

UNHCR Poland Operational Update

As of 15 January 2023.



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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 10 January to 963,493, according to GoP data. ([LINK](#)).

\$102.9 million



Requested by UNHCR for its response in Poland in 2023. UNHCR programmes are funded through voluntary contributions.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Inter-Agency Coordination:** In 2022, UNHCR helped strengthen the coordination mechanisms at national, regional and municipal levels. Emergency preparedness was coordinated between all actors and in support of the Polish authorities, including in the border region (Lublin and Rzeszow offices). In addition, the Poland chapter of the 2023 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) was prepared, with increased participation from national and local organisations (over 50% of participants in the 2023 RRP).
- **Contingency Planning:** UNHCR delivered some 14,500 core relief items (CRIs) to the Polish Red Cross in Lubelskie region (southeast of Poland, bordering Ukraine) and the Municipality of Kolbuszowa (southeast of Poland, Podkarpackie Voivodeship), including mattresses, blankets, sleeping bags, partitions and field beds.
- **Winterisation response:** UNHCR officially handed over two thermally upgraded accommodation centres to authorities in Przemyśl city and Medyka Gmina in Podkarpackie region. The two shelters are out of four identified for shelter upgrades and minor repairs in the Podkarpackie region, the remaining two are planned to be handed over in second half of January. The centres will accommodate **1,384** vulnerable refugees, providing them with protection from the elements during the harsh winter. Links to the inauguration ceremonies can be accessed on UNHCR's Poland Facebook page ([HERE](#)) and its website ([HERE](#)).
- **Cash assistance:** 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. As of 15 January, 4,058 refugees (2,160 families) were enrolled in the current phase of the programme since the beginning of 2023. Beneficiaries were enrolled through five enrolment centres in Warsaw, Rzeszow, Gdynia, Wroclaw and Krakow.

RESPONSE IN NUMBERS



PROTECTION

778 people received **targeted protection assistance** and information at UNHCR-UNICEF Blue Dots and UNHCR Community Centres (51,236 cumulative since 2022).



CASH ASSISTANCE

4,058 refugees enrolled in the 2023 targeted cash assistance (over 290,000 refugees were assisted in 2022 under the previous cash programmes).



ESSENTIAL ITEMS

90,685 essential and core relief items delivered to authorities and partners (1,169,574 cumulative since 2022).



PROTECTION MONITORING AND PROFILING

1,192 interviews conducted with refugees for protection monitoring and profiling (43,979 cumulative since 2022).



COUNSELLING LINE

2,819 calls received and attended through the counselling line (32,819 cumulative since 2022).



ACCOMMODATION

12 accommodation centres targeted with thermal upgrades and minor repairs in 2022.

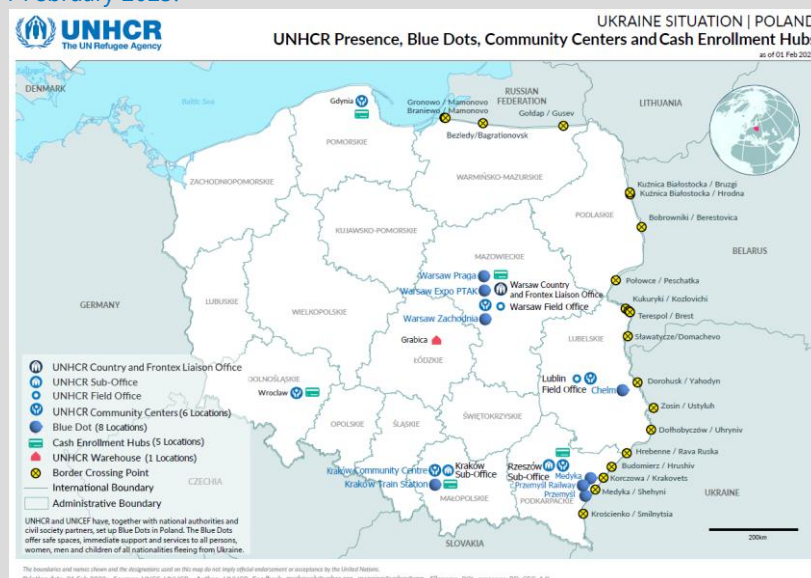
- **Protection Monitoring:** UNHCR monitored refugees' needs and intentions through a network of **42** protection monitors. Protection Monitoring aims to promote evidence-based protection interventions and strengthen the active identification of persons with specific needs at heightened risk, to facilitate timely information provision and referrals to assistance and services. As of 15 January, **1,192** protection monitoring and profiling interviews were conducted. According to Protection Monitoring findings, the most urgent needs identified: material assistance (core relief items, clothes, etc.), employment, medical support, accommodation and food.
- **Blue Dots and Community Centres:** In addition to the network of **eight** Blue Dots (established with UNICEF) and **six** Community Centres and as part of its community-based response, UNHCR, together with partners, has **six** 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 the established Community Centres, covering Mazowieckie, Małopolskie, Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Dolnośląskie and Pomorskie regions. Since the beginning of the year and as of 15 January, more than **778 refugees** received some form of support at the Blue Dots and Community Centres.
- **Participatory Assessment (PA):** UNHCR and partners finalized the PA exercise, which included a series of 84 assessments in the form of 75 focus group discussions (FGDs) and 9 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), targeting 449 participants (432 refugees and 17 host community members). The PA exercise aimed at enhancing the community participation and building partnerships with refugees from all ages and backgrounds by promoting their meaningful participation through a structured dialogue. Refugees from all age groups and background participated in the PA. Refugees' inputs are currently being finalized and will be used to inform UNHCR's planning and response.

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 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

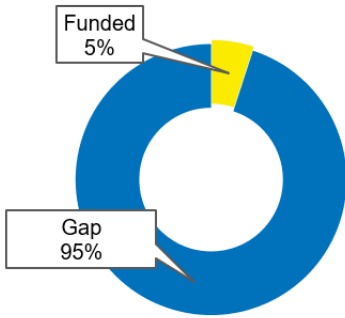
UNHCR Presence – 01 February 2023.



FUNDING (AS OF 13 JANUARY 2023)

US\$ 102.9 M

UNHCR's financial requirements 2023



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.



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And to organizations and private sector partners from:



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