



Causeni Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 19 July 2023

1. Meeting Details

Date	19 July 2023
Time	10:00 - 13:00
Chair	Karina Volokh, UNHCR Senior Field Assistant
Reporting	Iurie Birsan, UNHCR Senior Field Assistant
Email	volokh@unhcr.org , birsan@unhcr.org

2. Agenda

1. Updates on Temporary protection;
2. Presentations by partners on their activities;
3. Discussion on employment;
4. Discussion on the situation and needs in the region;
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?>
Moldova Services Advisor Log in: [Services Advisor](#)
Moldova Services Advisor Public view: <https://moldova.servicesadvisor.net/>

4. Participants (Name, Position, Organization)



- Nicolae Gorban, President of the Raional Council
- Victor Caraman, Causeni City Hall
- Iulian Popov, Head of the Asylum and Statelessness Directorate of IGM
- Hideaki Kojima, UNHCR
- Karina Volokh, UNHCR
- Iurie Birsan, UNHCR
- Eugenia Ciurca, UNHCR
- Maxim Mihalachi, IOM
- Sergiu Doni, IGM
- Vasile Norosian, CDA
- Anton Zagoret, CDA
- Eugen Soloviov, Diaconia Coordinator Cash Assistance Causeni
- Danylo Nedvetskyi, DRC
- Mircea Gonta, DRC
- Cristina Babin, INTERSOS
- Daniela Ionita, INTERSOS
- Olga Babac, Deputy of Community Centre Causeni
- Olga Panis, Coordinator Community Centre Causeni
- Violeta Terguta, UNFPA Programe Analyst

- Teodora Zafiu, UNDP Sector Coordination
- Ludmila Afteni, Head of the Directorate for Employment
- Xenia Martinov, People in Need
- Ala Tataru, ADDI
- Liubovi Caldarova, DOFM Causeni
- Gheorghe Mirman, Causeni City Hall
- Olga Postica, Causeni City Hall

Refugee Representatives

- Oksana Tantsulev, Refugee from Ukraine
- Nataly Viktor, Refugee from Ukraine
- Olga Babac, Refugee from Ukraine
- Liudmila Ermakova, Refugee from Ukraine
- Svetlana Tsumaeva, Refugee from Ukraine
- Eduard Zvialiev, Refugee from Ukraine
- Irina Odinobekova, Theatre Producer
- Irina Tirkunova, Refugee from Ukraine
- Svetlana Fedorenko, Veterinar Doctor
- Lena, Teacher
- Sofia Smalina, Student
- Oleg Saveliev, Sailor

5. Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Karina Volokh, UNHCR Senior Field Assistant, volokh@unhcr.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR opened the meeting and welcomed participants to the meeting. • President of the Raional Council greeted everyone and thanked UNHCR for their efforts at Causeni Community Service Center. He expressed appreciation for all the support provided by the organizations to refugees and citizens in Causeni. • City Hall representative of Causeni confirmed that, following investments made in Causeni, an audit requested clarification on the investments as it is not a common practice for UNHCR to grant subsidies of such large amounts in Moldovan regions. He explained to 	



	<p>the audit that UNHCR considered it valuable to support the region in managing the refugee crisis, which led to a strong partnership with UNHCR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IGM expressed gratitude for the collaboration with local authorities in Causeni and their prompt response to the refugee crisis.	
<p>Presentations by partners on their activities</p>	<p>Presentations by partners on their activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CDA provides legal counselling and registration for TP in Causeni and Stefan Voda districts. Their team consists of 5 members who handle different cases and participate, together with UNHCR and INTERSOS, in Mobile team visits.• UNDP (Moldova Development Program) provides services in facilitating existing job placements and other personalized courses for refugees.• INTERSOS has been present in Palanca since the beginning of the refugee crisis and is conducting monitoring and providing psychological and social assistance in Causeni and Stefan Voda district. INTERSOS also provides free English courses in CSC in Causeni for refugees and Moldovan people.• DRC has an office in the Causeni region and provides activities to inform refugees on temporary protection, legal counselling on Ukrainian laws and conducts mobile teams to provide assistance to refugees.• People in Need Moldova has been operating for 20 years in Moldova, providing psychological assistance and financial aid.• UNFPA is involved in the medical system, including Causeni District Hospital, where significant investments have been made in response to humanitarian needs and local crises. The organization is also responding to GBV cases and are also present at Palanca bus station and Palanca BCP with Orange Safe Space. With their support and that of the Ministry of Health, the hospital in Causeni receives significant investments.• Causeni Employment Agency mentioned that the organization directs refugees to official registration in the Republic of Moldova. They collaborate with various major companies to employ refugees, and organize interviews with different companies, including refugees seeking employment, to facilitate direct communication with the employers. Most	



	<p>beneficiaries are mothers with children and need special attention due to the stress experienced in Ukraine. The cultural center served as an ideal location to train refugees, who, in turn, benefited from courses like hairdressing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A representative on economic development at Causeni City Hall hopes for continued reliable partnership to make refugees feel at home.• Refugees present at the meeting introduced themselves as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Olga Babac has been volunteering for 8 months and is currently a deputy coordinator at the community service center in Causeni, where various vocational trainings for refugees are organized.– A refugee woman expressed gratitude for all the work by partners in the refugee situation. She recognized many of the partners personally as their paths intersected frequently during the refugee crisis since February 2022.– Olga Panis, the Coordinator of the Community Service Center of Causeni, provides information about CSC and encourages refugees to visit the center for better integration into the community.• UNHCR explained about the Service Advisor platform and asked if any of the participants were aware of the platform and what it is used for. In response, most of those present were not aware of or had not yet registered on the platform. UNHCR encouraged the participants to contact UNHCR staff for more information and for registration.• IGM presented on Temporary Protection as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The status can be applied by Ukrainian citizens who arrived after 24 February 2022 and is valid from 1 March 2023 to 1 March 2024. The pre-registration form for temporary protection must be completed online, and all documents must be physically submitted to IGM office.– As of 21 March 2023, 13,000 pre-registered individuals have been registered, of which 7,947 have obtained temporary protection status.	
--	---	--



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Main beneficiaries are women and children, and male applicants account only for 20%. 99% of applicants are Ukrainian citizens, and the remaining 1% are from Russian and other countries.– Most benefits have been granted in Chisinau, followed by Balti, Cahul, Gagauzia, Transnistrian Region, Anenii Noi, and Causeni (160 individuals benefit from temporary protection).– The main offices are in Chisinau with 3 offices: the headquarters in the Chisinau Municipality (Stefan cel Mare Boulevard No. 124), the accommodation center at the airport, and the office at the Railway Station. In addition to those, there are regional offices in Balti, Cahul, and Comrat. The nearest IGM office to Causeni is the Hagimus office, where over 700 people are registered daily. Registration in Hagimus office is in great demand among refugees, and visits are specially organized and timely. Since Moldova is a small country, this is an advantage as other offices like those in Chisinau can be easily visited.– IGM provides also Mobile teams visit for people with disabilities, reduced mobility, and those who cannot physically come to territorial centers.• CDA asked IGM whether a person staying over 90 days in Moldova will face any kind of sanctions. IGM replied that no deportation will be applied to people who exceed 90 days in Moldova but a sanction may be applied. In Causeni, the application rate is increasing and the request for temporary protection will continue.• DRC mentioned that Moldovan legislation had passed a law ensuring that refugees without temporary protection will not be deported from Moldova even after 15 August 2023. This decision is made due to the small number of temporary protection holders compared to the total number of refugees in Moldova. He emphasized that this action would negatively affect Moldova.• UNDP emphasized the importance of providing accurate information to refugees, as misinformation spreads significantly. In Causeni, there are organizations offering	
--	---	--



	<p>counseling services. It is necessary to maintain discussions with these organizations as similar cases may be reported.</p>	
<p>Discussion on employment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNDP discussed the socio-economic vision in the Causeni region and the engagement of refugees in the labor market. UNDP mentioned that they collaborate with 20 organizations to support refugees in Causeni.• Causeni Directorate for Employment explained the employment situation as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Refugees face language barriers, and for those seeking employment, it has been necessary to explore new opportunities with specific requirements. To address this, partnerships have been established with non-governmental organizations to initiate various activities and meetings with refugees to understand their needs.– Initially, it was difficult to convey information about the labour camp to the Ukrainian refugee community, so information leaflets were requested to be provided to help the refugees and it was also suggested that they directly contact the employment office for more information.– Currently, the situation in Moldova does not offer good job opportunities and different trainings for refugees are necessary in order to help them overcome this situation.– 12 refugees are currently employed in Criuleni. The employment capacity is limited in Causeni district, and refugees, who are mostly mothers with children, cannot adjust to shift work. Not all refugees agree with the working conditions in Moldova.• A refugee participant with a theatrical teaching background asked if there are courses available to upgrade the level and have a higher salary. In response, it was shared that such courses can be found at a university that can accredit them. Requalification courses may be difficult to find, especially in Causeni, and some courses available will normally be held in cities like Balti, where it is difficult for some people to access due to the distance.• A refugee participant asked about courses available for refugees and funding opportunities to support them in buying equipment and materials for business start-ups. Additionally, experience in the relevant field is required for employment, and it is very difficult for those who just completed courses and have no work experience to be hired.	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNDP suggested that UNDP and UNHCR follow up on the questions raised during the LCM. UNDP is open to funding vocational courses.	
--	---	--

6. Details of the Next Meeting

Date	23 August 2023 TBC
Time	TBC
Venue	Causeni City Hall