support is offered to vulnerable refugees to help them access jobs: some 51 refugees still living in collective shelters are enrolled in a pilot of the "employment activation" project started at the end of 2023, aiming to individually guide and support them in finding a job. UNHCR intends to scale up this initiative in other locations.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Prime Minister's office, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Family and Social Policy, the Border Guards, and the Office for Foreigners, among other central authorities. UNHCR also works closely with local and municipal authorities.
- UNHCR currently partners with ten partners, all Polish: Association for Legal Intervention (SIP), Halina Niec Legal Aid Center, Central Roma Council, Empowering Children Foundation (FDDS), Feminoteka, Habitat for Humanity, Caritas, Polish Migration Forum and four partner NGOs, the Immigrants Support Center (CWI) and Internationaler Bund Polska (IBP). In addition, UNHCR is giving 19 small grants to community-based and refugee-led organizations to support the response to the Ukrainian situation as a means of capacity building.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR engages with donors, media, partners, and civil society to amplify refugee voices and encourage peaceful coexistence with host communities.

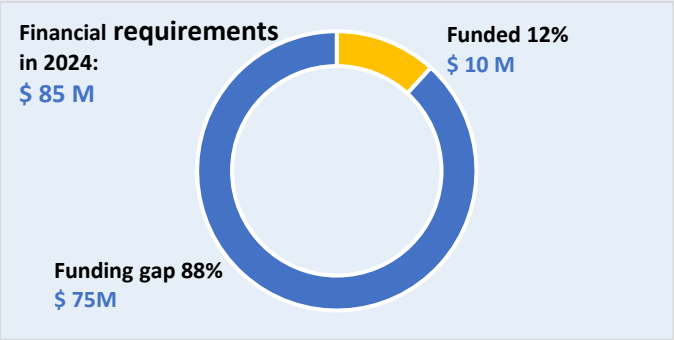
Statelessness

- Poland has not acceded to the 1954 or 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness and has no 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:	**Offices:**
51 International Staff	1 Country Office in
	1 Field Office in Warsaw
	1 Field Office in Lublin
80 National Staff	1 Sub Office in Krakow
	1 Field Office in Rzeszow

Financial information (31 March 2024)



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