

## ISCG Meeting on Collective Sites

**Date:** 7 March 2023 • **Time:** 10h00-12h00 • **Venue:** Conference Center West Gate • **Background:** [ISCG SharePoint Folder](#) • **Participants:** Ca. 40 people from sectors & government • **Language:** PL/ENG-ENG/PL

<b>Participants:</b>	<p><b>In person:</b> Katarzyna Mikolajczyk PRC, Edyta Stepczak - PRC, Alicia Szczutowska- Habitat for Humanity, Silvia Gatscher- WHO, Andrii Mazurenko- UNHCR, Anna Karpinska - Mol, Katarzyna Mizerska – Mol, Magdalena Ruszkowska – Cieslak – KPRM, Filippo Busconi- UNHCR, Alan Moseley – IRC; Pablo Peres Fernandes -IRC; Maria Makar – Humanosh; Kataryzna Skopiec – Humanosh; Andrii Mazurenko- UNHCR, Joud Munwar- UNICEF, Grzegorz Kowalczyk- Caritas Polska, Mariusz Nikiciuk- ELEOS Polska, Piotr Sasin – Care Polska; Igor Lisin – Fundacja Ukraina/NGO Forum; Paolo Ferraris – LWF; Wojtek Wilk – PCPM; Agnieszka Nosowska – PCPM; Colin Wiliamson- IOM; Mikolaj Kniaz- UNHCR; Brayant Castro – UNHCR; Vanessa Moya- UNHCR, Elena Velasco – IOM; Paulina Piorkowska – Fundacja w strone dialogu; Vasiliki Gavala – NRC; Irka Jazukiewicz – Ukrainski Dom; Katarzyna Oyrzanowska – UNHCR; Malgorzta Chmielnik – UNHCR; Agnethe Ellingsen – UNHCR; Andreas Kirchhof – UNHCR; Ahmed Mustafa – PAH, Speciose Kampire – UNHCR, Felicia Byrne – UNHCR, Babiche Routledge – UNHCR; Vitalina Kyrylovska – UNHCR; Jack Haffner – Core, Diogo Salema Da Costa Cabral - UNHCR</p> <p><b>Online:</b> Irene Berenice Coello Collada - UNHCR;</p>
<b>Chaired by:</b>	Filippo Busconi Ricci, UNHCR
<b>Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Opening Remarks/Presentation of the mapping exercise/Objectives</b></li> <li><b>2. Q&amp;A to the Government by humanitarian community</b></li> <li><b>3. Presentation by sectors IM, Shelter, Protection, Economic Inclusion, Education, Health on current situation in collective centers (<i>current activities and possible decongestion activities in support of the Government</i>)</b></li> <li><b>4. Input from Field Offices</b></li> <li><b>5. Open discussion</b></li> </ol>

### OBJECTIVES

- 1) Inform about government plans, priorities and timeline
- 2) Indicates on potential engagement by RRP partners
- 3) In case partners and the government are available to discuss the possibility of launching a decongestion pilot program, discuss future steps

### KEY MESSAGES

- This is the very first meeting at the operational level on collective sites.

- A comprehensive, but not exhaustive matrix by RRP partners was developed to indicate potential activities for potential, complementing support of Government-led initiatives to help Ukrainian refugees move out of collective shelters.
- It is important to stress that the RRP is only an appeal, with unknown final funding and fund availability. Any activities mentioned in that list, will be contingent to the final funding received.
- All activities mentioned in the matrix, are aligned to the government's priorities which they shared during the RRP 2023 preparations.
- The situation of collective shelters is complex e.g. different voivodships have different approaches.
- The shelter sector developed a working definition of collective sites, categorizing them into two groups:
  - 1) Collective centers, in pre-existing buildings used with the collective and communal settlements of the displaced population for mid-term shelter (1-6 months). Only shared living spaces (no separate rooms) but provision of services. Managed by voivodships, and others (e.g., private sector actors).
  - 2) Communal houses and accommodation centers, including hotels. They all have separate rooms but shared communal spaces such as kitchen. No provision of services like the first group of collective shelters and aimed at mid-long-term use. Managed by authorities, including voivodships and municipalities, NGOs and private sector actors.

#### *Key points shared by the Government*

- Since the new legislation on collective sites was announced last October, some 13,000 people moved to alternative housing arrangements
- By the end of March, the government is expected to complete and share with the humanitarian community, a survey aimed at identifying the number of residents in collective sites and how many of them meet the exemption criteria
- No intention to evict, relocate or make anyone homeless: the primary objective of the government is to identify and encourage those individuals with no specific vulnerabilities to live independently
- Through a new program called "Mutually needed – housing, work, community" the Government aims to strengthening the level of social integration of vulnerable individuals and families through a comprehensive system of support in housing, vocational and social areas.
- The programme covers 2024-2029, fits into the emerging Social Inclusion Strategy of the Polish Government, and will be supported by IOM, UNCHR and UNICEF in different ways.
- The programme is preceded by a [pilot](#) (23 March to 10 December 2023) to create an integrated social support service, including development of a system for coordinating activities, development of an integrated financing system and preparation of legislative solutions, focusing on (1) housing, (2) work, and (3) education. The pilot implementation site will be in a small/medium town with up to (small and medium - up to 120 thousand inhabitants and selected through a competition.
- The target group consist of Ukrainian refugees, beneficiaries of temporary protection, Polish individuals and families vulnerable to social exclusion, such as single parents with children, - repatriates / returnees from abroad and young adults living with their parents for economic reasons.
- The pilot will be accompanied by an additional program covering the first months of rent (gradually reduced) - for the period of adaptation and job apprenticeship

- The programme aims to also create opportunities for reverse depopulation trends in smaller towns and cities, fill local labor gaps and to develop local schools.

#### *Key issues raised by the sectors*

- **(Joint) needs assessments:** Some partners called for joint needs assessments in collective sites, to be able to provide targeted support to the government on helping people to move out. Partners also stressed the importance to further discuss the actual need of joint needs assessments and to maximize the use of already existing data while minimizing the risk of duplicating data collection of similar assessments. Partners also mentioned the risk of raising expectations among the target population, (particularly during needs assessments), but not followed-up by concrete actions afterwards.
- **Exemption criteria:** More information-sharing to government to humanitarian community and refugees – also to prevent discrimination and reach out to communities living in remote areas.
- **Refugees unable to move:** Partners emphasized the importance of receiving additional clarifications on the number of most vulnerable people unable to move out of collective sites and their specific needs.
- **(Mental) health services:** humanitarian community requests more information and guidance from the government in how to identify refugees with mental health needs, and how to support them.
- **Sustainability:** Sectors requested more information from the government on the sustainability of measures supporting refugees to move out (e.g., what happens if they lose their jobs), and of measures for those unable to move out.

#### **NEXT STEPS**

- 1) Sectors continue the exchanges and brainstorming, ideally by engaging with their governmental counterparts, at the operational level ahead and upon receipt of the survey results.
- 2) MoI to share the results of the survey in collective sites with the humanitarian community
- 3) UNHCR to share the mapping of potential activities in support of refugees willing to leave collective sites with MoI
- 4) MoSI to share a power point presentation's version for broader circulation