



# MAY 2025

## Report from the Poland–Belarus border

**WAW** WE ARE  
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**GRUPA**GRANICA



## Introduction

The following study is based on first-hand data obtained from persons involved in the described events. Our sources comprise organisations, informal initiatives, as well as individuals—the latter of whom often wish to remain anonymous, hence we do not mention them by name unless they have given us permission to do so. We owe special thanks to all those in transit who chose to share their own experiences with us.

Humanitarian workers and those who collaborate with them emphasise that the challenging context and ethics of their work often prevents them from obtaining more detailed information about the stories and circumstances of people on the move. During interventions, many such people are in such a severe psychophysical condition that it is not possible to obtain detailed information without risking retraumatisation or making them feel obligated to provide answers to humanitarian organisations simply because they have received support.

The described interventions and support provided to persons on the move took place on the territory of the Podlaskie and Lubelskie Voivodeships. For persons in Belarus, information is provided on the legal situation and access to procedures for applying for international protection in Poland and Belarus. All names used in the report have been changed.

For additional questions and suggestions from individuals or organisations who might be interested in receiving reports, please contact: [dane@wearemonitoring.org.pl](mailto:dane@wearemonitoring.org.pl)

## Definitions

A glossary of terms and the definitions we have adopted can be found at the end of the report.

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Since 2021, we have been collecting reliable information regarding the situation on the Polish-Belarusian border. Your support will allow us to continue this work.

## Campaign targeting countries of origin

In April 2025, Prime Minister Donald Tusk officially announced the launch of an information campaign aimed at the societies of countries of origin of people reaching the EU via the Belarusian route. The goal was to reduce the intensity of migration along this route and to counter the narratives of smuggling networks portraying the route as relatively easy.

According to the official government portal gov.pl, the campaign is to be conducted in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Iraq, Pakistan, Egypt, and Kenya. It is to include, among other things, short videos on YouTube and social media, as well as posters. We were unable to determine how many videos are planned in total, where exactly they will be distributed, what budget has been allocated for their paid promotion, or how many and where exactly the posters will be distributed.

The first video — a forty-second spot.<sup>1</sup> — was published on the Chancellery of the Prime Minister's YouTube channel on May 30, 2025. On June 12, 2025, the campaign was officially launched in the above mentioned countries. According to the government, the main message of the campaign is:

- the Polish-Belarusian border is effectively protected thanks to the extensive infrastructure and the presence of uniformed services;
- the right to international protection in Poland has been suspended;
- the Polish-Belarusian migration route is exceptionally difficult.

The visual layer of the May 30 video is dominated by dynamic shots of border infrastructure and Border Guard officers — both at the border line itself and during document checks, most likely at an airport. The images are accompanied by a voice-over reading key messages: "Poland is not a gateway to Europe," "people who crossed the border illegally cannot apply for asylum," and "if someone promises you a prosperous life in Europe, they don't care about your happiness, only your money."

The persuasive layer of the video portrays the border as a highly institutionalized and militarized space: equipped with modern technologies and patrolled by the military and border guards. The narrative, especially the visual layer, suggests that any attempt to cross the border is doomed to fail — not only because of physical security measures, but above all because the person on the move is immediately seized by the state apparatus. This message is reinforced by a sequence edited from numerous shots of handcuffing, (most likely) deportation, and an image of a group of detained individuals lying in a row under the supervision of officers — we can assume this is a suggestion of what will happen after crossing the border. Also reinforcing the message is the recurring motif of an aggressive, barking service dog, highlighting the element of physical threat.

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<sup>1</sup>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eze8FINiUe4&embeds\\_referring\\_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.pl%2F&source\\_ve\\_path=MjM4NTE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eze8FINiUe4&embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.pl%2F&source_ve_path=MjM4NTE)



Fig. 1. Photo published on the gov.pl website as part of the documentation of the campaign activities.  
Source: Chancellery of the Prime Minister, Polish borders are effectively protected – an information campaign targeting illegal migrants has been launched, published on 12 June 2025.  
<https://www.gov.pl/web/premier/polskie-granice-sa-skutecznie-chronione--ruszyla-kampania-informacyjna-skierowana-do-nielegalnych-migrantow> [accessed: 30 June 2025].

The potential impact of the campaign on reducing the scale of migration along the Belarusian route is yet impossible to predict. Reliable evaluation studies include both adequate methods and techniques (so far, both case studies and experimental research have been used in similar situations), and they take into account the cultural and political diversity of the countries of origin, as well as the strength of push factors – including the most dramatic ones – such as armed conflicts, persecution or ongoing climate change.

What is missing from the published video is any information about legal alternatives to traveling the irregular Belarusian route. The campaign also provides imprecise information regarding the possibility of applying for international protection in Poland – the video states that “if someone crosses the border illegally, they will not receive asylum.” This is not entirely true – according to the applicable Regulation of the Council of Ministers of March 27, 2025, on the temporary limitation of the right to submit an application for international protection (Journal of Laws 2025, item 390), it is not possible to submit an application for international protection at the border with Belarus (either at the green border or at the border crossing). The regulation says nothing about the possibility of receiving protection in Poland, i.e., receiving a positive decision from

the Head of the Office for Foreigners, if someone has already submitted an application. People who managed to submit an application after the regulation came into force — e.g., away from the Belarusian border or due to belonging to one of the vulnerable groups — are awaiting a decision from the Head of the Office for Foreigners.

It is currently difficult to forecast the potential impact of the campaign on reducing the scale of migration along the Belarusian route — reliable evaluation studies would have to include both appropriate methods and techniques — so far, both case studies and experimental studies have been used in similar situations — and take into account the cultural and political diversity of countries of origin, as well as the strength of push factors, including the most dramatic ones: armed conflicts, persecution, or ongoing climate change.

It is hard not to appreciate the potential of information campaigns in general — materials showing the dangers encountered during migration (including the risk of exploitation, violence, or enslavement) can potentially protect people embarking on the journey from harm. However, they should be prepared in a reliable manner and contain information about the dangers and ways to avoid them, as well as alternative ways to migrate safely. The Polish campaign does not seem to be aimed at informing but rather at intimidating and deterring potential newcomers. The countries where it is being conducted include, among others, Afghanistan, Eritrea, and Somalia — places people flee from due to persecution, violence, and conflict. So far, by discouraging travel along the Belarusian route, the Polish government does not offer any alternative for safe and legal migration. It also does not focus on real threats such as human trafficking but rather on negative messaging about a sealed border, document checks, and the lack of possibility to obtain international protection (which, paradoxically, is described in the video as “strengthening refugee law”).

Whether the campaign will prove effective or whether the need to migrate stemming from poor conditions in the country of origin (as mentioned above: persecution, armed conflict, extreme poverty, etc.) will prove stronger than the fears instilled by it— only time will tell.

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Whether the campaign will prove effective or — on the contrary — whether the need to migrate stemming from poor conditions in the country of origin (as mentioned above: persecution, armed conflict, extreme poverty, etc.) will prove stronger than the fears instilled by the campaign — only time will tell.

## Deaths

In the first months of 2025, between January and May, at least nine people lost their lives on both sides of the Polish-Belarusian border as a result of the border regimes of Poland and Belarus. For comparison, over the entire year of 2024, the Border Death Monitoring Group (BDMG) confirmed the deaths of 15 people.<sup>2</sup>

April 2025 was one of the most tragic months since the crisis began. In that month alone, six people were found in the Bug River near Janów Podlaski: one body on

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The list of people who lost their lives as a result of the border regimes of Poland and Belarus, along with a description of the methodology, created and continuously updated by the Border Death Monitoring Team, can be found at <https://wearemonitoring.org.pl/lista-zmarlych/>.

April 4, two more on April 15, and three more (two on the Polish side and one on the Belarusian side) on April 18. In March and April, people migrating from Belarus reported more than once that Belarusian officers forced them to cross the Bug River by swimming, often in large groups. One person requested help from NGOs from a small island or shoal on the Bug River, where they and their companions were trapped. According to the report, the people, in soaked clothes, were left stranded for more than 24 hours on the muddy shoal; at least one of them was in bad health condition and required immediate medical attention. Meanwhile, Belarusian officials did not allow them to return to the eastern bank of the river, pushing them into Poland. According to testimonies from people on the move in March alone, at least seven people drowned in the Bug River; it is not yet possible to determine how many of these reports relate to bodies that were found in April.

A similar pattern was also observed on other sections of the European Union border with Belarus. On April 30, the body of an Egyptian was found in the Kotra River on the Belarusian–Lithuanian border, and two more bodies were recovered on the Belarusian side<sup>3</sup>. According to reports<sup>4</sup>, a deceased person was also found in a river on the Belarus–Latvia border. We do not know if their identities have been established.

People wanting to cross from Belarus into Poland or other European Union countries sometimes choose or are directed to the route that leads from Belarus to Latvia or Lithuania, and only from there to Poland. Since the introduction of the temporary territorial suspension of the right to asylum on the Polish–Belarusian border, we have seen an increase in the number of people on the route through Latvia and Lithuania. The Latvian Border Guard says there were 1,666 attempts to cross the border in April and 1,900 in May<sup>5</sup>.

In addition to the confirmed border deaths described above, during the same period, from January to the end of May 2025, the Border Death Monitoring Team received reports and accounts of 14 people who died when travelling. Their identities and circumstances of death have not yet been verified. Researchers received information about five of them in May of this year.

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<sup>3</sup> UAB „15min“, Ramūnas Jakubausk, The bodies of three people found on the Belarusian border, explaining the two Belarusians, 2025, <https://www.15min.lt/naujiena/aktualu/nusikaltimaiirnelaimes/pasienyje-su-baltarusija-rasti-triju-zmoniu-kunai-59-2441358>

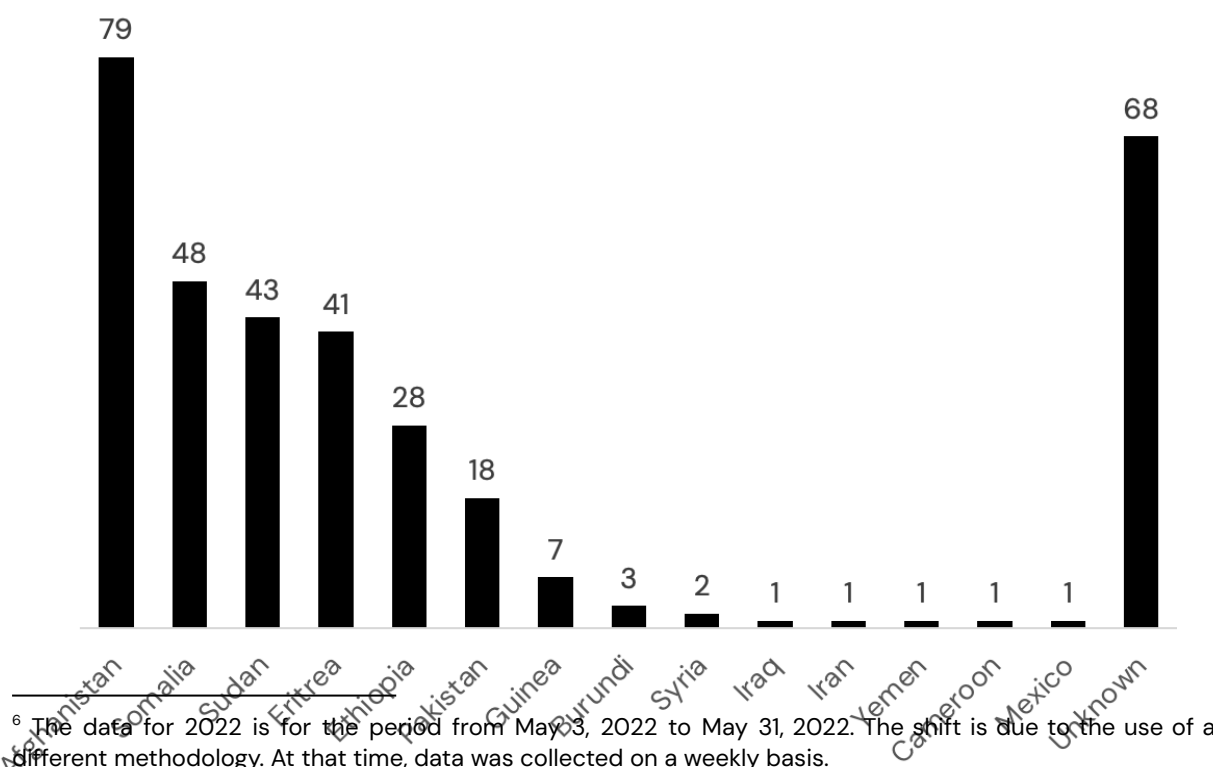
<sup>4</sup> According to an unofficial exchange on April 22, 2025, between the organization I Want To Help Refugees (Gribu palīdzēt bēgļiem) and a representative of the Latvian Border Guard, when asked whether bodies of deceased persons had been found on Latvian territory in recent months, the Border Guard answered that there haven't been such cases, adding however, that shortly before the exchange a body of a deceased person had been spotted in a riverbed on the Belarusian side, at a distance too far away to determine their gender.

<sup>5</sup> LSM+, Latvian Public Media, Latvia–Belarus border guards see over 60 illegal crossing attempts daily, 2025, <https://eng.lsm.lv/article/society/defence/27.05.2025-latvia-belarus-border-guards-see-over-60-illegal-crossing-attempts-daily.a600685/>

## Demographics, trends and requests

In May 2025, we recorded reports from 342 people traveling in 208 groups. Women accounted for almost 9% of the total number of requests – there were 30, one of whom was pregnant. Reports from minors accounted for just over 9% of all requests for assistance (31 of the 32 minors with whom we had contact in May were traveling without a legal guardian or custodian). The number of requests for assistance registered in May 2025 – 342 – is significantly lower than those recorded in the years: 2024 (1277), 2023 (816) i 2022 (478<sup>6</sup>).

REQUESTS MAY 2025				
	groups	individuals	minors (incl. UASC)	women (incl. pregnant)
<b>Total</b>	208	342	32 (31)	30 (1)
<b>incl. in Poland</b>	77	155	15 (15)	4 (0)
<b>incl. from Belarus</b>	100	115	10 (10)	15 (0)
<b>incl. from muharrama</b>	17	42	7 (6)	6 (0)



<sup>6</sup> The data for 2022 is for the period from May 03, 2022 to May 31, 2022. The shift is due to the use of a different methodology. At that time, data was collected on a weekly basis.



Fig. 2 Countries of origin of those reporting a need for support in May 2025.

79 of the total 342 reports were from people from Afghanistan. In the reported period we also recorded requests from 48 people from Somalia, 43 from Sudan, 41 from Eritrea, 28 from Ethiopia and 18 from Pakistan. The country of origin of 68 people was not determined.

In May, as it is a spring month, the weather conditions are expected to be relatively good. Despite this, during the reported period in Białowieża, on 15 days the minimum night-time temperature did not exceed 2°C, and on 8 of those days it fell below 0°C. Rain fell in the Białowieża Forest on 19 out of the 31 days in May. Thus, despite the visible and noticeable improvement in weather—and therefore travel—conditions, people attempting to cross the green border in spring are still at risk of serious health issues related to hypothermia, including hospitalization and even death.

*He was completely soaked and freezing, so it made sense that we brought him pants, a fleece, and shoes. We helped him change because he was stiff from the cold. [...] He also had small but painful wounds on three fingers of his left hand — we cleaned and bandaged them. He also asked for “life-saving” medicine.*

Excerpt from a report from a field intervention with an Afghan man travelling alone

*Six people, in Poland for the fourth time. One man had stomach problems. He said he drank dirty water. Another man had cold symptoms. They had minor wounds from concertina razor wire, blisters on their feet. One of them had quite deep wounds on his feet, as if he didn't have shoes for some time.*

Excerpt from a report from a field intervention with a group of six Afghans

*We met two men instead of four. They were scared, they kept repeating that they are afraid of the border services, that they don't want to be pushbacked. The rest of the group was afraid to approach us. They said they haven't eaten for a few days. They were wet from the rain. One of the men did not have shoes for a while. He had a rather deep wound from the concertina. They reported experiencing violence from services on both sides of the border.*

Excerpt from a report from a field intervention with a group of Afghani men

As many as 42 people, when interviewed by representatives of humanitarian organizations or activists, declared the need for medical assistance. People crossing the Polish-Belarusian border often suffer from general weakening of the body caused by

prolonged stay in the forest, gastrointestinal problems related to – among other things – consumption of contaminated water, irritation caused by contact with irritants such as pepper spray, and injuries related to dog bites and those resulting from the experience of physical violence. Still among the most common injuries are multiple and extensive razor wire wounds and orthopedic injuries resulting from falls or jumps from the fence.

*He tried to cross through Lithuania twice; now he is in Poland for the seventh time. He said they played with him like in football. He has a sprained foot after falling from the fence. The situation is not severe; the pain is mild. He joined his friend, who has waited for him for a few days. He has a severely sprained foot, or maybe even a small bone broken. The foot is very swollen, hard and hot, with irregular bruises.*

Excerpt from a report from a field intervention with a group of Afghanis

*The group has been on the Polish side for three days. They were pushbacked several times, between three and eight. One man had a deep knee wound with pus – it was treated by a medic. The rest of the men had wounds and scratches on their hands, wrists, legs, and one of them on the temple – caused by crossing through concertina wire. We bandaged the feet of two of them. They were tired and had particularly destroyed, dirty, torn clothes.*

Excerpt from a report from a field intervention with a group of Eritreans

## **Muharrama and Belarus**

In May, we recorded reports from 115 people contacting from the eastern side of the border barrier. 42 of those people reported that they were stuck in the strip between the barrier located on Polish territory and the fortifications on the Belarusian side. The individuals were part of 17 groups. Among them were at least six women and seven minors, six of whom were traveling without a legal guardian. Some of them had already been in the area before making their first attempt to cross the border barrier, while others experienced pushback and were turned back there by Polish border guards. 73 people were in Belarus, mainly from major Belarusian cities.

*Poland border force also beat me very badly. My foot bone is broken. Poland border force spray [gas] on me and beaten me. I need to get out from here they are beating all the people here right now very badly near polish border. [...] My friend, foot bone is broken, ja can't even walk simply. They will beat us very badly every time if we came from Poland. Here in Belarus they are not even allowing us to eat something and beating us like donkeys. We are 22 people here now they are not allowing us to eat and drink water and beating us again and again. I'm using this phone hiddenly, please help us. [...] Here in Belarus they are not allowing us. [...] Polish border force are also not allowing here so what will we do?*

*They are not allowing us to eat and drink water. We will die here and we don't want that.*

Excerpt from a chat with a person asking for support in muharrama

## Delivered assistance

DELIVERED ASSISTANCE MAY 2025				
	groups	individuals	minors	women
<b>Total</b>	61	127	12 (12)	3
<b>Material aid</b>	54	115	12 (12)	2
<b>Legal aid</b>	12	17	1 (1)	3
<b>Medical aid</b>	9	10	1 (1)	0
<b>First aid</b>	14	18	2 (2)	0
<b>Hospital assistance</b>		37	1 (1)	3
<b>Number of undertaken interventions</b>		<b>65</b>		
<b>Number of successful interventions</b>		<b>48</b>		

In May, NGOs and those working with them managed to support 127 people travelling in 61 groups. This is almost three times as many as in April (46). Among them were three women. Almost 10% were minors, all traveling without a legal guardian or custodian.

The support provided to people on the move consists of humanitarian interventions in the field, often combined with accompanying medical interventions, and legal interventions, which in May primarily involved supporting people in their efforts to obtain an interim measure from the European Court of Human Rights that provides temporary protection from pushback.

*The person tried to ask for international protection by themselves, without the presence and support of activists. After having their fingerprints taken the person was pushbacked to Belarus.*

In May, out of the 127 people supported in total during humanitarian interventions, 29 were people with health problems. Of all those supported, 11 were patients of the medical team of the humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières – MSF). The remaining 18 received first aid.

Out of the 65 field interventions undertaken, 17 were unsuccessful, meaning that the location indicated by people on the move could not be reached in time. Such situations are usually due to problems in determining the exact location of the group or a lapse in contact, which can be a consequence of a phone running out of charge or the group being stopped by services before support arrives. In the case of some groups, it was possible to confirm that individuals were pushed back, as they contacted for support from the eastern side of the border barrier after some time.

## **Hospitals**

In May 2025, hospitals in Hajnówka and Białystok reported the presence of at least 37 patients who required hospitalization after crossing the green border. Among them was at least one minor and three women. Most of the hospitalized required medical attention due to orthopedic injuries. Many of the injuries to the upper and lower limbs were the consequences of falls from the border barrier. Falls from the border wall not only result in fractures of the limbs and spine, but also contusions, full-body lacerations and internal injuries. Additionally, cuts and lacerations often occur after contact with razor wire (concertina), which tops the steel barrier and which is distributed in successive strips along Poland's border fortifications. These injuries result in infections amongst patients. Among the other frequent reasons for hospitalization of people on the move are extensive lacerated wounds from dog bites and injuries characteristic for the consequences of physical violence.

In addition to basic material aid, most of the patients have received support from humanitarian workers in seeking the previously mentioned interim measure from the European Court of Human Rights. This document, in principle, protects individuals from pushback to Belarus and enables them to apply for international protection, despite the suspension in place. The average waiting time for the Court's decision ranges from a few hours to as much as 1-2 business days. In the meantime, as the practice of recent years shows, a person seeking protection is still vulnerable to pushback, even if he or she is in a medical facility due to health problems. According to the information collected, Polish border guards conducted at least five pushbacks from hospitals during the reported period.



## Pushbacks and Violence<sup>7</sup>

PUSHBACKS AND VIOLENCE MAY 2025				
	groups	individuals	minors (incl. UASC)	women (incl. pregnant)
<b>Reported pushbacks</b>	31	58	9(9)	3 (0)
<b>Reported violence PL</b>	13	31	1(1)	2 (0)
<b>Reported violence BY</b>	23	54	5(5)	4 (0)

During the reported period, humanitarian organizations received reports of pushbacks from 58 people traveling in 31 groups. Among them were at least three women and nine children. 23 of these people experienced more than one pushback. A total of 221 pushbacks to Belarus were registered in May.

Podlaski Border Guard Regional Unit admitted to perpetrating 1,765 pushbacks in the same period. 108 people were issued orders to leave the territory of Poland (Article 303b of the Act on Foreigners of 12 December 2013) and 1,657 people experienced pushbacks under the Regulation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration of 13 March 2020.

People on the move reporting violence that accompanied the pushbacks described cases of beatings, officers' use of irritants, tasers and harrassing with use of dogs. Theft and destruction of property are also commonly reported. In May alone, 31 people reported experiencing violence that according to accounts was perpetrated by members of the Polish uniformed services. At the same time, 54 people described violence perpetrated as they perceived by Belarusian forces. In total, we registered 95 reports of experience of violence in the Polish–Belarusian border region during the reported period.

*We reached the Polish border yesterday and we entered Poland. We were arrested by border guards and we were beaten and sent back to Belarus and then we were arrested by Wagner and the Belarusian army and we were beaten.*

<sup>7</sup> The quotes used in this chapter come from interviews conducted with people on the move, reports from non-governmental organizations working on the Polish–Belarusian border, and excerpts from messages sent by individuals on the move to NGOs and advocates. Quotes from text messages and reports that are not direct testimonies are appropriately described. Translations of quotes from in-depth interviews are based on consecutive translations and, as such, inherently include a degree of interpreter interpretation. Translations of messages and reports were carried out to preserve the original tone of the statements. Dates, locations, and details that could identify individuals have been removed from this work to ensure the anonymity of our interlocutors. All names have been changed.

*Then they forced us to climb the ladder and jump off the top of the wall. My oldest friend is broken. We were sent back again by the Polish border guards.*

Excerpt from a conversation with a man from Sudan

*I came to Belarus. I tried to enter Poland more than 12 times, but they beat me and sent me back. I have no injuries. I have lost money and psychologically.*

Excerpt from a conversation with a man from Ethiopia

Messages from people on the move continue to include accounts describing increased violence by Belarusian forces against people pushed back from Poland.

*The Polish police sprayed us with pepper spray, but they didn't hit us. There were three of us when we left Poland. Belarusian soldiers arrested us. They beat us so badly that they stripped us of our clothes and beat us with a shovel.*

Excerpt from a conversation with a man from Ethiopia, traveling with two colleagues

*One person reported seeing the body of a Pakistani man who was beaten to death by Belarusian forces when he asked for water [...] They spoke of great violence and brutality on the part of Belarusian forces. About being beaten after unsuccessful attempts to cross the border – one of them beaten in the head – and after pushbacks from Poland.*

Excerpt from a field intervention report with a group of people from Eritrea

## Definitions

**Total requests** — the total number of reported groups/people on the move located in Poland, Belarus, Lithuania, or Latvia. It does not include people staying in other European countries during the reporting period, as the report aims to reflect the situation on the Polish–Belarusian border and the related migration route.

**Groups** — people traveling together at the time of the report and/or during a humanitarian/legal/medical intervention. These individuals may or may not be related by family or social ties.

**Individuals** — specific people who may be part of groups

**Children** — all individuals whose confirmed or declared age is 0–18 years.

**Unaccompanied children/minors** — Persons under 18 years of age traveling without a legal adult guardian, including minors traveling with older siblings or other relatives who are not their legal guardians under Polish law.

**[Border] barrier**, also: wall, fence — a fortification located on Polish territory a few to several meters from the border with Belarus, in the form of a steel fence topped with a coil of razor wire and flanked by entanglements of coiled razor wire.

**Concertina** — razor wire, formed into large coils, constituting an additional part of the border infrastructure.

**Muharrama** (Arabic: forbidden) — a term used by Arabic-speaking people on the move to describe a strip of land on Polish and Belarusian territory located between the Polish border barrier and the fortifications on the Belarusian side (sistema). *Muharrama* in Arabic means “forbidden.” People on the move also use the longer expression المنطقة المحرمة, meaning “forbidden zone.”

**Sistema** — the fence and electronic system on the eastern side of the militarized border strip located in Poland and Belarus (muharrama), separating it from the rest of Belarus.

**Aid provided** — total number of people reached by organisations and entities operating in Podlasie who agreed to share information with us (GG + Ocalenie, unaffiliated residents and inhabitants of Podlasie, collectives, individuals, POPH)

**Material assistance** — support in the form of basic humanitarian aid packages: food, clothing, water, information.

**Legal assistance** — support in procedures aimed at preventing pushbacks and enabling the submission of applications for international protection, or other means of regulating stay.

**Medical assistance** — professional support provided by individuals with medical qualifications.

**Basic first aid** — support provided by individuals with basic rescue training, such as cleaning wounds or dressing trench foot.

**Assistance in hospitals** – material and/or legal assistance

**Pushback** — the forced return of people on the move to the border line or forcing them to leave the territory of Poland without properly examining individual circumstances; regardless of whether they have received return decisions and regardless of the fact that they have explicitly expressed the intention to apply for international protection in Poland. As noted by experts monitoring human rights violations on the southern borders

of the European Union, pushbacks constitute a form of violence *per se*, and are commonly accompanied by other forms of physical and verbal violence.<sup>8</sup>

**Reported pushbacks** — pushbacks reported to us during the given reporting period by people who experienced them directly or were eyewitnesses.

**Reported violence — Poland** — reported cases of violence directly experienced by people on the move, whose perpetrators, according to the victims' accounts, were members of Polish uniformed services: Border Guard, Police, Polish Army, Territorial Defence Forces.

**Reported violence — Belarus** — forms of violence reported to us and directly experienced by people on the move, whose perpetrators, according to the victims' accounts, were members of Belarusian uniformed services.

**Number of interventions** — the number of humanitarian interventions carried out by field teams in response to a request for support or the accidental encounter of people on the move in the border area.

**Number of deceased** — the number of people on the move who died since August 2021 on the Polish side of the Polish–Belarusian border, as well as cases on the Belarusian side that we are aware of. This does not include all deaths in hospitals or car accidents related to the migration route. Data are verified and supplemented by the Border Death Monitoring Group and published [here](#) along with detailed methodology. We expect that over time, data on more deaths may emerge, including from the period under consideration.

**Number of missing persons** — individuals whose disappearance has been reported by close relatives or travel companions, and for whom no contact has been made for at least two days.

**Injuries caused by the barrier** — injuries that occurred due to crossing the border barrier on the Polish–Belarusian border.

Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- minors</li><li>- unaccompanied minors</li><li>- persons over 45 years of age</li><li>- senior citizens aged 60 and over</li></ul>
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<sup>8</sup> K. Augustová, J. Sapoch, Border Violence as Border Deterrence. Condensed Analysis of Violent Push-Backs from the Ground, „Journal for Critical Migration and Border Regime Studies” 2002, nr 5(1), <https://movements-journal.org/issues/08.balkanroute/12.augustova,sapoch--border-violence-as-border-deterrence.html> [data dostępu: 8.04.2024].



Medical reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pregnancy</li> <li>- chronic illness</li> <li>- disability</li> </ul>
Protection Needs*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- victims of sexual violence</li> <li>- victims or persons subjected to gender-based violence</li> <li>- victims of torture</li> <li>- victims of human trafficking</li> </ul>

\* virtually impossible to identify at this stage