



BASIC NEEDS WORKING GROUP

Meeting Details	
Date	18 July 2023
Time	10:00 – 11:30
Chair	Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR Athina Nalmpanti, ACTED
Reporting	Natalia Stelea, UNHCR
Email	mdachacctr@unhcr.org - cuisana@unhcr.org – athina.nalmpanti@acted.org
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AGENDA 2. Opening Remarks 3. RACs consolidation strategy document and list of RACs 4. MLSP presentation and updates on RACs consolidation strategy 5. Closing remarks. 	
Information collection and relevant links	
Operational Data Portal Basic Needs Working Group	
Participants	



Bertrand Blanc, UNHCR Cusca Vasile, MLSP Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR Cecilia Chirila, UNHCR Athina Nalmpanti, ACTED Teodor Vicol, MLSP Silvestru Ecaterina, MLSP Andrei Cusasar, HIAS Ibrahim Marte, IOM Valentin Philipart, Solidarite Nida Tarig, WFP, Andrei Hincu, CARE& SERA Corina Tesu, REACH, Edward Lucaci, Caritas Emmanuel Otika, UNHCR	Mariana Leyva, ACTED Valentin Cucuta, MLSP Maria Semeniuc, MLSP Katie Lampe, UNHCR Yurii Arnautov, UNHCR Danielle Pedretti, Help Age Svetlana Cires, CRS Cristina Berdos, CRS Cristian Slobodaniuc, WFP Erik Ugarte, IFRC Adela Glodeanu, UNHCR Hideaki Kojima, UNHCR Larisa Volosin, CDA Natalia Curnic, UNHCR	Mariana Leyva, ACTED Athina Naempanty Natalia Stelea, UNHCR Sara Sivkova, UNHCR James Whitaker, REACH Katie Lampe, UNHCR Corina Andronic, UNICEF Olga Coptu, CNPAC Alberto Tonon, UNHCR Pipa Bown – FCDO Sean Sager, UNHCA Yulia Pindus, ACTED, Selma , IOM Andrei Cazacu, UNHCR	Bertrand Blanc, UNHCR Cusca Vasile, MLSP Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR Cecilia Chirila, UNHCR Athina Nalmpanti, ACTED Teodor Vicol, MLSP Silvestru Ecaterina, MLSP Andrei Cusasar, HIAS Ibrahim Marte, IOM Valentin Philipart, Solidarite Nida Tarig, WFP, Andrei Hincu, CARE& SERA Corina Tesu, REACH, Edward Lucaci, Caritas Emmanuel Otika, UNHCR
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Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
-State Secretary, Mr. Vasile Cusca, from Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During the Extraordinary Meeting on the RAC Consolidation Strategy, Ms. Andrea Cuisana, the Sector-Lead for Basic Needs (UNHCR Shelter Officer), welcomed all participants. - The State Secretary, Mr. Vasile Cusca, from Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP), presented the RAC Consolidation Strategy, emphasizing that it was a collaborative effort involving the government and support from Basic Needs WG members. Mr. Cusca informed that the RAC Consolidation Strategy primary objective 	-MLSP will notify all RAC managers about the RAC Consolidation Satygy on July 20 th . The process for RAC closures is scheduled to commence in the



<p>-Ms. Andrea Cuisana, the Sector-Lead for Basic Needs (UNHCR Shelter Officer)</p>	<p>is to ensure a transition and relocation of refugees to alternative accommodation solutions, prioritizing the integration in the host community during the consolidation process.</p> <p>Mr. Cusca highlighted that the RAC consolidation strategy comprised different phases, involving visits, cost assessments, alongside qualitative analyses. MLSP emphasized the collaborative development of the strategy, receiving inputs from various stakeholders such as the social assistance directorate, the Ministry, and BN WG Members.</p> <p>MLSP acknowledged the unique challenges faced by each RAC and stressed the importance of meeting minimum living condition standards in all centers, while promoting the inclusion of refugees in the host community without dependency on the state. Consequently, RACs failing to meet these minimum criteria will be closed in the first phases, in 2023.</p> <p>To ensure a smooth closure process, RAC managers will be notified in 2 months advance and provided with support. UNHCR and BN WG will be actively involved throughout the entire process.</p> <p>Refugees will have the opportunity to participate in rental assistance programs, and if they are ineligible, they will be referred to other RACs and durable solutions that encourage autonomy and independence. During the two-month notification period before RAC closure, the Protection Working Group, in collaboration with inclusion and durable solution actors, will provide counseling and a triage to all families.</p> <p>Mr. Cusca emphasized the importance of ensuring clarity and transparency with both refugees and RAC managers. He requested enhanced coordination for the protection monitoring aspect to address the majority of requests made by refugees and RACs. Additionally, Mr. Cusca stressed the significance of engaging in discussions with the</p>	<p>following week, starting from July 24th</p>
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refugees to avoid any perception of being forced to leave in the event of RAC closure. The closure procedure should be carefully redirected, and the RAC administration should be informed at a later stage once the decision of closure is confirmed.

- Ms. Andrea Cuisana presented the list of RACs recommended for closure, which was agreed upon after consultation with the social assistance directorate and the Ministry. Further discussions with the RAC managers will be jointly implemented during the first stage of the closure process.

It was mentioned that there are a total of 52 managed centers, accommodating approximately 160 people with disabilities. It was suggested that the right of parents with children with disabilities should be respected, allowing them to decide whether they wish to leave the center or stay.

- Participants asked about the reallocation of vulnerable refugees. MLSP and UNHCR replied that vulnerable refugees, such as older people or people with disabilities, should be referred to specialized equipped centers to meet all their needs. Ms. Andrea Cuisana emphasized the importance of prioritizing families and ensuring both refugees and administration are informed two months before any closure.
- Participants asked if Temporary Protection (TP) Status would be a requirement to be allocated to different RACs or receive Rental Assistance. MLSP responded that the strategy currently does not include specific TP requirements. The focus is on refugees temporarily accommodated in RACs. The ministry will continue to facilitate TP pre-registration enrollment to those in RACs, and informational sessions will be provided in the future. Currently, there are approximately 13,000 TP holders.
- In conclusion, MLSP informed that all RAC managers will be notified about the RAC Closure on July 20th, and that during the meeting the RAC Consolidation will be presented and discussed with all managers.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Additionally, the process for RAC closures is scheduled to commence in the following week, starting from July 24th.	
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