

Poland

15 June 2022

Since 24 February, nearly 4 million border crossings from Ukraine to Poland have been recorded by the Government of Poland's Border Guards. This is more than half of the over 7.5 million crossings out of Ukraine since the onset of the war. The border crossings into Poland have reduced significantly but refugees from Ukraine are expected to continue to arrive as the situation remains uncertain inside Ukraine with large displacement and insecurity. While some have moved on, some 1.2 million Ukrainians have opted to seek temporary protection by registering for PESEL, the national identification number, with the Government of Poland, facilitating access to health and education, as well as social protection. The relaxed border crossing procedures (which were in place since 24 February) have concluded and normal Government of Poland border management processes are in place.

UNHCR focuses on protection services and cash assistance to the most vulnerable, to give refugees dignity of choice and cover their most urgent needs, as well as emergency supplies to support reception capacity, and engaging with the Government of Poland to support longer-term solutions. UNHCR coordinates the refugee response in close collaboration with national authorities, UN and NGO partners, and advocates for comprehensive international support for all people forced to flee from Ukraine.

KEY FIGURES

1,174,729

People registered for **PESEL in Poland** since 24 February, as of 15 June 2022. Source: Government of Poland

4,003,767*

Border crossings into Poland from Ukraine since 24 February, as of 15 June 2022. Source: UNHCR, Government of Poland

1,934,393**

Border crossings into Ukraine from Poland since 24 February, as of 15 June 2022. Source: UNHCR, Government Poland

* Figures reflect cross-border movements and not individuals.
** Movements back to Ukraine may be pendular, and do not necessarily indicate sustainable returns as the situation across Ukraine remains highly volatile and unpredictable.

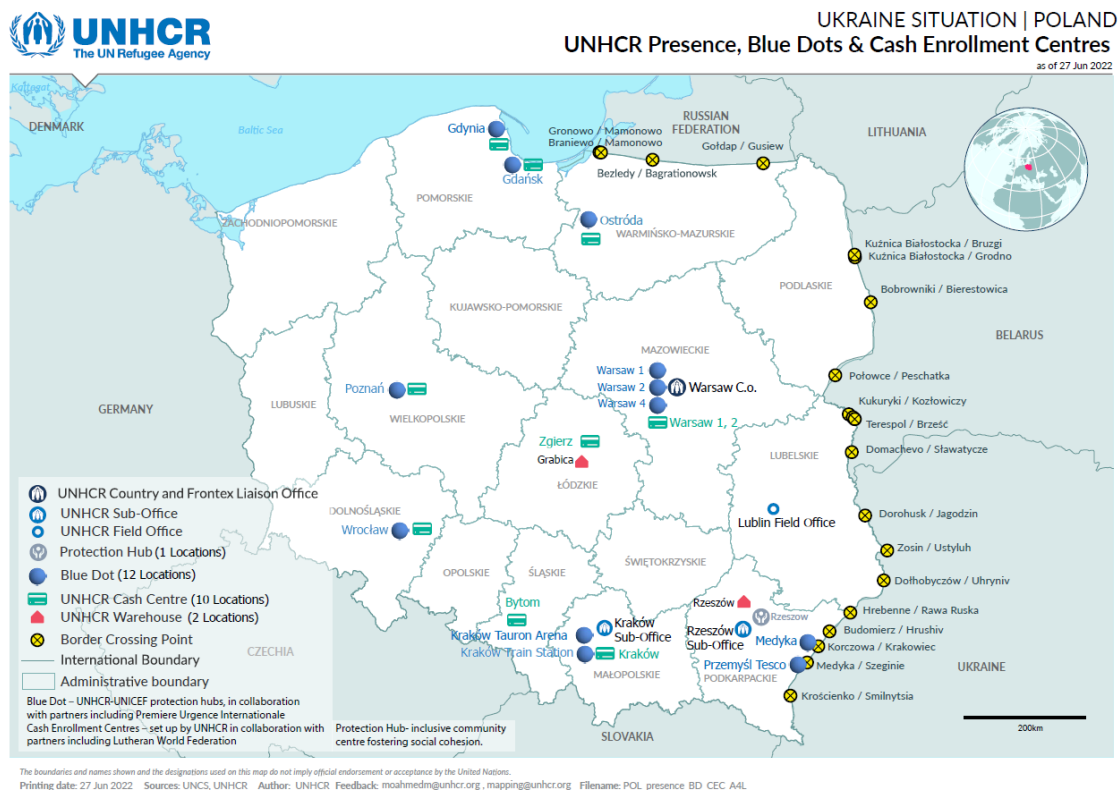


The first day of operations at the Protection Hub in Rzeszów Credit: UNHCR/H. Michalak.

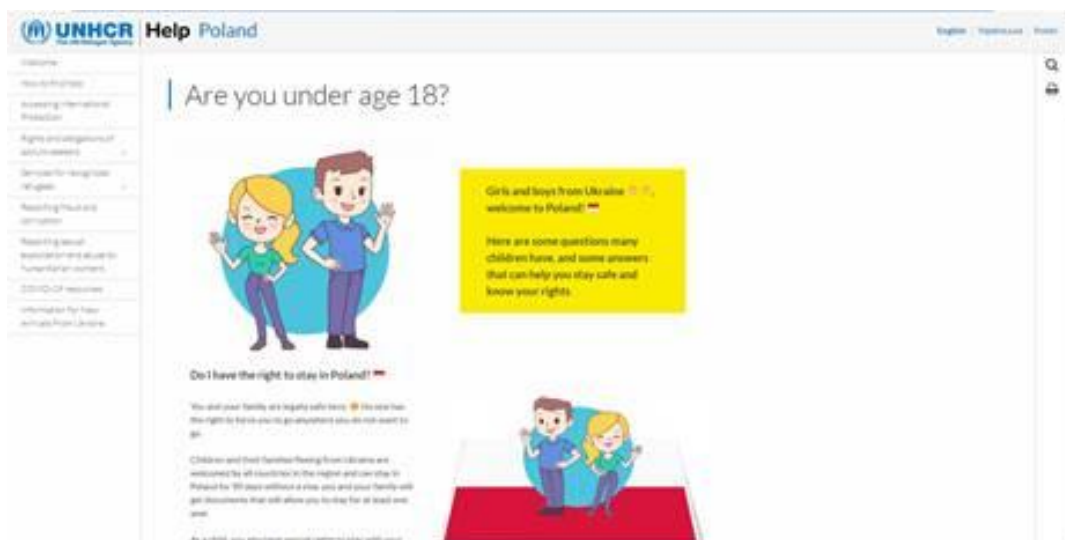
See the [Operational Data Portal](#) for the Ukraine Refugee Situation for more information.

Humanitarian Needs and Response

UNHCR has expanded its operations across Poland to meet the pace and scale of the emergency in support of the Government-led response. UNHCR and its partners are located in strategic locations including in regional centres to reach the most vulnerable.



- UNHCR trained **513 frontline workers in protection** issues ranging from gender-based violence to counter-trafficking, identifying persons with specific needs, child protection and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and delivered to a range of actors, including to army personnel working at the border locations and volunteers, as well as staff of local authorities and non-government organizations. As of 15 June, a **total of 695 people**, have been trained since 24 February 2022.



- UNHCR regularly updated the [UNHCR Poland - Help for refugees and asylum-seekers](#) which remained the most visited HELP page worldwide with **2,140,181 page visits** and **4,792,222 page views** as of **15 June 2022**, including from within Ukraine. The page includes a child-friendly HELP page in English, Polish and Ukrainian.
- UNHCR and partner **Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)** opened the Protection Hub in Rzeszow which is an inclusive Community Centre. On its first day, **25** women and children visited the centre. The centre provides a range of services including psycho-social support, gender-based violence prevention and response and child protection and legal aid services. It is complemented by activities including livelihoods and vocational training, fostering inclusion and social cohesion. To promote ownership of the space by the community children were invited to produce artwork to create a warm and welcoming space.
- **World Refugee Day** is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe – falling on June 20 each year – the occasion celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. This year, the core message for this **important day** is **everyone has a right to seek safety, whoever** they are, **wherever** they come from and **whenever** they are forced to flee. Being out of harm's way is the first step; people forced to flee then need the right solutions and opportunities to heal, learn and thrive. To mark World Refugee Day in Poland, UNHCR in partnership with Strefa WolnoSłowa is





Refugee Fest Dance Workshop, Warsaw Credit: UNHCR/R. Kostrzynski.

holding **Refugee Fest** which includes a series of free creative workshops bringing together artists and Polish citizens to promote social cohesion and create a space for the exchange of stories, experiences and culture through art. The Fest will conclude with a Bike Ride and Picnic Performance through Warsaw on Sunday 19th. Several iconic buildings will be lit up in blue on 20th June in several Polish cities.

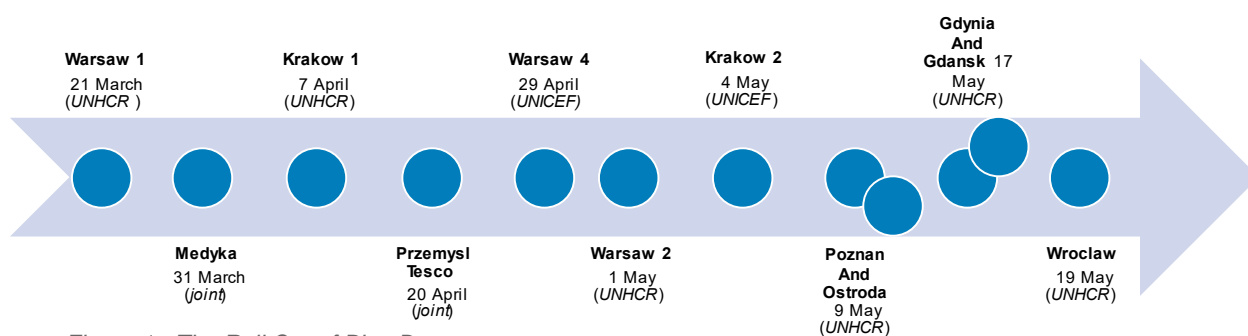
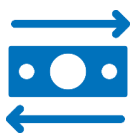


Figure 1 - The Roll Out of Blue Dots

- **UNHCR** and partner **UNICEF** scaled up outreach to vulnerable refugees through **12 Blue Dot** locations. **Blue Dots** are safe spaces in key locations spread across the country, such as border crossing points, reception and accommodation centres, transit locations such as train stations and co-located with cash enrolment centres where refugees from Ukraine are mainly hosted and are established with harmonized services which are adapted to the needs of refugees in different locations. As of 15 June 2022, UNHCR and partner **Premiere Urgence International, delivered** counselling services to **18,000 individuals** in the Blue Dot centres and **10,740 individuals** were referred to specialised services outside the Blue Dot centres such as with national service providers and NGOs.

- UNHCR has piloted and rolled out a new **Feedback and Response mechanism** in the **Blue Dot** protection hubs. The channel for children includes a playful mechanism with green, yellow or red ball balls to share satisfaction levels with activities. Channels available for adults include an e-mail box and a Kobo formed accessible via a QR code (or with the support of staff) to share open feedback and satisfaction levels with services provided and treatment received. Posters have been placed in key locations in protection hubs (see figure).



Multi Purpose Cash Assistance

Please feel free to share any **comments** or **feedback** on our work



Feedback posters in Blue Dots locations.

- UNHCR has opened **10 cash enrolment centres** including Poznan, Ostroda, Gdynia, Gdansk, Wroclaw, Bytom and Zgiers in addition to Warsaw-Praga, Warsaw-Mirow and Krakow, to scale up its multi-purpose cash assistance response across the country and reach the most vulnerable, including five with partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF). The UNHCR cash assistance programme is designed to serve as a transitional emergency safety net until refugees can be included in the national welfare system. To date, over **1.17 million Ukrainian refugees have been registered by the Polish authorities**, receiving a national identity number (PESEL). Thanks to these efforts, a growing number of Ukrainian refugees are receiving other forms of economic support and accessing jobs.



Assistant High Commissioner for Refugees, Gillian Triggs talks with refugees from Ukraine at the Blue Dots and Cash Enrolment centre in Warsaw during her visit to Poland. Credit: UNHCR/R. Kostrzynski.

- As of 15 June, UNHCR and partners have enrolled **219,944** individuals (**105,352** families) for cash assistance through its cash enrolment centres in Poland. UNHCR is recalibrating its cash assistance programme and further adapting the eligibility criteria of its emergency cash programme to ensure those at heightened risk receive are prioritised.
- UNHCR conducts home visits to enrol people who may have more limited mobility including the team at the Wroclaw cash centre (see photo) The centre in Wroclaw was launched on 19 May, jointly with the partner **Lutheran World Federation (LWF)**.



Cash enrolment team at work completing registration process during home visit, Wroclaw. Credit: UNHCR/A. Alabart.

Emergency Relief Items

- Poland has been a logistics hub to Ukraine from the onset of the emergency with UNHCR delivering emergency supplies (from UNHCR and donated by governments and private sector companies) by road shipment from its warehouse in Rzeszów into Ukraine. As of 14 June, **258** trucks have arrived to the warehouse in Rzeszów and UNHCR has processed and delivered **186** trucks with an average of **15,000 kg** of emergency supplies per truck from Poland to Ukraine carrying most-needed high thermal blankets, kitchen sets, solar lamps, winter jackets, sleeping bags, mattresses, towels, clothes and other life-saving items to warehouses in Dnipro, Lviv and Uzhhorod in western and central Ukraine, for distribution to the increasing number of internally displaced people.
- UNHCR is leading the logistics sector and supporting a range of partners with logistics services including, warehousing and delivery of much-needed emergency items in Poland.

- UNHCR continued to support Government-led efforts to help refugees in Poland with emergency supplies to strengthen reception capacity. Some **16 x 40-foot trucks** arrived in Krakow, Wroclaw and Warsaw from UNHCR's Grabica warehouse with items such as bed linen, blankets, hygiene kits, towels and diapers for use primarily at reception and accommodation centres where refugees from Ukraine take temporary shelter. More trucks delivering around the country. Since reception centres are an initial short-term solution for new arrivals, UNHCR's support will reach successive groups of refugees as they pass through.



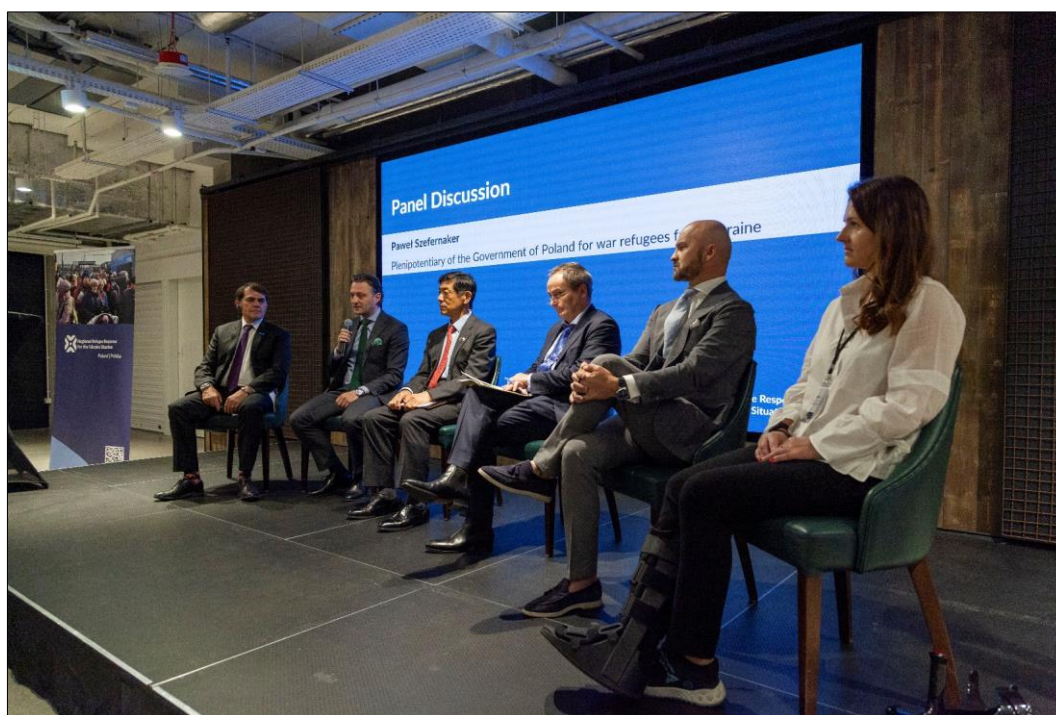
Supporting Government-led efforts with the delivery of emergency relief items to Krakow local authorities. L-R Mahmoudou Guindo, Head of Office Krakow a.i., Antoni Fryczek, the Secretary of the City of Krakow, Natalia Solarz, Snr Field Assistant, Astrid Castelein, Senior Emergency Coordinator, Marin Din Kajdomcaj, UNHCR Representative in Poland. Credit: /Maciej Grzyb Krakow.pl.

Working in Partnership

- UNHCR has increased its reach to the most vulnerable refugees with 6 international and national partners to respond to the most pressing needs of refugees in Poland: including the **Polish Centre for International Aid (PCPM)**, **Premiere Urgence International**, **Halina Niec**, **Association for Legal Intervention**, **Lutheran World Federation** and **ACTED/REACH**.
- The launch of the **Poland Chapter** of the **Refugee Response Plan (RRP)**, took place on 31 May 2022 in Warsaw with over 200 participants, including Polish authorities, UN agencies, international and national NGOs, civil society and a strong representation from the private sector attended.

The event included a panel discussion with Bartosz Grodecki, Polish Deputy Interior Minister, Government of Poland; Akio Miyajima, Ambassador of Japan to Poland; Martin Kremer, Deputy Ambassador of Germany to Poland; Rafał Brzoska, Anti-crisis Business Association Poland (SZA) / Integer.pl; and Anna Wiącek-Kocot, Anti-crisis Business Association Poland (SZA) / Deloitte. Following the panel discussion, participants attended thematic break-out sessions to discuss the main needs and opportunities in the response, and to identify priorities and contingency scenarios for the months ahead.

- UNHCR leads the overarching **refugee coordination structure** in Poland, in support of the Government-led response including an inter-sector group at the National and sub-national levels (Podkarpackie). Following consultations with partners, and reflective of the high relevance of thematic discussion and interventions in this area, a separate **Shelter Sector** was established, effective 4 May 2022 while discussions on **livelihoods** are taking place under the Basic Needs Sector.
- Building on the unprecedented support of the **private sector** in Poland in the response to the influx of refugees from Ukraine, their strong visibility at the RRP launch, underpinned by a commitment to the Global Compact, UNHCR has continued to increasingly partner with the private sector on a number of levels including logistics, in-kind donations, technical, support to the social inclusion of refugees RRP.



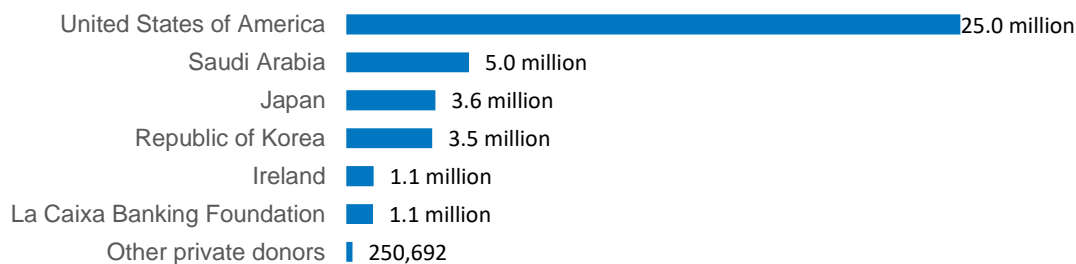
Poland Chapter Regional Response Plan 2022 launch. Credit: UNHCR/R. Kostrzynski.

Financial Information (as of 20 June 2022)

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 39.3 million**.



BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region.

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