

29 July 2022

## KEY FIGURES

**Over 273,586**

refugees from Ukraine enrolled for cash assistance in Poland

**94%** of the refugees enrolled are women and children

**US\$79,3 million\***

est. disbursed so far to assist refugees from Ukraine in Poland

**11** enrollment centres opened in Warsaw (2), Krakow, Poznan, Ostroda, Gdansk, Gdynia, Bytom, Wrocław, Zgierz and Lublin during the first months of the crisis, now gradually transitioning to other purposes

\*This figure is subject to retroactive changes based on financial reconciliations.



“Humanitarian cash assistance is a quick and efficient means of getting assistance to people quickly, empowering families to deal with the crisis and meet their basic needs. UNHCR is maximizing the potential of connectivity to provide cash assistance to refugees and other displaced populations.”

**FILIPPO GRANDI**  
United Nations  
High Commissioner for Refugees



Refugees from Ukraine – mostly women and children – are enrolled to receive cash assistance at the newly established cash enrollment centre in Bytom, Poland. © UNHCR/ Wisdom Enalebor, 08 June 2022

## Why cash?

Cash assistance is one of the most efficient and effective ways to support people forced to flee, especially in fast-changing emergencies. Using secure finance technology combined with strict data protection measures, UNHCR provides refugees with cash securely and quickly. Families can purchase goods and services from local businesses – such as rent, food, medical supplies, and clothes – which boosts the economy and helps to integrate them into the community. Most importantly, **cash assistance respects the dignity of choice and independence of people forced to flee**, and give them a sense of normality and ownership, allowing them to decide what they need most to support their family.

## Whom do we help?

In March 2022, UNHCR set up in record-time a cash assistance programme for refugees who fled Ukraine from 24 February onwards. Initially meant as a transitional emergency safety net, **UNHCR cash programme is now transitioning to focus on the most vulnerable refugees**. Mobile teams are conducting home visits to reach refugees who can't visit our centres due to medical conditions or mobility issues (case by case).

## What support do refugees get?

Eligible refugees who enrol for the programme receive 700 Polish zloty (some US\$150) per month for three months, with an additional 600 Polish zloty for each household member, to a maximum amount per household of 2,500 zloty (approx. US\$540) per month for households of four members or more. Humanitarian actors distributing cash to refugees agreed on an amount aligned to the national safety net and a maximum period of 3 months' support.

## What is the link between cash assistance and protection?

UNHCR's cash programme in Poland helps us reach refugees with specific needs and offer them additional support and protection services, like counselling, psychosocial first aid, and referral to other national services. These services are available at Blue Dots connected to cash enrolment centers.

### 1 in 5 of enrolled refugees with specific needs:

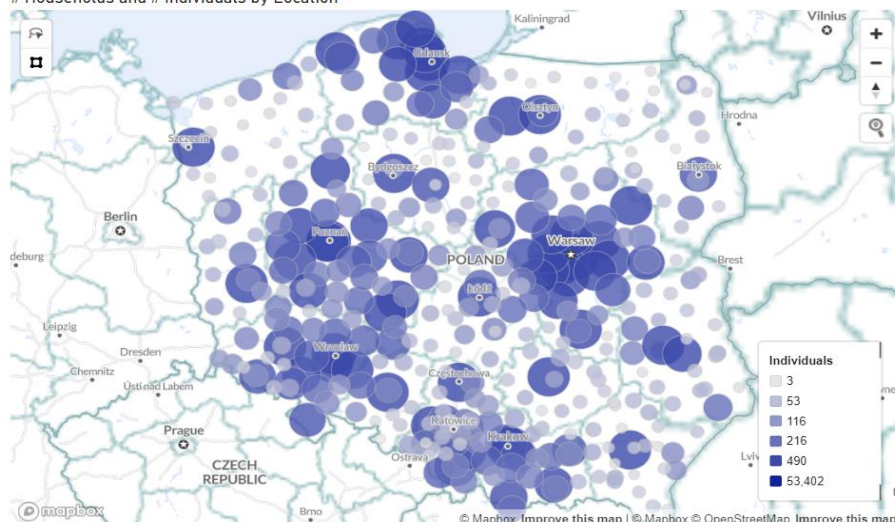
- 12% single parent
- 3% women at risk
- 2% disabilities
- 1% serious medical condition
- 1% unaccompanied children

## How does it work?

1. Until June 2022, refugees could request an appointment via [help.unhcr.org/Poland](https://help.unhcr.org/Poland) or through referral from UNHCR protection staff or partner organizations. Applications are no longer possible online as UNHCR is processing the large number of requests received so far.
2. Refugees deemed eligible based on the information provided during the application process receive an appointment by SMS, asking them to approach an enrolment centre where eligibility will be assessed.
3. At the centre, refugees are asked questions on their family composition, age, disability, current location of stay, etc. and need to show evidence that they fled Ukraine after 24 February.
4. Fingerprints are scanned, to ensure there is no duplication of assistance.
5. If refugees have specific needs (for instance, older people or separated children) or are otherwise in need of support they are referred for further counselling to the adjacent UNHCR-UNICEF Blue Dot protection hub or a protection desk, where they can access psychosocial aid, safe spaces and other services.
6. Eligible refugees receive a unique 9-digit code (BLIK number) via SMS, issued by UNHCR's partner Santander Bank. This allows them to withdraw their cash grant from a wide network of ATMs in Poland. In the Lublin area UNHCR's partner Polish Centre for International Aid Foundation (PCPM) is using a different system, where assistance is provided in the form of a prepaid card.

## ENROLLED REFUGEES PER LOCATION

# Households and # Individuals by Location



## Who are our partners?

The programme is designed in coordination with the Polish Government and complementary to its efforts to support refugees from Ukraine. NGO partners include the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Polish Centre for International Aid Foundation (PCPM).

Private sector partners include financial service provider Santander Bank, and IKEA, which donated furniture for the cash centres and Blue Dot hubs.