



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation



Palanca Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 31 May 2023

1. Meeting Details

Date	31 May 2023
Time	12:00 – 13:00
Chair	Volokh Karina, UNHCR Snr. Field Assistant
Reporting	Irina Adam, ACTED
Email	volokh@unhcr.org; irina.adam@acted.org

2. Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Update on recent developments in Palanca Bus Station (PBS)
3. Activity updates from participants
4. 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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| - Karina Volokh, UNHCR | - Igor Calancea, IGSU |
| - Ilaria Guidoni, INTERSOS (online) | - Olga Costenco, IOM |
| - Ana Zincov, BLUE DOT | - Dmitri Surovtov, ISRAAID |
| - Igor Becciev, CDA | - Grigore Scraba, GSS |
| - Ina Tonofrei, UNFPA | - Iva Bucatciuc, DRC (online) |
| - Irina Adam, ACTED (online) | - Mircea Gonta, DRC |
| - Calin Costenco, HELVETAS | - Damylo Nedoetskyi, DRC |

5. Information collection and relevant links,

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/Actions
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR shared the following points: 	



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<p>Mrs. Karina Volokh, UNHCR Snr. Field Assistant, volokh@unhcr.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – On 17 May 2023, ICRC visited PBS to visit Blue Dot’s office and leave some leaflets. – On 18 May 2023, UNHCR welcomed UNHCR Romania, Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) and CDA to PBS. The purpose of their visit was to familiarize themselves with the territory of the bus station and the Palanca BCP, and to see how people from Ukraine arrive at PBS and what kind of services are provided to them. UNHCR provided all the requested information and explained the entire reception process for all forced displaced people. – On 22 May 2023, UNHCR received 30 people at PBS evacuated by the GLORIA INGO. All people benefited from the various services offered at PBS and had coffee/tea and some snacks while waiting for the departure of the bus. – On 23 May 2023, UNHCR and Centre on Countering Trafficking in Persons conducted a training on Indicators of Trafficking in Persons at Palanca Bus Hub meeting room. The training was attended by 24 staff members from PBS. – On 23 May 2023, DRC visited PBS to familiarize themselves with the area and find out if there are any missing services in protection and WASH that can be covered by them. – On 26 May 2023, INTERSOS conducted an internal TP session for its staff to update them on the latest changes. – On 29 May 2023, UNHCR received 24 people at PBS evacuated by the GLORIA INGO. All people benefited from the various services offered at PBS and had coffee/tea and some snacks while waiting for the departure of the bus. 	
<p>Activity updates from participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTED shared that 169 people were transported in May, and no other special requests were received for evacuation. The distribution of SIM cards and water is still ongoing as long as necessary. During the last 2 weeks, there were more requests in the northern region to transport people from RACs to the Temporary Protection office in Balti. ACTED is ready to transport those who go to the TP office in case other NGOs receive such requests, with a minimum group of 5 people. • INTERSOS shared that all activities are continuing as normal with 3 people present on the territory of PBS and the other staff are deployed with Mobile team in different villages of Stefan Voda and Causeni district. They continue to offer English lessons for Ukrainian/Moldovan beneficiaries in the Community Center in Causeni and in Stefan 	



	<p>Voda. They also intend to conduct trainings at the end of June or beginning of July (date to be confirmed) for the staff in Palanca regarding burnout situations to encourage self-care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DRC introduced themselves and their activities. Their main activity is to help with legal assistance for TP, conduct informative sessions, conduct a Mobile Team to provide legal assistance and other information for beneficiaries in villages in all over Moldova. During the former half of May, they assisted around 100 refugees for TP counseling and 31 people for legal assistance in person and over phone. Their current focus is on legal assistance with Ukrainian legal program, but they also have a plan to develop an online platform for legal assistance to help more people and cover their needs.• CDA shared that their work is ongoing as usual. During the last 2 weeks, CDA provided free legal counselling, assistance with TP and asylum procedures to 46 people. They informed that the emergency situation has been prolonged for 60 days. During the period of the exceptional situation from 4 June to 3 August 2023 (60 days), beneficiaries will be able to cross the Moldovan border on entry and exit only once with any type of Ukrainian document (birth certificate, internal passport, etc.) whereas they will be able to cross the border several times with the biometric passport. Regardless of this decision, CDA continues to encourage people to apply for TP since Ukrainian refugees can only stay legally in Moldova for 90 days starting from 15 May 2023.• ISRAAID shared their statistics for the last 2 weeks. They provided their services to 30 children and 35 adults and continue to work in the same manner.• IOM reported that their transportation to Romania is ongoing as usual. 73 people (45 women, 10 men and 18 children) were transported from PBS over the past 2 weeks. From the next week, the bus schedule to Romania will change and the bus will be departing from PBS every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday (originally on Friday instead of Thursday). A staff will be leaving the mission in PBS, replaced by a new incoming staff.• HELVETAS reported that their work is ongoing as usual. For the last 2 weeks, 132 people received their help with 54 children, 56 adults, 20 elderly people and 2 people	
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	<p>with disabilities. Starting from 1 June 2023, there will be a personnel change in the position of the field manager.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BLUE DOT reported that they assisted 75 children and 44 adults in the latter half of May by providing NFIs (e.g. hoodies, umbrellas). Starting from 1 June 2023, they will reduce the number of staff at PBS to 2 staff members who will be present. In case the number of entries from Ukraine increases, they will again increase the number of staff.• UNFPA reported about their ongoing psychological support activities as well as mobile team in several villages throughout Moldova, in Comrat for this week. They continue to distribute dignity kits for people on the move. Home Care, in cooperation with UNFPA and the Mayor of Palanca, will organize a concert Palanca to facilitate better interaction between beneficiaries and local communities. The provisional plan is to organize this event in front of the Palanca Municipality building on 24 June 2023, from 11:00 to 13:00. They will inform the participants of the fixed date and time once it is confirmed.• GSS reported that their work is ongoing as usual. Starting from 1 June 2023, two security managers will be present at PBS, who will take turns every two days.• IGSU informed that there are no changes in their work. They continue to be present and fulfill duties at PBS. It was agreed between IGSU and Solidarites International that collaboration will be made between the two entities for cleaning and waste management of PBS.	
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6. Details of the Next Meeting	
Date	7 June 2023
Time	12:00 – 13:00
Venue	Palanca Bus Station