

NRC's operations in Poland

Notice: Poland closed its operations in March 2025

NRC was present in Poland from March 2022 to March 2025. We started and ended our operations 100% through local actors. During this period, we supported more than 330,000 people. We took the decision in July 2024 to close given the changing context, the legally enabling environment and increasing levels of self-recovery, the significant capacity of government and civil society, and the decrease in funding for INGOs in Poland, including NRC. As part of preparedness planning in the event of a future and significant influx of refugees into Poland, Emergency Preparedness Agreements were signed by the regional office with two partners in February 2025.

Humanitarian overview

Since the escalation of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, over six million people have crossed from Ukraine into the EU through Poland, fleeing the armed conflict in search of safety and international protection. Close to one million individuals have decided to stay in Poland and register for temporary protection. But despite the enabling legal environment and their access to social assistance, many struggle to cover their basic needs.

Refugees from third countries crossing into Poland from Belarus face limited access to shelter, drinking water, food and other necessities at the border and in the forests between the formal border crossings. They also face challenges in obtaining timely and accurate legal information on international protection and legal stay.



Photo: Grzegorz Zukowski/NRC

Our core activities



Education



Information, counselling
and legal assistance (ICLA)



Livelihoods
and food security



Protection
from violence



Shelter
and settlements

NRC in Poland

Operational	2022–2025
International staff	10
National staff	22

Our areas of operation

- Warsaw (country office)
- Nationwide



Our activities in detail

Before the closure of our Poland Country Office, we worked largely through local partners – responding to the influx of refugees through advocacy and programme interventions, including legal aid, education, livelihoods, shelter, protection from violence, and targeted cash for basic needs for the most vulnerable families and individuals. We also responded to the needs of migrants and refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, Sudan, Eritrea and other conflict-affected countries crossing irregularly into Poland from Belarus.

From late 2022 onwards, we led the private and public advocacy efforts to raise awareness of the humanitarian crisis and needs of local organisations at the Poland-Belarus border. We were one of the first international humanitarian organisations to support local partners providing lifesaving assistance to the people on the move at this border with technical expertise and financial support.

Our donors

We are grateful for the generous support from our donors:

- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
- Various private donors