



Otaci Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 27 June 2023

1. Meeting Details

Date	27 June 2023
Time	11:00 - 12:20
Chair	Alexandra Cuznetova, UNHCR Field Assistant
Reporting	Alexandra Cuznetova, UNHCR Field Assistant
Email	cuznetov@unhcr.org

2. Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Recent Developments in Otaci BCP
3. Activity updates
4. Child Protection
5. A.O.B.

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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| - Katherine Lampe, Child Protection Officer, UNHCR | - Faureanu Natalia, Coordinator, Blue Dot |
| - Danilescu Tatiana, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF | - Mariana Grama, NRC |
| - Cotova Tatiana, Lawyer, NGO “Stimul” | - Rostislav Covdii, Counsellor, CDA |
| - Alexandra Cuznetova, Field Assistant, UNHCR | - Preda Alexei, Bahtalo Ker |
| - Dmitrii Zavrotskii, Mayor, Otaci City | - Sirbu Simion, Director, NGO “Artemida” |
| - Ecaterina Covtun, Base Manager, ACTED | - Hanna Ursol, Protection Associate, UNHCR (online) |
| - Merjievski Serghei, Project Assistant, IOM | - Victor Levcenco, IOM (online) |
| - Cojocar Nicolai, Social Assistant, UNFPA | - Margaryta Pavlenko, Monitor, Right to Protection (online) |
| - Saracuta Iurie, Deputy Head, Otaci Border Police | - Bianca-Elvira Miccione, Project Officer, ACTED (online) |
| | - Alkairawan Shihab, Emergency Coordinator, IOM (online) |



5. Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points		
Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Alexandra Cuznetsova, UNHCR Field Assistant, cuznetov@unhcr.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR welcomed participants and asked all the participants to introduce themselves. • The mayor welcomed all participants to the meeting and shared as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No major changes in the flow of refugees through BCP Otaci have been reported. – On 20 June 2023, the celebration of the World Refugee Day was organized by NRC in Otaci with the support of the Municipal Government. 	
<p>Child protection cases at Otaci BCP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFPA reported that they provided assistance to 78 individuals during the last two weeks, mostly by psychological consultation and information provision. 13 hygienic kits were distributed. No specific challenge is observed. • ACTED shared the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – During the past two weeks, ACTED transported 174 individuals to Chisinau, 36 to the IGM office in Balti and 9 to RACs, 3 people to/from IGM office in Calarasovca, and conducted 2 mobile teams with UNHCR and the other partners. – 87 snack kits, 22 SIM cards and 2 travel bags were distributed during the past two weeks. – ACTED is receiving many questions regarding delays in payments for cash assistance from UNHCR, cash-assistance for host families, questions about legal assistance which were referred to CDA. – ACTED is launching a new project for Protection Case Management to support beneficiaries inside and outside of RACs. 2 teams of 10 caseworkers based in Chisinau will cover the Center and the South of the country, and one team of 5 people is based in Edinet and will cover the North. ACTED identified some RACs in the North – in Balti, Donduseni and Edinet – and will work there some hours per week. However, the case management project will not cover GBV and Child Protection cases. ACTED team will work in collaboration with NRC Community Center in Ocnita. • IOM reported that 8 individuals were transported to Iasi and 140 individuals received first-aid medical assistance at OBS. 7 SIM cards were distributed. • NRC shared the following points: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite the Social Assistance department of Ocnita raion to the coordination meeting to discuss child protection issues at the border.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The opening ceremony of NRC North Community Center was held on 7 June 2023. NRC signed Memoranda of Understanding with Council of 5 districts (Ocnita, Drochia, Donduseni, Riscani and Edinet) on better response to refugee needs, who are accommodated in the private sector and in RACs.– 6 info sessions were conducted for 103 refugees on Legal Stay, Housing Land and Property rights, Employment in Ocnita, Otaci (World Refugee Day), Calarasovca, Balti and Soroca. Info sessions in Balti and Soroca were organized in strong partnership with PiN. 2 information dissemination activities were organized in Ocnita (9 participants) and Calaraseuca (151 participant).– An event for the World Refugee Day was organized in Otaci on 20 June 2023 in cooperation with local public authorities. 172 refugees and local population attended the event.– The movie showtime was organized at the North Community Center on 15 June 2023.• NGO “Artemida” from Drochia shared the following information:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– NGO “Artemida” from Drochia is a partner of UNFPA and assists GBV cases.– The organization has two mobile teams operating in 13 regions in the North, consisting of a psychologist, a social worker and a lawyer.– From February till June 2023, the mobile teams visited Ocnita region 40 times where 961 individuals received assistance (375 refugees and 585 local population). In total, 13,856 beneficiaries were assisted.– In Drochia, the NGO has a Center for victims of violence which can accommodate 8 women and 16 children. The victims of violence have a possibility to receive cash assistance. There is also another center working on rehabilitation of aggressors in Drochia.• NGO Bahtalo Ker shared updates as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The construction of their community center is ongoing.– 4 people used the laundry space and 6 people used showers during the reporting period.• BlueDot shared the following points:	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– 260 individuals (139 women, 52 men and 69 children) were received at BlueDot office during the past two weeks. 8 people with disabilities (6 adults and 2 children) were assisted in BlueDot.– There was one case of an unaccompanied child who was obliged to stay overnight at BCP Otaci because there was no social worker to assist the case. Since 15 June 2023, a new social worker started to assist cases of unaccompanied and separated children at BCP Otaci.• CDA shared the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Most legal consultations provided by CDA for the reporting period were regarding the legal stay in Moldova, applications for Temporary Protection, legal registration of vehicles with Ukrainian car plates in Moldova. CDA also provides legal consultations over the phone.– For the reporting period, the increase of the number of Ukrainian citizens entering Moldova was observed. Most people are transiting Moldova and go on vacation. In addition, there is a tendency that a high number of refugees in RACs are traveling back to Ukraine once in a while.– Ukrainian citizens who are intended to stay in Moldova started to apply for Temporary Protection more actively comparing to the last month.– There were some high-risk protection cases at the borders during the reporting period.• NGO Stimul (Ocnita town) shared the following points:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The NGO Stimul has a center in Ocnita town where they provide different services for refugees who live in Ocnita town, such as: help with filling in the official documents, Romanian language courses, group session for psychological assistance (mixed groups: refugees and local population) to help with the integration process, “nanny for an hour” – for parents who work in summer and don’t have anybody to leave their children with, laundry and showers (every Friday).– The NGO has volunteers in every village in Ocnita region who help with identification of the recently arrived refugees and their needs.– The NGO has a room in a center where refugees can be accommodated for short period of time.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Not less than 10 people visit the center daily for different activities. • Border Police: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The security situation at the border is stable at the moment. The flow of the people and transport from Ukraine at the BCP Otaci is medium and stable. – No cases of human trafficking as well as illegal border crossings by Ukrainian citizens were registered. – Regarding a case of an unaccompanied child at BCP Otaci, the Border Police is a governmental instrument and has limits in taking decisions on the spot. In the said case, they could not accompany the child to BlueDot as they did not have enough people on duty. – Border Police appreciates cooperation and support from the participants. 	
Child protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR explained the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – UNICEF recently launched a campaign “Back to school together” with the Ministry of Education. UNHCR and UNICEF are encouraging Ukrainian children to be enrolled and go to school or to study online in a school premise. Many schools in this region received computers to help Ukrainian children to study at the schools and to be integrated with Moldovan children. – If the partners identify families who struggle with online education, they can refer them to UNHCR to be helped to find the closest school which is a part of the project. – UNHCR and UNICEF encourage partners to have a child-friendly space where children can go after school. • UNICEF explained the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The target schools were identified together with the Ministry of Education. The project will continue until September and the schools will be equipped with computers when a new school year starts. The further details of the project and the list of the schools will be shared with the partners. 	

6. Details of the Next Meeting

Date	11 July 2023
Time	11:00 - 12:00
Venue	Otaci Mayor Office

