Poland

1 October 2023

Nearly one million refugees from Ukraine are currently recorded in Poland, the majority women, and children, representing some 2.5 per cent of the total population in Poland.

UNHCR coordinates the response of **83 organizations under the Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)'s Poland chapter**, half of which are Polish organizations.

UNHCR supports the Government of Poland to ensure **access to territory, provide legal status and documentation and access to rights** to refugees.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2023)*

Refugees	**989,884**
Asylum-seekers	**3,840**
Stateless people	**1,425**
Others of concern	**1,328**

Top three countries of origin*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	976,414	Belarus	1,102
Belarus	6,729	Russian Federation	948
Russian Federation	2,284	Ukraine	398

**UNHCR 2023 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR data finder*

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

Support to the most vulnerable refugees: UNHCR is working with partners to protect children, prevent Gender Based Violence (GBV) and communicate with refugee communities.13,687 highly vulnerable families (29,287 persons) received targeted cash so far in 2023. As of 1 October, 11,669 refugee children received psychosocial support.

Access to accurate and timely information: UNHCR shares updated information with refugees through its UNHCR HELP page, leaflets and posters, social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as well as Telegram channels) and a regional toll-free UNHCR counselling line.

Coordination: In line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), UNHCR leads and coordinates the humanitarian response of 83 partners, in collaboration with the Government of Poland. The coordination architecture is built on five sectors and four main working groups. UNHCR co-leads the Protection and Economic Inclusion sectors, the Information Management Working Group and the PSEA Working Group.

HIGHLIGHTS

Jobs, health and housing remain top needs

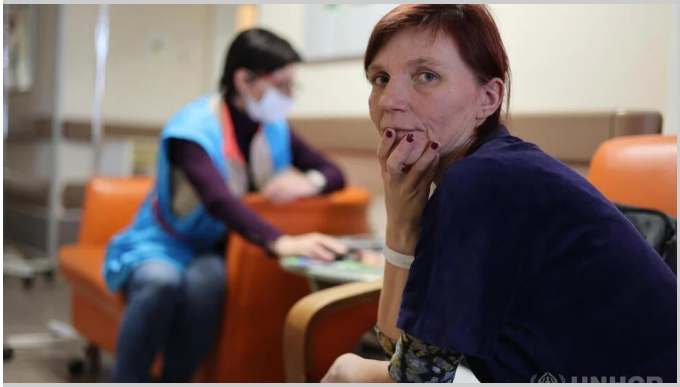
In July and August, an inter-agency team of 58 enumerators interviewed over 5,500 refugees from Ukraine across Poland. The multi-sectoral needs assessment will inform future planning and humanitarian response.

Engaging with grassroots organizations

In addition to countrywide partnerships with key NGOs, UNHCR has signed 28 small grant agreements to support 17 grassroots and refugee-led organisations across Poland, who play a significant role in providing aid directly to refugees, including legal counselling, education, healthcare, and child protection.

Education

In July, UNHCR and UNICEF noted in a joint press release that over half of Ukrainian refugee children in Poland were not enrolled in the national school system, encouraging refugee parents to register children for in-person learning.



Cash aid gives new hope to the most vulnerable refugees.

For refugees like Olga and Volodymyr, life in exile is particularly difficult. They fled to Poland with two children (9 and 11 years old) in the summer of 2022, right after their home in Donetsk had been bombed. UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, has been helping refugees with cash for their urgent needs, focusing its financial assistance on those who need it most. So far, UNHCR has managed to reach some 320,000 refugees with such help. Full story here.

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Key Priorities

UNHCR Poland's key areas of focus includes:

- **Ensuring access to asylum:** In coordination with Polish authorities, UNHCR conducts border monitoring at border crossing points and in border areas, and provides training and equipment to authorities, NGOs, and others. UNHCR also conducts detention monitoring visits and promotes alternatives to detention, while providing legal aid to asylum seekers.
- **Reaching, protecting, and empowering the most vulnerable:** Through a network of four UNHCR-UNICEF Blue Dot Hubs, seven Community Centres, and country-wide mobile outreach teams, UNHCR and partners provide protection services such as legal aid, mental health, and psycho-social support (MHPSS), targeted cash assistance, language classes, child-friendly spaces, and group activities. As of 1 October, 72,300 refugees benefited from services at these various centers. Additionally, mobile teams of 40+ protection monitors interviewed and profiled 25,219 refugees across 13 voivodeships.
- **Facilitate inclusion, resilience, and solutions for refugees:** In support of authorities and together with private actors, UNHCR plays a central role connecting refugees with job opportunities and support their socio-economic inclusion, including access to social security benefits (education, health, social services).

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with the Prime Minister's office, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Family and Social Policy, the Border Guards, and the Office for Foreigners, among other central authorities. UNHCR also works closely with local and municipal authorities.
- UNHCR currently partners with seven Polish partners (CPK, Polish Red Cross, Caritas, SIP, Halina Niec, FDDS and Habitat for Humanity) and two international partners (DRC and CORE). In addition, UNHCR supports 23 local Polish organisations under the umbrella partnership of DRC, FDDS and SIP.
- **External engagement:** UNHCR maintains public support for forcibly displaced and stateless people, engaging with donors, media, partners, and civil society to amplify refugee voices and promote peaceful coexistence with host communities.

Statelessness

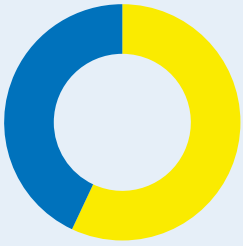
- Poland has not acceded to the 1954 or 1961 UN Conventions on Statelessness and has no statelessness determination procedure in place. UNHCR is engaging Members of Parliament to take on UNHCR's recommendations made in its 2019 mapping to address gaps identified.

UNHCR Presence in Poland

Staff:	**Offices:**
79 National Staff	Country Office in Warsaw
	Field Office in Warsaw
	Field Office in Lublin
54 International Staff	Sub Office in Krakow
	Field Office in Rzeszow

Financial information (4 October 2023)

Financial requirements
$ 102.9 M



Funded 57%
$ 58.5 M

Funding gap 43%
$ 44.4M

UNHCR is grateful for the support from our top government donors of unearmarked, softly earmarked, and earmarked funding:

Belgium | Canada | Denmark | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | United States of America

UNHCR is also grateful for the generous contributions from the private sector and individuals.