



Coordination meeting

MINUTES

Date: 19.10.2023 (Thursday)

Time: 11.00 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Place: Lublin Voivodship Office, column room

The main points of the agenda

Introduction and opening remarks

Bolesła Gzik – Deputy Governor of Lubelskie Province

- The occupancy rate in places of collective accommodation in Lublin Voivodeship is about 60%. Out of 4813 available slots, 2968 are occupied. 1845 slots are free. The reserve is 1083 slots. Reserve slots can be activated within 1-2 days.
- As of October 19, one reception point in Hrubieszow remains active, where refugees are hosted on an ongoing basis. At the moment, 12 people are staying there. On October 18, the number of people was 18. Occupancy is relatively dynamic, and those staying there usually stay for a very short period of time. Other reception points remain suspended. Their reactivation is possible within 24 hours.
- Waiting times at border checkpoints have been improved significantly compared to previous weeks. In Koroszczyn, check-ins are taking place on a regular basis. In Dorohusk, the waiting time is 3 hours, and in Hrebenne it is 4 hours.
- The Deputy Governor of Lublin shared his thoughts on the international situation in the context of the ongoing armed conflicts in Ukraine and in Israel and Palestine, and their impact on the dynamics of international relations from the perspective of the Polish government.

Marco Procaccini – Head of UNHCR Field Office in Lublin

- A focused analysis of the Border crossing movements for the last 30 days shows more crossings recorded to Poland (entries) than those to Ukraine (exits). Within the last month alone - 6 September to 6 October, there were 110,834 more crossings to Poland than to Ukraine. About 823K to Poland and 711K to Ukraine. Roughly half of them happened through Lubelskie' s border crossing points.
- In view of the development in Ukraine and the upcoming winter season, UNHCR would like to reiterate the importance to revamp the emergency preparedness capacity ahead of a possible influx over the winter months. UNHCR makes available our expertise and support to all actors on this regard both for group planning or if anyone is interested for bilateral meetings and coordination on specific issues.
- UNHCR would like to propose that November LCG meeting will be fully dedicated to Emergency Preparedness and Response, giving the possibility to the group to revise the existing plans, add new element if needed, and make sure that key functions for reception, transportation, accommodation, provision of food, water and assistance services along the entry routes are





available as well as the onwards transports to avoid any bottleneck can easily be activated if needed.

- As in each crisis, once the need for the response goes after the first emergency phase and crisis get into protracted nature, requiring additional resources for years the situation can turn very difficult. For this reasons 2024 will be a very critical year to make all possible efforts to make the humanitarian response becomes more sustainable, provision of services is mainstreamed as much as possible into the public system and systemic solutions are identified to improve documentation, access to services, inclusion in the labour market among others.
- Beside this, I am sure that in the LCG we are aware that a small part of the population will continue to require individualized support, being for accommodation, being for food, for accessing services which are “in principle” available but in many cases the specific vulnerability and personal circumstances make not actually available. For them some layers of extra support will remain needed and here is where I am sure the support of most of the group will focus on 2024 and where mechanisms to sustain this actions needs to be found.

UNHCR Protection Sector updates in Lublin Voivoidship - UNHCR

UNHCR – Felicia Byrne

- Since 18 August, 6 UNHCR Protection Monitors have visited 99 collective housing centers, mostly in rural areas, and conducted awareness-raising sessions for nearly 1,000 refugees on scams and promoting the enrollment of children in the Polish education system.
- Making Friends Initiative: By 19/10/2023 - 192 registrations representing 363 people
- Community mural on Labyrinth Gallery wall: Painting: October 25-28, Opening: October 29
- Participatory Assessment 2023 - Structured conversations through focus group discussions and key informant interviews; Targeting Lublin and rural areas, with a focus on refugees living in private accommodation, where 90% of the population lives; Opportunities for NGOs and institutions to work with UNHCR to hear directly from communities about their challenges, needs and proposed solutions.

Current situation in collective shelters - discussion on needs and challenges

Kamil Raczyński – UNHCR

- Agenda item presented selected conclusions from a meeting with powiat coordinators organized jointly with VO in Lublin on 28.09.2023. Conclusions include elements that work well in places of collective accommodation, areas that need to be improved and examples of support that NGOs could provide to help refugees increase self-reliance and leave collective accommodation. Details in the attached presentation.

Marco Procaccini – UNHCR

- Lublin Voivodeship has high percentage of people staying in collective shelters comparing to other voivodeships (9%). For example there is only 3,1% in Pomorskie and 2,2% in Mazowieckie.





- Another distinguishing feature of Lubelskie is high level of persons with disabilities and individual vulnerabilities staying in collective shelter. 12% of the population staying in collective shelters are considered high vulnerable. 10% of collective shelters are specialized for working with persons with disabilities, chronic illness, the elderly.
- 80% of collective shelters are small and medium sites. 40% of collective shelters are only for 1-20 persons. 44% host between 21 and 50 people. On one hand it is easier to manage small sites but on the other hand it is harder to reach those staying in small sites scattered among the region.
- Taking into account the above data, the conclusion arises that among the population of refugees in the Lublin Voivodeship, about 70-80% may not be able to become self reliant due to special needs. At the same time, about 20-30% of those living in collective shelters may be subject to measures to help them become self reliant and leave collective accommodation.

Filip Bujnowski – Save the Children

- Save the Children in recent weeks, in cooperation with the Provincial Office, has carried out a series of activities to reach out to people living in remote areas to register them for the financial support program. More such activities are currently being planned in other locations.

fr Mieczysław Puzewicz – Volunteer Center in Lublin

- Large centers can only be feasible for short period of time. Based on the experience of the Volunteer Center, we can say that refugees do not want to live in large accommodations where the accommodated are treated as objects. Refugees need decision-making, they need a sense of security and autonomy. A good example is Homes of Hope, where refugees are given the keys to their homes, but at the same time are required to fulfill certain housing responsibilities.

Jacek Jęczmionka – Caritas Lublin Archdioceses

- We should invite entrepreneurs and private companies that have a need for workers to the conversation about supporting refugees in places of collective accommodation. On the part of LCG members, we could provide training for potential employees and career counseling. The LCG forum could be used more to support the labor market and economic inclusion of refugees.
- Based on the experience of the mobile teams run by Caritas, we can say that the biggest problem in places of collective accommodation in small towns and villages is the lack of job opportunities. It would be advisable to consider introducing a model that involves training beneficiaries in Lublin and searching and working in other provinces.

Joanna Księżka-Koszałka - Caritas Lublin Archdioceses

- Taking additional steps toward supporting and activating those living in collective housing is essential. If we do not intensify our efforts, there is a risk of developing various types of social exclusion or even risky behavior among residents.

Agnieszka Tracz – Homo Faber



- It should be taken into account that many people do not want to move to other cities in Western Europe due to the proximity of the border and the declaration of a quick return to Ukraine. In addition, about 90% of people are women with children, who are automatically excluded from trying to get a job.
- The design of activities should primarily take into account people with specific needs, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

Julia Hek - IOM

- An additional problem in leaving places of collective accommodation in small towns is the difficulty in finding an apartment for rent on the open market. We work with refugees who are afraid that landlords are reluctant to rent their apartments just because the potential landlord is a person from Ukraine.

Anna Kalbus - Soleterre

- The Soleterre team has a trained team of psychologists who work with refugees in collective accommodation places. We also work with people with cancer problems, people with addictions, people with HIV infection and other health problems. Our team, in addition to working offline in places of collective accommodation or stationary in Baobab, also conducts consultations available to individuals online.

Jaroslawa Szewczuk – DRC

- There is a significant number of Roma of Ukrainian origin in the Lublin Voivodeship. It should be noted that in order to better plan activities aimed at this minority group, it is necessary to better understand it. A good solution would be to invite Roma organizations to join the LGK, and, following this example, also other minority organizations.
- Sometimes, instead of reinventing activities, you can use existing and well-functioning tools. A good example is the system created by the Entrepreneurship Department of the Lublin City Hall, which connects employers and employees.

Funding opportunities under the European Funds for Lubelskie 2021-2027 Program - upcoming open calls in areas potentially related to refugee assistance – Voivodeship Labor Office in Lublin

Radosław Osiński – Voivodeship Labor Office

- Priority 8.3 Social and economic integration of citizens of third countries, non-competitive open call
 - Date of announcement of the call for proposals: January 2024.
 - Opening date of the call for proposals: February 2024.
 - Closing date of the call for proposals: February 2024.
 - Allocation of approx. 15.75 MLN PLN
 - Applicant: ROPS in Lublin
- Priority 8.3 Social and economic integration of citizens of third countries, competitive open call for proposals





- Date of announcement of the call for proposals: August 2024.
- Opening date of the call for proposals: September 2024.
- Closing date of the call for proposals: October 2024.
- Allocation of approximately PLN 1.5 MLN
- Applicants: NGOs, social partners, religious associations
- Information on ongoing or planned calls for proposals and documentation can be found at <https://funduszeue.lubelskie.pl/>

Pooled Fund - funding for refugee-related activities carried out by Polish NGOs, call for applications - PCPM

Zofia Kwotek - PCPM

- POP FUND is a new independent fund for Polish NGOs to support people from Ukraine in Poland. The fund's operator is the Polish Center for International Aid.
- The purpose of the fund is to improve the living conditions of refugees, especially those living outside of major cities, as well as to provide assistance to those most in need, including mothers with small children, the elderly, and children. As part of the projects financed by the fund, Polish communities hosting refugees may also receive assistance in the future.
- Applications submitted to the POP Fund will be evaluated by external experts. Small grants of up to PLN 50,000. Those who may apply for them include KGW, volunteer fire fighters groups, parishes. Medium grants up to PLN 200 thousand, which are intended only for foundations, NGOs and associations. Large grants of more than PLN 200 thousand.
- This year's call for proposals will include about PLN 5 million, mainly from two major donors Google and META.
- Details and forms will be available on the Polish NGO Fund website www.popfund.pl which will be launched in the first half of November 2023.

Mission loan for support or job creation for people who fled Ukraine - OIC Poland

Magdalena Muda – OIC Poland

- The project is implemented under an agreement signed with the Bank of National Economy. The value of the project about PLN 3 million.
- What the loan can be used for - assistance to persons who fled from Ukraine (for Entities of Social Economy, including NGOs, the nature of whose activities coincides with the subject of assistance covered by the loan) and loans for the creation of jobs for a person from Ukraine;
- Borrowers who have been operating for not less than 12 months;
- Maximum unit value - not more than PLN 100 thousand.
- Form of repayment - as a rule, monthly, with the possibility of repayment in justified cases in the form of quarterly installments (e.g., in the case of seasonal activities);
- Interest rate - 0%;
- Payment period - up to 60 months;
- Recruitment on a continuous basis. Application generator at www.oic.lublin.pl





Action points

- To develop and adopt a joint LCG paper which will contain analysis and recommendations related to persons in collective shelters, based on the inputs so far shared by members of LCG and through a consultation process.

Participants

Name and surname	Organisation / Institution
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Marco Procaccini	UNHCR
Felicia Byrne	UNHCR
Kamil Raczyński	UNHCR
Małgorzata Gałań	UNHCR
Jlia Hek	IOM
Agnieszka Jobst	IOM
Małorzata Kurkowska	UNICEF
Aneta Serafin	Volunteer Center in Lublin
Ojciec Mieczysław Puzewicz	Volunteer Center in Lublin
Jakub Wojtasik	The Rule of Law Institute
Patrycja Gustyn	The Rule of Law Institute
Yevhen Duzhyi	Consulate General of Ukraine in Lublin
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Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation

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