WHAT IS THE PROTECTION SECTOR?

The Protection Sector provides technical guidance and oversight to ensure effective, coherent and predictable interventions to support the Government of Poland in its efforts to respond to the protection needs of asylum-seekers, refugees and stateless persons fleeing Ukraine, with due considerations for their age, gender and diversity.

The Protection Sector encompasses several distinct Sub-Sectors and Working Groups, including the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Sector, the Child Protection Sub-Sector and the Counter-Trafficking Working Group.

The Protection Sector is comprised of national and international organizations operating in Poland and is co-chaired by UNHCR and the national NGO Halina Nieć Legal Aid Centre.

2025 RRP – PROTECTION SECTOR KEY MESSAGES AND ACTIVITIES

Ensuring Continued Protection, Legal Status, and Rights for Refugees in Poland

- Advocate for **meaningful protection-oriented policy** solutions and strengthen coordination and information-sharing to ensure a **cohesive** and **impactful response**.
- Strengthen national systems by **advocating** for **legislative** and **systemic changes** to ensure refugees' protection and inclusion.
- Expand efforts to reach **918,778 individuals** with comprehensive protection services, advocating for robust legal frameworks that guarantee protection support across the country.

Promoting Social Cohesion and Raising Awareness among Refugees and Host Communities in Poland

- Enhance awareness and understanding of protection, child protection, counter-trafficking and GBV issues among refugees and host communities.
- Collaborate among key stakeholders, including government counterparts, civil society, host and refugee communities to **strengthen social cohesion** and **social inclusion** in programming.
- Prioritize initiatives that **foster mutual understanding**, reduce social exclusion, and create opportunities for positive interaction between refugees and host communities.

Expanding Refugees' Access to National Systems and Strengthening Referral Pathways to Services in Poland

- Work closely with the Polish Government and local actors **to integrate refugees into national systems** like healthcare, education, child protection and social services while **strengthening referral pathways** for refugees at local and regional level.

Ensuring Protection from all Forms of Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation for Refugee Children in Poland

- Ensure implementation of **Safeguarding standards** and **Child-friendly approaches** are present in all facilities and activities involving children, while delivering specialized support for **282,441 children** through child protection services.
- Enhance the **care** and **protection** for **Unaccompanied and Separated Children**, including for **children evacuated from residential care facilities in Ukraine**, to ensure that all children living in Poland benefit from the same standards of care and national protection mechanisms.

Supporting, Protecting and Empowering Vulnerable Refugees in Poland

- Continue **prioritizing the protection** and **empowerment** of the most vulnerable groups, particularly people with disabilities, older people, LGBTIQ+ individuals, Roma community, unaccompanied children and gender-based violence survivors and individuals at risk.
- Ensuring that **28,594 individuals** have access to specialized GBV programs, including GBV prevention and risk mitigation interventions at community level.

Empowering Local and National Actors for Sustainable Refugee Response in Poland

- Build on previous investments to further strengthen the capacity of Polish civil society, central and local authorities in their response to refugee needs.
- Expand **capacity-building initiatives** for national actors, enhancing coordination and information-sharing across sectors. Equip local actors with the tools necessary to address refugees' complex needs sustainably.

Additional information:

SCAN HERE for Protection Monitoring 2024 Dashboard

SCAN HERE for Socio-Economic Insight Survey 2024 - Dashboard

SCAN HERE for Report on Vulnerability to Trafficking in Persons in the Context of War in Ukraine, 2024

SCAN HERE for SEIS 2024 - Result Analysis Report

SCAN HERE for Protection Sector available information and data

SCAN HERE for GBV Sub-Sector available information and data

SCAN HERE for Child Protection Sub-Working Group available information and data

SCAN HERE for Counter-trafficking Working Group available information and data