UNHCR Poland Operational Update

As of 15 October 2022

KEY FIGURES:

1.4 million*

Refugees from Ukraine registered in Poland and benefiting from Temporary Protection

$778 million**

budget of RRP, Poland chapter"

*Source: Source - UNHCR, Government – data is as of end of September

**Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Updated Refugee Response Plan:** The recalibrated 2022 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Ukraine Situation was published on 3 October 2022, as an addendum to the full RRP document from April 2022. The recalibration process was conducted to ensure a coordinated humanitarian response complementing the Governments' efforts to address refugee needs and ensure early planning prior to the onset of winter. Regionally, nearly USD 1.4 billion in funding has been received against the RRP 2022 - approximately 78 per cent of the revised RRP requirements. In Poland, 87 humanitarian partners are requesting $778 million until the end of 2022 (LINK).
- **Winterization:** UNHCR is supporting Polish authorities' efforts at various levels to prepare for the winter period and for accommodating new arrivals from Ukraine, through providing core relief items (CRIs) for reception facilities, carrying out thermal upgrades at a number of shelters and supporting coordination. A total of 558,244 relief items (blankets, mattresses, bed linen, sleeping bags, hygiene kits, among others) have been delivered to local authorities. As for the shelter response, UNHCR prepares for conducting thermal upgrade for up to 12 reception and accommodation centres (4 in Podkarpackie and 8 in Lubelskie regions). These are punctual activities to meet urgent needs. UNHCR facilitated, in Rzeszow, a winterisation and situational analysis workshop in Rzeszow (Podkarpackie) with 46 participants from local authorities, UN agencies and international and national NGOs.
- **Cash assistance programme**: UNHCR's emergency multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) programme concluded in September, reaching 283,515 refugees (133,036 families). From the second half of October 2022 until the end of the year, UNHCR provides strictly targeted assistance to some of the most vulnerable refugees to support them cover their basic needs, including for their heightened needs during winter.

RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

PROTECTION

35,215 people received **targeted protection assistance** and information at UNHCR-UNICEF Blue Dots and community centres.

CASH ASSISTANCE

283,515 refugees received multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA).

ESSENTIAL ITEMS

558,244 essential and core relief items delivered to authorities for further distribution to vulnerable refugees.

Protection Monitoring and Profiling

15,060 interviews conducted with refugees for protection monitoring and profiling.

COUNSELLING LINE

15,947 calls received and attended through the counselling line.

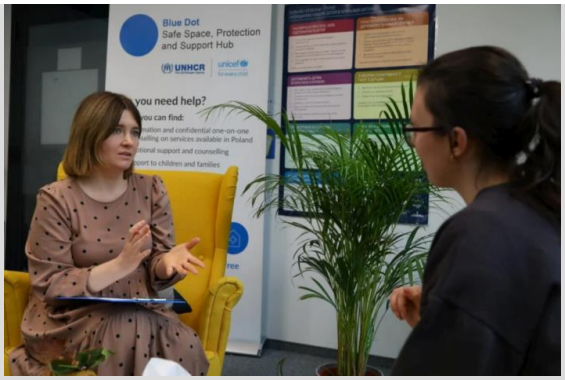
ACCOMMODATION

132 vulnerable refugees supported through referrals to short-term free accommodation in Krakow through Hilton and Hampton Hotels.

- **Education:** According to the government's figures (LINK), some 192,000 Ukrainian children were attending Polish kindergartens and schools as of 10 October 2022. Together with other humanitarian actors, UNHCR is advocating for the smooth inclusion of refugee children into the Polish education system.
- **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA):** Considering the large scale of the emergency in Poland and the profile of the refugee population (mostly women and children), risks of sexual exploitation and abuse are heightened. UNHCR co-leads the PSEA Network in Poland jointly with Plan International. In partnership with WHO and IOM, UNHCR is organizing training on gender-based violence and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse. In Rzeszow, 23 participants from the health as well as the mental health and psychosocial support sectors attended on 10-13 October. Topics included gender-based violence (GBV) concepts, safe disclosure, survivor-centred approach, safe referrals and PSEA principles.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

- 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. 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).
- UNHCR supports the authorities' efforts at various levels, including through providing core relief items (CRIs) to the Voivodeships and local authorities (mostly for use in collective and accommodation centres as well as reception and transit centres), its cash assistance programme and its catalyst role in enhancing the social and economic inclusion of refugees. For instance, UNHCR' works to connect refugees to employers through facilitating job fairs.
- 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.



Ukrainian psychologist Inna Chapko (left) providing information about psychosocial services at a Blue Dot Hub in Warsaw. © UNHCR/Tarik Argaz.

In Poland, a Ukrainian psychologist helps her fellow refugees

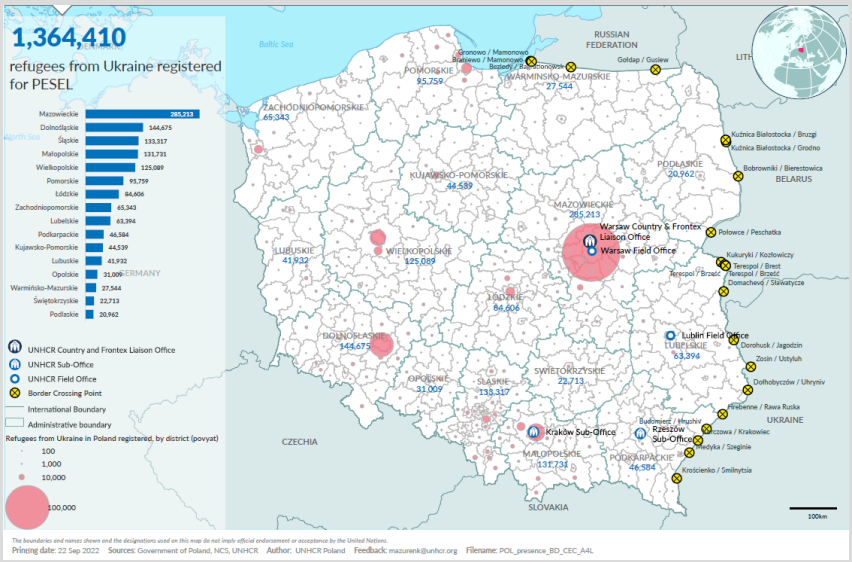
When Ukrainians were forced to flee in the days and weeks after the war began, every train heading west was filled to bursting with anxious, exhausted, and terrified civilians. Inna Chapko, a Ukrainian psychologist, was among them, leaving her home in the capital, Kyiv, a few weeks after the start of the war in February. "Leaving was one of the most difficult decisions I've ever taken," she said.

Once safe in Warsaw, Inna decided to use her expertise to help fellow Ukrainians who, like herself, have suffered the trauma and hardship of displacement. Today, she works at one of Poland's six Blue Dot hubs – support centres for refugees, established by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and UNICEF, the UN Children's Fund. "Nearly one in 10 of the refugees approaching the Blue Dots have questions on mental health and psychosocial services," said Inna, who runs weekly stress relief sessions and grounding exercises for women, as well as individual counselling sessions, and art therapy groups. Learn more about how Inna is helping her fellow Ukrainian by clicking here.

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

UKRAINE SITUATION: POLAND

Refugees from Ukraine registered by Powiat – as of 22 September



FUNDING (AS OF 1 OCTOBER 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.

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