



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation



Basic Needs Working Group Meeting -22 May 2023	
Meeting Details	
Date	22. 05. 2023
Time	15.00 pm
Chair and Co-chair	Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR – Athina Nalmpanti, ACTED
Reporting	
Email	mdachacctr@unhcr.org - cuisana@unhcr.org – athina.nalmpanti@acted.org
Agenda	
AGENDA	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basic Needs WG partners updates 2. Rental market assessment initial findings 3. Assessment of information material in RACs 4. AOB 	
Information collection and relevant links	
Participants	



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<i>Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR</i>	<i>Georgia Georgial, CRS</i>	<i>Sebastiano Sessa, INTERSOS</i>
<i>Emmanuel Ottika, UNHCR</i>	<i>Evghenie Cutia, DRC</i>	<i>Larisa Volosin, CDA</i>
<i>Natalia Stelea, UNHCR</i>	<i>Gabriella Georgial, CRS</i>	<i>Ayaka Ishikawa, Peace Wings</i>
<i>Athina Nalmpanti, ACTED</i>	<i>Aliona Babachisvili, CNPAC</i>	<i>Marin Ciocan, Peace Wings</i>
<i>Rotaru Mihai, MLSP</i>	<i>Natalia Sorbala, Dorcas</i>	<i>Ibrahim Marte, IOM</i>
<i>James Whitaker, REACH</i>	<i>Nida Tariq, WFP</i>	<i>Noor Bakhsh, UNICEF</i>
<i>Emilia Ersov, REACH</i>	<i>Stella Lingham, ACTED</i>	<i>Vitalie Popov, Green Line</i>
<i>Doina Butnara Capatana, ACTED</i>	<i>Alkairawan Shihab, IOM</i>	
<i>Yulia Pyndus, ACTED</i>	<i>Constanta Cravet, Concordia Social Project</i>	

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Agenda point 1 Partners updates	<p>1. Basic needs WG chairperson welcomed participants and thanked them for their participation, presented the agenda and updates of the RACs.</p> <p>1.RAC's Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58 accredited RAC's • 3,805 total capacity, • 2,297 people hosted, • 787 children and teenagers 2-18 • 78 children 0-2 years old • 105 PwD <p>UNHCR is working with MLSP on analyzing the RACs cost, and which will remain open. It's a collaborative exercise between UNHCR, REACH, WFP and ACTED. The first phase was related to the calculation of the</p>	



	<p>average cost of RACs. The second phase is based on an assessment conducted by REACH and ACTED on 5 different categories (management status, staff, services available, occupancy, vulnerable) and their ranking. Now analyzing the findings of the 2nd phase of assessment and at the end of week will have the findings to share with partners and give recommendations to MLSP</p> <p>IOM: asked if there is a plan on the way RACs will close and refugees be informed. UNHCR: it will be done in an organized way, that's the point of recommendations to MLSP which RACs to remain open. Actors can plan better and inform the refugees ahead in case of closure (refugees have options like relocation to another RAC or participating in the cash for rent.</p> <p>WFP: Any indication on the number of refugees they want to leave? UNHCR: in the 2nd part of the assessment, there is a question if RACs are going back to their previous use. The vulnerable groups in RACS where considered, there is a category in the assessment.</p> <p>IOM: they had a PDM for rental assistance, NFI, and voucher, they will share when ready. UNHCR: asked IOM to update if they continue with the C4R project. IOM updated the matrix, they are targeting 260 households (targeting locations: Balti, Ungheni, Chisinau).</p> <p>They want to focus on north and central. They design the 2nd phase. UNHCR asked if they can share the PDM from rental assistance. UNHCR: IOM, ACTED and CRS implementing in Chisinau, partners can discuss any relevant issue in the technical WG.</p> <p>WFP with its partners AAH, ACTED started implementing the snack distribution for all refugees arriving at the borders. Each snack distributed is around 1800 calories and complemented with water.</p> <p>ACTED: cash for rent program is finalizing the selection of households, registering this week. Hoping to finalize on deduplication</p> <p>Concordia: 33 refugees in accommodation places (the biggest in Orhei and 3 more in Chisinau). Providing free accommodation and once a month refugees receive food and sanitary products on request</p> <p>IOM: Requested from ACTED that transportation from Palanca to Romania changes from Friday to Thursday starting from 25/05 (this way refugees can apply for TP early). ACTED to check the schedule and can start implementing this week</p> <p>UNICEF: There are WASH issues in some RACs, gaps to be covered, need to know which will remain open.</p> <p>10.500 hygiene kits (compiled ones) are part of the contingency until September.</p> <p>UNHCR: will update on the PWD and the WASH assessments.</p>	<p>IOM to share the PDM from rental assistance</p>
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**Agenda point 2
REACH Rental market
assessment**

➤ **REACH:**

The assessment was facilitated by REACH in collaboration between PLACE consortium, ACTED, NRC, PIN and funded by ECHO. It aims to shed light on rental market dynamics, costs, characteristics, availability, accessibility and the experience of refugees.

Methodology: two semi urban and two urban locations, secondary data from website 999.md and surveys with refugee households renting, interviews with agencies. Qualitative components.

Sampling: 195 households, got recommendations of who to speak to from government contacts. Approached people in cash registration centers.

Demographics: females; average age between 30-59, households with children. Household includes all individuals living together

Rental service providers: individuals and businesses. Only in Chisinau are rental businesses. In other areas mainly individuals are renting a property.

This are some of the findings presented in the assessment that were highlighted:

- Costs: in Chisinau prices higher. Generally happy with the conditions.275 euros average
- Cost of utilities:65 euros per person.10 euros higher for autonomous heating, government energy subsidy programs not into consideration, no utilities included in rental payment
- Characteristics: conditions of accommodation and condition of toilets very similar. Mainly satisfied in Chisinau with the conditions
- Rental service providers: availability higher during winter and summer
- Financial resources: cash assistance, savings, family support.
- 15% of the total number of people interviewed pay in kind, (household chores, buying food), flagging it, although it was a small sample of people interviewed. Needs to be considered for the second round of the assessment



- Accommodation characteristics: can compromise location, nr rooms, condition. cannot compromise utilities
- Contract types: verbal rental agreement mainly
- Required documentation: 1/3 no documentation required.
- Physical disabilities: 3 out of 6 had difficulties, they compromise when search for rental accommodation. *Small sample of respondents.*
- Dispute and eviction risks: concerned if the MPCA and cash for rent ends families will not have the money to continue paying the rent.

UNHCR:

A summary of some key points of the assessment:

- The assessment reinforces the monthly allocation that partners are using in their cash for rent programs.
- Although the findings show that more than the 60% of the families reside in good housing conditions, 25% responded that there is a need of minor repairs and maintenance works in their houses. Partners willing to implement shelter projects focusing on the improvement of housing conditions can focus in this 25%.
- Most of the responses said that families rely in the MPCA and cash for rent to pay the rent. Therefore, it is a need to include other housing solutions as social housing. UNHCR indicates the importance of advocate the inclusion of refugees in national social housing programs.
- From the 15% of responses that pay in kind, there is a need of further assessment. The sample is done according with a small number of people interviewed. These findings need to be share also with the Protection Working Group.

IOM: difference between rental cost in Chisinau and outside, maybe to adjust: **UNHCR:** it cannot as it will be a pool factor for people to move to Chisinau instead of remaining in the other location because they will receive more money.

[Rental Market Assessment preliminary findings presentation slides](#)

[999.md Dataset \(April\)](#)



<p>Agenda point 3</p> <p>Assessment of information material on RACs</p>	<p>ACTED presentation: All Information material in RACs was gathered from ACTED SMS.</p> <p>The purpose is to improve the situation, some info points are not clear for refugees.</p> <p>Presented photos, made package of main posters in RACS will analyze and see the gaps.</p> <p>UNHCR: need to develop standardized material with this exercise, which partner is doing what and avoid duplication.</p> <p>Basic need WG wants to standardize the rules of cohabitation in the RACs, provide proper posters for security, hygiene, health etc.</p> <p>UNHCR: Need to identify the main categories and the actors and make a catalogue of each category. These finding will be shared with other WG.</p> <p>UNICEF: the WASH WG is already working on it</p> <p>WFP: agree that in one poster all partners can be added</p>	<p>UNHCR to share the meeting minutes next week</p>
	<p>Next meeting is scheduled for 26 of June</p>	