



Regional Refugee Response  
for the Ukraine Situation



## Palanca Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes - 10 May 2023

### 1. Meeting Details

<b>Date</b>	10 May 2023
<b>Time</b>	12:00 – 12:30
<b>Chair</b>	Volokh Karina, UNHCR Senior Field Assistant
<b>Reporting</b>	Irina Adam, ACTED
<b>Email</b>	volokh@unhcr.org; irina.adam@acted.org

### 2. Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Update on recent developments in Palanca Bus Station (PBS)
3. Activity updates from participants
4. AoB

### 3. Information collection and relevant links

Moldova operational data portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784>

Local Refugee Coordination operational data portal: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/search?>

### 4. Participants (Name, Position, Organization)

- |                                |                                       |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| - Karina Volokh, UNHCR         | - Calin Costenco, HELVETAS            |
| - Cristina Babin, INTERSOS     | - Vitaliy Shevchuk, IOM               |
| - Diana Negru, BLUE DOT        | - Grigorii Scraba, GSS                |
| - Mihai Macovetchi, CDA        | - Cristina Volcovschi, ACR            |
| - Galina Parekko-Pecnei, UNFPA | - Alina Lupu (online), Homecare/UNFPA |
| - Irina Adam, ACTED            |                                       |

### 5. Information collection and relevant links



Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/Actions
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Mrs. Karina Volokh, UNHCR Snr. Field Assistant, volokh@unhcr.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• UNHCR shared the following points:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– On 2 May 2023, the Mobile Team, consisting of UNHCR, INTERSOS and CDA, visited a rural area of Talmaza (Stefan Voda raion), and offered MHPSS, legal assistance, and information regarding TP, EU+ Air Transfers and rights and services available. The main objective of these visits is to meet refugees living in remote/rural areas, inform them about services and rights, and listen to their concerns. The visit was attended by 11 people (2 men, 8 women and 1 child). Among the main concerns raised by the refugees were the lack of sufficient public transport and delays in cash assistance (as they have no other income, they find it difficult to meet all the costs and buy food). In response, the mobile team informed the participants that the delay in payment was due to technical problems in the cash assistance system. In addition, a social worker asked the Mobile team, if possible, to provide her with a bicycle to reach all the people in the village, which would be very useful in the absence of sufficient public transport.</li><li>– On 25 April 2023, Solidarites International workers removed rental WASH containers, which were replaced with containers owned by UNICEF.</li><li>– On 27 April 2023, UNHCR and IGSU received a delegation from the EU Civil Protection Mechanism at the PBS. The team showed them around and provided information on all the organizations on the territory.</li><li>– On 1 May 2023, ACR NGO, with the support of Action Against Hunger and WFP, started distributing snack kits consisting of non-perishable products, such as juice, croissants, dried fruit, etc., for refugees arriving at PBS.</li><li>– On 5 May 2023, Bertontans SRL workers removed a UNHCR-owned unused storage container from PBS.</li><li>– On 9 May 2023, Solidarites International set rat traps at PBS for disinfection of the territory.</li><li>– On 10 May 2023, UNHCR received 4 people evacuated by Be an Angel INGO at PBS.</li></ul></li></ul>	
<p><b>Activity updates from participants</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>ACTED</b> shared that 29 people were transported from 1 to 9 May 2023, and there were no special requests for evacuation of refugees from Ukraine. They added that the distribution of SIM cards and water would still be ongoing as long as necessary. On 12</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– <b>Tent camp from Palanca will reduce the capacity of</b></li></ul>



Regional Refugee Response  
for the Ukraine Situation



	<p>May 2023, 55 people will be evacuated from Ukraine to PBS by Hope and Faith organization and eventually to Cebalaccia by ACTED. Estimated arrival time: 14 PM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>IGSU</b> reported that the capacity of tent camps will be reduced by removing some tents; the capacity will be 150 people at max. The number of staff will not be reduced. IGSU asked Solidarite International to pull weeds on the territory of PBS and its surroundings.</li><li>• <b>INTERSOS</b> shared that all activities continued as normal with the daily presence of social workers. They have continued to offer English classes for Ukrainians and Moldovans in a Community Center in Causeni and they are now providing in Stefan Voda (every Wednesday at 3 pm for kids, and 5 pm for adults) as well. INTERSOS also visits several villages with its mobile team to provide recreational activities, art therapies and group sessions. There is a plan to organize English classes in Palanca village as well.</li><li>• <b>IOM</b> reported that their transportation to Romania was ongoing as usual. 16 people (11 women and 5 men) were transported from PBS over the past 2 weeks.</li><li>• <b>HELVETAS</b> reported that their work was ongoing as usual. For the last 2 weeks, 50 people received their assistance, of which 18 children, 31 elderly people and 1 person with disabilities. They continue to offer help not only for people at PBS but also for all those crossing the border. Their new project “Hot Phone Number of Helvetas” will be launched soon.</li><li>• <b>CDA</b> shared that their work was ongoing as usual. During the last week, CDA provided free legal counselling to 15 people. Even though the number of people at customs is decreasing, information is still necessary. They noticed that people come with very well-organized documents, and this could be due to efficient information dissemination in Ukraine. They noticed the flux of people coming by car is medium and coming on foot is low.</li><li>• <b>ACR</b> reported that their work was ongoing as usual without any major issues. Starting from 1 May 2023, they started to distribute kits with snacks for beneficiaries.</li><li>• <b>UNFPA</b> reported about their ongoing psychological support activities as well as mobile team in several villages throughout Moldova, in Comrat for this week. They continue to distribute hygiene kits for people crossing the border who is in need.</li></ul>	<p><b>places to shelter people by removing some tents; the capacity will be for 150 people at max.</b></p> <p>– <b>INTERSOS plans to organize English classes for refugees and the host community in the village of Palanca.</b></p>
--	--	--



- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>BLUE DOT</b> reported that they assisted 10 children and 6 adults, and continue to provide NFIs (e.g. hoodies, umbrellas.) to vulnerable families. On 11 May 2023, the Mobile Team will go to visit Caplani village and conduct 3 sessions (60 minutes per session) with 2 assistants who speak Romanian and Russian and offer various activities to Ukrainian and Moldovan children and their parents.</li><li>• <b>Mr. Grigorii Scraba from GSS</b> (security) thanked the UNHCR team and the organizations for the new list of responsible people at PBS, which is highly appreciated. It helps them to organize better and safer access to the territory. They work in the same regime without any changes. There are no major changes in their operation, and he asked the participants to notify them in advance about visits or staff changes.</li></ul> |  |
|--|--|--|

#### 6. Details of the Next Meeting

<b>Date</b>	17 May 2023
<b>Time</b>	12:00 – 13:00
<b>Venue</b>	Palanca Bus Station