CHILDREN EVACUATED FROM RESIDENTIAL CARE INSTITUTIONS IN UKRAINE TO POLAND

UNICEF RRO Poland

Protection sector meeting
January 2026

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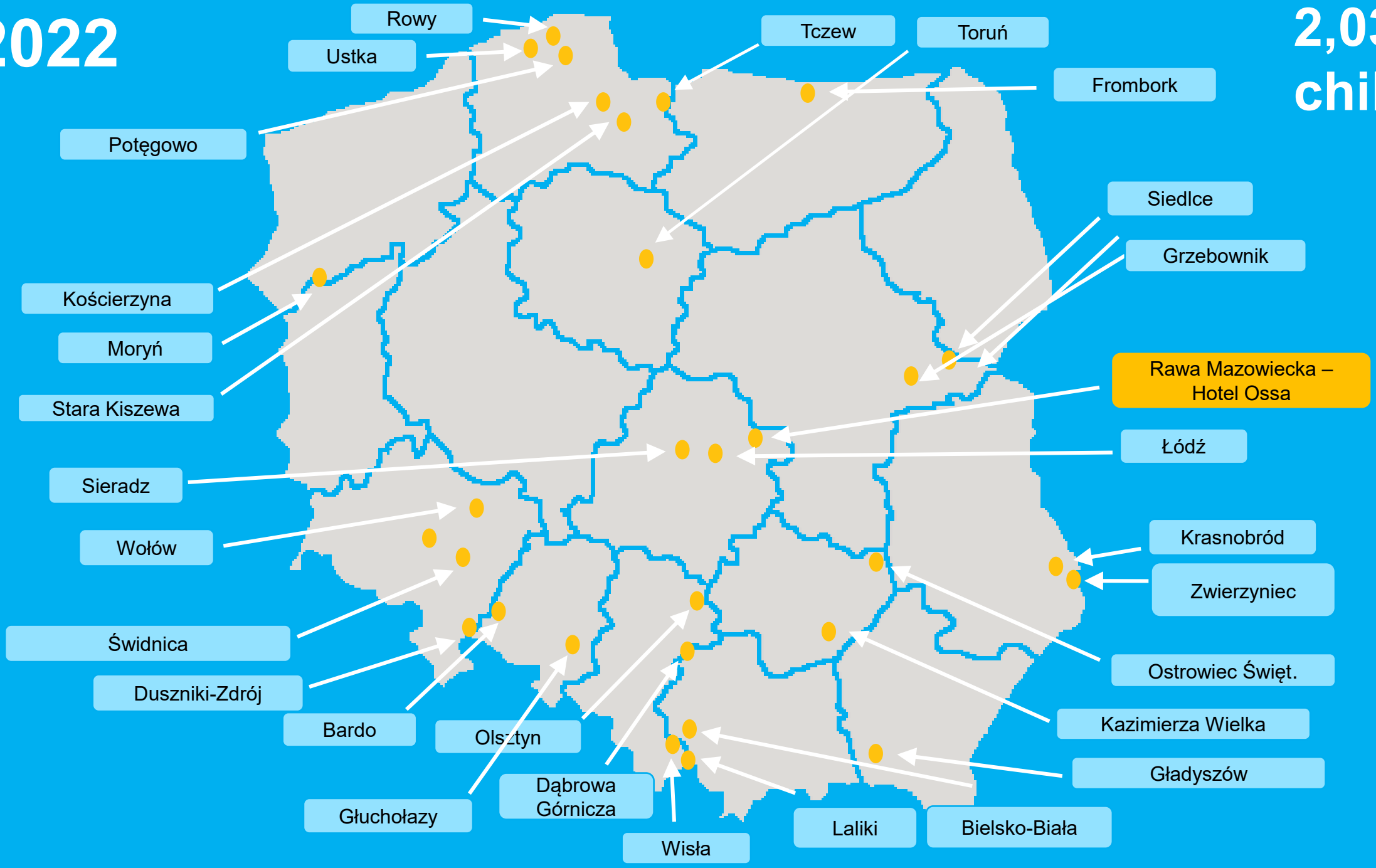
2022

2,035 children



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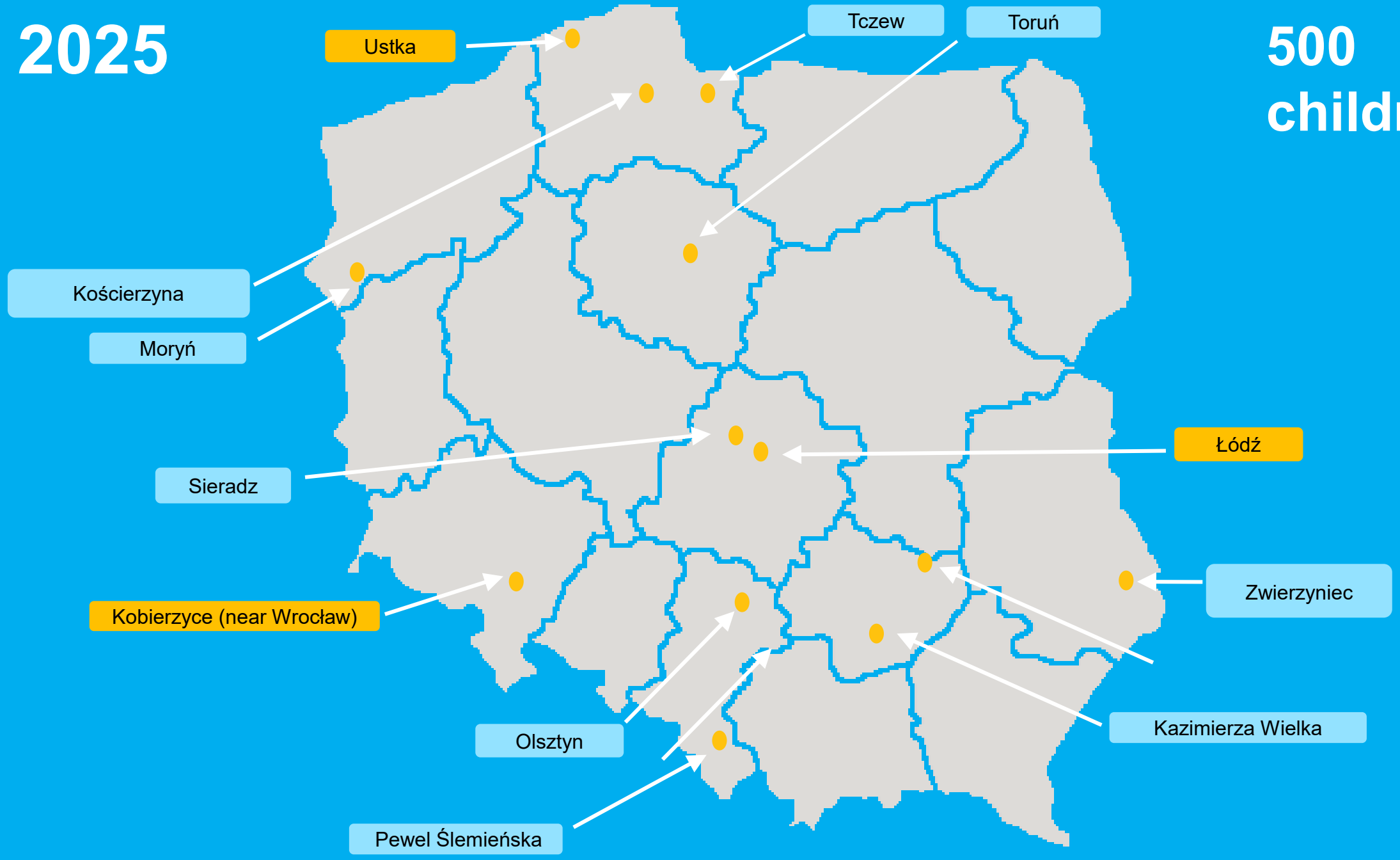
2025

500 children



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Evacuated children: Demographics

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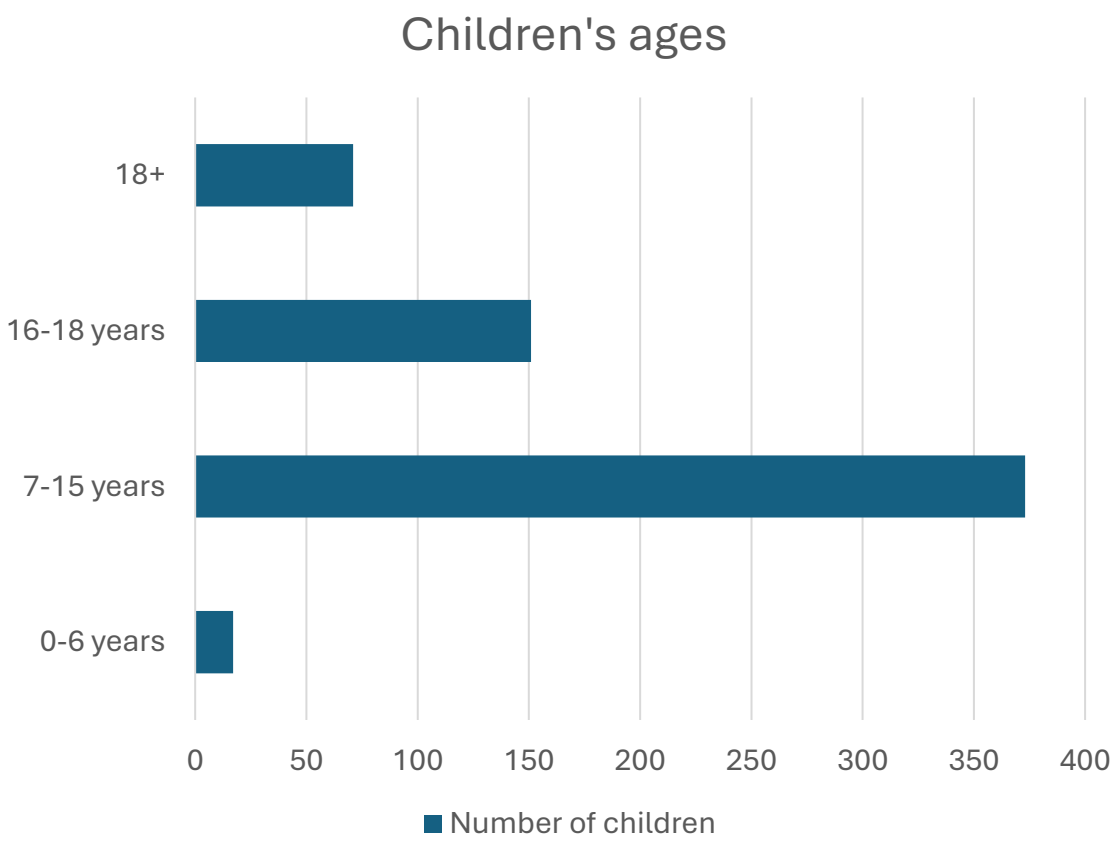

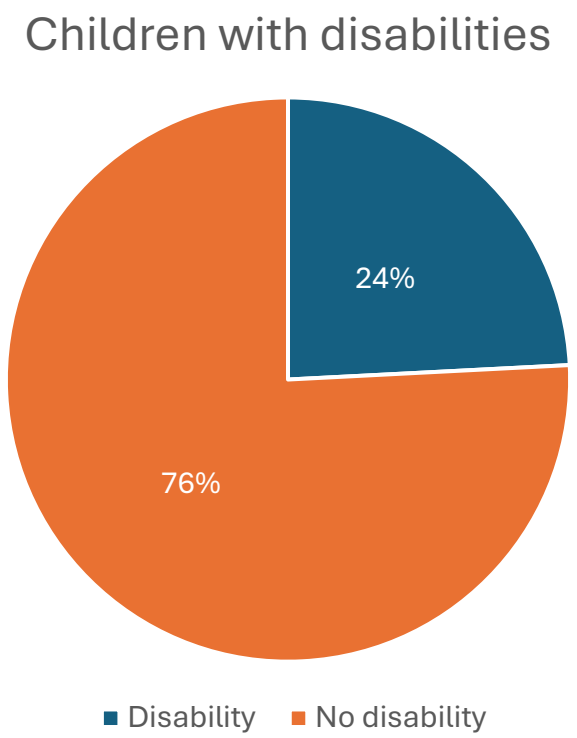

Our GOALS

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Ensure all children have **access to** minimum required **services and support**

Ensure **relocation** to small group homes of children with the highest risks

Ensure **individualized care** for every child

Continued **monitoring** of the situation

Our RESULTS

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Ensure all children have **access to** minimum required **services and support**

937

children with access to services

Ensure **relocation** to small group homes of children with the highest risks

460

children relocated

Ensure **individualized care support** for every child

740

children with individual plans

Remaining challenges

- Long-term family-based solution for every child
- Children with **complex needs** continue to require intensive support and services
- Children and adults **with disabilities**
- **Care-leavers** - transition to independence

What's next?

Q1-Q2 of 2026: transition from direct service provision to solely technical support and monitoring

March 2026: expiry of Special Act – changes in funding of basic needs

March (?) 2026: Funding of support to evacuated children taken over by MPRiPS through the FERS project – meant to cover basic needs + UNICEF supported activities

UNICEF Refugee Response Office in Poland position

on the Act on the phasing out of the solution from the Act on Assistance to Citizens of Ukraine in the Context of the Armed Conflict on the territory of that state, and on the amendments of certain other acts (UD345)

Alternative care

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Art. 2 (1b):

- Introducing (at least minor) **family members of employees** of alternative care facilities evacuated to Poland to the scope of the definition (current article 27e of Special Act)

- Introducing a definition of **foreign family foster care** - added in the new version

- Retaining the right of children and persons from institutional care, to receive free of charge **legal aid, psychological support, organizational assistance** for guardians, in particular by providing the assistance of volunteers, translators or assistance in dealing with official matters (current article 32 of the Special Act) and granting the same rights for foreign foster care

- Repealing the possibility to **place a child from institutional foreign foster care in the Polish foster care system** in case this is in his/her best interest (current article 27(4a)) - added in the new version

Alternative care

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Art. 2 (10)

- Keeping the provisions on **support for care leavers** (children leaving foreign institutional and family foster care) - current Art. 27b and 27c

- Keeping the requirement of **obtaining prior approval** from relevant authorities for placements of children in alterative care facilities **beyond the established capacity limits** – current Art 27 (3) – added in new version

Temporary guardianship

Art. 2(9)

- Adding provisions guaranteeing the implementation of rights of children (CRC, Art. 3(1), art. 20(1), Art. 20(2)) – currently art. 25(5), art. 25(6)

- Introducing a provision guaranteeing that supervision over temporary guardians is carried out over the implementation of the rights and obligations of the temporary guardian and over the provision of appropriate conditions of care and upbringing for the child, including the observance of children's rights

- Including acknowledgement of official guardians indicated by the country of origin also for foster families – added in the version

Support to vulnerable groups

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Art.2(7)

- Retaining the following groups in the vulnerable group definition and guaranteeing them accomodation support:

  - single-headed households with three or more children, at least one of whom is a child under 7 years of age
  - all pregnant women and raising a child up to 12 months (the drafted act includes only single mothers in the definition); - changed in the version
  - children in foster care (other than foreign institutional care);
  - children for whom the childcare benefit is not received;
  - temporary guardians other than for children in institutional foreign care;
  - adult students at a secondary school providing full-time education

- Adding Monitoring of child safeguarding standards in collective accomodation shelters

Family reunification

- Repealing of provisions on family reunification (current articles 117–117b of Special Act) – added in the new version