

### Background

**Nearly 5 million people crossed into Poland since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022.**

Despite mass movement and many Ukrainians returning to Ukraine, 1.5 million displaced people are projected to remain in Poland for the foreseeable future.. Many cities have welcomed the equivalent of 20-30% of their population, causing a strain on housing, schools, and public services. Poland expects to continue receiving and hosting a considerable number of refugees, given the large internal displacement, massive destruction (in particular that of district heating and electricity networks), and the ongoing hostilities in Ukraine.

HIAS has deep roots in Ukraine. In 2001, HIAS set up an office in Kyiv to assist asylum seekers and Ukrainian Jews seeking to migrate to the United States. In 2013, HIAS helped found Right to Protection (R2P), an independent Ukrainian NGO providing crucial legal and humanitarian aid to internally displaced people from eastern Ukraine. In 2022, HIAS re-established operations in Ukraine and opened offices in Poland, Moldova, and Romania to help displaced groups and refugee populations from Ukraine.

### HIAS Programs & Focus

HIAS' office in Poland helps displaced groups and refugee populations from Ukraine to improve their mental health and wellbeing, access basic legal rights in Poland, reduce and prevent gender-based violence, and earn sustainable incomes through safe economic opportunities.

Refugees often arrive in a state of distress and anxiety, having left family members behind, and without a clear plan for where to go. HIAS works to ensure that refugees receive the necessary and timely information on rights and services available that will enable them to navigate the system. While most refugees hope to return to Ukraine one day, right now **65% of refugees say they plan to stay in their current host country.** Refugees in Poland are predominantly staying in hosted or rented accommodations and their most urgent needs are cash, employment, and housing.



Mother and daughter sit on their bed in a temporary housing center for refugees from Ukraine in Ptak Warsaw Expo May 26, 2022 in Nadaryzn, Poland. (Betsy Joles for HIAS)

March 2023



#### Refugee Assistance

Employment, cash assistance, relocation assistance, and housing for Ukrainian refugees in Poland.



#### Leading-Edge Programs

Groundbreaking programs in mental health, legal rights, and gender-based violence response and prevention.



#### Our Partners

L'Arche Poland, Patchwork, and Our Choice Foundation, supporting people with disabilities and integration of refugees into Polish society.



HIAS Emergency Response Team in Korczowa Reception Center, five kilometers from the Ukraine border, March 2022 (HIAS).

## Our Partners

HIAS is committed to supporting local organizations and building the capacity of civil society and local authorities to implement protection services for refugees. Our local partners include L'Arche Poland and Patchwork, organizations that work with individuals with disabilities and their families; and Our Choice Foundation, where HIAS promotes Ukrainian refugees' integration into Polish society. By the end of 2022, HIAS also launched a collaboration with Towards the Dialogue Foundation, to support Roma, one of the most discriminated against groups of refugees. HIAS works with Dobry Start to reinforce gender-based violence prevention programs, offer daily mental health support, provide housing (via Airbnb), and assist with employment opportunities as well as cash assistance.

HIAS' support also provides Ukrainian refugees with relocation services to Western Europe and to the U.S. HIAS will continue to assist in providing direct services at the community level and connecting refugees to grassroots organizations.

## Contact

For more information, contact:

**Elina Sarantou**

HIAS Poland

Tamka 37/1

Warsaw Poland

[Elina.Sarantou@hias.org](mailto:Elina.Sarantou@hias.org)

+30 6971955498