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# **ONE PROPOSAL**

Jesuit response to Ukraine Crisis

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

01/01/2023 - 31/12/2023

**POLAND**

# POLAND

**Local project implementation  
Partner**



## Project Implementation

**Start date:** 01/05/2022

**End date:** 28/02/2025

## Project Reporting

**Start date:** 01/01/2023

**End date:** 31/12/2023

## Location

Warsaw  
Poznan  
Gdynia  
Nowy Sacz



## Contact Person

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## 1. Summary

The One Proposal project is being conducted in four Polish cities: Warsaw, Gdynia, Poznań, and Nowy Sącz, where 200k Ukrainians are estimated to be currently living. They are primarily refugees, with women and children accounting for almost 90%. In 2023, JRS Poland focused especially on providing them with psychosocial support, organizing integrational activities, and helping with education.

Poland is among the countries most strongly supporting Ukraine. At the end of 2023, there were around 960k Ukrainians under temporary protection in Poland - a lower number compared to 2022, as after finding the first shelter in our neighbouring country, many decided to travel further.

Those who stayed focused on enhancing their Polish language skills, looking for a job or a place to continue their education, and considering a long-term presence in the country. Therefore, their primary needs were met by JRS Poland with language courses (A1-B2), finding ways to provide for themselves (vocational counseling, student tutorials), and integrating with local communities (social events).

**People served  
in 1 year**

**2.265**

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On top of that, there was still a high demand for psychological support. Most refugees who can work are women who often care for children but cannot always work. Therefore, PTSD stress is very often strengthened by the frustration of not finding a job or, in many cases, by the necessity to work under the qualification possessed.

Poland's security and economic situation did not interfere much with accommodating further Ukrainians in 2023. The country has been growing steadily with a GDP growth rate of 4.5% in 2021 and 4.9% in 2022.

The war took its toll in 2023, as the GDP decelerated and is estimated to have grown only by 0.4%, but the country's GDP growth is expected to rise again by 2.9% in 2024 and 3.3% in 2025. Simultaneously, although Poland noted a high rise in the inflation index - 11.1% - it managed to keep unemployment at a remarkable 3% rate.

The government is the significant factor that changed and might soon have implications. After 8 years of right-wing party leadership, Poles gave power to a coalition of center, right-center, and left-wing parties. We do not expect substantial changes regarding the Ukrainians living in the country, but Poland's economy and international perception will indeed be affected.

In 2023, JRS Poland served 2 265 beneficiaries, providing each person with, on average, three to four different types of support. We run 30 Polish course groups with over 450 participants, almost 1000 people benefited from psychotherapy sessions, and we helped integrate more than 1300 refugees via dedicated events in our four locations.

As JRS Poland, the One Proposal project is a success, and the best proof is the relationships built with refugees and the close-knit community where they can always find support.

Thanks to our holistic approach, one can benefit from a few services and feel more protected - from Polish courses via shelters and youth clubs to drone piloting training, we do accompany those in need, which counts to them most.

Depending on needs, we start and finish temporary projects like English courses, art activities, camps for children, speaking clubs in Polish and English, or switch from support groups to individual psychological sessions. These adjustments are nevertheless within the originally proposed concept where the stated areas of support were the ones that occurred much needed.

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## 2. People served

The Project benefited:

- Refugees of Ukrainian nationality displaced by the conflict in Ukraine,
- Refugees of other nationalities displaced by the conflict in Ukraine,
- Refugees of other nationalities displaced by the conflicts other than in Ukraine.

<b>People served in 2023</b>	<b>2.265</b>
<b>People served in 2 years</b>	<b>39.313</b>

In 2023, JRS Poland served 2,265 unique Ukrainian beneficiaries. The total number of actions undertaken, counted as interactions between the JRS Poland and the refugees, amounted to 6.8k. As stated in the table below, the most needed help sector is psychosocial support – accounting for 1/3 of the help given, followed by integration/peacebuilding and education, each representing around 20% of the Polish team’s efforts. Additionally, our integration activities gathered local Polish citizens – 65 people, and participants of other nationalities – 350 people.

SECTOR	GIRLS	BOYS	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL
Emergency Aid/ Relief/ Assistance	89	85	25	2	217
Shelter/Non-Food Items	12	60	529	121	767
Legal assistance	-	1	156	49	682
Mental Health & Psychosocial Support	875	416	535	341	2.331
Health	7	5	104	15	138
Education	150	219	748	100	1.357
Livelihood	-	1	8	-	15
Awareness raising/ advocacy	130	122	300	246	1.168
Integration & Peacebuilding	336	244	600	165	1.460
Capacity building	-	-	16	4	20

## 3. How Galina found spiritual refuge in JRS Poland

“Never again ...”, Galina recalls. “We couldn’t have imagined something so terrible, and devastating could happen again, but it did ... again. It is tremendously difficult to come back to my memories of those days.”

It all began on a frosty winter morning. Galina lived in the Bucha region and her family was abruptly awakened by echoes of explosions. “From that moment, our life was like a horrible dream.”

Day by day, the realization set in that their chances of survival were diminishing. There was no electricity and no mobile reception. As the days went by, bread became scarcer. “I will never get rid of the feeling of fear that I have only a few pieces of bread left”, Galina shares.

Throughout the occupation, it was tough for Galina and her family to stay calm. Every moment was full of fear, grief, and suffering. The family no longer wanted to reside in this environment. “We had to save our own lives. I believe that it was God’s will that we managed to flee”.

Upon crossing the border, they were relieved to have arrived in Poland, but at the same time devastated. They were in a foreign country without any knowledge on anything or knowing anyone. Fortunately, Galina and her family found compassionate volunteers who guided them to the city of

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Poznan and offered shelter to them.

This turning point was accompanied by another momentous encounter. “Later, we met our good friends from JRS, Father Dariusz Michalski and Father Grzegorz Dobroczyński, people with great hearts who still support and pray for us, Ukraine, and the world”.

“JRS became our second home, not only physically, but also spiritually” Galina describes. A second home providing a sanctuary for prayer, psychological support, understanding and care, where Galina’s husband was also supported in his priestly mission.

Grateful for the prayers of their Jesuit friends, Galina feels God accompanying them, on their temporary journey in Pozan, instilling their hearts with peace, calmness and faith in a better tomorrow.

Galina is unsure about her future plans because “life can drastically change”. For the time being, she feels that JRS’ support means a “safe haven”. “My family is sincerely very grateful to God for His kindness and blessing us to meet such a wonderful team of JRS, for their restless work and great support”.



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## 4. Financial summary

AXIS	CODE	BUDGET CATEGORY	EXPENDITURE IN EUROS	TOTAL
WELCOME	1A	Short term shelter	€ 1,474.06	€ 22,800.76
	1B	Emergency aid relief	€ 21,326.70	
PROTECT	2A	Long term shelter	€ 119,137.66	€ 262,767.38
	2B	Non food Items	€ 7,106.70	
	2C	Mental Health and Psychosocial Support	€ 107,829.48	
	2D	Health	€ 7,069.04	
	2E	Legal Assistance	€ 21,624.51	
	3A	Education	€ 138,934.19	
PROMOTE & INTEGRATE	3B	Livelihood	€ 15,240.73	€ 253,183.66
	3C	Awareness raising	€ 12,724.25	
	3D	Advocacy	€ 2,899.80	
	3E	Reconciliation & Peacebuilding	€ 83,384.69	
CAPACITY BUILDING	4A	Capacity building	€ 219,248.56	€ 219,248.56
TOTAL				€ 758,000.37