

UNHCR Poland Operational Update

As of 15 February 2023.



KEY FIGURES:

Over 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 13 February to 981,886 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

- Coordination:** UNHCR leads the coordination of the refugee response of 83 organizations in Poland, in support of the Government's efforts. As of 15 February, UNHCR co-organised **nine coordination meetings** in the Mazovian, Małopolska, Lubelskie, and Podkarpackie Voivodeships. The meetings were attended by more than **280 representatives** from regional and local authorities, national and international NGOs, grassroots and civil society organisations, as well as UN agencies. Coordination meetings ensured a coordinated response and no duplication in service delivery, and discussed the provision of humanitarian assistance, achievements and challenges. Coordination is linked to the 2023 Regional Response Plan ([LINK](#)).
- Winterisation response:** UNHCR provided to refugees and partners **1,242 winterisation items** in the Mazovian (east-central Poland), Lubelskie and Podkarpackie (southeast of Poland, bordering Ukraine) Voivodeships. The items included winter jackets, sweaters and boots and are intended to help refugees keep warm and enhance their resilience during the harsh winter conditions.
- 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 February, **5,556 refugees** (2,652 families) received cash assistance since the beginning of the year. Beneficiaries were enrolled through five enrolment centres in Warsaw, Rzeszow, Gdynia, Wroclaw and Krakow.
- Protection Monitoring:** UNHCR monitors refugees' needs and intentions through a network of **42 protection monitors** throughout Poland. Protection Monitoring aims to promote evidence-based protection interventions and actively identify persons with specific needs and at heightened risk, to facilitate timely information provision and referrals to assistance and services. As of 15 February, **4,749** protection monitoring and profiling interviews were conducted. According to Protection Monitoring findings, some of the most urgent needs identified were: material assistance (core relief items, clothes, etc.), employment, medical support, accommodation and food.

RESPONSE IN NUMBERS



PROTECTION

4,100 people received targeted protection assistance and information at UNHCR-UNICEF Blue Dots and UNHCR Community Centres in 2023.



CASH ASSISTANCE

5,556 refugees received targeted cash assistance in 2023. Since the beginning of the crisis, 290,000 refugees were assisted.



ESSENTIAL ITEMS

20,666 essential and core relief items delivered to authorities and partners in 2023.



PROTECTION MONITORING AND PROFILING

4,746 interviews conducted with refugees for protection monitoring and profiling in 2023.



COUNSELLING LINE

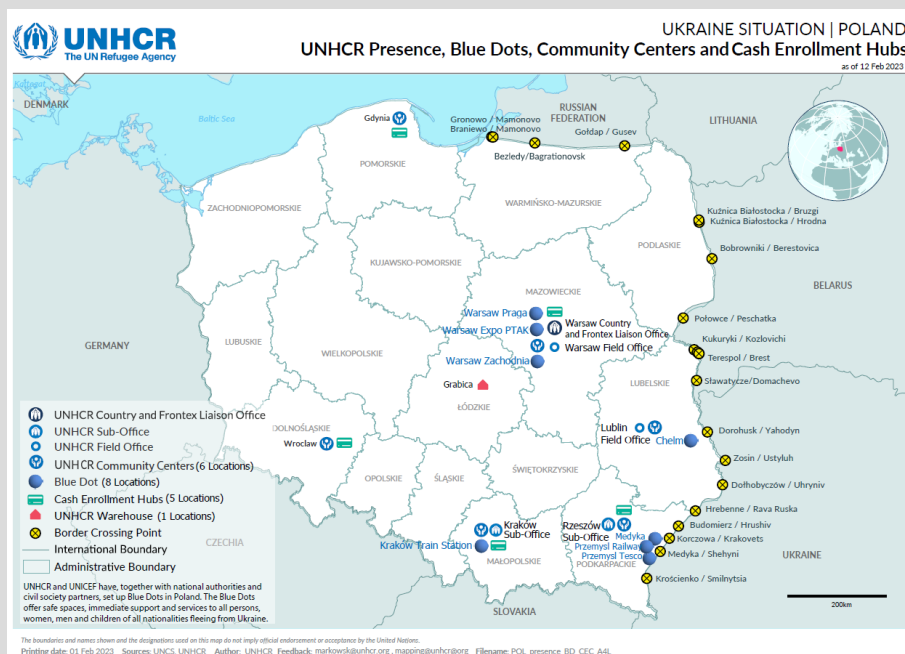
8,514 calls received and attended through the counseling line and Regional Call Centre in 2023.

- **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 mobile outreach teams, used to reach refugees in rural areas or refugees with certain vulnerabilities or specific needs who are unable to approach the centres to access services. The outreach teams report to Community Centres as well as UNHCR’s Field and Sub Offices; covering Mazowieckie, Małopolskie, Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Dolnośląskie and Pomorskie regions. Since the beginning of the year and as of 15 February, more than **4,100 refugees** received some form of support at the Blue Dots and Community Centres.
- **Regional Call Centre (RCC):** to enhance its communication with communities and accountability to affected populations, UNHCR replaced the Counselling Line with a Regional Call Centre. It is a **toll-free mechanism** (800 012 948) with a feature to **receive and capture call records and carry out referrals to designated focal points and specialized services**. The Call Centre also has a feature to **address cases of misconduct and fraud**. Since its establishment and as of 15 February, the RCC successfully responded to **1,993 calls and carried out 139 referrals to appropriate services**; 95% of the calls were about the cash programme, followed by legal assistance, medical aid and housing-related inquiries.

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).

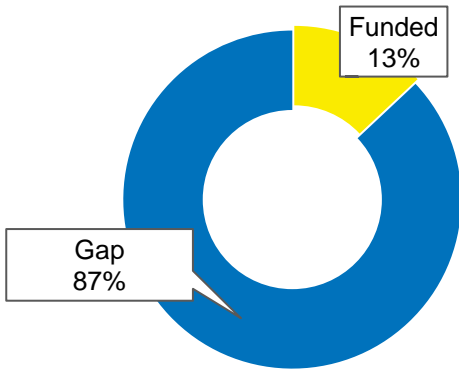
UKRAINE SITUATION: POLAND UNHCR Presence – 12 February 2023.



FUNDING (AS OF 07 FEBRUARY 2023)

US\$ 102.9 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:



For more information:

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