

Poland

08 July 2022

There are **1.2 million refugees** from Ukraine recorded in Poland, the **majority are women and children as well as older people and people with disabilities**.

UNHCR is supporting government-led efforts through a multisectoral response focusing on **protection services, cash assistance, emergency supplies and reception capacity**.

UNHCR and partners are at **border points and in refugee-hosting areas** to provide information on rights and services, identify and support vulnerable refugees, reinforce reception and longer-term solutions.

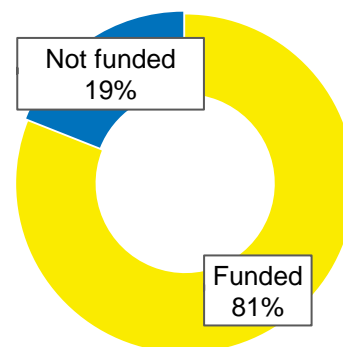
KEY FIGURES

1.2 million refugees from Ukraine recorded in Poland.
5.4 million views of **UNHCR Poland HELP** page, making it the most visited HELP site globally.
9 Blue Dot hubs and **1** Protection Hub providing protection services.
Over 260,519 refugees enrolled for cash assistance
11 enrolment centres opened across Poland over the first months of the crisis, now gradually transitioning to other purposes
211 trucks with emergency supplies sent to support internally displaced people in Ukraine
168 truckloads with core relief items were provided to several municipalities across Poland for supporting refugees, including at reception and accommodation centres

FUNDING (AS OF 05 JULY 2022)

US\$ 211.3 M

requested for the Ukraine Emergency Situation for Poland



STAFFING & OFFICES

More than 82 international and national staff
4 offices in Warsaw, Krakow, Rzeszow and Lublin and mobile teams at border crossing points

Overview

Since war broke out in Ukraine, Poland has been transformed within a few weeks from a country hosting relatively few refugees into one of the main refugee-hosting countries in the world.

Refugee arrivals are expected to continue as the situation remains uncertain with large displacement and destruction in Ukraine. While some refugees have moved on to other countries in Europe and elsewhere, the main receiving country has been Poland.

UNHCR has boosted its presence and response to provide life-saving cash assistance, protection, and solutions, to support the Government-led efforts.



Two refugee women from Ukraine are being enrolled to receive cash assistance from UNHCR at the cash enrolment centre in Wroclaw, Poland. © UNHCR/Rafal Kostrzynski, 20 May 2022

Main Activities

In close collaboration with government authorities, UN Agencies, partners, and civil society organizations, UNHCR undertakes the following activities:



Protection Information and Communication with Communities

To address critical gaps in information, UNHCR has quickly set up and regularly updates a **UNHCR HELP page for Poland**, which has become the most visited HELP page worldwide, including from within Ukraine. The page includes a **child-friendly HELP page in English, Polish and Ukrainian**. UNHCR has developed and circulates practical, safety and legal information to refugees at border points, in reception centres and urban areas, in the form of leaflets, posters, digital materials, social media and via apps like Telegram, which are widely used by people from Ukraine.



Blue Dots – Safe Spaces, Protection and Support Hubs

Blue Dots are support hubs that bring together critical protection services and information for refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine, with a particular focus on supporting those at greatest risk. These include unaccompanied and separated children, people with disabilities, older people, cases of suspected trafficking, survivors of gender-based violence and refugees from minorities such as the Roma and members of the LGBTIQ+ community. Established by UNHCR and UNICEF with local authorities and partners along major crossing points, reception sites, and urban centres, Blue Dots provide a safe space, support and referrals for health care, education, psychosocial support and more. In cities, UNHCR has set up Blue Dots linked to the cash enrollment centres, to identify persons at heightened risk. To complement the approach, UNHCR has opened a Protection Hub in Rzeszow which is an inclusive Community Centre.



Cash Assistance

Cash assistance is one of the most efficient and effective ways to support people forced to flee, especially in fast-changing emergencies. Cash assistance respects the dignity of choice of refugees, allowing them to decide what they need most to support their family. In partnership with Santander Bank, and using BLIK as a payment method, refugees from Ukraine in Poland can receive cash quickly and safely. Through a one-off code received on their phones, refugees can retrieve cash from ATMs across the country without the need to open a bank account or having a card. Refugees receive 700 Polish zloty (some US\$170) per month for at least three months, with an additional 600 zloty for each family member, to a maximum amount of 2,500 zloty (approx. US\$600) per month for households of four members or more. Families can purchase goods and services from local businesses, which boosts the economy and fosters integration.



Supplies

UNHCR is supporting the government and local authorities in Poland with emergency supplies to strengthen reception capacity. **As of 08 July, 168 truckloads with core relief items such as bed linen, blankets, hygiene kits, towels and diapers have been sent from UNHCR's main warehouse in Grabica to the municipalities** in Bialystok, Katowice, Krakow, Poznan, Rzeszow, Tarnobrzeg, Gdansk, Szczecin, Jaroslaw, Lubaczow Warsaw and Wroclaw for supporting refugees, including at reception and accommodation centres. **UNHCR has also set up a Warehouse and Logistical Hub in Rzeszow, south-eastern Poland has been delivering emergency supplies by road shipment through a humanitarian corridor into Ukraine.** This key supply route allows to carry most-needed high thermal blankets, kitchen sets, solar lamps, winter jackets, sleeping bags, mattresses, towels, clothes, and other life-saving items to UNHCR's warehouses in Dnipro, Lviv and Uzhhorod in western and central Ukraine, for distribution to the increasing number of internally displaced people.



Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and anti-trafficking

UNHCR conducts awareness raising sessions on PSEA and anti-trafficking with refugees, partners and government officials **through training and distribution of information, education and communication materials** in English, Ukrainian, and Polish languages. UNHCR is working with partners to establish and run complaints and feedback mechanisms – including community-based – to prevent and end sexual exploitation and abuse, including through protection desks and protection monitoring.



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 currently has 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. UNHCR increased its workforce **from 8 staff members to over 82 in Warsaw, Krakow, Lublin, Rzeszow and Gdynia with more being deployed to support the response.**

Working with partners

UNHCR works with 6 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, Halina Niec, Association for Legal Intervention, Lutheran World Federation and ACTED/REACH.

UNHCR leads the overarching refugee coordination structure in Poland, in support of the Government-led response. The thematic sector working groups include Protection (with sub-sector working groups on Child Protection, Gender-based Violence, Counter-trafficking, Third-country nationals, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support); Health; Education; Shelter; Basic Needs, including Food Security, Water and Sanitation and Core Relief Items; and Logistics. In addition, there are transversal working groups on Cash, Information Management, Accountability to Affected Populations and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

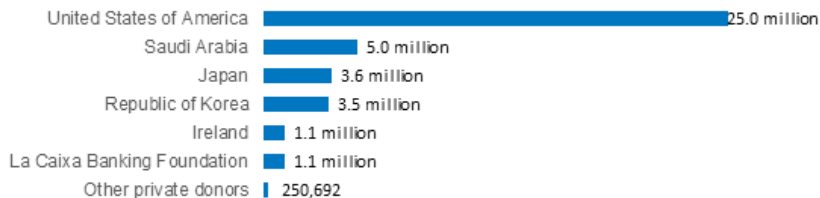
UNHCR has launched – together with 142 partners – a comprehensive **Ukraine Situation: Regional Refugee Response Plan**, appealing for over US\$1.8 billion in support of the refugee response in the region until the end of December 2022, for a projected population of 8.3 million refugees. The **Response Plan chapter for Poland includes 87 partners (mostly NGOs) for a total budget of more than US\$740 million**. The Response Plan aims to complement, support and strengthen the national response to the refugee crisis in Poland and other refugee-receiving countries neighbouring Ukraine. Updated information on the response is available on the [UNHCR Poland Data Portal](#), including through dedicated pages for each Sector/Working Group.

Financial Information

The total recorded contributions for the UNHCR Poland Operation as of 05 July 2022 amount to **US\$171.6 million**. UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Ukraine emergency response in Poland – including the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea – as well as those public and private donors who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 39.3 million**.



BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region.

Private donors Japan 79.6 million | Germany 64.5 million | Private donors Sweden 63.5 million | Private donors Bahamas 52.2 million | Private donors USA 39.6 million | United Kingdom 32.7 million | Private donors Germany 32.4 million | Private donors United Kingdom 30.4 million | Private donors Netherlands 29.1 million | Private donors France 26.9 million | Private donors Italy 25.6 million | Private donors Spain 22.2 million | Private donors Switzerland 21.5 million | France 18.6 million | Norway 18.5 million | United States of America 16.2 million | Japan 12.8 million | Private donors Czech Republic 11.2 million | Private donors Denmark 9.9 million | Italy 9 million | Canada 7.9 million | Private donors Australia 7.7 million | Australia 7.2 million | Private donors Canada 7.1 million | Spain 4.2 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 3.9 million | Austria 3.8 million | Ireland 3.3 million | Private donors China 2.3 million | Switzerland 2.1 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Sweden 99.3 million | Norway 72.5 million | Private donors Spain 39 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | United Kingdom 28.1 million | Germany 27 million | Private donors Japan 26.6 million | France 18.5 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 16.4 million | Private donors USA 15 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Italy 10 million

For more information:

Bisan Salameh, External Relations Officer, Email: salamehb@unhcr.org

LINKS

[Ukraine Emergency Situation Page](#) - [Data Portal Poland](#) - [Facebook](#) - [Twitter](#)