



POLISH AID TO UKRAINE 2022-2023

COUNCIL FOR COOPERATION WITH UKRAINE
CHANCELLERY OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF POLAND
SEPTEMBER 2025

Warszawa, Poland | September 2025

Published in electronic format, revised and supplemented version.

Patronage: Council for Cooperation with Ukraine, Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland

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This reprint contains editorial corrections and additions to the original publication. The ISBN remains unchanged.

Council for Cooperation with Ukraine
Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland
Al. Ujazdowskie 1/3
00-583 Warszawa

ISBN: 978-83-972250-1-5

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POLISH AID TO UKRAINE

SUMMARY

POLISH AID TO UKRAINE 2022-2023



~25 billion EUR spent by the Polish government in 2022-2023

5 billion EUR of aid committed by Polish society

Poland 3rd in the world in government aid to Ukraine 2022-2023

1. US	68 bil. EUR (0,31% GDP)
2. Germany	33 bil. EUR (0,84% GDP)
3. Poland	25 bil. EUR (3,82% GDP)
4. UK	13 bil. EUR (0,45%GDP)

Poland's political support for Ukraine 2022-2023

- On February 23 and 24, 2022, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland in resolutions condemned the open, unprovoked and unjustified aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine
- On March 3, 2022, the Sejm of the Republic of Poland adopted a resolution by acclamation to support Ukraine's EU membership. The Polish parliament called on all EU institutions and member states to enable Ukraine to join the European Union as soon as possible
- On October 26, 2022, the Senate of the Republic of Poland adopted a resolution recognizing the authorities of the Russian Federation as a terrorist regime.
- On May 11, 2023, the Senate of the Republic of Poland adopted a resolution supporting Ukraine's efforts to join NATO

Poland as safe haven 2022-2023

2022-2023

- Ukrainians entered Poland through the Polish-Ukrainian border 9.09 mln times in 2022
- 1.73 million Ukrainian refugees received legal and financial protection in Poland
- 77% of Poles got engaged in helping refugees
- 7% of Poles accepted refugees into their homes

Poland as Ukraine's strategic depth 2022-2023

2022-2023

- 195 000 tons of Polish and international humanitarian aid were transported by the Polish government into Ukraine
- 90% of all military aid to Ukraine went through Poland
- Poland leading the world in armored aid to Ukraine
- 19 500 Starlink terminals given to Ukraine (№ 1 in the world)



POLISH MILITARY AID 2022-2024



Polish strategic corridor

- Tens of thousands of Ukrainian soldiers have been trained in Poland
- Rzeszów-Jasionka HUB became the linchpin of Western efforts to support Ukraine
- 44 packages of various types of weapons and ammunition delivered by Poland through July 2024 with a total value of over EUR 4 billion

Polish military equipment for Ukraine

- 586 armored vehicles
- 137 artillery systems
- 318 tanks
- 10 attack helicopters Mi-24
- 10 fighter jets MiG-29
- 100 mln rounds of ammunition



POLISH HUMANITARIAN AID 2022-2023



Poland as safe haven to refugees

- 966 thousand citizens of Ukraine started work without need for permit
- 157 thousand kids received free meals in schools and kindergartens
- 520 thousand Ukrainians used Diia.pl in the mObywatel app
- 0.5 million Ukrainians found refuge in care of Polish local governments
- 48 tys. thousand businesses were set up in Poland by Ukrainian refugees thanks to legal accommodations adopted by the Polish government

Polish humanitarian corridor for Ukraine

- Among the foreign cities that have received the title of "Rescuer City" from the President of Ukraine, Polish cities dominate: Rzeszów, Przemyśl, Lublin, Chełm, Warsaw
- Polish local governments, churches, entrepreneurs and NGOs sent thousands of shipments into Ukraine worth hundreds of millions EUR



I. *Poland as a safe haven – government aid to refugees*

The Polish government and public institutions have been involved in providing aid to Ukraine and its citizens since the first day of the full-scale war. **The total cost of humanitarian and economic aid, as well as funds dedicated to preventing negative effects of the Russian aggression, dedicated by the government of Poland and its subordinate public institutions, especially within the Assistance Act, in 2022-2023 amounted to approximately PLN 90 billion.**

1. Scale of migration

At the end of 2021, Poland's population was 37.91 million. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 resulted in the largest refugee migration in Europe since World War II, the vast majority of which flowed through Poland. According to data from the Border Guard, from January 1 to March 31, 2022, Ukrainian citizens crossed the Polish-Ukrainian border to the Polish side 3.05 million times. In the whole of 2022, this number increased to 9.09 million.

The land border crossings with the highest traffic in 2022 were located on the Polish-Ukrainian border:

- Medyka – 4.2 million crossings both ways
- Korczowa – 2.8 million crossings both ways
- Hrebenne – 2.6 million crossings both ways

Arrivals and departures of Ukrainian citizens to Poland via the Polish-Ukrainian border since February 2022, by month, in thousands of people. As of December 31, 2022.

Month	Total	
	to Poland	from Poland
February	669.0	287.9
March	1 944.1	294.6
April	610.6	514.4
May	626.9	725.1
June	666.3	716.9
July	681.7	728.5
August	737.7	829.6
September	688.6	694.2
October	699.8	687.8
November	631.2	611.5
December	697.2	720.9
Total	8653.1	6811.4

Source: Department of Strategy and Development, Marshal's Office of the Lublin Voivodeship based on data from the Border Guard Headquarters, 2023.

Among the Ukrainian citizens who arrived in Poland, some treated Poland as a transit country, moving on or returning to Ukraine after a short time. However, a significant number of Ukrainian refugees remained in Poland for longer.

In 2022, 1.5 million Ukrainian citizens received a PESEL number in Poland with the UKR status, which allows them to benefit from support offered by the Polish government. In 2023, another such 228,000 PESEL

numbers were issued to Ukrainian citizens, which means that the total number of refugees from Ukraine covered by temporary protection on the territory of Poland in 2022-2023 amounted to approximately 1.73 million people.

This number includes only people who applied for a PESEL number and the benefits associated with it. Therefore, it does not reflect the total burden that society and state institutions were subjected to in the first months of the war. To illustrate the scale of migration that affected Poland, it is worth citing the following statistics:

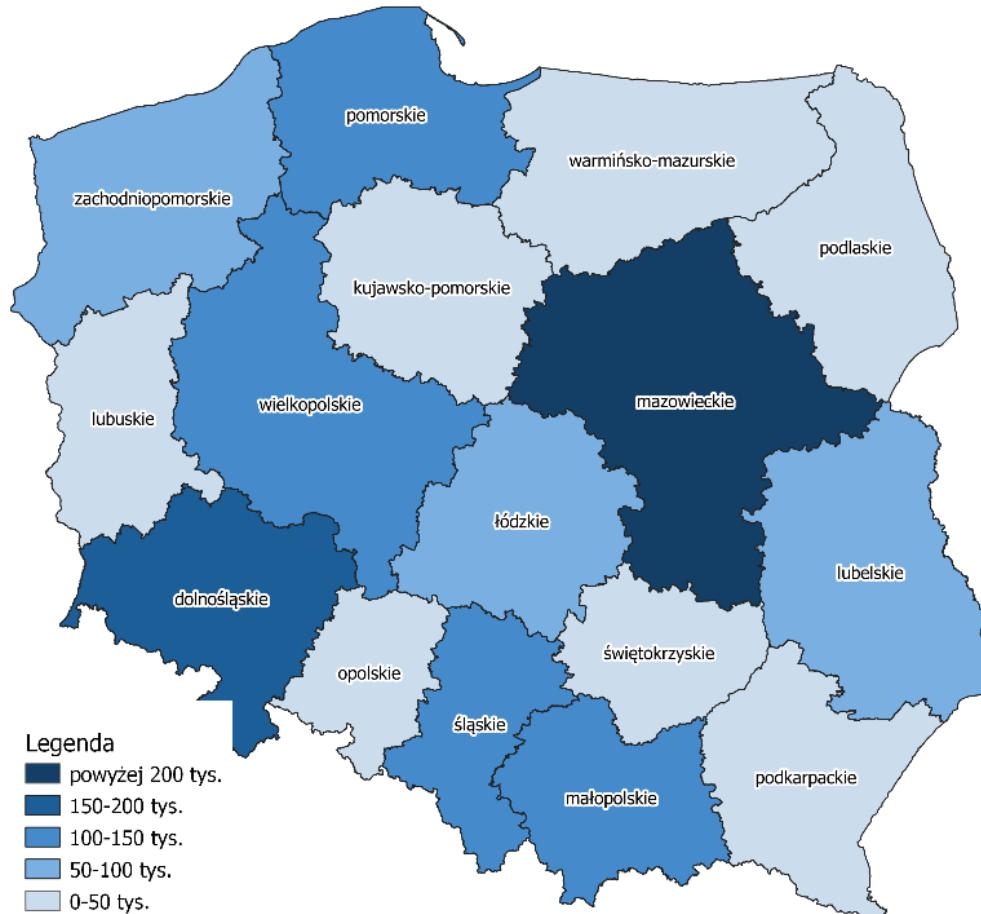
- 1.2 million refugees passed through Przemyśl, a city with a population of 56,000, in the first five months of the war, of which over 300,000 spent at least one night in the city;
- the number of Rzeszów residents increased by 53% in the first three months of the war, by April 2022 the city had accepted about 104,000 refugees;
- the population of Warsaw increased by 15% during the first month of the war, by April 2022 the city had accepted about 300,000 refugees.



Refugees from Ukraine at the border – Medyka border crossing. Photo: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration (MSWiA)

The institutions of the Polish state and its citizens, acting independently and through associations, enterprises, foundations and religious unions, ensured safe transit and accommodation, food, education, health care, work opportunities and social security for millions of Ukrainian citizens.

Registered applications for protected status in 2022 by voivodeship:



Source: Prepared by the Department of Strategy and Development, Marshal's Office of the Lublin Voivodeship based on data from the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, 2023.

2. Foundations of aid

2.1 The Assistance Act

Shortly after the outbreak of the war, the Polish government created a legal framework for providing assistance by adopting the Act of 12 March 2022 on Assistance to Citizens of Ukraine in Connection with the Armed Conflict on the Territory of That Country [hereinafter: the Assistance Act]. The Act facilitated, among other things:

- legal stay of refugees from Ukraine in Poland for a period of 18 months,
- obtaining a PESEL number with UKR status,
- using social benefits,
- access to health care,
- taking up legal work,
- access to primary, secondary and higher education,
- enabling refugees from Ukraine to conduct business in Poland.

2.2 The Assistance Fund

The Assistance Fund was established with the financial outlay of the Polish government in the National Development Bank on the basis of Article 14, Section 1 of the Assistance Act, in order to finance or co-finance the implementation of tasks to aid Ukraine, in particular citizens of Ukraine affected by the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine, including tasks carried out on the territory of the Republic of Poland and outside of it, as well as the implementation of tasks related to the country's food security in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine. In 2022, expenditures amounted to PLN 13.87 billion, and in 2023 PLN 14.78 billion.

2.3 Synergy across different levels of public administration

The assistance system was based on the actions of both the central government and local government administrations. Voivodes (representatives of the Council of Ministers in local voivodeships) launched reception points and collective accommodation places. 474,125 people took advantage of organized accommodation in local government units in 2022 and 530,618 people by the end of 2023, including the previous year.

2.4 Engagement of civil society

A significant part of the aid was provided by private individuals and non-governmental organizations. According to data from the Polish Economic Institute:

- 77% of Polish society was engaged in aiding refugees,
- 7% of Poles accepted refugees into their homes,
- financial contributions by Poles to help refugees in the first three months of the war exceeded the amount devoted to humanitarian goals in all of 2021.

Governmental and non-governmental assistance covered all key areas:

- housing and food,
- education (introducing Ukrainian children into the schooling system),
- healthcare,
- access to the job market,
- social spending,
- Polish language classes,
- psychological aid.

3. Administrative aid

The Polish state apparatus has undertaken to coordinate activities helping refugees from Ukraine arriving in Poland after the outbreak of war on February 24, 2022. A Government Plenipotentiary for War Refugees has been appointed in the rank of Secretary of State in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration. Paweł Szefernaker served in that position. As part of its tasks, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration supervised the process of assigning PESEL numbers, the organization of collective accommodation points, transport, and the distribution of cleaning products. The Ministry of Digital Affairs has undertaken numerous activities aimed at adapting the Polish digital infrastructure to the challenge of providing assistance to millions of refugees from Ukraine.

3.1 Assigning PESEL numbers

The Polish government issued PESEL numbers to Ukrainian citizens who applied for them, which are necessary for receiving benefits and taking up employment in Poland. In 2022-2023, a total of 1,736,600 PESEL numbers with UKR status were issued. The cost of administrative activities related to this amounted to PLN 26.6 million. Additionally, 1,015,469 photographs were taken of refugees applying for PESEL numbers. Having a PESEL number with the assigned status "UKR" is an official confirmation of legal residence in Poland and rights under the Assistance Act, including receiving social benefits, taking up legal employment or starting a business on the same terms as Polish citizens.

3.2 Collective accommodation points with meals

Voivodes, in cooperation with other entities, launched temporary collective accommodation points with meals, providing refugees with accommodation, meals, medical and psychological care, and information on legal stay in Poland. In the period from February 24, 2022 to December 28, 2022, 474,125 people used organized accommodation, and as of December 28, 2022, 84,896 places were occupied. In the period from February 24, 2022 to December 27, 2023, 530,618 people used organized accommodation, and as of December 31, 2023, 42,391 places were occupied. A year after the outbreak of the war, partial payment for stays in collective accommodation centers after 120 days was introduced, from which people in difficult life situations were exempted. As of December 31, 2023, 87% of those accommodated were exempt from fees. The total cost of providing accommodation and meals amounted to PLN 3.55 billion.

3.3 Transport

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration coordinated the transport of refugees to accommodation locations, between them, to centers run by the Head of the Office for Foreigners and to medical facilities. Public and specialized transport for people with disabilities was also provided. The total cost of providing transport in 2022 and 2023 amounted to PLN 49.8 million.

3.4 Diia.pl in the mObywatel app

The Diia.pl service has been launched in the mObywatel app, which is an electronic identity document issued to people seeking shelter in Poland. The Diia.pl mobile document is issued only to adults who crossed the Ukrainian-Polish border after February 24, 2022, have



Ukrainian citizenship, a valid refugee status (UKR), have been assigned a PESEL number in Poland and have an active Trusted Profile. The document entitles, among other things, to cross the borders of Poland. It is the first fully digital residence permit in the EU, which is recognized throughout the EU and facilitates crossing borders in the Schengen area and to/from Ukraine. In June 2023, a function was made available in Diia.pl that allows parents and legal guardians to add documents of younger children to their document. From the beginning of the service's availability until December 31, 2023, over 520,000 people have used it.

3.5 Pracawpolsce.gov.pl

In cooperation with Google and Palantir Technologies, the pracawpolsce.gov.pl portal was launched in July 2022. It is aimed at Ukrainian citizens who arrived in Poland after February 24, 2022 and want to work in Poland. The portal connects job seekers with Polish employers. Every week, users receive job offers tailored to their skills and place of residence.

3.6 Subsidizing housing and food

Entities, and in particular individuals, who provided accommodation and meals to Ukrainian citizens at their own expense, could apply for a cash benefit of PLN 40 per person per day, paid for a maximum of 120 days, with the possibility of extension in justified cases, including having a certificate of complete or partial disability, or in the case of the elderly, pregnant women and parents of small children. The total cost of providing subsidies amounted to PLN 3.94 billion in 2022 and 2023.

3.7 Changes in CIT and PIT taxes – including aid in revenue costs

In 2022, the Assistance Act introduced changes to the CIT act. The new regulations made it possible to include in the costs of obtaining revenues the costs of production or the price of acquiring items or rights that are the subject of donations made in the period from February 24, 2022 to December 31, 2022 for purposes related to counteracting the effects of war on the territory of Ukraine.

3.8 Facilitations in job market access

Citizens of Ukraine can take up employment in Poland based on a notification of undertaking a job, without the need to obtain a work permit. In 2022-2023, 1,866,000 such notifications were registered, concerning 966,000 people. Citizens of Ukraine were allowed to register with labor offices on the same terms as Polish citizens, including the registration of people of retirement age. In 2022-2023, 125,554 Ukrainian citizens registered, of whom 118,531 were unemployed. The Voluntary Labor Corps (OHP) and EURES provided support in the field of career counseling. The Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Policy also co-finances the costs of Polish language training for Ukrainian citizens practicing medical professions from the Labor Fund. In 2022-2023, 20 training agreements were concluded for 776 participants. Data from Statistics Poland (GUS) indicate that as of December 31, 2023, 1,015,145 foreigners were employed in Poland, of which 68.7% were citizens of Ukraine.

4. Logistical aid

4.1 Rail transport subsidies

In 2022, the government transferred PLN 13,071,397.37 to PKP Polskie Linie Kolejowe S.A. as the railway infrastructure manager to finance the costs of repairs and traffic management on railway infrastructure in connection with servicing refugees from Ukraine. In 2023, the government transferred PLN 37,795,352.42 to rail carriers that launched additional passenger trains not included in the annual timetable transporting people moving from the territory of Ukraine to the territory of the Republic of Poland in connection with the armed conflict. The government transferred PLN 79,133,247.58 to public transport operators in rail transport who, under concluded agreements on the provision of services in the field of this transport, provided transport for people moving to the territory of the Republic of Poland in connection with the armed conflict.

4.2 Other extraordinary measures in public infrastructure

Based on the Act of March 23, 2022 on special regulations in the field of transport and maritime economy in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine, the following actions were taken, among others:

- the daily working time of train crews and employees required to service passenger rail transport carrying persons travelling from the territory of Ukraine to the territory of Poland in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine was allowed to be extended;
- from 24 February 2022 to 31 December 2022, the railway infrastructure manager was allowed not to collect three types of fees from a railway carrier performing freight transportation of humanitarian aid in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine;
- additional passenger trains were launched in the period from 24 February 2022 to 31 December 2022, carrying people travelling from the territory of Ukraine to the territory of Poland in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of Ukraine;
- the railway infrastructure was renovated and adapted to serve people travelling from the territory of Ukraine to the territory of Poland: renovation of railway line 108 section D Nowy Zagórz - Krościenko, renovation of track no. 3 in the Olkusz station on the line no. 062 Tunel - Sosnowiec Główny, renovation of railway lines numbered 69, 72, 101 and 7.

4.3 Assistance from the State Fire Service

According to Article 65 of the Assistance Act, firefighters who performed overtime in tasks directly related to the stay of Ukrainians on the territory of the Republic of Poland were entitled to monetary compensation. In 2022, 8,336 firefighters worked 342,952 overtime hours helping refugees, while in 2023, 748 firefighters worked 25,676 overtime hours. The total compensation paid for overtime amounted to PLN 11,454,215 in 2022 and PLN 1,329,240.39 in 2023. The impressive amount of time firefighters spent helping refugees from Ukraine was due, among other things, to their service at reception points, where they helped to restore order and organize work.

The Chief Commander of the State Fire Service, pursuant to Article 66 of the Assistance Act, issued a total of 51 consents (34 in 2022, 17 in 2023) to the organizational units of the State Fire Service for the free transfer of technically efficient equipment, vehicles and devices to the organizational units of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine.

The logistics of the project consisted of collecting equipment from the entire province from individual units of the State Fire Service, the Volunteer Fire Service and other donors in one place and then transporting it to two selected units of the State Fire Service in the Lublin and Podkarpackie voivodeships, from where it was then transferred to Ukraine. The Chief Commander of the State Fire Service conducted a nationwide campaign to collect firefighting equipment for firefighters from Ukraine. The campaign was organized in consultation with the Head of the State Service of Ukraine for Emergency Situations. A total of 2,895 pallets (in 2022 - 2,810, in 2023 - 85) of firefighting equipment were transferred. As part of the Polish initiative, activities were initiated to transfer used firefighting vehicles to Ukraine. 259 vehicles were transferred (in 2022 - 213, in 2023 - 46). During the transfer, instructions on how to use the transferred equipment were provided. It should also be noted that



Ukrainian firefighters during operations dressed in uniform elements transferred from Poland. Photo: State Emergency Service of Ukraine, Pavlo Petrov.

the Volunteer Fire Department units have made significant contributions to donating their own equipment to Ukrainian partners.

In June 2022, the State Fire Service transferred 226 pieces of heat-resistant clothing and 862 radio telephones to Ukraine. Due to the demand for hydrogel dressings for Ukrainian firefighters, a total of 989 pieces of hydrogel dressings were transferred in July 2022. At the request of the Head of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, the State Fire Service transferred 23 pallets of high-altitude rescue equipment in July 2022. In June 2023, in connection with the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam on the Dnieper River, a request for additional material assistance was received from the ERCC, in response to the action organized by the State Fire Service, 10 high-capacity pumps; 11 tanker trucks; and a flood container with two boats were transferred.

The State Fire Service was responsible for coordinating the process of transferring fire equipment to Ukraine from fire departments around the world. For the needs of its efficient operation, a dedicated unit with a designated e-mail address and telephone number was launched at the Main Headquarters of the State Fire Service in the Operational Planning Office. As part of these activities, the Ukrainian side received a total of 3,226 pallets of fire equipment and 385 fire vehicles from other countries.

5. Healthcare aid

Support for Ukrainian citizens, including access to the public health care system on the same terms as Polish citizens, is guaranteed by the Assistance Act, which comprehensively regulates the scope and method of providing this assistance. The costs of these services are settled with service providers and pharmacies by the National Health Fund and financed from the Assistance Fund and amounted to PLN 514,602,174.62 in 2022 and PLN 848,002,386.37 in 2023.

5.1 Blood donation and blood therapy

The National Blood Center website has launched a form called "Ready to donate blood!" The form, which was completed by 9,061 people, is used to direct communication directly to people who express their willingness to donate blood, which allows for rational management of its resources. Regional Blood Donation and Blood Treatment Centers have transferred equipment worth PLN 40,879.99 to Ukraine; 300 red blood cell concentrates and consumables necessary for blood collection and preparation for a total amount of PLN 859,407.68. In 2022, PLN 2,072,377.92 was spent under the Assistance Fund for the purchase of coagulation factors for refugees from Ukraine, and PLN 4,499,426.81 in 2023.

5.2 Births and vaccinations of newborns born to Ukrainian women in Poland

The number of newborns born to Ukrainian mothers between 24 February 2022 and 31 January 2023 was 6,753. The number of those vaccinated against hepatitis B was 6,439 (95.3%), and the number of those vaccinated against tuberculosis was 6,385 (94.5%).

5.3 Vaccinations against COVID-19

The Ministry of Health has enabled Ukrainian citizens to receive the COVID-19 vaccine free of charge at all available vaccination points. From February 24, 2022 to December 31, 2023, 373,382 doses of COVID-19 vaccines were administered to Ukrainian citizens in Poland: in 2022 – 293,865, in 2023 – 79,517.



Ambulances donated to Ukraine by the Bartoszyce county. Photo: Bartoszyce County Board

5.4 Psychological and psychiatric aid

Ukrainian citizens are entitled to all psychiatric and addiction treatment services, including those provided by psychologists. Poland has facilitated the provision of services to Ukrainian- and Russian-speaking refugees by qualified psychologists from Ukraine. The Ministry of Health has also implemented a special therapeutic assistance program. Services have been provided by 18 entities throughout the country. From the beginning of the program until the end of May 2023, 1,327 patients participated in the program and 7,003 services were provided.

5.5 National Center for AIDS

In 2022-2023, antiretroviral drugs worth PLN 168,997,672 were purchased from the Assistance Fund and distributed.

5.6 Access to the E-ZDROWIE system

Thanks to simplified procedures, Ukrainian citizens with a PESEL number have access to the Patient's Internet Account. The account provides access to e-prescriptions, e-referrals, e-sick leave certificates and the EU COVID certificate. The portal Pacjent.gov.pl has a tab "Patients from Ukraine", where the most important information about the healthcare system is published in Ukrainian. It has launched the LikarPL application, which aims to facilitate medical advice for Ukrainian citizens. It allows for a quick diagnosis of the patient's health condition, as well as communication between the patient and a doctor who does not speak Ukrainian.

5.7 Access to medicines

As of February 1, 2024, expenses incurred by the Polish state for the treatment of patients from Ukraine include:

Drug costs in drug programs:		Drug costs in chemotherapy:	Costs in drugstores:
2022	PLN 42,523,247	PLN 5,515,757	PLN 4,981,700
2023 (1-11)	PLN 97,141,135	PLN 5,386,292	PLN 23,009,460

5.8 System for obtaining the right to practice medical professions

From February 24, 2022 to December 31, 2023, 3,959 positive decisions were issued for Ukrainian doctors/dentists and 2,028 positive decisions for Ukrainian nurses and midwives.

5.9 Healthcare for injured and traumatized people

According to Polish law, healthcare is also provided to persons who suffered injuries as a result of war operations conducted on the territory of Ukraine and were transported to the territory of the Republic of Poland for the purpose of providing health care services. In 2022, PLN 1,016,741.25 was spent on this. From March 3, 2022 to December 31, 2022, 12 medical train transports were carried out, during which medical assistance was provided to 353 people, including 99 soldiers and 254 civilians (of which 241 were children). In 2023, PLN 78,754.25 was spent on the implementation of 1 medical train transport (July 21, 2023), during which medical assistance was provided to 33 people (soldiers). The Ukrainian side no longer expresses any demand for organizing the evacuation of people injured or harmed as a result of military operations conducted on the territory of Ukraine for treatment in Poland.

5.10 Training of medical personnel from Ukraine

The Air Ambulance Service conducted training and exercises to prepare Ukrainian medical personnel for activities related to securing and evacuating wounded soldiers and citizens from the war zone by air.

The training cycle, which took place from December 2022 to April 2023, was aimed at the medical crew of rescue helicopters from Ukraine. Each of the 5 training series lasted 10 days. During theoretical and practical classes, a total of 51 Ukrainian medics improved their competences in a wide range of skills.

From August to November 2022, specialists from the Air Ambulance Service and the Warsaw Medical University conducted a series of intensive training courses in Ivano-Frankivsk in the field of combat medicine and life-saving procedures for adults and children for 4 months. As part of the project, 550 doctors and paramedics were trained. Among them, 50 specialists were selected who completed an instructor course aimed at conducting further training in Ukraine.

In September 2023, a training of medical personnel of the Emergency Departments of Hospitals in Ukraine was held in Kyiv, the aim of which was to raise the level of qualifications of medics. The training was attended by 50 people divided into 10-person groups.

5.11 Mission of the Humanitarian and Medical Aid Team

The Humanitarian and Medical Aid Team is a 60-person group of medical specialists working under the Prime Minister. They include doctors, nurses, paramedics, qualified first aiders and other medical professions. For 6 weeks, the Humanitarian and Medical Aid Team provided assistance to victims of the front and residents of the Kharkiv Oblast. Polish medics, together with Ukrainian colleagues, worked in one of the hospitals in Kharkiv, where victims of warfare were treated. The medics' tasks included treating injuries, cleaning and disinfecting wounds, changing dressings, removing shrapnel, suturing wounds, chest drainage and intravenous and intramuscular injections, and performing ECG and EEG. Polish doctors also performed procedures under general and conduction anesthesia. They participated in medical rounds and consultations, and exchanged experiences. During the mission in Ukraine, they built a field hospital consisting of several tents (including Emergency and ICU tents), which were fully equipped with the latest equipment, medical products and medicines. During the 6-week mission, Polish doctors, paramedics and nurses provided assistance to over 2,500 patients.

5.12 Report of Statistics Poland on the health of refugees in Poland

Statistics Poland, in cooperation with the World Health Organization and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, provides data on the health status, needs and access to medical services of refugees from Ukraine staying in the territory of the Republic of Poland. The data is presented in an interactive form, allowing the use of various indicators. The data presented on the website <https://healthofrefugees.stat.gov.pl> includes reports dating back to 2022.

6. Social aid

Poland provided refugees from Ukraine with access to a wide range of social benefits and services, and also facilitated their integration into the Polish labor market. The ministries' activities included both financial assistance and support in the area of accommodation, childcare, professional activation and access to specialist assistance, including psychological assistance.

6.1 Ensuring access to social benefits

In 2022-2023, a one-time cash benefit of PLN 300 was received by 1,302,196 people, for a total amount of PLN 390,658,740. Citizens of Ukraine gained access to cash and non-cash benefits on the same terms as Polish citizens, without the need to conduct a social interview. This includes, among others, access to care services, support in social welfare centers, sheltered housing, support centers and homes for mothers with children. Free psychological help was also provided, which was used by 42,371 people.

People with a PESEL with the UKR symbol have access to the following benefits:

- the "Family 800+" program, under which PLN 1,737,086,543.96 was paid in 2022 and PLN 1,455,214,374 in 2023;
- "Good Start" program, where PLN 44,595,150 was paid in 2022 and PLN 37,386,010 in 2023;
- Family Care Capital, from which PLN 97,150,514.39 was paid in 2022 and PLN 57,188,989 in 2023;
- co-financing for a child's stay in a nursery, for which PLN 2,477,501.29 was paid in 2022 and PLN 5,079,558 in 2023;
- family allowance, parental benefit, care allowance and care benefit, for which PLN 147,152,636.58 was spent in 2022 and PLN 242,236,416.11 in 2023.

6.2 Childcare support

By the end of 2023, 119,652 children had benefited from assistance in the form of meals in schools and 37,743 children in kindergartens; in terms of facilitating access to care for children under 3, among other things, the possibility of exceeding the maximum number of children in nurseries and children's clubs was introduced, as well as the possibility of admitting a child from the age of 20 weeks to a children's club, with 1,244 such institutions operating at the end of 2023; the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Policy keeps a register of minor Ukrainian citizens who came to Poland unaccompanied or were placed in foster care on the territory of Ukraine, under which 3,478 children were registered in 2022-2023; PLN 29,377,999 was spent on financing the stay of children in foster care in 2022-2023.



Kłodzko County, arrival of Ukrainian children to the Children's Holiday Home in Duszniki-Zdrój on March 3, 2022. Photo: Kłodzko County Office.

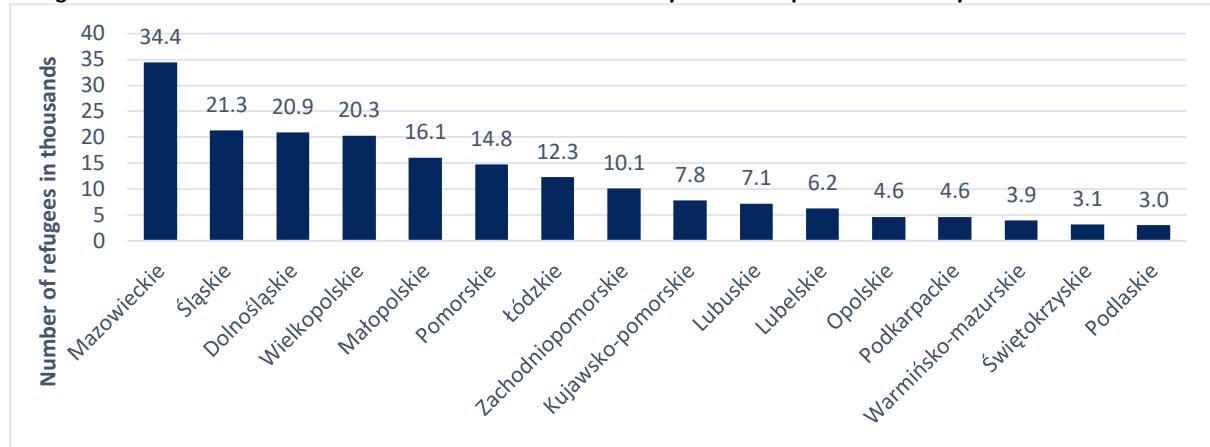
6.3 Help for people with disabilities

The "Assistance to citizens of Ukraine with disabilities" program offers support under three modules: co-financing the purchase or repair of medical devices, financing costs incurred by local governments in connection with helping people with disabilities, and financing the activities of non-governmental organizations, while in 2022-2023, 80 contracts were concluded under Module I for the amount of PLN 2,623,887.28, under Module II for 65 contracts for the amount of PLN 19,352,346.39, and under Module III for 186 contracts for the amount of PLN 78,790,721.86; in the field of assistant services, citizens of Ukraine with disabilities were enabled to use the services of a personal assistant for a disabled person, of which 307 people used in 2022 and 247 people in 2023; simplifications were also introduced in the assessment of disability, where the expenses related to the assessment of disability of Ukrainian citizens were covered from the state budget, and in 2022, 8,917 applications for the assessment were submitted, while in 2023, 17,198.

7. Educational aid

At the end of 2022, 190.6 thousand students who were refugees from Ukraine attended Polish schools and kindergartens, including 97.6 thousand who took advantage of additional free Polish language classes. Primary school students predominated, making up 65.6%, while 19.5% were children attending kindergartens, 5.4% were students in general secondary schools, and 4.3% were technical school students. The remaining 5.2% were people receiving education in vocational, artistic, and post-secondary schools.

Refugee students from Ukraine in Polish educational institutions by voivodeship. As of 2 January 2023.



Department of Strategy and Development, Marshal's Office of the Lublin Voivodeship, based on MEiN data, 2023.

7.1 Support for local governments in additional educational tasks

In order to support local governments in implementing additional educational tasks related to the education, upbringing and care of children and students who are citizens of Ukraine, the Assistance Act provides for the possibility of financial support. The total amount of funds for the period from 24 February 2022 to the end of December 2023, intended for the implementation of educational tasks carried out by local governments, amounted to over PLN 4.4 billion, of which PLN 1,591,573,873 was spent in 2022 and PLN 2,625,600,000 in 2023. Support was provided for tasks that had not been financed from the educational subsidy so far – co-financing preschool education for children aged 2.5-5 and co-financing transport for students.

7.2 Extracurricular Polish language classes

Persons with protected status who do not know Polish or know it at a level insufficient to use education are entitled to additional, free Polish language lessons of no less than 6 hours per week for no longer than 24 months. The total amount of funds for additional Polish language classes amounted to PLN 478,609 in 2022 and PLN 795,445 in 2023.

The number of students/children from Ukraine covered by support from the Assistance Fund for additional Polish language classes amounted to 69,116 in 2022 and 85,780 in 2023.

7.3 Facilitating the hiring of teaching assistants

Work as a teacher's assistant may be undertaken by persons who are not Polish citizens and who have a command of the Polish language in speech and writing sufficient to assist a student who does not know the Polish language or knows it at a level insufficient to use education, without the need to confirm the knowledge of the Polish language with the required documents. The number of cultural assistants in the years 2022-2023 according to the SIO database as of February 5, 2023 amounted to 517 people in the fourth quarter of 2022 and 335 people in the fourth quarter of 2023.

7.4 Free transport to schools

In the 2022/2023 school year, approximately 8,000 children and students used the free transport.

7.5 Material aid to students

In 2022-2023, students from Ukraine were eligible for financial assistance of a social nature in the form of a school scholarship (maximum PLN 248 per month for a student) and a school allowance (maximum PLN 620 per student whose family experienced an event that significantly worsened their financial situation).

In 2022, a total of PLN 8 million was spent on the implementation of the above-mentioned financial assistance payments. From March to August 2022, 6,784 students received a school scholarship, and from September to December 2022, 7,742 students. A total of 3,309 students received school allowances.

In 2023, a total of PLN 7.84 million was spent on the implementation of the above-mentioned financial assistance payments. From January to June 2023, 5,597 students received a school scholarship, and from September to December 2023, 4,661 students received a school scholarship. 80 students received school allowances.

7.6 Purchase of textbooks, educational materials and exercise materials

In 2023, local governments received funds from the Assistance Fund for the purchase of textbooks, educational materials and exercise materials for students of public and non-public primary schools for children and youth, and art schools providing general education in the scope of primary school, who are citizens of Ukraine. PLN 48,700,000 was spent for this purpose in 2023.

8. Legal aid

These activities included both direct assistance and legislative, information and coordination activities. They focused on ensuring access to free legal aid and accommodation for vulnerable groups, as well as placing children in foster care and appointing temporary guardians.

8.1 Providing access to free legal aid

The Ministry of Justice published a bilingual announcement for refugees and translated the information about free legal aid into Ukrainian. The website for registering for legal advice was also made available in Ukrainian. Points offering specialist assistance to foreigners were created. Lists of lawyers speaking Ukrainian and Russian were made available. Training was organized for people working in the Free Legal Aid and Free Citizens' Advice system to better prepare them to help refugees.

8.2 Investigation into war crimes committed by Russian forces

An investigation is underway into war crimes committed by the forces of the Russian Federation in Ukraine. A joint investigative team (JIT) was established with the participation of Ukraine, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia and Romania. Polish prosecutors and police officers, as part of the joint investigative team, visited the territory of Ukraine twice, where they participated in securing evidence of war crimes committed by the forces of the Russian Federation. The Polish side was also included in the structures of the International Centre for the Prosecution of Crimes of Aggression against Ukraine, established on 3 July 2023 in The Hague.



Charity concert organized by the Prosvita Foundation.
Photo: County Office in Watcz

8.3 Court proceedings concerning the care of minors

Due to the influx of children without a legal guardian, in 2022-2023 the courts considered a total of 39,943 cases for the appointment of a temporary guardian, establishing care for 32,713 minors in the form of a temporary guardian, and 828 minors were placed in foster care in 2022. In 2023, a temporary guardian was appointed for 9,239 minors, and 176 minors were placed in foster care.

8.4 Providing accommodation and support for vulnerable groups

The Ministry of Justice provided accommodation, food and necessary resources in the recreation centers "Krucze Skaly" in Karpacz and "Poseidon" in Ustka. The Ministry indicated three facilities (correctional institutions and shelters for minors) that could be used for temporary accommodation of refugees, including orphans and children from Ukrainian orphanages. Two of them accepted minor refugees.

9. Cultural aid and protection of heritage

More than one hundred cultural institutions subordinate to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage provided support to Ukraine and its citizens, implementing a total of 687 aid projects worth over PLN 16 million. These included support in protecting monuments on the territory of Ukraine from war damage, providing accommodation for refugees from Ukraine, scholarships and residency programs for Ukrainian artists, collections for Ukraine, employment of Ukrainian citizens in Polish cultural institutions, cultural events and workshops on Ukrainian topics, and translations and scientific publications.

9.1 Center for Assistance to Culture in Ukraine

A specialized unit established within the National Heritage Institute, the Center for Assistance to Culture in Ukraine, coordinates government support for the Ukrainian cultural sector. In 2022, the Center provided material assistance to cultural institutions worth over 2 million euros. Over 800 pallets of fire extinguishing materials and resources necessary to secure collections were delivered to 111 cultural institutions. In 2023, over PLN 4 million was allocated for in-kind assistance from the Minister of Culture and National Heritage. Materials with a total weight of over 160 tons were delivered to over 60 institutions.

9.2 Artistic residencies of the Theatre Institute for artists from Ukraine

In 2022, the Theatre Institute continued its artistic residency program for artists from across Poland's eastern border. In 2021, preceding the full-scale war in Ukraine, the program was aimed at repressed artists from Belarus. Due to the war in Ukraine, the next recruitment for residents was expanded to include representatives of creative professions related to Ukrainian theater.



The aim of the program was to enable residents to work creatively by implementing a specific project or seeking new inspirations under the artistic supervision of Polish theatres, as well as to create conditions for establishing permanent cooperation between Polish cultural institutions - and their teams - and representatives of the theatre community of Belarus and Ukraine.

The program, which cost 1,261,000 PLN, was attended by 53 residents from Ukraine. The Theatre Institute's residencies were held in 39 institutions in 12 cities in Poland. As part of the Intervention Fund, psychological consultations were conducted, an information point for residents from Ukraine, InfoPoint UA, was operating, and legal workshops were organized by experts from the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights.

During the year, there were also 2 conventions of residents of the program from Ukraine with a wide training program and a Christmas meeting, the aim of which was to integrate and help adapt artists from Ukraine who are in Poland. The result of the residency was 17 full-length plays and stage performances. As many as 5 performances produced by Ukrainian artists as part of the Residency program at the Theatre Institute qualified for prestigious theatre festivals, including international ones, and one performance received a distinction at the Schauspiel Stuttgart festival.

9.3 Crisis residencies for artists

From March to December 2022, a crisis residency program for artists was in operation, implemented by Zachęta, CSW Zamek Ujazdowski and CRP in Oronsko, financed by the Adam Mickiewicz Institute. Artists and their families could benefit from accommodation in the institution's guest rooms, stay allowances, access to the library, curatorial support and assistance in establishing contacts with the artistic community. From March to December 2022, Zachęta hosted residents from Ukraine.

9.4 Help from the State Archives

Special contact points were opened for archivists coming to Poland from Ukraine, and support was provided in finding employment, among others for archivists from Kharkiv, Kyiv, Mykolaiv and Rivne. Archivists from Ukraine were included in participation in archival events, such as national and international conferences, popularization projects, participation in the preparation of publications and archival publications.

10. Academic aid

In the academic year 2021/22, 36,011 students with Ukrainian citizenship studied in Poland, and in 2022/23 this number increased to 48,056. According to Polish law, refugees under temporary protection are entitled to free full-time studies in Polish. In the academic years 2021/22 and 2022/23, refugees were provided with free studies worth PLN 532 million. The Ministry of Science and Higher Education also provided direct assistance to Ukrainian students in the form of social scholarships and student loans worth PLN 117 million. In total, in 2022-2023, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education spent PLN 713.4 million on aid activities.

10.1 "Solidarity with Ukraine" Program

The National Agency for Academic Exchange organized the "Solidarity with Ukraine" program addressed to Ukrainian students and doctoral students who came to Poland as refugees since February 24, 2022. Its aim was to enable them to continue their studies, work on their doctoral dissertations or undertake other forms of education at Polish universities and institutes in the period from March to September 2022. In addition to exemption from tuition fees, participants were paid a scholarship. Thanks to this, Ukrainian refugees affected by the war were able to complete the academic year in Poland, avoiding interruption of their studies. The program cost PLN 24.1 million.



From the announcement of recruitment for joint Polish-Ukrainian research projects of the National Agency for Academic Exchange.

10.2 In Solidarity with Ukraine – European Universities

In the face of new challenges and needs, the "Solidarity with Ukraine" program was expanded to include the launch of financial support for universities that are part of the European University Alliances and will cooperate with a partner university or universities from Ukraine. The funds that have been planned to support participating universities in implementing their projects amount to PLN 18.7 million. The activities were carried out from January to December 2023.

10.3 Aid from the Polish Academy of Sciences

From the beginning of the war to July 2024, the Polish Academy of Sciences provided assistance to 355 scientists from Ukraine, transferred over PLN 40 million from over 40 sponsors, organized 15 scientific and popular science events, and provided training to over 700 Ukrainian scientists, in which 28 scientific units of the Polish Academy of Sciences were involved. The actions taken include the individual stay program launched on March 1, 2022, providing funding for several-month research stays of scientists from Ukraine in Poland, as well as the long-term support program LTP Ukraine launched in December 2022, which finances two- or three-year research projects carried out in Poland and Ukraine by Ukrainian research teams. The Polish Academy of Sciences also provided emergency humanitarian aid to refugees from Ukraine. In cooperation with foreign partners, the Polish Academy of Sciences also provides expert and logistical assistance such as aid programs and mechanisms, the organization of an international network of sponsors, and the development of a 10-point plan to support Ukrainian science.



The presidents of the world's leading academies of sciences discuss support for scientists from Ukraine in Warsaw on June 2, 2022. In the middle is the then president of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Jerzy Duszyński. Photo: PAN

11. Aid for entrepreneurs

The Polish government supported Ukrainian entrepreneurs and made it easier for them to conduct business in Poland. These actions were aimed at helping refugees find their place on the Polish labor market, as well as supporting the Ukrainian economy by enabling companies to continue their operations and facilitating export and trade.

11.1 Facilitation of start-up and business activity

Provisions have been introduced to allow Ukrainian citizens legally residing in Poland to undertake and conduct business on the same terms as Polish citizens. From the outbreak of the war to the end of 2023, 48,316 companies founded by Ukrainian citizens were registered (17,958 in 2022 and 30,358 in 2023). The largest number of companies operate in the software industry (13%), hairdressing and cosmetics (12%), and construction (7%). As of February 1, 2024, there were 46,356 such companies, which is 1.8% of all active entries in CEIDG.

11.2 Support for Ukrainian entrepreneurs

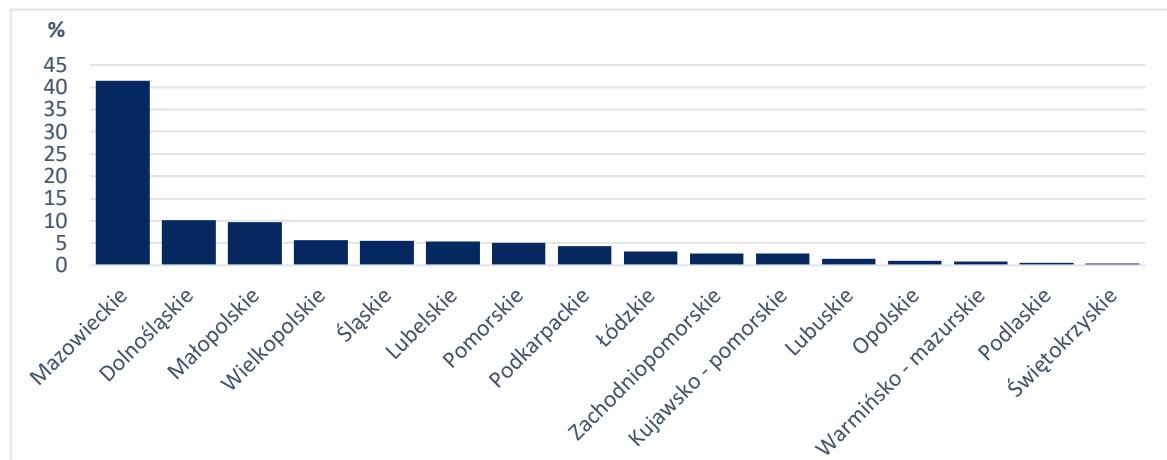
In cooperation with the Ukrainian Ministry of Digital Transformation and the Agency for the Development of Entrepreneurship and Export of Ukraine, the Ministry of Development and Technology has launched a Diia Business office in Warsaw, which offers free consultations and advice for Ukrainian entrepreneurs on setting up and running a business in Poland. The Polish Investment and Trade Agency (PAIH) as part of the "Coworking Ukraine" initiative offered Ukrainian entrepreneurs free office space, infrastructure and advice on running a business in Poland, public aid and contacts with the administration. Within the Polish Investment Zone, 7 companies from Ukraine with an active decision on support declared investments worth a total of PLN 110.8 million and created 324 new jobs.

11.3 Bilateral trade

The Export Credit Insurance Corporation (KUKE) has resumed the possibility of insuring receivables in export contracts with Ukrainian contractors, with the limit raised to PLN 1 billion. The Act on Foreign Trade in Goods, Technologies and Services of Strategic Significance has been amended, which has enabled simplified export of protective equipment to Ukraine (until the end of 2023) and drones (from April 27, 2023) without

the need to obtain permits. The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, together with the Polish Investment and Trade Agency, is recruiting Polish companies interested in resuming exports and participating in the reconstruction of Ukraine. Free conferences, webinars and training for companies are being organized. A catalog of Polish companies interested in reconstruction projects has also been published.

Location of Ukrainian companies by voivodeship as of September 30, 2022.



Source: Dębkowska et al., (2022), Ukrainian companies in Poland after the outbreak of war in 2022, Polish Economic Institute, Warsaw; quoted after the Department of Strategy and Development, Marshal's Office of the Lublin Voivodeship.

12. Agricultural aid

The Polish government made it easier for Ukrainian citizens to work in Polish agriculture, and institutions subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development provided them with accommodation and food support. These activities were implemented both at the legislative level and through units subordinate to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, such as agricultural schools, research institutes, agricultural advisory centers, and the National Support Center for Agriculture (KOWR).

12.1 Housing aid

63 agricultural school complexes provided accommodation for refugees from Ukraine. The costs of the refugees' stay were covered by local governments. KOWR provided facilities in Warsaw and Poznań, where 40 Ukrainian citizens were accommodated. Utilities costs in 2022 amounted to PLN 63,157.81, and in 2023 PLN 145,350.23. Some research institutes supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, such as the Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation, the Institute of Animal Production and the Institute of Technology and Life Sciences, provided their accommodation facilities for refugees. Agricultural Advisory Centers, including those in the West Pomeranian, Opole, Podkarpackie, Wielkopolska and Lublin voivodeships, also got involved in providing accommodation and meals for refugees.

12.2 Food aid

Under the 2021 and 2021 PLUS Sub-Programmes, through partner organizations, over 43.5 thousand tons of food products were transferred to refugees from Ukraine with a total value of nearly PLN 255 million. In addition, in 2022, under the Food Aid Operational Program, assistance was provided to 142 thousand refugees (3.3 thousand tons of food), and in 2023 to 44.2 thousand refugees (1.3 thousand tons of food).

12.3 Veterinary aid

The Chief Veterinary Inspectorate incurred costs related to vaccination and chipping of animals accompanying refugees in the amount of PLN 2,623,125.82 in 2022 and PLN 136,414.16 in 2023.

II. Poland's political support for Ukraine

13. Government support

13.1 The first visit of foreign politicians to Kyiv after the outbreak of the war

The Prime Minister of Poland, Mateusz Morawiecki and the deputy prime minister Jarosław Kaczyński, together with the prime ministers of the Czech Republic and Slovenia, made the first visit of foreign political leaders to Kyiv since the outbreak of the war. The leaders from Warsaw, Prague and Ljubljana were in Kyiv to express solidarity with Ukraine while Russian troops were still standing near Kyiv. In agreement with the President of the European Council Charles Michel and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen, the prime ministers of Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovenia travelled to Kyiv on 15 March 2022 as representatives of the European Council to meet with the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky and the Prime Minister of Ukraine Denys Shmyhal.

13.2 Simplification of the transport of humanitarian aid

In March 2022, the Polish government decided to abolish the system of permits and road fees for carriers delivering humanitarian goods to Ukraine. The aim of this action was to simplify procedures and eliminate bureaucratic barriers, which was aimed at accelerating and facilitating the delivery of necessary humanitarian aid to Ukraine. To take advantage of these facilities, carriers had to fill out a form available on the website in advance. Additionally, in June 2022, the European Union and Ukraine concluded an agreement under which certain types of road freight transport were exempted from the requirement to obtain permits. The provisions of this agreement were extended until June 30, 2024. These initiatives were aimed not only at supporting Ukraine in the face of the humanitarian crisis, but also at strengthening transport cooperation between Poland and Ukraine and facilitating the flow of goods across the border.

13.3 Formation of the tank coalition

Modern Leopard 2 tanks, needed by Ukraine to repel Russian attacks, became the subject of international discussions between allied countries at the turn of 2022 and 2023, including during meetings of the Contact Group for Defense Support for Ukraine at the American base in Ramstein, Germany.

In January 2023, Poland broke the international deadlock on the transfer of Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine by inaugurating the formation of the so-called "tank coalition". On January 11, the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda declared that Poland was the first to be ready to transfer a company of Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine as part of the international coalition. One of the most important achievements of the tank coalition was reaching an agreement between Poland and Germany, which, as the manufacturer of the Leopard 2 model, had the exclusive right to authorize the transfer of weapons.



Polish instructors conducting training of Ukrainian armed forces soldiers on Leopard tanks
Feb. 13, 2023. Photo: Ministry of National Defense

The coalition, launched thanks to the Polish initiative, had grown by March to 9 countries, which jointly declared that they would transfer over 150 Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine. Already in February, the first Leopard 2 tanks from Poland arrived in Ukraine, which was a significant act of aid, considering that this model was the basis of the Polish armored forces.

13.4 Servicing Leopard 2 tanks in Poland

On April 23, the Polish and German defense ministers met at Ramstein, the largest American military base in Europe. The meeting was also attended by Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksiy Reznikov and the heads of defense ministries of about 40 countries belonging to the contact group for supporting Ukraine. During the meeting, the three ministers signed a letter of intent on establishing a Leopard 2 tank service center in Poland.

13.5 Support for Ukraine in the OSCE and EU arenas

In 2022, Poland, chairing the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), played a key role in coordinating the international response to the Russian aggression against Ukraine. Thanks to the involvement of the Polish government, the operational presence of the OSCE mission in Ukraine was maintained, despite the difficult conditions caused by the armed conflict. In addition, Poland actively supported the implementation of the European Union's sanctions policy towards Russia, contributing to the adoption of nine sanctions packages, including an embargo on Russian coal (April 2022) and oil (December 2022).

13.6 Visit to Kyiv by the prime minister of the new Polish government

In January 2024, prime minister Donald Tusk made his first official visit to Kyiv since taking office. The visit took place on January 22, the Day of Unity of Ukraine, which underlined the symbolic significance of the event. During meetings with President Volodymyr Zelensky and Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, key bilateral and regional issues were discussed, including economic cooperation, energy security and Poland's support for Ukraine's aspirations to join the European Union.

One of the important topics of the talks was the situation on the Polish-Ukrainian border, where border crossings had been blocked earlier. Prime minister Tusk emphasized the need to resolve these issues in the spirit of friendship and cooperation, noting that although there are some conflicts, both sides are determined to resolve them as soon as possible. This visit was an important signal that there is a political consensus in Poland on the strategic importance of the Polish-Ukrainian partnership and the assistance that Poland continues to provide to Ukraine. Almost two years after the start of full-scale Russian aggression, marked by Ukraine's fight to defend its independence and the great efforts of the Polish state and society to support it, a signal was sent that Poland would continue to support Ukraine.



Prime Minister Donald Tusk and President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky during a meeting in Kyiv. Photo: Chancellery of the Prime Minister.

14. President's support

14.1 Visit of the President of Poland the day before the war

On February 23, 2022, one day before the Russian Federation launched a full-scale invasion, the presidents of Poland and Lithuania personally appeared in Kyiv to express support for President Volodymyr Zelensky and demonstrate the solidarity of our nations with the Ukrainian people. The presidents adopted a joint declaration condemning the decision of the Russian Federation to recognize the separatist "people's republics" in the occupied territories of Ukraine. At that time, the President of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Duda, had already expressed support for Ukraine's efforts to obtain the EU candidacy status.



The President of the Republic of Poland with the President of Ukraine in Kyiv, the day before the outbreak of full-scale war. 23/02/2022 Photo: Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland
© Jakub Szymczuk/KPRP

14.2 Diplomatic support in the first days of the war

In a series of talks with the leaders of the countries of the region and the European Union, during bilateral meetings and within broader formats, the President of the Republic of Poland encouraged the fastest and broadest possible support for our neighbor, including by organizing visits at the highest level and engaging in international forums such as the European Union, NATO and the UN, with military equipment, but also to make a decision on Ukraine's participation in Western European structures and institutions. Among other things, the President promoted changes that were to facilitate the acceptance of refugees and improve the coordination of aid, and also emphasized Poland's readiness to help rebuild Ukraine after the end of the war. President Duda actively sought the creation of a broad coalition of countries supporting Ukraine and the imposition of sanctions on Russia, which increased international pressure on the aggressor and provided Ukraine with the necessary aid.

14.3 The first visit of presidents to Kyiv after the outbreak of the war

On April 13, the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda, together with the presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, visited Ukraine, where they met with president Volodymyr Zelensky. Poland and the Baltic States jointly decided on this visit, which was organized in terms of logistics and security jointly by the governments of Poland and Ukraine. Their visit was the first visit of foreign presidents to the Ukrainian capital since the beginning of the Russian aggression.

"We came to Kyiv today to stand next to president Volodymyr Zelensky, to hug him and tell him that we admire him - his heroism, his determination in defending his country and his colleagues, all Ukrainian soldiers who fight and give their lives every day in defense of their homeland - just as the president announced, heroically and without a single step back," said the President of Poland. Speaking about the need to ruthlessly prosecute Russian perpetrators of crimes against Ukrainian civilians, he also stressed that "the perpetrators of these crimes are responsible not only directly, but also indirectly, those who gave the orders; those who allowed the murder, killing, bombing of civilians, must be punished by international tribunals."

14.4 Speech by the President of the Republic of Poland at the Verkhovna Rada

On May 22, the President of the Republic of Poland Andrzej Duda became the first foreign head of state to address the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine since Russia unleashed a full-scale war. Deputies welcomed him with applause, and the Polish anthem was played. The president emphasized Ukraine's right to self-determination and the strategic importance of connections between Poland and Ukraine.

At a joint press conference with the President of Ukraine, Andrzej Duda pointed out that Ukraine needs funds for reconstruction, and the world needs Ukraine, which is a large food producer. He reported that he and Volodymyr Zelensky had discussed the issue of unblocking the port in Odessa and the possibility of redirecting Ukrainian agricultural products to other ports.

14.5 Regular meetings with the President of Ukraine

Throughout the period under review, the President of the Republic of Poland maintained regular contact with the President of Ukraine, discussing the current situation and coordinating actions to support Ukraine. Such meetings were aimed at strengthening cooperation and solidarity between the two countries. Among other things, the President of the Republic of Poland repeatedly appealed to accelerate the process of Ukraine's integration with the European Union and the North Atlantic Alliance, emphasizing the importance of this step for the security of the region. At the World Economic Forum in Davos, President Duda, meeting with President Zelensky, assured Poland's unwavering support for Ukraine and emphasized his readiness to provide further assistance. The talks also concerned the coordination of positions before the upcoming NATO summit in Washington.



The President of the Republic of Poland in the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on May 22, 2022.
Photo: Office of the President of the Republic of Poland.

15. Support from the Sejm and the Senate

15.1 Imposing sanctions on Russian and Belarusian exports to the European Union

On March 7, 2024, the Sejm adopted a resolution calling on the European Commission to impose sanctions on the import of Russian and Belarusian agricultural and food products. The aim was to limit the financing of the Russian economy, which supports the war effort in Ukraine. The resolution emphasized three key arguments:

1. Trade cooperation with Russia and Belarus can directly or indirectly strengthen their ability to continue the war by generating revenue for the state budget.
2. Imports of cheap food from these countries distort competition on the EU single market, and European producers are able to ensure an adequate supply of agricultural products on their own.
3. In the context of war, the EU should focus on supporting Ukrainian agricultural exports, which are deliberately blocked by Russia, thus limiting sources of income for the Ukrainian economy.

15.2 Recognition of the authorities of the Russian Federation as a terrorist regime

On October 26, 2022, the Senate of the Republic of Poland adopted a resolution recognizing the authorities of the Russian Federation as a terrorist regime. The initiator of the project was the chairman of the Foreign Affairs and EU Committee, senator Bogdan Klich. This document was an important element of international pressure on Russia, fitting into the broader narrative of Western countries about the Kremlin's responsibility for systematic violations of human rights and conducting warfare contrary to international law.

15.3 Law facilitating transportation for refugees from Ukraine

On March 23, 2022, the Sejm passed an act on special regulations in the field of transport and maritime economy in connection with the armed conflict on the territory of Ukraine. The act allowed for the extension of the working hours of train crews transporting refugees from Ukraine to Poland due to the extended

border clearance time. It exempts from fees for access to railway infrastructure those carriers that launched trains intended for the transport of refugees from Ukraine, as well as organizers of humanitarian aid transports. The Senate supported it without amendments.

15.4 Senate resolution on Ukraine's strategic importance for the region's security

On February 4, 2022, the Senate of the Republic of Poland adopted a resolution emphasizing the importance of a free and sovereign Ukraine for the security of Poland and the entire region of Central and Eastern Europe. The document expressed strong support for political and financial assistance to Ukraine, arms supplies, and NATO's involvement in training Ukrainian military personnel. The resolution indicated that Ukraine's stability directly affects Poland's security, as effective defense against Russian aggression reduces the risk of conflict escalation to other Central European countries. Poland declared further diplomatic and logistical support for Ukraine, emphasizing the importance of strategic military cooperation.

15.5 Senate resolution on the necessity of Ukraine's membership in NATO

On May 11, 2023, the Senate of the Republic of Poland called for the application of an extraordinary procedure for the admission of Ukraine to the North Atlantic Alliance. It was emphasized that this decision should be the result of an in-depth analysis of strategic challenges and take into account the growing threats from Russia. The senators emphasized that Ukraine plays a key role in the security architecture of Europe and should receive full guarantees of protection from NATO as soon as possible. The resolution also called for the expansion of military support and the intensification of training for the Ukrainian armed forces in order to prepare them for future integration with NATO. The resolution was aimed at putting pressure on NATO member states to immediately take steps to formally start the process of Ukraine's accession to the Alliance.

15.6 Senate resolution condemning illegal deportations of Ukrainian children to Russia

On March 30, 2023, the Senate of the Republic of Poland unanimously condemned the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia, considering it a violation of the Geneva Conventions and possible war crimes, and even genocide. The resolution refers to the systematic actions of the Russian authorities consisting in the forcible deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia and subjecting them to the process of Russification, including adoption by Russian families.

16. Support in Ukraine's path to EU accession

16.1 Partnership in Ukraine's EU integration before full-scale war

Poland plays a key role in the process of Ukraine's integration with the European Union. Since Ukraine gained independence in 1991, Poland has consistently supported its European aspirations, offering both diplomatic support and practical solutions based on its own integration experience. In 2008, Poland, in cooperation with Sweden, initiated the EU Eastern Partnership program, the main goal of which was to bring Ukraine and other countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus closer to European institutions. This program has played a significant role in intensifying cooperation between Ukraine and the European Union, offering tools for the modernization of state institutions, economic reforms and the adaptation of legal standards to EU requirements.

16.2 Granting EU candidate status

Poland played a key role in the process of granting Ukraine candidate status to the European Union, taking numerous actions in the international arena. Already in the first days of the Russian invasion in February 2022, the Polish government and diplomacy began an intensive campaign for an express path to Ukraine's accession. Poland emphasized the need to grant Ukraine this status as an expression of political and strategic support, mobilizing the European Union countries to act quickly.

"Poland supports the express path to Ukraine's membership in the European Union. Candidate status should be granted immediately, and membership talks should begin immediately thereafter. Ukraine should also have access to EU funds for reconstruction. Ukraine deserves this," said President Andrzej Duda on February 26, 2022.

Polish diplomacy, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Polish representatives in the European Parliament and the European Council, lobbied intensively for Ukraine to be recognized as an EU candidate. Numerous bilateral and multilateral meetings were held with EU decision-makers, arguing that Ukraine not only met the necessary political criteria but also demonstrated its commitment to European values by defending its territory against Russian aggression.

In March 2022, prime minister Mateusz Morawiecki, together with the prime ministers of the Czech Republic and Slovenia – Petr Fiala and Janez Janša – travelled to Kyiv, the first European leaders to visit Ukraine since the outbreak of the war. The meeting with president Volodymyr Zelensky and prime minister Denys Shmyhal was aimed at showing solidarity and discussing actions to accelerate Ukraine's integration with the EU. The visit had great symbolic and political significance, mobilizing other Member States to provide stronger support for Ukraine.

Poland also initiated numerous joint declarations and letters addressed to the European Commission and other EU institutions, calling for the immediate granting of candidate status to Ukraine. In March 2022, prime minister Morawiecki, together with the prime ministers of Lithuania and Latvia, sent a joint letter to the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and the President of the European Council Charles Michel, in which he demanded an acceleration of the accession process of Ukraine.

In May 2022, president Andrzej Duda and president Zuzana Čaputová (Slovakia) launched a diplomatic campaign in Western Europe, convincing the leaders of the EU countries to grant Ukraine candidate status. Poland also held intensive diplomatic talks at the EU level, proposing a timetable for the accession process of Ukraine.

During the European Council meeting in June 2022, Poland actively negotiated with skeptical countries such as the Netherlands, Denmark and Portugal, which initially had concerns about the accession process of Ukraine. The Polish government used its influence within the Visegrad Group and the Three Seas Initiative to convince these countries that supporting Ukraine was crucial for the stability and security of the region.

"Ukraine is fighting for its independence, but also for European values. It is our moral duty to help it in this fight and bring it closer to the European Union. Candidate status for Ukraine should be granted as soon as possible, because Ukraine has proven its determination," said president Andrzej Duda during a speech in the Sejm on March 3, 2022.

Thanks to these intensive efforts, the European Council in June 2022 took a groundbreaking decision to grant Ukraine candidate status to the European Union. Poland played a significant role in convincing the more skeptical member states to support this decision, using its diplomatic relations and arguing that Ukraine's future EU membership is a key element of stability and security in the region. This decision was the result of extensive political and diplomatic activities that strengthened Poland's position as one of the main advocates of Ukraine's integration with the European Union.

16.3 Support for economic and sectoral reforms

Poland has played a key role in Ukraine's economic transformation, helping it adapt its regulations to the EU Single Market. Within the Ukraine Facility, Poland co-ordinates EU funds for the restructuring of the Ukrainian economy. Together with the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, Poland organizes trade missions and business forums that facilitate the integration of Ukrainian companies with the European market.

An important element of support is also assistance in the reform of Ukraine's agricultural policy. Poland supports the implementation of EU sanitary and phytosanitary standards, which allows for better adaptation of the Ukrainian agricultural sector to EU requirements and increases its competitiveness.

16.4 Support for digitalization and transformation of public administration

Poland plays an important role in politically supporting Ukraine in implementing key laws, which is an important element of its integration with the European Union. In 2022-2023, the Polish government has been actively involved in the EU forum, promoting initiatives supporting the modernization of Ukrainian state institutions and their adaptation to EU standards in the field of e-administration, data protection and cybersecurity.

At the political level, Poland has sought to include Ukraine in EU digitalization programs, arguing that the modernization of administration is key to the country's future membership in the Community. The Polish government supported Ukraine's efforts to access EU funds and initiatives in the area of digitalization, such as the Digital Europe program and the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Poland has also been involved in negotiations on cooperation mechanisms in the field of cybersecurity, pointing to the need to integrate Ukrainian institutions with the European system for exchanging information on digital threats. Poland is implementing cybersecurity support programs that enable Ukrainian institutions to adapt to EU data protection and IT security standards. These programs are in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and EU cybersecurity directives. Through the above-mentioned activities, Poland consistently supports Ukraine in its digital transformation, thus strengthening its position as a future member of the European Union.

16.5 Coordination of international exchange of experiences

Poland is actively involved in the international debate on Ukraine's integration with the European Union, organizing conferences, seminars and forums for the exchange of experiences, which cover the political, legal and economic aspects of the accession process. Academic and expert cooperation is an important element of political support for Ukraine, enabling the transfer of knowledge and the development of recommendations on the adaptation of Ukrainian institutions to EU standards.

One of the key events in 2022-2023 was the International Security Conference in Central and Eastern Europe, organized in Warsaw under the patronage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chancellery of the Prime Minister. The event was attended by representatives of EU governments, experts on European integration, representatives of the European Commission and international organizations. The discussions concerned the administrative and legal reforms necessary for Ukraine in the context of future EU membership and cooperation in the area of security.

Poland, as a country with experience in the accession process, actively supports Ukraine by sharing best practices in the field of institutional and economic reforms. In addition to conferences organized at the government level, Poland is also involved in EU initiatives supporting expert knowledge exchange and the development of academic and administrative partnerships. These activities emphasize Poland's role as a key partner of Ukraine on the path to membership in the European Union and its commitment to building stability and cooperation in the region.

III. Poland as Ukraine's strategic depth

17. Military aid

17.1 Military equipment and aid provided to Ukraine

Since the beginning of 2022, Poland has transferred 46 packages of various types of weapons and ammunition, and the 47th package is currently in the preparation phase. **According to information from the Ministry of National Defense, in the period until March 2025, their total value**, together with other forms of support for the Armed Forces of Ukraine, in particular in the form of training, logistics, supplies, maintenance and repairs, and in the field of medical assistance, **exceeded PLN 18 billion**. In 2022 alone, the value of transferred military equipment, excluding other forms of military support, amounted to **PLN 7.23 billion**, and in 2023-2024 **PLN 5.63 billion**.

Poland has transferred significant amounts of weapons to Ukraine, such as:

- heavy weapons, including tanks and armored fighting vehicles,
- fighter planes and attack helicopters,
- portable anti-aircraft missile systems and air defense systems,
- unmanned aerial vehicles and loitering munitions,
- artillery systems,
- individual weapons,
- large and medium caliber ammunition,
- medical equipment, fire-fighting equipment and personal protective equipment for soldiers,

Deliveries in the initial months of the full-scale war consisted mainly of armored equipment (T-72 tanks, BWP-1 infantry fighting vehicles), artillery (2S1 Goździk) and ammunition and consumables (spare parts, lubricants and fuel) for them.

According to the Ministry of National Defense, in 2022-2024 **Poland transferred the following military equipment to Ukraine free of charge**:

- 318 tanks
- 586 armored vehicles
- 137 artillery systems
- 10 airplanes
- 10 helicopters

Of this, **in 2022 Poland transferred to Ukraine**:

- 240 tanks
- 82 artillery systems
- 287 portable anti-aircraft missile systems
- 70 million rounds of ammunition



Poland hands over first Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine. 24.02.2023 Photo: Ukrainian Governmental Press Service/handout via Reuters

In 2023-2024 the equipment transferred to Ukraine included:

- 78 tanks
- 502 armored vehicles
- 55 artillery systems
- 10 Mi-24 helicopters
- 10 MiG-29 fighter jets
- 118 portable anti-aircraft missile system
- over 31 million rounds of ammunition
- 44 air-to-air missiles
- over 16 000 spare parts to different systems

The reports of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 2022 and 2023 show that – in addition to free donations from the Polish authorities – equipment worth a total of EUR 2.216 billion was exported to Ukraine, of which approximately EUR 0.5 billion was the partial execution of the contract for 54 Krab gun-howitzers (delivery of 36 vehicles).

In addition, Ukraine purchased from Poland 60 MT-LB armored personnel carriers, 92 2S1 Goździk gun-howitzers, 89 82 mm mortars, 22 120 mm M74 mortars, 4 BM 21 Grad multiple rocket launchers, 19 AMZ Dzik armored cars and one BRDM-2, as well as tens of thousands of small arms of various classes and types.

By the end of 2023, Poland had also purchased and transferred to Ukraine more than 19,500 Starlink terminals, which provide internet access to Ukrainian military and civilians. At that time, this was almost half of the 47,000 terminals that Ukraine owned.

17.2 Poland is a leader in armored support for Ukraine

Poland delivered the largest number of tanks to Ukraine of any country in the world, transferring a large part of its own equipment in the crucial first months of the war. Subsequently, the government in Warsaw advocated for greater armored support for Ukraine on the international stage.

The first of the large deliveries of T-72 tanks that Poland delivered to Ukraine took place in the first half of 2022. In June 2022, the President of the Republic of Poland said that Poland had already delivered over 240 tanks of the T-72M/M1 model and the modified T-72M1R, as well as one hundred armored vehicles.

As part of the subsequent deliveries taking place in the first months of 2023, another 60 tanks were delivered, including modernized PT 91, and 14 modern Leopard 2 models, as indicated by the declaration of then Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki. Poland also delivered 42 BWP-1 infantry fighting vehicles.

In January 2023, Poland broke the international deadlock over the transfer of Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine by initiating the formation of the so-called "tank coalition". These tanks are currently being serviced in Poland.

The tanks transferred by Poland to Ukraine during the first two years of the full-scale conflict alone could constitute the equipment for two complete armored brigades.

These numbers put Poland in first place in the world in terms of the number of tanks and infantry fighting vehicles transferred to Ukraine, according to a publication by the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland.

17.3 EUMAM Ukraine training mission

On 17 October 2022, the EU Council agreed to establish the Military Assistance Mission for Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine). The mission aims to provide training to Ukrainian soldiers. The mission was established in response to Ukraine's requests. Its purpose is to provide individual, collective and specialized training to the Armed Forces of Ukraine, including the Territorial Defense Forces, and to coordinate and synchronize the actions of Member States supporting the implementation of this training.

The mission, which is headquartered in Poland, has trained four times more soldiers than planned – almost 60,000 – by mid-2024. Polish officers and instructors have trained a third of the 60,000 Ukrainian soldiers who took part in the EU mission.



Ukrainian soldiers on the EUMAM Ukraine training mission in Poland. December 2022. Photo: Twitter/Joseph Borrell

18. Polish strategic corridor

Thanks to its geographical location, infrastructure and logistic capabilities, Poland became a strategic neighbor in Ukraine's defensive war. The access of the defending Ukraine to military and humanitarian aid depended on the attitude of the Polish state and society. Poland rose to the challenge, providing the government and society with a strategic corridor through which Polish and international aid flowed to Ukraine, enabling the continuation of resistance to Russian aggression.

According to information from the Ministry of National Defense, **over 90% of all military aid for Ukraine flowed through Poland**.



Polish strategic reserves on their way to Kharkiv and Zaporozhye.
Photo: Government Agency for Strategic Reserves (RARS)

18.1 Storing backup copies of Ukrainian government databases

The Polish government has assisted the Ukrainian government in placing and storing backup copies of Ukraine's information resources and public records on the territory of the Republic of Poland, ensuring the safety of valuable databases from destruction or takeover by Russia and contributing to securing the continuity of Ukrainian statehood in the conditions of war.

18.2 Polish strategic reserves sent to Ukraine

The Polish government transferred large amounts of strategic reserves to Ukraine at a key moment of the war and organized and paid for a system of logistics hubs for transporting this aid based on the Government Agency for Strategic Reserves (RARS). In 2022 and 2023, Poland transferred reserves worth PLN 1.5 billion to Ukraine and its citizens through the Polish strategic corridor.

Sources of financing (million PLN)	2022	2023	Total
Assistance Fund	406	311	717
Targeted subsidy	379	9	388
Donations	226	178	404
Total	1011	498	1509

In carrying out these tasks, RARS was responsible for, among other things:

- coordinating and organizing aid for Ukraine (coordinating transport, logistics, running a hotline for donors, cooperation with the European Commission),
- purchasing goods and services for Ukraine and refugees,
- receiving and transferring donations for purposes related to providing assistance to Ukraine and making purchases using funds from donations intended for assistance to Ukraine.

Categories of donated aid:

- technical reserves with a total book value of approx. PLN 655.4 million, including 95 petrol, diesel oil in the total amount of 70,450.5 m³ and a total book value of PLN 92.3 million. The following assortment was made available: power generators, office, sanitary, residential, customs, base containers, pavilions, rooms, medical clinics, container towns, heaters, vehicles, medical clinics, special reserves, telecommunications equipment, vehicles, water treatment plants;
- food reserves with a total book value of approximately PLN 120.4 million were made available to Ukraine and to help refugees from Ukraine in the territory of the Republic of Poland in 2022-2023. The

total amount was approximately 11,942.8 tons of food products, including approximately 209 thousand pieces of food rations and approximately 238 thousand liters of bottled mineral water;

- medical reserves with a total book value of approx. PLN 370.8 million. Among other things, medical equipment and supplies, medicines, personal protective equipment, medicinal products, textile products, disinfectants were made available;
- donations in kind and financial, including fuel (aviation, diesel, motor gasoline), licensed goods, food products, medical products. In 2022 and 2023, RARS received cash donations to help Ukraine, from which it purchased and provided, among others, licensed goods, fuel (diesel, motor gasoline), power generators, medical products, first aid kits. In 2022, approximately PLN 226 million was spent on cash donations, in 2023 PLN 178 million.

18.3 Poland as an intermediary of international aid

Poland is also undertaking the organization of transport of foreign aid through the Polish strategic corridor. This is done on the basis of cooperation with the European Commission. In March 2022, the European Commission granted RARS a grant to run the logistics hub of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. During the first year of the hub's operation, EU funds financed domestic transport (to the UA border). Since June 2023, EU funds have been used to finance the overall transport to the final recipient in Ukraine. The value of the granted grant is EUR 26,965,000. So far, approximately PLN 61 million has been spent from the funds received from the EU (PLN 50.7 million in 2022, PLN 10.3 million in 2023).



Transport of equipment from Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Estonia via the Government Agency for Strategic Reserves. March 15, 2022. Photo: RARS

In December 2022, the European Commission awarded RARS two individual grants under the rescEU program dedicated to assisting Ukraine:

- "RescEU Energy Equipment" includes the creation and maintenance of capacities in the form of power generators. A total of 5,630 pieces of equipment of various power were purchased for a total value of approx. EUR 122,370,836.54 (EU funds - 80%, RARS funds - 20% + VAT). RARS has carried out at least 14 equipment mobilizations (transport to designated recipients in accordance with the EC order) to over 100 different recipients within the public administration of Ukraine - central and local government. A total of 2,036 pieces were transferred for a total value of approx. EUR 73,242,040.60.
- "RescEU Donations" consists of the transfer of goods aid via RARS from donors from the private sector or countries that are not members/partners of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The equipment transferred is mostly energy equipment and vehicles with a total value of around EUR 3 million.

18.4 Logistics activities in the Polish strategic corridor

Poland is responsible for the logistics of the strategic corridor through which humanitarian aid flows to Ukraine. In 2022-2023, the Polish government, through the Government Agency for Strategic Reserves, organized the transport of Polish and foreign humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

In those years, 136,000 tons of aid were transported by road, on 273,000 pallets and 9,100 trucks. In intermodal transport, 58,668 tons were transported, consisting of 84,604 pallets, 5,974 containers and 4,165 rail transport units.



Polish strategic reserves on their way to Kharkiv and Zaporozhye.
Photo: Government Agency for Strategic Reserves

18.5 MEDEVAC HUB Jasionka

On September 1, 2022, Medevac Hub Jasionka was opened on the premises of the Rzeszów Regional Development Agency, financed by the European Commission, managed by a Polish foundation, the Polish Center for International Aid. It was partially equipped by the International Organization for Migration, and its organizational and operational assumptions were developed jointly by the European Commission and the World Health Organization, in a process coordinated by the Ministry of Health. The Hub provides basic observation, nursing care and psychosocial support for relocated patients, ensures continuity and modification of current medical care, and identifies, assesses and refers patients at risk of deterioration of their health condition or whose health condition has deteriorated to a reference hospital.

The Hub can accommodate up to about 20 patients and up to about 30 accompanying persons who use the medical evacuation procedure to EU/EEA countries. The Hub can also accommodate up to 20 patients who have completed treatment in Poland or EU countries and want to return to the territory of Ukraine (patient repatriation). As of 1 February 2024, 1,813 people (1,279 patients and 534 accompanying persons) have stayed at MHJ.



Pawel Kowal and Pierre Heilbronn during a visit to Medevac HUB Jasionka. Photo by Maciej Ratowski

IV. *Support from Polish local governments*

19. Aid from local governments

In Poland, the part of administrative tasks which is not nationwide in scale is carried out by the local governments which, according to the Constitution, “perform public tasks not reserved by the Constitution or laws for the bodies of other public authorities.” As of January 1, 2024, the administrative division of Poland included:

- 16 voivodeships,
- 314 counties and 66 cities with county rights,
- 2477 municipalities (including 302 urban, 711 urban-rural and 1464 rural).

The wave of millions of Ukrainian refugees fleeing to Poland from the war unleashed by Russia in February 2022 had a huge impact on the entire country and posed a challenge to the government and society. It took on a local character in every voivodeship, county and municipality affected by the influx of refugees where the necessary emergency assistance had to be organized, especially in territories bordering directly with Ukraine.

Local governments undertook to accept refugees on their own account and in cooperation with the government, and also engaged in collecting and transferring aid directly to Ukraine, often in the form of cooperation between partner cities. For this reason, it is impossible to talk about Polish aid provided to Ukraine and Ukrainians without the involvement of Polish local government units.

19.1 Cooperation between central government administration and local governments

On 1 April 2022, the Council of Ministers appointed the Government Plenipotentiary for War Refugees from Ukraine, whose task it was to coordinate actions taken in connection with the arrival in the territory of the Republic of Poland of Ukrainian citizens as a result of war operations conducted on the territory of that country and to cooperate with the relevant government administration bodies, local government bodies and non-governmental organizations.

The Assistance Act of March 12, 2022 involved local government units in the nationwide effort led by the government to help refugees from Ukraine, creating a framework for cooperation between the government and local governments through voivodes and reimbursement from the Assistance Fund for actions taken by local governments.

At the regional level, voivodes coordinated the activities of public authorities and non-governmental organizations and entrepreneurs in providing assistance to Ukrainian citizens in the voivodeship. They could provide assistance to Ukrainian citizens, including accommodation and providing all-day collective meals; providing transport to places of accommodation and medical care; financing public transport and specialist transport for people with disabilities; providing cleaning and personal hygiene products and other products; organizing places for emergency medical assistance; taking other actions necessary to give assistance.



Refugees from Ukraine at the border crossing in Medyka.
Photo: MSWiA

Voivodes were also responsible for establishing and coordinating reception and information points in their respective regions. Activities carried out at the points were carried out with the support of volunteers and NGOs and in cooperation with uniformed services.

474,125 people used organized accommodation in local government units in 2022. The number of places occupied in available collective accommodation as of 28 December 2022 was 84,896. In total, in the years 2022-2023, a total of 530,618 people used accommodation; the number of places occupied in available collective accommodation as of 31 December 2023 was 42,391.

The provision of accommodation and full-day collective meals, including costs related to the maintenance and operation of reception points and medical points operating at reception points amounted to PLN 3,550,211,343.42, including PLN 2,069,279,955.55 in 2022 and PLN 1,480,331,387.87 in 2023. The provision of transport to places of accommodation amounted to PLN 37,797,745.60, including PLN 36,545,658.62 in 2022 and PLN 1,252,086.98 in 2023.

Financing of travel by public transport and specialist transport intended for people with disabilities, in particular to or between places referred to in art. 12, sec. 1, points 1-3 of the Assistance Act amounted to PLN 11,984,425.24, including PLN 11,292,363.12 in 2022 and PLN 692,062.12 in 2023.

The provision of cleaning and personal hygiene products and other products amounted to PLN 34,972,833.15, including PLN 21,399,788.12 in 2022 and PLN 13,573,045.03 in 2023.

In accordance with Article 13, paragraph 1 of the Assistance Act, anyone who provided accommodation and meals to refugees from Ukraine at their own expense could be granted, at their request, a cash benefit of PLN 40 per day per person for no longer than 120 days from the date of arrival of the Ukrainian citizen on the territory of the Republic of Poland. In 2022, 1,291,248 applications were registered, while in 2023, 564,136 applications. Payment of cash benefits under Article 13 of the Assistance Act amounted to PLN 3,017,704,727.56 in 2022 and PLN 920,399,449.05 in 2023.

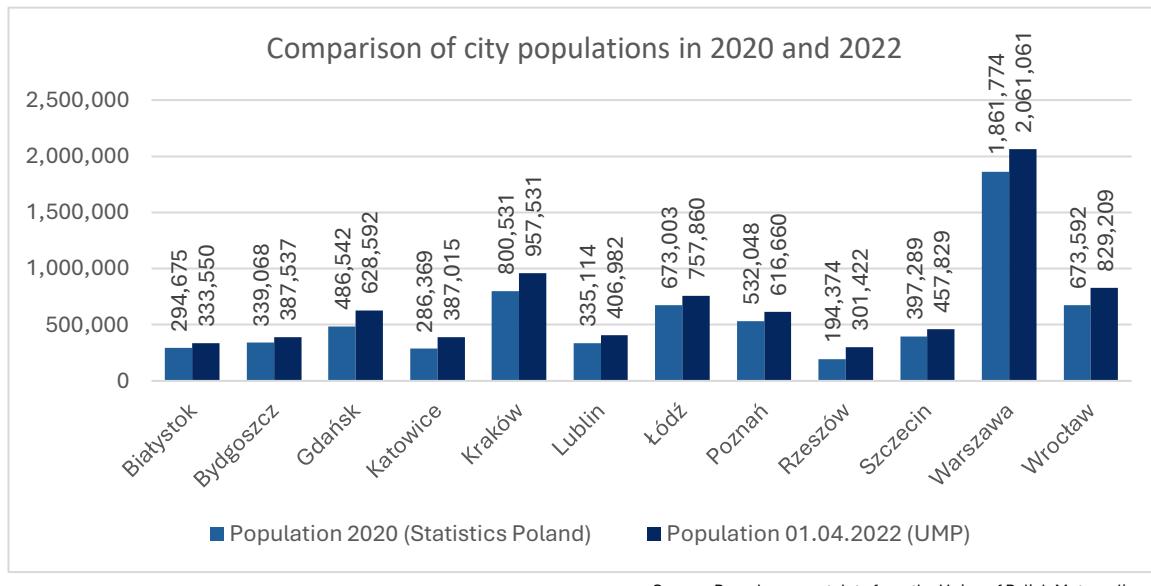
In order to support local governments in the implementation of educational tasks related to the education, upbringing and care of children and students who are refugees from Ukraine, the Assistance Act provides for the possibility of financial support for local governments from government funds.

The total amount of financial resources calculated on the basis of data for the period from February 24, 2022 to the end of December 2023, intended for the implementation of educational tasks carried out by local government units, amounted to over PLN 4.4 billion. The number of financial resources transferred from the Assistance Fund in the budget year amounted to PLN 1,591,573,873 in 2022 and PLN 2,625,600,000 million in 2023.

19.2 Hospitality of Polish metropolises

A significant part of the refugee influx to Poland was concentrated in its largest cities, which became a transfer point and temporary home for the number of refugees often several times greater than their original population. The Union of Polish Metropolises (UMP) conducted a study that presented the refugee movement in the first months of the war and the resulting demographic changes in 12 of the largest Polish cities and their agglomerations. According to UMP data from April 2022, i.e. the peak of the refugee movement, two-thirds of all Ukrainians in Poland lived in the 12 largest metropolitan areas. Data from the Union of Polish Metropolises show a significant increase in the population of the largest Polish cities at the

peak of the migration crisis, compared to 2020. Due to the influx of refugees from Ukraine, the Ukrainian population of the largest Polish cities increased to a level between 11% and 35%.



Source: Based on report data from the Union of Polish Metropolises

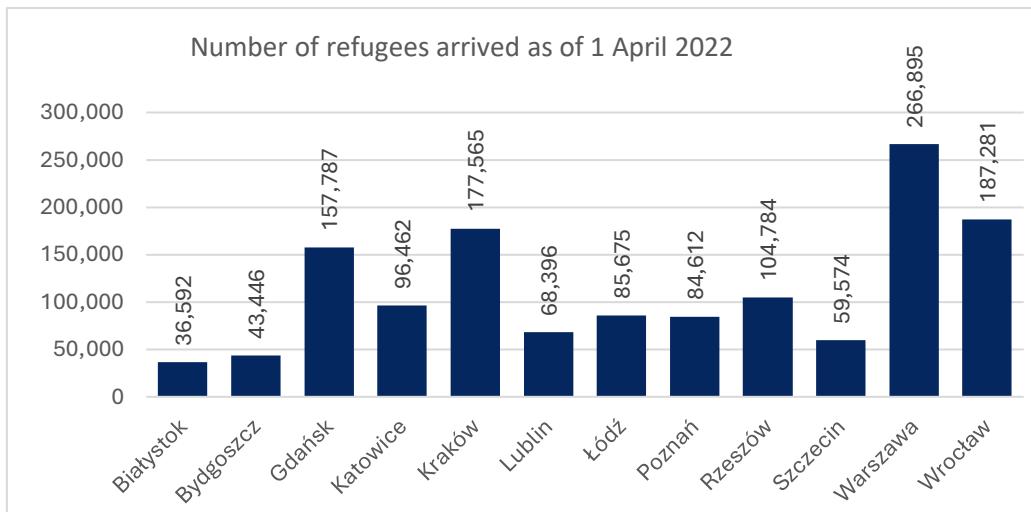
Five Polish cities (Rzeszów, Przemyśl, Lublin, Chełm and Warsaw) received the title of "Rescuer City" from the President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky, established in May 2022 to commemorate acts of humanity, mercy and solidarity with the Ukrainian people, shown by residents of foreign cities in defense of the ideals of freedom, peace and democracy, as well as for supporting Ukraine in defending its independence and sovereignty during the repulsion of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation. This is the majority of eight such titles awarded worldwide.



The President of Ukraine awards Warsaw the title of "Rescuer City" on January 15, 2023. Photo: Administration of the President of Ukraine.

The largest Polish cities have not only shown hospitality towards refugees from Ukraine, but have also actively joined in providing aid directly in Ukraine by rapidly collecting humanitarian gifts and delivering them to the neediest partners. On March 2, 2022, a wagon filled with aid from the residents of Warsaw reached Kyiv, which was besieged by the Russians. A day earlier, a similar transport from Warsaw reached Lviv. In total, in the first week of the full-scale war, the capital of Poland sent 11 transports of aid to Ukraine.

Warsaw was not the only city whose authorities and residents mobilized to help the fighting Ukraine. The Union of Polish Cities published a summary of the activities of city authorities, residents and social organizations documenting the support provided to Ukraine and its citizens by Polish cities under the title "Cities for Ukraine".



Source: Based on UMP report data



Work coordination point for refugees from Ukraine at the temporary accommodation facility in Warsaw.

Photo: Mazovian Voivodeship Office.

19.3 Aid activities by voivodeship

The information contained below comes from materials provided by the Marshal's Offices of all voivodeships of the Republic of Poland through the Union of the Voivodeships of the Republic of Poland.

19.3.1 Lower Silesian Voivodeship

The Lower Silesian Voivodeship Self-Government has set upper limits for the value of aid in 2022 to PLN 5 million and in 2023 to PLN 23 million. The Department of International Cooperation of the Marshal's Office of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship provided material aid to residents of two partner regions: Dnipropetrovsk and Kirovohrad Oblasts in Ukraine. Humanitarian aid was purchased and provided, including food, sanitary products, flashlights, batteries, thermal clothing, footwear, blankets, cookers, gas heaters, rescue kits and specialist clothing. In total, in 2022-2023, material aid was provided in the amount of: PLN 6,449,199.82

First aid items and equipment, medical items and materials, equipment for medical facilities and specialist equipment were also delivered, with a total value of PLN 10,248,782. Material assistance worth over PLN 2 million was also provided by medical entities, for which the Lower Silesian Voivodeship Self-Government is the founding entity: Emergency Medical Services in Wałbrzych, Emergency Medical Services

in Wrocław, Emergency Medical Services in Jelenia Góra and the J. Gromkowski Provincial Specialist Hospital in Wrocław.

The Lower Silesian Voivodeship Labor Office announced a call for competition projects in the field of professional activation for unemployed immigrants aged 30 and over who arrived in the territory of the Republic of Poland in connection with war operations conducted in the territory of Ukraine. 11 projects were qualified for implementation. In 2022, agreements were signed with the beneficiaries of these projects for the amount of PLN 44,791,268.36 (including the EU contribution of PLN 38,072,038.48). The project implementation period was from October 2022 to December 2023. As part of these projects, 74 payment applications were settled for the amount of PLN 42,675,766.63.

In 2022-2023, the Lower Silesian Voivodeship Self-Government spent PLN 3,490,239.69 on educational activities for minors and adult citizens of Ukraine. These funds came from the Assistance Fund, the Lower Silesian Voivodeship budget and external grants.

19.3.2 Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship

In 2022 and 2023, the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship Self-Government allocated a total of PLN 12 million for support. The activities of the voivodeship self-government to help Ukrainian citizens in both 2022 and 2023 took various forms of assistance, including: financial assistance, aid warehouses, convoys, information and advisory points, organization of educational activities, organization of food points, organization of temporary places of residence and political assistance.



Toruń. Preparation of transport with material aid for Ukraine. Photo: Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship Self-Government.

The Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship Self-Government organized or co-organized over 63 transports to Ukraine. The convoys went to, among others: Kiev, Khmelnytskyi, Lviv, Zhytomyr, Lutsk, Vinnytsia, Rivne, Kukhari, Kremenets, Chernivtsi, Zaporozhye, and Mizhhirya.

In connection with obtaining material aid from various entities from Poland and abroad, 3 warehouses were organized to distribute material aid to Ukrainian citizens (in Przysiek and Toruń). Based on orders submitted by municipal coordinators, specific packages of gifts were prepared, which were then received by local government units and distributed on their territory. As part of the assistance to Ukrainian citizens staying in our region, support was provided to 70 different units from March to July 2022, including in the field of food aid. A total of 85 orders were completed.

The Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship Self-Government, together with the Honorary Consul of Ukraine in Bydgoszcz, organized a network of information and advisory points in Bydgoszcz, Toruń and Włocławek.

At the information and advisory points, Ukrainian citizens received, for example, legal information and psychological assistance, support in finding legal work, or in opening a bank account. The points were places for transferring donations collected as part of humanitarian aid handled by employees of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship Marshal's Office. In order to enable Ukrainian children and young people to continue their education and support them in learning about the region, classes conducted in Ukrainian were launched at the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Internet School.

Since March 2, 2022, the Regional Ecological Education Center in Przysiek sp. z o.o., a company with the participation of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship, with the financial support of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship Self-Government, has been preparing hot meals for refugees from Ukraine. Meals were served 7 days a week. In the period from March 2 to April 30, a total of 15,248 meal kits were served.

In Toruń a place of stay was opened in the buildings of the former psychiatric hospital at ul. M. Skłodowskiej-Curie, along with comprehensive medical, therapeutic and rehabilitation care, for 57 patients with various degrees of disability, who were evacuated from Medzhybizh (Khmelnytskyi oblast) together with their caregivers. The patients are aged 9 to 35. They are people with motor and intellectual disabilities. In order for them to develop, it was necessary to purchase specialist equipment for sensory integration, balance exercises or postural muscles. The center is run by the Regional Centre for Social Policy. The patients are supported by 40 care and nursing staff (e.g. 10 nurses) as well as 5 physiotherapists, 5 occupational therapists, 4 assistants for the disabled, 4 people conducting rehabilitation and educational classes, 2 speech therapists, 2 sensory integration specialists and a social skills trainer.

19.3.3 Łódź Voivodeship

In the period from February 24, 2022 to December 31, 2023, a total amount of PLN 14,561,987.31 was allocated from the budget of the Łódź Voivodeship Self-Government for various forms of assistance to the Ukrainian people. In the first year of Russian aggression against Ukraine, PLN 9,076,035.99 was allocated from the budget of the province for various types of support for the Ukrainian nation. In the period from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, this amount amounted to PLN 5,485,948.32.



Aid from the Łódź province for Chernivtsi. Photo: Marshal's Office of the Łódź Voivodeship.

In the period from February 24, 2022 to December 31, 2023, the Łódź Voivodeship was involved in providing assistance to Ukraine and its citizens, implementing it in both material and non-material form, within the voivodeship and in the partner regions of the Łódź Voivodeship: Odessa, Volyn, Vinnytsia and Chernivtsi.

As part of the assistance provided to partner regions, among other things, four equipped ambulances (in cooperation with the Provincial Medical Rescue Station), medicines, health protection products, medical equipment, food, clothing, hygiene products, power generators, power banks, and flashlights were provided.

Since the beginning of the war, a reception point (a place of temporary residence and a collection point for refugees) has been operating in the Łódź Cultural Center. As part of cooperation with the Łódź Agglomeration Railway, special connections were launched by which refugees were brought from the Polish-Ukrainian border. Additionally, tasks were carried out in the field of professional and social activation of the Ukrainian population in the Łódź voivodeship, educational activities were carried out, including vocational courses, Polish language courses, and colonies (sports and language classes) for Ukrainian

children and youth in the summer holidays in 2022 and 2023. As part of the assistance, places of residence were created in the province for women with children and the elderly. From the province budget, psychological assistance was organized for adult residents of the Łódź voivodeship in a state of mental crisis, or health services were provided at home for people suffering from Alzheimer's and other dementia diseases. Help for Ukraine also involves building relations at the cultural level (including a concert with the participation of the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra at the Łódź Philharmonic, a concert of Polish-Ukrainian unity at the Jaracz Theatre in Łódź, thematic exhibitions at the Archaeological and Ethnographic Museum in Łódź, and the establishment of the Polish-Ukrainian Rural Women's Circle). The assistance of the Łódź Voivodeship also involved creating business contacts, including through the participation of representatives of local authorities from Ukraine in the European Economic Forum (in 2022 and 2023).

19.3.4 Lublin Voivodeship

The Lublin Voivodeship summarized the aid provided to Ukraine and its citizens in a special report prepared by the Department of Strategy and Development of the Marshal's Office of the Lublin Voivodeship in Lublin, published in February 2023, entitled "II Report on the Aid Provided to Ukraine by the Lublin Voivodeship".

At the end of 2022, the total funds within the Lublin Voivodeship allocated and guaranteed for various forms of assistance to Ukraine amounted to **over PLN 570.9 million, including PLN 322.2 million at the disposal of the Lublin Voivode, PLN 31.7 million allocated and guaranteed by the Lublin Voivodeship Self-Government, PLN 4 million from the municipal budget, PLN 759 thousand from the voivodeship budget and PLN 212.2 million from collections for humanitarian aid for Ukraine.**

The Lublin Voivodeship Self-Government obtained PLN 3 million from donors, including from partner regions. Some Municipal Offices and County Offices also conducted collections through payments to specially created bank accounts, thanks to which PLN 8.2 million was collected. Church organizations played a significant role in financing and organizing aid for Ukraine. Caritas of the Archdiocese of Lublin estimates the amount of support provided at approx. PLN 38.9 million. In turn, Caritas of the Archdiocese of Zamość-Lubaczów estimated the value of the aid provided at almost PLN 50.1 million. The Orthodox Archdiocese of Lublin and Chełm also joined in the aid, which, with the participation of the Foundation for the Dialogue of Nations and the Ekklesia Foundation, provided aid worth PLN 182 thousand. In the Lublin voivodeship, on behalf of the Polish Red Cross, support was organized by the Lublin Voivodeship Branch of the Polish Red Cross. The value of the aid provided by the Polish Red Cross Lublin Voivodeship Branch and its partners was estimated at PLN 78.8 million. Entrepreneurs from the Lublin voivodeship also joined in helping Ukraine. After the outbreak of the war, the humanitarian aid program Together with Ukraine was reactivated and launched in 2015. The program's co-founders included: the Lublin Voivode, the Marshal of the Lublin Province, the President of the City of Lublin, Rectors of Lublin universities, representatives of local government and non-governmental organizations, associations and enterprises. As part of the Program, financial and material aid was provided for a total amount of almost PLN 33 million, including PLN 2.2 million by Modern Expo S.A.



Parcels with medical supplies for Ukraine. Photo: Marshal's Office of the Lublin Voivodeship.

The organization of transport of Ukrainian citizens from the border to places of accommodation or further travel involved, among others, the government and local government administration, the State Fire Service, uniformed services, the Polish State Railways and regional rail carriers, bus carriers, entrepreneurs, as well as private individuals. It is estimated that a total of approximately 686 thousand Ukrainian citizens were transported from the Polish-Ukrainian border. Reception points were of key importance for the efficiency

of the current service of refugees arriving from Ukraine, where necessary information about the stay in Poland was provided, including temporary accommodation, meals, and medical and psychological assistance. The Voivode is responsible for the organization and operation of reception points. Activities were carried out with the support of numerous groups of volunteers and non-governmental organizations and in cooperation with uniformed services. In total, almost 300 thousand refugees from Ukraine were cared for and provided with assistance at reception points in the Lublin voivodeship. 11 reception points were opened in the Lublin voivodeship.

In total, over 171 thousand Ukrainian citizens took advantage of accommodation in the Lublin voivodeship. After crossing the border, these people found accommodation, among others, in collective accommodation facilities specially adapted for this purpose; in tourist accommodation facilities and in apartments and houses of private persons. For the needs of collective accommodation of refugees in the Lublin voivodeship, 504 facilities were opened, with a total of almost 10 thousand beds. From the outbreak of the war until the end of 2022, almost 90 thousand refugees took advantage of collective accommodation in the province.

The organization of collections of essential items involved government and local government administration, non-governmental and church organizations, foundations and associations, entrepreneurs, media representatives, and, above all, society. It is estimated that in the Lublin voivodeship, a total of over 3,000 tons of humanitarian aid, 251 thousand pieces of products, i.e. gifts with a total value of approx. PLN 176 million.

The Lublin voivodeship, with 6.2 thousand students, ranked 11th in Poland in January 2023 in terms of the number of refugees attending schools and kindergartens. Most students from Ukraine were educated in public institutions, while 0.73 thousand people in private schools and kindergartens located mainly in Lublin and Zamość. As in Poland, also in the region the greatest interest was enjoyed by primary schools - 62.9% of students and kindergartens - 17.9%.



Assistance at the border in the Lublin province. Photo: Marshal's Office of the Lublin Voivodeship.

Medical assistance for refugees was offered by entities for which the founding body is the Lublin Voivodeship Self-Government and the Regional Social Policy Centre in Lublin results from the implementation of the orders of the Lublin voivode, the initiative of the Lublin Voivodeship Self-Government and independent initiatives of individual facilities. In the Lublin Voivodeship, in 9 medical facilities for which the Lublin Voivodeship Self-Government is the founding body, a total of 1,742 refugees were hospitalized in 2022, of which almost 58% were women and 21% - children. The Lublin Voivodeship Self-Government carried out tasks assigned from the scope of government administration consisting in the establishment and management of medical points and ensuring medical transport for Ukrainian citizens. By December 31, 2022, almost PLN 7.5 million had been allocated for this purpose, including PLN 1.54 million from the earmarked reserve from the state budget and PLN 5.89 million from the Assistance Fund and PLN 40,000 from the voivode's budget. Medical points were set up at reception points in: Dorohusk, Chełm, Dołhobyczów, Zamość and Mircz, as well as at information points at the Main Bus Station in Lublin and the Main Railway Station in Lublin. In the medical points located at the Bus Station and Railway Station in Lublin, medical assistance was provided to a total of over 2.1 thousand refugees, of which only 2% required further hospitalization.

19.3.5 Lubuskie Voivodeship

In total, the Lubuskie Voivodeship's expenditure related to aid for Ukraine amounted to PLN 7,319,472.83 in 2022. The Lubuskie Voivodeship Board decided to allocate PLN 500,000 for the purchase of medical supplies for Ukraine, which were transferred to partner regions from Ukraine: Sumy and Ivano-Frankivsk. The Lubuskie Voivodeship Self-Government allocated approximately PLN 870,000 for the purchase of food, hygiene products, medical supplies and products. The voivodeship self-government transferred PLN 6,000,000 to 12 counties within the province (PLN 500,000 for each county) for investment expenditure in the field of crisis management. The Provincial Sports and Recreation Center in Drzonków received PLN 94,533.97 from the Lubuskie Voivodeship Self-Government to equip the unit and purchase the necessary materials. The center accommodated Ukrainian citizens who had fled the war. There were 200 people staying there. The Emergency Medical Service in Zielona Góra provided an ambulance worth PLN 33,500. The Emergency Medical Service in Gorzów Wielkopolski provided an ambulance worth PLN 250,000. The University Hospital provided an ambulance along with personal protective equipment and 7 defibrillators.

On February 27, the Local Government Aid Center for Ukraine was launched in the Column Hall in the Marshal's Office, which provided refugees from Ukraine with over 10,000 humanitarian packages. About 2,500 humanitarian packages were prepared and distributed from donations donated by the people of Lubuskie. In turn, 7,655 people received assistance from donations in kind from the province budget (Ukrainian citizens applied for assistance many times - according to their needs).

The Provincial Labor Office in Zielona Góra implemented the project "Support for Ukrainian citizens in the process of professional activation and social integration in the Lubuskie province" from November 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023. The total value of the project amounted to PLN 999,400, covered by co-financing from the Labor Fund reserve. The Voivodeship Labour Office also implemented the project "Let's talk in Polish" in 2023, addressed to 450 adult citizens of Ukraine who entered Poland after 24 February 2022 due to war operations in their country and are staying in the Lubuskie Voivodeship. The value of the project amounted to PLN 1,036,350, and the funding from the European Social Fund amounted to PLN 880,897.50. Since June 2022, the Regional Social Policy Centre in Zielona Góra has been conducting sociotherapeutic classes, art therapy, theatre workshops and fairy tale therapy in seven counties of the Lubuskie Voivodeship (Zielonogórski, Świebodziński, Międzyrzecz, Słubice, Sulęcin, Gorzów, Strzelce-Drezdenko) and the City of Gorzów Wielkopolski. Classes are conducted in Polish and Ukrainian, supporting the integrative nature of the activities.

19.3.6 Lesser Poland Voivodeship

The Lesser Poland Voivodeship provided support to Ukrainian citizens in connection with the armed conflict in Ukraine as part of the Lesser Poland Humanitarian Shield, a project of systemic aid solutions that respond to both the current needs of refugees, such as access to health care, transport, financial support from non-governmental organizations, as well as long-term activities focused mainly on integration, education and the labor market. **The scope of aid within the Lesser Poland Humanitarian Shield was divided into five aid packages: transport package, labor market package, education package, social package, non-governmental organizations package, volunteering and cooperation with local government units.**

As part of the "Infrastructure Package", the Department of Road Infrastructure and Transport implemented 7 projects, and their total cost was PLN 19,087,046.15. The activities included: providing transport and meals for the relocation of refugees (PLN 2,840,884.14); providing free travel in rail transport (PLN 2,581,497.50); making rolling stock available for the relocation of refugees (PLN 30/vehicle-kilometre); purchasing low-floor buses (cost of the activity: PLN 13,068,750.00); implementing the Ukrainian language in ticket machines and the MKA - Lesser Poland Agglomeration Card mobile application (PLN 575,951.00); issuing a brochure with information containing a set of legal regulations related to road traffic (PLN 19,963.51); information meetings for Ukrainian citizens.



Assistance from Limanowa County for the Stryi District. Photo: Limanowa County Office.

As part of the "Labor Market Package", the Voivodeship Labor Office in Kraków supported Ukrainian citizens in finding employment or retraining and consciously navigating the Lesser Poland labor market. The Kraków Voivodeship Labor Office ran 4 information points for Ukrainian citizens and employers, which operated in Kraków, Oświęcim, Nowy Sącz and Tarnów. Since the beginning of the implementation, a total of 15,138 people have used the offer of the points, including 6,466 people who contacted them by phone. Consultations for job seekers have also been organized. Since the beginning of the package, 129

group consultation meetings have been held, with a total of 1,764 people participating. Individual support was provided to 3,374 people, including 916 who participated in meetings with a career advisor. As of December 31, 2023, 97 Ukrainian citizens (92 women and 5 men) benefited from education and development by participating in training and courses in four areas: language, computer, project management, as well as driving license categories: A, A2, B, B+E. The total costs of activities implemented under the package amounted to PLN 428,795.31.

As part of the "Education Package" from 24.02.2022 to the end of 2023, the Lesser Poland Voivodeship received PLN 1,582,104 from the Ukraine Aid Fund for additional educational tasks for refugees from Ukraine. The Management Board of the Lesser Poland Voivodeship, by Resolution No. 1685/22 of 27 September 2022, after reviewing the opinion of the Competition Committee, accepted 19 offers for the implementation of public tasks of the Lesser Poland Voivodeship in the area of science, higher education, education, schooling and upbringing as part of the competition "Poland-Ukraine. "Let's get to know each other in Lesser Poland" for a total amount of PLN 572,000.00. As part of the grant project entitled " Lesser Poland Humanitarian Shield. European Funds for Ukraine - Educational Package", implemented under Priority Axis 15 - REACT-EU (ESF) to meet migration challenges Measure 15.2 REACT-EU to meet migration challenges - educational package of the RPO WM for the years 2014-2020, funds in the amount of PLN 14,908,232.93 were received by 53 grantees.

As part of the "Social Package", in the years from 24.02.2022 to 31.12.2023, the Department of Health, Family, Equal Treatment and Social Policy implemented two projects as part of the Lesser Poland Humanitarian Shield. European Funds for Ukraine: ESF grant support for NGOs and local government units - social integration, labor market, education and health (RPO WM 2014-2020) and ERDF grant support for NGOs and local government units - social infrastructure (RPO WM 2014-2020). As part of the projects, grant support was provided to NGOs and local government units of the Regional Operational Program of the Lesser Poland Voivodeship for 2014-2020 in the amount of PLN 17,611,446, which was used to implement projects in the field of public services and support within the framework of social integration, education, labor market and health, and social infrastructure.

As part of the "Non-Governmental Organizations, Volunteering and Cooperation with Local Governments Package", the Lesser Poland Voivodeship Self-Government supported non-governmental organizations as part of the package, recognizing the important role that non-governmental organizations played in the first days of the war in Ukraine, creating activities adapted to the emerging needs of Ukrainian citizens staying in Lesser Poland, in particular in the scope of: coordination of volunteer aid activities, integration in local communities and applicable legal conditions. The package consisted of 12 activities in various areas of support in the scope of public benefit, including: culture, sports, education, environment, tourism, ecology, social policy, volunteering. The amount allocated for the implementation of the package was PLN 2,476,690.

19.3.7 Masovian Voivodeship

The Masovian Voivodeship Self-Government has undertaken to provide assistance to Ukraine and its citizens in terms of accommodation, social integration, material and medical assistance, both on site and in the form of donations delivered directly to Ukrainian entities.

The Department of Health and Social Policy and provincial medical entities undertook to provide assistance to Ukrainian citizens residing in the territory of the Republic of Poland, as well as assistance directly in the territory of Ukraine. Selected aid activities include: The Mazovian Bródnowski Hospital in Warsaw used PLN 271,275.35 to purchase medical supplies and transfer them to a logistics point in Lviv, which distributes medical supplies to Ukrainian medical entities. With the consent of the Board of the Mazovian Voivodeship, 24 ambulances decommissioned by medical entities were transferred. At the request of the Caritas of the Sambor-Drohobych Diocese of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, 97 beds were transferred from medical entities for which the Mazovian Voivodeship is the entity establishing or in which it holds shares. Training in tactical medicine was conducted for medical personnel and civilians, with particular emphasis on the population of Ukrainian origin. The task is being carried out in 2023-2024. The total value of funds transferred for the second edition of the task is PLN 1,717,485 (funds transferred by December 31, 2023 amount to PLN 135,003) - own funds of the Masovian Voivodeship. The National Housing and Rehabilitation Center for People with Multiple Sclerosis in Dąbek has made 18 places available for refugees from Ukraine since March 2022 at the request of the Mława County Head, of which 7 places have been used.



Aid campaign in the Siedlce County. Photo: County Office in Siedlce.

In the period from 02 to 11 March 2022, Masovian Railways launched 5 trains (there and back) picking up Ukrainian refugees from the border areas (from Chełm) to the Masovian Voivodeship. In total, as part of the additional humanitarian trains launched by Masovian Railways, 3,420 people seeking shelter from the threats of war in Ukraine were transported.

Dozens of educational entities in the Masovian Voivodeship were involved in helping Ukrainian citizens. One of the categories of entities are pedagogical schools and libraries run by the Masovian Voivodeship Self-Government, which were involved in helping Ukraine and its citizens in the period from 24 February 2022 to 31 December 2023. In 2022, PLN 1,046,182.00 was transferred to schools and libraries under the Assistance Fund. In 2023, PLN 2,513,041.00 was transferred. As an example, the Helena Radlińska Pedagogical Library in Siedlce purchased approx. 100 books for over PLN 1,500. It organized 12 classes as part of the Masovia for Ukraine program. It registered readers from Ukraine, provided a reading room for parents of Ukrainian children during classes organized by MSCDN, prepared and distributed the Polish-Ukrainian alphabet for Ukrainian users, and photocopied and scanned refugee documents free of charge.

The Voivodeship Labor Office in Warsaw launched an information point at 16 Młynarska Street in Warsaw on March 16, 2022. The point's goal was to support Ukrainian citizens, including in adapting to the Polish labor market. By the end of 2023, 1,448 Ukrainian citizens had benefited from the assistance of the Voivodeship Labor Office.

At the beginning of March 2022, the Voivodeship provided assistance directly at the Polish-Ukrainian border in the form of quilts, pillows and blankets worth PLN 104,554.00 gross. Additionally, the Masovian Voivodeship provided material assistance aimed at providing direct assistance to emergency services involved in protecting civilian victims of aggression. The Lviv Military Medical Center requested protective

equipment enabling the provision of assistance to people in bombed buildings. From the Province's own funds, manual breathing devices (408 pcs.), protective goggles (200 pcs.) and technical gloves (250 pcs.) were purchased, as well as 100 sets of thermal underwear enabling rescue operations in sub-zero temperatures. The value of the aid mentioned amounted to PLN 141,898.86. In the following months, material aid worth PLN 261,690.58 and PLN 103,354.81 gross was sent to Lviv - which was part of the aid sent to the territory of Ukraine.

19.3.8 Opole Voivodeship

From the first hours of the war, the Opole Voivodeship supported its partner region, the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast in Ukraine, a partnership with which has lasted for over 20 years. **To date, the Opole Voivodeship has provided aid in the amount of approx. PLN 4.6 million to the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast** (Ukraine), 27 transports (including 10 transports with construction materials, water and sewage accessories and equipment for the "Smericka" Children's Home in Vorokhta. In terms of humanitarian aid to Ukrainian firefighters, the Opole Voivodeship provided aid in the amount of PLN 551 thousand and EUR 80 thousand of equipment on behalf of Rhineland-Palatinate), including firefighting equipment, dressing materials, firefighting clothing, medical bags, tents, power generators and safety room equipment. In terms of humanitarian aid, we have provided aid to partner hospitals in the amount of PLN 2,410.2 thousand. The funds allocated for the renovation of the Children's Home in Vorokhta amounted to PLN 1,338,887.27, of which foreign partners covered EUR 135 thousand. The Opole Voivodeship Assembly adopted a resolution in the amount of PLN 1 million to help refugees from Ukraine staying in the Opole Voivodeship. The Opole Voivodeship Self-Government signed agreements with 27 local governments to cover expenses related to the stay of refugees from Ukraine in the municipalities.

The Opole Voivodeship also undertook other forms of assistance. Four grants were granted to non-governmental organizations, including Caritas of the Opole Diocese and the Association for Cooperation Poland-East, Opole Voivodeship Branch, for a total amount of approximately PLN 40,000. Two EU projects were also co-financed: the project of the Regional Social Policy Center in Opole "Solidarity with Ukraine - assistance to war migrants in the Opole Province" and "Building structures for the integration of foreigners in Poland - stage II - pilot program of Foreigners' Integration Centers" planned for implementation under the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (FAMI) by the Ministry of Family and Social Policy. 31 cultural events of cultural institutions of the Opole Province dedicated to Ukrainian citizens were also co-financed, including the concert "Opole for Ukraine", the Book Campaign for Ukraine and the project "Meeting of cultures. Poland-Germany-Ukraine". In addition, the institutions of the Opole Voivodeship Self-Government carried out 9 projects in the field of education. There were also 4 assistance projects of the Opole Voivodeship supporting Ukrainian partners, such as the visit of a delegation of scientists from the National Medical University in Ivano-Frankivsk, the purpose of which was to familiarize themselves with the subject of rehabilitation in the health care institutions of the Opole Voivodeship, establish scientific cooperation and exchange experiences.

19.3.9 Podkarpackie Voivodeship

The Podkarpackie Voivodeship has played a special role in the migration crisis and in providing assistance to those in need since the first days of the war, due to its border location and numerous partnerships with Ukrainian entities. From February 24 to March 5, 2022, 550,000 people crossed the border in the Podkarpackie section, and at the peak, on March 5-6, 2022, over 85,000 people, and the cities of Rzeszów and Przemyśl accepted as many people as they have residents. **PLN 3,223,000 was spent from the Podkarpackie Voivodeship budget on various forms of assistance. In addition, PLN 25 million was spent from the Podkarpackie Voivodeship Regional Operational Program for 2014-2022, and an additional PLN 6 million from other funds.**

The assistance activities of the Voivodeship Self-Government covered various levels of support – from financial support from the voivodeship budget, through coordination of humanitarian aid that reached

Podkarpackie, to appeals at international forums. Interregional cooperation with partners from Ukraine took on a new dimension, focusing primarily on assistance activities (humanitarian aid in kind and development aid). Assistance to the territory of Ukraine was directed mainly to partner regions of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, i.e. Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Ternopil, Zakarpattia and Odessa oblasts.

From the budget of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, PLN 3,223,000 was spent on financial assistance for Podkarpackie local governments, funds transferred to ROPS, the purchase of 10 mobile, specialist transport defibrillators, the organization of summer camps in Podkarpackie for Ukrainian children, and training for officials from Ukrainian partner regions in the field of obtaining and using EU funds. From the Regional Operational Program of the Podkarpackie Province for 2014-2022, PLN 25 million was spent on the implementation of the Podkarpackie Center for the Integration of Foreigners project and the implementation of the project entitled "Purchase of residential premises, their finishing and equipment, necessary for the proper functioning and use of the infrastructure covered by the support". Over PLN 6 million was spent from other funds, including: PLN 552,947 for the implementation by the Podkarpackie Voivodeship of a project subsidized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the "Humanitarian Aid 2022" competition and PLN 1.5 million in subsidies from the Podkarpackie Voivode for the establishment and management of medical points at reception points in the Podkarpackie Voivodeship.



Polish language classes for adults A1-B1. Photo: Marshal's Office of the Mazovian Voivodeship.

The preparation and organization of humanitarian aid transports by the Podkarpackie Voivodeship took place in cooperation with such institutions as: the Podkarpackie Food Bank, Caritas of the Rzeszów Diocese, the Podkarpackie Voivodeship Branch of the Polish Red Cross, RARS, and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Lviv.

In response to the requests received, in cooperation with the above-mentioned institutions, it was possible to organize, among others, the following transports of humanitarian aid to Ukraine: to the Zakarpattia Oblast – approx. 97 pallets with the following assortment: long-term and canned food, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, towels, bed linen, disinfectants, chemicals, food and hygiene products, aggregates; to the Lviv Oblast (including Mostiska, Boryslav, the Redemptorist Order in Lviv): approx. 75 pallets with the following assortment: medical supplies, food, blankets, clothes, flashlights, mattresses, hygiene products, 50 tons of flour; to the Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast; for the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast – approximately 25 pallets with the following assortment: long-term and canned food, blankets, sleeping bags, mattresses, sleeping mats, medicines and medical supplies, first aid kits, clothing (including firefighter uniforms), shoes, generators, sand bags, hygiene products, flashlights, fire extinguishing sprays, power banks, protein drinks, emergency blankets, tent, saws, clothing; for the Center for Polish Culture and European Dialogue in Ivano-Frankivsk – 4 pallets with the following assortment: food, hygiene products, thermoses, mugs, pendrives, power banks, batteries, hats, hand warmers, canteens and others; to the Ternopil Oblast (through the Ternopil Regional Council) – approx. 36 pallets with the following assortment: long-term and canned food, water, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, medicines and medical supplies, first aid kits, food and hygiene products for children, clothing; to the Odessa Oblast (through the Odessa State Military Administration) – approx. 70 pallets with the following assortment: food, water, blankets, pillows, sleeping mats, medical supplies, hygiene products, coke ovens; to the Orphanage in Uman (Cherkasy Oblast) and in Suprunivka (Poltava Oblast) – a van with a trailer with the following assortment: food for children, hygiene products for children, blankets, a stroller, a travel bed, clothes.

The province also began cooperation with foreign organizations such as Secours Populaire Francais and World Central Kitchen to provide assistance to refugees in joint projects, as well as with foreign partners from Germany and Austria.

A collection point was held at the headquarters of the Regional Social Welfare Center in Rzeszów. The total amount collected was food: 122 kg, cosmetics and cleaning products: 60 kg, medicines/medical supplies 57 kg, baby diapers 128 kg, clothes 60 kg, disposable tableware 41 kg, food for animals 17 kg, towels, blankets 11 kg.

As part of other aid actions, special trains were launched in the first months after the outbreak of the full-screen war and national and international meetings dedicated to helping Ukraine were organized. The Marshal of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship, within the framework of the European Committee of the Regions, has undertaken assistance activities for Ukraine, such as a study visit of journalists accredited to the European Committee of the Regions and the organization of an external meeting of the Conference of Presidents of the ECR and the Working Group for Ukraine operating within the ECR at the Marshal's Office of the Podkarpackie Voivodeship on 6 April 2022.

19.3.10 Podlaskie Voivodeship

The voivodeship concluded 2 agreements to help Ukrainian citizens. Their subject was to provide accommodation for a total of 50-65 people, including access to sanitary facilities, food and beverages. The agreements were concluded with the Regional Development Agency "ARES" S.A. in Suwałki (remuneration of PLN 250,000.00) and WOSiR Szelment Sp. z o.o. (remuneration of PLN 70,000.00).

The Podlaskie Voivodeship also provided financial assistance from its own resources. In 2022, PLN 227,614.81 was spent. The expenditure included the purchase and delivery of small medical and rescue equipment, dressings and disinfectants, first aid kits, including first aid kits and medical bags with equipment, 13 resuscitation kits with an ampoule. The purchased items were transferred to Ukraine in four tranches (March 11 and 25 and April 14 and 22, via ELEOS from Warsaw) to Ivano-Frankivsk, to the vicinity of Volodymyr-Volynskyi and Dnipropetrovsk and Lutsk. The resuscitation kits were transferred to the Ukrainian side via the Marshal's Office of the Lublin Province on October 27, 2022.

In 2023, PLN 129,951.00 was spent on the purchase of necessary equipment in accordance with the submitted demand from the units of the Rivne and Zakarpattia regions. These included scythes, petrol chainsaws (for the needs of border services), pump sets (for the needs of the fire brigade), electric kettles, thermoses, towels, blankets, bedding, school supplies, etc., necessary to equip shelters in educational institutions in the Rivne region. The above materials were transferred successively - the last ones were received by the Ukrainian side in January 2024. Then, PLN 49,364.90 was also spent. Emergency medical kits, medical gloves (protective and surgical), sets for venous catheterization, birthing kits, rescue blankets were purchased. Medical products were transferred to the Public Unit "Regional Medical Supply Base" of Rivne Regional Council in Ukraine on November 9, 2023.

As part of the project "Support without borders" at Primary School No. 1 named after Tadeusz Kościuszko in Wysokie Mazowieckie, 356 hours of remedial classes were conducted in subjects covered by the core curriculum and 144 additional hours of Polish language classes. As part of the project, the Regional Development Agency "ARES" S.A. in Suwałki supported people affected by the war in Ukraine, including internal migrants, by providing equipment and supplies that make everyday life easier, including power generators, household appliances, personal protection kits and first aid kits. The recipients of the material aid were public institutions located in Ukraine - local government units, schools of the Rivne and Zakarpattia

Oblasts. As part of the project, activities were also undertaken for migrants from Ukraine settled in Suwałki, such as professional activation, access to specialist services for refugees from Ukraine and educational trips.

In addition, free rail transport was provided within the Podlaskie Voivodeship (serviced by POLREGIO S.A.) for Ukrainian citizens (children and adolescents up to 18 years of age, women of all ages and men over 60 years of age) on the basis of a Ukrainian identity document, as well as the transport of Refugees from Ukraine to the territory of the Republic of Poland (providing buses and transport from the border of the Republic of Poland to places of accommodation) on the basis of an agreement with PKS NOVA S.A. for the amount of PLN 19,181.34.



WSPR rescuers in front of cars with medical assistance for Ukraine. Photo: Marshal's Office of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship.

19.3.11 Pomeranian Voivodeship

The Pomeranian Voivodeship provided Ukraine and its citizens with aid worth over PLN 38 million in total. These funds came from the local government budget (over PLN 31 million), the Assistance Fund (over PLN 5 million), and European funds (PLN 1.8 million).

Reception points for people arriving from Ukraine were opened, accommodation, meals and medical care were provided. A Foreigners' Support Point was established in Gdańsk. At the point, employees of the Voivodeship Labor Office in Gdańsk provided career advice to Ukrainian citizens. These services, in agreement with the County Chamber of Legal Advisers in Gdańsk, were supplemented with free legal advice. Ukrainian citizens could use language translations thanks to cooperation with the University of Gdańsk in the form of student volunteering. The second Foreigners' Support Point in the Pomeranian Voivodeship was established in Słupsk. Individual support was provided there in the form of career advice. In the period from March to June 2022, 25 employees were delegated to support reception points worked a total of 960 hours for 120 days.

Accommodation with full board was provided to refugees, among others, in the Ecological Education Centre in Szymbark, the Blue School in Władysławowo, Stare Pole at ul. Marynarki Wojennej 21A, the Pomeranka Recreation Centre in Gdańsk, and the Pomeranian Teacher Education Centre in Gdańsk.

Citizens of Ukraine were provided with medical support, such as treatment and rehabilitation of wounded soldiers and victims of warfare, as well as cooperation with medical organizations in providing specialist equipment and dressings.

Aid to refugees in the educational dimension included activities such as organizing Polish language courses for children and adults from Ukraine, purchasing textbooks and teaching materials in Ukrainian, and supporting the adaptation of children in Polish schools, including through additional lessons, integration classes and workshops. For example, the Pomeranian Teacher Education Center in Gdańsk conducted a 390-hour Polish language course for approximately 140 people with qualifications to practice as teachers. The Department of Education and its subordinate units purchased and made available library materials in Ukrainian, including fiction in Ukrainian, textbooks for learning Polish, and textbooks for learning in a Polish school for Ukrainian students.

Local government bodies organized humanitarian transports for Kherson and Odessa regions, including ambulances, medicines, medical supplies, and power generators. Refugees were given gifts in kind, such as food, clothing, hygiene products, and other basic necessities.

Integration and social support included organizing integration events, such as festivals, picnics, and workshops promoting Ukrainian culture, scholarships for artists from Ukraine, supporting the professional integration of refugees through training, career counseling, and assistance in finding a job. Intercultural dialogue was supported by organizing concerts, exhibitions, and solidarity performances, as well as assistance to Ukrainian artists and cultural creators through artistic residencies and scholarships.

As part of international cooperation, partnerships were established with regions and cities in Ukraine, including for the exchange of experiences and implementation of joint projects. The local government also involved non-governmental organizations in the mission of providing assistance and developing Polish-Ukrainian ties by providing subsidies, grants, and financial support for projects aimed at helping Ukraine.

19.3.12 Silesian Voivodeship

The Silesian Voivodeship, including its organizational units and companies with a majority share of the voivodeship, provided support to war refugees from Ukraine and Ukraine in the amount of PLN 10,760,752.66. This amount is divided into financial assistance (PLN 3,207,843.98), material assistance (PLN 7,516,137.44) and other forms of assistance (PLN 36,771.24).

Other forms of assistance included: organizing and conducting workshops, curatorial tours, providing computer stations and equipment, printers, support in writing CVs, making photocopies, preparing conversational guides, concerts, picnics, free visits to museums and galleries, free rental of premises and spaces, providing musical instruments, artistic education workshops, flagging and illuminating buildings in Ukrainian colors, translating performances into Ukrainian, workshops in folk art, etc. On the Silesian Voivodeship portal, from March 2022 to December 31, 2023, there was a highly popular tab in Ukrainian, which included information to help refugees function in our country and region.

The amount given does not include the costs of accommodating refugees in the organizational units of the province and rail humanitarian travel due to the payment of cash benefits to these entities for the accommodation and catering of war refugees from Ukraine and reimbursement of costs for launching additional Silesian Railways and Polregio passenger trains not included in the annual timetable in the period from 2 to 18 March 2022 (financed by the relevant ministries).

In March and November 2023, two Silesian Convoys were sent to Ukraine with a total value of approximately PLN 1,964,229.82. The equipment transferred included, among others, 3 Mercedes Benz Sprinter ambulances, a computed tomograph, defibrillators, ECG machines, transport chairs, infusion pumps, respirators, battery-mains suction units and rehabilitation beds.

19.3.13 Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship

The Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship Self-Government allocated PLN 500,000 for providing material assistance in 2022 in the form of food, industrial and other products providing basic living and medical needs to Ukrainian citizens living in the Vinnytsia and Lviv regions. The Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship local government supported refugees from Ukraine affected by the armed conflict staying in the territory of the Republic of Poland in 2022. The financial resources were allocated to provide assistance to war refugees, including organizing places to stay, providing food, providing psychological care, and providing basic social services.

With the support of the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship Board, social collections were organized, and humanitarian aid packages were sent to Ukraine for the neediest. In 2023, the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship

Board decided to launch two competitions, thanks to which further multi-million support in the form of computer equipment for students and social housing for refugees from Ukraine staying in the region. **The total pool of EU funds allocated to co-financing projects in both competitions is PLN 17,336,150.**

The Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship Self-Government implemented a number of humanitarian initiatives in 2022 for the partner Vinnytsia Oblast, and also nurtured partnership relations between the two regions. Since the outbreak of the war, the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship Board has been actively involved in aid activities for Ukraine. Employees of the Marshal's Office and subordinate units collected over PLN 34,000 during an internal fundraising campaign in March 2022 to help the fighting Ukraine. In addition, the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship Self-Government organized a number of volunteer collections of food products and chemical products.

The Educational Center in Wólka Milanowska, belonging to the Świętokrzyskie Teacher Training Center in Kielce, has become a safe temporary refuge for 154 refugees from Ukraine. The center provides them with free accommodation, meals, psychological, organizational and legal care. In total, in 2022, the Świętokrzyskie Voivodeship Self-Government allocated nearly PLN 600,000 to purchase essential items for residents of the partner region. The hospital in the Ukrainian city of Korostyshev in the Zhytomyr region also received essential cleaning products, masks, and disinfectants, and specialist medical equipment was delivered to hospitals in the Vinnytsia region.

Basic necessities were also purchased, including sleeping bags, blankets, thermal foil, tents, hygiene products, dressings and long-life food. During the holiday season, a transport of aid consisting of 17 power generators, nearly 5 tons of canned meat and water purification tablets was delivered, and the "Świętokrzyski Santa" campaign was repeated, as part of which Polish children in Winnica received Christmas presents.

In Morawica, a holiday break was organized, the so-called "Morawica - Ukraine" campaign, for children from the Vinnytsia and Kyiv regions struggling with trauma related to war operations. The stay took the form of a week and a half camp and included sports and educational activities, trips and other forms of active leisure time.



Employees of the Marshal's Office in Toruń while sorting donations in kind delivered by residents of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship. Photo: Marshal's Office of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship.

19.3.14 Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship

From the first days of the full-scale war, the Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship Self-Government Government was in constant contact with partners from the Rivne Oblast, with which it has been cooperating since 2003. The Ukrainian side kept up to date with its needs, to which the local government tried to respond as quickly as possible. In the first phase (until the end of March 2022), the donations provided came from a collection organized by the Marshal's Office of the Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship in Olsztyn and from donations made available - in response to the appeal of the Voivodeship Self-Government to support the Rivne Oblast community – by non-governmental organizations, individuals and companies. In total, 23 tons of basic necessities and over 5 tons of food were transported in the first phase.

The amendment to the Act on the provincial government enabled the implementation of the second phase of activities (from April to December 2022), i.e. transports with material aid from purchases financed from the provincial budget. **In total, nearly PLN 600,000 was committed from the provincial budget**, and the

Rivne Oblast received, among others: 26 tons of food, 28 power generators, 578 blankets and 242 sleeping bags. From the resources of health care units for which the provincial government is the leading body, 3 ambulances were transferred.

During subsequent transports, material aid was also provided from donations received by the Complex of Schools with Ukrainian Language of Instruction in Górowo Iławeckie (the governing body is the Voivodeship Self-Government). The facility also became a place of refuge for young people fleeing the war, where students continue their education without a language barrier.

In 2023, the Voivodeship Self-Government of Warmia and Mazury continued its support for partners from the Rivne Oblast. The Marshal's Office provided 30 computer sets, which are used by children and young people in a 24-hour care center.

In June 2023, it was decided to organize a summer vacation for children and young people from Ukraine. The Wydminy municipality received a subsidy of PLN 150,000, and the Iława municipality PLN 120,000. Thanks to this, over 80 children and young people spent a safe vacation in Warmia and Mazury. In addition, a threat-detection drone was purchased from the budget of the Voivodeship Self-Government, which is currently used by firefighters to patrol the Ukrainian-Belarusian border. The cost of the purchase was PLN 43,894.20.

In 2023, the Self-Government of the Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship implemented a project entitled "Training Ukrainian firefighters - saving Ukrainian lives" co-financed under the Central European Initiative grant competition. The main objective of the project was to organize training for a group of Ukrainian volunteer firefighters, which took place on July 10-15, 2023. The training program included field trips to Volunteer Fire Department units operating in the Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship. During these meetings, Polish firefighters shared their practical knowledge on conducting rescue operations, as well as on the administration of a human resources management unit. At the end of the project, elements of firefighting equipment worth PLN 23,393 were transferred to the Rivne Oblast. The total value of the project is PLN 71,248.4, of which the reimbursement from the Central European Initiative amounted to PLN 39. 993.99 PLN.

19.3.15 Greater Poland Voivodeship

In 2022-2023, the Marshal's Office of the Greater Poland Voivodeship carried out activities related to the presence of refugees in the region: the operation of an information point for Ukrainian citizens on the premises of the Marshal's Office of the Greater Poland Voivodeship; the operation of a website in Ukrainian with information on the possibilities of adaptation in the region; the operation of a telephone with a language assistant (Ukrainian and Russian) to provide translation assistance in contacts between Ukrainian citizens and institutions of the Greater Poland Province Self-Government. **In 2022, as part of the special reserve for crisis tasks, the Greater Poland Voivodeship launched a special reserve in the amount of PLN 1,015,594, of which PLN 662,364.84 was ultimately spent. After settling all activities related to the Assistance Fund in 2022, a refund of PLN 224,764.68 was obtained.**

In 2022, Greater Poland Railways organized the transport of migrants from the Polish-Ukrainian border into the country. Special humanitarian trains were launched from Przemyśl to Poznań. 8 courses transported approx. 2,800 people. Greater Poland Railways organized free travel on all trains until May 31, 2022. 117,000 free tickets were issued. As part of hospital facilities subordinate to the Greater Poland Self-Government, 1,651 hospital medical services (hospitalizations) were provided to Ukrainian citizens in 2022 (estimated cost of approx. PLN 5.6 million, expenses financed from the central budget by the National Health Fund). In the last weeks of 2022, the largest number of patients of Ukrainian citizens came to the Wielkopolska Children's Health Center - 120-150 children per week. These were mainly outpatient consultations. The WCZD admits approximately 1,100-1,400 patients per week. The Provincial Labor Office in Poznań, together with the Branches of the Provincial Labor Office in Konin, Piła, Leszno and Kalisz, implemented the project "Help for Ukraine - counseling for refugees and migrants", implemented as part

of the competition announced by the Ministry of Family and Social Policy "Together We Can Do More - First Edition of the Activation Program for Foreigners for 2022-2023". The amount of PLN 381,195 was allocated for project activities carried out in the period from August 26, 2022 to December 31, 2023. The aim of the project was to help in searching for a job, under the care of a team of experienced career counselors from each subregion of Greater Poland.

The Greater Poland Voivodeship focused on helping the Kharkiv Oblast, which has been a partner region of Greater Poland since 2002 and, as a frontline region and neighboring the aggressor country, requires special support. In the first transport in March 2022, 32 pallets of goods with aid provided by employees of the Marshal's Office of the Greater Poland Voivodeship, local government units, and companies from the region set off on a transport to residents of the Kharkiv and Chernihiv Oblasts. On May 12 and 18, 2022, 2 trucks (over 50 euro-pallets) of humanitarian aid for the Oblast and Kharkiv left the capital of Wielkopolska, containing pallets of food with a long shelf life, pallets of blankets, pillows, bedding and mattresses, and pallets of medical supplies, diapers and household chemicals.

The aid in kind also included medical equipment: 2 ambulances were transferred by the Provincial Emergency Medical Service (March 3, 2022) to the Lviv Emergency Medical Service. Additionally, 2 ambulances with equipment (worth approx. PLN 125,000 and approx. PLN 109,000) were transferred to the Ukrainian local government of the Obukhiv District in the Kyiv Oblast, with which the Poznań Voivodeship signed a cooperation agreement in 2022. January 30, 2023. **The Greater Poland Voivodeship Self-Government has planned to provide Ukraine with aid in kind worth up to PLN 5 million.** The total cost of ambulances and medical equipment purchased in the tender amounted to PLN 4,958,643.51.



Delivery of 7 ambulances purchased by the Greater Poland Province Self-Government for the Kharkiv Oblast. Photo: Marshal's Office of the Greater Poland Province.

From July 4-17, 2022, 80 participants of summer recreation (children aged 11-15 with guardians) from Kharkiv Oblast stayed in the Greater Poland Voivodeship. The costs of their stay in Poland, amounting to PLN 309,918.13, were covered by the Self-Government of the Greater Poland Voivodeship. From July 4-16, 2023, guests from Kharkiv Oblast stayed in the Greater Poland Voivodeship – two groups of children (each 40 children and 5 guardians; in total 80 children and 10 guardians) and one group of teachers (20 people), who implemented a separate program. All costs of their stay in Poland, amounting to PLN 485,236.17, were covered by the Self-Government of the Greater Poland Voivodeship.

19.3.16 West Pomeranian Voivodeship

In the years 2022-2023, the sum of funds spent by the Self-Government of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship to support citizens of Ukraine amounted to a total of PLN 4,106,635.06. **In 2022, PLN 1,989,492.54 was spent**, including: PLN 596,438.55 funds from the Ministry of Finance; PLN 503,942.02 funds received from the Voivode for assigned tasks; and PLN 889,110.97 of the Voivodeship's own budget funds. **In 2023, PLN 2,117,142.52 was spent**, including: PLN 1,801,075.12 funds from the Ministry of Finance; PLN 298,067.40 funds received from the Voivode for assigned tasks; and PLN 18,000 of the Voivodeship's own budget funds.

In response to the crisis caused by the armed attack of the Russian Federation on Ukraine, numerous actions and initiatives were taken, involving both the Marshal's Office, as well as organizational units, health care, culture, education, associations. Transports of donations, collections, accommodation, care were organized - including professional care for a group of refugees with significant disabilities and carrying out a difficult relocation action, as well as support for volunteering.

In March 2022, a collection was launched at the Marshal's Office. Several tons of food products were collected - canned food, instant meals, groats and pasta, as well as cleaning products, dressing materials, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, camp beds, first aid kits, batteries, power banks, flashlights, halogen lamps, power generators. In May 2022, two trucks set off from Szczecin to the south of Ukraine. In August 2022, purchases worth PLN 100,000 were handed over to the residents of Mykolaiv. Another large batch of canned food, oil, groats, coffee, tea were sent there. In December 2022, a large transport of power generators and stoves was organized.



Ambulances handed over to Ukraine from Western Pomerania at the border crossing.
Photo: Marshal's Office of the West Pomeranian Voivodeship.

Western Pomerania, through the County Family Assistance Centers and Municipal Social Welfare Centers, has prepared a special support package for Ukrainian citizens. Over PLN 15 million from the Regional Operational Program has been allocated for this purpose. These funds could be used to finance legal and psychological assistance, organize integration classes or hire a translator. PLN 300,000 went to non-governmental organizations in the "small grants" mode. This helped to develop a volunteer network in the region and organize psychological assistance, Polish language classes or professional activation. The "Spolecznik" program was included in the assistance for the Ukrainian population. The Voivodeship Board decided that projects concerning assistance and integration activities for refugees would gain additional points. For several months of 2022, a consultation point was operating at the Voivodeship Hospital in Szczecin on Arkońska Street for refugees with chronic diseases, and hospitals subordinate to the provincial government prepared a list of about 170 vacancies. Since the beginning of the crisis, healthcare services have been provided to 3,616 patients with Ukrainian citizenship in the medical entities of the provincial government. 304 refugees were employed in local government health care units, including 16 doctors, 12 nurses, 10 medical assistants, 67 medical technicians and 199 support staff.

The Museum of Ethnography and Art Industry of the Institute of National Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in Lviv received materials and equipment for securing and saving works of art. The aid was organized by the Pomeranian Dukes' Castle in Szczecin with the support of the National Museum in Szczecin, the Marshal's Office, the Calbud company and private individuals. The aid for war-torn Ukraine was mainly organized in cooperation with the Honorary Consul of Ukraine in Szczecin Henryk Kołodziej, as well as in coordination with the authorities of Mykolaiv and Odessa regions (partner regions of Western Pomerania).

19.4 Aid activities of counties and municipalities

In addition to the 16 voivodeships, the administrative division of Poland also includes 314 counties and 66 cities with county rights, as well as 2,477 municipalities, including 302 urban municipalities, 711 urban-rural municipalities, and 1,464 rural municipalities. Almost all of these administrative units were affected by the migration of refugees from Ukraine, and the vast majority of them joined in helping Ukraine and its citizens,

both by following the governor's orders and by taking additional actions on their own initiative. A full list of the involvement of Polish counties and communes is beyond the scope of this report. However, it is necessary to present an outline of the aid activities undertaken by individual administrative units using examples, in order to provide a picture of the efforts undertaken on a national scale. The examples presented come from the Nowosolski County, the city of Świnoujście, and the communes of Wielkie Oczy and Oleszyce.

19.4.1 Counties

The Nowosolski County began aid activities from the first days after the outbreak of the war. In response to the appeal of the Mayor of Ivano-Frankivsk, a collection of the most necessary items that were to be sent to Ukraine began. On March 3, 2022, in cooperation with other partner cities of Ivano-Frankivsk, a transport of the collected items was organized. The Nowosolski County prepared 2 pallets, which included, among others, gas and electric cookers, flashlights, candles, batteries and hygiene products. On March 1, 2022, the county-municipal humanitarian aid warehouse began operating. Thanks to the support of a local entrepreneur - the Rachem company from Nowa Sól - it was possible to organize a place where mainly food products, hygiene products, and clothing were collected. The collection was carried out among the residents of the Nowosolski County. Donations were donated by individuals, companies, local governments and organizations, which also conducted collections in their area. The humanitarian aid warehouse in Nowa Sól was a place where refugees from Ukraine could stock up on basic necessities. The collected gifts were issued on an ongoing basis; therefore it is not possible to estimate the value of the donated products. At the same time, some of the collected gifts were segregated and placed on pallets. On March 8, 2022, 16 pallets loaded with, among others, food, cleaning and personal hygiene products, diapers and baby food were transported to the central warehouse in Skwierzyna. Aid activities in the field of collecting and distributing food to refugees as part of the cooperation of two local governments (Nowosolski County and the City of Nowa Sól) were carried out until April 5, 2022. At the beginning of April, the Nowosolski Branch of the Polish Red Cross began humanitarian activities in this area. In response to another appeal from the partner city of Ivano-Frankivsk, Nowosolski County, in cooperation with the City of Nowa Sól, purchased and donated a medical ambulance worth PLN 50,000 for the needs of the Main City Hospital in Ivano-Frankivsk. The cost of purchasing the vehicle financed by Nowosolski County was PLN 15,000 and PLN 35,000 by the City of Nowa Sól. On August 30, 2022, together with the sanitary vehicle, diaper panties (790 pcs., value PLN 1,383.41), sheets (240 pcs., value PLN 503.88), hand disinfection sprays (50 packages, value PLN 6,000), cube mattresses (10 pcs., value PLN 500), hygiene products (8 cartons, value PLN 800), food (250 kg, value PLN 2,500) and power generators (2 pcs., value PLN 1,600) were also donated.

19.4.2 Cities with county rights

The city of Świnoujście actively participated in the aid, which took the form of providing accommodation, material assistance provided on site and sent to Ukraine, as well as other activities. Among other things, several dozen tons of donations were sent to the partner city of Truskavets in the Lviv region in Ukraine. From the financial resources of the Municipality of the City of Świnoujście, the following were purchased and transferred to the Municipality of Truskavets as a donation: 2 power generators for the amount of PLN 13,597.99 (December 2022), and 89 pieces of thermal underwear for the amount of PLN 9,968.00 (February 2024). Thanks to the generosity of the residents of Świnoujście, both Polish and Ukrainian, several hundred packages of donations were sent from Świnoujście to various military units, civilians and hospitals in Ukraine.

Two 24-hour telephone numbers were launched in the city, where Ukrainian citizens could obtain information on the possibilities of obtaining shelter and accommodation, and residents of Świnoujście and beyond could submit their offers of assistance, e.g. in the provision of accommodation, transport or assistance in providing food. Refugees from Ukraine who arrived in Świnoujście found shelter in several hotels, hostels and shelters in Świnoujście, which declared their willingness to cooperate with the City, as well as in apartments of private individuals who provided shelter over their heads, as well as with their

families who had arrived here earlier, before the outbreak of the war. In total, 438 accommodation places were provided in Świnoujście in various facilities, excluding private apartments. Several positions were organized in the City Office for people arriving in large numbers to Świnoujście, and officials from the Department of Civil Affairs also registered the constantly arriving refugees on weekends as part of their volunteer work. Around 100-150 Ukrainian citizens registered at the City Office daily. A person was employed as the President's Plenipotentiary for Cooperation with the Ukrainian Community, one of whose basic tasks was to coordinate and implement activities for war refugees from Ukraine and their families, as well as other foreigners staying in Świnoujście.

The Municipal Family Assistance Center implemented the payment of assistance benefits. A one-time cash benefit of PLN 300.00, which is due to Ukrainian citizens in accordance with Article 31 of the Assistance Act, was granted to 2,845 people for the amount of PLN 853,500.00. Social assistance benefits were also granted for the amount of PLN 44,009.82; family benefits for a total amount of PLN 101,266.34; and cash benefits to applicants who provided accommodation and meals to Ukrainian citizens (until March 31, 2023) for a total amount of PLN 7,930,470.

Ukrainian teaching assistants were employed in educational institutions. Organization and financing of Polish language classes were ensured, and psychological and pedagogical assistance was provided. Children who fled war-torn Ukraine had the opportunity to participate in various activities free of charge, including train at the Świnoujście Kyokushin Karate Academy, at the Sports and Recreation Centre in Świnoujście. The County Employment Office in Świnoujście organized two group training courses for Ukrainian citizens, including Polish language training and practical vocational training in the field of medical care and kitchen assistant. At the food distribution point, the Speak Up Foundation distributed food to refugees from Ukraine.

19.4.3 Municipalities

Wielkie Oczy, located in the Lubaczów county of the Podkarpackie voivodeship, on the border with Ukraine, incurred the following expenses to provide assistance to Ukraine and its citizens:

- purchase of goods (in particular materials, medicines, food) - PLN 4,225.22,
- services (costs of accommodation in municipal premises) - PLN 1,368.74,
- subsidy for the Lubaczów Municipality for the purchase of a power generator - PLN 9,312.55.

The Oleszyce Municipality, located in the Lubaczów county of the Podkarpackie voivodeship, co-financed the purchase of a power generator worth PLN 9,312.55, transferred to the Ukrainian side by the Union of Municipalities of the Lubaczów county.

V. Non-governmental aid

The assistance provided to Ukraine and its citizens went beyond the activities of the government and local governments. It took the form of social mobilization, both on the individual level and channeled through humanitarian, religious and economic organizations. **The total value of social assistance provided to refugees from Ukraine in 2022-2023 is estimated at around PLN 20 billion.**

20. Civic aid

From the first day of the war, an extremely important part of Polish aid to Ukraine and its citizens was the activity of ordinary Polish citizens who personally provided aid and made their resources, sometimes even their homes, available. Thanks to them, Poland became, despite the wave of migration counted in the millions, a "country without refugee camps" during the first months of the war, as the world media called it. The openness and commitment of Polish men and women was documented by cameras tracking the course of the invasion and shown to the whole world. The scale of this phenomenon was later confirmed in numerous studies conducted by, among others, the Public Opinion Research Center (CBOS), and the Polish Economic Institute, which published a report in July 2022 analyzing the phenomenon of aid provided by individual citizens.

20.1 Statistical data on Polish civic aid

According to CBOS public opinion polls, at the turn of February and March 2022, as many as 94% of Polish society supported Poland accepting refugees from Ukraine. Providing financial aid to Ukraine was supported by 93% of Polish men and women, including 66% who strongly supported it. As many as 90% were in favor of providing Ukraine with military equipment and weapons, including 62% who strongly supported it.

According to the Polish Economic Institute (PIE) report, the majority of Polish society (77%) has been involved in helping refugees from Ukraine. This help has taken various forms – from financial and material support, through various types of volunteer activities, to making their own houses and apartments available to people without a roof over their heads. The study shows that 8% of Poles donated over PLN 1,000 (approx. 250 euro) to refugees in the period under review, and as many as 7% accepted refugees into their homes. PIE estimates that from February to July 2022, Polish people incurred private expenses to help refugees in Ukraine in the amount of approximately PLN 10 billion.



Reception point for refugees at the Medyka border crossing.
Photo: MSWIA

„The involvement of Poles in providing aid was greatest at the beginning of the war. At that time, 70% of adult Poles were involved in helping refugees. To a large extent, this resulted from the need of the heart and was a spontaneous reaction (often emotional) to the observed injustice of refugees and the growing number of people fleeing to Poland from the war. At the same time, half of Poles were involved in helping refugees in a consistent manner - both at the beginning of the war and in the following weeks of military operations. [...] At the beginning of the war, spontaneous help dominated - grassroots initiatives of the population, a mass and immediate social effort of an

unprecedented nature, with the support of these processes by local government bodies and central authorities.”

—*Pomoc polskiego społeczeństwa dla uchodźców z Ukrainy*, 2022, Polski Instytut Ekonomiczny

According to Statistics Poland data for 2022, 32.2 thousand non-profit organizations (27.9%) took additional actions to help those in need due to the war in Ukraine. Among the 32.2 thousand non-governmental entities, 84.6% carried out activities in Poland, 3.9% in Ukraine, and 6.1% in both Poland and Ukraine.

Considering the type of entities conducting aid activities, the highest percentage occurred among social religious entities (46.7%) and rural women's associations (33.4%), as well as foundations (32.7%). Public benefit organizations (39.6%) and social enterprises (46.4%) also stood out from other groups.

Considering the main field of activity, after rescue (53.9%), a high percentage of entities conducting aid activities occurred among entities dealing with social and humanitarian aid (45.8%). Almost one third of organizations dealing with the labor market and professional activation declared their involvement in assistance activities in connection with the conflict in Ukraine.

The percentage of non-profit organizations that conducted assistance activities was the highest in the Lublin (35.9%) and Podkarpackie (37.2%) voivodeships, followed by the Lesser Poland (27.6%) and Opole (27.0%) voivodeships.

The main recipients of assistance provided by non-profit organizations in connection with the full-scale war operations conducted in the territory of Ukraine were individuals. In total, support was provided to approximately 16.2 million recipients (the same person could be a recipient multiple times). Organizations providing assistance only in Poland indicated 9.6 million recipients, those operating in both countries indicated 6.4 million recipients, and those operating only in Ukraine indicated 0.2 million recipients.

One of the most important forms of assistance provided by the non-governmental sector in connection with ongoing war on the territory of Ukraine was the provision of donations in kind – 57.7% of organizations declaring that they would undertake additional activities provided this type of support. The estimated value of the in-kind support provided by non-profit organizations amounted to PLN 1,167.0 million, while financial support amounted to PLN 476.5 million.

20.2 Openness of Polish society towards refugees from Ukraine

Polish society, on its own initiative and at its own expense, provided refugees with care and shelter from the very first steps they took on Polish soil. Actions taken by individual citizens included:

- offering help to strangers via special groups operating on social media
- ensuring transport from the border
- providing accommodation in one's own apartment
- gifting food, clothing, equipment
- organization of mobile help points
- help in finding a job
- volunteering at reception points, shelters and aid campaigns

The great involvement of Polish society attracted the attention of the world's media. The "Polish humanitarian uprising", as the Polish people's mobilization to help their Ukrainian neighbors was called, became one of the brightest and best-documented chapters of Polish-Ukrainian history. Below is a review of the headlines describing this phenomenon:

BBC

Home News Sport Business Innovation Culture Arts Travel Earth Video Live

Ukraine: With placards and tears, Poles are greeting refugees like family

7 March 2022

Share Save

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

About UNHCR What we do Emergencies

Home

STORIES

One year on, volunteers in Poland are still doing all they can for Ukrainian refugees

THE IRISH TIMES

Europe

'This is from the bottom of my heart': Polish volunteers line up to help Ukrainian refugees

Poles prepare food, offer their homes and provide transport to fleeing families

World News | Europe

Poles Have Been Opening Their Homes to Jewish Refugees Fleeing Ukraine

Poland is the initial destination of more than half of Ukrainians fleeing their homeland and the Polish government has offered stipends to families hosting the refugees, some of whom are Jewish

Forbes

FORBES > LEADERSHIP > LEADERSHIP STRATEGY

Polish Businesses And Ordinary Citizens Scramble To Help Ukrainian Refugees

20.3 Mateusz "Exen" Wodziński's SUVs for the Ukrainian Armed Forces

Mateusz Wodziński, known as "Exen", has been involved in helping soldiers fighting to defend Ukraine from the very beginning of the war. In June 2022, he donated his off-road vehicle to soldiers from the Belarusian volunteer Kalinouski Regiment fighting alongside Ukraine. Since then, he has devoted all his time and resources to organizing further deliveries of off-road vehicles to the Ukrainian Armed Forces with the help of a public fundraiser on the pomagam.pl website. Over the course of a year, 165 cars have been delivered, and this number has now exceeded 300. Wodziński considers this project to be "his life's work" and has declared that he will remain involved until the very end.



Exen delivering an off-road vehicle to the Zaporizhia region. Photo: Mateusz Wodziński/pomagam.pl

20.4 Polish Bayraktar for Ukraine

One example of the involvement of hundreds of thousands of Poles in helping Ukraine defend its freedom and sovereignty was a fundraiser initiated by Sławomir Sierakowski, in which 220,000 people took part to raise funds for the purchase of a combat drone, Bayraktar. The Turkish company Baykar, after the Poles had raised funds for the drone, decided to give it to the Armed Forces of Ukraine for free. It asked for the collected funds to be transferred to charities that help Ukrainian citizens and the military. The collected PLN 24.84 million was divided between four major projects: a mobile training center for soldiers with an infirmary, weapons storage and large generators; one hundred cars, including 25 ambulances; 500 survival kits for families living in the most dangerous areas; and two mobile workshops transferred to the largest Ukrainian foundation supporting the military – Come Back Alive. The surplus (exactly PLN 2.34 million) was paid into the account of the Armed Forces Fund at the National Bank of Ukraine.

Source: *Kompendium polskiej pomocy dla Ukrainy*, Warsaw Enterprise Institute

20.5 Polish medics on the front

The Polish battlefield rescue team "W międzyczasie" has been involved in saving the lives of Ukrainian soldiers since the very beginning of the war. The group's leader, Damian Duda, has experience in providing medical assistance to the Ukrainian army since 2014. In September 2023, Duda was personally awarded the Order of Merit, Class III, by President Volodymyr Zelensky. Since 2022, the team has been present on the most dangerous sections of the frontline, including Bakhmut. In October, it was awarded the medal "Award of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine" III degree for its contribution to supporting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. The team relies on volunteers and donations from people of good will. Risking their own lives, they had saved over 500 Ukrainian soldiers on the frontline.

Source: *Kompendium polskiej pomocy dla Ukrainy*, Warsaw Enterprise Institute



Volodymyr Zelensky awards Damian Duda the Order of Merit, 3rd class. Photo: Office of the President of Ukraine.

21. Aid by the churches

Churches and religious organizations played a major role in organizing humanitarian aid for Ukraine and its citizens fleeing the war. They became both a catalyst of the social uprising, associating and focusing citizens' efforts for aid, and a driving force for the support provided by engaging their financial and organizational capabilities.

21.1 Catholic Church

21.1.1. Caritas Poland

Since the beginning of the war, Caritas has been providing assistance to Ukrainians seeking refuge in Poland, as well as to those who remained in their homeland. **In 2022, the total value of assistance to Ukraine and its citizens, both in Poland and Ukraine, provided by Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas amounted to PLN 597,700,000.** In 2022 alone, assistance was provided to 2,000,000 refugees from Ukraine, including 405,000 seniors. Refugees received 3,900,000 food packages worth PLN 126,100,000 and 1,500,000 material packages worth PLN 131,100,000. In 2023, the value of Caritas assistance to people from Ukraine in Poland amounted to PLN 87,000,000 and the financial and material support provided to Ukraine in 2023 amounted to PLN 42,697,493.

In the first period of the conflict and refugee crisis, Caritas throughout Poland, parishes, and volunteers provided emergency assistance such as a warm meal, clothing, and help in finding shelter. Tents of Hope were opened near border crossings to help refugees who had left their homes. On February 27, 2022, a collection was organized in churches throughout Poland to help Ukraine and its citizens, which brought in PLN 35,891,679.

Emergency aid quickly turned into long-term aid. Migrant and Refugee Aid Centers run by Caritas were established throughout Poland. These are professional facilities where refugees could obtain support such as career counselling, vocational courses, diploma nostrification, educational support, document translation, Polish language courses, legal advice, psychological and psychosocial support, material support or integration classes.



Refugee Aid Point near Przemyśl. Photo: Philipp Spalek/Caritas

For example, in 2023, Caritas of the Archdiocese of Łódź accepted 3,100 refugees from Ukraine in the Migrant and Refugee Aid Centre run in Łódź. 800 people (adults and children) took part in psychosocial and therapeutic activities, various meetings and trips. 80 Ukrainians took advantage of psychological counselling. An important aspect of the Centre's activities has become the professional activation of refugees. Over the past year, around 300 meetings with an employment agent were held, and 100 people were provided with legal counselling.

As part of the Food Aid Operational Program, food worth PLN 5,600,000 was provided to refugees. From August 2022 to July 2023, support was provided to children and young people in foster care, the cost of which amounted to PLN 6,749,190. In 2023, 92,000 people were registered in 28 facilities, and the value of assistance amounted to PLN 87,000,000. In addition, many refugees from Ukraine, especially children, were included in national programs that have been operating for years and implemented by Caritas (including the Operational Program Food Aid, support for children and youth in foster care, and material assistance). In 2023, the religious institutions that accepted refugees from Ukraine were co-financed in the amount of PLN 1,937,000. In the same year, two scholarship programs called "Wings" and "Two talents" were carried out, also covering Ukrainian children, the value of which amounted to PLN 509,500.

As part of foreign aid, Ukraine is supported by the "Family for Family" program implemented since October 2022. Support, the value of which in 2022 amounted to PLN 2,000,000, was received by 620 families from the Kyiv-Zhytomyr diocese. The value of support under the "Family for Family" Ukraine program in 2023 is over PLN 10,000,000. In 2022, the Parcel for Ukraine supported approximately 83 thousand families throughout Ukraine with aid worth PLN 29,000,000. In 2023, 90,000 parcels were delivered to Ukraine with a total value of PLN 31,500,000. The total number of beneficiaries of the "Parcel for Ukraine" in 2023 is approximately 270,000 people. In addition, in the same year, 2,801 people received cash aid in the amount of PLN 3,800,000. As part of the "Points of Hope" project, operating since December 2022, worth PLN 1,410,000, 18 aid points were launched in the largest cities of Ukraine, which were used by residents of, among others, Odessa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Kremenchuk and Konotop. The Points of Hope provided a chance to warm up and charge a phone or laptop battery, even in the event of a long-



Humanitarian aid warehouse. Photo: Caritas.

term power outage in a specific location. Each Point was equipped with water, hot drinks, lighting, internet access, a place to rest, a first aid kit and a space for mothers with children. Caritas also carried out aid activities under the Polish Aid program financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the amount of PLN 2,487,319, from which support was provided to 1,162 families in Ukraine, including 426 families (1,293 people) from Odessa and 736 families (1,391 people) from Mykolaiv.

Source: Information provided by the Secretariat of the Polish Episcopal Conference

21.1.2. Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Roman Catholic lay charitable organization, with over 2 million members worldwide. The Knights of Columbus opened in Poland in 2006 and in March 2022 had 6,840 members in the country. Using its large membership, organizational capabilities, and financial resources, it has actively participated in helping refugees from Ukraine.

On February 25, 2022, the order allocated \$1 million (approx. PLN 4 million) in immediate aid to Ukraine and launched the Ukraine Solidarity Fund, an international fundraising campaign that was to match any donations raised up to \$500,000. By mid-March, more than ten times that amount had been raised, totaling more than \$6.5 million (PLN 26 million), 100% of which went to help refugees.



Knights, parishioners and refugees pose for a photo during a barbecue at the newly opened Mercy Center in Warsaw, April 2. Photo: Sebastian Nycz/Knights of Columbus

In total, by April 2023, the Knights of Columbus had raised over USD 20 million (approx. PLN 80 million) for humanitarian aid. The Knights also joined in activities undertaken in individual dioceses.

In the first months of the war, the Mercy Centers established by the Knights provided assistance to over 300,000 Ukrainian refugees on the Polish-Ukrainian border. Since then, the Order has established six Mercy Centers in Polish parishes. Their goal is to provide assistance to Ukrainian refugees, create a space for integration with Polish society by conducting Polish language classes, after-school activities and summer programs for children, and help in finding work. As part of the Mercy Convoys, the Knights have undertaken the continuous sending of trucks with aid to Ukraine. By April 2023, almost 3,000 tons of aid have been sent, including over 200,000 packages for families throughout the country. The Knights' packages reach not only western Ukraine, but also the very front line. The work of individual local councils also contributed to the aid provided by the Knights. For example, as Lent alms, the Knights from Council 17030 in Sierakowice, as part of a joint campaign with the parish of St. Martin, sent 310 packages of aid to Ukraine. On the other hand, the Knights from Council 17886 in Żalno sent 120 packages of food across the eastern border.

The aid provided to Ukraine and its citizens by the Knights of Columbus drew from the resources of the entire world order, but as the Knights themselves admit, the leading role in it was played by members from Poland and Ukraine. During the national conference in the United States, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus Patrick Kelly said:

„We are here to help the Ukrainian people, and also the Polish people who help the Ukrainian people. This is our commitment.”

Source: kofc.org

21.1.3. Association of Polish Knights of Malta

The Association of Polish Knights of Malta and the Maltese Medical Service operating within its structures launched an aid program for Ukraine on the first day of the war. According to a report published in December 2022, **the value of assistance provided by the Polish Knights of Malta to Ukraine and its citizens reached over PLN 96 million** thanks to the enormous commitment of nearly 300 volunteers in the first half of the year and significant material assistance from Maltese organizations from abroad, which began to flow in June 2022.

The program included, among others, social and medical support at three points on the border, three medical points at railway stations, collections of donations, organization of humanitarian transports also to the war zone to the cities of Mariupol, Dnipro, Energodar, Zhytomyr, Sumy, Drohobych, Boryslav, Obruch, Berdyczów, Odessa, Uzhkhorod, Berzhany, Horodnia, Kyiv and Lviv, evacuation of patients from Ukraine, relocation of refugees from Poland to the west, social assistance programs in Poland such as language learning, psychological assistance, or assistance in finding a job.

Source: *Maltańska pomoc dla Ukrainy 2022 – raport za 10 miesięcy*; zakonmaltanski.pl

21.2. Lutherans – The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland

Relations between the Polish Lutheran community and the inhabitants of Ukraine were cultivated long before the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine. The help of Polish Lutherans in particular included the education of clergy and help for children, implemented, for example, in the "Gift under the Christmas tree" campaign. Since February 2022, aid for Ukraine has become a priority task and mission of the entire Church.

The largest number of aid projects for Ukraine and its citizens was implemented by Diakonia Polska in cooperation with Church units. Diakonia Polska is a non-governmental organization and represents the nationwide charitable activity of the Evangelical Augsburg Church in the Republic of Poland. Diakonia Evangelical Augsburg Church in cooperation with Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe conducted the following programs:

Monetary Aid Programs (MPCA1, Winter Aid 1, MPCA2 and Winter Aid 2, Winter Aid 3) were intended for the neediest refugees from Ukraine, including: single parents, people with disabilities and chronic illnesses, seniors, pregnant women, as well as those who for various reasons cannot work. In MPCA, beneficiaries received three months of financial support using payment cards to meet their basic needs. Some of the MPCA beneficiaries who were in the most difficult situation received additional one-off financial support to survive the winter in Poland. The amount of support depended on the size of the family and was established in cooperation with other humanitarian organizations (including UNHCR). **Support was provided to 47,640 people (16,704 families) for a total amount of PLN 83,893,590.**

"Support for refugees in renting an apartment" programs (2 editions). The programs assumed support for refugees who are in a difficult housing situation and have the potential to become independent during the program. Families received co-financing for the costs of the deposit and rent of a new apartment for 6 months. Support was provided to 390 people (129 families) for a total amount of PLN 1,535,811.00.

The "Economic Inclusion" programs (2 editions) assumed support for refugees who need help in improving their professional qualifications, learning the language or recognizing their education and skills. The program aimed to strengthen the position of refugees on the labor market in Poland. Support was provided to 218 people for a total amount of PLN 365,978.26.

The Small Grants program was a supplement to the "Economic Inclusion" program and assumed support for refugees who are developing business activities in Poland. Beneficiaries received financial assistance for the purchase of appropriate equipment that will allow them to run their business and draw their livelihood from it. Support was provided to 12 people for a total amount of PLN 51,359.87.

The Cash for Protection program was intended for people in a difficult socio-economic situation who did not qualify for the MPCA2 program, but were individually selected after their needs were identified. Financial assistance was provided to meet basic needs and/or enabled the purchase of necessary medical equipment. Support was provided to 13 people for a total amount of PLN 65,190.00.



Christmas Eve meeting. Photo: Evangelical-Augsburg Parish of St. Christopher in Wrocław

As part of the projects, Diakonia Polska co-financed adaptation and renovation projects in Evangelical-Augsburg parishes that accepted refugees in their premises. The purchase of necessary furniture, i.e. beds, desks, rooms were renovated, and household appliances were purchased. In the years 2022-2024, approximately 2,000 refugees from Ukraine found shelter in parish premises. In cooperation with Evangelical-Augsburg parishes, Diakonia Polska co-financed integration activities for refugees from Ukraine, i.e. summer camps for children and parents, Polish language courses, sewing courses, integration picnics or co-financing the purchase of bicycles, laptops for remote learning, etc. Support under the integration

activities was received by over 4,000 refugees from Ukraine. Diakonia Polska coordinated the transport of 15 coaches filled with gifts in kind from foreign partners, which were delivered, among others, to reception centers in Nadarzyn and Hrubieszów. Diakonia Polska also co-financed medical, orthodontic and psychological assistance for refugees staying at the reception centre in Nadarzyn and provided food, hygiene products and toys for people staying at the centre. Support was provided to over 1,000 people. In cooperation with Caritas of the Przemyśl Diocese, Diakonia Polska co-financed over 18,000 meals for refugees from Ukraine staying at the Przemyśl train station. In cooperation with the Centre for Mission and Evangelisation, Diakonia Polska co-financed 8 transports containing food and medicines to Ukraine and sent 8,000 candles to areas affected by war.

The Church Office has hired a coordinator to implement projects in cooperation with parishes and the Lutheran World Federation.

As part of the cooperation undertaken, in June 2022 and May 2023, recruitment for aid programs financed by the Lutheran World Federation in Geneva was announced. The main emphasis was placed on providing refugees with the opportunity to learn Polish, psychological support, integration with the local community and providing childcare so that parents (mostly mothers) could take up professional work. Within the planned funds, 2 types of projects were implemented: Short-term projects: the time frame of these projects is up to 6 months, and the amount allocated for one project is up to EUR 10,000. Long-term projects: the time frame of these projects is up to 12 months, and the amount allocated for one project is up to EUR 50,000.

By December 31, 2023, 32 projects were co-financed within the two announced rounds for a total amount of EUR 767,948, and approximately 3,700 refugees from Ukraine were provided with assistance. Main activities implemented within the projects:

- Polish language learning for both children and adults, at various levels of advancement – from A1 to B1. 2. Remedial lessons and tutoring for children and youth, mainly in Polish, English, mathematics.
- Psychological support for children and adults. These included individual meetings with qualified psychologists as well as occupational therapy through workshops, art therapy or group meetings.

- Medical support: rehabilitation, oncology support, emergency medical visits.
- Professional activation.
- Legal support.
- Integration activities aimed at adapting both refugees and the local community to the new situation: integration picnics, holiday meetings, concerts, trips, workshops.
- Summer camps for children and youth.

Source: Information provided by the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Republic of Poland

21.3. The local dimension of aid

The help provided to Ukraine and its citizens by churches was expressed not only on a macro scale, involving millions of PLN and hundreds of people. As in the case of ordinary Polish citizens taking in refugees, the mobilization of small local units subordinate to churches, such as parishes, charity and educational centers, was of fundamental importance. Their efforts on a local scale, multiplied by the large number of committed believers, decided the fate of thousands of refugees. For example, the Catholic community alone has over 10 thousand parishes. To illustrate the contribution of small units, the involvement of the Retreat and Formation House in Warsaw in Bielany will be presented, summarized in a letter provided for the report by its director:

„Already on February 22, 2022, Father Marian Raciński, Economist of the Archdiocese of Warsaw, after earlier consultations, in response to an inquiry from the Mazovian Voivodeship Office about facilities where foreigners could be accommodated in the event of their increased influx to Poland, indicated the Retreat and Formation House in Bielany in Warsaw (ul. Dewajtis 3), as a place where the Archdiocese of Warsaw is able to provide assistance to 100 people by providing them with accommodation and meals. In addition to our house, the Retreat and Recreation House "Dobry Zakątek" in Konstancin-Jeziorna (ul. Słowackiego 8) was also indicated, with the capacity to accommodate 40 people.

The first people to receive shelter from us were students of Ukrainian universities coming from North Africa, mainly from Morocco. Their stay with us began on February 28, 2022, and was largely coordinated by the Embassy of Morocco. The last students left our home on March 20. In the first days, just after February 28, they stayed there in the number of just over 100 people. In place of those leaving for their countries, there appeared others fleeing from war-torn Ukraine.

From 6th March, Ukrainian citizens, mothers with children, fleeing the cruelty of war, often having lost their homes, all their property, and no information about their loved ones remaining in Ukraine, began to arrive. Those who arrived learned about us from many different sources. Cooperation with the authorities of the Bielany municipal district, the mayor, Grzegorz Pietruszuk, quickly deepened. In addition to support from the Archdiocese of Warsaw, Caritas of our archdiocese, and the aid package from the Polish government, the partial financing received from PSE – Polskie Sieci Elektroenergetyczne S.A. was also a great support. For some time, World Central Kitchen largely provided food for refugees from Ukraine. The Border Guard also provided significant help, here the Commander-in-Chief of the Border Guard, Maj. Gen. Tomasz Praga, and 2nd Lt. Border Guard Urszula Nowinowska played a major role. It is impossible to enumerate individual sources of support, specific people and families who brought and donated small items needed for everyday functioning, but also larger ones – e.g. washing machines. Here, Fr. Wojciech Drozdowicz, the parish priest of a nearby parish, also had a great



Meeting of Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople with refugees at the Retreat and Formation House in Warsaw's Bielany. March 29, 2022. Photo: Karol Regulski/Dobrym Okiem Photography

contribution, as he was able to recruit such people. It was also necessary to take action to provide treatment, diagnostics, often very specialized.

Ultimately, there were about 120 refugees from Ukraine staying in our house at the same time. Those who left were replaced by others. Finally, our last guest from this group left on December 9, 2023. Others gradually found places to which they were going, in very different directions. A large part became independent in Poland, in Warsaw, some returned to Ukraine, others left for Great Britain, Germany, the United States, other countries. One of the people who found shelter with us, having found an apartment in Warsaw, works in our retreat house, we also have information about several other people working in the Bielany commune.

An important reinforcement for our guests from Ukraine were the visits of various personalities. Among them, the first to be mentioned is the ecumenical prayer and the meeting with the Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I on March 29, 2022. It is also worth noting the arrival of the special envoy of Pope Francis, Cardinal Mario Grech, on March 19, 2022."

*Rev. Paweł Walkiewicz
Director of the House*

22. Aid by humanitarian organizations

According to Statistics Poland, over 115 thousand non-profit organizations have undertaken activities in Poland, and also partly directly in Ukraine, aimed at helping those in need in connection with the war operations caused by the Russian aggression against Ukraine. These included social enterprises, OPP, associations and similar social organizations, voluntary fire brigades, hunting clubs, foundations, social religious entities, rural housewives' clubs, economic and professional self-government, employers' organizations, trade unions, and political parties. Below is an overview of selected aid activities undertaken by Polish non-profit organizations.

22.1 Polish Center for International Aid Foundation

The PCPM Foundation was present in Ukraine from the very beginning of the war. During the first two years, it helped thousands of Ukrainians and Ukrainian refugees in Poland. It organized evacuations, provided humanitarian aid, and helped rebuild destroyed homes and public buildings in Ukraine. In Poland, it organized trainings, helped find apartments and jobs. The Foundation published a report summarizing its aid activities during the first two years of the war.

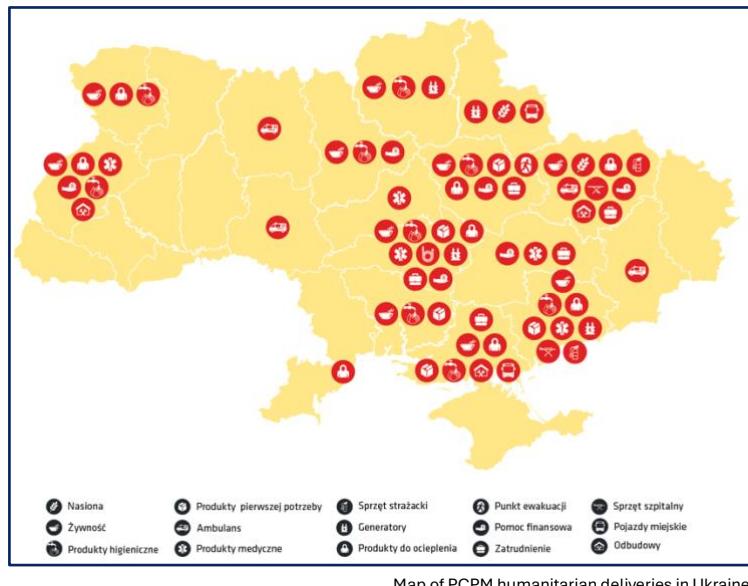
PCPM organized the evacuation of 1,200 people from Kharkiv to Svitlovodsk, where they were expected to be transported to Poland. 2,254 people were evacuated from Ukrainian hospitals, and 35,000 people were received at the Transit Center at the Warszawa Wschodnia train station. Additionally, 82,000 people received assistance on the Latvian border, where there were aid points for Ukrainian refugees fleeing this route from the Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine.

8,501 people received financial aid in Ukraine and 28,633 in Poland. The Foundation repaired 156 houses in Ukraine, which benefited 982 people. 107 classrooms in 27 Polish schools were also repaired, which was associated with the influx of additional students from Ukraine. 66 vehicles were transferred to Ukraine, including buses, ambulances, electric bicycles, passenger vans and garbage trucks.

1,730 people were helped to find employment in Polish cities, and 703 in Ukraine. 1,130 people completed Polish language courses, and 180 of them also completed vocational courses. 39,111 visited the Education and Creativity Centers in Warsaw. 4,750 children from Ukraine and Poland took part in organized summer camps. A total of 62,000 people received food and hygiene assistance.

The PCPM Foundation also runs MEDEVAC Jasionka, described in earlier chapters.

Source: Pomoc Ukrainie: Raport 2022-2024; pcpm.org.pl



22.2 Polish Humanitarian Action

The cost of the Polish Humanitarian Action's (PAH) assistance in Ukraine in 2022 alone amounted to nearly PLN 49.2 million, and it reached over 300,000 people in need. The assistance provided to refugees on the territory of Poland in the same year cost over PLN 66.6 million and reached nearly 1.2 million people from Ukraine who came to Poland.

According to media reports, in the first weeks of the war, PAH was involved in helping refugees arriving in Poland by opening points at three border crossings, employing over 400 volunteers and cooperating with local aid organizations and reception points. In the following months, a special unit "PAH Poland" was launched, the aim of which is to provide assistance to refugees in Poland. PAH representatives identified three main areas of activity, divided into assistance in Poland, on the border and in Ukraine itself. Emergency assistance was provided to refugees at the border, including psychological assistance, assistance in finding accommodation and arranging life in Poland, and aid activities were also carried out on the territory of Ukraine, which included the provision of food and hygiene products, psychological assistance, the construction of modular houses or renovations in social institutions. A financial support program was also carried out for residents who had lost their source of income.

According to the annual report of the Polish Humanitarian Action, in 2023, the Polish Humanitarian Action provided humanitarian aid to Ukraine and its citizens with a total cost of PLN 60.5 million, which was received by 635 thousand people.

One of the areas of activity was ensuring access to water. In this regard, hygiene kits were distributed, repairs and renovations of water and sanitary infrastructure in centers for internally displaced persons and institutions, taking into account the needs of people with disabilities, and the provision of water treatment products, spare parts, pumps and filters. In addition, food packages with ready-to-eat or cook products were distributed, and cash support covering 3 months of needs was provided to those in need.

In terms of shelter and non-food assistance, there was renovation of destroyed private homes, renovation of social institutions and IDP centers, taking into account the needs of people with disabilities, installation of modular houses as temporary shelter, distribution of non-food kits (including items such as blankets, mattresses, bed linen, LED lamps) and firewood, and distribution of generators and fuel to IDP institutions and centers.

Legal and psychosocial protection was also provided, which included the provision of individual and group psychological sessions, home care for people who have difficulty moving, psychological support provided by mobile teams of psychologists and the operation of 15 psychosocial support centers in different regions of the country.

Source: Pomoc PAH w Ukrainie; pah.org.pl

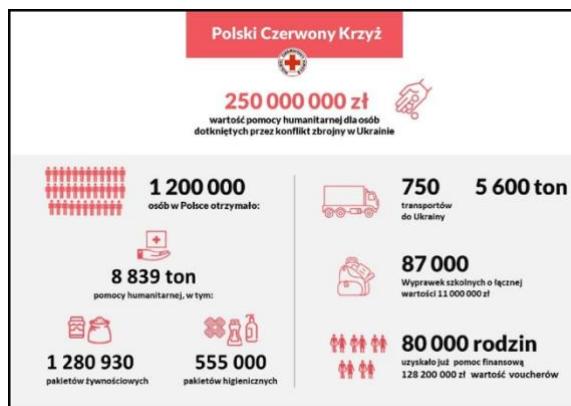
22.3 Polish Red Cross

As of February 2023, the Polish Red Cross has allocated over PLN 250,000,000 for humanitarian aid for victims of the armed conflict in Ukraine. For a year, the Polish Red Cross provided shelter, the most needed assistance, and organized long-term projects for over 1,200,000 refugees who arrived in Poland. Additionally, in cooperation with other Red Cross and Red Crescent societies and business partners, it sent regular aid to Ukraine. In February 2023, this number amounted to almost 750 transports with over 5,600 tons of humanitarian aid.

During the first year of the war, the Polish Red Cross responded to the ongoing needs of refugees who sought safe shelter in Poland. During this time, employees and volunteers provided over 8,839 tons of humanitarian aid: food, water, hygiene products, clothing, blankets, dressings, and baby products.

Refugees who came to our country are learning how to adapt to new conditions, trying to start life anew. In response to these needs, the Polish Red Cross organizes language courses and activation classes, mainly for women who want to take up employment. Over 100,000 people took part in integration classes, thanks to which refugees can more easily establish relationships with local communities.

Source: Annual report of the Polish Red Cross; pck.pl



Polish Red Cross infographic. February 2023.

22.4 Siepomaga Foundation

In the first week of the full-scale war, the collection announced by the Siepomaga Foundation collected almost PLN 30 million thanks to the support of almost 328,000 people. In the first two years, it was possible to purchase and transfer to Ukraine and its citizens many necessary supplies and equipment that helped save lives and ensure safety. Among other things: Two modern, fully equipped Polish combat vehicles were purchased for the fire brigade unit in Kharkiv, and 2 cars, including 1 armored car for the evacuation of civilians from the war zone. Rescuers working in bombed housing estates in Kharkiv were given specialist mountaineering equipment and ropes that allow firefighters to work on the rubble of destroyed skyscrapers. Tactical medicine instructors in Ukraine were given 177 specialist phantoms, mannequins and simulators to conduct first aid training with a total value of PLN 699,000. Thanks to them, almost 31,000 people



Humanitarian aid purchased by Siepomaga before being transported to Kharkiv and Cherkasy.
Photo: Siepomaga Foundation

have been trained by February 2024. Several modern metal detectors were delivered to Ukrainian fire brigade sappers, which are used to clear mines in the de-occupied territories in the Kharkiv region. The defenders of the city of Lviv were given a modern anti-aircraft searchlight, which is prepared every night to protect the city's residents from air raids. Rescuers and medics providing assistance to war victims were given over 120 modern handheld and mobile radios.

In the field of medical equipment, 7,901 complete IFAK tactical first aid kits and specialized equipment for tactical first aid kits were delivered, including 20,000 specialized Israeli-type military individual dressings, over 12,000 pressure bandages, 6,645 hemostatic dressings for stopping mass hemorrhages, 19,505 specialized ventilated dressings for chest wounds. Modern rehabilitation equipment worth over PLN 124,000 was also transferred to Ukrainian partners. The Foundation financed prosthetics for 20 wounded Ukrainian veterans who lost limbs. Modern defibrillators, hospital beds, ultrasound machines, infusion pumps, wound treatment machines, surgical instrument sets worth several hundred thousand zlotys were transferred. Two state-of-the-art surgical microscopes (otolaryngological and neurosurgical) worth nearly PLN 2 million were transferred to military hospitals in Kharkiv and Lviv. Equipment was purchased for the operating room of the children's hospital in Kramatorsk in Donbas.

Every day during the winter months, the Foundation distributed food to people in need, deprived of homes and means of living as a result of the war. In total, over 1.8 million meals and 2.4 million hot drinks were distributed. They were distributed at 35 "steadfastness points" run by the city administration.

1,050 modern power generators worth over PLN 2.8 million were purchased and delivered to Kharkiv, Bakhmut, Kherson and the Dnieper villages flooded after the blowing up of the Dnieper dam. 300 potbelly stoves were also purchased and delivered to residents of houses without heating in eastern Ukraine in the winter.

Over 0.9 million canned meat and 215,000 packages of food for children worth over PLN 3.6 million were delivered. Construction materials and tools necessary for the reconstruction of houses and water supply in the liberated territories in the Mykolaiv and Kherson regions were delivered. Several hundred new pillows, duvets and winter sleeping bags were also delivered. The foundation financed the purchase of several dozen tons of animal food, which was given to Ukrainian centers rescuing homeless dogs and mutilated cats. Hygiene products for children, women, sick and bedridden people were also delivered, with a total value of over PLN 1.6 million, as well as medical mattresses for dependent people who are still in the danger zone.

Source: Siepomaga.pl

22.5 Polish-American Freedom Foundation

In both main areas of domestic activity of the Polish-American Freedom Foundation (PAFW) – education and local community development – since the beginning of the war, actions have been taken to provide assistance to Ukrainian refugees in Poland. By February 2023, PLN 1.6 million had been allocated for such projects from the foundation's budget. At the same time, the Implementers of several PAFW programs obtained over USD 4 million from external sources.

Among educational programs, one of the most important tasks has become assistance in providing care and education for Ukrainian children. As of February 1, 2023, the following projects have been successfully implemented:

At the beginning of the Russian invasion, 10 webinars were organized as part of the "Learning School" (SUS) program, the aim of which was to prepare Polish teachers and school principals to work in the new conditions created by the war in Ukraine. The meetings were devoted to the following topics, among others: how to talk to students about the war in Ukraine, how to prepare the school for students from Ukraine, how to start preparatory classes for students from Ukraine, how to teach and assess in a diverse class. In total, the webinars were watched by almost 50 thousand people.

The programs of courses, trainings and workshops conducted as part of the "Learning School" (SUS) program have been modified, adapting them to the new situation of schools. Topics devoted to the educational integration of Polish and Ukrainian children, methods of work in a diverse class, cooperation with parents of Ukrainian students, psychological and pedagogical support for students with war trauma, as well as the organization of work at a school where children from emigrant and refugee families study have been added.

The Center for Civic Education, the Implementer of the "SUS" Program, thanks to the experience gained, among others, as part of the "Let's Talk About Refugees" project, conducted since 2015 and co-financed by the PAFW, has developed teaching aids for teachers, e.g.: "What can we do during the war in Ukraine?", "How to talk about the war with children and young people at home and at school?", "How to talk about the war in the presence of children from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus?", "Get to know the Ukrainian nation and culture through literature, music and film". In 2022, over 20,000 people took advantage of them. In September 2022, thanks to funds from PLAN International, the Norwegian Refugee Council and UNICEF (totaling approx. USD 2 million), comprehensive activities "Poland-Ukraine. Together at School" were launched, addressed to approx. 2,000 educational institutions where children and young people from Ukraine study. The offer for schools includes, among others, mini-grants for educational projects addressed to Polish students and students from immigrant families. Courses and workshops for teachers are also conducted to improve their competences, and additional materials and educational tools have been developed. Information about the trainings and materials are available on the website Poland-Ukraine. Together at School.

The PAFW and UW School of Education prepared a webinar for teachers "How to Talk to Students about the War in Ukraine" in February 2022. Then, it conducted three more webinars devoted to teaching the history of Poland and Ukraine and methods of integrating Ukrainian and Polish youth; they were watched by over 10,000 people. In addition, experts from the School of Education have developed a set of guides for teachers on the differences between the Polish and Ukrainian core curriculum, as well as proposals for activities aimed at integrating refugee children. Over 30,000 teachers have used them so far. All materials are available on the SE website. The school also organized a conference "Ukrainian Teacher in Poland", which was attended by Lilia Hrynevich, Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine in 2016-2019 (graduate of the Kirkland Program). The School of Education has also implemented two online courses for 30 Polish language teachers, "How to Teach Polish as a Foreign Language" and for 20 teachers from Ukraine, "Teaching Mathematics in Poland". Among the students of postgraduate studies implemented in the academic year 2022/23 are three students from Ukraine and three from Belarus. As part of the "School with Class" program, a series of training and advisory sessions were organized on how to deal with the war in Ukraine in Polish schools, as well as open webinars devoted to the problems of stress, anxiety and uncertainty. Training materials are available on the website of the School with Class Foundation. By February 2023, over 10,000 people had used them. In May 2022, approximately 100 educational institutions participating in "School with Class", which included Ukrainian students, received computer equipment thanks to the support of Intel. Intercultural education is the leading theme of the 2022/23 edition of the "School with Class" program, implemented for 90 schools. Thanks to funding from PLAN International (500,000 dollars), teachers from these schools are provided with individualized training and advisory support in working with students with migrant experience. Teacher training is conducted by a team of 30 trainers trained in intercultural education thanks to funding from PAFW. In addition, Polish-Ukrainian teams of students, including those participating in the "School with Class" program, are currently applying for grants intended to change school spaces.

Thanks to external funding, two research reports have been developed. The Center for Civic Education conducted a study entitled "What are the needs and challenges of schools related to the influx of students from Ukraine?", and the School with Class Foundation prepared a report entitled *Together in the Classroom. Children from Ukraine in Polish Schools*. The conclusions and recommendations from these studies are used in the implementation of various educational programs and activities of PAFW.

Student volunteers from the "PROJEKTOR - Student Volunteering" program have joined the activities to support Ukrainian refugee children. From March to May, 100 volunteers conducted classes in 93 facilities for 3,200 children from Ukraine; most in the Puławy, Lesko and Bieszczady counties.

The "Equal Chances" program supported two Ukrainian organizations with PLN 30,000: the Center for Educational Initiatives from Lviv and the Unique Land Mission from Zhmerynka (Vinnytsia Oblast), which conduct local aid activities for civilians affected by the war.

In March 2022, an online meeting with psychologist Małgorzata Ohme entitled "How to Talk to Young People About War" was held on the YouTube channel and Facebook page of the "Equal Chances" program. The event was hosted by Janusz Schwertner, a journalist and columnist for the Onet portal.

In recent years, the Equal Opportunities program has created a network of 45 Young Explorer Clubs in Ukraine, with nearly 20,000 active members. These clubs are located in Kiev, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Mariupol, Odessa, Ternopil and Lviv. The Copernicus Science Center, involved in promoting the idea of Young Explorer Clubs in Poland and abroad, remains in contact with them. They have been offered assistance, including shelter in Poland for people associated with the Clubs.

In addition, since the beginning of the war, the PAFW has been involved in activities supporting Ukraine and its citizens in the area of supporting the development of local communities in Poland, as well as in supporting coordination activities among Polish NGOs related to providing assistance to Ukraine, especially for Ukrainian refugees in Poland. Often, coordination included initiatives undertaken by numerous non-governmental organizations in cooperation with local governments. Such activities were particularly intensified in the first weeks of the Russian invasion.

Source: pafw.pl

22.6 SOS Children's Villages Association in Poland

SOS Poland has been involved in helping Ukrainian refugees arriving in Poland since the beginning of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The description below contains information on the assistance provided in the key years 2022-2023, but it may also include activities undertaken and continued in 2024. In the first period of the war, the Association helped over 120 foster parents with children evacuated from Dnipropetrovsk, Mariupol and other regions of Eastern and Central Ukraine to come to Poland and relocate to the Czech Republic and Germany. Additionally, as part of coordinated partnership activities with non-governmental organizations that are part of the Coalition for Family Foster Care and our sister organization SOS Children's Villages Ukraine, which found temporary headquarters in Warsaw after the outbreak of the war, nearly 150 people from foster families were helped to find appropriate housing in Poland, adapted to their needs and to access specialist medical care. Over 200 other people from foster families from Ukraine were provided with legal support, as well as direct material assistance (including the purchase of basic necessities, medicines, toys, laptops, sports equipment) and assistance in enrolling Ukrainian children in Polish schools. During the holidays, a summer vacation was organized for almost a hundred Ukrainian children.

As part of the immediate direct assistance, addressed mainly to Ukrainian foster families, in June 2022 the Association implemented a special program of assistance in the form of vouchers modeled on the scheme of short-term assistance implemented, among others, by UNHCR in humanitarian crises - the so-called CVA Cash and Voucher Assistance. In addition to foster families, the program also covered Ukrainian families with children with special needs and disabilities and single mothers with more than three children in a difficult financial situation. Sodexo vouchers worth PLN 450 for each family member were distributed through a network of partner organizations associated in the Polish Coalition for Family Foster Care and directly by SOS Polska. The CVA program enabled Ukrainian families scattered throughout Poland to purchase essential items (including food, medicines, clothing, household appliances, RTV, toys, furniture, etc.) in over sixty thousand stores across the country. The project supported over 5,000 people.

In response to the needs of children from Ukraine, the Association has opened a network of SOS Specialist Centers, where Ukrainian children with war experiences and Polish children from foster care receive free psychological, speech therapy and sensory therapy. SOS Specialist Centers are places where children from Ukrainian families with war experiences and from Polish and Ukrainian foster families, struggling with various types of problems in functioning resulting from traumatic experiences and neurodevelopmental disorders, can receive comprehensive, free help. Ukrainian and Polish specialists will help them with care and empathy, so that they can cope with difficulties, rebuild a sense of security and regain the joy of childhood. The program for the development of SOS Specialist Centers open to children from refugee families is the Association's own project, based on many years of experience in working with children and the resources of the organization.

Source: <https://pomagam3.wioskisos.org>

22.7 Polish Medical Mission

According to information up to date at the beginning of 2025 describing the actions taken since the beginning of the full-scale war, the Polish Medical Mission is conducting aid activities for Ukraine and its citizens on the territory of Poland and Ukraine. This includes supporting 10 neonatal hospitals in Ukraine, conducting a project to strengthen healthcare in the field of neonatology and obstetrics, and operating three mobile clinics equipped with the necessary medical equipment and medicines that reach patients in the Kharkiv, Sumy and Kyiv regions. A mobile laboratory is also available to medics and



Polish Medical Mission in Ukraine. Photo: PMM

patients. In Poland, the PMM runs Child-Friendly Spaces - places where specialist integration services in the field of psychological care, legal assistance and translation are coordinated. You can use them for holiday activities and other forms of activity aimed at children and adults. The initiative was financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway under the Norwegian and EEA Funds. The project was continued in 2023 thanks to the support of Shell. At three border crossings on the Ukrainian side, a team consisting of doctors and nurses provided assistance. They were also assisted by paramedics, who had ambulances at their disposal to transport patients in serious condition to hospitals on the Polish side of the border. The points operated in medical containers. The activities on the border were carried out in cooperation with the International Medical Corps.

PMM provided Ukrainian hospitals with 15 thousand doses of vaccine against tetanus and diphtheria, as well as 5 equipped ambulances. Over 120 transports with medical assistance were also delivered. They included: dressings, antibiotics, painkillers, needles, syringes, cannulae, WHO emergency kits, medical furniture, surgical instruments, first aid kits, defibrillators and tactical tourniquets. Transports with medical assistance were sent to 50 Ukrainian hospitals. Each of these facilities provided detailed information on the needs that they were unable to meet on their own. Based on the information collected, orders were prepared for Poland, and then sent to the Ukrainian side in humanitarian transports. The transports consisted mainly of dressings, medicines and therapeutic food for newborns. The initiative is financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway under the Norwegian and EEA Funds. In Kobyłka near Warsaw, in cooperation with Terre des Hommes Italia, activities were carried out to improve the mental health of children with refugee experience. As part of the Iron Help campaign, over 350 project participants from Ukraine and Poland were provided with prosthetics and a rehabilitation program.

Source: pmm.org.pl

23. Aid by Polish entrepreneurs

According to a study published by the Polish Economic Institute and the National Development Bank in May 2022, as many as 53% of Polish companies were involved in various ways in helping Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees who came to Poland. According to data from Statistics Poland, 23.4% of all active business organizations in Poland were involved in 2022 in providing assistance in connection with the war in Ukraine.

The percentage of companies involved in assistance was the highest among large enterprises (86%), the lowest, although still impressive, in microenterprises (40%). Trading companies (57%), service companies (56%) and manufacturing companies (55%) were most involved in assistance.

As reported by the Polish Economic Institute, the most popular form of assistance was material assistance. Companies organized material collections among employees (38% of responses) or purchased necessary items from company funds (27%). 56% of large companies organized collections of food, medical products, clothes and transferred the collected items to points organizing aid for refugees. Similar actions took place only in 22% of small companies. Small companies, in turn, financed aid in kind more often than large companies (36% of small companies compared to 19% of large companies). Other forms of aid include free provision of services or offering products (17% of responses). In particular, it was indicated by transport companies (35%), providing services for transporting refugees from the border to their destinations. Another form is free provision of premises (13%), which was most often indicated by service companies (18%). Aid in the form of organizing corporate volunteer groups (3%) or organizing events, the income from which is transferred to aid for Ukraine (2%) was implemented much less frequently.

Using funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the "Public Diplomacy 2023" grant, the Warsaw Enterprise Institute published the "Compendium of Polish Aid for Ukraine" containing, among other things, a detailed review of actions taken for the benefit of Ukraine and its citizens by Polish entrepreneurs and the private sector.

23.1 Coalition of Polish business for Ukraine

Shortly after the outbreak of the full-scale war, Employers of Poland, Corporate Connections, BNI Poland, the Polish Business Council, the Lewiatan Confederation, the Employers' Union Business Centre Club and the Polish-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce jointly undertook to provide a wide range of support to Ukraine and its citizens.

By cooperating with each other, the companies associated in the above organizations provided premises for accommodation, transport for thousands of refugees, money, medicines, food, clothing, hygiene and sanitary products were transferred. They also provided legal support and translations for Ukrainians and companies that wanted to provide aid to Ukraine. In kindergartens and schools provided by Polish companies, 12 children's homes were established for approx. 2 thousand children evacuated from Ukrainian care centers. In addition to the help that each company provided individually, a collection was also carried out as part of the Help for Ukraine campaign, to which over PLN 3 million was transferred. The total aid exceeded PLN 100 million.

Source: Kompendium polskiej pomocy dla Ukrainy, Warsaw Enterprise Institute

23.2 Polish banks abolished bank fees for transfers to Ukraine

Polish banks: mBank, PKO BP, BNP Paribas, ING Bank Śląski, Santander Bank Polska, Crédit Agricole announced that they are abolishing fees for transfers to Ukraine. Some bank branches have introduced various facilities for Ukrainian refugees, starting from abolishing fees for card services, through making it easier to open an account, and ending with transforming a branch into a refugee accommodation center.

Source: Kompendium polskiej pomocy dla Ukrainy, Warsaw Enterprise Institute

23.3 5000 tons of aid from InPost to Kharkiv

InPost CEO Rafał Brzoska and his wife Omena Mensah donated 5,000 tons of humanitarian aid, including food, medicines and medical supplies, which were sent to the city of Kharkiv, which was under constant Russian fire at the time. InPost also began cooperation with the Polish Red Cross, offering logistical assistance in the transport of humanitarian aid. In the first month of the war, 14 transports to Lviv and Lutsk were completed.

Source: Kompendium polskiej pomocy dla Ukrainy, Warsaw Enterprise Institute; inpost.pl



Photo: InPost

23.4 Medicines for Ukraine from Adamed Pharma and Aflofarm Farmacja Polska

During the first year of the war, Adamed Pharma allocated almost PLN 14.5 million for aid for Ukraine, including medicines and medical aid. The first shipments of medicines reached Ukraine in the first days of the war, reaching hospitals in Lviv, Yavoriv, Uzhorod, Mostyska and Kiev, among others. Adamed's financial donations supported the activities of the Polish Medical Mission, the SOS Children's Villages Association and the Polish Psychiatric Association. During the first year of the war, 2,100 school supplies were provided for Ukrainian children who began their education in Polish schools. The supplies were given to children in Warsaw, the Lublin and Podkarpackie provinces. In addition, the Adamed Foundation made its educational materials, developed so far under the ADAMED SmartUP program, available in Ukrainian. Adamed also provided care to its Ukrainian co-workers and their families. In the face of the ongoing war in Ukraine, Adamed Pharma remained in contact with state institutions and public benefit organizations.

Financial resources and product donations provided by Aflofarm during the first year of the full-scale conflict amounted to over PLN 6.5 million. Aflofarm's humanitarian support was provided both in Ukraine and Poland, and financial assistance and product donations are not the only forms of solidarity shown with Ukraine. Family members of employees fleeing the war could count on Aflofarm's support in finding a place to stay or relocate. Another form of support was the preparation of new jobs for refugees from Ukraine. In addition, the company also offered additional donations of PLN 2,000 for each of the Ukrainian employees, so that they could send them to their loved ones or use them to bring their families to Poland. The company then provided additional psychological support to all employees who needed it – especially those for whom the events at the time were a personal tragedy.

Source: www.adamed.com; www.aflofarm.com.pl

23.5 Food for Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees

The Biedronka chain and its customers, together with the Biedronka Foundation and the Jerónimo Martins Group, have allocated over PLN 65 million for the purpose of providing support to Ukraine. This amount also includes over PLN 7.6 million donated by customers during everyday shopping. Thanks to the generosity of customers, it was possible to transfer over 650 tons of food products to Food Banks and Caritas.



The Schwarz Group, which includes Lidl Polska, has allocated PLN 47,000,000 in support for Ukrainian citizens. Lidl Polska continuously donates products to non-governmental organizations operating in Ukraine, including Caritas Ukraine. In Poland, the chain supports organizations such as Caritas Polska, the Federation of Polish Food Banks and the Polish Humanitarian Action with products and finances. Lidl customers donated 1,093,866 kg of food and the most needed products to special baskets for Caritas Polska and Food Banks. Special discount programs were in force in 16 stores located closest to the border from March 3, 2022 - customers could buy several dozen of the most needed products at a 30% discount.

Source: Kompendium polskiej pomocy dla Ukrainy, Warsaw Enterprise Institute

23.6 Technical maintenance of Ukrainian T-64s

Zakład Mechaniczny Bumar-Łabędy S.A. has begun cooperation with the Ukrboronprom company, establishing a technological center for the repair of Ukrainian T-64 tanks. The agreement provides for cooperation in the field of repairs, overhauls, assembly, production and development of the T-64 tank supply chain, along with other elements of the technological process. In the longer term, cooperation is also planned in the field of technical maintenance of the T-72 and PT 91 tanks transferred by Poland to the Ukrainian side.

Source: Kompendium polskiej pomocy dla Ukrainy, Warsaw Enterprise Institute

23.7 Payment of insurance premiums for Ukrainian drivers

The Polish insurance companies PZU SA and PZU Życie SA allocated PLN 4.5 million for material and financial assistance for Ukraine and refugees from that country. From February 28 to April 24, 2022, PZU also issued 30-day border third party liability insurance policies for Ukrainian refugees' vehicles, taking over the cost of premiums in the total amount of over PLN 7.5 million. The total amount of assistance from the PZU Group for Ukrainians exceeded PLN 12 million. PZU also helps approximately 800 employees of its companies in Ukraine and their families.

Source: Kompendium polskiej pomocy dla Ukrainy, Warsaw Enterprise Institute

23.8 Interior products for refugees and victims in Ukraine

Thanks to IKEA Retail Polska, 230 thousand people in Poland and Ukraine received aid with a declared value of PLN 42,318,000. The company supported over 250 projects for people affected by the war in Ukraine throughout Poland. In close cooperation with UNHCR, IKEA donated over 850 thousand home furnishings to support people who were forced to leave their homes and hometowns. The donation includes over 71 thousand mattresses, 75 thousand bedding sets, 86 thousand blankets, 99 thousand kitchen sets, 205 thousand pillows. Around 200 trucks filled with IKEA products and goods were handed over to UNHCR for use during important aid activities in Kyiv and Lviv.

Source: Kompendium polskiej pomocy dla Ukrainy, Warsaw Enterprise Institute

23.9 Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers

In 2022-2023, the Union of Entrepreneurs and Employers (ZPP), which brings together 21,089 companies employing 772,272 people as of December 2023, devoted PLN 6,900,807.92 from its own budget to help Ukraine and its citizens. Data provided by members to the Union show that member companies spent PLN 441,489,889.14 for the same purposes.

Source: Information provided by ZPP

23.10 Employers of Poland

One of the first actions of Employers of Poland association was the aid campaign described in point 23.1, within which, together with partners (Corporate Connections, BNI Poland, Polish Business Council, Lewiatan Confederation, Business Centre Club Employers' Association, Polish-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce), a collection of goods and money was organized. The funds collected were allocated to purchase essential items that were most needed at the time and agreed with the government. A second collection was also launched, together with the SiePomaga Foundation. Individual contributions were collected in order to gather funds in the form of a fund to help victims of war. Employers of Poland invited employers' associations from other countries (Spain, France) to cooperate in this area. At the same time, a special subpage was created on the website Pracodawcyrp.pl, where anyone could provide material aid via the address pomocdlaukrainy@pracodawcyrp.pl. In total, approximately PLN 4.5 million was collected within both collections. These funds were spent primarily on donations for war victims, the organization of refugee centers, medicines, dressings and medical equipment, and immediate assistance (food, clothing, hygiene products).

Together with its members, Employers of Poland helped organize the hall of a large reception point in Przemyśl (12,000 m²) and Chełm. Refugee traffic services and a warehouse for the transfer of goods and aid to Ukraine, camp beds and mattresses, ambulances and medical assistance, telecommunications equipment, toilets and showers were provided. The Warsaw City Office was also supported in organizing accommodation and stay of refugees from Ukraine. Transport of thousands of refugees from border regions was organized. A website in Ukrainian was created, which was a source of information for Ukrainian citizens seeking shelter and work in Poland. In cooperation with Personnel Service S.A. (a member of Employers of Poland), the Ukrainian version of the workport.pl application was launched, which helps Ukrainian citizens reach Polish employers. An agreement was concluded with the Polish Bar Council. Under this agreement, Ukrainian citizens arriving in Poland were provided with legal assistance in the field of legalization of documents and employment, as well as organization of their stay in Poland. In order to efficiently provide assistance to those in need, with the support of one of the member companies, a 24/7 helpline in Polish and Ukrainian was launched. Polish entrepreneurs organized a number of different aid campaigns for both Ukraine and refugees who sought shelter in Poland. Companies associated with Employers of Poland collected and provided material and service assistance exceeding PLN 500 million. Members of Employers of Poland - business owners, presidents and managers of companies, have been engaging their own resources since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine - providing financial resources, goods, buildings, services, staff.

Employers of Poland were involved in the implementation of such systemic solutions as: a reduced VAT rate of 0% for purposes related to assistance to victims of war, tax relief for entrepreneurs supporting victims of war in Ukraine. They effectively appealed for the creation of a government portal for Ukrainian citizens seeking work in Poland. As a result, the website pracawpolsce.gov.pl was created. They also took an active part in implementing a simplified procedure for the employment of Ukrainian citizens.

Source: Information provided by Employers of Poland

24. Methodological appendix

24.1 The state of research on aid to Ukraine in the world

The main source of information on aid to Ukraine in international public opinion is the "Ukraine Support Tracker" project affiliated with the Kiel Institute for the World Economy. The project covers support provided directly by foreign governments to the Ukrainian government, as well as costs incurred in supporting refugees. It therefore does not include support provided by individuals, companies, churches, or non-governmental organizations. The project is based on press releases, media reports, and reports published by the countries providing aid.

In the last three years, reports issued by government institutions of some countries providing aid to Ukraine have appeared on the international stage, characterized by varying degrees of depth of the data presented. In March 2023, the National Defense and Armed Forces Committee of the French National Assembly published a report (available only in French) on the balance of military aid to Ukraine. The authors, writing about France's specific military support, amounting to 3.2 billion euros a year since the start of the full-scale invasion, divide it into: a) support tailored to Ukraine's operational needs; b) supplies of equipment, weapons, and ammunition; c) comprehensive assistance including training and maintaining operational capabilities. The report is based on hearings before a committee of French army generals and think tank analysts dealing with assistance to Ukraine. However, there is no precise breakdown of costs or inclusion of costs unrelated to military assistance in the report.

The Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands presents data on assistance to Ukraine in the following areas: humanitarian aid, support within the European Union, healthcare, support within the framework of international financial institutions, energy, the business sector, early support for the reconstruction of Ukraine, culture, support for grain price stability, protection of human rights, cybersecurity and military support. The data is presented in the form of a timeline, where each decision to provide support is presented with a specific date. The website also contains annual summaries of assistance to Ukraine. An additional page, available only in Dutch, describes all material and organizational support within the framework of military assistance provided to Ukraine. Up-to-date data on the current value of military assistance is also provided.

The Swedish government divides its support for Ukraine into two main categories: humanitarian and civilian support, and military support. Within the first category, Sweden presents aggregated data on the total value of humanitarian aid, with the last update made on 5 September 2024. The website presents a general description of aid activities and instruments in the areas of humanitarian, financial, crisis management, reform and strategic support, along with the amounts allocated for each of these purposes. Military support is presented chronologically in packages on a separate website, where each package has a specific value. Additionally, the organizational support provided by Sweden to the Ukrainian army is summarized.

The government of the Federal Republic of Germany does not present source data on humanitarian support. On the website describing German support "as long as needed", however, the figure of €33.9 billion spent on aid for Ukraine is mentioned. Some of Germany's commitments are described, for example support for the European Peace Facility, but no specific figures are given. Military support is provided in more detail, with the total value of military support to Ukraine estimated at €5 billion in 2023 and €1.6 billion in 2022. A list of military equipment provided to Ukraine and planned to be provided is also given. Operational support to the Ukrainian Armed Forces is also described.

The United States government has provided detailed data on military aid provided to Ukraine. The Congressional Research Service, the official research institute of the U.S. Congress, has published an analysis entitled "U.S. Security Assistance to Ukraine" which presents the status of American military aid to Ukraine and its legal basis. The publication was last updated on May 22, 2024. The U.S. Department of

Defense issued a press release on April 24, 2024, in which the value of military aid provided to Ukraine was \$44.2 billion since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion. The three-page report provides a detailed overview of the types of weapons provided to Ukraine, which sometimes also includes the amount of equipment transferred. On January 20, 2025, the U.S. Department of State published a publication entitled "U.S. Security Cooperation with Ukraine" which presents an overview of American military equipment provided to Ukraine and the history of military cooperation between the two countries over the past decade, with an emphasis on the period since the beginning of the full-scale Russian invasion.

24.2 The state of research on Polish aid to Ukraine

Until the publication of this report, there has been no document that provides a systematic and comprehensive picture of the aid provided by the Polish state and society to Ukraine and its citizens. However, in the three years since the outbreak of the full-scale war, publications have appeared on many individual aspects of Polish aid.

In 2023, the "Compendium of Polish Aid to Ukraine" was published by the Warsaw Enterprise Institute and financed by the grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs "Public Diplomacy 2023". It contains a list of individual actions taken by Polish business (92 items), the state (79 items), local governments (94 items) and society (134 items), with the category "society" also including foundations and charities. Each item, to the extent possible, is assigned a declared or estimated monetary value of the undertaking. In November 2024, the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland published a communiqué in which estimates of Polish military aid and the overall value of Polish support for Ukraine expressed as a percentage of GDP, as well as descriptive data on some of the actions taken, were published.

In July 2022, the Polish Economic Institute published a report entitled "Polish society's assistance to refugees from Ukraine", in which, using a public opinion survey, an attempt was made to estimate the spontaneous participation of Poles in helping Ukraine and its citizens, as well as the costs incurred by them.

In July 2024, the Polish Academy of Sciences published a report on its activities summarizing actions taken for Ukrainian scientists and science, both on its own and in cooperation with foreign entities.

Statistics conducted annually by public institutions allow us to see the changes that have occurred in Poland during the migration crisis caused by Russian aggression. The Border Guard provides annual statistics on border traffic. Data for 2022 illustrates a significantly increased flow of people across the Polish-Ukrainian border towards Poland in the first months of the full-scale war, as well as a significant number of people returning to Ukraine since mid-2022. The Public Opinion Research Center (CBOS) has been conducting standardized public opinion surveys on Polish-Ukrainian relations for years. In 2022, it conducted a series of dedicated surveys analyzing Polish public opinion on Russian aggression and the movement of refugees from Ukraine, which revealed social sentiment in Poland at key moments of the war.

Polish public statistics quickly responded to the situation related to the mass influx of refugees from Ukraine to Poland by conducting a pilot survey on the needs of refugees at reception points from May to June 2022 and introducing additional questions in a number of ongoing statistical surveys. Additionally, Statistics Poland, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), conducted two editions of a survey on the health of refugees from Ukraine in 2022-2023. The survey covered primarily the health needs of refugees, information on their health status and access to health care, and the characteristics of people by gender and age. The results of the research were presented in the report "Health of refugees from Ukraine in Poland". Statistics Poland continues its work on monitoring the health of people from Ukraine. Data on this subject are presented on the information portal <https://healthofrefugees.stat.gov.pl/>

In the area of the labor market, starting from December 2022, Statistics Poland publishes monthly statistics of an experimental nature on foreigners working in Poland, including Ukrainian citizens. These statistics cover all Ukrainian citizens, not only those who came to Poland after the outbreak of the war. The data are calculated based on administrative sources. The scope of the published information includes data on the number of foreigners working in Poland and their structure by citizenship.

The data is available on the website of Statistics Poland: <https://stat.gov.pl/statystyki-eksperimentalne/kapital-ludzki/cudzoziemcy-wykonujacy-prace-w-polsce-w-pazdzierniku-2024-r,15,23.html>

Statistics Poland obtained information on assistance provided by Polish households to residents of Ukraine in the household budget survey (BBGD) by adding additional questions to the form. The information obtained in the survey was published in the following statistical studies:

"Assistance provided by households to residents of Ukraine in the first half of 2022 in the light of the results of the household budget survey Central Statistical Office / Thematic areas / Living conditions / Income, expenditure and living conditions of the population / Assistance provided by households to residents of Ukraine in the first half of 2022 in the light of the results of the household budget survey

"The situation of households in 2022 in the light of the household budget survey" (subsection on assistance provided to residents of Ukraine). The topic was continued in the signal information containing data for 2023. Central Statistical Office / Thematic areas / Living conditions / Income, expenditure and living conditions of the population / Situation of households in 2023 in the light of the household budget study), will also appear in the next edition containing data for 2024;

Publication in the Statistical analyses series: "Household budgets in 2022" (subsection on assistance provided to residents of Ukraine). The subject matter was continued in the publication containing data for 2023 (Central Statistical Office / Thematic areas / Living conditions / Income, expenditure and living conditions of the population / Situation of households in 2023 in the light of the household budget survey), and will also appear in the next edition containing data for 2024.

As part of the study on the living conditions of the population (EU-SILC), a module was added regarding assistance to people from Ukraine (both refugees to Poland and those remaining in Ukraine), in which questions were asked about the provision of assistance and the forms of this assistance. The questions were formulated as closely as possible to the module included in the household budget survey. (However, the data would require calculation, they are not published.)

An additional, voluntary section was added to the study form Integration activities of social economy entities: "Support undertaken in 2022 in connection with war operations on the territory of Ukraine". The resulting information from the study covering the period from February 24 to March 31, 2022 is available in the signal information:

Link: <https://stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/gospodarka-spoeczna-wolontariat/gospodarka-spoeczna-trzeci-sektor/zaangażowanie-podmiotow-gospodarki-spoecznej-w-pomoc-w-związkowi-ż-działaniami-wojennymi-naterytorium-ukrainy-24-02-31-03-2022-r,21,1.html>

Questions on aid provided to Ukraine were also added to the survey forms entitled "Partners of social dialogue - employers' organizations and trade unions and associations, foundations, economic and professional self-government and social religious units". The results are available in the publication "Non-profit sector in 2022" <https://stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/gospodarka-spoeczna-wolontariat/gospodarka-spoeczna-trzeci-sektor/sektor-non-profit-w-2022-roku,1,9.html> (pp. 104-108).

In the publication "Health and Health Protection", Statistics Poland published data on the use of hospital services by Ukrainian citizens in departments typical of the first reference level and outpatient specialist care (AOS) - for 2022, and in 2023 the analysis was extended to include the use of primary health care (PHC) by Ukrainian citizens. Link: <https://stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/zdrowie/zdrowie/zdrowie-i-ochrona-zdrowia-w-2023-roku,1,14.html>

In the area of local governments, there is a report published in April 2022 by the Union of Polish Metropolises entitled "Urban hospitality: Great growth, challenges and opportunities". The authors used a method to determine the flow of people based on the activity of mobile devices and data from the PESEL register. The document presents qualitative conclusions and quantitative analyses, the primary goal of which was to determine the number of Ukrainians in the central cities and metropolitan areas of 12 UMP cities. This report

presents unique data on the presence of refugees from Ukraine in Polish cities at the peak of migration flow. Among local government units, the "II Report on aid provided to Ukraine by the Lublin Voivodeship" stands out, published in February 2023 by the Department of Development and Strategy of the Marshal's Office of the Lublin Voivodeship in Lublin. It contains detailed statistical data and information on migration flow and aid provided to Ukraine and its citizens in the voivodeship.

24.3 Methodology and goals of the report

The report "Polish Aid to Ukraine 2022-2023" addresses the need for a systematic presentation of the great efforts of the Polish society and state to help Ukraine and its inhabitants. The mobilization of the government and society to help Ukraine in its fight for sovereignty and to provide care to civilians fleeing Russian aggression are one of the brightest moments in Polish-Ukrainian history. Presenting this effort is therefore in the interest of the Polish-Ukrainian partnership and historical memory.

The report is a project of the Council for Cooperation with Ukraine at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland. The Council is an auxiliary body of the Prime Minister. It was established by Order No. 41 of the Prime Minister of April 5, 2024 on the Council for Cooperation with Ukraine. On April 9, 2024, Prime Minister Donald Tusk appointed as chairman Prof. Paweł Kowal, Member of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland. The Council's tasks include ensuring the coherence of information on actions taken to rebuild Ukraine. The Council analyses proposals for actions to support Ukraine in the process of rebuilding the country and proposes solutions that will support Poland's cooperation with Ukraine; monitors steps taken in the structures of the European Union related to supporting Ukraine; reviews and analyses the actions of government administration bodies, other state institutions and initiatives of various groups that will support Ukraine in the process of reconstruction, in order to develop the best effects of the actions taken. Thanks to the substantive and organizational support of the Council, it was possible to collect information on the assistance provided to Ukraine by the Polish state and society in order to prepare it in a single report.

This report is the first comprehensive study of the issue. It covers the assistance provided to Ukraine and its citizens by the Polish government, local governments and society. Such a broad approach to the subject was possible thanks to access to the reporting materials of the Polish government and the cooperation of a number of public and private institutions that provided the Council for Cooperation with Ukraine with information for the report being prepared. Due to the almost unlimited scope of the issue under investigation and for the report to be accessible and understandable, it was not possible to present in detail all the actions taken by all entities involved in the assistance, both in the governmental and non-governmental sphere. For these reasons, the issues presented in the report are selective and illustrative in nature, their aim is to present the reader with the scale of the assistance provided and its most important aspects, in order to enable understanding and appreciation of the phenomenon.

At the same time, the report presents an approximation of the Polish government's expenditure on aid activities, developed on the basis of reporting materials from ministries and state institutions, and an estimate of the aid provided by Polish society in the non-governmental dimension. The first amount is compared with the expenditure on direct aid to Ukraine and support provided to refugees from Ukraine by other leading countries in the period 2022-2023, and presented as a percentage of GDP. Data on the expenditures of the United States, Germany and Great Britain used in this comparison were provided for the report by the Kiel Institute, which sets international standards. For consistency in calculating the percentage of GDP, the Kiel Institute methodology was used, which expresses the amount of aid for the period 2022-2023 provided by each country as a percentage of the given country's GDP in 2021.

In the area of government aid, the report is based on the draft report on the implementation of the Act on Assistance to Ukraine and Its Citizens in Connection with the Armed Conflict in the Territory of this Country, to which ministries involved in aid activities contributed. The institutions that contributed to the report include: the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Digital Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of National Education, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ministry of Climate and Environment, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the Ministry of National

Defense, the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Policy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Development and Technology, the Ministry of Sport and Tourism, the Ministry of Justice, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration. In addition, separate information for the report was provided by the Marek Karp Centre for Eastern Studies, the Social Insurance Institution (ZUS), Statistics Poland (GUS), the Ministry of National Defense and the Government Agency for Strategic Reserves. Due to the comprehensive nature of the report, i.e. involving most state bodies, the team presents a conservative approximation of the amount spent to help Ukraine and its citizens, and counteract the negative effects of the Russian aggression.

In the area of local government aid, the report is based mainly on information provided at the request of the Chairman of the Council by local government units through the following local government associations: the Union of the Voivodeships of the Republic of Poland, the Union of Polish Counties, the Union of Rural Municipalities of the Republic of Poland. Information contributing to the report was sent by all provincial marshal's offices and almost one hundred counties and communes. In addition, the report was enriched by already published analyses and information such as the report of the Union of Polish Metropolises entitled "Urban hospitality: Great growth, challenges and opportunities" and the database of the Union of Polish Cities entitled "Cities for Ukraine".

The chapter on non-governmental aid was based on information provided at the request of the Council by individual institutions, as well as on public sources. The description of civic aid is based on a study by the Polish Economic Institute from July 2022 entitled "Polish society's help for refugees from Ukraine", the "Compendium of Polish Aid for Ukraine" developed by the Warsaw Enterprise Institute and other publicly available media reports and analyses. In order to present the important role played by churches in helping Ukraine and its citizens, the Chairman of the Council asked for information from church organizations operating in Poland. Thanks to the cooperation of the Polish Episcopal Conference and the Evangelical-Augsburg Church in the Republic of Poland, it was possible to present the help provided by Caritas Poland and diocesan Caritas, as well as the Lutheran community, and also to present the local and parish dimension of help thanks to the example of the Retreat and Formation House in Warsaw in Bielany. Additionally, information about the involvement of the Knights of Columbus and the Association of Polish Knights of Malta was obtained from public sources. Information about the help of humanitarian organizations was obtained from publicly available sources, which are assigned to each item. The chapter on Polish entrepreneurs was based on both publicly available sources and information provided at the request of the Chairman of the Council by Employers of the Republic of Poland and the Association of Entrepreneurs and Employers.

The estimate of the value of assistance provided to refugees from Ukraine by Polish society includes assistance in the form of support for food, clothing and accommodation, as well as the value of funds transferred to refugees in the form of direct transfers or participation in public collections. The value of items and articles purchased for refugees, the value of accommodation and food offered to refugees, as well as the value of other forms of support are also included. The basic assumption is that the value of assistance decreases as more refugees take up employment and the need for assistance decreases. The model consists of two components. First, the diffusion model, i.e. determining the rate at which refugees move from the group of unemployed to employed. Second, the model of the decrease in assistance, i.e. determining how the amount of assistance changes depending on the increasing share of employed people.

In the diffusion model, we assume that in April 2022 (Q2 2022) the share of employed people based on the work of Jan Gromadzki and Piotr Lewandowski "Refugees from Ukraine on the Polish labor market". In addition, when creating the model, we use data from the Polish Economic Institute and the Central Statistical Office.

$$f_0 = 7\%.$$

The model takes the form of a continuous transition process, in which the share of those employed in time t (months from Q2 2022) is described by the equation:

$$f_{\text{prac}}(t) = f_0 + (1 - f_0) [1 - e^{-\lambda t}],$$

where:

f_0 – initial share of workers

λ – conversion rate constant, determined from observed data

The data in the model of the decrease in the value of aid are based on the research of the Polish Economic Institute "Aid from Polish society for refugees from Ukraine", according to which in the second quarter of 2022, grassroots social aid amounted to approx.:

$$D_0 = 9.1 \times 10^9 \text{ PLN.}$$

As the share of people working increases, the need for assistance decreases. We model this using exponential decay:

$$D(t) = D_0 \cdot \exp [-\delta (f_{\text{prac}}(t) - f_0)],$$

where:

δ – a sensitivity parameter that determines how quickly aid decreases in response to an increase in the share of people employed.

The adopted model combines the exponential diffusion (churn) approach (equivalent to a geometric decline in discrete time intervals) with the exponential decline model of financial aid. This makes it possible to forecast the amount of aid quarterly until the end of 2023, with the change in the level of aid resulting from the decreasing number of unemployed refugees.

Kwartal	Wsparcie w miliardach PLN
Q2 2022	9.10
Q3 2022	4.52
Q4 2022	2.50
Q1 2023	1.51
Q2 2023	0.98
Q3 2023	0.68
Q4 2023	0.50
Łącznie	19.80

CATEGORIES OF GOVERNMENT AID PROVIDED TO UKRAINE, ITS CITIZENS AFFECTED BY WAR, AND TO PREVENT THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

BASIS FOR CALCULATIONS BASED ON SOURCES

HUMANITARIAN AID

- Social benefits: PLN 2.4 billion (2022), PLN 2.2 billion (2023)
- Accommodation and meals: PLN 9.2 billion (2022), PLN 8 billion (2023)
- Education: PLN 2 billion (2022), PLN 3.1 billion (2023)
- Healthcare: PLN 1.3 billion (2022), PLN 1.9 billion (2023)
- Administration, logistics, material assistance: PLN 6 billion (2022), PLN 10 billion (2023)

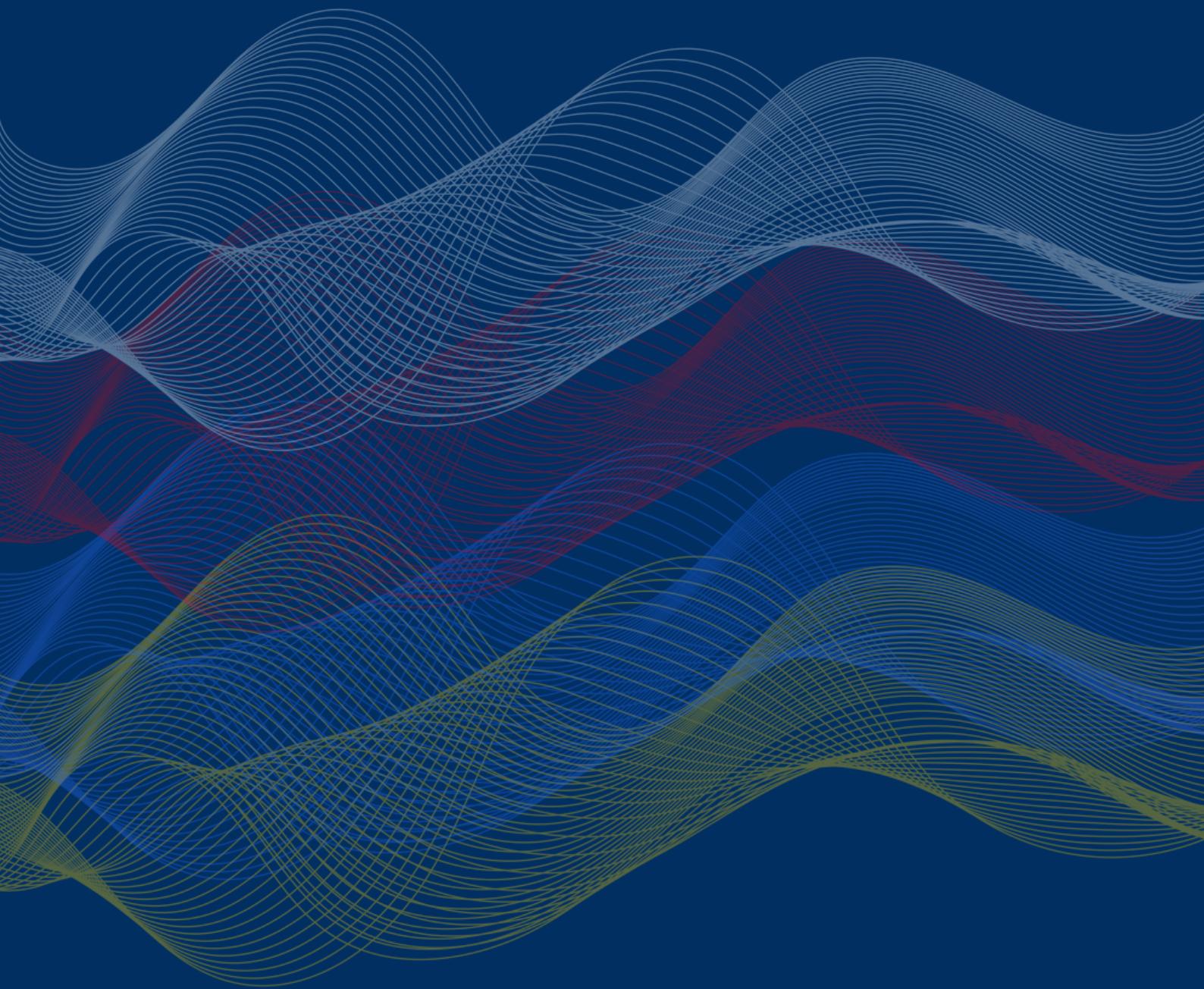
ECONOMIC AID

- Financial guarantees for companies affected by the conflict in Ukraine: PLN 15 billion (2022), PLN 22 billion (2023)
- Crisis support for the agricultural sector: PLN 3 billion (2022), PLN 5.8 billion (2023)
- Infrastructure and energy: PLN 100 million (2022), PLN 200 million (2023)

MILITARY AID

- From the beginning of 2022 to July 2024, Poland transferred 44 packages of various weapons and ammunition to Ukraine. Their total value, along with other forms of support for the Ukrainian Armed Forces, particularly in the form of training, logistics, supplies, maintenance and repairs, and medical assistance, exceeded €4 billion.

approximate amounts



Chancellery of the Prime Minister
Republic of Poland



ISBN 978-83-972250-1-5