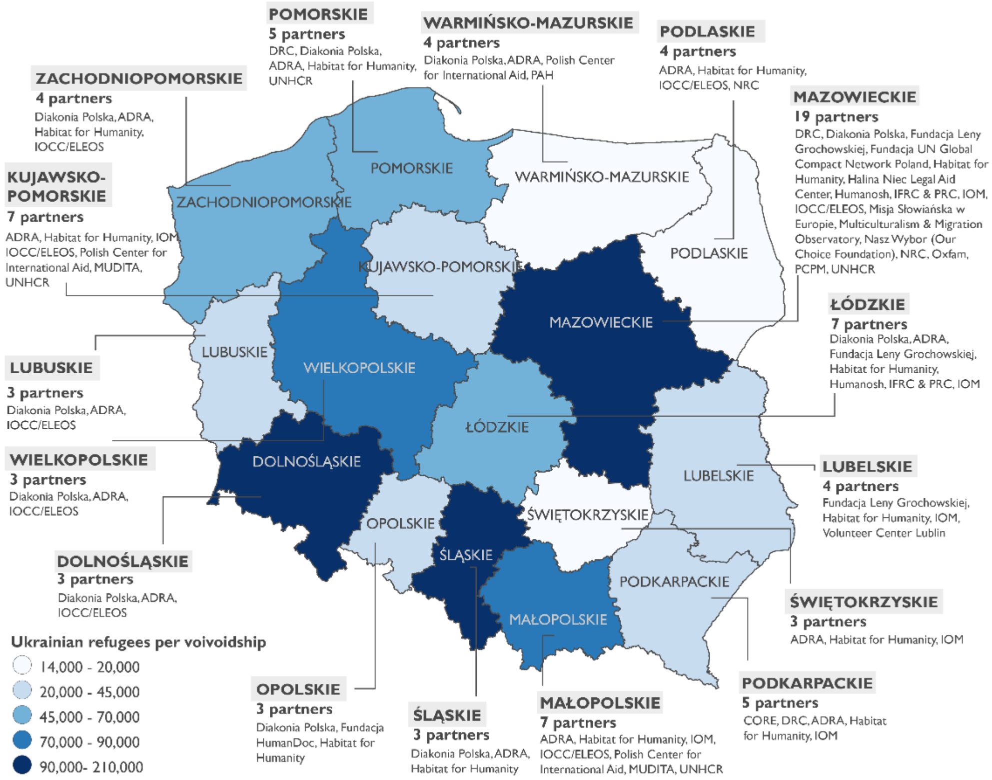
Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Shelter/Housing/Accommodation Sector in Poland

as of January 2024

FACTSHEET

In early January 2024 there were **955,893 active registrations** of Ukrainian refugees in Poland. The majority of them live in **Mazowieckie** voivodeship followed by **Dolnośląskie** and **Śląskie**. 64% of refugees are females, with nearly 40% of this group falling in the 18-59 age bracket. **Approximately 68% live in private accommodation, 12% in shared accommodation with others, 13% at hostels and 7% at collective centers** (CC). Collective accommodation is run by both government and private entities (including NGOs).



GAPS & CHALLENGES

While most refugee households (HH) live in rented apartments and host families (both UA and PL), **the most vulnerable refugees still live in collective centers and in hostels supported by the governmental program 40+.** Before 2022, the Polish housing market had already been facing challenges such as limited pre-existing housing stock and a significant price rise in the private rental market. The large influx of refugees put additional pressure on the housing market, making it extremely difficult to find medium/long-term individual accommodation.

According to the MSNA, **82% of refugee HH have reported unmet needs**. The top 3 most mentioned includes: employment/ livelihoods (32%), healthcare (27%), **and accommodation (23%). 49% of HH have reported living with a chronically ill family member**, increasing the challenges related to finding suitable and accessible accommodation. Furthermore, **refugees face discrimination on the private rental market**, especially in the case of the Roma minority, with reported cases of bias when trying to secure private housing, including higher levels of refusals and risks of forced eviction, compounded by misinformation about eviction and tenancy rights in Poland.

The lack of data on the overall situation of people living in CC exacerbates the difficulty with needs mapping and the development of an effective, knowledge-based response.

RESPONSE

From the Shelter Sector perspective, there are two main groups of beneficiaries: **refugees that are able to secure self-sustainable accommodation** and **more vulnerable refugees living in collective centers for long-term** with a limited capacity to find employment and secure self-sustainability (elderly, people with disabilities etc.).

It is recommended that in the medium- and long-term **accommodation programs are accompanied by social and economic inclusion programs in order to be sustainable**. The fact that many of the refugees are women with children necessitates the provision of daily childcare, employment and accommodation. The three components need to be implemented simultaneously.

Sources: •Multi Sector Needs Analysis Poland 2023 (UNHCR) •Joint Protection Analysis (October2023, UNHCR) •GBV Safety Assessment Summary Report (UNHCR) •At the starting point. Monitoring of collective accommodation for Ukrainian refugees (Konsorcjum Migracyjne) •Housing problems of people living in Poland and evaluation of existing solutions (Habitat for Humanity) •Models of involving the private sector in the supply of affordable housing (Habitat for Humanity) •Kwestia mieszkaniowa a kryzys uchodźczy. Wspólne wyzwania i rozwiązania dla równoważenia sektora mieszkalnictwa w Polsce (Obserwatorium Miasta) •FGD Report on Employment, Accommodation, and Future Plans / Integration Snapshot (DTM) •Spotlight (January 2024, UW) • Sytuacja życiowa i ekonomiczna migrantów z Ukrainy w Polsce w 2023 roku NBP

Contacts: aszczutowska@habitat.pl / pkaczmarska@iom.int