UNHCR Poland Operational Update

As of 15 November 2022

KEY FIGURES:

1.5 million*

Refugees from Ukraine have registered in Poland to benefit from Temporary Protection.

Authorities decided to deactivate the PESEL registration of individuals spending more than 30 days outside Poland. This brought the number of active PESEL registrations down to 1,017,655, according to recent government data. (LINK)

$221.2 million**

Requested by UNHCR for its response in Poland in 2022, as presented in the Poland chapter of the 2022 Ukraine Regional Refugee Response Plan ($778 million budget requested overall by 85 partners for 2022)

*Source: Source - UNHCR, Government – data is as of end of September

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP):** The 2023 RRP is under preparation, with over 80 partners having submitted their requirements so far. In the second phase of the planning process, ongoing until 25 November, partners are submitting their projects through sector coordinators.
- **Winterization:** In the Podkarpackie region (border area in the southeast of Poland), in coordination with local authorities, UNHCR partner CORE launched **thermal upgrades of four public buildings,** with accommodation capacity of 1,384 individuals, that can be used as shelters to host refugees from Ukraine in Radymno, Krosno, Przemysl, and Medyka. In the Lubelskie region, also neighbouring Ukraine, UNHCR partner PCPM is finalizing formalities with local authorities to start **thermal upgrade for eight accommodation centres**. These are punctual activities to meet urgent needs ahead of the winter. A total of **1,073,289 relief items** (blankets, mattresses, bed linen, sleeping bags, hygiene kits, among others) have been delivered to local authorities and partners. As part of its shelter/accommodation response, UNHCR is also providing emergency short-term accommodation (maximum two weeks period) in Krakow: since July, UNHCR facilitated short-term accommodation of 148 very vulnerable refugees in Hampton and Doubletree hotels.
- **Cash assistance programme**: Since the conclusion of the blanket multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) programme in September, UNHCR is providing strictly targeted cash assistance to some of the most vulnerable refugees to help cover their basic needs. Since the second half of October 2022, a total of 2,147 vulnerable refugees (721 families) were enrolled in this programme.
- **Protection monitoring**: UNHCR continues to monitor needs and intentions of refugees through a network of 38 protection monitors. Findings from the over 11,000 interviews conducted so far are summarized in this brief (link). Protection monitors are also key in outreach, identifying persons with specific needs and referring them to assistance and services.

RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

PROTECTION

40,330 people received **targeted protection assistance** and information at UNHCR-UNICEF Blue Dots and UNHCR Community Centres.

CASH ASSISTANCE

2,147 refugees enrolled in the new highly targeted cash programme since October. Over 285,000 refugees were assisted under the previous cash programme.

ESSENTIAL ITEMS

1,073,289 essential and core relief items delivered to authorities and partners.

PROTECTION MONITORING AND PROFILING

18,913 interviews conducted with refugees for protection monitoring and profiling.

COUNSELLING LINE

20,967 calls received and attended through the counselling line.

ACCOMMODATION

12 accommodation centers selected for thermal upgrades.

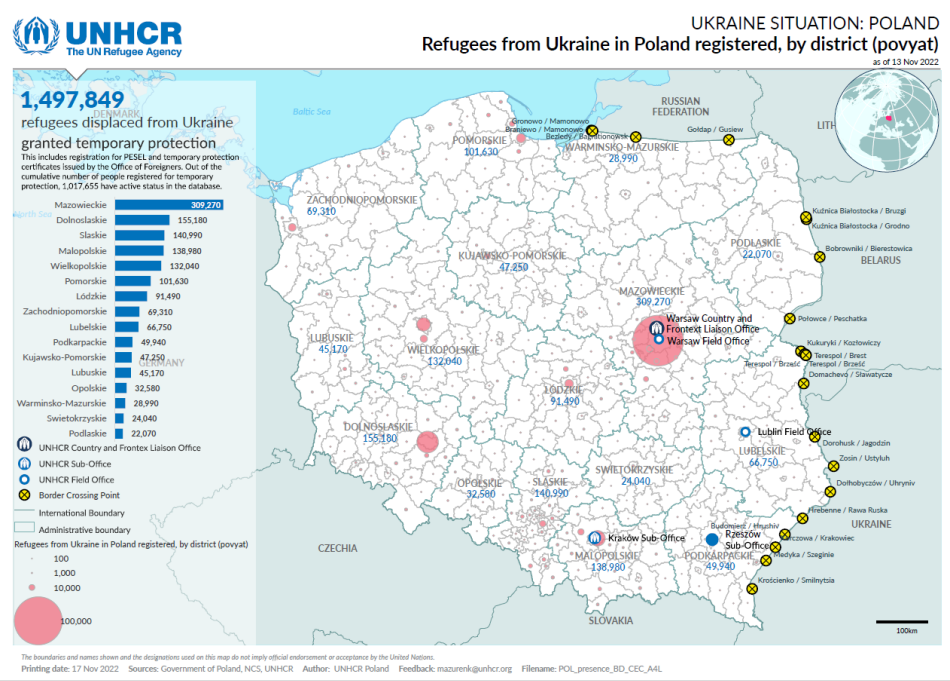
- **Education:** Nearly two months and a half since the start of the school year, less than half of PESEL-registered refugee children are attending Polish schools, while others follow distance learning in Ukraine. According to government's figures (LINK), as of 7 November 2022, **191,930** Ukrainian children were attending Polish kindergartens and schools. Together with other humanitarian actors, UNHCR is advocating for smooth inclusion of refugee children into the Polish education system, promoting for instance access to language and cultural adaption courses.
- **Border monitoring**: UNHCR regularly visits BCP at Poland's borders and works with MoI and BG to ensure access to territory and asylum procedures for persons in need of international protection. Through legal partners, UNHCR provides information on rights and services, legal advice and representation for refugees who require specialized support.
- **Protection:** From 10 to 30 November, UNHCR and 18 partners are conducting a participatory assessment aiming to consult 760 refugees through focus group discussion across 11 locations in Poland. This will guide UNHCR response.
- **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):** As co-lead of the PSEA Network in Poland (together with Plan International), UNHCR facilitated and organized a series of training in Rzeszow, Krakow and Warsaw **with the active participation of 64 UNHCR and partner staff**.
- **Gender-Based Violence (GBV):** The GBV Sub-Sector, co-led by UNHCR and Centrum Praw Kobiet, are preparing activities to take place from 25 November to 10 December for the 16 days of activism, under the main theme "Activism to end violence against women and girls".

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- UNHCR works to promote effective access to territory and asylum, fair and efficient asylum procedures, documentation for asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior, Border Guards, Office for Foreigners and other relevant authorities and civil society.
- The Government of Poland has enabled access to refugees from Ukraine, including through simplified border control procedures in the early days of the emergency. Refugees from Ukraine can apply for a Polish Personal Identification Number (PESEL), granting them access to services and benefits in Poland.
- On 23 July, the Government of Poland introduced the "first fully digital residency permit" for Ukrainian refugees, diaa.pl. This electronic document is issued to Ukrainian citizens who crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border on or after 24 February 2022 and allows them to cross the Polish borders and move freely within the Schengen area (provided that they have a valid travel document).

UKRAINE SITUATION: POLAND

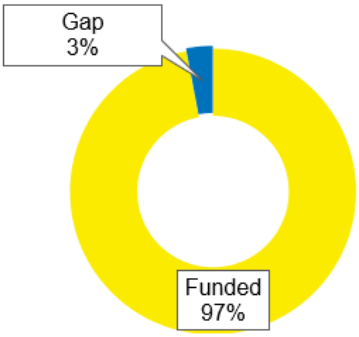
Refugees from Ukraine registered by Powiat – 13 November 2022.



FUNDING (AS OF 15 NOVEMBER 2022)

US$ 211.2 M

requested for the Ukraine Emergency Situation for Poland



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 organizations and private sector partners from:

Ukraine Emergency Situation Page - Data Portal Poland - Facebook - Twitter

For more information:

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

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