



**RIGHT
TO PROTECTION
POLAND**

**DIGEST
HUMANITARIAN
RESPONSE**



**04-12
2023**

RIGHT TO PROTECTION IN UKRAINE

Right to Protection Charitable Foundation is a leading human rights organisation in Ukraine that provides multi-purpose assistance to IDPs, the war-affected population, refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons. The Foundation implements programmes offering legal, psychological, and material support to IDPs and the war-affected population, as well as provides social assistance and monitors the protection of rights.



With more than 1,100 professionals, the Foundation has 30 ongoing projects that impact countless lives and contribute to creating an environment based on protection and humanitarian assistance.

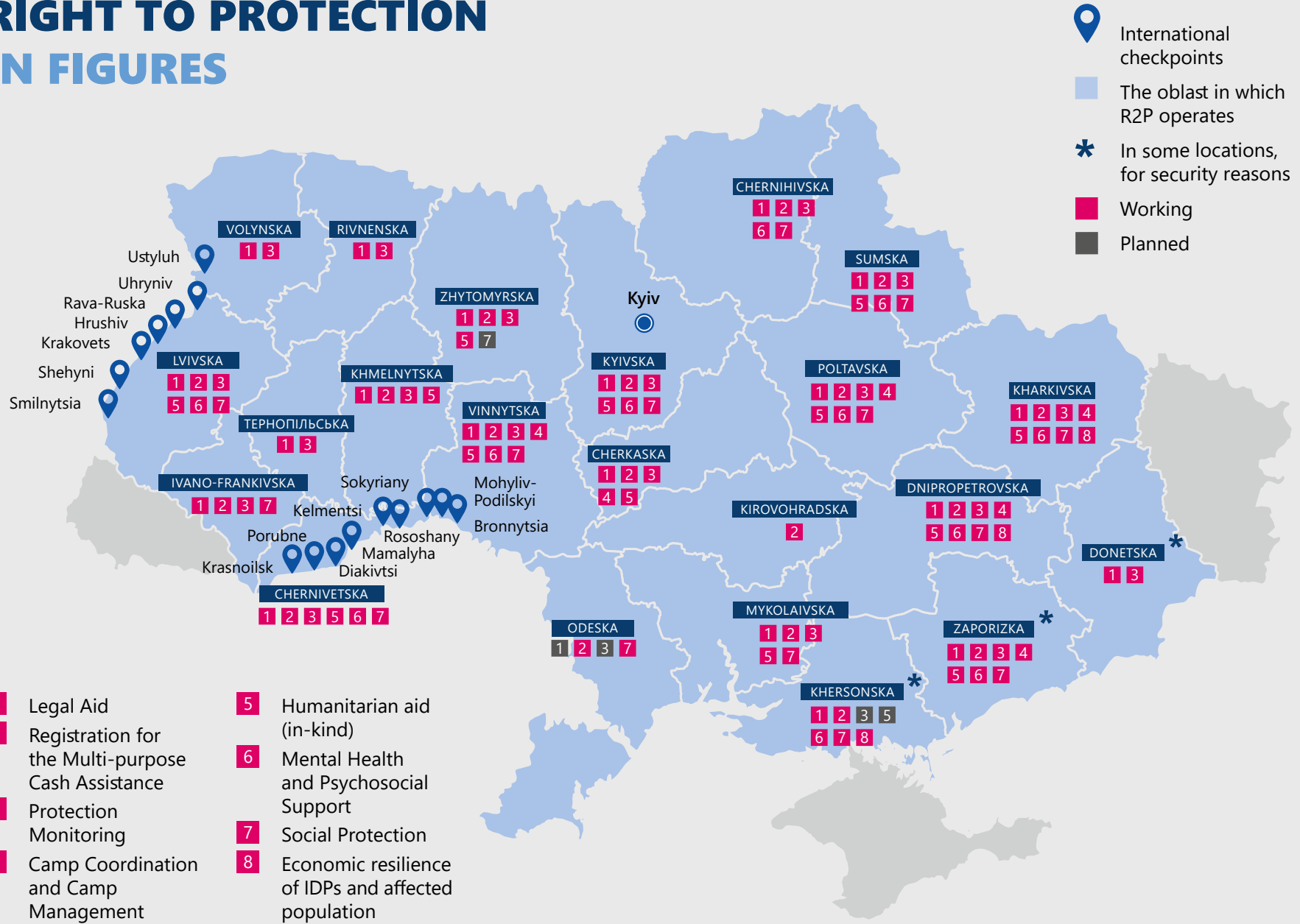


Working with 27 partner organisations it demonstrates the interconnected strength and shared vision, amassing a budget of over \$30,000,000 in 2023, laying the groundwork for change.



Recognising the urgent need for assistance to Ukrainian citizens abroad, the strategic launch of the Right to Protection office in Poland has built a bridge of support for Ukrainians, reaffirming the Foundation's commitment to global assistance and protection.

RIGHT TO PROTECTION IN FIGURES



OPENING OF THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION POLISH OFFICE IN WARSAW

Understanding the number of Ukrainians abroad, an important step in Right to Protection's activities was the opening of the Foundation's representative office in Poland — Right to Protection Poland — to support citizens who were forced to move due to the full-scale invasion and found refuge here.

With the support of HIAS, an office was opened in Warsaw, where beneficiaries can receive psychological and legal assistance. In addition, Right to Protection Poland experts protect the rights of Ukrainians temporarily residing in Poland.

In 2022, we helped Ukrainians abroad online and realised that we could be more practical while on the ground, providing legal and psychological assistance. As a recognised human rights organisation in Ukraine, we wanted to support our citizens in Poland through advocacy and sustainable change. That is why, in 2023, with the financial and organisational support of our parent organisation, HIAS, we opened a representative office for Ukrainians in Warsaw offline and throughout Poland online.

Since then, we have been able to help more Ukrainians in Poland and advocated for the rights of children and adults in this country. We have established numerous links with Polish civil society, the UN, and international organisations. We have launched new activities aimed at increasing the economic resilience of Ukrainians in Poland, and in the future, we plan to expand our assistance to non-Ukrainian refugees and stateless persons in Poland.

I am incredibly proud of the Polish women-led R2P team and their outstanding achievements.



Oleksandr Galkin
President of Right to Protection





CHRONOLOGY OF THE OPENING OF RIGHT TO PROTECTION POLAND

The Polish representative office of Right to Protection was registered in April 2023 and started its work in August. This is a unique humanitarian NGO that helps Ukrainian citizens in Poland, as it is headed by specialists who also moved abroad after the start of the full-scale invasion. R2P's consultants know both Polish and Ukrainian legal systems and are the first to get to know the needs and problems of asylum seekers. In addition, thanks to close cooperation with the Ukrainian office, Right to Protection Poland can address legal and advocacy issues that require dialogue between the two countries.

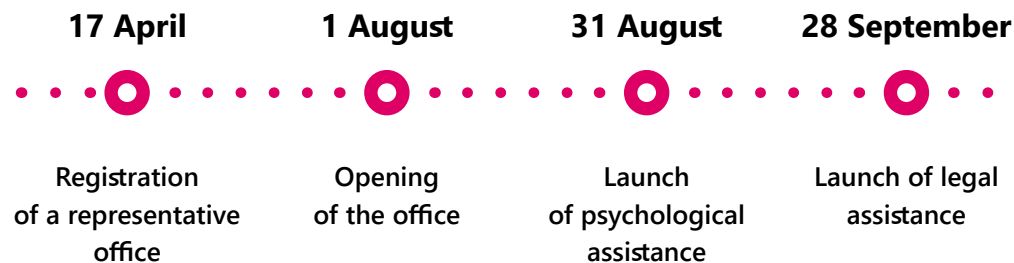


Opening a representative office of a Ukrainian foundation in Poland was a challenge. However, an even bigger one was to assemble a great team. And we succeeded!

We found those who were not just looking for a job but were actually concerned about helping and solving the issues of Ukrainians in Poland. Most of the team has gone through the challenges of legalisation and adaptation in another country, so they understand the problems and the system they need to work with. We have found our feet this year and are ready for new challenges.



Ivanna Herus
Director of Right to Protection Poland



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS OF RIGHT TO PROTECTION POLAND



533

beneficiaries received assistance



659

consultations were held



50

group classes organised



COMMUNICATION RESULTS

RIGHT TO PROTECTION
POLAND'S
OWN CHANNELS



Facebook

Number of subscribers

1,150

Reach

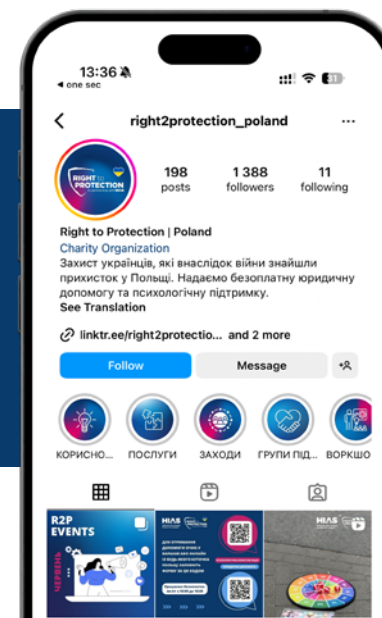
53,000



Instagram

750

5,700



RIGHT TO PROTECTION POLAND'S TEAM

Almost half of the team moved to Poland because of the war in Ukraine, so Right to Protection Poland's specialists understand the challenges faced by Ukrainians here better than anyone.



11

employees are part of the Right to Protection Poland team, three of whom have worked in the humanitarian field



45%

of employees moved to Poland because of the war in Ukraine



1

person from the team is of Polish origin

COMPASSIONATE CONSULTANTS

Thanks to the close cooperation with the Ukrainian office, Right to Protection Poland's specialists can work on legal and advocacy issues that require dialogue between the two countries.

LEGAL TRANSPARENCY

Thanks to the close cooperation with the Ukrainian office, Right to Protection Poland's specialists can work on legal and advocacy issues that require dialogue between the two countries.



ADVOCACY FOR THE RIGHTS

By analysing requests to lawyers, the specialists saw systemic problems and passed them on to the advocacy team for processing.

ISSUES THAT RECEIVED SPECIAL ATTENTION

LACK OF ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS AND REGISTERS. DEACTIVATION OF PESEL UKR AND INTERRUPTION OF SOCIAL PAYMENTS — THESE PROCEDURES NEEDED TO BE IMPROVED.



Photo: culture.pl/Grzegorz Skowronek

EVACUATED CHILDREN FROM CHILDREN'S INSTITUTIONS:

- establishing procedures for the return of unaccompanied minors from Ukraine who are under care in Poland that take into account individual interests and include their consent;
- collecting and exchanging data on unaccompanied minors who have left Ukraine and are staying in Poland.

EDUCATION:

- monitoring the exercise of the right to education of Ukrainian school-children in Poland;
- exchange of data on Ukrainian children studying in the Polish and Ukrainian education systems;
- learning the language and culture of the country of origin.

In 2024, Right to Protection plans to contribute to the development of migration policy with the active participation of other organisations dealing with asylum seekers to determine in a long-term and strategic perspective what the life, rights, and obligations of Ukrainian citizens in Poland should look like. For example, how to educate Ukrainian children here and facilitate the integration of Ukrainians into Polish society.

LEGAL AID

At the end of 2023, funding for many charitable projects to support Ukrainians under temporary protection in Poland decreased. Many of them have ended, while others are winding down their activities. This left people without support in a country where they did not know who to turn to for help.

It was especially difficult for Ukrainians who moved to Poland after 2022. These people had to adapt to new living conditions, search for information, and face legal difficulties. They needed advice on obtaining legal status, concluding housing lease agreements, state aid, labour and tax issues, family law, education, and medical care.

The Foundation's lawyers assisted the Ukrainians by providing expert advice and aid in complex legal issues. Right to Protection Poland specialists focused on providing transparent and accessible information, drafting official appeals, and explaining the procedures to the beneficiaries.

THE MOST COMMON TOPICS OF REQUESTS

- Legalisation of residence.
- Obtaining the status of UKR.
- ZUS status and other social benefits.
- Legal aspects of employment.
- Non-payment of wages.
- Starting a business.
- Renting a house and returning the deposit.
- Education in Poland.
- Family law, etc.

KEY FIGURES*



196

legal consultations were provided



70

beneficiaries received assistance

* October-December 2023



PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE

A unique feature of the Foundation’s work was the opportunity to receive help in Ukrainian from people who understood what displacement meant and had witnessed the combat themselves.

INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS

Psychologists conducted individual consultations online and offline, consisting of 1 to 6 meetings lasting 50 minutes.



THE MOST COMMON TOPICS OF THE CONSULTATIONS

- Crisis support during loss (of loved ones, home, sense of security and dignity, control over life).
- Building a new life in a new place (vision of the future, drawing up an action plan for the time away from home, support for actions during depression).
- Monitoring the condition of children (working with the consequences of war, supporting integration into a new social environment).

KEY FIGURES*



413

individual consultations
were held



149

beneficiaries received
assistance

* October-December 2023

GROUP CONSULTATIONS

The Foundation also specialised in conducting group sessions. Groups for children and adolescents who had lost social ties due to displacement to Poland and needed to form a new social circle were a valuable part of the work. Group sessions conducted by Right to Protection Poland psychologists helped to develop communication skills in a safe environment where the rules of non-judgement and confidentiality were in place.

A special form of work was the Ridni support group meetings for women whose loved ones are defending Ukraine. Women who are in Poland and their husbands are at the frontline often become estranged not only from their loved ones but also from Ukraine. Long-distance relationships and worries about their husbands in danger frequently lead to misunderstandings from both their families in Ukraine and their close circle in Poland. Therefore, communication with those in a similar situation made it possible to share experiences and provide mutual support openly.

KEY FIGURES*



50

group consultations
were held



314

people took part
in group
consultations

* October-December 2023



GROUP CONSULTATIONS TOPICS

- Effective planning and time management in the face of uncertainty.
- Information hygiene — how not to let the news dominate you.
- Coping with separation from home/country.
- Long-distance relationships.
- Bullying at school.
- Understanding adolescents, peculiarities of their development.
- Child's dependence on gadgets, etc.

EVENTS ORGANISED FOR UKRAINIANS IN POLAND



September

- The Family group (for wives of military personnel).
- Psychological support group for women.
- Psychological support group for teenagers.



October

- The Returning Home: Adapting to Life in the Context of Prolonged Armed Aggression webinar.
- The Starting a Business in Poland: Legal Advice and Psychological Readiness Practical Workshop.
- The Family group (for wives of military personnel).
- Psychological support group for women.
- Psychological support group for teenagers.



November

- The Doing Business in Poland: Additional Financing practical workshop.
- Support meetings for younger teenagers aged 9–13.
- The Colourful November art therapy meetings for women.
- The Recovery support meetings for women.
- Support meetings for teenagers aged 14–16.



December

- December
- The Employment: The Way to a Career in a New Country discussion panel.
- The Restoration support meeting for women.
- Support meeting for teenagers aged 14–16.
- Support meeting for younger teenagers aged 9–13.



HAPPY TO HELP!

