

Poland

September 2022

UNHCR was established in Poland in 1992. Poland is signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. It is not, however, signatory to the Statelessness Conventions.

Since 24 February, **1,409,139 refugees from Ukraine have arrived in Poland and the majority have registered for a national universal social security electronic number (PESEL).**

The “**Act on Assistance to Ukrainian Citizens in the Context of the Armed Conflict on the Territory of that Country**” entered into force on 26 March 2022.

POPULATION OF CONCERN as of 30 June 2022*

Refugees	1.21 million
Asylum-seekers	3,507
Stateless persons	1,435

TOP THREE COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN*

Refugees		Asylum-seekers	
Ukraine	1,200,207	Ukraine	939
Belarus	3,865	Belarus	724
Russian Federation	2,303	Russian Federation	684

*Source: UNHCR provisional mid-year 2022 data

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of 30 September, 1,409,139 refugees from Ukraine are currently present in Poland.

6,255 people applied for international protection in Poland, including **1,421** people from Ukraine.

406,964 essential items, such as blankets, mattresses, bed linen sets and hygiene kits were provided by UNHCR to newly arrived refugees from Ukraine or delivered to the government for further distributions.

Protection Information and Communication with Communities. To ensure dissemination of accurate information about available services and assistance, UNHCR has quickly set up a UNHCR HELP page for Poland, which has become the most visited HELP page worldwide, including from within Ukraine. The page was **viewed 5,496,190 times and received 2,554,343 visits** and is continuously updated.

Blue Dots – Safe Spaces, Protection and Support Hubs. Blue Dots provide critical protection services and information for refugees, with a particular focus on supporting those at greatest risk, including, women, children, and persons with specific needs. **35,215** refugees were supported since 23 March 2022.

HIGHLIGHTS*

35,215

Refugees received humanitarian assistance and services at UNHCR-UNICEF Blue Dots and community centres, through 20,683 interventions.

282,863

Refugees received multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), with some USD 112 million disbursed to beneficiaries; while UNHCR also adjusted its programme and further refined targeting modalities.

10,477

Calls were received and attended through a counselling line which was launched on 26 July.

17,661

Refugees interviewed for protection monitoring and profiling.

ASPIRING UKRAINIAN ARCHITECT IS BUILDING HER FUTURE IN A POLISH SCHOOL



Read the [story](#) of Sofia, 13, a Ukrainian refugee, attends a geography class at Primary School no. 58 in Warsaw. © UNHCR/Rafal Kostrzynski

Key Priorities

- **Scale-up of capacity:** UNHCR has been in Poland for 30 years, working with national authorities on refugee-related matters. With the Ukraine emergency, UNHCR has substantially scaled up its presence and operations across Poland. UNHCR has a now a Country Office and Frontex Liaison Office in Warsaw and has opened two Field Offices in Warsaw and Lublin, in addition to Sub-Offices in Rzeszow and Krakow.
- **Access to territory:** UNHCR conducts regular border monitoring at border crossing points and in border areas. Cross-border exchanges with other country operations also take place.
- **Protection (monitoring):** As of 14 September 2022, UNHCR and partners had carried out 17,661 interviews in the context of protection monitoring to assess refugees' needs, risks and challenges, and to inform UNHCR's response.
- **Cash Assistance:** Cash has proven to be one of the most efficient and effective ways to support refugees, giving them the dignity of choice to decide on what they need most.
- **Inclusion and Livelihoods:** UNHCR is supporting the government's efforts to enhance access to formal employment. UNHCR is in the process of facilitating the organization of job fairs to link refugees with employers from the private sector.
- **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Anti-Trafficking:** UNHCR leads the PSEA Network, coordinating the response to address PSEA concerns. Moreover, UNHCR conducted, since March 2022, 26 training and awareness-raising sessions on PSEA and anti-trafficking for 636 humanitarian workers from UNHCR, its partners, INGOs, NGOs and CSOs in Poland.

- **Advocacy:** UNHCR advocates for equal access of all refugees to asylum procedures and their inclusion (particularly those with specific needs) in Poland's national social protection system.
- **Contingency Planning:** UNHCR Poland is supporting the Polish authorities' efforts at various levels to prepare in the case of a new influx of refugees from Ukraine.
- **Refugee Coordination Model (RCM):** UNHCR applies the RCM, leading and coordinating the humanitarian response in Poland. More information: [Ukraine Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#).

Working with Partners

- UNHCR in Poland currently works with eight international and national implementing partners to respond to the most pressing needs of refugees in Poland. These include the Polish Centre for International Aid (PCPM), Premiere Urgence International (PUI), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre, Association for Legal Intervention, Lutheran World Federation, ACTED/REACH and International Medical Corps (IMC).

Statelessness

- Poland is not a signatory to the two statelessness conventions.

UNHCR Presence in Poland

Staff:

50 National Staff
 59 International Staff

Offices:

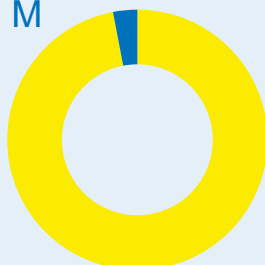
1 Representation in Warsaw
 1 Liaison Office to Frontex
 1 Field Office in Warsaw
 1 Field Office in Lublin
 1 Sub Office in Krakow
 1 Sub Office in Rzeszow

Financial information (September 2022)

Financial requirements

USD 211.2 M

Funding gap
 3%
 6.9 M



Funded
 97%
 204.3 M

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

[Australia](#) | [Austria](#) | [Belgium](#) | [Canada](#) | [Denmark](#) | [France](#) | [Germany](#) | [Ireland](#) | [Italy](#) | [Japan](#) | [Netherlands](#) | [Norway](#) | [Republic of Korea](#) | [Saudi Arabia](#) | [Spain](#) | [Sweden](#) | [Switzerland](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States of America](#)

As well as for the generous contributions from private individuals and the private sector.