

AID FOR UKRAINE

Report 2022-2024

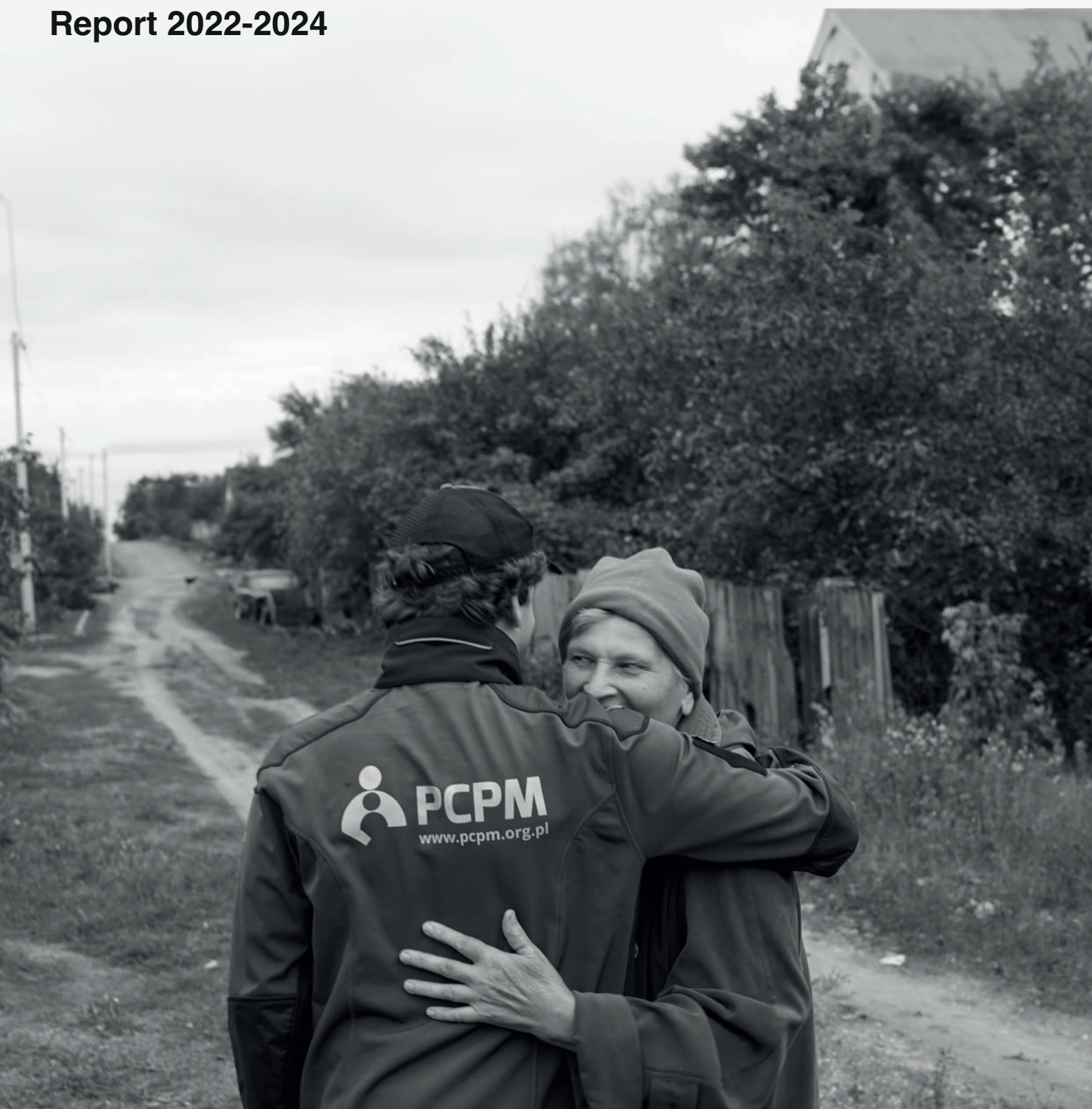




Table of contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Foreword | 3 |
| Situation in Ukraine | 4 |
| Overview of Aid in Ukraine | 5 |
| Evacuations | 6 |
| Transit Centre | 8 |
| Aid delivered to Ukraine | 9 |
| Rebuilding of Ukraine | 12 |
| Aid points in Latvia | 15 |
| Medevac HUB Jasionka - Medical Transit Centre | 16 |
| Financial aid | 18 |
| Employment for people from Ukraine in Poland | 19 |
| Vocational and language courses | 20 |
| Flats instead of collective accommodation centers | 21 |
| PCPM educational projects | 21 |
| Pop Fund - Polish Organizations Pooled Fund | 23 |
| How to support Ukraine | 24 |



24 February 2024 marks two years since we faced the most significant humanitarian crisis in Europe and Poland since the Second World War

During these two years, the Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM) has assisted thousands of people in Poland and Ukraine. Our efforts have included organizing evacuations, providing humanitarian aid, conducting training sessions, assisting in the reconstruction of destroyed homes and public facilities in Ukraine, and much more. The PCPM team initiated numerous projects and activities in Poland starting in February 2022, and we were expanded our humanitarian programmes in Ukraine which had been ongoing since 2014.

Thanks to our experience in other humanitarian and refugee crises, we established a professional network of systemic activities and support. Our efforts extended not only to refugees in Poland and those waiting at the borders, escaping the nightmare of war, or internally displaced individuals, but also to those who, for various reasons, were unable to flee or seek refuge from bombings. Additionally, our assistance and actions provided support to local authorities in Ukraine. With such a large influx of refugees in Poland, we actively supported integration processes as a necessary step in long-term assistance.

The ongoing war in Ukraine continues to devastate lives and health, resulting in an increasing number of people requiring additional support and assistance. Unfortunately, the funds allocated to aid refugees in Poland have decreased by nearly 80 percent. In response, we established the Polish NGO Fund (POP Fund), serving as a bridge between committed representatives from large corporations and smaller aid organizations. As winter approached, we focused on rebuilding homes, providing firewood, and establishing steadfastness points—places where anyone can receive basic assistance. We contributed food and hygiene aid. When the dam in Nova Kakhovka was destroyed, the PCPM Foundation swiftly stepped in to assist those trapped in flooded villages.

This represents only a portion of our efforts in Ukraine and the valuable contributions from our partners and donors. I encourage you to explore our comprehensive report detailing our two years of work and assistance to the people in Ukraine.

Wojtek Wilk PhD
CEO of the Polish Center
for International Aid



Situation in Ukraine

Data collected by various state and international institutions exposes the extent of devastation in Ukraine. The conflict has profoundly affected the civilian population, compelling millions of Ukrainians to relocate, while pushing others closer to poverty.

The prolonged war is exacerbating the need for assistance, especially in the eastern and southern regions of the country. Even newborns are entering the world amidst explosions and the echo of gunfire from their earliest moments of life.

According to the UNHCR, nearly 15 million individuals in Ukraine will require humanitarian assistance across various domains, including 3.7 million people who have been displaced due to the war. According to this UN agency, the count of refugees seeking refuge across Europe will persist at approximately 5.9 million, with ongoing movement between Ukraine and host nations. The same survey reveals that almost 80 percent of refugees aspire to return to Ukraine eventually, but only 14 percent plan to do so in the near future. Security concerns play a crucial role in their decision-making process, along with access to essential services, housing, and livelihood opportunities for both refugee women and internally displaced persons.

Since February 24, 2022, a significant portion of Ukraine's infrastructure has suffered devastation. According to the Kyiv School of Economics, the losses surpass \$151 billion. This includes the destruction or damage of 167,200 residential units, comprising 147,800 private homes and 19,100 residential buildings, due to the ongoing hostilities. The regions most profoundly impacted by this destruction lie in Ukraine's eastern and southern areas. Cities like Bakhmut, Soledar, and Avdiivka have been reduced to piles of rubble due to heavy fighting. Additionally, major cities including Sievierodonetsk, Lysychansk, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Mykolaiv, Chernihiv, Kherson, Mariupol, and Zaporizhzhia have faced severe consequences from the conflict, including fighting and shelling. Eighteen civilian airports, at least 344 bridges and viaducts, and more than 25,000 kilometers of roads were destroyed. The number of educational institutions damaged or destroyed exceeded 3,500, including more than 1,700 secondary schools, more than a thousand kindergartens, and 586 universities. In the health sphere, the war led to the destruction or damage to 1,223 medical facilities, including 384 hospitals and 352 clinics.



Overview of Aid in Ukraine

Evacuations



1 200 individuals

were evacuated from Kharkiv to Svitlovodsk, where they awaited transport to Poland



2 254 individuals

evacuated from Ukrainian hospitals



35 000 individuals

at the Transit Center located at Warsaw East railway station



80 000 individuals

received assistance at the Latvian border

Cash assistance



8 501 individuals

received financial aid in Ukraine



28 633 individuals

received financial aid in Poland

Rebuilds



156 homes

repaired in Ukraine, aid to 982 people



107 classrooms

were renovated in 27 Polish schools

Employment



1 730 individuals

employed in 24 Polish cities



703 individuals

were employed in Ukraine



1 130 individuals

have completed Polish language courses
180 of them completed vocational courses

Education



39 111 individuals

visited the Centres for Education and Creativity in Warsaw



4 750 children

from Ukraine and Poland took part in organized half-day camps

Humanitarian aid



62 000 individuals

received food and hygiene assistance

Donated vehicles



66 vehicles

were delivered to Ukraine, including buses, ambulances, electric bicycles and others



Evacuation

The Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM) initiated evacuations within the first hours of the attack. Approximately 1,200 people in the Kharkiv area received assistance. To facilitate swift reporting for escaping residents, the PCPM team in Warsaw, along with locally employed colleagues, established a dedicated evacuation hotline. Drivers from Kharkiv and the surrounding villages transported the fleeing Ukrainians to a prepared center in Svitlovodsk. There, the refugees stayed for a day or two while awaiting bus transportation to safety in Poland and the western regions of Ukraine. Simultaneously, Polish drivers delivered aid items, including blankets, torches, power banks, generators, candles, as well as food and hygiene supplies.

In February and March 2022, residents of Ukrainian villages and towns sought refuge in safer locations, using their cars or public transportation. As time passed, organized evacuations became increasingly necessary. Additionally, there was a need for a place where these individuals could rest, have a meal, charge their phones, and plan their onward journey.

The evacuation center in Svitlovodsk served precisely this purpose. The Polish Center for

International Aid (PCPM) renovated the building, establishing an assistance point for those attempting to move from the east to the west, including Poland and other European Union countries. Through fundraising efforts on the Allegro website, supported by generous individuals, the PCPM Foundation rented buses and purchased fuel for the vehicles transporting refugees. Furthermore, PCPM procured humanitarian aid for the evacuation center in Kremenchuk, which included food, candles, batteries, and covered utility costs. At the center, refugee women and men received free accommodation and meals. Those who couldn't or chose not to continue their journey stayed there for longer.

Simultaneously, the Poland Emergency Medical Team PCPM carried out evacuations for Ukrainian patients and older individuals. This group included children from cancer hospital departments, lonely individuals, and patients requiring specialized treatment. In total, over 1,000 people were evacuated to hospitals in other countries or western Ukraine by PCPM Emergency Medical Team members.





Projects funded by:



allegro Charytatywni



"The biggest challenge was to ensure that seriously ill Ukrainian patients continued their treatment. We had to organize professional medical evacuations urgently. In total, we helped to evacuate more than a thousand patients from Ukraine."

Adam Szyszka,
Poland Emergency Medical Team PCPM



Transit Centre

After 24 February 2022, according to various sources, almost 2 million refugees from Ukraine stayed in Poland for a while or longer

On March 25, 2022, the PCPM team, in collaboration with the Norwegian Refugee Council and the City of Warsaw, inaugurated a 24-hour Transit Center at Warsaw East railway station. This center was globally unique and the sole one of its kind established in Europe, specifically catering to refugees, primarily women with children.

Approximately a thousand people received assistance daily at the Transit Centre. Ukrainian women, as well as other Ukrainians fleeing the war, found respite there. They could rest, enjoy warm meals, obtain SIM cards, access train, bus, and plane tickets, and receive support from volunteers in locating accommodation or essential medical aid. Notably, refugees were also able to register

for financial assistance. In total, from March 25 to September 2022, the Transit Centre welcomed 35,000 people.

"I have a 13-year-old daughter with a disability. We came to the center, and the volunteers helped us immediately. They asked if we needed anything if we were hungry. There is a very friendly atmosphere here, and I am grateful to have come here."

Irina from Zaporizhzhia

Projects funded by:



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL



Warszawa



Aid delivered to Ukraine

In the initial months since the war commenced, the Polish Centre for International Aid Foundation delivered over 4,000 metric tonnes of humanitarian assistance to Ukraine. This aid included essential items such as food, hygiene products, blankets, sleeping bags, sleeping pads, basic clothing, and thermal wear. Substantial support was extended to hospitals. For instance, they provided ultrasound and electrocardiography equipment, defibrillators, infusion pumps, blood pressure monitors, first aid kits, surgical instruments, and personal protective gear.

Thanks to fundraising efforts by Allegro, the PCPM Foundation procured a variety of much-needed equipment for Ukrainian hospitals. This equipment encompassed a canvas stretcher, covers, and craniotomy kits (used for airway clearance during emergencies and rescue operations). Other acquisitions included a battery for automated external defibrillators (AEDs), medicines (including transport covers), field beds, a surgical saw with a set of blades, and a refrigerated trailer. Notably, the health service in Ukraine also received crucial support through the acquisition of four ambulances.

Additional ambulances, procured by the PCPM with the generous support of donors and partners, have been instrumental in medical evacuations conducted by members of the Poland Emergency Medical Team (PCPM), as previously described. These ambulances continue to serve the MEDEVAC HUB Jasionka. Among them is a newly donated ambulance from UNICEF, as well as a bus used for patient transportation to the airport.

The Foundation consistently facilitated the transport of humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Weekly shipments were dispatched from the foundation's warehouse near Warsaw to its Ukrainian counterpart in Lviv. From there, the aid was further distributed to various locations within Ukraine.

Notably, tens of thousands of food packages reached those most in need. Each package contained essential items with extended shelf life, including candles, batteries, and torches. Simultaneously, PCPM volunteers contributed firefighting equipment to the same region, often assisting localities located just a few hundred meters from the front line.

In 2023, the Polish Centre for International Aid collaborated with the Biedronka Foundation. Through the "Package for the Family" program, they delivered food and hygiene parcels to 102 villages in eastern Ukraine, benefiting a total of 54,000 people, including 22,000 individuals with disabilities or those over 60 years old.

In May 2022, in Ukraine, with financial support from CARE, the Polish Centre for International Aid disbursed allowances for 3 to 6 months to more than 3,600 families. Financial assistance of USD 75 per month was provided to 6,501 people, and 2 000 persons received USD 140 as a rent subsidy. The program was for internally displaced persons who had to flee the war from the east of the country



**Almost 54 000
individuals**

received food parcels and hygienic products



**More than 22 000
individuals**

who received help, were people with disabilities, and over 60



One in eight

of those who received help is a child



Due to extensive damage to fields in Ukraine, primarily caused by mining activities carried out by Russian troops, some farmers experienced a significant loss in their production capacity. To facilitate their recovery and enable them to resume their livelihoods, the PCPM Foundation purchased and distributed 4,150 seed packets. These seed supplies played a crucial role in restoring agricultural functions and allowing farmers to return to work and self-sufficiency in regions where it was feasible.

"The torches, gloves, firefighting caps, motion detectors, intervention kits, a power generating unit, and many other smaller pieces of equipment that we provide wear out the firefighters the fastest during rescue operations and pulling people out from under the rubble of bombed-out houses."

A PCPM volunteer who went to the frontline towns

A remarkable logistical achievement was the successful delivery of over 80 couches to the transit point near Krzemenchuk, as well as 150 field beds to the center for internally displaced persons and the so-called point of un-breakability in Mykolaiv. Following the recapture of Kherson by Ukrainian troops, Mykolaiv—now a regional hub—became a refuge for fleeing refugees. Frequent attacks on energy infrastructure left many Ukrainians vulnerable to electricity and heating shortages, emphasizing the critical need for safe havens within the city.

Before the onset of winter, the Polish Centre for International Aid, in collaboration with Ukrainian volunteers, provided firewood to villagers near Kharkiv, thanks to funding from the Taiwanese government. A total of 1,200 cubic meters of wood was distributed to 391 households in the Kharkiv region, bolstering resilience in case gas supplies were disrupted.

In June 2023, the dam at Nova Kachovka on the lower Dnieper River was destroyed. As a consequence, war-affected Ukraine faced severe flooding in the Kherson and Mykolaiv regions. According to the Kyiv School of Economics, approximately 60,509 homes were submerged. Among the affected areas were Komyshany, Bilozerk, and districts such as Kherson Ostriv, Mykilske, Tiahynka, Lvov, Odradokamianka, Olhivka, and Mykolaivka. The dedicated volunteers from the PCPM Foundation were already familiar with these regions, having provided support to those in need even before the devastating floods occurred.

In the first hours after the flooding, the Polish Centre for International Aid delivered drinking water, food, and rain boots by boat to villages in the Snihurivka area.

After initial support with the most necessary products, the inhabitants of the flooded villages were helped to equip their flats and houses with products and equipment necessary for a dignified life. The purchase of water and textiles for the flood victims was financed by the Biedronka Foundation.

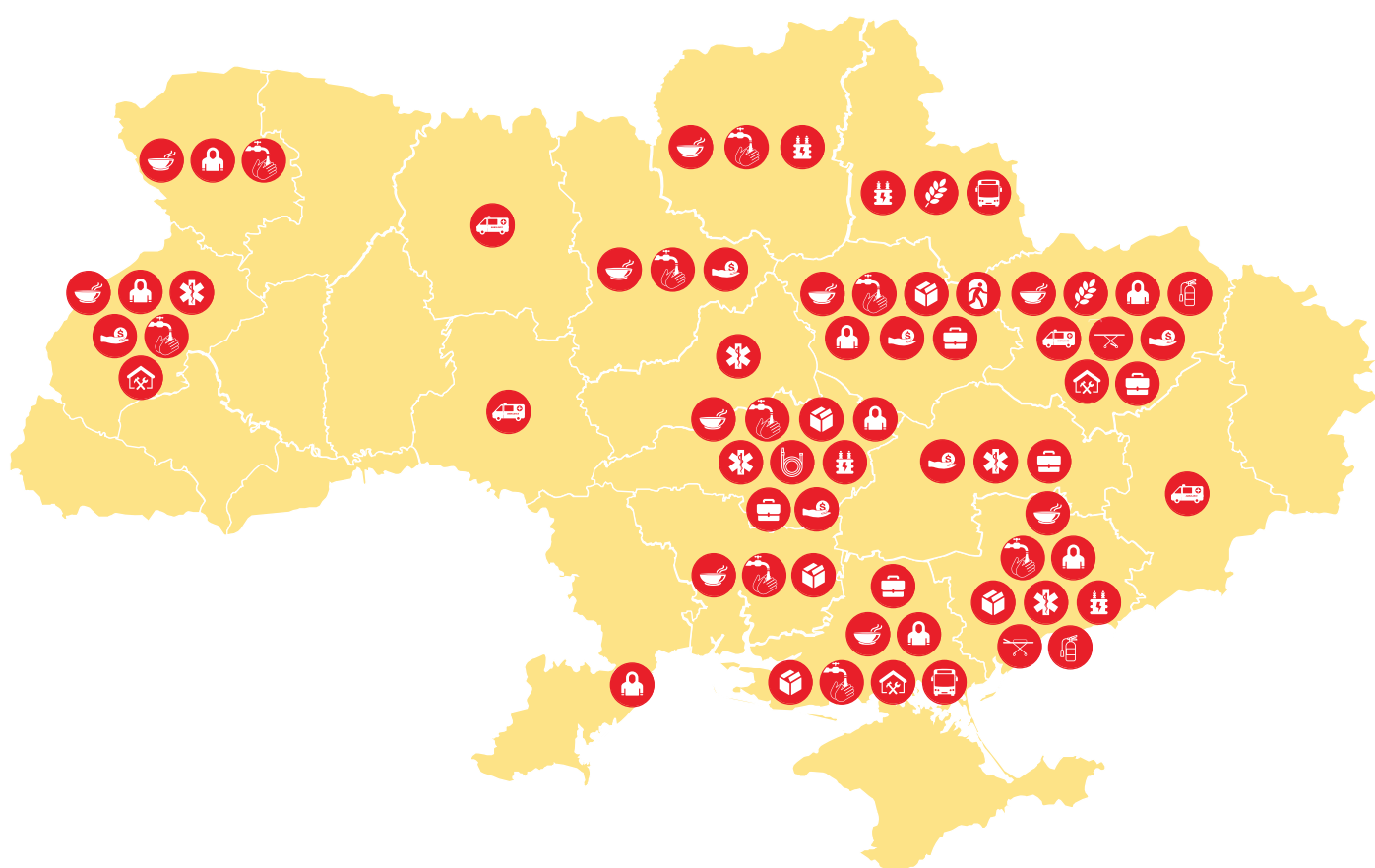




Between February 2023 and February 2024, PCPM distributed over 43,000 humanitarian packages, benefiting more than 62,000 people throughout Ukraine.

The Polish Center for International Aid executed two editions of the 'Cash for Work' program in Ukraine during 2023. A total of 683 participants engaged in intervention employment, with 68 percent of them being internally displaced individuals. These dedicated workers collectively contributed nearly 40,000 work hours, positively

impacting communities across 11 different municipalities, including Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Kirovohrad, and Poltava regions. The first edition spanned three months, while the second edition lasted one month. PCPM collaborated closely with the experienced NGO 'Ukrainian Frontiers' on the ground. A pilot edition of the "Cash for Work" program, involving 20 people in Kherson, was launched in December 2023 in direct partnership with local city authorities.



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|------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Seeds | Basic products | Fire equipment | Evacuation points | Hospital equipment |
| Food assistance | Ambulance | Electric generators | Cash assistance | City vehicles |
| Hygiene supplies | Medical products | Warm clothes | Employment | Rebuildings |





Rebuilding of Ukraine

In addition to delivering crucial humanitarian assistance, during the latter half of 2023, the Polish Centre for International Aid Foundation initiated projects aimed at rebuilding homes, infrastructure, and public services in Ukraine



In the Kherson region, electricians employed by the PCPM Foundation restored electricity despite intermittent shelling. This project became feasible due to funding from the Open Society Foundations. PCPM assembled a team of electricians to repair power grids damaged by shelling under hazardous conditions. Initiating the process of rebuilding the economy, agriculture, and resilience is crucial, even during attacks on Ukraine's regions. Consequently, in collaboration with the Open Society Foundations, PCPM facilitated international cooperation between Ukraine and Poland's regional authorities. Additionally, agricultural experts provided recommendations to the town of Trostyanets on how to develop unused land owned by the local government.

Effective collaboration with local authorities is essential for delivering support tailored to the needs of the most vulnerable. Recogni-

zing this, the Taiwanese government supports PCPM's efforts in aiding Ukrainian regions. The Foundation develops projects funded by the Taiwan government in close partnership with the Taipei Representative Office. This collaboration involves working closely with local organizations, city and town mayors, school directors, and social support departments in Ukraine.

In Kherson, many older adults rely on assistance from local social aid workers. To enhance their mobility, the Polish Centre for International Aid donated 40 electric bicycles to these workers. These bicycles enable them to navigate the city more efficiently and reach the people they care for more promptly, especially in areas at risk of shelling. Furthermore, the Social Welfare Office received computers, printers, and computer equipment from PCPM, facilitating the reconstruction of the Kherson residents' database.



The PCPM extended support to Kherson through five vans: one equipped with a special ramp for transporting people with disabilities, another utilized by child psychologists, and three dedicated to transporting humanitarian aid. This assistance was made possible by funding from the Government of Taiwan.

In addition, PCPM donated the following vehicles to the Trostyanets authorities: five buses, an excavator, a rubbish truck, a septic tanker, a sewage cleaning vehicle, two ambulances. This support enabled the city to restore many public services. The local officials specifically requested these vehicles because their predecessors had been stolen or destroyed during the occupation. As a result of this donation, Trostyanets authorities successfully reinstated the city's CCTV system, spanning 10 kilometers of cables and 42 cameras.

The Taiwanese community and individuals in Taiwan actively engage in fundraising and provide support to Ukrainian organizations,

not only financially but also through in-kind donations. In previous years, they sent warm clothing and food. This year, their contributions included ambulances, fire trucks, and vans for various organizations in Ukraine. Leveraging their experience in delivering aid to Ukraine, PCPM's team facilitated the transportation of 48 cars from the Port of Gdańsk to Lviv.

Winter poses significant challenges, especially for those seeking access to a safe and warm environment. PCPM's infrastructure repair program plays a crucial role in improving living conditions for people in conflict-affected areas. As part of their winter adaptation efforts, PCPM and their local partner replaced windows and roofs in 156 houses in the Tsykrkuny and Mykolaiv regions, as well as 100 windows in flats in Kharkiv and the Saltivka district. These measures significantly improved the well-being of more than 980 people, allowing them to endure the winter in much better conditions.

Education is one of the PCPM's flagship areas. In Ukraine, the PCPM Foundation cooperates with the city council in Truskavets to equip school shelters with furniture adapted to the school's needs. By equipping three shelters with benches, chairs, blackboards, and all other necessary teaching aids, the children can continue their lessons unhindered despite the bomb alarms. More than 2,500 students have benefited from the PCPM Foundation project in Truskavets.

The PCPM's education projects funded by the Taiwanese government also included an activation and training point for women in Poltava. It operates from October 2023 and should end in September 2024. Women can attend English language courses, talk to a psychologist, receive career counseling, or create a business plan here.

Projects funded by:



Transferred vehicles



40 electric bicycles

Kherson



10 ambulances

Kherson, Vinnytsia, Kharkiv,
Donetsk, Zhytomyr



6 passenger buses

Kherson, Poltava



5 buses

Trostyanets



2 garbage trucks

Trostyanets



2 vacuum trucks

Trostyanets



1 excavator

Trostyanets



"The flooded villages could only be reached by boats or pontoons. In the houses cut off by the water, residents gathered on the upper floors, often with only what they had on. Unfortunately, it was difficult to buy the goods needed by the flood-affected people. There were not many products in shops or warehouses, and if there were, they disappeared immediately."

Anna Radecka from PCPM Foundation



Aid points in Latvia

Refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine have also received support from the foundation in Latvia. According to the UN, over 1.5 million people have been displaced deep into the Russian Federation. The Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that up to 90 percent of refugee women and refugees crossing the border into the Baltic States are en route to Europe.

“The occupiers are pressuring everyone to obtain a Russian passport and thus take citizenship. This may mean that you will have to go to war against the Ukrainians.”

Alexander the refugee who crossed the border in Latvia

Between November 2022 and October 2023, PCPM, with funding from The Pfizer Foundation, collaborated with the Latvian organization Tavi Draugi (Your Friends) at the Latvian-Russian and Belarusian-Russian borders. They established assistance points at four border crossings to aid refugee women and refugees from Ukraine. During this period, 79,385 refugees crossed the borders, and we estimate that PCPM assisted 80 percent, equivalent to 63,500 people.

Additionally, from the spring of 2023, there was an increased movement of refugees in the opposite direction. Some sought to enter Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine. Between May 8 and October 30, 2023, 33,243 people crossed the border at PCPM-supported points, and 26,600 people received assistance.

Projects funded by:

The **Pfizer**
Foundation



103 351 individuals

crossed the border with Latvia at four crossing points, where volunteers supported by PCPM were operating

The border crossings along the Latvian-Russian and Latvian-Belarusian borders are situated in forests, far from population centers. Unfortunately, most of these crossings lack essential infrastructure, including toilets, shops, or even shelters to shield people from rain, snow, and cold weather. The journey for Ukrainian male and female refugees heading to Latvia was arduous. Typically lasting several days, they covered an average distance of 3,000 kilometers, often changing buses multiple times. Upon finally crossing the EU border, they found themselves in a place devoid of infrastructure, carrying only a suitcase or backpack.

Volunteers from Tavi Draugi, supported by PCPM, provided assistance in the form of hot meals, beverages, and access to facilities where refugees could eat, rest after their long journey, use restrooms, charge their phones, and access the internet. These compassionate volunteers answered questions, informed refugees about their rights in Latvia and other EU countries, and frequently assisted in organizing onward travel, accommodations, and transportation.



MEDEVAC HUB Jasionka

Medical Transit Center

After the initial months of the war, it became evident that emergency evacuation, particularly for hospital patients, needed improvement. Ukraine became part of the European Civil Protection Mechanism.

On September 1, 2022, driven by the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and in collaboration with the Polish Ministry of Health, the PCPM inaugurated the MEDEVAC HUB Jasionka. This center is overseen by the PCPM Foundation and its Poland Emergency Medical Team, Poland's sole WHO-certified group dedicated to saving lives during humanitarian crises and disasters.

Within the hub, patients receive round-the-clock medical care while awaiting transportation to other European facilities for further treatment. Since September 2022, over 1,700 individuals have passed through the MEDEVAC HUB Jasionka, including patients, accompanying individuals, and repatriates returning from hospitals in Ukraine. Notably, 160 patients set a record for the hub.

"This place was created to help patients from Ukraine to be evacuated for further treatment to hospitals in Europe. The Hub is designed to accommodate 20 patients and 30 accompanying people at a time. Each of them receives medical care and psychological support, which are essential for further evacuation to continue."

Adam Szyszka, Team Leader
MEDEVAC HUB Jasionka

In addition, through the MEDVAC HUB Jasionka, the PCPM evacuated children with oncological diseases and people with severe burns. This is another challenge to which our medics responded, as such patients require specialized treatment.



Such rapid organization of the evacuation process would not have been possible without the excellent cooperation between all partners. Especially Lviv Region Ambulance Service, the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Poland, MEDEVAC HUB Jasionka, the Norwegian Medical Evacuation Flight Team, and the European Commission Crisis Management Centre coordinating the whole process.

MEDEVAC HUB Jasionka will continue to operate in 2024. It is financed from the funds of the European Union under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. It is also supported by the IOM, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Podkarpackie Voivodeship. Additional costs, including those connected with the medical repatriation of patients to Ukraine, were covered by a donation from Siemens Caring Hands.



1 749 people

including 1225 patients and 524 accompanying individuals, were transported to the MEDEVAC HUB in Jasionka

Germany **250**
patients

Spain **41**
patients

Norway **176**
patients

France **32**
patients

Sweden **111**
patients

Croatia **26**
patients

Netherlands **91**
patients

Finland **11**
patients

Denmark **76**
patients

Latvia **11**
patients

Poland **43**
patients

Austria **41**
patients

Hungary **6**
patients



Projects funded by:



Funded by
the European Union



Siemens Caring Hands



Financial aid



28 633 individuals

received financial aid in Poland
in 2022-2023



8 501 individuals

received financial assistance
in Ukraine in 2022

According to an analysis by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), approximately half of the refugee families from Ukraine face challenges related to basic life necessities. The situation is particularly difficult for those who have recently arrived in Poland and are still adjusting to their new circumstances. Additionally, older persons, people with disabilities, and those dealing with serious health issues encounter significant hardships. Notably, 85 percent of refugees over 60 are unemployed in Poland (for further insights into the situation of older refugees, you can refer to the report linked at the bottom of the page).

Financial aid from the PCPM Foundation served as temporary relief for these individuals, supporting them as they embarked on a new life and restoring their dignity. The Polish Center for International Aid Foundation administered financial aid through two programs: "Cash for Basic Needs" and "Targeted Cash assistance for older persons with disabilities." These programs were initiated in March 2022 and continued until the end of 2023. During this period, 8,190 families (comprising 20,254 individuals) received three months of support as newly-arrived refugees. Additionally, 8,579 people, including those with special needs, older persons, individuals with disabilities, and those facing serious health challenges, received extended six-month support.

The implementation of these financial assistance programs was made possible through collaboration with international organizations such as the Norwegian Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, CARE, HelpAge International, UNHCR, and the government of Taiwan. The total value of financial benefits provided to refugees from Ukraine during 2022-2023 exceeds PLN 70 million.



More about the situation of elderly refugees in the report 'Everyone Has Their Own Story, But the Pain Is the Same' Experiences and Needs of Older Persons from Ukraine in Poland.



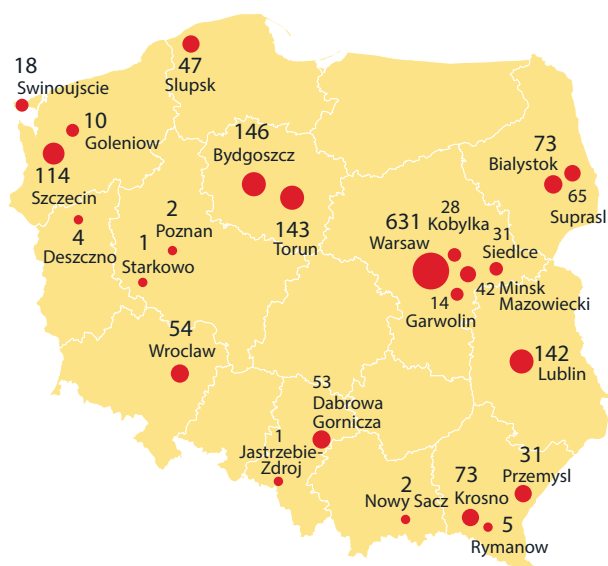


Employment people from Ukraine in Poland

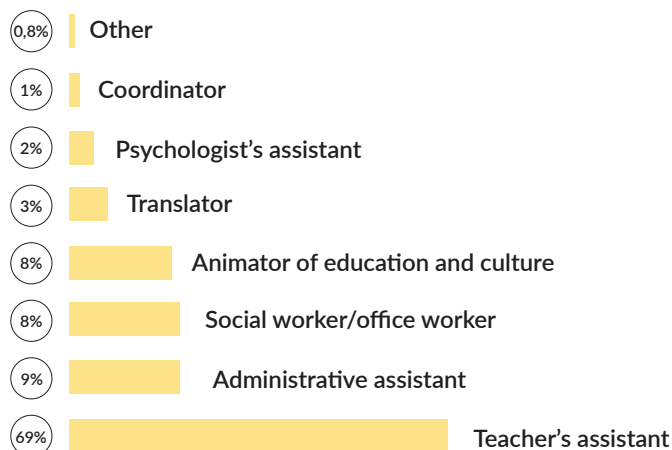
According to the Polish Ministry of Education, as of November 2023, 286,000 children from Ukraine were enrolled in Polish schools. To support both refugees and the Polish education system, the PCPM Foundation launched its original “Cash for Work” program. Initially conceived as a short-term intervention employment initiative in Poland, it has evolved into a long-term commitment benefiting local governments, education departments, schools, kindergartens, and, most importantly, refugees from Ukraine. Between 2022 and 2023, the program successfully employed 1,730 refugee women and refugees across 24 Polish cities.

The “Cash for Work” program not only supported schools but also extended to cultural institutions. Remarkably, seventy Ukrainian artists found employment in Warsaw’s theaters, museums, libraries, and cultural centers, constituting 9 percent of the city’s cultural workforce.

Typically, “Cash for Work” programs provide short-term assistance to those most in need, lasting up to six months. However, the PCPM Foundation managed to sustain this program for an impressive two years. During January to March 2023, 1,200 individuals were employed, primarily in roles such as teacher’s aides, psychologists, translators, administrative assistants, and cultural facility workers. Subsequently, 895 people participated from April to June, followed by 240 people in October, and finally 215 people by the end of 2023. Thanks to prudent fund management, the program was extended to support the most vulnerable individuals, with 50 of them assured employment until the end of June 2024. Some schools even hired refugee women and refugees who had previously worked under the “Cash for Work” program, while others partially funded full-time positions, with the PCPM Foundation covering the remainder



Occupation:



Projects funded by:





Vocational and language courses

Refugees face the challenge of adapting to a new reality. To assist them, from January to September 2023, the PCPM, in collaboration with CARE and with financial support from the Coca-Cola Foundation, conducted a series of vocational trainings for refugees. These programs were implemented in cooperation with local labor offices in four cities: Warsaw, Toruń, Lublin, and Swinoujscie. A total of 950 refugees, primarily from Ukraine, participated in these initiatives.

Participants completed Polish language courses ranging from levels A1 to C1. Notably, 188 participants from the “Cash for Work” program engaged in an intensive C1-level course specifically designed to prepare refugees for employment in Polish schools. While the PCPM Foundation’s project primarily targets Ukrainian refugees, it has also benefited individuals from beyond the eastern border. People from Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, and Jordan have joined training groups in Warsaw and Toruń. Among them are political refugees unable to return to their home countries.

In addition to language courses, the PCPM organized vocational training for 180 refugees, equipping them with skills for various job roles, including nursery caregivers, cashiers,

positions in the hotel or catering industry, and the beauty industry. Funding was also allocated for courses leading to a category B driver’s license.

In Lublin, in collaboration with SPILNO and the “5Medium” Foundation, training courses focused on enhancing knowledge and skills related to navigating the Polish labor market. Additionally, classes covered subjects relevant to the “eighth-grade exam”. A total of 66 individuals benefited from these efforts.

“In this course, I learn how to be a babysitter. Different techniques are shown to work with the children, how to change them, and how to play. I am convinced that I will be able to find a job thanks to this course because it is very practical.”

Alisa Kuznetsova

Projects funded by:





Flats instead of collective accommodation centers

Many refugees escaping the war sought refuge with their relatives and friends. However, some lacked such opportunities. In early 2022, the PCPM rented seven apartments to provide temporary assistance until the situation in Ukraine stabilized. As the months of war unfolded, it became evident that many Ukrainians in Poland couldn't afford to rent an apartment independently. In 2023, the Polish Center for International Aid initiated a pilot project to subsidize rent and security deposits. This support targeted refugees who had previously resided in collective housing centers and faced challenges finding alternative accommodations due to financial

constraints. Under this project, the foundation covered the entire rent and security deposit for the first month and a half, extending support for the subsequent five months. For multi-person families, the maximum assistance provided was PLN 3,300.

Sixteen families benefited from this support in 2023, and the project, initially a pilot, proved to be a successful endeavor.

Projects funded by:



PCPM educational projects



39 111 individuals

visited the Centers for Education and Creativity in Warsaw.



4 750 children

from Ukraine and Poland participated in organized day camps

The PCPM Foundation has established two Education and Creativity Centers in Warsaw for mothers with children from Ukraine. The first created in cooperation with mBank, located on Królewska Street, a second center on Foksal Street, partnered with the Warsaw Department and General Board of the Association of Polish Architects (SARP), the National Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning (NIAiU), the Society of Interior Designers (SAW), and the Mazovian District Chamber of Architects. At these centers, both children and mothers could engage in a variety of

artistic and therapeutic activities. Additionally, they received free assistance from professionals such as psychologists, speech therapists, and defectologists. The Królewska Street Center attracts 4,000 visitors each month and operated from April 2022 to June 2023.

Furthermore, the PCPM Foundation organized summer vacations for Ukrainian children through the "Summer in Poland with PCPM" program. These vacations benefited 3,000 children across 10 Polish cities. In the subsequent 2023 edition, Polish and Ukrainian children had the opportunity to participate in arts and crafts workshops, engage in sports and recreational activities, and enjoy trips to theater performances and amusement parks. Over 1,750 children actively participated in the "Summer in the City" project, which received support from the foundation. The holiday care project for children in Warsaw was made possible through funding from the L. Kronenberg Citi Handlowy Foundation and a contribution from KMD Poland.



Thanks to the support of CARE organizations in cities such as Supraśl, Białystok, Warsaw, Lublin, Siedlce, and Bydgoszcz, the Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM) has undertaken significant initiatives. These include renovating 107 classrooms in 26 Polish schools and donating essential equipment like furniture, laptops, projectors, and games to schools that did not qualify for renovation.

In collaboration with UNICEF, PCPM established a special hotline to provide information about the education of Ukrainian children in Poland. This initiative aimed to assist both Ukrainian parents and schools in navigating educational challenges during these critical times.

Furthermore, recognizing the urgent needs of Ukrainian families, PCPM decided to establish an educational facility. After months of meticulous preparation and fundraising efforts, the PCPM Educational Center in Warsaw opened its doors in September 2022. This center serves 220 Ukrainian children, providing free education across 11 classes within the Ukrainian education system. The initiative received financial support from mBank clients and The Pfizer Foundation in Warsaw. The center also employs Ukrainian teachers, ensuring a nurturing and supportive learning environment for these young learners.

The Education Center provides quality learning with teachers selected through a meticulous recruitment process. It included more than 140 meetings with candidates, of which 17 (teachers) were selected. Recruitment was conducted among those who arrived after February 24, 2022, and live in Warsaw. The education at the PCPM Education Center is conducted on a stationary basis.

"I am happy that my child is studying in a Ukrainian school a thousand kilometers from home! A huge thank you to the Polish Center for International Aid! We need your help, and thank you very much for not being indifferent to us!"

Ekaterina Zemlyanko

Thanks to the support of The Pfizer Foundation, the Foundation was able to extend the work of the PCPM Education Center for another school year until June 2024 at the new location. Many companies were involved in supporting the facility during the school year, donating needed equipment and supplies. Their employees participated in inspiring meetings with students as part of their employee volunteer work, helping them make decisions about their future educational and professional paths.



Projects funded by:

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Polish Organizations Pooled Fund

"International organizations have cut support for Polish institutions helping Ukrainians by up to 80 percent. Help is still needed by several hundred thousand people residing in our country, among them women, children, and the elderly."

Wojtek Wilk, CEO of the PCPM Foundation

POP Fund - Polish Organizations Pooled Fund - was established in October 2023. It is a joint initiative of the third sector, founded after consultations with UN agencies, and donors such as Google, Meta, banks, and other international companies operating in Poland. The goal is to develop projects supporting Ukrainian refugees, mainly women, people with disabilities,, and older adults, through open grant competitions. Grants are decided by the fund's Steering Committee, which includes representatives

of NGOs, state and local governments, and the private sector. Unlike similar funds coordinated by the UN and operating in Ukraine, Lebanon, or Yemen, the POP Fund operates mainly with private-sector funding.

POP Fund launched its first competition for small grants in early November. It selected 16 projects, which are being implemented from the beginning of 2024. As declared in December 2023, the POP Fund also announced a second competition with a larger pool of funds for small, medium, and large projects implemented by Polish foundations, associations, volunteer fire departments, rural housewives' circles, or parishes.

More information on the Polish NGO Fund and the currently published competitions can be found at popfund.pl/en.



Projects funded by:





How to support Ukraine



pcpm.org.pl/ukraine

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