



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation



Basic Needs Working Group Meeting -04 September 2023	
Meeting Details	
Date	<i>04. 09. 2023</i>
Time	<i>15.00 pm</i>
Chair and Co-chair	<i>Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR – Athina Nalmpanti, ACTED</i>
Reporting	
Email	mdachacctr@unhcr.org - cuisana@unhcr.org – athina.nalmpanti@acted.org
Agenda	
	<p><i>AGENDA</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. RACs consolidation update</i> <i>2. Winterization update</i> <i>3. Updates on Rental assistance</i> <i>4. Updates of partners:</i> <i>5.AOB</i>
Information collection and relevant links	
Participants	



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<p><i>Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR</i></p> <p><i>Natalia Stelea, UNHCR</i></p> <p><i>Eugeniu Popescu, UNHCR</i></p> <p><i>Emmanuel Ottika, UNHCR</i></p> <p><i>Teodor Vicol, MLSP</i></p> <p><i>Athina Nalmpanti, ACTED</i></p> <p><i>Evangelos Efthymiou, ACTED</i></p> <p><i>Yulia Pyndus, ACTED</i></p> <p><i>Rabi Eid, ACTED</i></p> <p><i>Ines Arnautovic, DRC</i></p> <p><i>Stella Lingens, ACTED</i></p> <p><i>Irina Gradinar, ACTED</i></p> <p><i>Marin Peace wings</i></p> <p><i>PW Moldova</i></p>	<p><i>Iulia Gheorghies, CNPAC</i></p> <p><i>Ayaka Ishikawa, Peace Wings</i></p> <p><i>Ibrahim Marte, IOM</i></p> <p><i>Katherine Lampe, UNHCR</i></p> <p><i>Evgheni Cutia, DRC</i></p> <p><i>Bagan Tatiana, NRC</i></p> <p><i>Khushal Wakily, NRC</i></p> <p><i>Svetlana Ciros, CRS</i></p> <p><i>Andrew Painter, UNHCR</i></p> <p><i>Dilnoza Niculescu, Caritas</i></p>
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Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Agenda point 1</p> <p>RACs consolidation update</p>	<p>1. Basic needs WG chairperson welcomed participants and thanked them for their participation, presented the agenda.</p> <p>UNHCR: Group B RACs that are in the closure phase :2 RACs in Anei noi,1 in Floresti,1 in Chisinau,1 in Balti</p> <p>MLSP representative: 3 RACs closed recently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 26/08 Patria Lukoil RAC closed. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In Chisinau the national sports centre RAC ➤ Varvarioka RAC closed on 28/08. <p>In September will close Zarea hotel, 57 residents. MLSP requests Cash for Rent partners to visit the center and assess the eligibility criteria of the people as most of them work.</p> <p>RAC in Orhei will close tomorrow or Wednesday, 1 person left.</p> <p>Balti, Dumbrava will close soon. MLSP plans to visit and discuss with beneficiaries, the people that cannot rent will move to other RAC</p> <p>Anenii Noi center will close, most of the 15 residents are already working. There is an issue with the rents in the area, refugees request for support to be integrated in the same location.</p> <p>Visiting RACs in Floresti, Stefanesti, Anenii Noi have been made.</p> <p>UNHCR: MFT that supports the RACs and the Relocation Case managers are following up those RACs that are in the process of closure.</p> <p>PWG: RAC residents sometimes get upset with the closures; some are planning to go back to Ukraine. RCM send their updates on Friday and will update in the technical group. MLSP and partners will visit RACS from group C, in Comrat and Nisporeni</p> <p>Thursday 2nd meeting of technical group and final SOP will be shared.</p> <p>It was mentioned that some INGOs don't have info about the list of closing RACs</p> <p>UNHCR: RCF and other WG have the list but can further inform and share. The RACs remaining in 2024 are in the list too.</p> <p>MLSP: The information on the closing RACs, was sent to the RAC Managers, but still it can be reviewed and maybe changes will be made.</p> <p>WFP: The closure process is running smooth, requested to be informed some days in advance so they can inform the suppliers and avoid gaps in food provision. Haven't received updates from Relocation case managers so far.</p>	<p>UNHCR to share the final SOP of RACs consolidation.</p>
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<p>Agenda point 2 Winterization TF: HH survey and community interventions</p>	<p>MLSP: trying to communicate this through the RAC managers, they announce the closures 3-4 days in advance.</p> <p>UNHCR: the relocation case managers are the Focal Points, they provide weekly updates, it's one organization per RAC. By end of week will have info to share</p> <p>MLSP: The RAC Manager of Greblesti has requested to close the center as they are facing difficulties with payment of staff salaries. This RAC is hosting many people with disabilities and MLSP is in discussions, so it stays open. Requesting if any organization can support to provide salaries for 2 medical staff in the center. There is also need for hygiene kits and diapers. If these can be covered, the center will remain open.</p> <p>UNHCR: Asked the organizations to check if they can cover and inform in the BNWG.</p> <p>WFP: They visit on 20/08 Greblesti to identify a new supplier for hot meals. From 01 September they started providing food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Last month BNWG had an ad hoc meeting on winterization and presented the pillars for the sector ➤ Inter agency requested to provide numbers of people in need (refugees and host communities). 54,000 identified in host communities in need of winter assistance for 2023-2024 55,000 refugees identified in need of winter assistance for 2023-2024 <p>Shelter team identified in need of shelter assistance 8000 people in host communities and 8,700 refugees</p> <p><u>Identified activities</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Shelter intervention improvements in RACs where 2300 refugees are hosted 2. Shelter improvements for refugees in urban areas (5,668 people identified) and (3,053)in rural areas 3.Shelter improvement for host communities in urban(27,773) and rural areas (20,950) 4. Shelter improvements in community infrastructure that will benefit 31,800 both refugee and host community population in urban set up. 5. NFI distribution: winter clothing assistance for rural and border areas for 4,100 refugees and 19,355 in urban areas. 	<p>Partners to check if they can cover the needs in Greblesti RAC</p>
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<p>Agenda point 3 Updates on Rental assistance</p>	<p>6.Firewood assistance to vulnerable host communities in rural areas in kind/voucher for 16,760 people</p> <p>7.Food support at RACs (rural and urban) for 2,900 refugees and snack distribution at Palanca and Otaci border points for 2,000 refugees.</p> <p>UNHCR: There are 55.000 refugees and 54.000 Host Community people identified in need. The Inter agency is working on the household survey (refugees and host communities) that will help to target the most vulnerable.</p> <p>UNHCR: Two surveys are ongoing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Winterization household survey 2.Winterization community infrastructure building assessment, to know the cost of the improvements <p>The Interagency is leading the data collection through Activity Info platform. Trainings on 05/09 (in English) and 7/09 (Romanian) on the Activity Info platform. Partners need to enter their plans in activity info by the 15/09</p> <p>IOM: the government will support the host community. How can winterization plans complement government support. The refugee population is a lot smaller</p> <p>MLSP: The government has programs to support with winterization for host families with energy, gas subsidies. Recommends to INGOs, agencies that they can include local small NGOs that provide support and include bigger number of people in need.</p> <p>UNHCR: can arrange a separate meeting to coordinate the NFI distribution. INGO's to reach out.</p> <p>Rental assistance:</p> <p>CRS: Have 2 activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash for rent project 2. Small repairs in various districts <p>CRS will work in 8 raions on Winterization programme</p>	<p>Partners to update their activities in the Activity Info platform by 15/09</p>
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	<p>MLSP: asked partners to support more on the Rental assistance program with more frequent visits in the RACs. The Ministry requested for clarifications on the deadlines for the applications. if the programs are still running</p> <p>CRS: about the visits to RACs they need to focus on the case managers of the RACs and work with them/Asking ACTED and IOM when their programs end and coordinate. If there is need CRS can continue the program</p> <p>UNHCR: The Cash for Rent actors were split over the RACs based on the time their program closes. CRS will end by November, the rest IOM will take over after</p> <p>IOM: IOM, CRS and ACTED will have a meeting about the capacity from November to December and can discuss until when they can cover.</p> <p>MLSP: Rental assistance actors don't have to share info to refugees in case their programs will continue, if they are not sure.</p> <p>UNHCR: to discuss this issue in the Relocation Technical Group</p> <p>NRC: Will submit their activities in the Activity info but haven't received confirmation for the training yet</p> <p>They will proceed with NFI distribution in all RACs like last year, they covered 3400 people. This year there are around 2550 refugees residing in the RACs. Refugees and hosting families in northern districts. The Hygiene kits distribution will take place all over country.</p> <p>IOM: Rental assistance program is ongoing, improving infrastructure for local communities. They have available NFIs in case of contingency. NFI for winterization (blankets, clothing) available and private home winterization probably. Starting a Housing eco system assessment, desk review and assessment of partners ongoing. Habitat for Humanity will be there next week and join the WG.</p>	
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ACTED



Next meeting	25th September	
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