UNHCR Poland Operational Update

As of 15 December 2022

KEY FIGURES:

1.5 million*

Refugees from Ukraine have registered in Poland to benefit from 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 949,797, according to GoP data. (LINK).

$211.2 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: UNHCR, Government – data is as of 13 December.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Socio-Economic Inclusion:** UNHCR plays a catalyst role, supporting the socio-economic inclusion of refugees by connecting them to potential employers. To that end, **UNHCR co-organized job fairs in Warsaw (06 December), Krakow (08 December) and Lublin (14 December)**. The job fairs were organized in partnership with local authorities, IOM, Tent and Indeed. A total of 155 companies and NGOs participated in the job fairs, which were attended by 1,354 people. More than 1,000 job interviews were conducted and more than 600 conditional job offers were made, among which an estimated 90% were given to refugees. The Press Release is available HERE.
- **Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP):** The Poland chapter of the 2023 Refugee Response Plan for the Ukraine situation was in final stages of preparation, with a launch planned in early 2023. The number of national and local Polish organisations will be higher than before, reaching over 50% of partners.
- **Contingency preparedness:** UNHCR refined contingency plans to respond to potential new refugee influx from Ukraine, particularly in view of the harsh winter conditions. To that end, UNHCR maintains a contingency stock of 50,000 relief items (10,000 inside Poland and 40,000 in the regional warehouse in Budapest). It works and coordinates with local regional and national authorities, and national and international NGOs on contingency and preparedness planning.
- **Cash assistance programme**: Under the current phase of its cash assistance programme, UNHCR is providing highly 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 **8,351** individuals, representing **3,655** families, were enrolled in this programme. As part of its accountability to the affected population (AAP), UNHCR carried out post distribution monitoring (PDM) during the period August-October for refugees who benefited from the cash assistance. 86% per cent of the respondents reported that cash is their preferred modality of assistance, 74% reported improved living conditions, and 97% reported reduced feelings of stress.

RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

PROTECTION
55,723 people received **targeted protection assistance** and information at UNHCR-UNICEF Blue Dots and UNHCR Community Centres.

CASH ASSISTANCE
8,351 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
30,882 interviews conducted with refugees for protection monitoring and profiling.

COUNSELLING LINE
26,263 calls received and attended through the counselling line.

ACCOMMODATION
12 accommodation centres selected for thermal upgrades and minor repairs.

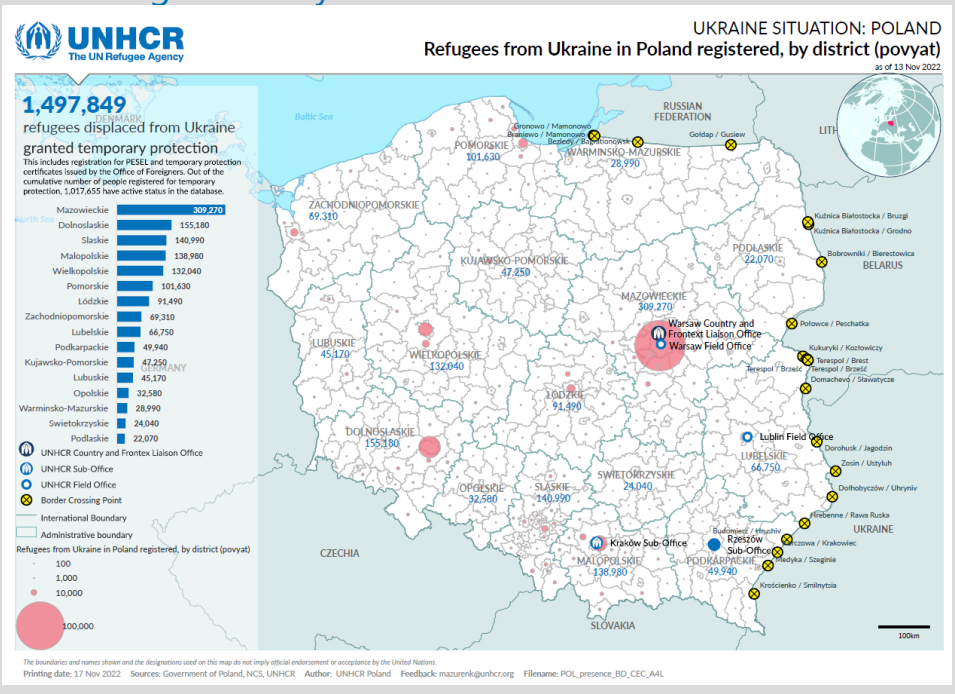
- **Protection Monitoring**: UNHCR continues monitoring refugees' needs and intentions through a network of 38 protection monitors. Protection Monitoring aims to promote evidence-based protection interventions and strengthen the active identification of persons with specific needs at heightened risk, to facilitate timely information provision and referrals to assistance and services. As of 15 December, **30,882** protection monitoring and profiling interviews were conducted in 2022. According to Protection Monitoring findings, the most urgent needs are: cash assistance, access to accommodation, employment, healthcare and education.
- **Community-Based Protection:** In addition to its network of 5 Blue Dots (established with UNICEF) and 6 Community Centres and as part of its community-based response, UNHCR, together with partners, has four community outreach mobile teams, used to reach refugees in rural areas or refugees with certain vulnerabilities or specific needs who are unable to approach the Blue Dots and Community Centres to access services. The outreach teams report to UNHCR's Field and Sub Offices, covering Mazowieckie, Małopolskie, Lubelskie and Podkarpackie regions.
  In November and December, UNHCR and 18 partners are conducting a participatory assessment aiming to consult refugees through focus group discussions across various locations in Poland. This will guide UNHCR's response and inform its humanitarian programme planning and will ensure inclusion of refugees in the decision making in a participatory manner. So far, 27 focus group discussions (FGDs) have been conducted in 13 locations in Poland, targeting 122 refugees and host community members from various age groups and backgrounds.

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

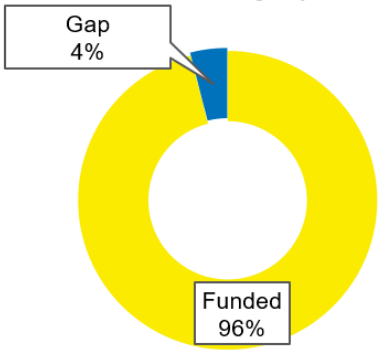
Refugees from Ukraine registered by Powiat – 13 November 2022.



FUNDING (AS OF 08 DECEMBER 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:

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