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## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	UKRAINE SOLIDARITY PACKAGE – POLAND (BGK)
Project Number:	2022-0277
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	Financing of the Aid Fund created by the Polish Government and managed by Poland's National Promotional Bank to provide assistance to refugees from Ukraine
EIA required:	Multi-scheme Framework Loan operation – some of the schemes may fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive and may have to be screened in.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The Project will finance the Aid Fund, created by the Polish Government and managed by the National Promotional Bank of Poland, Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego, to provide assistance to refugees from Ukraine and the host communities. The Promoter of the Project is the Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK).

The Project is expected to contribute to new construction, refurbishment and extension of public urban infrastructure in Poland thereby increasing the capacity of cities and regions to adequately respond to the needs of refugees and host communities, particularly in areas such as housing, health and education.

As the Project is structured as Framework Loan, it is expected to have several schemes implemented by public sector entities (of local, regional and central level) in Poland. The competent authorities regarding individual schemes in terms of environmental compliance are expected to be central, regional and local authorities of Poland who have the competence in the field of environmental protection. The competence of the relevant central, regional or local authority is defined by law<sup>2</sup>.

Given the scope of this project, it is expected to include mostly urban infrastructure and investments in housing, health, education and other social infrastructure. Thus, it is likely that most of the schemes will not be subject to EIA. However, if/when an EIA is required for any of the individual schemes; this will be verified during the allocation process. The status of any environmental studies and public consultations related to the investments as well as the alignment of energy efficiency requirements with the EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD, 2018/844/EU) will also be further assessed during implementation period.

<sup>1</sup> Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

<sup>2</sup> Law of 3 October 2008 on access to environmental information, its protection, access of the society in environmental protection and on environmental impact assessments.



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All schemes to be supported will be in accordance with the applicable Urban and Regional Development Plans and Strategies, Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans, National and Regional Water Management, Flood Management and Waste Management Plan.

### **Social Assessment, where applicable**

The project will support investments in infrastructure in connection with the adoption of the Temporary Protection Directive, which was triggered for the first time by the European Council to offer quick and effective assistance to people fleeing the war in Ukraine. The Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EC) gives beneficiaries the right to access housing, employment, social welfare, medical care, education and access to the asylum procedure.

In response to the Ukrainian conflict and in support to the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive, the project aims at providing adequate infrastructure, particularly in the housing, healthcare and education sectors but also potential investments in urban regeneration, green spaces and sports/cultural facilities. All these investments are expected to have a positive contribution in the wellbeing and social inclusion of refugees and host communities.

As the Ukrainian refugee population predominantly consists of women, children and older people, the project focuses on the provision of adequate infrastructure to address their needs.

Any potential refugee and asylum seeker accommodation facilities, which are restricted to or exclude persons from specified national, ethnic or religious groups, or other types of segregation and/or discrimination are not eligible. Reception centres, if any, have to meet the requirements of the EU Receptions Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU).

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

In case of schemes subject to an EIA, additional consultation process will be required and verified by the EIB services.

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The Promoter's capacity regarding Environmental, Social and Climate management, governance and monitoring systems has been verified during implementation of numerous previous projects supported by the Bank and is deemed good.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Prior to disbursement against any specific scheme, the Promoter will provide to the Bank the evidence that schemes comply with relevant provisions of the environmental EU Directives, including EIA (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives as transposed into the national law. In addition, the Promoters will be requested to deliver EIA Reports and public consultation information (if applicable) to the Bank before the Bank funds are disbursed. Upon the Bank's request, the Promoters will be requested to provide selected Energy Performance Certificates obtained in line with the EU Directive 2010/31/EU during implementation or after completion of works.



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The Promoter will undertake that schemes, if applicable, are in line with the EU Directive 2013/33/EU of The European Parliament and of The Council of 26 June 2013 laying down the standards for the reception of asylum seekers including freedom of movement, families, vulnerable groups, medical screening, health care, schooling, education and vocational training.

Overall, the project's net environmental impact is expected to be positive and it should bring about important social benefits to the refugees and hosting communities. The investments to be financed will significantly contribute to increase the capacity of regions and cities to respond to the needs of refugees and hosting communities; ensure improvement of the urban environment and adequately contribute to their quality of life, whilst avoiding discrimination and ensuring fair treatment to all groups of society.

Therefore, subject to the conditions described above, the project is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.