



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation



Basic Needs Working Group Meeting - 29th January 2024

Meeting Details

Date	29. 01. 2024
Time	15.00 pm
Chair and Co-chair	Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR – Athina Nalmpanti, ACTED,
Reporting	
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Agenda

1. Overview of RRP 2023 Achievements and RRP 2024 Overview
2. Update on the RACs consolidation process
3. Presentation: REACH Rental Market Assessment
4. BNWG 2024 Workplan and Performance
5. Update from Partners
6. AOB

Information collection and relevant links

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Participants

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<i>Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR</i>	<i>Silvestru Ecaterina, MLSP Implementation Unit</i>	<i>Dustin Achgill, ACTED</i>
<i>Emmanuel Otika, UNHCR</i>	<i>Marte Ibrahim, IOM</i>	<i>Michel Gerges, WVI</i>
<i>Natalia Stelea, UNHCR</i>	<i>Yulia Pindus, ACTED</i>	<i>Alina Alexei, WFP</i>
<i>Teodor Vicol, MLSP</i>	<i>Puiu Nadejda, CDA</i>	<i>Grigore Guzun, WFP</i>
<i>Gabriela Georgial, CRS</i>	<i>Pier Luigi, BSF</i>	<i>Cristina Berdos, CRS</i>
<i>Sean Segar, UNHCR</i>	<i>Rodica Jarda, CNPAC</i>	<i>Sara Sivkova, UNHCR</i>
<i>Joanna Filopoulos, REACH</i>	<i>Valentina Ghenciu, Lumus Moldova</i>	<i>Margareta Osovschgi, Caritas</i>
<i>Chelcey Carr, CWS</i>	<i>Joana, REACH</i>	<i>Marin, PWJ</i>
<i>Aveen Jalal, NRC</i>	<i>Roman Ceban</i>	<i>Denis, PW</i>
<i>Catalina Sampaio, UNHCR</i>	<i>Rabi Eid, ACTED</i>	<i>Innes, DRC</i>

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>1. Agenda point</p> <p>Overview of RRP 2023</p> <p>Achievements and RRP</p> <p>2024 Overview</p>	<p>The chairperson briefly presented the agenda and proceeded with the meeting.</p> <p>The achievements as the BNWG, based on the output from ActivityInfo and partners' reports, are as follows:</p> <p>Partnerships and Collaborations: Worked with 44 partners to implement at least 9 activities outlined at the beginning of the year and collaborated with the government on these activities.</p> <p>Reach and Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reached at least 88,000 individuals with our activities. 44 RACs, continue to be providing shelter and food to approximately 2,900 refugees by the end of the year. 	



- Conducted assessments, with the Accessibility and Disability Task Force, to ensure services in RACs are accessible to people with disabilities.

Infrastructure Improvements:

- Infrastructure improvements, especially in RACs, to enhance the WASH facilities to provide dignified, comfortable living environment.

Rental Assistance Program:

- Implemented a rental assistance program for individuals leaving RACs, reaching at least 1,400 people by the end of the year.
- Complemented this program with other initiatives to facilitate long-term solutions for those transitioning out of temporary accommodation centers.

Food Provision:

Provided food within RACs and other locations to address the nutritional needs of individuals in need.

Community Infrastructure Support:

- Supported community infrastructure projects across the country, bringing together service providers from various sectors to benefit both refugees and host communities.
- Enabled access to a range of services, including education, to promote integration into the host community.
- These achievements reflect our commitment to addressing the basic needs of refugees and vulnerable populations, and we remain dedicated to furthering our impact in the coming years.

In the current year, 2024, we are working towards addressing the needs outlined in the RRP. Here are the key figures for Moldova:



	<p>Population in Needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugee Population: 90,000 • Host Community Population: 55,000 • Total Population Targeted by RRP: 145,000 <p>Financial Requirement: To meet the needs of the targeted population, we require \$303 million USD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 83 partners have submitted project proposals for implementing activities to address these needs. • Out of these, at least 40 partners are focusing on addressing basic needs. <p>Basic Needs Working Group: Main focus remains on the four basic areas: accommodation, transportation, WASH, and food security.</p> <p>These figures serve as a reference point for comparison with the overall population in need, allowing us to scale our impact within the broader context of the RRP.</p> <p>It's essential to note that the original RRP, including the detailed figures for Moldova, is available online. The provided link will offer more comprehensive information about the basic needs chapter and other sectors involved in the response efforts.</p> <p>UNHCR provided a brief overview of the activities submitted for the year 2024 by organizations categorized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessments • Capacity building • Financial and material support • Food Security • Transportation • Information sharing • Infrastructure improvements in RACs and community infrastructure and spaces, provision of shelter and housing 	<p>Partners to verify under which sector and activity have submitted the proposal.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASH <p>BSF doesn't see the organization in the list even though the activity was submitted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Please check the matrix under which sector and activity submitted. <p>RACs are part of Group D.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAC Ungheni, UID RAC 67 • RAC Carpineni UID RAC 42 • RAC Cahul, UID 142 • RAC Balts, UID 43 <p>These four RACs will be closing within a period of two months, except the RAC UID 43 in Balti that will close a month later, due to a high number of occupancy (115 people) in this center - closure date 17th of May.</p> <p>MLSP –will continue implementing the Consolidation strategy this year, supporting refugees to integrate into the community, with only vulnerable groups remaining in the RACs. The Ministry is promoting the governmental decision on financing the RACs. During emergency situations, RAC financing was managed through the Committee of Emergency Situation, and financing the RACs is now done through government decisions. Delays have occurred because the financial mechanism was not endorsed by the Ministry of Finance. It is expected to be approved by the end of the month. In 2024, the objective is to have only 20 RACs open.</p> <p>The managers of the 4 RACs from group D have received the letter of notification of closure. In Costesti, one RAC out of two will close.</p> <p>UNHCR - all service providers in RACs will be informed about closure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All RACs have been informed about the closure process. - Notification letters provided to RAC managers before visits. - MLSP conducts meetings to explain closure process before sending letters. - Recent visits showed improved communication with families. - Visits to all RACs planned for this week. 	<p>Costesti: one RAC out of two to remain open</p> <p>To assess the houses provided by Roma TF</p>
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<p>Agenda point 3</p> <p>Presentation: REACH Rental Market Assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next RTG meeting scheduled for Thursday, 8th of February. - Close collaboration with DAFT to address needs of PwD and elderly residing in the RACs to be close. - Collaboration with Roma TF to address needs of Roma families residing in the group D RACs. - Marin Ala from Roma TF will provide with the list of suitable houses to provide them for Roma families in rental assistance programs. - Or include these houses in the small repairs program - Reach out to partners who indicated involvement in activities related to small repairs or rental assistance, and initiate assessments as soon as Roma TF will provides the list of eligible houses. <p>UNHCR - REACH conducted a rental market assessment during 2023, comprising two rounds. The findings have been shared with all partners.</p> <p>REACH - The report has been published on the REACH resource center. The presentation will cover the main objectives of the research, methodology, limitations, and key findings. The main objectives of the research aimed to shed light on the dynamics of the rental market.</p> <p>The research focused on rental housing costs, characteristics, availability, and accessibility, and for refugee households currently renting. Market dynamics were examined in two urban and two semi-urban locations.</p> <p>For round 2 of the assessment, experiences of households with mobility disabilities in the rental market were included. Details of the report see in the presentation link or the full report.</p> <p>Question: In the data collection process for demographic information and identification of vulnerable groups, was there an inquiry about ethnicity, including Roma ethnicity?</p>	<p>REACH to check: if in the data collection process for demographic information and identification of vulnerable groups, was there an inquiry about ethnicity, including Roma ethnicity?</p>
<p>Agenda point 4</p> <p>BNWG 2024 Workplan and Performance</p>	<p>UNHCR - the work plan for 2024 was shared with all partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose is to gather feedback from all members as part of our ongoing planning process for this year. • The input will help to shape the activities and initiatives for the upcoming period. • Feedback had already been received from members, which will contribute in refining our plans further. • Next meeting is panned to focus on actively planning the activities of the BNWG for the year ahead. 	



<p>Agenda point 5 Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reminder for everyone to complete the survey sent out previously, as the insights gathered will inform discussions in the forthcoming meeting. • A list of contacts for the BNWG was shared with you, with a request to review and update it accordingly. • We intend to update this contact list every 3 to 6 months, depending on evolving circumstances. <p>NRC has reduced its target for NFI, focusing mainly on hygiene kits and winterization items, with vouchers being the preferred distribution modality. Are there any NGOs providing NFI assistance through in-kind distribution? We may need to refer cases or new refugees to them.</p> <p>World Vision will distribute food and non-food items through vouchers. The project will end in February 2025. This distribution is a one-time support to assist newcomers, especially the most vulnerable. Please refer any cases to us so we can provide support.</p> <p>DRC - one of the key activities for the wash team was identifying the personal hygiene needs of refugees and procuring and distributing hygiene kits - distributed in 12 locations across 13 RACs in Moldova. A total of 800 kits provided, including 45 distributed to vulnerable local populations in: Telenesti, Causeni, Hancesti, Cahul, and Gagauzia. The distribution was conducted in coordination with the BNWG and WASH Sub-Working Group.</p> <p>For winterization distribution, DRC was assigned 6 locations by the BNW - 1,550 hygiene items were distributed. Additionally, the Taracia region approached DRC with official letters requesting assistance, so hygiene items were also distributed there.</p> <p>DRC conducted a needs assessment to understand the needs of the affected population and is available to share information and findings. Second round of distribution will start soon.</p> <p>UNHCR proposes a meeting to discuss NFI and update the plan.</p>	<p>DRC conducted a needs assessment to understand the needs of the affected population and is available to share information and findings.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRS plans to continue small repairs of individual private accommodations where refugees reside but do not rent. • The target is smaller this year, CRS aims to expand its reach to refugees who may already inhabit substandard properties. • Cash assistance for rent will continue, along with support for RAC consolidation. • CRS will provide support with rental and utility subsidies. • CRS will continue the national cash assistance program for host families supporting refugees, which is currently under revision with MLSP and WFP. • Winterization plans will be revisited, with reduced targets, around August or September <p>UNHCR: two documents were shared at the end of last year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first matrix with the information gathered in Activity Info for 2023. Please update this matrix to provide more comprehensive information. This will help in creating fact sheets outlining the activities conducted during 2023. • second matrix focused on housing for small repairs. We need to continue the technical group on housing to initiate the development of guidelines in this regard. <p>Both documents will be shared once again.</p> <p>ACTED as the cash for rent partner, supports in Cahul and Balts area as part of the consolidation strategy.</p> <p>SMS transportation and infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • currently 44 active RACs, accommodating approximately 2,300 beneficiaries. • In 2024 - 189 beneficiaries have been transported, primarily from the Palanca site. The transport team is also conducting registrations for all beneficiaries who visit the reception center for various services, with 1,018 beneficiaries registered, 800 were from Otaci. 	<p>To share with partners the two matrix:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To collect info (activity info) 2. housing and small repairs <p>TG to revise the guidelines to call for a meeting</p>
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	<p>Infrastructure unit: will continue to provide internet services in 28 RACs for Blue Dot and five community centers. The team will also maintain visit inspections in all 44 RACs and proceed with smaller repairs as needed. Will continue improvements in wash, accessibility, and winterization efforts.</p> <p>IOM - Winterization activities are being conducted in collaboration with UNHCR, the team has initiated their part of the project.</p> <p>Question: the NFI for the contingency strategy, the cost of keeping it is high, can the NFIs be distributed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In February, a meeting is scheduled to discuss the contingency plan in coordination with the government, to wait until after the meeting for further decisions and actions to be taken regarding the contingency plan. <p>PIN - Winterization support activities for December 2023 was distributed of warm clothing for children - 513 beneficiaries, both Ukrainian and Moldovan nationals, have received assistance across the country.</p> <p>Registration for cash assistance to support utility payments will start this week – the target is to assist 100 households with utility payments through this initiative.</p> <p>UNHCR - Assessment of houses will focus on larger properties capable of accommodating big families. Collaboration with infrastructure and small repairs partners will be sought to conduct these assessments. The aim is to develop a tool for assessment based on existing tools used by partners to avoid creating new ones.</p>	
<p>Next meeting</p>	<p>4th of March</p>	