NGO Forum Razem

Three Years “Razem” 2022-2025

NGO Forum 2022-2025. Three years "Razem"

Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH) hosted NGO Forum “Razem” from 2022 to 2025.
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Warsaw, March 2025

NGO Forum 2022-2025. Three years "Razem"

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Acknowledgments

Summarizing three years of joint work by over 200 Members and Observers of the NGO Forum "Razem" has been a tremendous challenge. Deciding how to structure these acknowledgments has proven to be an even greater one. While we will name only the most direct collaborators, this work would not have been possible without all of you—without all of us.

First and foremost, thank you to all the Members of the NGO Forum "Razem" who have put their trust in our network and its capacity to grow and achieve collective goals. The engagement of Community-Based and Refugee-Led Organizations, local NGOs from across Poland, and INGOs took various shapes and forms. Special thanks go to the Members who delegated their representatives to co-chair the Working Groups (Grupa Granica, NRC, Right to Protection, Oxfam, Sfera Jedności, Jedność Foundation, PFM, CARE, Plan International, PAH) and the Technical Advisory Group (CDAC Network, CLEAR Global, Talk to Loop, Ashoka: Innovators for the Public).

Our gratitude goes to the Advisory Board Members across two terms for their strategic guidance: Joanna Kucharczyk-Jurgielewicz (Ashoka), Igor Lisin (Foundation Ukraine), Neil Brighton (NRC), Agnieszka Kosowicz (PFM), Marcin Kurnik (Foundation Q), Piotr Sasin (CARE), Monika Miłowska (To Proste Foundation), Celina Kretkowska-Adamowicz (Save the Children), Natalia Boyko (Talk to Loop), Beata Dolińska, and Agata Czarniawska, who have also supported us internally at PAH.

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We acknowledge the strategic decision by the leadership of PAH and Ashoka to establish the NGO Forum "Razem" just days after the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine—an idea put forward by Beata Dolińska and Joanna Kucharczyk-Jurgielewicz.

We express our gratitude to our financial partners. Our work was made possible thanks to CARE International in Poland, Oxfam Foundation in Poland, Plan International in Poland, UN Women, and the EEA Financial Mechanism and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 Bilateral Fund. Details of these projects can be found on the previous page. Technical support was provided by Tech to the Rescue, while NetGuru powered our website for most of the three years, while others pitched in punctually.

The success of the NGO Forum is the result of the dedication of countless individuals within Polish Humanitarian Action, its hosting agency—whether through brainstorming, fundraising, managing partnerships, preparing contracts, ensuring the quality of the Secretariat's work, or overseeing daily operations. Special thanks go to Kalina Kabat, Capacity Building Coordinator; Marta Krasa-Niedziółka, Procurement & Logistics Officer; and Zuzanna Pajączkowka, Financial Coordinator for the vast majority of the NGO Forum's projects. And, of course, to Tatiana Olivero, Poland's Head of Programmes.

Lastly, a high five to us! Marta Wójcik, Magdalena Lewicka, Rita Ster, and I have had the great privilege of serving as the NGO Forum Secretariat over this period.

Joanna "Aśka" Warchał-Beneschi
NGO Forum "Razem" Coordinator

Joanna Warchał-Beneschi

NGO Forum 2022-2025: Three years “Razem”

NGO Forum “Razem” (meaning “Together”) held its first meeting on **March 1, 2022**—not even a week after the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine. It was established as a joint effort between Polish Humanitarian Action and Ashoka: Innovators for the Public, with financial support from CARE, to support civil society actors responding to the needs of refugees arriving from Ukraine. Technical support came from Tech to the Rescue. Soon, NGO Forum became a recognized network mechanism under the Refugee Coordination Forum/Sector Coordination once introduced in Poland.

In January 2023, the Terms of Reference were introduced, expanding the scope of the NGO Forum’s work so that it could become a space for multilateral cooperation among NGOs active in migration and integration. This enabled the co-creation of solutions for people with refugee or migration experience in Poland, as well as for Polish society. The Forum welcomed local and international NGOs and CSOs with short-, mid-, and long-term involvement in Poland to **connect, coordinate**, and **strengthen** their **capacities**. NGO Forum was also open to Observers, especially from UN agencies and academia. By March 2025, over 200 organizations had registered in the NGO Forum.

Throughout its three years, the NGO Forum adapted to the needs of its Members. Initially, regular meetings were held three times a week, but this frequency was later reduced to biweekly, then bimonthly. From September 2023, they transitioned into monthly Plenary Meetings, always held on the first Wednesday of the month at noon. Alongside the continuous work of the Secretariat—sharing updates, connecting Members to resources, and answering queries—this made the NGO Forum a fixed point, a reliable anchor amid the stormy sea that Members had to navigate, as one leader of a Refugee-Led Organization summarized.

In consultations at the end of 2022, Members expressed a need for the NGO Forum to facilitate structured conversations and help them achieve defined, tangible goals. This led to the creation of several Working Groups: Partnership, Belarus Border and Detention Centers, Advocacy, Combating Disinformation, Refugee-Led Organizations, and INGO Country Directors Coordination, as well as the Technical Advisory Group on Communication and Community Engagement. Additionally, the NGO Forum Coordinator initiated and co-chaired the Resource Mobilization Task Force under the Heads of Agencies.

The use of online meetings enabled NGOs from across Poland to be represented in the Forum, while Polish-English simultaneous translation was vital in fostering a horizontal space for exchange among a diverse group of Members and Observers. For specific meetings, Polish-Ukrainian translation was also provided. Online meetings were complemented by in-person opportunities through capacity-strengthening events and the biannual multistakeholder conferences, ***Stronger Together***, to jointly address current challenges and brainstorm future strategies.

The final plenary meeting of the NGO Forum “Razem” took place on **March 12, 2025**, as the NGO Forum passed the baton to the **Mapuj Pomoc Network**, hosted by the To Proste Foundation.

The war in Ukraine continues.

What does it mean to do things “Razem”, together?

We asked around.

Acting, helping, and coexisting gain true meaning and value only when bound by a strong glue—the essence of Together. Together, we can achieve more. Together, we can make our voices heard. Together, we can do anything. Let us continue, and let us always be Together.

Maciej Bagiński
President of the Board
Polish Humanitarian Action

When aid organizations collaborate, they maximize their resources, learning from one another organically and efficiently*. The flow of information, knowledge, and resources between organizations, stakeholders, and activists thrives when we work together. Acting collectively also means shaping a shared narrative—because when we unite for a common cause, our message becomes stronger, clearer, and more impactful. Working together also fosters deep human connections, where—despite our differences and challenges—we exercise the "muscle of empathy" and find unity in both our vulnerabilities and strengths for the common good. This, in turn, strengthens social cohesion and resilience at the very foundation of society.*

Together, we have achieved lasting social change. From the beginning of our response to Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, we have consistently emphasized that refugees are—and should always be—empowered to shape their own futures even in forced migration. They should be able to contribute to and reach their full potential for the collective benefit of the societies we are building together, as well as for those in Ukraine who need our support.

This approach to refugees was once seen as innovative, but it has now set a lasting standard for how displaced people are treated—a shift from which there is no turning back. What we have achieved together is effective integration and social inclusion, enabling entrepreneurial, proactive, and empowered individuals to contribute to the economies of many countries. We have prevented numerous social tensions and crises, and in many places, our work remains essential in mitigating ongoing risks.

Together, we are moving toward an uncertain future. ***In a world of rapid change, unpredictability, information overload, and disinformation, the best thing we can do is stay united—coming together around shared humanitarian, democratic, and human rights values****. Interpersonal and inter-organizational networks that transcend sectoral silos are not only effective but also economically viable and socially responsible. In the face of diverse challenges, they serve as a safeguard for society in Poland, the region, Europe, and the world.* ***We are—and continue to strengthen ourselves as—the "connective tissue" that upholds the resilience and agility of the entire social fabric****.*

Joanna Kucharczyk Jurgielewicz
Eastern Partnership Manager
Ashoka: Innovators for the Public

“Together” means working in unity on behalf of those affected by the refugee and migration crisis, regardless of the size or nature of the organization—whether large, small, medium, international, or local. ***We share a common commitment: to collaborate, share knowledge and information, undertake joint initiatives, and speak with one voice****.*

We successfully united key organizations working to support refugees and migrants in Poland. Through joint coordination, we enhanced the transparency of communication among ourselves, recognized our common ground, and discovered how much we can achieve when we work together. We strengthened each other's capacities, expanded the reach of our activities, clarified our demands, reached a wider audience, and made a tangible impact.

We will continue to work with professionalism and transparency, fostering a strong sense of community. Together, we remain ready to respond responsibly to future crises in Poland and to effectively support those in need.

Celina Kretkowska-Adamowicz
Acting Response Director
Save the Children in Poland

For us, being "Together" is about more than collaboration—it is about building trust, sharing knowledge and resources, and creating sustainable networks of support. Through the Forum, we have achieved a lot: we have built strong relationships, developed standards and recommendations, and our advocacy, training, and research activities have had a meaningful impact on the social sector. **What we have created is not just projects but also a sense of community and solidarity in action**.

We continue to face new challenges in a rapidly changing reality filled with crises, but we know that we can count on and support each other. Together, we move forward, believing that the power of collaboration is the key to lasting change.

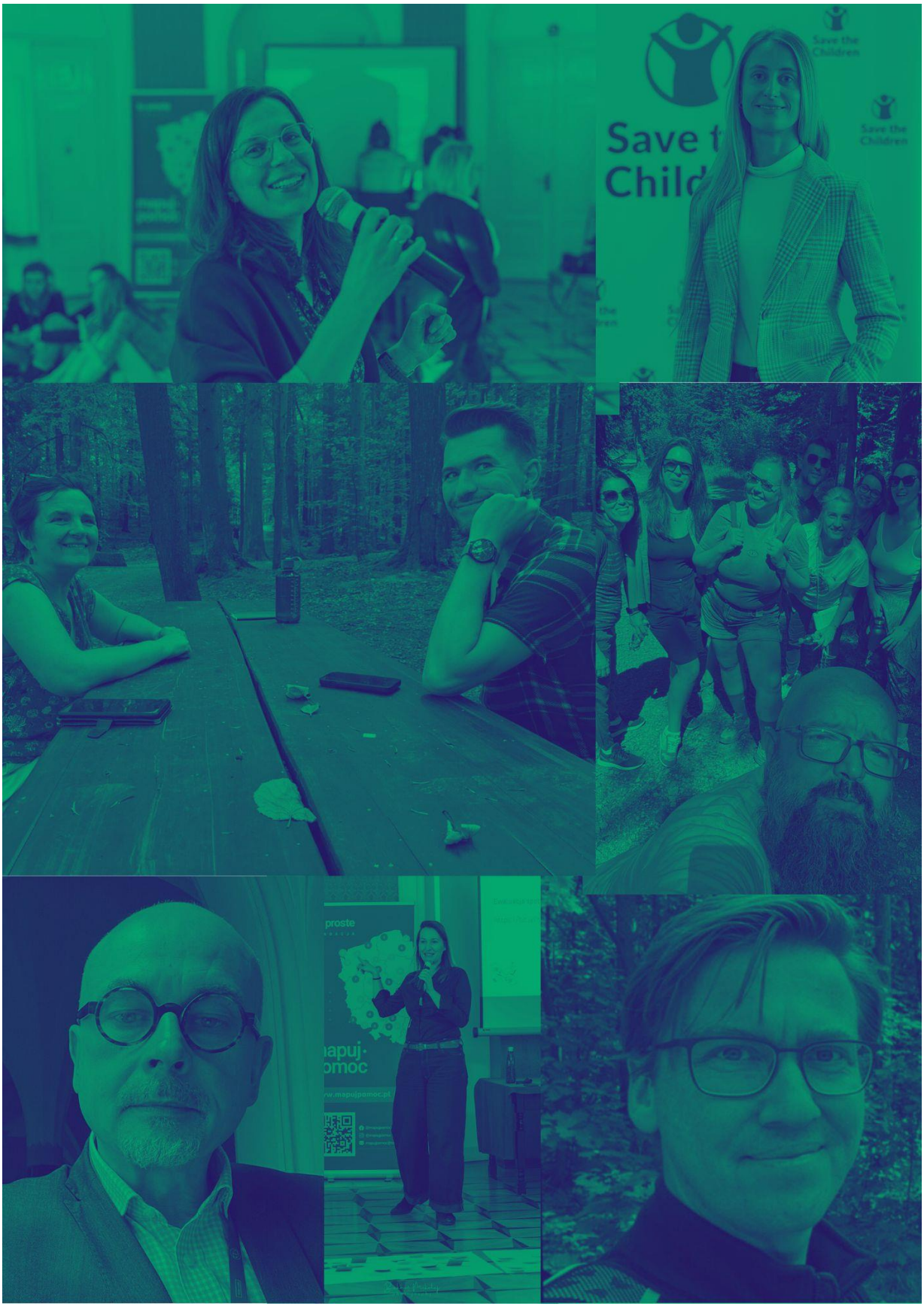
Igor Lisin
Vice-President of the Board
Foundation Ukraine

I greatly valued the opportunity to partner with the Forum Razem and international organizations (INGOs) as ***we responded to the crisis side by side.*** *The dynamics of relationships with experienced, large organizations were sometimes challenging for local organizations, but the space to meet and talk helped us understand each other and better plan joint solutions to problems on the ground.* ***The multiple perspectives were both valuable and enlightening, leading to concrete results****—such as the jointly developed* Voluntary Guidelines *for building partnerships between organizations.*

I also appreciated our joint advocacy work, the shared sense of progress toward a common goal, and the expansion of our network to include new partners from all over Poland. More challenges lie ahead. Regardless of the future developments in Ukraine, we know that migration movements will continue. We expect both returns and departures from Ukraine—we just don't yet know the scale.

Forum Razem has allowed us to better understand the network in which we operate. Our shared experience has prepared us all for what is to come. ***By working together, we are—without a doubt—wiser****.*

Agnieszka Kosowicz
President of the Board
Polish Migration Forum


Save the Children
proste

Being part of the NGO Advisory Group of Forum Razem has been a valuable experience for me. Working together allowed me not only to exchange knowledge but also to collaboratively create more coherent and effective actions for migration and integration. ***To act together is not only to join forces but also to embrace diverse perspectives and turn them into real change****. Together, we are building a space where organizations can support each other, learn, and strengthen one another's work. This collaboration has also been an opportunity for an intensive exchange of experiences with international organizations—we have learned best practices from them, but they, too, have been inspired by our local practices and approaches, based on a deep understanding of context.*

We have successfully created a strong network of organizations that not only respond to migration challenges but also actively shape integration policy in Poland*. We have developed coordination mechanisms that facilitate cooperation and increase the effectiveness of our actions. Thanks to our joint efforts, our voice has become more audible at both national and international levels. I hope that the next years will bring even better coordination and strengthening of activities at the systemic level. Mapuj Pomoc is a step toward even greater availability of support and better use of the potential of community organizations. I am convinced that what we have developed as a Forum will remain a solid foundation for future initiatives and further strengthening of the NGO sector.*

Marcin Kurnik
President
Foundation Q

For me, the power of the Forum was that ***it brought together different organisations and individuals to share their specific expertise and experiences****. With this, the priorities and initiatives that resulted were well informed and targeted. Local organisations brought their experience and expertise of the context, their networks, and their ideas, while the international actors brought additional capacity, resources, and experience from managing refugee crisis elsewhere.*

From its inception in early 2022, the NGO Forum was about coordinated and principled humanitarian action that complemented the UNHCR-led Refugee Coordination Model. Its cross-cutting approach focused on critical organisational priorities, including connecting local and international actors through the Partnership Working Group, the creation of the Belarus Border and Detention Centre Working Group for principled action and advocacy at the Belarus border, and the Resource Mobilization Task Force to quantify and advocate for continued and increased funding for local organisations. As the Advisory Board, as the Working Groups, and as the wider Forum, much was accomplished over three years and the different activities and initiatives will serve as a helpful reference point for other locally-led humanitarian responses.

Neil Brighton
Country Director
Norwegian Refugee Council

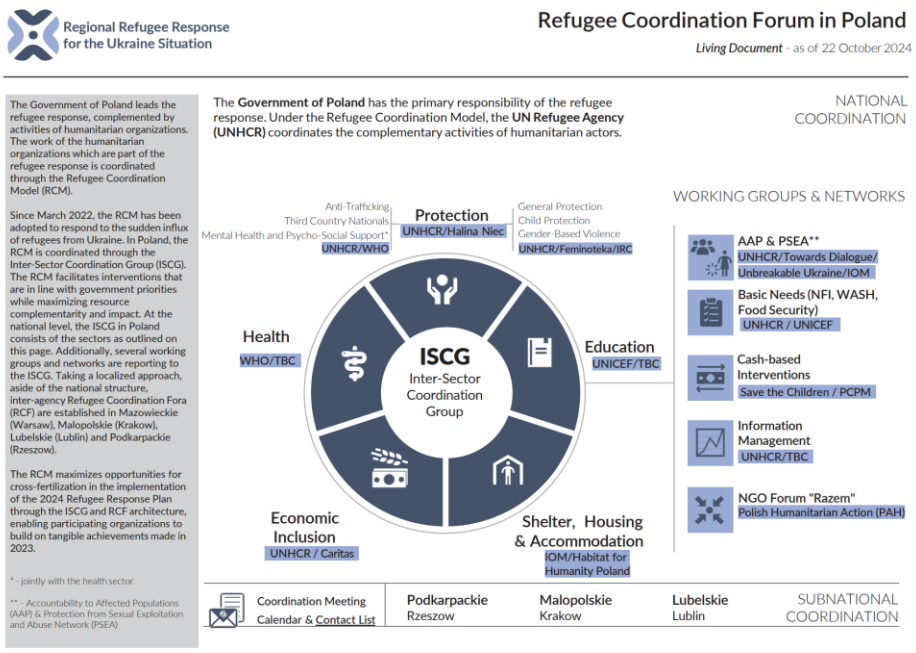
Lastly, to do things “Razem”, together, is to be a part of the ecosystem. See what others are doing and reflect on your own added value. Hence, the decision was taken to merge with Mapuj Pomoc Network, hosted by To Proste Foundation, which had mapped similar long-term goals and has the potential to ensure the sustainability of the coordination among the NGOs.

What does it mean to “do things” together?

Humanitarian Coordination

The idea for creating the NGO Forum “Razem” came from PAH's international experience and active participation in NGO Fora in other contexts. Applying a model of cooperation among NGOs that was recognizable to international agencies made it easier for them to find and join as Members and Observers (for more on NGO Fora, check ICVA resources).

NGO Forum became a recognized network under the Refugee Coordination Forum, and the NGO Forum Coordinator participated in meetings with both the Inter-Sector Coordination Group and the Heads of Agencies. This facilitated good information exchange and enabled joint initiatives. For example, the NGO Forum Coordinator co-chaired the Resource Mobilization Task Force, through which a Funding Needs of Polish NGOs survey was conducted in 2023 and 2024. The results of this survey were used in advocacy efforts to mobilize funding for L/NNGOs.



Organigram Inter-Sector Coordination Group / RCF, via Operational Data Portal

Working Groups under the NGO Forum “Razem”

Following the Terms of Reference of the NGO Forum, every two Members could call for the creation of a Working Group on a given topic. The request could also come from the Advisory Board, regarding matters of strategic importance. Then the Secretariat, led by the NGO Forum Coordinator, assessed if the topic was not being addressed already in another coordination space. When it was confirmed that there would be no duplication, the Secretariat decided in which capacity it could support the new Working Group (ie. minutes taking, providing translation) and the first meeting would be called for. Usually, the Members initiating would present themselves to be confirmed by others as co-chairs. A good practice was to have one L/NNGO and one INGO co-chair for most of the groups.

Working Groups under the NGO Forum “Razem”:

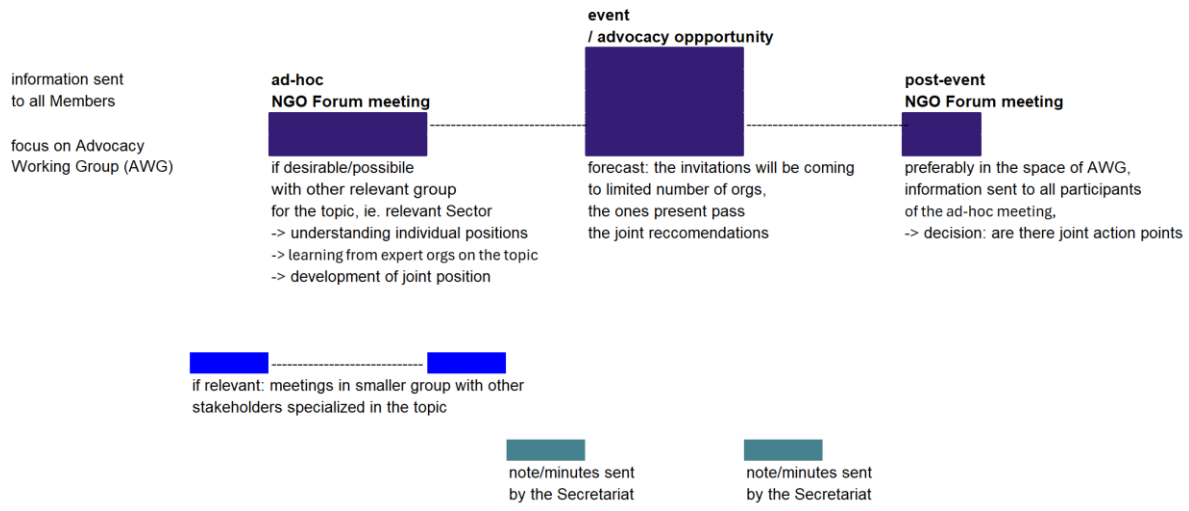
- Belarus Border and Detention Centers Working Group
- Advocacy Working Group
- Partnership Working Group
- Refugee-Led Organization Working Group
- Working Group on Combating Disinformation
- INGO Country Directors Coordination Working Group
- Technical Advisory Group on Communication and Community Engagement

Belarus Border and Detention Centers Working Group

Established in February 2023, it was the first Working Group to start operating under the NGO Forum umbrella. The objective was to familiarize the international actors that entered Poland under the Ukraine Refugee Response with the situation at the Belarus border and build a space for information sharing among them and L/NNGOs operating in the forests and detention centers. It allowed for trust-building, more visibility of the topic, and the establishment of new partnerships. After a year, the Working Group merged with the Protection Sector, as it broadened its scope, expanding from covering solely the Ukraine Response. To ensure a meaningful transition, the NGO Forum co-organized quarterly meetings on the issue with the Protection Sector until the end of 2024.

Advocacy Working Group

In 2024, a need arose to coordinate NGO advocacy towards the new Government of Poland. The Advocacy Working Group (AWG) was created, and it soon adopted a modus operandi that allowed for ad hoc coordination in response to consultations with civil society, often announced at the last moment (see below). The joint Members' effort was supported by the Advocacy & Communication Specialist from the NGO Forum Secretariat and the Advisory Board Advocacy Focal Point to ensure coherence between the different NGO Forum streams. The AWG's advocacy products were distributed without branding but with the signatures of the NGOs that wanted to express support for a given initiative.



Procedure anticipating the need for a participatory process when working in an ad hoc manner, in response to the organization of meetings/events/consultations announced by the stakeholder.

Throughout a year of existence the AWG Members collaborated on a variety of topics and shared information regarding their individual advocacy priorities in bi-weekly meetings. Due to the fact that in 2024 the Migration Policy was developed and adopted by the Government, it became the focus of the AWG. The most notable action was the development of a *Statement of I/NGOs in response to the Migration Strategy in Poland and in support of the right to international protection*, signed by 111 organizations operating in Poland, along with European organizations expressing solidarity.

The Working Group agreed to continue under the Mapuj Pomoc Network, in coordination with the Advisory Board Members who were nominated on behalf of the NGO Forum "Razem" to join the Working Group with the Ministry of Interior, set to commence in April 2025.

Technical Advisory Group on Communication and Community Engagement

The Group was established in January 2023 to support the Membership's accountability to affected populations and ensure that responsible and well-thought-through communication was being issued by the Secretariat. In collaboration with CLEAR Global and CDAC Network, a series of six workshops on *Cooperation with people, not only for people. How to be accountable in aid projects? Introduction to communication and community engagement in the work with people with a refugee background* were conducted (Warsaw (twice), Gdansk, Krakow, Lublin, Rzeszow).

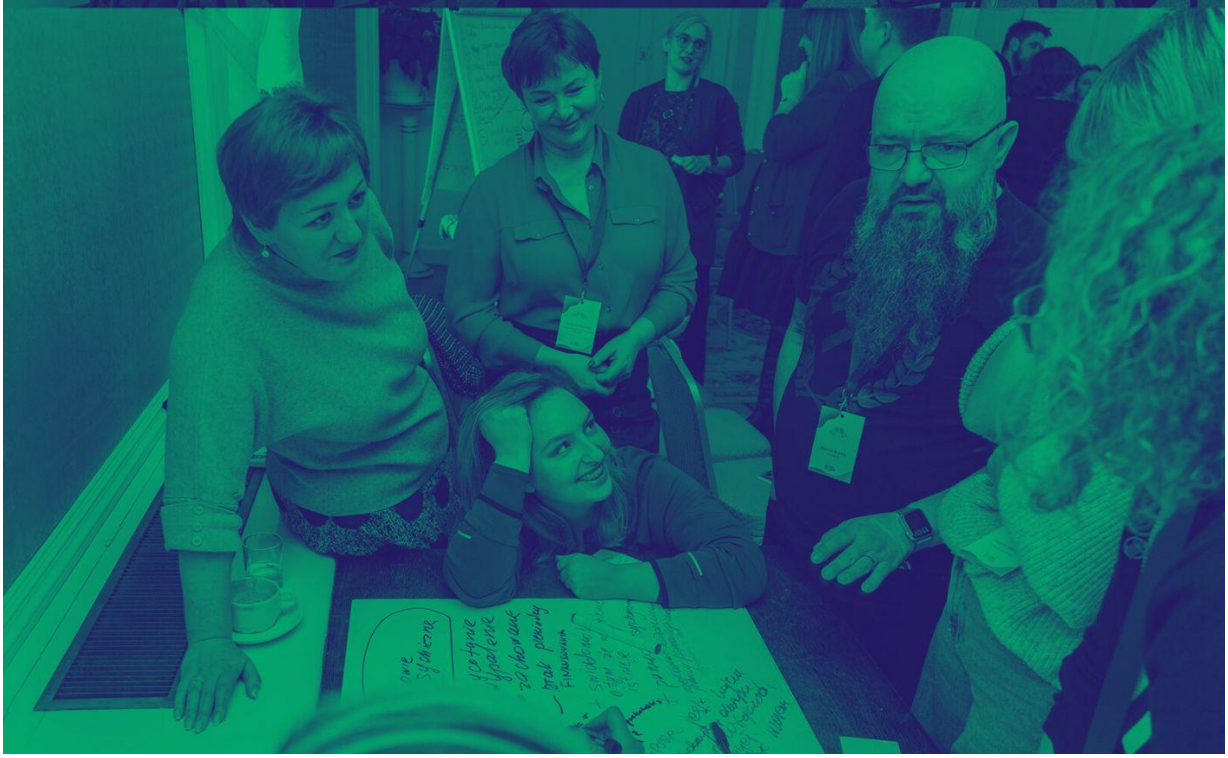
Additionally, a series of articles on Communication and Community Engagement was published on the most popular platform for Polish NGOs, ngo.pl, by the Members of the Technical Advisory Group.

→ *Communication and Community Engagement*: *Komunikacja i zaangażowanie społeczności dotkniętej kryzysem*, Katarzyna Błasińska, CDAC Network
→ *Feedback mechanisms: Mechanizmy do składania feedbacku. Jak działają i dlaczego są ważne?*, Natalian Boyko, Talk to Loop
→ *Language and translation*s: *Język i tłumaczenia w projektach pomocowych*, Agnieszka Macura, CLEAR Global

Refugee-Led Organization Working Group

In October 2023, NGO Forum "Razem" organized a full-day workshop for women leaders of Refugee-Led Organizations (RLO), with participants coming from various locations in Poland: Mińsk Mazowiecki, Olsztyn, Wałbrzych, Wrocław, Kraków, Rzeszów and Przemyśl. The goal of this workshop was to empower the RLOs to become active actors within the humanitarian response and support their self-determination in setting their agenda. In the discussions, participants emphasized the need to recognize the competencies of the refugee women who had arrived in Poland, including their technical capacities and professional experiences from working previously with IDPs and vulnerable communities in Ukraine. Additionally, addressing the needs of especially vulnerable groups of refugees, in particular children and teenagers, was identified as the most pressing matter. The women leaders of RLOs expressed their readiness to continue collaborating, as networking and exchanging experiences were the main takeaways for participants, with many reporting feeling re-energized and less lonely in their work after the workshop. This readiness was confirmed in December 2023 during a coordination meeting organized by the RLOs in Kraków with the support of the NGO Forum "Razem" Secretariat and the Working Group ultimately kicked off in May 2024 and was active

Kraków
www.krakow.pl
МИНУЛЕ



until February 2025, with the last meeting focusing on introducing the RLOs to the Mapuj Pomoc Network, so they could continue collaborating through the new platform.

Throught this time regular meetings focusing on capacity strengthening were held, and the Members had the opportunity to enter into a mentoring program with Ukrainian Diaspora-Led Organizations leaders. The situation of the refugee youth remained central, a mapping of youth initiatives was done and the *Youth Day* was organized on the eve of NGO Forum bi-annual conference *Stronger Together* in November 2024.

Cooperating through the Working Group has allowed the RLOs to release a joint *Statement of organizations led by people with refugee and migration experience - Ukrainian citizens (Refugee Led Organizations) - on cooperation with NGOs, partnerships and challenges* related to carrying out their activities expressing what they had to offer to the Refugee Response and to the Polish NGO Sector more broadly. It has also enabled their more active participation in other NGO Forum spaces, like presenting at the Plenary Meetings or participating in the in-person events.

Lessons on Localization: Partnership Working Group and the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Nature of Contractual Partnerships*

The aim of the Partnership Working Group was to promote good partnership models and address the issues affecting collaboration between L/NNGOs and INGOs active in the Ukraine Refugee Response in Poland. It was established in March 2023, in response to the *Open Letter to International Donors and Organizations That Want To Help Ukrainian Refugees in Poland*, published by the Polish L/NNGOs in October 2022, and to the broader discussions surrounding the challenges to implementing the localization agenda in Poland.

From March 2023, over the course of half a year, a series of monthly in-depth discussions were organized on topics raised in the letter and then selected as the most urgent to build better cooperation between the Members of the NGO Forum. The conversations took place under the Chatham House Rule, with Polish-English simultaneous translation provided, and resulted in the publication of the *Voluntary Guidelines on the Nature of Contractual Partnerships*.

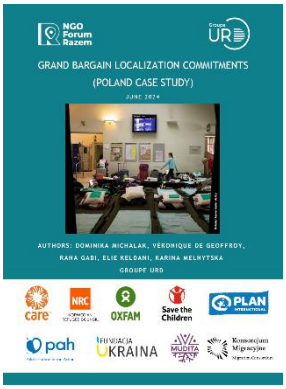
While the *Voluntary Guidelines* contribute to the global conversation surrounding the localization of humanitarian aid, they reflect the experience from the ground and were meant to tackle the issues from this specific context in a pragmatic and realistic way, taking into account the responsibility of INGOs and L/NNGOs alike. Nevertheless, they can inform the broader humanitarian community of the operational challenges and possible solutions coming from Polish practice.

CORE VOLUNTARY GUIDELINE ON TRANSPARENCY AND MUTUAL RESPECT:

The INGOs and L/NNGOs entering a contractual partnership are invited to depart from seeing each other as "donors" and "implementors" but rather as equal partners who bring their unique assets into the relationship for the benefit of the affected populations. The staff of the NGOs are invited to present a curious and open attitude, unlearning their assumptions. This approach allows for respect for local expertise and for international experience to be built, making learning from each other and co-creating solutions possible. It translates into trust and transparent communication throughout the partnership, in which the parties do not shy away from challenges but face them together.

Read in full in English and in Polish

Grand Bargain Localization Commitments (Poland Case Study)



The work done by the Partnership Working Group led to the development of the joint study *Grand Bargain Localization Commitments (Poland Case Study)*. The report evaluated the involvement of international humanitarian actors in the Ukraine Refugee Response in Poland against the Grand Bargain Localization Commitments. Its aim was to support the common work on better relationships between international actors, such as INGOs and UN agencies, and their local partners in Poland and to contribute to the global localization debate. The findings were presented widely through a series of webinars and on conferences, including the opening panel of Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week Asia Pacific in Bangkok titled *Sparking Global Change through Local Solutions in Humanitarian Action*.

The report **identifies 13 barriers and 10 enablers of localization in Poland**.

THE BARRIERS include proximity bias in the identification of projects' participants and their needs; the decontextualized character of humanitarian models, standards, and commitments; no shared definition of success between local and international actors; excessive administrative burden on local actors; insufficient awareness raising about the key characteristics of the humanitarian cycle among L/NNGOs; high rotation of INGO and UN employees and language barriers. **THE ENABLERS** include abundant direct funding available, including funding covering overhead costs and organizational development; availability of non-competitive funding; reliability of L/NNGOs as partners; horizontal networks facilitating cooperation between organizations sharing interests and facing similar challenges; local actors with adequate experience assuming the role of intermediaries (e.g., engaging in re-granting or facilitating coordination); high social legitimacy of providing support to Ukrainian refugees; authentic work on improving partnerships; acknowledgment of local expertise and capacity.

HIGHLIGHTED RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Strengthening networks of cooperation**, i.e., horizontal networks between local actors and similar cooperation ties between international actors, has been instrumental in overcoming some of the localization barriers and is worth considering at other sites of humanitarian intervention.
- **Capacity sharing instead of capacity building** to acknowledge and properly employ the expertise of local actors is recommended in any context.
- **Ensuring more equity in contracting**, especially with regard to prioritizing the local law as the governing law and in terms of termination is recommended, especially for contexts where the rule of law is sufficient to ensure both sides a fair trial.
- The report also concludes that **reconnecting with social movements** is beneficial to international humanitarian actors wherever these movements address questions at the heart of humanitarian ethics, such as human rights, civil participation, or protection from violence.

Financing Partners: CARE Poland, Oxfam Foundation in Poland, Norwegian Refugee Council in Poland,
Contributing Partners: Plan International Poland, Save the Children International (Poland)
Steering Committee composed by representatives of: Foundation Ukraine, Migration Consortium, Mudita Association, Financing Partners, and the NGO Forum Coordinator
Operator: Polish Humanitarian Action
Authors: Groupe URD

Recording the L/NNGOs' experience and lessons learned

→ On August 17th, 2023, NGO Forum, in partnership with Foundation Q, organized a panel discussion ***Women's Leadership. How to Support Organizations Led by Women*** at City NGO during the CieszFanów Festival. The conversation was recorded and transcribed, contributing to the documenting of the role of women in the Ukraine Response in Poland.

We needed our knowledge, competence, skills, and the support of those resources available in the local environment [..]. We can only moderate this and release this potential. I think this is that feminine way of managing: connecting, unlocking potential.

Edyta Salnikow
President and Director of the Bieszczady People's University
Vice-President of the Local Space Foundation (Fundacja Przestrzeń Lokalna)

Read the full transcript in English and in Polish.

→ Through ***Learning from Experience*** publications, L/NNGOs shared on the topics of their choice, recording their experience and good practices in the Refugee Response.

Responding to the humanitarian crisis as a lesson in humility, Anna Chmielewska, Board Member and Director of Integration Programs at the Ocalenie Foundation

Coming out of the crisis stronger. Cooperation with local government and crisis management, Interview with Maria Wojtacha, Director of Internationaler Bund Polska

Border(line) experience - being where you need to be. Experience in running a transit point, Katarzyna Komar-Macyńska, Union of Ukrainians in Poland, Ukrainian House in Przemyśl

Experience of Refugee-Led Organizations. What we would like to tell you, Olga Tkachuk, Mission-U Foundation

In-person events

Trainings and workshops

Throughout the three years, NGO Forum has organized a large number of training sessions, complementing webinars and knowledge sharing through online meetings. A wide range of topics covered fundraising, project writing, responsible communication, Core Humanitarian Standards, First Psychological Aid, advocacy, gender mainstreaming, humanitarian negotiation, coordination, and crisis management. In addition to increasing knowledge and strengthening capacity, they were used to create space for networking and community building. When possible, they included a component of building one's own resilience. In shaping the agenda, the attention was given to leave free time for the participants and locations in the nature were selected.

Stronger Together Conferences 2023-2024

Stronger Together: Razem Silniejsi_sze was a series of conferences that provided a platform for exchange and networking. It was organized by the NGO Forum "Razem" in cooperation with partner organizations to strengthen cooperation between humanitarian and social actors, local authorities, and government officials while offering the NGO Forum Members the opportunity to connect in person. Participants reflected on effective collaboration, celebrated successes, addressed current challenges, and brainstormed future strategies.

The first edition in Warsaw in June 2023 was co-organized with UNHCR, the second in Wrocław in October 2023 by Foundation Ukraine, the third in Warsaw with CHS Alliance, Executives for Impact, Ashoka, and Humanitarian Leadership Academy / Save the Children, and the fourth one with Internationaler Bund Polska and Jedność Foundation as substantial partners, all under the umbrella of the Refugee Response Plan for the Ukraine Situation.

Online resources to continue capacity-strengthening of your organization

Through the NGO Forum Newsletter, capacity-strengthening opportunities for the NGOs were shared almost every week. While the response landscape changes, the opportunities to deepen knowledge remain. Kalina Kabat, Capacity Building Coordinator at PAH, has prepared this list of free-of-charge, on-demand courses for your consideration.

Humanitarian and Development Aid, Human Rights (all platforms provide personal certificates after the completion of the courses):

1. Kaya, is a global learning platform created by the Humanitarian Leadership Academy, which offers a variety of high-quality courses in more than a dozen languages, including Polish, Ukrainian or Russian.

2. IFRC Learning Platform is a global education platform of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) with a variety of courses, different from those on Kaya. The advantage is the variety of topics, from first aid and healthy living to supporting people on the move and disaster law.

3. Amnesty's Human Right Academy is a free online educational platform created by Amnesty International to help people understand human rights and how to use them as a tool for positive change.

Relevant course platforms in Polish:

1. Migration Academy, the Migration Consortium's platform for improving knowledge and competencies in the field of migration management and integration of people with migration and refugee experience.

2. Kursodrom, the educational platform of the Fundacja Akademia Organizacji Obywatelskich, with recordings of webinars and courses on: fundraising, strategic management, financial management, team management, marketing, external communication (PR, promotion), law and administrative matters, cooperation, technology in organizations, personal development, monitoring, evaluation, etc.

3. Platform of the Polish Entrepreneurship Foundation, where you will find regular webinars and courses that you can go through at your own pace. Topics covered: finance and accounting, marketing and sales, programming, management, law, soft skills.

We also reccomend your attention *NO EXCLUSIONS Good anti-discrimination practices for the humanitarian sector*. This publication by PAH collects good practices of working with minority groups in Poland, mainly related to the escalation of the war in Ukraine.

See you around the Mapuj Pomoc Network!

NGO Forum Razem

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Polish Humanitarian Action

2022-2025