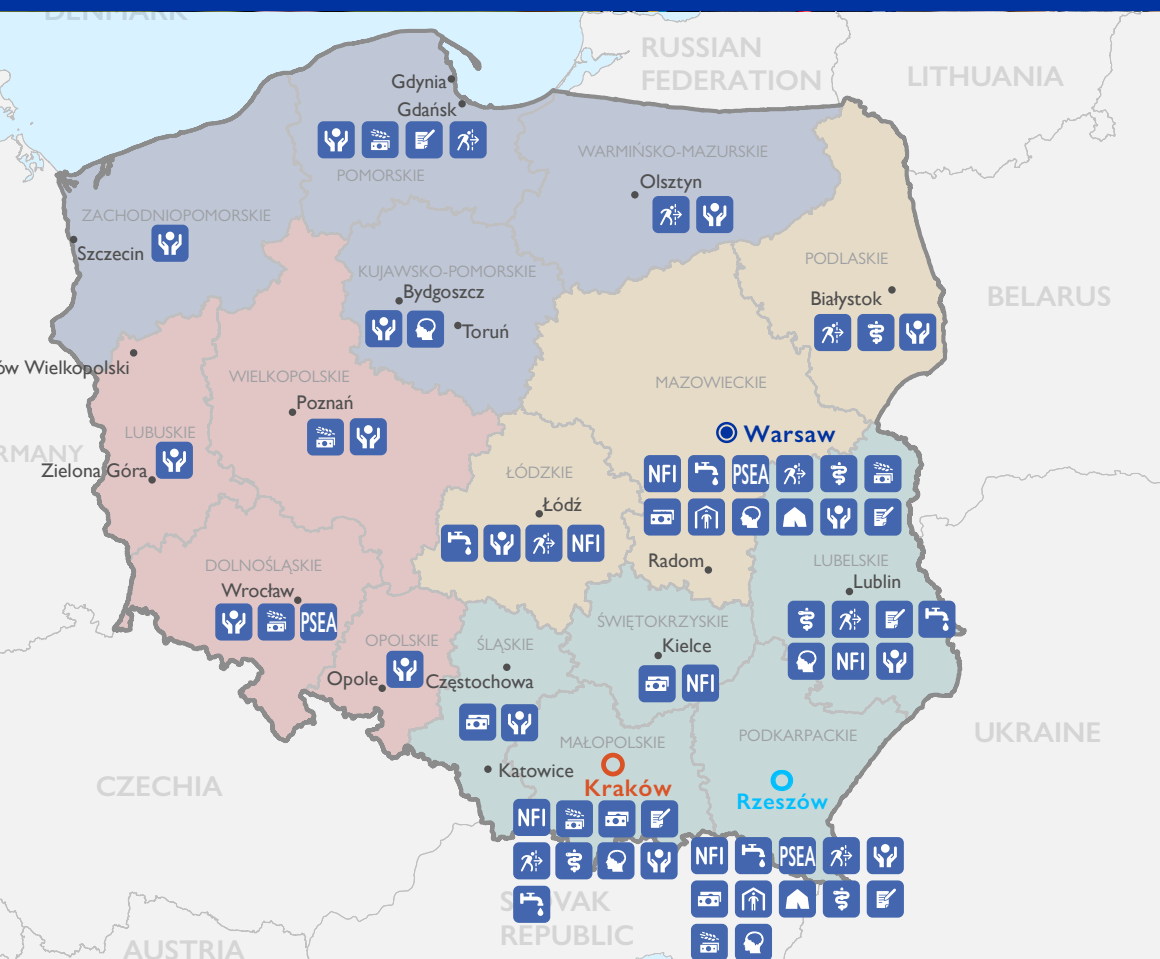




IOM POLAND OPERATIONAL PRESENCE MAP



LEGEND

- ⦿ IOM Country office
- IOM Sub offices
- Field offices

IOM Activities

- NFI Non-Food Items (NFI)
- WASH Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)
- HBM Humanitarian Border Management
- Health Health
- L&R Livelihoods and resilience
- CBI Cash-Based Interventions (CBI)
- Shelter Shelter
- Protection Protection
- MHPSS Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- SMS Site Management Support
- PSEA Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
- DTM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

IOM Hubs

- North Hub
- Central Hub
- South-West Hub
- South-East Hub

This map is for illustration purposes only. Names and boundaries on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.



IOM has been present in Poland since 2002 supporting safe and orderly migration with respect for human rights for the benefit of all. Since February 2022, IOM expanded its operations to respond to the needs of individuals who fled the war in Ukraine, in close cooperation with the Government of Poland.

The conflict in Ukraine triggered one of the largest humanitarian crises on record. By the end of 2023, approximately 955,000 refugees remained in Poland under the temporary protection scheme. As we approach two years since the start of the conflict, Ukrainians living in Poland experience complex and dynamic challenges, highlighting the need for durable solutions to their protracted displacement.

In 2023, IOM addressed the basic and humanitarian needs of new arrivals, enhanced access to services, supported socio-economic inclusion, promoted dignified living conditions, and provided protection and mental health support.

In addition to its rapid emergency response, IOM continues to support governmental and non-governmental actors in Poland with capacity development and in-kind support in the areas of counter-trafficking, immigration and border governance, and assisted voluntary return. In 2024, IOM will prioritize meeting the needs of the most vulnerable populations, promoting the integration and social cohesion of refugees, migrants, and host populations, and strengthening the capacities of local actors in the field of migration governance.





246,259

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE UKRAINE RESPONSE



183,545

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED IN 2023



117

COLLECTIVE SITES REACHED WITH SERVICES AND SUPPORT



Basic Needs

137,906

Individuals assisted with non-food items

4,538

Individuals supported with cash assistance

337

Individuals supported with collective site renovations

120

Individuals provided with short-term private accommodation



Protection

4,602

Individuals reached with protection support

2,278

Stakeholders trained on protection (including NGOs, civil society, local authorities/government)

112

Law enforcement officials trained on Humanitarian Border Management

111

Individuals assisted with voluntary return and reintegration



MHPSS and Health

5,924

MHPSS and health consultation sessions delivered

1,471

Individuals registered for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

756

Individuals registered for health case management



Labour Market and Social Inclusion

10,030

Individuals provided with language classes, vocational training, and job and business counselling

5,527

Individuals reached with advice on rights and services

7

Integration centers supported



Data and Research

13,457

Surveys conducted

20

Products published

PAINTING THROUGH DARKNESS: OLEKSII'S INSPIRATIONAL TRIUMPH

"If you didn't know any better, you would never guess that he has a serious problem with his eyes," explains Tetiana, the mother of 11-year-old Oleksii.

Oleksii lives with Stargardt disease, a rare genetic eye condition that causes vision loss in children and adults. When her son was first diagnosed in Ukraine before the start of the war, Tetiana felt helpless. "I could not believe it or live with it. His vision kept getting worse and there was no clear prognosis or treatment. It was like a nightmare," she says.

Oleksii had already lost ten per cent of his eyesight before his seventh birthday. During an examination with his ophthalmologist, it was revealed that his vision had dropped from 90 to 10 per cent over a three-month period. Today, he retains only five per cent of his central vision, but has full peripheral vision. "When I look at you, I can't see you, but I can see what's around me," Oleksii explains. At seven, Oleksii found his passion for painting, using a spatula instead of a brush. In Ukraine, he found a teacher who taught him the basics, and he hasn't stopped painting since.

Oleksii, and his family came to Poland in March 2022 from Kyiv, just after the start of the full-scale war in Ukraine, and settled in Warsaw. His parents found jobs in the IT sector, and he began to attend a Polish school. He adapted quickly to the new environment and learned Polish in just under three months.

"I like living in Poland. I play with the kids, and I like my school here," he says.

Children like Oleksii are provided with protection and assistance services by IOM when in need. With help from IOM Poland, Oleksii was able to receive a medical consultation for his vision issues. Additionally, through a partnership with the Mudita Foundation, Oleksii was able to showcase his artwork. Despite the difficulties he faces with his vision, Oleksii is very active. "I used to dance a lot when I lived in Ukraine. Now I enjoy painting, playing chess or the guitar, and listening to audiobooks," he says.

Tetiana is a firm believer in finding strength through adversity and the hardships that life may bring.



Read the full story on poland.iom.int

Oleksii and his parents at Mudita foundation.
Photo: IOM/Alexey Shvirin

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