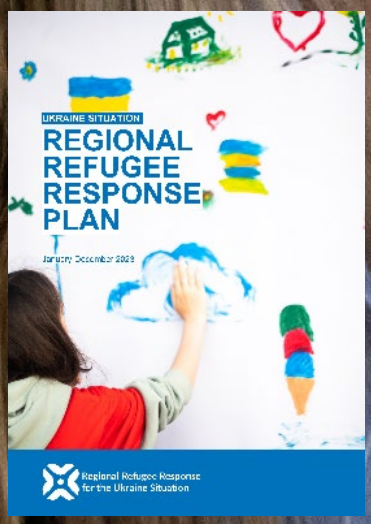
REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

January - December 2023

COUNTRY CHAPTER

POLAND

UNHCR/Maciej Moskwa



Full Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan for 2023 can be accessed here.

At a Glance

Poland Planned Response
(January-December 2023)

2,000,000
targeted refugee population

$709.4 M
total financial requirements in USD

83
partners involved

POLAND

Part 1: Current Situation

Situation Overview

Poland has generously welcomed large numbers of refugees from Ukraine since the escalation of the war in Ukraine. After the first ten months of the crisis, some 1.5 million refugees had registered with the Polish authorities and were granted temporary protection. Given the ongoing conflict and unpredictable situation in Ukraine, it is expected that refugee flows into or transiting through Poland will continue. An escalation of conflict, as well as the difficult conditions during the winter months, could trigger new arrivals to Poland and reinforce challenges in access to accommodation and essential services. While recent surveys indicate that most refugees from Ukraine hope to return to their place of origin, the majority are planning to stay in Poland for the time being because of ongoing instability and concerns for their safety and security in Ukraine.[82]

Among Poland's current refugee population, a significant number of individuals and groups have heightened protection needs. Most households are composed of women, children, and older persons, with family separation being a common feature of their displacement pattern. Consequently, protection risks arise including exposure to abuse, exploitation and gender-based violence (GBV). Moreover, some population groups are increasingly vulnerable and remain dependent on the government's social protection assistance and support, often residing in collective shelters for longer periods, while newly arriving refugees have more acute protection needs due to prolonged exposure to conflict and violence, which has an impact not only on their ability to cope financially, but also emotionally given higher exposure to traumatic events. According to the latest protection profiling findings from Poland, 64 per cent of the respondents plan to stay in Poland mainly due to safety reasons.[83] The intention to stay was higher among refugees traveling with at least one person with specific needs (68 per cent), especially single parents and persons with a medical condition. Among respondents, 15 per cent intended to return to Ukraine, while another 15 per cent were uncertain about further plans.[52] Only 6 per cent planned to move to another country, with Germany, Canada and Norway being the most frequently reported destinations. The wish to move onward was more popular among those who arrived in August and September (18 per cent), than among those who arrived in the previous months (3 per cent).

At national and local levels, Polish authorities have responded to refugee arrivals by ensuring access to essential, life-saving services. Along border areas, reception centres and host

[82] UNHCR, *Lives on Hold: Intentions and Perspectives of Refugees from Ukraine #2*, September 2022; and UNHCR–Reach, Refugees from Ukraine in Poland: Profiling Update, August 2022.

[83] UNHCR–Reach, Refugees from Ukraine in Poland: Profiling Update, September 2022.

community accommodations with warm food were established and transportation services were made available. Moreover, to promote self-reliance and inclusion, refugees were granted access to the labour market and the national social service system, in line with provisions of the EU's Temporary Protection Directive. Authorities supported with childcare and admitted Ukrainian students into the Polish school system, while also facilitating online education. To address basic needs, emergency cash payments to refugees were provided. Households hosting refugees also received financial support. Local communities and civil society were highly responsive, and rapidly mobilized volunteers to provide relief items and offer accommodation across the country.

The Poland chapter of the 2023 Regional Response Plan reaffirms the commitment to support the government response by humanitarian partners, including civil society, refugee-led organizations, UN agencies, faith-based-organizations, international and national NGOS, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

While the Government has the primary responsibility to protect refugees, partners of the 2023 RRP will continue to coordinate with authorities under the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) in a complementary and cohesive manner, ensuring that multisectoral activities are impactful and address refugee needs, and are in line with government priorities. The national and localized coordination mechanisms in the regions of Mazowieckie (Warsaw), Malopolskie (Krakow), Lubelskie (Lublin) and Podkarpackie (Rzeszow) will further strengthen cooperation and synergies, while the role of Polish organizations will remain a central feature to support the sustainability of the response.

Population Planning Figures

As of end December 2022, 1,508,338 refugees from Ukraine have registered for temporary protection in Poland, obtaining a national identification number, known as PESEL, which allows access to services such as health and social support.[84] Additionally, 1,596 Ukrainians have applied for international protection as of 13 November 2022.

More than 40 per cent of refugees from Ukraine in Poland are children and 65 per cent are female. Over 60 per cent of the registered refugee population is accounted for in five destination regions, including the voivodeships of Mazowieckie (includes Warsaw), Dolnoslaskie (includes Wroclaw), Slaskie (includes Katowice), Malopolskie (includes Krakow), and Wielkopolskie (includes Poznan).[85]

According to the Protection Profiling carried out in September 2022 in Poland,[86] 80 per cent of respondents were separated from an immediate family member (mostly due to martial law limitations for men to leave the country). Results from the multisectoral needs assessment indicate

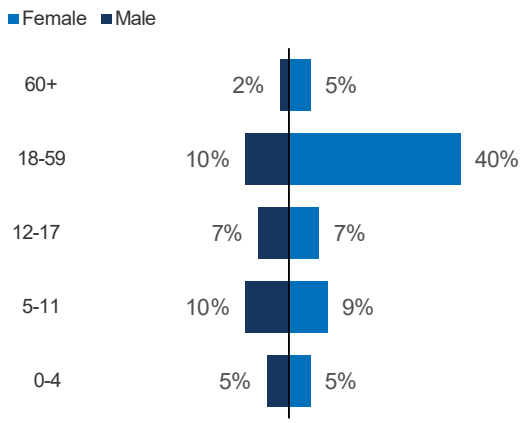
[84] Government of Poland, Registered applications for the UKR status due to the conflict in Ukraine, January 2023
[85] Government of Poland, Statistical data on Ukrainian citizens registered as a foreigner based in connection with the conflict in Ukraine, September 2022.
[86] UNHCR–Reach, Refugees from Ukraine in Poland: Profiling Update, September 2022.

that most arrivals come from Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson and Donetsk oblasts in Ukraine.

The projected population of refugees displaced from Ukraine and third-country nationals (TCNs) in need of international protection who are expected to be in need of assistance in 2023 is two million. This figure may be revised (upwards or downwards) due to the fluidity of movements across borders and the unpredictable situation in Ukraine. It is expected that new arrivals will continue, along with pendular movements in and out of Ukraine and onward movements to third countries as some persons reunite with family members. The possibility of a new influx from Ukraine will also remain high due to the volatile situation and precarious living conditions during the harsh winter season.

Poland	Refugees registered for Temporary Protection as of end Dec 2022[87]	Target population in 2023
Refugee Population	1,508,338	2,000,000
Total		

Age and gender breakdown[88]



67%

Women and girls

33%

Men and boys

[87] This figure may include multiple registrations of the same individual in two or more EU+ countries; registrations that remain incomplete for various reasons, or registrations of refugees who have moved onward, including beyond Europe.
[88] Calculations based on Temporary Protection registration data.

Country Protection Needs, Vulnerabilities and Risks

The *Act on Assistance to Citizens of Ukraine in the Context of the Armed Conflict in Ukraine of 12 March 2022* sets out a broad range of provisions protecting refugees from Ukraine, including on documentation, access to employment, health care, education and social security benefits on par with Polish nationals. [89] While TCNs previously residing in Ukraine are not covered by the Special Act, they fall within the scope of the Act on Granting International Protection from 2003, which regulates temporary protection in Poland in accordance with the Implementing Decision by the Council of the European Union.

Among Poland's current refugee population, a significant proportion of individuals and groups have heightened protection needs. According to the results of a multi-sectoral needs analysis conducted between August and September 2022, 8 per cent of Ukrainian household members were found to be at risk of disability most of them being older adults (over 60 years of age). A further 26 per cent individuals reported the need to access health care.[90] People with heightened protection needs also include unaccompanied and separated children, children out of school and/or at risk of violence and exploitation, woman at risk of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and labor exploitation, survivors of GBV, including intimate partner violence, refugees of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics, as well as people from ethnic minorities such as the Roma population.[91]

Outputs from the Protection Sector's joint analysis, a multi-sectoral needs assessment, protection monitoring, community feedback mechanisms and reports from Ukrainian-led organizations, partners and authorities indicate that vulnerabilities for women, children, older people and people with disabilities are increasing as they are dependent on social protection assistance and reside in collective shelters for longer periods. These groups have limited opportunities for meaningful inclusion and gainful livelihood, thus increasing the likelihood of marginalization. [92] In some cases, this has reportedly triggered returns to Ukraine even when conditions were not necessarily conducive nor safe. [93]

In this context and given the increasing pressure that the refugee response has put on the Government of Poland's social protection system, the current legislation is likely to be amended to include an obligation for refugees staying in collective centres to contribute to the cost, unless they fall within a list of vulnerable categories that will be exempt from payments.

Widespread family separation and the absence of social support networks have exacerbated vulnerabilities among refugees. In particular, the conflict has placed women and adolescent girls

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[89] Government of Poland Ministry of the Interior and Administration, The Act on assistance to citizens of Ukraine in connection with armed conflict on the territory of that country, 12 March 2022. According to the provisions of the Act, citizens of Ukraine, who left their homeland due to the war, will be able to stay in Poland for 18 months legally. It will apply to people who came to Poland directly from Ukraine and declared their intention to stay in the territory of the country. The Act assumes assigning a PESEL number to Ukrainian citizens who came to Poland in connection with the war. This solution will allow the implementation of many public services for these people.
[90] Poland: Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment, data collection between August and September 2022, final report to be published.
[91] Human rights, needs and discrimination – the situation of Roma refugees from Ukraine in Poland, 26 October 2022.
[92] Paweł Adamowicz Union Of Polish Metropolises, Social and psychological effects of selected housing solutions for refugees from Ukraine, September 2022.
[93] NRC, Ukrainian Homecoming: A Study of Refugee Returns from Poland, 5 September 2022.

Ivana and her daughter Alina wait to register for UNHCR's cash assistance programme for refugees from Ukraine in Warsaw. © UNHCR/Maciej Moskwa

under precarious circumstances and exposed them to risks of exploitation and trafficking, while many remain vulnerable to these factors in workplaces and host community accommodation in Poland.[94] Newly arriving refugees exhibit more acute protection needs due to longer exposure to conflict and violence and the loss of belongings or destruction of their homes. Many have lived through multiple episodes of displacement within Ukraine and now in Poland experience insecure or unstable accommodation challenges accessing longer-term accommodation.

Refugees from Ukraine may obtain a national identification number (PESEL) through registration which enables them to legally access social assistance and health care services; yet persons with disabilities or serious medical conditions often encounter difficulties in exercising the benefits, while older individuals remain at risk of isolation due to limited mobility. The situation is equally precarious for large numbers of unaccompanied and separated children who were placed in residential or group care homes after being evacuated from Ukraine under bilateral agreements. Finally, members of the Roma community, already a marginalized group within Ukraine, were forced to flee and remain highly susceptible to acts of discrimination and violence.

Mental health and psychosocial needs amongst refugee communities remain elevated, especially among older people, with evidence from protection monitoring suggesting more compounded and complex mental conditions among new arrivals, who may require specialized psychiatric care and medical interventions.[95] Other critical needs include access to services for persons with specific protection needs, sexual and reproductive health care, GBV survivor-centred care, and gender-affirming care.

[94] UNODC, Conflict in Ukraine: Key Evidence on Risks of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, August 2022; and Human Rights Watch, Poland: Trafficking, Exploitation Risks for Refugees, 29 April 2022.
[95] Poland: Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment, data collection between August and September 2022, final report to be published.

Part 2: Country Protection and Solutions Strategy

The overarching principles guiding the Poland Protection and Solutions strategy consists of: 1) the centrality and mainstreaming of protection; 2) a government-led response supported by the Protection Sector members to ensure coherence, sustainability and avoid duplications; 3) transition from an initial emergency response towards self-reliance and inclusion; and 4) ongoing preparedness for potential influxes.

The strategic vision aims at supporting the Government to ensure access to territory, provision of legal status and documentation and access to rights for all refugees from Ukraine. This will be achieved through engagement with a wide range of actors in a whole-of-society approach, with the goal of addressing immediate needs, expanding opportunities for inclusion and longer-term solutions and promoting non-discriminatory approaches, through an age, gender and diversity lens.

Protection analysis remains a crucial tool to inform evidence-based programming for protection, including documenting good practices and capturing the needs and priorities of refugee communities. In the context of joint efforts to prepare for additional waves of displacement from Ukraine, support will be provided through context and gap analysis, predictive modelling, training and capacity building, supporting coordination at national and field levels, and mobilizing resources as needed.

The joint protection response aims to minimize protection risks faced by refugees upon arrival in Poland and address their most immediate needs, by supporting timely and person-centred access to information and providing legal assistance, psychosocial support, and material assistance, including but not limited to cash-based interventions.

Identification and referral of persons with specific needs to specialized services remains limited and requires support from the protection actors operating on the ground, both at the border and in areas where refugees settled. Persons with disabilities are a group that has been prioritized for the response and require specific attention and support given administrative obstacles to access services.

Ten months into the emergency response, with conditions conducive to return absent for now and into the foreseeable future, supporting refugees' socio-economic inclusion and self-reliance in Poland has become crucial. The 2023 response will therefore include initiatives to promote reskilling, upskilling and both technical and language training, as well as support for entrepreneurship and financial inclusion in collaboration with the private sector. Linking refugees with affordable accommodation, childcare and education services will also be explored and promoted as they are key enabling factors for employment. Supporting the Government to provide alternatives to collective shelters and ensuring more sustainable options will be addressed jointly by all protection actors, with consideration for the specific needs and vulnerabilities of certain groups.

Displacement from Ukraine has been characterized by family separation, with the majority (over 90 per cent) of those who fled being women and children while most men remained behind. Protecting children and women at risk is central to the response. Key response priorities will include

strengthening the provision of information on access to services and referral mechanisms; community integration, education of refugee children and addressing their psychosocial needs through child-friendly spaces, MHPSS and counselling. Advocacy will also focus on the protection of unaccompanied or separated children as well as refugee children who are in institutional or alternative care settings to ensure they are identified and included within the national child protection architecture; and advocacy promoting the best interests of the child in all actions affecting them.

The protection response also aims to prevent and respond to GBV, by enhancing coordination, supporting the delivery of multisectoral and accessible services for survivors across the country, enhancing national and regional referral pathways and expanding prevention activities through information and awareness campaigns, including through women and girls' empowerment programmes and community-based approaches.

Increasing risks of exploitation are reported, particularly given the considerable reliance on host families for accommodation, but with reports of smugglers and traffickers targeting collective shelters where those most at risk reside. Supporting the Government to establish mechanism to prevent and identify risks of trafficking is central to the response. The need to screen, register and monitor volunteers, volunteer organizations and private companies, including those providing transport is crucial to mitigate abuse.

Poland's generous response to refugees from Ukraine is remarkable, yet the pressure on national services, the economy and local communities will remain a distinguishing feature in 2023. Promoting social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among refugee groups, and between refugee and host communities, is a key cross-cutting factor in project design and implementation.

Actors will promote dialogue and mutual understanding at different levels of response, including with local authorities and among refugees and host communities to foster a protection environment that promotes resilience and inclusiveness. At the same time, RRP partners will raise awareness and advocate against misinformation, discrimination, xenophobia and exclusion toward refugees through community-led approaches targeting diverse age and gender groups. RRP partners will support the Government to create livelihoods opportunities and an enabling environment to foster self-reliance, and medium to long-term inclusion of refugees into the Polish economy and society.

Protection partners are committed to ensuring that refugee and local community-based structures are consulted and engaged throughout the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all assistance and protection services. Accountability to Affected Populations is a strategic priority within the Ukraine refugee response framework, reflected in the government's ongoing effort to improve communication with persons of concern, ensuring that refugees enjoy rights on an equal footing and participate meaningfully in the decisions that affect their lives, families, and communities. The Protection Sector is committed to ensure that effective complaint and feedback mechanisms are put in place across the board, and has stressed the need to ensure that communication with communities adjust to the needs of diverse population, making messages accessible for all, including minority groups.

Country Strategic Objectives

The 2023 Poland chapter of the Regional Response Plan is fully aligned with and guided by the regional strategic objectives (SO) of the plan, namely to:

S01: Ensure refugees' access to protection status and rights on a non-discriminatory basis

This includes activities to support and strengthen the Government's protection response as well as that of all relevant stakeholders to register new arrivals, identify and refer persons with specific needs, and provide relevant services and humanitarian assistance, that are age-, gender-, and diversity sensitive. While the RRP was established to respond to the Ukraine refugee situation, RRP partners will continue to advocate for an inclusive 'one refugee approach' for all persons of concern, to reduce and ultimately eliminate differences in rights based on the nationality in approaches to protection assistance. As such, RRP partners will provide protection, assistance, and services, including GBV, to population in need at the point of delivery in a non-discriminatory manner.

S02: Pave the way toward solutions and expand access to social and economic opportunities to facilitate inclusion through a whole-of-society approach and in line with the Global Compact on Refugees, recognizing the critical role played by national and local actors, including NGOs and RLOs

Working towards durable solutions is a critical aspect across the RRP response especially as given that many refugees from Ukraine are likely to remain in Poland for the near future, RRP partners will work to ensure access for refugees to livelihood and economic opportunities, including for the most vulnerable refugees. Partners will also continue to support the inclusion of refugee children into the national child protection and education systems. Effective access to the social protection system will also be strengthened. These aims can only be achieved through the active engagement and participation of national and refugee-led organizations, and the firm commitment by the Government of Poland.

S03: Ensure that refugees with specific needs continue to have access to targeted support and assistance, while also engaging with and strengthening community-level protective mechanisms

RRP partners will respond to the needs of most vulnerable individuals, including women, children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children, older persons, people with disabilities, asylum seekers, and stateless persons, by providing targeted support and assistance. RRP partners will work and engage with both local communities and the refugee population, to strengthen two-way communication systems aimed at receiving complaints or provide a response and make referrals to process the complaints.

S04: Advance social cohesion between refugee and host communities through targeted interventions

Record high inflation, the energy crisis, and the pressure on municipal and central level service provision may heighten tensions between host communities and refugee population. Against the backdrop of these challenges, social cohesion has been identified as a key objective of the 2023 RRP. RRP partners, thanks to their wide network of partners and solid relations with both central and municipal authorities, will advocate against misinformation and seek to support the development of positive relations between refugee and host communities.

RRP partners will operationalize these objectives in complementarity to existing national structures, as the identification of key activities and responses took place in consultation with the Government of Poland – ensuring alignment and a unified vision between sector interventions and the government's priorities.

Localization and sustainability will play a crucial role in the 2023 plan for Poland. Stakeholders are committed to empowering national and local humanitarian action by increasing the share of financing accessible to these actors and supporting the enhancement of their national delivery systems, capacities, and preparedness planning in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees.

Furthermore, RRP partners will aim to adopt best practices and advocate for an inclusive and equitable 'one refugee approach', which seeks to reduce and ultimately eliminate differences in the exercising of rights and access to services based on nationality.

Highlight on the achievements of community-based organizations

Community-based organizations play a key role in the humanitarian response to the Ukraine refugee crisis by providing direct assistance and helping newly arrived refugees adapt to the Polish environment. Zustricz is a Ukrainian community-based organization founded in 2016 and focused on promoting solidarity and the integration of refugees from Ukraine in Polish communities in and around Krakow, providing mental health and psychosocial assistance and managing several community centres in the city. Zustricz successfully implements outreach activities targeting highly vulnerable refugees in smaller peripheral cities across Malopolska voivodeship, where access to services and information is often limited.

Sectoral Responses

PROTECTION

In view of the influx of refugees from Ukraine into Poland, the government adopted the *Act on Assistance to Ukrainian Citizens in the Context of the Armed Conflict in Ukraine* on the 12th of March 2022. The law provides broad protections to Ukrainian nationals who fled the conflict in Ukraine on or after the 24 February 2022[96] and allows for extended legal stay, access to employment, health care, education and to social security benefits on par with Polish nationals. While TCNs previously residing in Ukraine are not covered by the Special Act, they fall within the scope of the Act on Granting International Protection from 2003. Building on the national legal framework, the Protection Sector priorities for 2023 will include:

- Promoting access to durable legal status, documentation, and rights through advocacy, provision of information and legal aid, and enhancing access to national systems and services.
- Mitigating protection risks affecting persons with specific needs by ensuring early identification of these groups by all responders – including national authorities – and promoting access to specialized services, with a particular focus on the prevention of and response to GBV, trafficking, as well as the protection of children, persons with disabilities, older persons, persons of diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnic minorities and other refugees with specific needs.
- Fostering social cohesion with actions that mitigate potential conflict between refugees from Ukraine and the Polish society through continuous constructive and inclusive engagement with communities and promotion of positive public narratives. Establishing mechanisms to facilitate two-way communication with refugee and local communities in all phases of the response to ensure it addresses the most pressing needs and priorities as expressed by refugees.

Sub-sector: Child Protection

Nearly all refugee households from Ukraine comprise women and children who have experienced family separation, with many children at risk of child protection issues, such as psychosocial distress or exposure to violence, neglect, or abuse, which require immediate access to relevant services. Interventions are critical to adequately respond to the numerous factors that children faced during their journey, upon arrival and during their stay in Poland. The national system's capacity to provide time-sensitive child protection services such as case management/Best Interests Procedure, alternative care or guardianship arrangements is under strain to absorb the added demand of at-risk children fleeing from Ukraine. Owing to ongoing needs and in support of the Government's response, Child Protection actors will focus on:

[96] Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/382, 4 March 2022.

- Advocating for the use of Best Interests Procedures and establishing referral pathways that complement national legislation and existing systems.
- Strengthening identification and referral of unaccompanied, separated and at-risk children to specialized services.
- Support relevant family tracing and reunification services alongside relevant inter-agency partners.
- Disseminating child-friendly, accessible messaging on preventing family separation, child rights and response services.
- Ensuring child-friendly community feedback mechanisms are widely accessible, including to children with disabilities.
- Encouraging the psychosocial well-being of refugee children and youth from Ukraine through mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), as well as access to health care services including communicable diseases prevention.
- Advocating for family and community-based alternative care solutions over institutional care as a global best practice and, when not possible, advocating to ensure institutional care facilities are properly staffed and monitored in line with best practices.

Actors will further reinforce national capacities by strengthening alternative care arrangements and enhancing the screening of caregivers, and providing technical support, training and capacity building to frontline service providers, existing child protection service providers and refugee and diaspora-led organizations. Further longer-term inclusion and social cohesion strategies will be developed to support refugee children and adolescents in the national education system.

Sub-sector: Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The disproportionate number of women and children displaced by the Ukraine crisis elevates the need to respond to, prevent and mitigate the risks of GBV such as sexual violence, intimate partner violence, sexual harassment, and human trafficking, for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Vulnerabilities are multiplied by family separation, challenges in accessing livelihoods and accommodation in collective shelters. Sector priorities will reinforce prevention, strengthen response, and bolster national capacities by:

- Expanding information and awareness campaigns about GBV, services and helplines, empowerment programmes, community-based approaches and gender-transformative initiatives.
- Mapping services, establishing and maintaining localized referral pathways that incorporate GBV assistance such as psychosocial support (PSS), including case management, medical services, legal aid and are made available in English, Polish, Ukrainian and Roma languages.
- Ensuring multisectoral and accessible specialized services to GBV survivors at a national level, while ensuring access to free-of-charge sexual and reproductive health and clinical management of rape services in the humanitarian response.
- Expanding GBV specialized services to reach women and girls, especially those at heightened risk of GBV or residing in underserved areas.

- Mainstreaming the outcomes of GBV safety audits (risk assessments) and strengthening the capacity of other sectors on GBV integration and risk mitigation to ensure that all identified risks are reduced addressed, and services are accessible for refugees.
- Strengthening the capacity of GBV and other sector actors to respond with a survivor-centred approach, supporting localization initiatives, and ensuring financial support to organizations that provide GBV services.

These activities will complement and invest in national response capacities including local women-led organizations and refugee-led organizations, civil society organizations and government providers, to ensure adequate, compassionate, confidential, and professional care to all GBV survivors, including marginalized groups like women and girls with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ populations and refugees of other nationalities. Strengthening the response in other services – in particular health, education and social welfare – will ensure a multisectoral and holistic approach that addresses survivor needs.

EDUCATION

With Poland currently hosting one of the largest populations of school-age refugees and youth from Ukraine, their inclusion in the national education system remains a priority. Non-formal forms of education, such as those aimed at retaining a link with the education system of the country of origin, will continue to be supported where appropriate and where they benefit refugee learners.

At the onset of the humanitarian response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis in Poland, the Education Sector focused on providing access to formal and non-formal education with the support of the government's March Act,[97] that has been revised to adjust the Polish education system offer to the needs of Ukrainian students. In addition to the admission of Ukrainian pupils to regular classes, the Polish Government recommended the schools to provide preparatory classes (with emphasis on Polish language tuition), additional Polish language classes and compensatory classes as part of formal education within the Polish system of education along with provision of learning materials, while at the same time, accordingly to the choice of educational path, Ukrainian curriculum through distance learning implemented within the Ukrainian system of education was accessible.

According to the Ministry of Education and Science (data from 30.11.2022), 191,383 children were enrolled in formal education in Poland, including 36,171 children in kindergartens in 2022-2023 school year.[98] The ongoing instability in Ukraine continues to cause families to flee, impacting enrolment and putting pressure on the already scarce spaces in Polish educational institutions.

[97] Government of Poland, Law on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with the armed conflict in Ukraine, 12 March 2022.
[98] Open data: (EN) https://dane.gov.pl/en/dataset/2711,uczniowie-uchodzcy-z-ukrainy/resource/43221/table?page=1&per_page=20&q=&sort=; Otwarte dane: (PL) https://dane.gov.pl/pl/dataset/2711,uczniowie-uchodzcy-z-ukrainy/resource/43221/table?page=1&per_page=20&q=&sort=

Sector actors will focus on strengthening the Polish education system by responding to the tailored needs of all refugee children, including the most vulnerable. Priority activities focus on expanding quality education, including early learning, through face-to-face peer activities and online modalities.

Enhancing teachers' capacities, including teaching Polish as a language of instruction will be prioritized, as language acquisition is a main barrier for Ukrainian children to enroll and connect with their Polish peers.

Provision of MHPSS to students and parents will also remain a key area, and investments and services will expand to smaller towns. Evidence-based data will underpin decisions to ensure impactful, quality interventions. The Sector will continue supporting and complementing the government's efforts, and advocate for the creation of safe learning spaces while taking necessary measures through community engagement and promoting the importance of education continuity and early care among Ukrainian families.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The Government ensures that refugees from Ukraine have free and equal access to the national health system, which has put additional demands on the Polish health care infrastructure. Moreover, refugees are mainly women, children, older people, and individuals with disabilities, with the latter two groups needing specialized and/or continuous health care. The Health Sector's priority activities in support of the government – notably the Ministry of Health – and local authorities are:

- Addressing the needs of vulnerable people, particularly older people and people with disabilities.
- Improving access to quality health care services by raising awareness and knowledge about the Polish health system and services and establishing collaborative and efficient referral pathways.
- Ensuring that older people and the chronically ill have equal access to treatment and essential medications and ensuring proper care for pregnant women and newborns.
- Increasing vaccination coverage, especially among children, older persons, persons with disabilities and persons with chronic illnesses by supporting the Ministry of Health and local authorities with information campaigns and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) messaging.
- Ensuring adequate preparation and response for ongoing and new emergencies.
- Ensuring the possibility of safe relocation from Poland to the other EU Member States for Ukrainian patients on a needs-basis.

The activities listed above are in line with and complement the government's identified priorities rather than duplicate the activities of the Polish national health system.

Given the high percentage of female headed households and young children among the Ukrainian refugee population, there is a need for specific nutritional support. While the government and local community provide food to the refugee population including mothers and caregivers, there is a

need to support provision of complementary food for young children, children in preschools and schools as well as in the accommodation and reception centres. Poland, like many European countries, did not have a preparedness strategy on infant and young child feeding (IYCF) in times of crisis, and it is therefore critical to promote exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate IYCF practices among refugees and Polish mothers. Based on the global IYCF in Emergencies documents, relevant procedures and guidelines will be developed to provide an efficient internal quality control system for the work of milk banks in emergency situations. Actors will also provide counseling for refugees to support breastfeeding women in deep lactation crises due to distress related to the war trauma and/or other emergency circumstances.

LIVELIHOODS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION

While employment opportunities are widely available to refugees from Ukraine in Poland thanks to the Special Act, key challenges remain in accessing decent jobs. This situation elevates vulnerabilities among the refugee population, the majority of whom are women-headed households with caregiving responsibilities for children and older people. The hurdles are two-fold: on the one hand there is a mismatch between employment offers and demand, while on the other hand there is a gap in enabling services, especially childcare and access to education. Partners will focus on complementary socio-economic inclusion and livelihoods activities for both formal and self-employment. They will do so by supporting reskilling, upskilling and professional Polish language trainings, by providing support for entrepreneurship and financial inclusion through private sector partnerships, and by linking refugees with affordable accommodation, childcare and education services. In view of the special needs and capacities of certain groups, partners will implement targeted interventions aimed at reducing households' vulnerabilities that address people with disabilities or patients living from serious illness. Effective access to relevant social protection schemes will also be supported. In support of the Government's priority to promote refugee inclusion within the job market, partners will maximize comparative advantages and advocate for a whole-of-society approach that encourages opportunities for refugees to participate in the economic life of Poland as employers, entrepreneurs, consumers and citizens.

BASIC NEEDS

Refugees already residing in Poland continue to need basic personal and household items, while the fluid situation in Ukraine highlights the potential for new arrivals who will likely travel with limited resources. Harsh winter conditions heighten the existing vulnerabilities, especially of certain groups such as older persons or those with special medical conditions. Thanks to the government and civil society's response, the provision of goods was mobilized to cover border areas, transit sites and some longer-term accommodations. Yet as the crisis continues, resource gaps and decreased donations impact sustainability. RRP partners are thus complementing support with a focus on addressing a number of key areas. The provision of basic non-food items (NFIs) to meet individual needs, such as dignity kits and clothing adapted to winter conditions, as well as communal needs at shelters, such as appliances, heating

devices, bedding and partitions; the provision of non-perishable food and warm meals at reception points and accommodation sites, and if necessary, at border crossings; and support to transport services from border points to reception areas or transport hubs for onwards movement will be prioritized. RRP partners' actions will bolster the government-led response and complement services provided at the local level while helping to maintain ongoing and contingency response capacity while ensuring targeting is adapted to diverse and specific needs of individuals.

Support is also needed to maintain services and adequate hygiene conditions. WASH partners will focus on the prevention of waterborne diseases by providing access to WASH facilities, services, and hygiene services and supplies to refugees throughout their journey and in locations where they settle. Partners are also committed to supporting municipalities to maintain and improve hygiene through the provision of hygiene supplies and hygiene services at the accommodation and reception centres as well as schools and preschool facilities. Partners will also provide refugees with essential supplies such as WASH dignity kits, and support schools with hygiene materials.

According to the Profiling carried out in September 2022,[99] access to safe and dignified accommodation remains one of the most pressing needs for refugees from Ukraine. The largest groups among them reside in rented accommodation (44 per cent), host families (20 per cent), and collective sites (13 per cent) and reception centres (8 per cent). Yet the sustainability of these options is declining, owing to rising costs, a competitive housing market and ongoing strain on host communities. To address the situation and ensure access to adequate housing, shelter actors' responses will prioritize:

- Providing cash for rent to support with rental fees and subsidies for utility costs (heating, utilities), targeting also members of the host community.
- Developing housing assistance interventions and programmes that address short-term, mid-term and longer-term needs.
- Providing thermal upgrades and rehabilitating existing shelter facilities to improve energy efficiency and ensuring adequate standards, while incorporating adaptations of spaces for people with disabilities or other specific needs.
- Reinforcing shelter-related coordination tools that will allow for efficient referral schemes and effective needs assessment outputs.
- Developing cross-cutting measures that promote self-reliance and facilitate access to the labour market, which can encourage refugees to move to individual housing.
- Conducting advocacy and providing technical support on the development of a sustainable, long-term housing assistance policy, targeting both refugee and host communities.

Polish authorities have established legislation allowing Ukrainian refugees to access social benefits and employment, yet refugees continue to face complex challenges that impact their ability to benefit from safety nets and many remain unable to meet basic needs. Among the obstacles are language barriers, lack of relevant work experience, low wages and insufficient childcare services, all of which impact opportunities for gainful, dignified employment and self-reliance. This is exacerbated by increased cost of living, rising energy and accommodation prices and additional

[99] UNHCR–REACH, Refugees from Ukraine in Poland – Profiling Update, September 2022.

needs during the winter. Since new arrivals are likely to possess fewer resources and social capital, while having more limited coping strategies than earlier groups, they will require additional support to access food, accommodation and clothing.

Acknowledging the primary role of the Government in providing social protection, the focus of cash assistance partners will be on complementing the governmental response through targeted interventions for members of specific vulnerable groups, such as older persons, persons with disabilities, and those with chronic medical conditions who face challenges in gaining full and effective access to the national social protection system as well as single mothers with small children excluded from the labour market. TCNs in need of international protection to whom access to national social protection does not extend, are another group that will be prioritized. Targeted intervention will be accompanied by policy advocacy for the extension of inclusive social protection services. Cash-based initiatives will support and complement the government's response and bridge the gap between arrival in-country and access to employment and/or government assistance and services.

The sector's interventions will build on and accompany the government's capacity and response at both local and national levels.

Country Cross-Cutting Response Priorities

Accountability to Affected People (AAP)

Women, girls, men, boys and individuals from diverse backgrounds affected by the crisis have the right to receive information on their rights, responsibilities and entitlements, and be kept aware of protection and assistance programmes. Through continuous engagement, affected populations are informed about issues and decisions that have an impact on their lives.

Accountability to Affected People (AAP) remains a strategic priority within the Ukraine refugee response framework. AAP indicators, alongside an Age, Gender and Diversity orientation, detail the specific provisions on how women, girls, men, boys as well as persons from diverse community groups, both from refugee and host populations will be included in humanitarian planning and the decision-making processes and how any potential challenges to access complaints and feedback mechanisms will be addressed by response actors. A wide range of Communication with Communities (CwC) tools will be regularly updated and made available in languages and formats accessible to all community groups. This will address critical communication and information gaps and be tailored the needs of different population groups.

Community-centred protection mechanisms provided through partnership, direct engagement with refugees, community-led organizations and networks as well as strong collaboration with the government remain the emphasis in protection response. The ongoing efforts of the Government will be supported to improve communication with persons of concern and ensure that refugees can enjoy their rights on an equal footing and participate meaningfully in the decisions affecting their lives, families, and communities. Additionally, integration of AAP standards into cross-sectoral

activities and capacity programmes such as adaptive training in Polish, Ukrainian, and Roma languages will continue to assist national actors' (government structures, non-government organizations and volunteer networks) work.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) is recognized as a specific form of GBV and a breach of humanitarian actors' accountability to affected populations. The high percentage of women, including single female-headed households, as well as children and older persons, among refugees from Ukraine, coupled with their high mobility and the range of actors engaged in the response, including many volunteers, exacerbate the risk of SEA. In 2022, the PSEA Network in Poland has been leading the coordination efforts to tackle SEA and moving into 2023, priorities will concentrate on:

- Strengthening PSEA capacities of organizations taking part in the response, with an emphasis on national organizations, while improving the understanding international organizations have of the local context and legal framework.
- Raising awareness of stakeholders taking part in the response on the risks of SEA, with attention to intersectional ties and vulnerabilities. This shall be done through information campaigns developed for and in consultation with refugees and communities, and advocacy aimed at authorities to enhance their understanding and response to SEA.
- Enabling a survivor-centred response to SEA, through the establishment of an inter-agency complaint and feedback mechanism, in line with best practices.
- Supporting the prevention capacities of the Polish authorities, while boosting their response capacity – with a survivor-centred approach – to SEA allegations, involving persons who are not identified as humanitarian aid workers, but who are part of the response.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

The exposure to distressing events and the ongoing daily stress of continued displacement of refugees can cause or deepen existing mental health conditions and increase psychological distress, particularly for women and children who have fled while other family members remain in Ukraine. MHPSS will remain a priority cross cutting issue integrated and will be mainstreamed across all sectors. MHPSS services should cover multilayer support including community-based psychosocial support, brief psychological interventions and further specialized services. MHPSS interventions will further account for cultural difference and language barriers to bolster effectiveness and support mental health and psychosocial well-being. Key strategic areas that partners will address in 2023 for MHPSS include:

- Strengthening MHPSS integration and mainstreaming within all sectors.
- Mainstreaming caring for caregivers – supporting humanitarian workers who work on the frontlines and caregivers to ensure their well-being along with their families, including children.

- Promoting the psychosocial well-being of older people and direct programmes to support individuals to maintain and manage full lives.
- Ensuring access to community-based and brief psychosocial interventions to overcome low-moderate signs of distress.
- Ensuring access to clinical mental health services while reinforcing the capacity of existing institutions and resources.

Partnership and Coordination

Since March 2022, the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) has been adopted to respond to the sudden influx of refugees from Ukraine and facilitate cohesive interventions that were in line with government priorities while maximizing resource complementarity and impact. Taking a localized approach, inter-agency Refugee Coordination Fora (RCF) are established in Mazowieckie, Malopolskie, Lubelskie and Podkarpackie regions to ensure that partners and authorities are abreast of developments and jointly plan response interventions in an inclusive manner. The combined expertise of specialized actors under the RCF safeguards the integration of refugee policy, law and humanitarian principles within all sector response activities. The RCF architecture recognizes and integrates the lead role of the Government as well as the critical role that local partners and civil society organizations have in the response with some 50 national partners included in coordination structures and in the 2023 RRP. Additionally, the 2023 RRP will count on the presence of 24 INGOs, the IFRC/PRC, four faith-based organizations and six UN Agencies. This diverse composition and orientation also supports sustainability efforts and will strengthen further synergies aimed at engaging with the donor community, the private sector and international financial institutions.

Partners involved	83
UN Agencies	6
International NGOs	24
National NGOs	48
IFRC&RC	1
Faith-based Organizations	4

Note: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type.

The RCF remains flexible and will adapt to the needs by streamlining structures to maximize efficiency, effectiveness and strengthen cross-fertilization in 2023, while building the response around cross-cutting issues, such as the complementarity of efforts with the Polish authorities, AAP, PSEA and integrating a social cohesion perspective into all aspects of the programming.

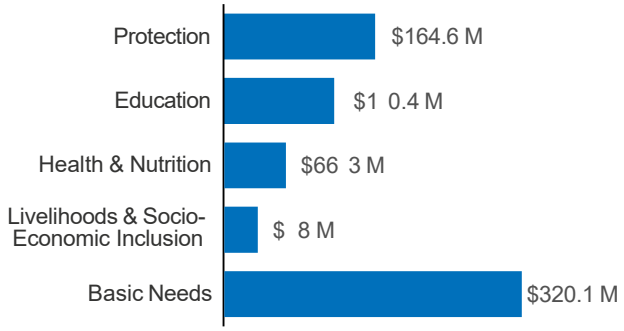
Thus, a lean, functional and inclusive structure of sectoral coordination groups will be in place at central level, closely linked to local coordination mechanisms. Corresponding to their thematic expertise and competence, sectoral groups are often co-led by national NGOs or other civil society actors alongside UN Agencies, taking thus a major role in coordination and bringing in their specific expertise in areas such as Protection or Accommodation, while linking to other national or local actors. Joint assessments and monitoring of activities will remain key priorities of the Information Management Working Group that will help all actors to ensure a needs-based response. The Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) carried out in 2022 helped identify priority areas of intervention for 2023 and will also guide coordination priorities.

Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

Total financial requirements in USD

$709.4 M

By sector in million USD



** This is a breakdown by sector of the requirements for cash assistance which are included in the above total sectoral budgets. Cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key modality of assistance and protection in line with UNHCR's CBI Policy 2022-2026. Cash assistance is used as a cross-cutting modality across the various sectors, including protection, and is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach. As the modality of choice of the people we serve, cash assistance will be used as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide important protection outcomes.*

Total Protection requirements	$164,645,927
Other protection activities	$96,181,095
GBV	$18,415,953
Child Protection	$50,048,879

Total Cash Assist ance requirements*	$176,343,305
Protection	$18,627,640
Basic Needs	$157,715,665

By partner type

Partners involved	83
UN Agencies	$293.9 M
International NGOs	$137.4 M
National NGOs	$159.6 M
IFRC&RC	$85.5 M
Faith-based Organizations	$33.02 M

By partner

Partner Name	Protection	Education	Health & Nutrition	Livelihoods & Socio-economic Inclusion	Basic Needs	Total USD
UN Agencies						

Partner Name	Protection	Education	Health & Nutrition	Livelihoods & Socio-economic Inclusion	Basic Needs	Total USD
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	16,500,000			10,000,000	35,000,000	61,500,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	25,720,000	47,372,500	3,300,000		6,701,440	83,093,940
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	900,000					900,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	45,335,887			5,324,782	52,239,331	102,900,000
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	1,720,800		795,400			2,516,200
World Health Organization (WHO)			43,000,000			43,000,000
International NGOs						
Action Contre la Faim	580,000			150,000	1,343,794	2,073,794
ActionAid International	750,000					750,000
CARE	7,000,000	6,500,000	500,000	6,000,000	3,000,000	23,000,000
Center for Reproductive Rights	200,000		250,000			450,000
CLEAR Global	462,885					462,885
Community Organized Relief Effort	1,050,000	1,300,000			4,200,000	6,550,000
Crossborder Civilians					20,000	20,000
Danish Refugee Council	8,013,033			1,500,000	450,000	9,963,033
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe	335,000				630,000	965,000
Faros Elpidas	1,450,000	350,000		5,000	605,000	2,410,000
HIAS	4,000,000				5,800,000	9,800,000
IMPACT Initiatives	160,000	40,000	40,000		820,000	1,060,000
International Orthodox Christian Charities	80,000	100,000		300,000	1,170,000	1,650,000
International Rescue Committee	3,550,000	881,000		7,000,000	13,037,500	24,468,500
Intersos	400,000		400,000	600,000		1,400,000
Medair	340,000		60,000		300,000	700,000
Norwegian Refugee Council	1,500,000	3,000,000			6,500,000	11,000,000
Oxfam					1,157,760	1,157,760
Plan International	1,653,000	400,000			417,500	2,470,500
Project HOPE	1,184,845					1,184,845
RET International	4,550,000	5,000,000			2,000,000	11,550,000
Save the Children	6,502,633	8,216,465			7,369,324	22,088,422
Soleterre	1,200,000					1,200,000

Partner Name	Protection	Education	Health & Nutrition	Livelihoods & Socio-economic Inclusion	Basic Needs	Total USD
Voice Amplified	895,000				125,000	1,020,000
National NGOs						
Ashoka Innowatorzy dla Dobra Publicznego				450,000		450,000
Central Roma Council in Poland	1,950,400					1,950,400
Comenius Foundation for Child Development (Fundacja Rozwoju Dzieci)		9,500,000				9,500,000
CultureLab Foundation		500,000				500,000
Food Bank SOS in Warsaw					560,000	560,000
Fundacja ADRA Polska	2,000,000	3,600,000			32,925,500	38,525,500
Fundacja Autonomia	275,104					275,104
Fundacja BloomPro	65,000	105,000				170,000
Fundacja Centrum Praw Kobiet (Women's Rights Centre)	150,000	200,000	20,000		230,000	600,000
Fundacja Dajemy Dzieciom Siłę (Empowering Children Foundation)	1,080,000	100,000				1,180,000
Fundacja Dobrej Edukacji		25,000				25,000
Fundacja DOSTĘPNY ŚWIAT			420,000			420,000
Fundacja Feminoteka	250,000				200,000	450,000
Fundacja HumanDoc	740,000	500,000		100,000	570,000	1,910,000
Fundacja In Corpore		30,000	70,000			100,000
Fundacja Kocham Dębniki	101,948	144,762			35,304	282,014
Fundacja Leny Grochowskiej		200,000			1,250,000	1,450,000
Fundacja na Zakręcie				50,000		50,000
Fundacja New story	400,000	400,000		1,134,000	1,874,000	3,808,000
Fundacja One World – One Heart	5,000					5,000
Fundacja Profil	401,782					401,782
Fundacja Global Compact Network Poland	230,000	300,000			190,000	720,000
Fundacja UNDERSTANDING		20,000				20,000
Fundacja Uniwersytet Dzieci		300,000				300,000
Fundacja Zustricz	148,000	134,000				282,000
Habitat for Humanity Poland					6,595,000	6,595,000
Halina Niec Legal Aid Center	20,000					20,000
Hope Foundation	100,000	100,000	200,000		100,000	500,000

Partner Name	Protection	Education	Health & Nutrition	Livelihoods & Socio-economic Inclusion	Basic Needs	Total USD
Humanosh Slawa i Izek Wolosianski Foundation		380,000	13,000,000		2,054,000	15,434,000
Internationaler Bund Polska	84,000	1,120,000			804,000	2,008,000
Kalejdoskop Kultur	300,000					300,000
Katalyst Education		5,500,000				5,500,000
Liszewska-Bowen Foundation	220,000	35,000	40,000		660,000	955,000
Mentalnie Równi	558,000	335,000				893,000
Misja Słowiańska w Europie					228,000	228,000
Multiculturalism & Migration Observatory			20,000			20,000
Nasz Wybor (Our Choice Foundation)	620,000	200,000			210,000	1,030,000
Polish Center for International Aid	3,086,957	19,480,819			15,336,815	37,904,591
Polish Humanitarian Action	1,037,004				7,780,000	8,817,004
Polish Migration Forum Foundation	1,440,000	350,000				1,790,000
Polski Instytut Otwartego Dialogu	270,000	700,000	200,000		86,000	1,256,000
PRO UKRAINA	250,000	500,000			6,000,000	6,750,000
Roma Coalition	95,000	100,000	125,000		180,000	500,000
SOK (Samodzielność od Kuchni) Foundation	575,000	1,260,000				1,835,000
Stowarzyszenie MIASTO WSPÓLNE	27,816					27,816
Stowarzyszenie MUDITA	40,000		41,000	450,000	365,000	896,000
TUTU - Podkarpackie Stowarzyszenie dla Aktywnych Rodzin	1,650,000	200,000				1,850,000
Volunteer Center Lublin		73,000			454,750	527,750
IFRC & Red Cross/ Crescent Societies						
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) & Polish Red Cross (Polski Czerwony Krzyż)	4,333,334		3,666,667		77,500,000	85,500,000
Faith-based Organizations						
Caritas Poland	4,700,000	60,000		4,900,000	18,106,000	27,766,000
Klub Inteligencji Katolickiej w Warszawie	50,000	500,000	100,000		500,000	1,150,000
Lutheran World Federation	1,103,500	280,000			2,178,100	3,561,600

Partner Name	Protection	Education	Health & Nutrition	Livelihoods & Socio-economic Inclusion	Basic Needs	Total USD
Metropolitan Orthodox Christian Charity ELEOS	255,000		35,000	35,000	220,000	545,000
Total	**$164,645,927**	**$120,392,546**	**$66,283,067**	**$37,998,782**	**$320,079,118**	**$709,399,440**