

Poland

February 2024

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 of Poland.

UNHCR coordinates the response of 103 organizations under the Ukraine Situation **Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) chapter for Poland**, the majority of which are local organizations.

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

UNHCR POPULATION STATISTICS (as of mid-2023)*

Refugees	989,877
Asylum-seekers	3,820
Stateless people	1,425
Others of concern	1,328

Top three countries of origin**

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

*UNHCR 2023 Mid-Year Trends and UNHCR data finder

**As of mid- December 2023

UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION RESPONSE

As of December 2023, **956,600 refugees from Ukraine** were recorded in Poland.

Protection: Refugees from Ukraine are granted Temporary Protection status, which Poland is in the process of extending until June 2024, and later until March 2025 (as per the Council of the EU Decision). UNHCR recently shared its [analysis and recommendations](#) on the Special Act with the Ministry of Interior and key parliamentary Commissions.

Support to the most vulnerable refugees: UNHCR is working with partners to protect vulnerable refugees, prevent gender-based violence (GBV) and communicate with refugee communities. Refugees can access information and support in community centres and through mobile teams visiting remote areas. In 2024, Blue Dots (the safe space, protection and support hubs established by UNHCR and UNICEF during the emergency phase) are **now fully integrated** into centres managed in cooperation with municipalities and local organisations.

Livelihoods and economic inclusion: UNHCR supports refugees to achieve self-reliance, and collaborate with authorities and private sector to connect refugees with jobs.

Coordination: UNHCR leads and coordinates the [refugee response in Poland](#), in support of 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. Read more about the launch [here](#).

HIGHLIGHTS

Engaging with grassroots organizations

In 2024, UNHCR is supporting exclusively local partners. This builds on the partnerships established in 2023 with key international and national NGOs, as well as on 28 small scale agreements to support 17 grassroots and refugee-led organisations helping refugees across Poland. In addition, three innovation projects are sponsored in Poland, to pioneer creative solutions supporting refugees.

Targeted cash assistance

In December 2023, UNHCR concluded a major cash support programme. Set up in the early days of the emergency in 2022 as a large programme for newly arrived refugees from Ukraine, UNHCR's cash programme transitioned to focus on the most vulnerable refugees. In 2023, UNHCR identified and enrolled 36,858 vulnerable refugees. In total, UNHCR assisted 327,821 refugees through its cash programme in 2022-23.



Lena Grochowska and Władysław Grochowski (rear, centre) with Ukrainian refugees (left to right) Oksana, Valerii and Ludmila. © UNHCR/Tarik Argaz

Polish couple wins prestigious UN award for supporting refugees

Lena and her husband Władysław Grochowski of Poland have been jointly selected as the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award's 2023 regional winners for Europe. They were honoured for their endeavours in sheltering and supporting refugees in Poland and providing employment opportunities and a safe haven to those in need.

Read the full [story](#); watch the [video](#); and listen to Władysław's moving [speech](#).

Key Priorities

UNHCR Poland's key areas of focus includes:

- **Ensuring access to asylum:** In coordination with Polish authorities, UNHCR undertakes visits 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 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), language classes, child-friendly spaces, and group activities. In 2023, 104,688 refugees benefited from services at these various centers. Additionally, mobile teams of 40+ protection monitors interviewed and profiled 25,219 refugees across 13 voivodeships in the first nine months of 2023, providing useful [protection analysis](#). To understand the needs of refugees and identify the biggest gaps, UNHCR and partners conducted a "[multi-sector needs assessment](#)" in 2023, interviewing over 5,600 households throughout the country in July and August 2023. This allows UNHCR to better plan its response, based on data and refugee feedback.
- **Facilitate inclusion and resilience of refugees:** UNHCR advocates for refugees' right to work, collaborating with authorities and private sector to analyse the impact of refugee inclusion into the Polish economy. Together with authorities and private actors, UNHCR is connecting refugees with job opportunities and supporting [socio-economic inclusion](#), including access to social security benefits (education, health, social services). In 2023, UNHCR co-organized or participated in 23 job fairs across Poland for refugees and Poles. Targeted support is offered to vulnerable refugees to help them access jobs: some 70 refugees still living in collective shelters enrolled at the end of 2023 in the pilot of the "employment activation" project; to individually guide and support them to find a job – UNHCR intends to scale up in this initiative in other locations.

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 ten partners, all Polish: Association for Legal Intervention (SIP), Halina Niec Legal Aid Center, Central Roma Council, Empowering Children Foundation (FDDS), Feminoteka, Habitat for Humanity, Caritas, Polish Migration Forum and four partner NGOs, the Immigrants Support Center (CWI) and Internationaler Bund Polska (IBP).
- **External engagement:** UNHCR engages with donors, media, partners, and civil society to amplify refugee voices and encourage 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:

76 National Staff

51 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Warsaw

1 Field Office in Warsaw

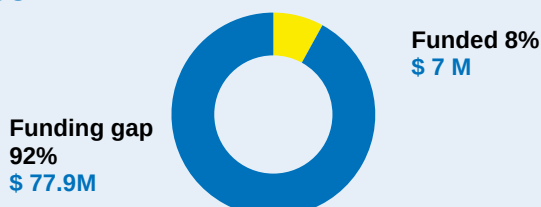
1 Field Office in Lublin

1 Sub Office in Krakow

1 Field Office in Rzeszow

Financial information (31 January 2024)

Financial requirements in 2024:
\$ 85 M



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