

Poland

01 December 2022

Over **1.5 million refugees** from Ukraine have registered in Poland for Temporary Protection. Some registrations were deactivated subsequently, as their holders left Poland for more than 30 days, bringing the number of active PESEL registrations by the end of November to 942,857, according to GoP data ([LINK](#)).

UNHCR is supporting government-led efforts through a multisectoral response focusing on **ensuring access to asylum and protection, assisting the most vulnerable refugees, and facilitating socio-economic inclusion.**

UNHCR and partners are at **border crossing points and in refugee-hosting areas** to provide information on rights and services, to identify and support vulnerable refugees, to reinforce the reception capacities and support longer-term solutions.

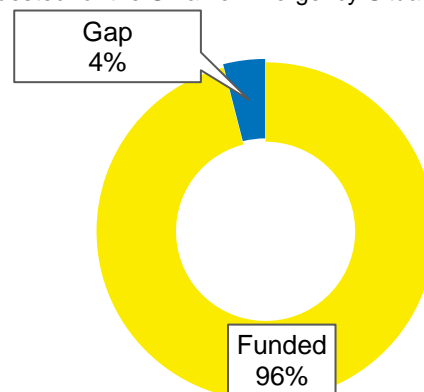
KEY FIGURES

- Over **1.5 million** refugees from Ukraine recorded in Poland in 2022.
- 40,371** refugees received protection support and information at **6** UNHCR-UNICEF Blue Dots and **5** Community Centres.
- 4,662** highly vulnerable refugees enrolled in UNHCR's targeted cash assistance programme since its start in the second week of October 2022. (283,515 refugees assisted in the first phase of cash assistance, from March to September 2022).
- 30,882** interviews conducted with refugees for protection monitoring and profiling.
- 1,073,289** essential core relief items (CRIs) were delivered to authorities.

FUNDING (AS OF 01 DECEMBER 2022)

US\$ 211.2 M

requested for the Ukraine Emergency Situation for Poland



STAFFING & OFFICES

132 international and national staff
4 offices in Warsaw, Krakow, Rzeszow and Lublin and mobile teams at border crossing points.

Overview

Since the start of the military offensive in Ukraine, Poland transformed within weeks from a country hosting relatively few refugees into one of the main refugee-hosting countries in the world.

Refugee arrivals are expected to continue as the situation remains uncertain in Ukraine, with large scale displacement and destruction, as well as harsh winter conditions. Some refugees have moved on in Europe and elsewhere, but large numbers of refugees from Ukraine remain in Poland.

UNHCR has boosted its presence and response to provide targeted protection services, cash assistance and other types of support in line with the Government-led efforts.



Polish lesson for refugees from Ukraine at Protection Hub in Rzeszów. ©UNHCR/Rafal Kostrzynski.

Main Activities

In close collaboration with government and local authorities, United Nations agencies, partners, and civil society organisations, UNHCR undertakes the following activities:



Protection

UNHCR supports the effort of the Government and local authorities to provide essential services and assistance to refugees from Ukraine and elsewhere. UNHCR provides a wide spectrum of protection activities and services, with particular attention paid to persons with specific needs. These include, among others:

- Access to reliable, timely and comprehensive **information**, including on available local services and how to receive support.
- **Child and family-friendly spaces**: so that children can play and also to serve as day-care facility, for instance when parents have an appointment or an interview.
- **Legal counselling and assistance**: through a network of legal partners in major cities in Poland, to assist with access to temporary protection and documentation to questions on family-related law, as well as on rental contracts and labour-related queries.
- **Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)**: in group or individual activities, including leisure activities, and information on how to access specialised services.
- **Livelihood and socio-economic inclusion**: supporting refugees' inclusion into the job market and connecting them with employers.

UNHCR is reaching refugees through its network of partners and in its established community centres. This includes the special support centres for children and families set up jointly with UNICEF on the most frequently used routes, known as the "Blue Dots". As of 01 December, **40,371** refugees benefitted from protection services offered at the Blue Dots and Community Centres and 5,165 referrals were carried out to appropriate services.

In addition, UNHCR is strengthening outreach and active identification of persons with specific needs, through its **protection monitoring and profiling**, via a network of over 30 protection monitors across Poland's main cities. As of 1 December, UNHCR conducted **30,882** protection monitoring and profiling interviews in 13 Voivodeships (Dolnoslaskie, Wielkopolskie, Malopolskie, Lubelskie, Mazowieckie, Podkarpackie, Pomorskie, Podlaskie, Opolskie, Lubuskie, Lodzkie, Slaskie and Zachodniopomorskie).



Information and Communication with Refugee Community

To address critical gaps in information, UNHCR disseminates accurate information to refugees. This is done through the **Poland page on the UNHCR HELP website** (set up quickly at the onset of the emergency and available in English, Polish and Ukrainian), **leaflets and posters** with reliable and accurate information on available services distributed at border points, in reception centres and urban areas, as well as on **social media platforms** (Facebook and Twitter). In addition, a **UNHCR counselling line** addresses questions on protection and other forms of assistance, operating in four languages (English, Polish, Ukrainian and Russian). As of 01 December, **23,496** calls were received.



Cash Assistance

Cash assistance is one of the most efficient and effective ways to support people forced to flee as it respects their dignity of choice, allowing them to decide on what they need most to support their families. From the second half of October 2022 until the end of the year, UNHCR provides highly targeted assistance to some of the most vulnerable refugees to support them cover their basic needs, including for their heightened needs during winter. As of 01 December, **4,662** highly vulnerable refugees enrolled in the targeted cash assistance programme. In a previous phase, during the first half year following the refugee influx from Ukraine, UNHCR provided cash support to 283,515 refugees as initial aid before they could access state support or work.



Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Gender-Based Violence (GBV) / Anti-Trafficking

UNHCR co-leads the PSEA Network with Plan International. One of its objectives is to mainstream PSEA in all humanitarian activities provided to refugees. **UNHCR conducts awareness-raising sessions on PSEA**

and anti-trafficking with refugees, partners and government officials **through training and disseminating information, education and communication materials in English, Ukrainian, and Polish.**

As of 01 December, a total of **753** humanitarian workers and staff members from UNHCR, partners and authorities benefitted from training sessions on PSEA.



Accommodation

In coordination with local authorities, UNHCR partners CORE and PCPM launched thermal upgrades and minor repairs for **12 shelters** in the Podkarpackie and Lubelskie regions (border areas in the southeast of Poland), with an accommodation capacity of **2,076 individuals**, that can be used as shelters to host refugees from Ukraine. These are punctual activities to meet urgent needs during the winter.



Supplies

UNHCR supports the Government of Poland and local authorities with emergency supplies to strengthen reception capacities and respond to the refugees' urgent needs. **As of 1 December, 1,073,289 essential and core relief items such as face masks, mattresses, bed linen, blankets, hygiene kits and towels have been dispatched and delivered, mostly to regionals and local authorities.**

Working with partners

UNHCR works with 8 international and national partners to respond to the most pressing needs of refugees in Poland. These include ACTED/REACH, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre, the Lutheran World Federation, International Medical Corps (IMC), Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), the Polish Centre for International Aid (PCPM) and the Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej (Association for Legal Intervention, SIP). Jointly, UNHCR and these partners are working with a number of grassroots local organisations.

UNHCR leads the refugee coordination structure in Poland in support of the Government-led response. The thematic sector working groups include Protection (with sub-sector working groups on Child Protection, Gender-based Violence, Counter-trafficking, Third-Country Nationals, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support), Health, Education, Shelter, Basic Needs (including Food Security, Water and Sanitation and Core Relief Items and Livelihoods), and Logistics. In addition, there are transversal working groups on Cash, Information Management, Accountability to Affected Populations and a Network on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The coordination structure aims at complementing, supporting and strengthening the national response to the refugee crisis in Poland. Updated information on coordination and response is available on the [UNHCR Poland Data Portal](#), including through dedicated pages for each Sector/Working Group.

Donors

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.



And to organisations and private sector partners from:



For more information:

Julia Gouyou Beauchamps, External Relations Officer, Email: GOUYOU@UNHCR.ORG

Alaa Zalzaleh, Reporting Officer, Email: ZALZALEH@UNHCR.ORG

LINKS

[Ukraine Emergency Situation Page - Data Portal Poland - Facebook - Twitter](#)