



Otaci Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 12 December 2023

1. Meeting Details

Date	12 December 2023
Time	11:00 - 12:00
Chair	Alexandra Cuznetova, UNHCR Field Assistant
Reporting	Adela Glodeanu, UNHCR Senior Field Assistant Hideaki Kojima, UNHCR Associate Field Officer
Email	kojima@unhcr.org

2. Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Refresher presentation about local coordination
3. Validation of Local Referral Pathways document
4. Presentation on the final report of RRP2024 Local Consultation workshop
5. Activity updates
6. 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?>

Moldova Services Advisor Log in: [Services Advisor](#)

Moldova Services Advisor Public view: <https://moldova.servicesadvisor.net/>

4. Participants (Name, Position, Organization)

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| • Dmitrii Zavrotchii, Mayor of Otaci | • Ecaterina Covtun, ACTED |
| • Alexandra Cuznetova, UNHCR | • Serghei Merjievski, IOM |
| • Hideaki Kojima, UNHCR | • Margaryta Pavlenko, Right to Protection Ukraine |
| • Kyrylo Prykhodko, UNHCR | • Svetlana Voichyk, Right to Protection Ukraine |



- Adela Glodeanu, UNHCR
- Nicolae Grama-Cojocaru, UNFPA
- Natalia Făureanu, Blue Dot/CCF Moldova
- Aleksei Preda, Bahtalo Ker
- Rostislav Coviș, CDA

5. Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Alexandra Cuznetova, UNHCR Field Assistant, cuznetov@unhcr.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR started the meeting by thanking the City Hall for its support to organize the meeting. • Mayor sent a holiday wish to all participants and mentioned that there were no updates in the last two weeks. The city hall has received some requests for paying utility bills or providing food products, but all are managed in collaboration with the organizations. The mayor thanked all the participants for the great effort made this year. • UNHCR explained the concept of the Refugee Coordination Model and the coordination structure for the Refugee Response in the Republic of Moldova. It was emphasized that the Local Refugee Coordination Forum meeting, being a part of the coordination structure, is organized for three main objectives – coordination, information sharing and consultation -, and therefore, it is important for local partners to proactively share any difficulties or challenges they face during their activities so that the issues will be brought to the national-level working groups for possible solutions. • UNHCR presented the final report of the RRP2024 Local Consultations, organized in October, in 8 locations in the country, explaining the methodology and challenges identified in Cahul. The final report is available on UNHCR Operational Data Portal (ROM / RUS / ENG). 	
<p>Updates from partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFPA reported that they supported 168 beneficiaries with hygiene kits distribution and consultation in the last two weeks. The number of requests for TP-related consultation is increasing. UNFPA will operate until 20 December 2023 before going into holiday seasons. It is not clear yet whether UNFPA will extend its operations at the bus station for the next year. 	



- **IOM** reported that they provided 9 beneficiaries with transportation to Iasi, 84 beneficiaries with the medical assistance, and 13 beneficiaries with winter kits.
- **ACTED reported as follows:**
 - In the last two weeks, the team transported 50 individuals to Chisinau, 5 individuals to RACs, as well as 48 individuals for special requests. 39 kits, 49 SIM cards and a travel suitcase were distributed.
 - ACTED is working closely with CDA to pre-register people to TP and transported them to IGM Balti for further process.
 - ACTED Information Team is also providing information to refugees. Among the most frequently asked questions are about cash assistance for hosting families.
- **Bahtalo Ker** reported that their laundry spaces are operating normally. The social barbershop project already started, and people are using the free facility. Currently, there is only one male barber, the organization is working on hiring some more staffs.
- **BlueDot/CCR** reported as follows:
 - In the last two weeks, 99 beneficiaries (86 adults, 13 children, 2 persons with disability) have been referred to BlueDot for support, among which 61 individuals for the first time, 24 for the second time, and 14 for more than three times.
 - BlueDot continues its activities with children by age category and with parents. In the last two weeks, eight activities were held in Otaci Theoretical High School, where a total of 90 children and adolescents participated. Two activities were also organized for parents, but there were only 2 parents participating in these events. It is very hard to bring parents together to activities since there is no interest from the side of parents. It is important to mention that participants of the activities include both the local community and refugees from Ukraine.
- **CDA** reported as follows:
 - During the last two weeks, 51 individuals were pre-registered for TP status, among which 51 individuals were transported to Balti IGM by ACTED.
 - 71 refugees received consultation on the procedure for obtaining TP status.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– In the last two weeks, three men crossed the border irregularly, two of them transited Moldova for onwards movement and one of them applied for the refugee status.– There were some cases where Ukrainian men were fined due to the overstay.– There was a suspected human trafficking case. Organizations tried to talk to her, but she refused to receive any assistance.• Right to Protection reported as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– There have been no major changes in their activities in the last two weeks.– It is often the case that the Ukrainian border is closed for a few hours, which creates a long line and makes people wait outside for a long time.– There were some cases where third-country nationals such as people from Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Turkey, or Turkmenistan left Ukraine and are not allowed to re-enter Ukraine. In case of these special cases, people are referred to Otaci bus station to receive necessary help.• BlueDot brought up an issue of Green Line as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– There are still many people coming to BlueDot to ask for accommodation options, and BlueDot is supporting them to call the Green Line to find a solution. However, it takes so much time for the Green Line to provide a response, and moreover, the Green Line operates only until 17 o'clock. ACTED is providing transportation to a RAC but if the confirmation from Green Line is very late, it is difficult for ACTED to arrange a car.– There was a case where a family with children had to wait in Balti for five hours to be accepted to a RAC. There should be a prioritization policy for families with small children.– There was another case where a woman with mental illness was accepted to the RAC in Donduseni. Not only was the necessary psychological assistance not provided in the RAC, but the woman also left the RAC after three days. It is not known whether the woman left the RAC by her own will or was forced to leave, but the woman had requested to Green Line not to allocate her into the RAC in Donduseni due to previous negative experiences in the said RAC. Despite that, the woman was assigned to stay in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNHCR will notify the issue to Protection WG and the focal point for Green Line.
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	the RAC in Donduseni. It is clear that refugees do not have a possibility to choose which RAC they want to stay, but a certain consideration should be made if there were some suspicions regarding cases of gender-based violence, child abuse, or any other protection concerns.	
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6. Details of the Next Meeting

Date	16 January 2024
Time	11:00 - 12:30
Venue	Otaci Mayor Office