

Poland

February 2023

UNHCR supports the government to **preserve access to territory, provision of legal status and documentation, and access to rights** for all refugees.

Since 24 February 2022, UNHCR has stepped up its programmes to support the government's efforts, while the country welcomed **refugees from Ukraine. More than 1.5 million people** have applied for temporary protection.

UNHCR **supports refugee integration, self-reliance and inclusion** in collaboration with the authorities and other stakeholders, through **linking refugees to potential employers**.

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS AS OF MID-2022*

Refugees	1,210,582
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

*UNHCR 2022 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR [data finder](#)

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of mid-February, 1.5 million refugees from Ukraine had been registered in Poland. Among them, some registrations were subsequently deactivated in line with the Polish legal framework. As of 13 February, the **total active** number of refugees registered for temporary protection is 981,886.

Winterization: UNHCR distributed **1,201,873 essential items**, such as blankets, mattresses, face masks, winter jackets, winter clothes, bed linen and hygiene kits were delivered to authorities and partners since the start of the war. **12 shelters** underwent thermal upgrades and minor repairs, in collaboration with **CORE**, with the capacity of 2,076 refugees to help refugees get through the winter.

Communication with Communities: UNHCR provides refugees with information through the [UNHCR HELP page](#), leaflets and posters, social media platforms ([Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)) and the UNHCR counselling line.

Coordination: UNHCR applies the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), leading and coordinating the humanitarian response of over 80 partners, in collaboration with the Government of Poland. The [coordination architecture](#) is built on five sectors and four main working groups.

HIGHLIGHTS

Blue Dot Hubs and community centres

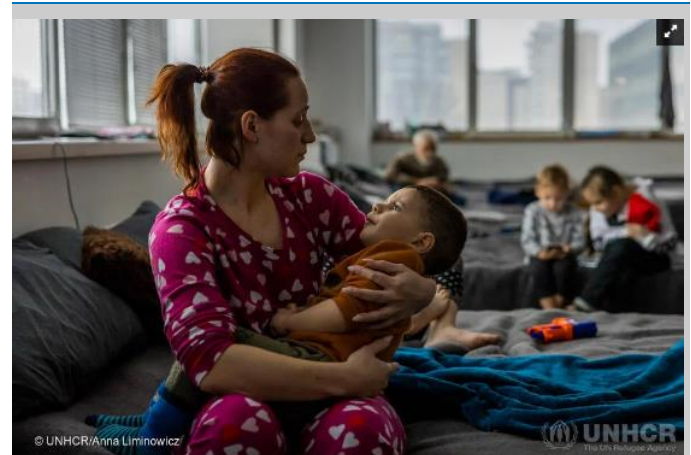
53,791 refugees had received humanitarian assistance and services, including 3,081 children, at eight UNHCR-UNICEF **Blue Dot Hubs** and six UNHCR community centres as of 6 February.

Cash assistance

292,720 refugees received cash assistance, comprising the multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) and the highly targeted cash assistance programme. MPCA was provided to some 266,000 refugees to help them meet their urgent needs, while the targeted cash was provided to some 34,000 people among the most vulnerable refugees according to the vulnerability criteria.

Evidence-based protection interventions

41,234 refugees were interviewed during protection monitoring and profiling as of 6 February (10,352 in 2023).



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Katerina (40), a refugee from Ukraine, holds her son Arsen (2). Katerina and her family (3 children and her husband) live in a collective centre.
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FIRST CHRISTMAS IN EXILE. A BITTERSWEET TIME FOR REFUGEES FROM UKRAINE IN POLAND

“War, no war, children must have Christmas”, says Kateryna, a mother of three children, living in a collective shelter in Poland. [Find out more](#) about their life in exile.

Key Priorities

UNHCR's Poland key areas of focus are:

- **Ensure access to asylum and preserve protection:** In coordination with the Polish authorities, UNHCR conducts regular border monitoring at border crossing points and in border areas, as well as holds cross-border exchanges with other UNHCR operations. UNHCR supports the capacity-building for the authorities, NGOs and others. To prepare for a potential new influx of refugees from Ukraine, UNHCR supports the Polish authorities in terms of contingency planning.
- **Reach, protect and empower the most vulnerable:** UNHCR promotes the community-based protection approach and empowers different community actors through **eight Blue Dot Hubs, six Community Centres and six mobile outreach teams**. Centres serve as one-stop shops, providing a variety of targeted protection services, enhancing community participation and community-driven initiatives. They also serve as a space to identify persons with specific needs, carry out referrals to specialised services and enhance socio-economic inclusion. Services include child protection activities, legal counselling and assistance, cash assistance, mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS), awareness-raising and language classes, among others. As of 6 February 2023, **53,791 refugees** received humanitarian assistance and services at the Blue Dot Hubs and Community Centres since their establishment. UNHCR carries out protection monitoring and profiling interviews conducted among refugees by a network of **42 protection monitors**.
- **Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Anti-Trafficking:** UNHCR leads the PSEA Working Group, coordinating the response to address PSEA concerns. UNHCR has conducted, since March 2022, **33 training and awareness-**

raising sessions on PSEA and anti-trafficking for 780 humanitarian workers in Poland.

- **Facilitate inclusion, resilience and solutions for refugees:** In coordination with the authorities, UNHCR plays a catalyst role, supporting the socio-economic inclusion of refugees by connecting them to job opportunities and enhancing their self-reliance. For example, UNHCR co-organised three job fairs in 2022 with **over 150 companies and NGOs in attendance as well as some 2,000 job seekers**. Also, UNHCR supports refugees to access social security benefits (education, health, social services).

Working with Partners

- UNHCR in Poland currently works with 10 partners (7 national and 3 international) to respond to the most pressing needs of refugees in Poland.

Statelessness

- Poland is not a signatory to the two Statelessness Conventions.

UNHCR Presence in Poland

Staff:

68 National Staff
 63 International Staff

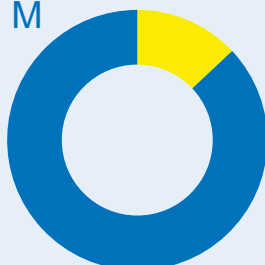
Offices:

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

Financial information (February 2023)

Financial requirements
USD 102.9 M

Funding gap
87%
89.4M



Funded
13%
13.5M

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UNHCR Poland is grateful to the donors to its 2023 programme. Donors of USD 500,000 or more are:

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