



Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting
Meeting Minutes – 22 June 2023

Meeting subject:	Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting
Time & location:	9 am – UNHCR Krakow Sub-Office
Chaired by:	UNHCR; Open Krakow Coalition
Minutes prepared by:	UNHCR
Participants:	Urząd Marszałkowski Województwa Małopolskiego; Wojewódzki Urząd Pracy w Krakowie; A21; All Hands and Hearts; Dobra Hromada; Fine Foundation; IB Poland; One World One Heart; Salam Lab; UNHCR; UNICEF; Voice Amplified; Wolno Nam; Zustricz; ZHP/Blue Dot
Agenda:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction and updates from the co-chairs• Updates from refugee and Ukrainian-led organizations• Presentation on Continuous Learning Campaign, overview of school enrollment, and summer camp funding and requirements (UNICEF)• Presentation on the Lato w Szkole initiative• Presentation of 4W summer camp mapping exercise• AOB
Introduction and update on points from last meeting	Participants were welcomed to the 21st MCG meeting.

	<p>UNHCR introduced the meeting and noted that World Refugee Day had taken place on 20th June. As part of the associated activities UNHCR is running a campaign until the end of June under the #meetwithrefugees hashtag. Refugees and members of the host community can register to join the initiative. After registering they will be added to a group and obtain either free cinema tickets or a voucher for a free coffee with the other group members. Registrations are still open, and out of a target of 1000 individuals, 700 have already registered.</p>
<p>Agenda point 1</p>	<p>There were no updates provided under the given agenda point.</p>
<p>Agenda point 2</p>	<p>UNICEF shared a presentation covering both school registration for the upcoming school year and the creation of summer camps.</p> <p>On the topic of school enrollment, UNICEF shared that:</p> <p>The Ministry of Education published open source data about school enrollments. This data shows that xxx number of Ukrainian children are enrolled in the Polish education system, with the majority in primary schools. However, only 153 Ukrainian students took the 2023 Matura examination. In Małopolska there are 15,654 Ukrainian children enrolled in the Polish school system, and of those 7,890 are in Krakow Municipality. There are also growing numbers of children from other nationalities enrolled in schools in Krakow, especially those from Belarus.</p> <p>All children have the right to education regardless of their documentation status. The decision to admit a child depends on the capacity of a school. If a school does not have any possibility to admit a child, they should provide partners or guardians with information about procedures to look for places elsewhere. Usually this information can be found with the Education Department of a given administrative structure. However, there is no formal mechanism to compile or search for open school places. However, this information only applied to mandatory education, which begins from primary school. The same is not true for preschools and kindergartens.</p> <p>One World One Heart asked if many children are still learning remotely in the Ukrainian system.</p> <p>UNICEF answered that many children remain in the Ukrainian system under a remote learning modality and that the decision remains up to parents. Many teenagers remain in remote learning because it is easier for them to finish their studies in a system they are familiar with. However, the situation has changed slightly in that the Ukrainian Ministry of Education released a statement encouraging Ukrainian children in Poland to join the Polish system. UNICEF is further encouraging the creation and use of Edu hubs, as education is not just about learning, but also about social development.</p>

UNHCR noted the extension of the temporary protection beyond March 2024 for families with children enrolled in Polish schools in order to allow children to complete the school year.

Voice Amplified asked what support is being given in schools.

UNICEF answered that this varies by location. There can be preparatory, catch up, and language classes. In some schools there are also cultural assistants. Next year, UNICEF will begin working with Polish teachers to give them the skills and tools to work in an international framework.

On the topic of summer camps, UNICEF shared that:

As the school year is ending, parents are looking for summer options for their children. Two types of summer camps exist in Poland full, overnight camps (kolonie) and day, half camps (połkolonie). Organizations looking to create summer camps must meet certain requirements and register the camps with the Education Superintendent's Department (Kuratorium Oświaty). Registration must take place with the Education Superintendent's Department in the same location where the organization is permanently based, regardless of where travel with the children is planned. For full camps, registration must take place latest 21 days before the camps begins. For day camps, registration must take place latest 14 days in advance. If documents are all correct, confirmation of registration should take 1-2 days from submission.

Specific information is required to register with the Education Superintendent's Department. This includes information on who the camp is for, as the regulations differ for children below and above the age of 10. It further includes information on the location where the camp will be held. It needs to be approved by the Sanitary Department (SANEPID) and the Fire Department. Qualified educators are likewise necessary. According to Polish law there must be a director (kierownik) who has completed a two-weekend course. There must also be a separate supervising caretaker (wychowawca). The individuals in these positions must be over the age of 18 and meet certain education requirements. They must also pass criminal checks and be checked against the registry of sexual offenders. It is possible for employees to initiate these procedures online, and employers can also check their employees. Finally documents with parents or guardians need to be signed. While the camp takes place, the Education Superintendent's Department in the location where the camp is located may also visit to ensure that all regulations are being followed.

Agenda point 3

On behalf of the Education Department of Krakow Municipality, UNHCR shared information on the Summer in School (Lato w Szkole) initiative.

	<p>Lato w Szkole is a yearly initiative organized by the City of Krakow. Within this initiative, school directors can organize summer day activities for children on the basis of similar regulations to those described by UNICEF previously in the meeting. The initiative is open to any children living in Krakow Municipality. Parents must contact the school director directly to enquire about enrolment. A document with the participating schools can be found at the following link. Currently, 68 schools are participating, and within this are 4 special schools.</p>
<p>Agenda point 4</p>	<p>UNHCR presented the matrix created to map partners' planned summer camps.</p> <p>Following the discussion in the previous meeting among partners interested in learning about the summer camp initiatives of other partners, UNHCR created a mapping matrix. Partners can fill in simple information about their planned summer activities for the reference of other partners. The link to the matrix was shared with all partners before the meeting.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>UNHCR asked partners on their views regarding moving from a bi-weekly to a monthly meeting modality during the summer months (July and August). There were no objections, and the subsequent meeting was tentatively scheduled for 20 July, pending consensus from the co-chairs.</p> <p>A21 presented briefly about the organization and its activities. A21 is a global organization that working on anti-trafficking initiatives. A dedicated training led by A21 took place in the UNHCR conference room directly following the Coordination Meeting. A21 is happy to share resources with organizations working with vulnerable groups. These include comic books in Polish and Ukrainian meant to teach children about topics such as safe touch and internet safety. These also include A6 size cards created specifically for Ukrainian refugees on how to safely look for work in Poland and a QR code to a 13 minute video.</p> <p>UNHCR noted there have been continued reports of difficulties in finding accommodation for refugees in Krakow due to the end of some projects. UNHCR further asked if any partners know of any projects supporting accommodation arrangements in the city that could provide continuity.</p> <p>Salam Lab shared that the organization's partnership with AirBnb had recently ended. However, a different program had been extended until the end of August and Salam lab also has spaces available outside of Krakow city. Partners were invited to continue making referrals for accommodation to Salam Lab.</p>

Wolno Nam foundation shared that there are a couple of spots remaining in the center on Pilsudskiego street. A new location recently opened on Tyniecka street is almost full.

ACTION POINTS SUMMARY

No.	Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status (as of)
1.				
2				