



Cahul Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 05 December 2023

1. Meeting Details

Date	05 December 2023
Time	11:00 - 12:30
Chair	Igor Gorgan, UNHCR Senior Field Assistant Hideaki Kojima, UNHCR Associate Field Officer
Reporting	Hideaki Kojima, UNHCR Associate Field Officer
Email	kojima@unhcr.org

2. Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Refresher presentation about local coordination
3. Presentation on the RRP2024 Local Consultation final report
4. Presentation on the RAC Consolidation Process
5. Activity updates from the participating organizations
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)



- Stella Badin, Deputy Mayor of Cahul
- Hideaki Kojima, UNHCR
- Igor Gorgan, UNHCR
- Natalia Stelea, UNHCR
- Vladimir Petrovici, IOM
- Natalia Marcu-Ungurean, IOM
- Svetlana Captalan, IOM Cahul
- Svetlana Ciobanu, IOM Cahul, NGO “Pas cu Pas”
- Saviuc Ion, Cahul Department of social assistance
- Oksana Khyngul, UN Women volunteer
- Anastasiia Kirila, NGO “Laolalta”, Cahul CSC
- Irina Bejan, NGO “Laolalta”, Cahul CSC
- Claudia Gavdzinscaia, Diaconia, CRS
- Lilia Moraru, NGO “Artemida”
- Alla Chebac, CDA
- Vișan Evelina, AVE Copii
- Larisa Maziru, Border Police Department South
- Zgardan Luminița, IGM Department South
- Ion Cojocari, IGM Department South
- Natalia Lupu, Cahul Public Library
- Mihaela Budeseu, Creative Center “Lucafărul” Cahul
- Vitalie Ponomariov, CNPAC, “Pidrimca” South
- Alexandr Vasiliev, ACTED
- Vitalii Staniev, ACTED
- Angela Sinigur, Caritas Moldova
- Natalia Stepanova, INTERSOS
- Vadim Baranetchi, INTERSOS
- Oksana Prokhorova, Refugee
- Irina Kitaiteva, Refugee
- Valentina Kilinichenco, Refugee
- Piotr Popov, Refugee

5. Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Introduction and information sharing from UNHCR</p> <p>Hideaki Kojima, UNHCR Associate Field Officer, kojima@unhcr.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR welcomed participants to the meeting and thanked the municipality for the venue of the meeting. • Deputy Mayor welcomed the participants and mentioned that many good activities to support refugees from Ukraine were ongoing in Cahul by partners. We are in this meeting to find out any challenges faced by the organizations and what the municipality can do to support the activities being carried out. UNHCR is in partnership with many actors including IOM, ACTED, CDA and others to provide support, and from the very beginning of the crisis, the local partners and the municipality have been working together and the municipality appreciate the organizations for the efforts. 	



<p>Natalia Stelea, UNHCR Field Associate, stelea@unhcr.org Igor Gorgan, UNHCR Senior Field Assistant, gorgan@unhcr.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • UNHCR made a presentation on the Basic Needs Working Group and the ongoing government-led consolidation process of the Refugee Accommodation Centers (RACs). It is important for local partners to be well informed that not all the RACs are closing and the closure of RACs is a gradual process with necessary follow-up support by several organizations. The local actors are kindly asked to provide accurate information about the process when approached by beneficiaries, and to refer to UNHCR for any unclarities. 	
<p>Updates from partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A refugee representative (UN Women volunteer) mentioned as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – I appreciate CRS and ACTED for their support to refugees with rental assistance and subsidiary for utility bills. However, the rental assistance project of ACTED and CRS is ending at the end of December and people cannot sustain their life, especially refugees with disabilities. When refugees look for a housing option, some landlords are raising the rent. We would like UNHCR to support the social housing and cover utility bills. UNHCR explained that there is an attempt of social housing together with the government, but it is still not yet fully concretized and UNHCR cannot guarantee whether the social housing can start or not. – In Cahul, there are many people transiting this region to go further to EU countries such as Romania. The RACs should be turned into a short-term transfer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR will reach out to Basic Needs WG for more information on the rental assistance after January 2024.



	<p>accommodation centre. UNHCR explained that the priority of assistance should go to those who stay in Moldova for a long term and there is no plan to reopen a RAC as a transit accommodation centre.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Most of humanitarian support are provided only in Chisinau and there is scarce availability in Cahul. There are many people still in need of humanitarian assistance. For instance, mothers cannot earn money by themselves because they cannot leave their small children at home alone. It is a difficult situation, and we are very glad that our voices are heard in this forum. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IOM reported as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– IOM Information Desk is registering refugees to refer to other organizations and also providing winter clothes and shoes for children. Recently, there are many requests for firewood from older persons living on their own.– There are some issues in the rental assistance programme, where the payment is delayed for the host communities.– IOM is currently providing assistance to five families evacuated from Palestine.• CNPAC reported as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The organization is conducting mobile teams in Cahul and Gagauzia region and providing MHPSS, pedagogical/educational counselling and social inclusion activities for adolescents and children in the Community Centre in Comrat and the RAC in Kongaz on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. These activities are receiving very positive feedbacks from participants.– In the RAC in Kongaz, there are some issues around the living condition, and social cohesion of Roma refugees. There are some Roma children living in this RAC, but they are sometimes experiencing discriminatory treatment from other residents of the RAC. The children are not enrolled in education and do not have many opportunities to socialize with other children in the RAC. IsraAid is operating a child friendly space in the RAC, but it requires infrastructural repairs. At the moment, the organization has not been notified of any physical violence towards Roma refugees in the RAC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic Needs WGF will follow up on the situation of the RAC in Kongaz.• Education WG, Child Protection Sub-WG and Roma TF will
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– In schools in Cahul district, there are some cases of abuse towards Ukrainian refugee children. Teachers are not being able to effectively handle active refugee children.– Local actors need financial support to respond more effectively to refugee response, for example by providing rental assistance or subsidiary for utility bills payment.• ACTED reported that they are conducting necessary winterization repairs for RACs in the region and also supporting the RAC consolidation process by acting as a mediator between RAC managers and residents. It is sometimes difficult because information on the RAC consolidation process is not fully shared from the government or the local authorities in a timely manner. ACTED is receiving many questions from both RAC managers and residents. In this regard, UNHCR responded that, in most cases, information does not reach to organizations because the government is still in the process of clarifying the process, not because the information is not effectively disseminated. UNHCR will ensure to provide clear information as soon as it is available from the government.• Social Assistance Department of Cahul municipality mentioned that the municipality has always been open to support the refugee response and it still is.• Cahul Public Library mentioned that the library has a safe space opened by the Centre for Women Rights and holding various activities for children. Until October 2023, the library was offering MHPSS activities for refugee women.• Laolalta (Cahul CSC Coordinator) shared that the centre is conducting activities for refugee children and women. The activities are ongoing smoothly, but a problem is that there are no lights outside of the centre.• Ave Copii shared that the organization is implementing projects to facilitate education and operating three safe spaces for children in Cahul.• Artemida reported that they have been conducting mobile teams in Cahul, Taraclia, Cantemir and Leova, and they reached out to over 100 locations so far, providing social services, legal and psychological support, trainings on GBV, reproductive health and mental health, individual consultations with women and children, and awareness raising activities about the menstrual cycle for adolescents.	<p>follow up on school enrolment and discriminatory treatment towards Roma children.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Mayor raised an issue regarding evacuees from Palestine as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – We are already receiving refugees from Palestine in Cahul due to the recent escalation of military attack in Gaza, but we do not have any clear procedure for them to integrate into the society. They are facing the same needs as those from Ukraine, and it should be clarified through which channels people from Palestine can access to necessary services and the same activities. – They do not have means to access to medical system, basic needs, or accommodation. Ukrainians have an option to be in Russian-speaking schools, but Palestinians cannot. – The most needed assistance for them is financial assistance and livelihood support. • INTERSOS reported that the organization was operating in the centre and the south of Moldova, providing psychological support in collaboration with the local public authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR will follow up with Protection WG for a compilation of information regarding procedures and services available for non-Ukrainian refugees.
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6. Details of the Next Meeting	
Date	TBC
Time	TBC
Venue	TBC