



Regional Refugee Response  
for the Ukraine Situation



## Basic Needs Working Group Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2024

### Meeting Details

<b>Date</b>	22.07.2024
<b>Time</b>	15:00 pm
<b>Lead and Co-lead</b>	Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR – Almothana Hasan, ACTED
<b>Reporting</b>	Almothana Hasan
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### Agenda

1. RACs Update
2. WVI presentation on the technical support in RACs
3. NFIs assessment update
4. Update from partners
5. AoB July 26th Winterization Plan and August 17th Contingency Plan / REACH

### Information collection and relevant links

### Participants

<i>Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR</i>	<i>Ibrahim Marte, IOM</i>	<i>Athina Nalmpanti, Acted</i>
<i>Almothana Hasan, Acted</i>	<i>Babanuță Sergiu, MRCS</i>	<i>Iva Vavic, UNHCR</i>
<i>Rotaru Mihai, MLSP</i>	<i>Dumitru Burdenii, IFRC</i>	<i>Stelea Natalia, UNHCR</i>
<i>Tara Mccoy, IMPACT-REACH</i>	<i>Grigore Guzun, UNWFP</i>	<i>Valentina Ungureanu, MAI</i>
<i>Raluca Stoican, IMPACT</i>	<i>Michel Gerges, World Vision</i>	<i>Aveen Jalal, NRC</i>
<i>Svetlana, Intersos</i>	<i>Natasa Omerovic, IOM</i>	<i>Hannah Ursol, PIN</i>
<i>Ceban Roman, CCR</i>	<i>Fadel Daoud, WFP</i>	



**Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points**

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>1. RACs Update</p>	<p><b><u>Meeting Introduction</u></b> The coordinator of the BN WG welcomed the participants, thanked them for their presence, briefly presented the agenda and proceeded with the meeting.</p> <p><b><u>RAC Status Update (July 15th)</u></b> 33 active RACs – total occupancy 1739 persons. Of the 33 active RACs, 4 are in the consolidation process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RAC 137 - Copceac, Gagauzia - Ongoing</li> <li>• RAC 44 - Costesti, Ialoveni - Ongoing</li> <li>• RAC 82 and 117 – Chisinau – Ongoing</li> <li>• RAC 210 – Causeni – Closed</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Assessment Process</u></b> MLSP asked to re-assess the RACs and to identify which RACs are to stay for longer and which are to be closed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are working by the definition of key indicators identifying different categories and each category will have different options per question in order to identify who is most vulnerable.</li> <li>• Then, it's the development of a Rating Questionnaire and of the Scorecard</li> <li>• Implementation of the Assessment Questionnaires. There are 2 Questionnaires, one for the manager and one for the refugees.</li> <li>• After data collection we will have an adjustment exercise.</li> <li>• Review, Validate, Decide and sharing with the MLSP.</li> </ul> <p><b>UNHCR:</b> The scorecard indicators were developed through a collaborative process involving the RTG members, who provided input from various working groups, including the Disability Taskforce, Protection Working Group, Child Protection Working Group, and GBV Sub-working Group. These indicators focus on several categories, with one of the key areas being demographics. Data will be collected on vulnerable groups within the RACs, with each question offering three options to assess factors such as occupancy levels and vulnerability levels for children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Presentation of the questionnaire and scoring methodology – July 19</li> <li>2. Provision of partners score – July 23</li> <li>3. Scorecard developed – July 24 – 26</li> <li>4. Training to enumerators on data collection and FGD – July 29</li> <li>5. Data collection in RACs and FGD – July 30 – August 5</li> <li>6. Presentation to RTG members to review the findings and to work on the correction of initial score based on the FGD – August 8</li> <li>7. Share the final table with the score with MLSP and RTG members – August 14</li> </ol> <p>To discuss separately with the organizations that want to participate in the exercise.</p>



	<p>After defining these indicators, a form was created, following a similar approach used for the Cash Targeting Scorecard. The purpose of this process is to thoroughly evaluate the RAC\’s profiles.</p> <p><b>MLSP</b> reviewed the questionnaire and noted that, as of May 31, 2024, the Ministry has adopted the minimum quality standards for social service temporary placement centers for persons displaced from other states. The MLSP plans to provide recommendations to ensure that the questions in the assessment align with these adopted standards. This alignment is essential to maintain a national legal basis and to avoid any discrepancies, ensuring that the centers are evaluated according to the officially adopted standards rather than using criteria not included in the legislative framework.</p> <p><b>BNWG Coordinator:</b> The questionnaire was distributed to all RTG members, including those on the mailing list. Members were encouraged to review the questions and provide feedback, as the exercise is scheduled to be conducted tomorrow.</p> <p>The rating for each question is determined either by observation or by using existing data. For example, questions regarding living conditions are based on the enumerator’s observations, while questions related to demographics are informed by already available data, such as the number of people present.</p> <p><b>BNWG Coordinator:</b> The purpose of this exercise is to create a list of RACs to be closed in the short term (September, October, November, December). Once we have this list, we will have a clearer understanding of the situation. Until present day, 5 RACs were closed per group, but fewer RACs will be closed during the winter period. With the list, we can identify which RACs will close in the coming months. We will also need to discuss with the ministry to determine which RACs will remain open for a longer term.</p> <p>It would be beneficial to hold separate meetings since we have two different tasks—focus group discussions and questionnaires for the managers. It would be a good idea to split the RACs among the organizations so that both exercises can be conducted efficiently. If any other organization is willing to support, please let us know as soon as possible.</p>	
<p>2. WVI presentation on the technical support in RACs</p>	<p>WVI presented the activities that were carried out in the RACs from September 2022 through 2023 and into 2024.</p> <p><b>Cash for Work Program, ongoing projects:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>around 50 individuals are part of the Cash for Work program, aiming to assist both the RAC management and the beneficiaries in creating a positive environment. After a few meetings with MLSP, they expressed concerns about a lack of funds to support the RACs. In response, these activities were developed to assist the ministry in maintaining operations within the RACs. 51</li> </ul>	<p>To share with BNWG Coordinator the PDM and Lessons Learned from Cash for Training activity.</p>



	<p>individuals are part of the project and will increase to 62 beneficiaries. The beneficiaries receive 20\$/day for 18 days. The activity was coordinated with the MLSP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cash for Internship for 28 beneficiaries, 3 months ago. Ongoing assistance in different RACs, training beneficiaries how to care for PwD, elderly and children</li> </ul> <p><b>Project Development and Assistance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After September 2022, we developed a new project.</li> <li>• From June 2023 to February 2024, provided assistance to 141 beneficiaries in 28 RACs.</li> <li>• NFIs distribution in 22 RACs across Moldova (August 2023 until the end of the project).</li> </ul> <p>After the RACs assessment in September 2023, 17 RACs were selected for rehabilitation: Chisinau-9, Criuleni-1, Causeni-1, Calarasi-1, Hancesti-1, Straseni-1, Donduseni-1, Drochia-1, Glodeni-1.</p> <p><b>Winterization support was</b> distributed for 695 women and 261 children in RACs, clothing and footwear. The activity was coordinated with NRC, and we had different kits, in order to not overlap.</p> <p><b>WVI</b> stated their approach to the Cash for Work program within the RACs, where beneficiaries were selected based on criteria developed in collaboration with RAC managers. This process was coordinated closely with the managers to address the specific needs of the RACs.</p> <p><b>Cash for Training initiative</b> supports activities like cooking, cleaning, and administrative tasks within the RACs. This initiative addresses the needs and allows refugees to contribute to the community. BNWG Coordinator acknowledged the positive impact of this initiative, particularly in areas lacking specialized staff, and recommended sharing the lessons learned with other organizations.</p>	
<p>3. NFIs assessment update</p>	<p>An update was provided on the general NFI assessment, which aims to identify ongoing and planned activities across different partners.</p> <p><b>Ongoing NFI activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six partners are supporting 39,397 individuals covering 13 RACs and the remaining beneficiaries distributed across the country, including in Transnistria region.</li> <li>• In total, we have 20,689 are refugees and 18,438 from the HC (from July 2024 – until February 2025)</li> </ul> <p><b>Planned NFI Activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The same 6 partners supporte 20,975 individuals, covering all active RACs and HC.</li> <li>• 13,320 Refugees and 9,455 HC (from July 2024 – until May 2025)</li> </ul>	



<p>4. Update from partners</p>	<p>There is a drop in the number of targeted beneficiaries but also, we understand that many of these activities will conclude the next year. Some of the partners may not have reported to this as they do not have confirmation for the next year. Of course, we will repeat the same assessment by the end of the year, to make sure that all the beneficiaries will be covered by the end of 2025.</p> <p><b>Partners Supporting RACs</b> WeWorld and ACF are providing support in the RACs and UNHCR will be distributing in RACs. The rest of the partners are supporting the HC: Caritas Moldova, DRC, WV, NRC, CWS &amp; Fundatia Crestina Titus Centru Diamant, CWS &amp; Zdorovii Gorod, PIN and UNHCR.</p> <p>The modality of support: between direct implementation, vouchers, and cash. Although vouchers are typically not reported as NFI, we have collected it to have a comprehensive information on all forms of support to understand what is being provided and how it aligns with the needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Ongoing activity includes the distribution of</b> hygiene kits, cleaning items, clothing for children and adults, and equipment and supplies for the elderly, PwD, babies, and children.</li> <li>➤ <b>Planned activities include</b> kitchen utensils sleeping items appliances school supplies first aid kit.</li> </ul> <p><b>WFP:</b> is planning to distribute kitchen utensils in 2 RACs Mihaileni and Bulboaca that are planning to switch from catering to vouchers.</p> <p><b>Discussions:</b> A question was raised: why vouchers or cash distributions aren't reported in the NFI category, as other organizations have done so in the Cash Working Group (CWG). It was clarified that cash and voucher distributions fall under the CWG, which handles the cost and distribution, while the NFI group focuses on the specific items provided. To avoid duplication, in-kind distributions should be reported in the NFI group, and cash/voucher distributions should be coordinated with the CWG.</p> <p>It was noted that cash for NFIs and in-kind support are not mutually exclusive, as it's impossible to predict exactly what people will buy with cash. Therefore, it's important for those distributing cash for NFIs to share PDM data with the group. This information would provide insight into the most purchased items, helping to determine if and how in-kind systems can complement cash distributions.</p> <p>With vouchers restrictions are set exactly what items to buy and fall under the NFI group, while general cash distributions, being less defined, shouldn't be managed by the NFI group.</p>	<p><b>WFP</b> inquired which organization plan to distribute kitchen utensils.</p> <p>To share the results of the assessment that represents (organization, location, categories of support provided)</p>
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	<p>This information is collected by BN WG to understand who supports what and where but coordinated with CWG.</p> <p>Cash for winter is Shelter activity but is reported under the Cash Working Group - assign tasks based on the activity's mandate.</p> <p>A guideline for NFIs is developed and will be shared with partners once concluded.</p> <p>Participants raised questions about deviations from the previously agreed-upon standard kits for NFIs, including items like kitchen sets and hygiene supplies.</p> <p><b>BNWG Co-chair</b> clarified that the categories listed reflect the ongoing and planned activities that vary from the standardized kits. This will be revised.</p> <p>There was an inquiry about which organizations are planning these activities regarding supplies for elderly and people with disabilities to ensure effective coordination. The list detailing this information will be shared again, the full assessment of which organization and what items are distributed.</p> <p><b>IFRC:</b> some activities planned under their health programme, but it is in the discussion process right now. These activities may include in-kind distribution of supportive devices for people with disabilities and the elderly, or cash/voucher assistance.</p>	<p>To share detailed list with specific items and organization distributing this.</p>
Update from partners	No updates	
5.AoB	<p>IOM: The ongoing situation outside the Refugee Accommodation Centers (RACs) continues to present significant challenges. The primary needs of the people are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>6. Food</b></li> <li><b>7. Non-food items</b></li> <li><b>8. Cash assistance</b></li> </ul> <p><b>IOM:</b> An update on the situation outside the Refugee Accommodation Centers (RACs) reveals that the primary needs of the population are as follows:</p>	



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	<p><b>Food, Non-food items, Cash</b></p> <p>There remains a consistent continuous demand for food among individuals who are not accommodated in the centers. These individuals frequently inquire about, specifically regarding how they can access food resources, highlighting the ongoing need for support in this area.</p> <p>. This ongoing need highlights the importance of addressing food security for those outside the RACs.</p>	
	<p><b>Next meeting:</b> 26th August</p>	