MEETING MINUTES

ECONOMIC INCLUSION WORKING GROUP

DATE	06.Sep.2023	TIME	11:00 - 13:00	PLACE	Online Meeting

PARTICIPANTS	
Participants	UNHCR; IRC; HIAS Europe, Caritas Poland; Ukraine Foundation; Girls Code Fun; Oracle; Spanish Red Cross; PR Misyuta J.A.
Chairs	UNHCR - Diogo Cabral Sr Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Officer cabrald@unhcr.org), IRC - Joanna Surwillo, ERD Co, Joanna.surwillo@rescue.org)
Presenters	Mrs. Angelika Maliszewska, Specialist in the Department of Large Family Cards and Nurseries at the Ministry of Family and Social Policy, angelika.maliszewska@mrips.gov.pl Dr hab. Piotr Długosz, Professor at the Pedagogical University of Cracow, piotr.dlugosz@up.krakow.pl

AGENDA

1. 11:00 – 11:05. Introductions by UNHCR and IRC.
2. 11:05 – 11:25. PART 1: Mrs. Angelika Maliszewska, Specialist in the Department of Large Family Cards and Nurseries at the Ministry of Family and Social Policy, presenting *"Support for the care of children up to the age of 3, including children from Ukraine".*
3. 11:25 – 11:45. PART 2: Dr hab. Piotr Długosz, Professor at the Pedagogical University of Cracow, author of the monograph: *"War refugees from Ukraine - their lives in Poland and plans for the future"*.
4. 11:45 – 12:15. Additional Questions & Answers.
5. 12:15 – 12:55. Presentation of the *RRP – Refugee Response Plan 2024* + Q&A.
6. 12:55 – 13:00. Closing.

Overview of the meeting

1. Introduction by UNHCR and IRC, and presentation of the agenda for today's meeting.

2. **PART 1:** The presentation made by Mrs. Angelika Maliszewska covered the Polish state's support for care for children up to 3 years of age, including children from Ukraine.

General information: The care system is regulated by the Act of February 4, 2011, on the care of children aged up to 3. It can be organized in the form of a nursery, the children's club, a daily carer, or a nanny. The following functions are performed as part of the care: caring, upbringing and education.

The main tasks of the nursery and children's club are to: provide the child with care in living conditions like home; provide the child with proper nursing and educational care, by conducting play activities with elements of education; conduct care and educational activities, considering the child's psychomotor development, appropriate to the child's age.

Care in the nursery is provided for children from the age of 20 weeks. In the children's club - from the age of 1. A day caregiver takes care of children from the age of 20 weeks.

Care of a child may be provided until the end of the school year when the child turns 3 years old or if it is impossible or difficult to cover the child with preschool education - 4 years old.

Care of children under the age of 3 can be provided regardless of citizenship.

Access to institutional care has increased from 2990 institutions offering 84,000 available spots in 2015 to 8085 institutions offering 232,000 spots in 2023.

The total budget of the Maluch+ Programme is 5.5 billion PLN.

The Maluch+ 2022 – 2029 program aims to contribute to the increase in care places – eliminate blank spots (areas without access to childcare institutions) -> the increase in care places contributes to the increase in employment among women; The emphasis on improving the quality of care programmers is currently the main focus; the program uses both the EU funds and national funds; the main beneficiaries of the program are communes (Gmina); Communes are able to create care centres from scratch or renovate/improve care facilities.

Information related to refugees:

Under the Act of March 12, 2022, on assistance to Ukrainian citizens in connection with the armed conflict in the territory of that country, solutions were introduced to enable Ukrainian citizens who came to Poland in connection with the armed conflict in Ukraine to use them. Refugees have access to programs like: The childcare benefit - "Family 500+" program; benefit good start - program "Good Start"; Family Care Capital; co-financing the reduction of the parent's fee for the child's stay in a nursery, children's club or under daily carer.

Citizenship is not a criterion for selecting a candidate for a post; the criteria may vary from institution to institution.

The daily carer, who so far has been taking care of children from the age of 20 weeks to the age of three, will be able to take care of slightly older children, including those over the age of three. Children from the above groups will be able to remain under his care until the start of compulsory pre-school preparation.

1,434 care places were created, including 800 care places created by communes and 634 care places created by entities other than communes.

Working with children under the age of 3 is possible after documenting appropriate qualifications. Possession of a higher education diploma (in the field of study); possession of a diploma of secondary or secondary industry education and: completion of relevant training; at least one year of experience working with children under the age of 3; possession of a professional diploma "childminder".

It is difficult to determine the next steps towards childcare due to the October elections.

Children's main problems may be psychological trauma and lack of good psychological care. Some parents have a brier in sending their children to institutions from an early age. There are plans to focus on increasing employment assistance.

3. **PART 2:** Presentation made by Dr. hab. Piotr Długosz covered research findings on war refugees from Ukraine, their life in Poland and plans.

The presented research results are from 2022, but the trends are visible now as well - the start of research in mid-April; research carried out at the expense of own efforts (without funds); researchers faced unavailability of finding the "refugee base"; social media and data from Polish language courses for refugees were used to collect data among Ukrainian community.

Considering the characteristics of the refugees, it can be said that mainly representatives, or rather representatives of the Ukrainian middle class, came to Poland.

Most often, the respondents stay in rented flats and houses. 17% live with Polish families. Few stays in collective accommodation facilities.

Most Ukrainian refugees filling in the research surveys intend to stay in Poland, seeking shelter from the war.

The main motives that made the surveyed refugees come to Poland were friends living in Poland and the similarity of Poland to Ukraine in terms of language and culture.

The surveyed refugees gave the highest rating scores to the help provided by volunteers at the border, people working at reception points, and Polish uniformed services.

Almost half of the surveyed refugees intend to return to Ukraine after the war.

According to presented studies, the biggest problem for refugees is the language barrier, which makes finding the right job the most difficult. There are also cases of young people who could not cope with traumas in Poland and fled back to Ukraine.

5. **PART 3:** Presentation of the RRP – Refugee Response Plan 2024 made by Aga Ellingsen Kuwata.

A Refugee Response Plan (RRP) is an inter-agency planning, coordination, and fundraising tool that contributes to operationalizing the Refuge Coordination Model (ISCG in Poland). It is designed to support host government responses to refugee situations through international solidarity. Efforts are made to link RRPs to ongoing national efforts, plans, and policies to ensure refugee protection and solutions and to build on host government responsibilities, approaches, and capacities.

Agenda: Planning Parameters; Timeline; How to Join the RRP 2024; Q&A.

No major changes regarding last year's plan.

HOW TO JOIN THE RRP 2024

1. Register for the 2-Day Planning Workshop (13 and 14 Sept. Warszawa): Expected outcome of the workshops: Identification of refugees' needs, vulnerabilities and coping capacities compared to last year based on 2023 MSNA findings.
    a. Validation of the strategic approach by objective, with a list of activities by sector that will form the basis for 2024 RRP.
2. Express your interest: Send an email to polwa2024rrp@unhcr.org by 29 September, indicating in the subject line: 2024RRP_NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION. Add the following information:
    b. Name of the organization.
    c. Total (estimated) appeal budget for 2024 (no need to break it down into sectors).
    d. Name and contact details (email/phone number if possible) of a focal point who will be informed of the next steps.

e. Final Project submission by 20 November 2023.

3. Timeframe
   The 2024 RRP will cover the period of 1 January to 31 December 2024. This aligns with the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for inside Ukraine.

RRP is a regional fundraising tool, Financial requirement. RRP 2024 will have much lower funding; The budget will be broken into sectors; this is not a partnership with UNHCR; there is no money there yet; donors use it as evidence to provide for Poland.

NEXT MEETING
25 October 2023

*__DISCLAIMER__: UNHCR and IRC do not represent the views of the speakers invited to the Economic Inclusion Working Group.