

JUNE 2026

Report from the Poland–Belarus border

I was beaten on both sides of the border—by both the Belarusian and Polish guards. They used violence against me during the push-back. I have been pushed back and I am now on the Belarusian side of the border. I lost all my family; I just want a decent life and to achieve my dream of becoming a football player.

Excerpt from a conversation with a teenager from Sudan staying in Belarus

In June, we registered reports from 65 people, of whom 45 were in Poland. Requests for support came both from those who found themselves in Poland after crossing the Belarusian border and from those who crossed the Lithuanian border. All those we managed to reach were from Afghanistan:

On site, nine men aged approximately 25 to 40. In Poland for two days. Practically none of them spoke English, only one a little. Their clothes and shoes were badly worn out, one was wearing a winter jacket. Their general condition was reasonably good, although several of them asked for their feet to be treated. Several had severe blisters, in places painful and tender. Two men had deep wounds on their palms and hands, badly inflamed, festering, and very painful to the touch. One of them was very badly bitten by mosquitoes, with red marks covering both legs. We had tea, water, food, shoes and clothing (though not for everyone), and three power banks for them.

Excerpt from a humanitarian intervention report

Nineteen of the recorded requests for support came from people who were stuck in Belarus or (in one case) Russia. Among them were two children, one of whom was traveling unaccompanied, and one — a teenager from the DRC, traveling with his older, pregnant sister. In total, we recorded reports from four pregnant women. All of them were struggling with health problems, and their accounts repeatedly mentioned a lack of access to any medical care. One of them, from

Guinea, in her eighth month of pregnancy, wrote:

I'm suffering, nothing is going right for me anymore. I started bleeding, I have a high fever, I can't sleep at night, I'm in a lot of pain. I don't have the papers, I'm illegal, I can't do anything, there are roadblocks outside, the police are everywhere.

Eight people reported experiencing a pushback from Poland to Belarus, but among those who contacted us were also some who chose to share their story of being forcibly removed from Lithuania and Latvia.

I went to the Latvian forest and was arrested by the border guards, they molested the dog on me. Now I'm in Belarus, I want treatment [...] And I have a blow to the lower jaw in the face, it hurts, I just need treatment.

Excerpt from a conversation with a man from Sudan

The accounts we collected also included descriptions of raids by Belarusian services on migrant apartments, which resulted in detentions and the forced movement of migrants across to the Russian border.

Because you live in hiding in Belarus without a visa....While we were sitting at home, the Belarusian police came and arrested us, beat us and threw us to the Russian border last night.

Excerpt from a conversation with a man from Eritrea

Key Figures

REQUESTS JUNE 2026				
	groups	individuals	children* (incl. UASC)	women and girls* (incl. pregnant)
Total	23	65	4 (2)	8 (4)
incl. in Poland	7	45	2 (1)	4 (0)
incl. in hospitals	1	2	1 (0)	1 (0)
incl. in Belarus	15	19	2 (1)	4 (4)
incl. in muharrama	1	1	0 (0)	0 (0)
* Girls are included both in the category of children (based on age) and in the category of women (based on gender).				

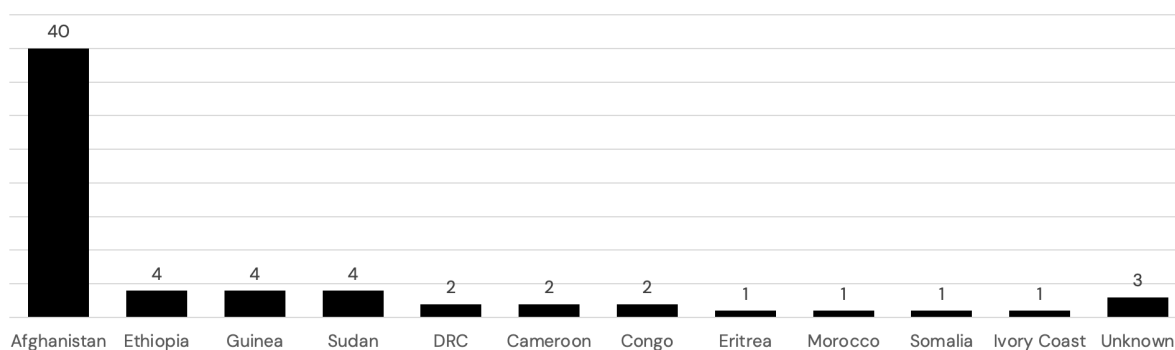


Fig. 1 Countries of origin of those reporting a need for support in June 2026.

SUPPORT PROVIDED JUNE 2026				
	groups	individuals	children* (incl. UASC)	women and girls* (incl. pregnant)
Total¹	6	15	1 (0)	1 (0)
Material aid	2	11	1 (0)	1 (0)
Legal aid	0	0	0 (0)	0 (0)
Medical aid²	3	3	0 (0)	0 (0)
First aid	0	0	0 (0)	0 (0)
Assistance in hospitals	1	2	1 (0)	1 (0)
Psychological support	1	1	0 (0)	0 (0)
# of undertaken interventions			2	
# of successful interventions			1	
* Girls are included both in the category of children (based on age) and in the category of women (based on gender).				

¹ Explanations of the individual categories can be found in the glossary at the end of the report.

² As part of medical assistance, 7 teleconsultations were conducted, concerning 5 people, including 2 women (one of whom was a minor)

PUSHBACKS AND VIOLENCE JUNE 2026

	groups	individuals	minors* (incl. UASC)	women* (incl. pregnant)
Reported pushbacks	3	8	2 (2)	0 (0)
Incl. from a hospital	0	0	0 (0)	0 (0)
Reported violence PL	1	1	1 (1)	0 (0)
Reported violence BY	3	4	1 (1)	0 (0)
Reported violence N.N	0	0	0 (0)	0 (0)

* Girls are included both in the category of children (based on age) and in the category of women (based on gender).

Definitions

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

Groups – individuals travelling or residing together at the time of reported event such as pushback, humanitarian/legal/medical intervention. These individuals may or may not be related by family or social ties.

Individuals – number of individual persons.

Children/minors – all individuals under 18 years old.

Unaccompanied Children/Minors – individuals under 18 years of age travelling without a legal guardian. This category also includes minors travelling with older siblings or other relatives who are not their legal guardians under Polish law.

Border barrier (also: wall, barrier, fence) – a fortification located on Polish territory several to several-teen metres from the border with Belarus, in the form of a steel fence topped with coils of razor wire, with additional entanglements of concertina razor wire positioned alongside it.

Concertina – razor wire formed into large coils, constituting an additional element of border infrastructure.

Muharrama – a term used by Arabic-speaking people on the move to describe the strip of land located between the Polish border barrier and the fortifications on the Belarusian side (referred to as the sistema). In Arabic, muharrama means “forbidden”. People on the move also use the longer term المنطقة المحرمة (“forbidden zone”). Individuals stay there either before attempting to cross the barrier or immediately after being subjected to a pushback. The zone takes the form of a strip ranging from several metres to several kilometres in width, with an approximately 1.5-metre section directly adjacent to the barrier located on Polish territory. The entire area

remains under the strict control of Belarusian services which, according to peoples' accounts, often hold individuals in specific locations, preventing them from returning further into Belarus and at times forcing them to attempt another crossing into Poland or forcibly moving to another location. The frequency and character of these interventions vary.

Sistema – the fencing and electronic security system separating the militarised Belarusian border zone (muharrama) from the rest of Belarusian territory.

Support total – total number of people or groups reached by organisations and entities operating in Podlasie who agreed to share information with us (Grupa Granica, Ocalenie, unaffiliated residents and inhabitants of Podlasie, collectives, individuals, Podlaskie Ochotnicze Pogotowie Ratunkowe)

Material aid – support in the form of basic humanitarian aid packages (food, clothing, water, information), provided during field interventions or in hospitals.

Legal aid – support in procedures aimed at preventing pushbacks and enabling the submission of an application for international protection, provided during field interventions or in hospitals.

Medical aid – professional support provided by individuals with formal medical education during field interventions or remotely.

Medical first aid – assistance provided by individuals without formal medical education or after basic first-aid / rescue training (e.g. wound cleaning or treatment of trench foot).

Aid in hospital – material and/or legal aid provided to individuals hospitalised as a result of crossing the Polish-Belarusian border.

Pushback – the forced return of migrants to the border line or compelling them to leave Polish territory without proper examination of their individual circumstances; regardless of whether they received return decisions, and even if they explicitly expressed their intention to apply for international protection in Poland. Experts monitoring human rights violations at the EU's external borders note that pushbacks constitute a form of violence per se and are commonly accompanied by additional physical or verbal violence.

Reported pushback events – pushbacks reported to us during the given reporting period by individuals who experienced them directly or witnessed them firsthand. The number of pushback events may be higher than the number of individuals.

Reported violence – reported cases of violence experienced by people on the move that do not constitute the act of pushback itself. Subdivided into categories depending on the perpetrators: Polish services, Belarusian services, or unidentified (Polish or Belarusian). One person may experience violence from multiple perpetrators; the categories must not be summed to determine the number of individuals.

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

Reported violence BY – reported cases of violence experienced directly by people on the move, the perpetrators of which, according to the victims' accounts, were people belonging to the Belarusian uniformed services.

Reported violence N.N. – reported cases of violence in which, based on the wording of the account and the location provided, it is not possible to determine whether the perpetrators were Polish or Belarusian services.

Number of field interventions – number of interventions undertaken by field teams in response to a report of a need for assistance or a chance encounter of people on the move in a border

area.

Number of deceased – all known victims of the border regimes of Poland (also acting as a member state of the European Union) and Belarus are individuals who died along the Eastern European migration route, on the Polish–Belarusian border, and on its both sides. Cases of people who died outside of these areas but whose deaths are connected to the attempt to cross this particular border are considered individually by the Border Death Monitoring Group (BDMG), in order to avoid the arbitrary inclusion or exclusion of specific individuals. The data continues to be verified and updated. It is expected that, over time, additional information may surface regarding further deaths, including from the period covered here.

Injuries from the wall – injuries sustained while crossing border fortifications at the Polish–Belarusian border, such as orthopaedic injuries, fractures, sprains, or wounds caused by razor wire.

Individuals from vulnerabilised groups – individuals who are facing specific risks in the context of Poland–Belarus border regime based on following grounds:

Age	– minors – unaccompanied minors – individuals over 45 years of age – senior citizens aged 60 and over
Medical reasons	– pregnancy – chronic illness or illness – disability – injury
Protection Needs*	– survivors of sexual violence – individuals subjected to gender-based violence – survivors of torture – individuals affected by human trafficking

* often difficult to identify at the intervention stage unless disclosed by an individual

The study is based on data obtained from individuals who witnessed or participated in the events described. We would like to thank all non-governmental organisations, collectives, activists operating at the Polish–Belarusian border for sharing their reports and notes from the interventions carried out. Special thanks are due to all people on the move who decided to share their own experiences.

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