



Comrat Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 25 May 2023

1. Meeting Details

Date	25 May 2023
Time	11:00 - 12:30
Chair	Serghey Anastasov, Mayor of Comrat Catalina Sampaio, Associate Inter-Agency Officer, UNHCR Igor Gorgan, Senior Field Assistant, UNHCR
Reporting	Igor Gorgan, Senior Field Assistant, UNHCR Hanna Ursol, Protection Associate, UNHCR
Email	sampaio@unhcr.org , gorgan@unhcr.org , ursol@unhcr.org

2. Agenda

1. Introduction (5 min)
2. Temporary Protection updates (15 min)
3. Presentation by International Women’s Organization “INNER WHEEL COMRAT” (10 min)
4. Participants’ main updates and challenges (30 min)
5. AoB

3. Information collection and relevant links

Moldova operational data portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784>

Local Refugee Coordination operational data portal: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/search?>

4. Participants (Name, Position, Organization)



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serghyey Anastasov, Mayor of Comrat Municipality - Anatolii Topal, Mayor of Ceadir-Lunga Municipality - Catalina Sampaio, Associate Inter-Agency Officer, UNHCR - Vanessa Bordin, GBV Officer, UNHCR - Hanna Ursol, Protection Associate, UNHCR - Igor Gorgan, Senior Field Assistant, UNHCR - Aliona Iamboglo, Legal Counsellor, CDA - Galina Filipova, Social Assistance and Family Protection Directorate, Taraclia Raion - Dimitrii Furtuna, Administrator, AXIS Tineretul Gagauziei - Gheorghieva Svetlana, Director, Regional Center for Victim of Violence - Alexandra Sirbu, Cash Assistant Project, PIN Moldova - Svetlana Panaitova, Project assistant, PIN Moldova - Vladimir Petrovici, Project coordinator, IOM - Svetlana Stiroi, Consultant, IOM - Valentina Colioglo, Psychologist, UNFPA - Mihail Belousiuc, Programme Officer, WFP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mikhail Erinets - Head of the Documentation Service for Foreign Citizens, IGM - Nadejda Toleva, Project assistant, Caritas Moldova - Alexandr Odnostalco, General Directorate of Health and Social Protection ATU Gagauzia - Valentina Caraseni, Head of Directorate, General Directorate of Health and Social Protection ATU Gagauzia - Alla Leiciu, Prezident, International Women’s Organization “INNER WHEEL COMRAT” - Alexandr Vasiliev, Project Assistant, ACTED - Igor Guseinov, Coordinator, PIN Moldova Sud - Sofia Rusu, Regional Representative, ICRC - Liubov Mitioiglo, Regional manager, Tekwill Comrat - Svetlana Regus, Parliament Information Centre - Vera Garciu, Consultant, CDA - Natalia Capanji, Section of Socialassistance, Ceadir-Lunga Municipality - Cristina Baldji, Mobile Team Leader, Caritas Moldova |
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5. Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Igor Gorgan, UNHCR Senior Field Assistant, gorgan@unhcr.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mayor of Comrat and UNHCR welcomed participants to the meeting and the participants introduced themselves. • UNHCR shared the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – UNHCR appreciated the effort of organisations in Comrat to support GBV survivors in providing timely access to services and underlined the importance to coordinate towards rapid response on GBV and not to duplicate activities. – Organisations are invited to attend the GBV sub-working group monthly meeting co-chaired by UNHCR and UNFPA, where activities, challenges and gaps concerning the 	



protection of GBV survivors will be discussed. The next meeting will be held on 30 May 2023.

- It is important for UNHCR to know how to support local organisations and authorities in terms of GBV protection and whether GBV survivors and persons at risk had access to services and information about services available.
- **Biaz Gul** (NGO) replied in response to UNHCR’s comments on GBV as follows:
 - One of the main challenges remains to be the lack of awareness of women from Ukraine about free services available.
 - Biaz Gul started to cooperate with IOM and is implementing a mobile team to GBV survivors from both Moldovan citizens and Ukrainian refugees proportionally. The mobile team covers all the southern regions in Moldova except for Romanian-speaking villages. The team includes a psychologist providing MHPSS since psychological support is of great importance for GBV survivors, and it is also possible to have online sessions with a psychologist. The mobile team also conducts distribution of hygiene kits and food packages, and organizes vocational training courses, entrepreneurship training (4 modules), and digital literacy courses (Word, Excel, PowerPoint).
- **UNHCR** underlined the importance to provide reliable and correct information as there are lots of information sources and the information can be incorrect. It is needed to ensure access of GBV survivors to quality services.
- **Tekwill** (NGO) informed about their activities and projects concerning social media marketing courses, web design and graphic design courses targeting both Ukrainian and Moldovan beneficiaries. They have a child-friendly space in their centre. They plan to open summer schools in Comrat and Ceadir Lunga, including graphic design courses for children. There is also a swimming pool in Ceadir Lunga.
- **Information Bureau of the Parliament of Moldova in Comrat** mentioned that they supported different activities for Ukrainian refugees and were ready for collaboration.



<p>Temporary Protection updates (i.e., next steps and information campaign/message to refugees)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IGM informed about issuance of the Decision No. 68 of 10 May 2023 by the Commission for Exceptional Situations (CES), which annulled a number of provisions relating to displaced Ukrainians residing in Moldova, including the right to remain in the country indefinitely. As a result, as of 15 May 2023, displaced Ukrainians have 90 days (within 180 days) to regularize their status in Moldova by obtaining Temporary Protection (TP), applying for asylum/stateless status, or applying for a residence permit. Persons who fall out of a legal status after the deadline will not be returned to Ukraine. However, IGM is not certain at the moment whether a penalty fine will be imposed on those people. • UNHCR complemented as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Individuals will be able to re-apply for TP if it is lost due to the 45-day time limit. – Refugees from Ukraine will no longer be able to work without obtaining a TP, but the effect will not be applied retroactively. Therefore, existing work contracts should remain valid for the next 90 days. – Regarding residence permits, the right to obtain a TP without presenting a criminal record and paying the official state tax has been repealed. This change will not have a retroactive effect. – All children who are not in the care of their biological parent or a legal guardian must be registered for TP by the Guardianship Authority. For separated children, their caregivers should approach the Department of Social Assistance in their town. A legal representative will then be appointed for each child, who will be responsible for registering the child for TP. – Primary health care is only available to Ukrainians who have TP. – At the moment, the TP status is not a prerequisite of receiving cash assistance from UNHCR. Additional information will be provided if any changes in criteria come up. 	<p>IGM Green Line: 0 800 015 27</p> <p>CDA contact phone: +373 605 748 48</p>
<p>Presentation by International Women’s Organization “INNER WHEEL COMRAT”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Women’s Organization “INNER WHEEL COMRAT”, a UK-registered organisation, presented their activities as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The organisation conducts activities to promote friendship and foster international understanding. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The organisation is operating clubs in over 120 countries. In Moldova, they have clubs in Chisinau and Comrat, and they cooperate with clubs in other countries. One of the activities is to help refugees, people with disabilities, and people in difficult situations to ensuring respect of human rights. The NGO is going to provide humanitarian and social support. – They have a plan to create an international volunteer centre to organize a summer camp for children in and a business camp for teenagers, and to create an international women's magazine. • UNHCR underlined the importance to avoid duplication and to provide support in areas where there is a need, and to target activities to the refugee community. • UNFPA psychologist mentioned that it is great to involve local population and better results will be achieved when both refugees and host community are involved. 	
<p>Activity updates from participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDA reported that they are working with Oxfam to conduct a project on integration of local citizens and Ukrainians. The project was extended until August, and there will be many activities with children and women next month. • Biaz Gul (NGO) pointed out a difficult situation with the labour market in Moldova. The employment situation had been challenging in Moldova even before the Ukrainian refugee crisis. Now, Ukrainian women in Moldova wish to work but there is no opportunity to work. • IOM shared the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There are 426 Ukrainians in Comrat. One of main issues is concerning TP and delay in cash assistance. IOM cooperates with NGOs to provide food packages, hygienic items, diapers, and so on. Red Cross actively provides support. There is a need in vouchers for pharmacy and free medical services. Ukrainians need to go to a rehabilitation centre in Chisinau as there are no such services available in Comrat. – A reparation is needed for a RAC in Congaz because the roof and sewerage are old. A health centre in Ceadir Lunga needs a playground for children. 	<p>Reparation works needed in the RAC in</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACTED assured that they were aware of the need of reparation in the RAC and that the situation is under control.• Red Cross in Comrat reported about their recent activities as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– They provide support to families hosting refugees in cooperation with the municipality. Financial supports are provided to children with disabilities, and they also support children and vulnerable families in Moldova.– Some projects involve volunteers to arrange activities and meetings with refugees so that they can overcome this challenging period mentally. They also cooperate with the Education Department and other educational organisations and are ready for further cooperation.• UNHCR informed that there are wheelchairs in stock and asked participants to inform UNHCR if there is a need.• Biaz Gul mentioned a need for beds with a control panel for bedridden people.• Ceadir Lunga Municipality said that they needed automatic wheelchairs. As for a playground for children in Ceadir Lunga, the playground needs a special swing for children with disabilities.• IOM, dealing with coordination of territorial centres, informed that they were conducting social cohesion activities for both refugees and local population. Public events were organised in Comrat such as cultural events, fairs, sport events, etc.• Taraclia Municipality shared the following points:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Considering the proximity of Tabaky-Mirnoe BCP, the municipality has provided assistance in reception and accommodation of refugees since the onset of the war. Three centres were opened and had accommodated more than 1000 refugees (the centres already closed). They provided refugees with firewood, food and milk.– Currently, 150 families (329 refugees, 141 women, 119 children) are residing in the region.– The municipality received Soros Justice Fellowships fund in 2021 for the implementation of a temporary accommodation centre for children separated from	<p>Congaz – follow-up by Acted</p>
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	<p>their parents. They also planned to accommodate refugee children there. The problem was the lack of financial resources. They expressed gratitude to Biaz Gul NGO and colleagues from Cahul for providing psychological assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDA informed that one of the main problems related to TP application is a difficulty in providing a proof of residence. • Biaz Gul NGO informed that they had baby diapers and nutrient food for children, and could share with those in need. • Head of Comrat Municipality thanked all participants for supporting people in need. • AXIS Tineretul Gagauziei informed that their centre will be open by the end of June after the completion of repair works. They are already planning some activities next week for integration of refugees and the centre is open for proposals on cooperation and joint activities. Information on a summer stage for cultural events in Comrat was also shared. • Head of Ceadir Lunga Municipality mentioned that the Municipality has been providing support from the beginning of the conflict. Currently, 250 Ukrainian refugees are residing in Ceadir Lunga. 	
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6. Details of the Next Meeting	
Date	To be confirmed
Time	To be confirmed
Venue	To be confirmed